



Phone:
(315) 353-2037

Our E-mail
stphilips@live.com

Our website
saintphilipsnorwood.com

The Rt. Rev. William H. Love, Bishop

The Rev. Kathryn Boswell, Rector

Warden:
Helen Harris

Vestry:

Charlie Colbert

Lynn Howe

Karen Morgan

Romi Sebald

Lucille Waterson



St. Philip's Church

CommonLife

May-June 2019 Volume 25 & 26 Issue 5 & 6

Welcoming the weary, dedicated to discipleship

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-29)

Rector's Message



Rev. Kathryn Boswell
Rector

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“Whatever you do for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you do for me.” (Matt. 25:40)

“Seeking the face of God in everything, everyone, all the time, and his hand in every happening; This is what it means to be contemplative in the heart of the world. Seeing and adoring the presence of Jesus, especially in the lowly appearance of bread, and in the distressing disguise of the poor.”

(Mother Teresa, *In the Heart of the World: Thoughts, Stories and Prayers*)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Here's a question to ponder: “Who is US?”

No, I don't mean “Who are we?” We have a lot of good answers for that question: we are children of God, members of St. Philip's, Episcopalians, North Country dwellers, and many other things. What I mean is – when we use the word US, who are we talking about?

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a parable about Judgment Day. In the Judgment, Jesus said, the King separates people like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. To the sheep, on his right, he says, “Blessed are you because you fed me when I was hungry, you gave me something to drink when I was thirsty, you clothed me when I was naked, and you visited me when I was lonely and sick and in prison.” To the goats, on his left, he says, “Cursed are you because when I was hungry you gave me nothing to eat, and when I was thirsty you gave me nothing to drink, and when I was naked you didn't give me anything to put on, and when I was lonely, and sick, and in prison, you didn't come to visit me.” The remarkable thing about the parable is that every single person, sheep and goat alike, responds to the King's judgment in the same way. Every one of them is baffled by what the King has said, “Lord,” they ask, “when did we ever see you hungry, or thirsty, or naked, or lonely, or sick, or in prison?”

But listen to the King's answer “That homeless man asking for spare change in the grocery store parking lot – that was us. And that sweaty garbage collector hoisting your heavy bags of trash into his truck when it was 90 degrees in the shade – that was us. And that little boy waiting for the school bus in his shirt sleeves



St. Philip's Church
42 S. Main St.
P.O. Box 225
Norwood, NY 13668

TO:

in the middle of January – that was us. And that strange woman you see wandering the halls of the nursing home every time you visit your friend – that was us. And that cranky old guy you had to be roommates with in the hospital after your surgery – that was us. And that young man on the news who is being locked up for crimes that literally made you sick to your stomach when you heard about them – well, that was us, too.”

In our honest striving towards being Christlike, as good Christians we make every effort to show the love of God to those who are not like us. But as we grow deeper into Christ, we may be shocked to discover that it isn’t always among the “people like us” that we will find him. We find, in fact, that if we are truly Christ’s, then the poor, the dirty, the uneducated, the lonely, the addicts, the forgotten, the troubled – then they are us.

Let us all grow deeper together into the mystery of Christ’s Presence,

much love,
Kathryn+



In accordance with Article I of the Constitution of the Diocese of Albany, the Bishop of Albany has issued a Call to the 151st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Albany, to be held on June 7-9, 2019 at the Camp of the Woods in Speculator, New York, the Right Reverend William H. Love, presiding.

June 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Common Cents 10-Noon
2 The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day Mass 10:00 am Coffee Hour	3	4 10 am Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	5	6 Common Cents 10-2pm	7 Convention at Camp of the Woods	8 Common Cents 10-Noon
9 The Day of Pentecost Whitsunday Helen Harris, Guest speaker Morning Prayer 10:00 am Convention at Camp of the Woods	10	11 10 am Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	12 St. Philip's ...Women's Guild noon  6pm Walk in Love	13 Common Cents 10-2pm	14	15 Common Cents 10-Noon 10am Vestry Mtg. 11am Daughters of the King
16 The First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday Mass 10:00 am Father's Day Coffee Hour 	17	18 10 am Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	19	20 Common Cents 10-2pm	21	22 Common Cents 10-Noon
23 The Second Sunday after Pentecost Proper 7 Mass 10:00 am Coffee Hour	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist	25 Common Cents 10-2pm	26  St. Philip's Community Lunch @ Noon	27 Common Cents 10-2pm	28	29 St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles
30 The Third Sunday after Pentecost Proper 8 Mass 10:00 am Coffee Hour						

