

**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR-
PO Box 827 Lebanon Springs, NY 12125**

GIDEON'S TRUMPET SEPTEMBER 2021 VOLUME 13 #4

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN (Bitsy Sheffer-Winig)

As September winds down and we enter the fall season, I reflect on the activities of the summer and look forward to the events of the season. This summer was family-filled. We did our annual pilgrimage to Cape Cod and spent several wonderful days enjoying the sun and ocean, as well as the yummy lobsters and some delicious ice cream. June, July, August and September held birthdays with parties and grandchildren and children and Tony. I look forward to the upcoming trip to Walt Disney World with most of the grandchildren and children and the experience of seeing WDW in their eyes. I have foot surgery coming up, which I am grateful for. The constants in my life are my family, my husband, and my faith. The work of the Vestry of Our Saviour continues through all the seasons of the year. I am blessed to be a part of that loving community and the family of Our Saviour. Enjoy the fall weather, the pumpkin-spiced everything, and the constancy of the love of our Lord.

FROM THE RECTOR, FATHER FRANK LOCKWOOD

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I have been blessed to have two wonderful mentors in my life.

The first was Father A. Wayne Bowers. We initially met through the search committee process for the church I was a member of. Father Wayne had a wonderful way of showing himself to be available to others. He also demonstrated a near miraculous level of forgiveness. I witnessed this firsthand when he had opened a portion of the rectory to a young man who was working on getting his life together. The young man struggled with addiction issues but professed a devout desire to change. The young man relapsed on drugs, and this led to him stealing from Fr. Wayne and then disappearing for a few months. He later came back and met face to face with Fr. Wayne. Somehow, Fr. Wayne was able to forgive him and provided him yet another chance.

When I had left the church (and faith) for a “season”, Fr. Wayne still periodically stopped by and knocked on my front door just to see how I was doing. Later, when through a series of events I was led back to the faith, Fr Wayne heard my many confessions, provided absolution, never flinched in his love and care for me and demonstrated to me what reconciliation is truly about. That idea of someone to know the darkness you have walked through and still show you the love of God in and through all of it.

My second mentor was Mother Susan Baker-Borjesson (SB2 or Pastor Susan for short). She had initiated the call for me to Christ Church in Coxsackie while still yet a deacon. It was her perceived vision that she and I were to partner together in ministry. We attended many conferences together as part of my developing process. During one such conference she

introduced me to another pastor she knew through the conference network. He smiled and shook my hand and gave Pastor Susan a sideways glance. Pastor Susan smiled and said to him, "he is a diamond in the rough." He questioned her, "are you to knock off the rough edges." She smiled at me while she spoke to him. "No," she said, "I believe he needs those rough edges."

My relationship went through much turmoil with Pastor Susan. We parted ways in 2011 in an unhealthy way. I am blessed to say that we were able to reconnect and in 2019 spent some time in prayer and reconciliation between us.

A component of that reconciliation was my meeting with two additional pastors that she and her husband were able to sit in on. During our discussion, one of the pastors shared what he saw when he was praying about me. He said that he saw a large closet with many clothes in it and that each of those clothes I would wear. He said that some of the clothes were more comfortable to me than others but all of them were mine. He then shared about having the impression that people whom I dealt with often only wanted to deal with me in one set of clothes and that I was not meant to be locked into just one set. This changed my relationship with Pastor Susan in a very positive way. I had always tried to live into what I thought she wanted from me rather than allowing her to get to know who I really am.

All these experiences, as well as others, including study and a few spiritually spooky things, have led me to this understanding: all the variety is needed, and it is in that variety whereby a society will find its strength and its growth. Jesus says that in his Father's house are many rooms and that he went to prepare a place. What could many rooms mean if it does not mean diversity? The dichotomy of opposites that will come from diversity is vital to our continuation and especially to our growth.

For example, Pastor Susan often referred to herself as (spiritually) a dove. She would then refer to me (again spiritually) as an eagle. She saw/sees herself as softer, quieter, nurturing, etcetera. In contrast, she sees me as larger, perhaps abrasive to some viewpoints, yes nurturing but more in a protective from harm way, etcetera.