May 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 am Maplewood Nursing Home service in Canton	2 Common Cents 10-2pm	3	4 Common Cents 10-Noon
5 The Third Sunday of Easter Mass 10:00 am Coffee Hour	6	7 10 am Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	8 6pm Walk in Love	9 Common Cents 10-2pm	10	11 Common Cents 10-Noon
12 The Fourth Sunday of Easter Mass 10:00 am Coffee Hour	13	14 10am Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	15 St. Philip's ...Women's Guild noon 	16 Common Cents 10-2pm	17	18 Common Cents 10-Noon 10am Daughters of the King
19The Fifth Sunday of Easter Mass 10:00 am	20	21 10am Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	22 Community Dinner 5-6:30pm 	23 Common Cents 10-2pm	24	25 Common Cents 10-Noon
26 The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday) Mass 10:00 am Coffee Hour	27	28 Common Cents 10-2pm	29 10:30 am Maplewood Nursing Home service in Canton 	30 Common Cents 10-2pm	31 Visitation of the Virgin Mary 	

St. Philipians! Here are a few ministry possibilities:

+ This week Karen, Lucille and Mtr. Kathryn joined our good friend Laurell Brault, who is a member of New Hope Church, in putting together Mother’s Day gift bags. Laurell is handing her bags out at Lawrence Ave. apartments in Potsdam, to some older women who may not have anyone to thank or appreciate them on Mother’s Day. Karen, Lucille and Mtr. Kathryn are doing the same here in Norwood, at Baldwin Acres. We had a lot of fun putting the bags together, and we hope to bring a little light and love to these women who live alone, but who have given so much to others in the course of their lives. It was very fun to work together, and we expect there will be other opportunities in the future. You might consider whether this would be something you would enjoy. The more the merrier!

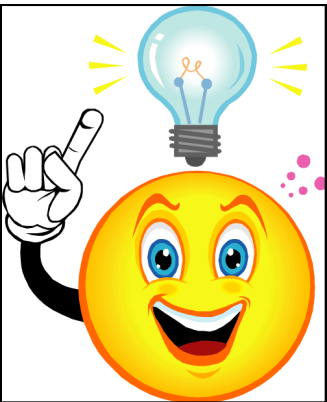
+ Judy Labass, who oversees group homes for disabled adults in Potsdam, Norwood and Massena, has asked us to consider offering very short, simple services once a month for the group homes in Norwood – I believe there are three. Some of the people we meet with will be unable to do much more than listen; others will enjoy singing and interacting with us. I’ll be meeting with Judy this coming week to find out more about what she has in mind. Would you enjoy an opportunity to give a little love and attention to some people who spend most of their lives in the shadows? I would love to have a team of three or four – or more – people to join me in this ministry. Maybe you could be one of them?

+ On the 4th of July, Norwood is the site of one of the best parades in the North Country. Business, school groups, churches and civic organizations pull out all the stops to be represented by floats and bands and marchers. St. Philip’s has received our invitation to participate this year, and Sam Colbert has already offered us his awesome antique tractor – and a driver! This year’s theme is **movies**. We don’t have to do anything brilliant or elaborate – this is simply an opportunity to have fun and share the love of God. Do you have any inspiring ideas? Do you think you might enjoy helping us put something together? Think about it.....

+ Every month, on the first and (if there is one) fifth Wednesdays of the month, St. Philip’s takes a turn in offering Holy Eucharist at United Helpers, Maplewood, in Canton. We arrive about 10, and are usually finished by 11. Anyone is welcome to join us. It is always good to have more people to participate in prayers and songs, and to sit and talk with the people who attend. You could come regularly or just once in a while.



Do you feel inspired? Let Mtr. Kathryn know if you have ideas for us, or if you would like to join us in making any of these projects a reality.