If all the body were an eye, then where would the healing be? So, too, if all of us believers were pacifists, where would the next generation come from? Who would protect the pacifists when the darkness chooses to overwhelm them? We need both the peacemakers and those who are ready to make war. We need both the liberal/progressives and the conservative/traditionalists. The tension between is what makes for healthy boundaries and when used correctly, necessary self-reflection and awareness.

A former priest whom I spent time with was a devout pacifist. He and I had a couple of challenging conversations. I truly desire peace and do work in my life to promote the same (including grace, mercy and forgiveness as modeled by Jesus and reflected in scripture). When I traveled on mission to Africa, I was faced with the reality of there being individuals who were trained from birth to dislike me and all that they believed I stood for. This meant my life was at times in very real danger. I was accepting of that. I would hope that even if threatened with a machete and my head removed if I didn't renounce my faith that I would stay steadfast in my beliefs and accept what happened. I shared this with him. What I was not comfortable with in his viewpoint was asking my grandchildren, two of whom were infants, to make the same sacrifice. How could I sacrifice this innocent life just so I could feel better about my beliefs? Does the fact

that I would not be willing to sacrifice my grandchildren for the sake of my beliefs make my beliefs less valid? Does it make me less of a Christian? Does it somehow make me a monster? Or is the real monster the one willing to make the decision to allow others to pay the price for their beliefs with a disregard for what their own decision might be?

We never concluded the conversation nor came to a point of agreement. And in that I am glad. Why? Because it means that there is a place for me to do more thinking, to experience possible growth and a place for me to come to terms with myself.

As we look at a world “gone insane” as some would say, I would ask you to consider this: perhaps that opposite viewpoint that you have been hit with is there on purpose to make sure you are still certain in your own beliefs. Or, perhaps, your beliefs do need to be modified, even if ever so subtly that others wouldn’t even be aware of it. Should we run blindly towards vaccines or perhaps push back? Is there a greater conspiracy at work in all of this? Are there new microprocessors that are so small they can be inserted by a needle or is this merely sci-fi? Is the paranoia just paranoia or is it founded in some semblance of truth but amped up to its own level of hysteria?

I will leave with this one last piece taken from American history. The Iroquois Confederacy was composed of 4 different tribes (later they were “persuaded” to take on a 5th tribe). The governance of the confederacy relied on a two-house system (literally councils held in long houses). In the one would be the men (warriors) and in the other would be the women (mothers). War could not occur unless both houses agreed. It was a way of checking situations. The necessity of the war-makers and peacemakers working together for the sake of their mutual future.

I suppose that what I am suggesting we strive for is not just “tolerance” of differing viewpoints but instead following Paul’s (oh, no I don’t always care for his writings) teachings: “give thanks in all circumstances” and “by prayer make your supplications known to God.” In other words, not just tolerating but instead giving thanks to God when something comes along that challenges us. By this testing will our faith and beliefs be tempered or tried. The ideal result being that we all grow especially in agape (sacrificial Godly love) with one another.

One final example in a secular setting. When I had initially returned to my faith and was studying to become an addictions counselor, I was vehemently opposed to marijuana. I probably even went so far as to buy in to the notion of it being “the gateway drug”. That is, until I allowed myself to be challenged by new information and less biased research that later led to a change in understanding. As this change in understanding occurred it led to even greater changes in my understanding of addiction, recovery, healing and trauma. I was challenged. In the end, that challenge led to a greater depth of insight and understanding which I was then able to pass along by it effectively changing my counseling techniques.