This is my Father’s world

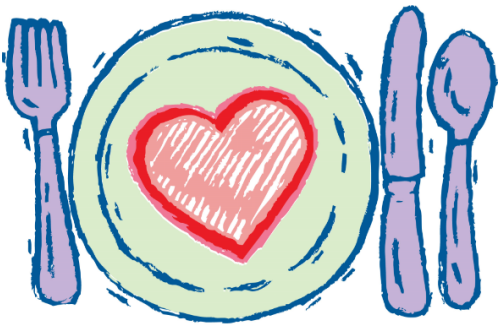
This is my Father’s world,
And to my list’ning ears
All nature sings, and round
me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies
and seas—
His hand the wonders
wrought.

This is my Father’s world:
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily
white,
Declare their Maker’s
praise.

This is my Father’s world:
He shines in all that’s fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father’s world:
Oh, let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world,
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav’n be one.

Maltbie Davenport Babcock (1858-1901)



COMMUNITY DINNER

*May 22
5 p.m.*

Hamburgers and Hot dogs
Salads
Chips
Fruit desserts

*June 26
noon*

To be decided.....



May Birthdays

Shirley Rookey	May 2nd
Gary Hargrave	May 6th
Sam Colbert	May 9th
Andrew Smith	May 12th
Gary Galo	May 16th
Charlotte Kovich	May 26th
Donna McLean	May 29th
Lucille Waterson	May 26th
Joe Hargrave	May 29th

June Birthdays

June Wilkins	June 5th
Alexander Hargrave	June 27th
Ellen Galo	Jun 20th

May Anniversaries

Errol & Donna McLean
May 23rd

June Anniversaries

Carroll & Rev. Kathryn Boswell
June 2nd
Christopher & Dcn. Peggy Theodore
June 25th
Lloyd & Lynn Howe
June 29th



Community Meals May and June

St. Philip's has a long and delicious history of feeding people. It seems to be part of our spiritual DNA, and we do it very well, I think. Our freewill meals, along with our Thrift Shop, are the primary ways we reach out to be a blessing to our neighbors. This summer, we are going to try something new with our community meals, for two reasons.

First, we have noticed that our dinners haven't reached as many of the truly needy people we had hoped to feed. There are so many lonely people in our community, so many elderly who live and eat alone, as well as so many families who have a hard time making ends meet. There is so much hunger out there, physical, emotional and spiritual. And yet, our dinners don't often seem to attract the people who need them the most.

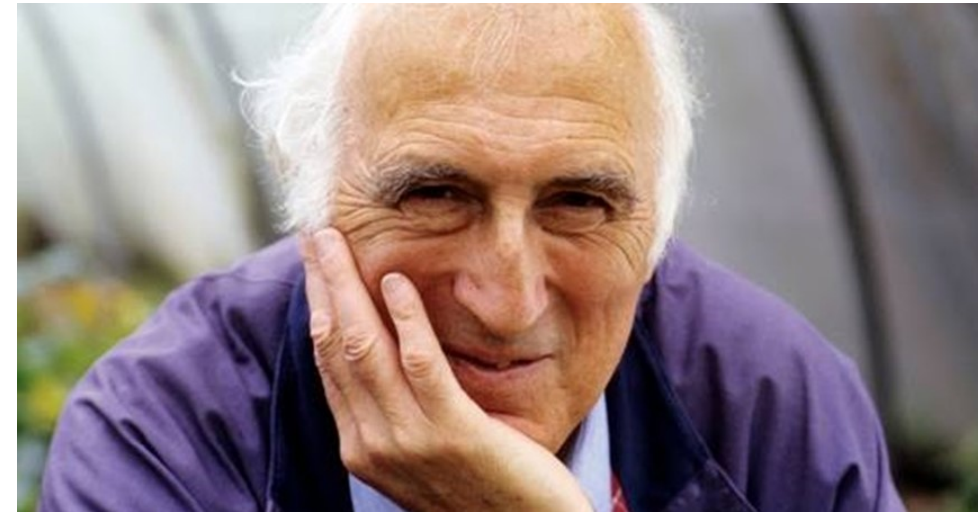
Second, our volunteers often find it hard to make it out in the evening to serve and clean up from a big dinner. Lately we sometimes seem to be a little short-handed.

So, we are trying something different for the summer. Because I still believe with all my heart that we are called to feed people, we are going to try offering community lunches over the summer, instead of dinners. It is my hope that we can get the word out to the residents at Baldwin Acres, and to the general community, and that a simpler, more casual (and earlier) meal might bring more of the people who need our ministry. And it is also my hope that more of our own members might be able to participate in the lunches.

We will have our final dinner in May, and then in the fourth week of June we'll have our first Freewill Lunch. Who knows, eventually we might be able to have more than one lunch each month – but that is a thought for another day! Let's see what happens.....



As I write this month, two of God's children, one young and one old, have recently gone home to their Father. Jean Vanier and Rachel Held Evans blessed this world that He loves with their grace and with their actions, and with their words. Here are some of those words:



“A community is only being created when its members accept that they are not going to achieve great things, that they are not going to be heroes, but simply live each day with new hope, like children, in wonderment as the sun rises and in thanksgiving as it sets. Community is only being created when they have recognized that the greatness of man is to accept his insignificance, his human condition and his earth, and to thank God for having put in a finite body the seeds of eternity which are visible in small and daily gestures of love and forgiveness. The beauty of man is in this fidelity to the wonder of each day.”

— Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*



“What I love about the ministry of Jesus is that he identified the poor as blessed and the rich as needy...and then he went and ministered to them both. This, I think, is the difference between charity and justice. Justice means moving beyond the dichotomy between those who need and those who supply and confronting the frightening and beautiful reality that we desperately need one another.”

— Rachel Held Evans, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*

The following article is from our CommonLife archives, May 2016. Common Cents has now reached the lofty age of FOUR!!!! God continues to use this ministry to bless our community. A huge thank you to all of you who have worked and donated and shopped and prayed us along for the past four years. Thanks to our friendly community, for supporting us. And especially we offer our thanks to Sharon, without whom we would never have gotten off the ground, let alone survived!

Sharon’s 2016 suggestions for helpers are as up-to-date as ever in 2019, with very few changes. Priscilla has kindly agreed to do weekly cleaning for us. And unsold clothes are now taken to be recycled at the transfer station on Rt. 420 in Massena. Otherwise, it’s still business as usual. And we still need you!

Happy Birthday Common Cents!

One year ago, after much prayer and thought and discussion, the basement of St. Philip's was transformed – from an empty, newly-renovated basement, to a thriving community ministry. The idea of a Thrift Shop first arose from canvassing the many, many people ministering in our community, to find what need might exist that we, with our space and abilities, could supply. Our conclusion? A Thrift Shop! And God blessed our conclusion abundantly.

First and most importantly, he equipped Sharon Yousey to lead and to teach us, with her many years' experience. But he provided in so many other ways. The community has been lavish in giving us excellent donations, so that our big, echoing empty space was soon full. We were able to find good, sturdy racks and shelves at very reasonable prices. And a faithful core of St. Philippians have given of their time and energies to keep things running - and have even come running in our times of emergency! Thank you all! We are also so very thankful to the women of St. Andrew's for their many, many generous and faithful volunteer hours.

So now Common Cents is one year old, and we are in full swing, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 hours a week. But more than 10 hours a week goes into keeping things organized and tidy and welcoming down there. Common Cents (along with our ever-popular monthly Community Dinner!) is our church family's primary way of reaching out to our neighbors, and of demonstrating the love of God in ways that can be seen and touched. And more hands are needed. Not everyone can work in the Shop every week, but nearly everyone could commit to helping in some way. Sharon has made up a list of ways that people might help out:

- Keeping the space clean:
 - sweeping floors
 - dusting shelves in the housewares room
 - cleaning off the windowsills (aka bug patrol)
 - dusting off the clothing racks
- Taking care of donations:
 - washing clothes that arrive needing it
 - sewing on buttons or other light sewing (Sharon has a supply of buttons)
 - cleaning up houseware donations if needed
 - hanging up clothes
 - stocking shelves
- Customer service:
 - sitting at the desk to check people out (our system is VERY simple!)
- Organization:
 - making signs to hang on the wall, or for the racks
 - taking unsaleable clothing items to the CORC store in Potsdam for the truck (we try not to waste anything!)

Could you see yourself doing one or more of these jobs once a week? Once a month? Please know that you are very much needed! Please, prayerfully consider how you can become a more active part of this important and thriving outreach to our community. **Common Cents is OUR ministry.**

God bless you!
Sharon and Mtr. Kathryn

*When despair grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting for their light.
For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

Wendell Berry