Blessings and peace to all

Father Frank Lockwood

CALENDAR

September 23	6:30 pm	Bible Study Resumes This is a TIME CHANGE from last year. Zoom numbers will be coming out. Join us to continue our journey with the 12 tribes of Israel We are in 1 Samuel, Chapter 13.
October 3	8 am	Collection starts for the Samaritan Purse shoeboxes. We have enough crayons and stuffed animals. Our goal is 10 boxes again this year.
October 3	3-5pm	Blessings of the Animals, both large and small In church parking lot and field. Bring your animal for a blessing and some refreshments
October 9	9 am	Cleaning of the Sanctuary – volunteers needed See note from the Altar Guild below
October 23	---	Diocesan Convention will be held virtually. Mary Young will update the parish in the December Trumpet.
October 31	8 am	All Saints Day Service – Holy Eucharist
November 28	8am	Advent starts – Holy Eucharist
December 19	8 am	Holy Eucharist. Greening of Sanctuary and Covered Dish Brunch Follow the service
December 24	7:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service

VESTRY UPDATES

Vestry sent \$100 to Beaver Cross from the church in memory of Father Dugger.

Music for services will be provided by Rich Mayer for September and Anne Wever for October.

Zoom continues with updated numbers: ID 835-8111-0224 Password 416299

Donations for the NLCS school bus were collected and two boxes were collected, one for the elementary school and one for the high school.

Donations for the Domestic Shelters, 2 boxes were sent on at the Deanery meeting.

FROM THE ALTAR GUILD (Mary Young, Directress)

I have discovered that due to the high humidity the sanctuary is very moldy, books, pews, the carpet and the spiders are having a field day. I am asking anyone who can to join me on **Saturday 10/09 at 9am** to thoroughly clean the church. This means move the pews, vacuum, wash the walls, pews and altar area with HOT soapy water, wipe the radiators off and try to reach the ceiling area wherever we can. Then put everything back. I have a vacuum, cloths, soap for wood and buckets. If you could give an hour or two it would help. Bring your own gloves. Thank you.

FROM THE TREASURER (Richard Dauchy)

Recently I have been working with many other organizations- Mostly as a volunteer...but more now also as a Board Member

One thing has become obvious to me

We at Church of Our Saviour are truly blessed. The amount of time and energy that the people of this church put forth is amazing. Trust me...my experience has shown me that this is not always the case. We are so lucky to have

Ed Wever - Helps with inspections and as a reader

Anne Wever - Provides music for worship

Ed Curtin - Vestry member & reader

Jill Curtin - Newsletter support- also was seen working hard at the picnic

Nancy Stock - Bible study & membership

Bitsy Sheffer -Senior Warden & altar guild & reader

Mary Young - Junior Warden, altar guild, worship leader

Tony Winig - Maintenance support, technical help, bell ringer extraordinaire

Pam Coley-McCann - Vestry member & reader

Rich Mayer - Provides music for worship (plus invaluable IT support to Treasurer)

Eugenia Browning - Vestry Secretary, banking support, special events support

Susan Darcy - Website administrator, newsletter contributor

Tom Stone - Vestry member, maintenance support

Debbie Gallucci - Sunday school, Shoe Box coordinator

Roxanne Gray - Membership and sharing her wonderful produce

Adrian Shoobs – Membership

Cece Best- Membership & Zoom support

Of course, we would be nothing without Father Frank. His continuing leadership and spiritual guidance have helped us all not only survive, but grow as a Church.

Most recent example, our Church Picnic in August. This event was wonderfully successful.

I wanted to share these thoughts with you, partly as a “shout out”, but more as a statement of profound gratitude. Always a good idea to stop and truly appreciate all of God’s Gifts and those wonderful people that all contribute.

I have learned that an attitude of gratitude makes my world much more full.

Thanks to all our members

RMD

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Backpack Program of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York currently provides 30 children in the New Lebanon Central School District with a backpack full of nutritious foods each week to ensure they won’t go hungry when other resources aren’t available, such as on holidays and weekends. Parents and teachers alike have seen the impact the program has made on New Lebanon CSD children.

“I noticed a student saving food from breakfast at the bottom of his backpack,” said one teacher. “Now he comes to school more frequently and does not store the food anymore.”

“I would like to thank the community because everything helps nowadays,” said one parent. “We do use everything that’s sent home!”

The program is supported through a grant that provides decreasing funds by year. The district relies on donations from community members like you to supplement the costs. Currently, the program is in desperate need of your support. Without it, the program may not be able to support all the children in the district that so desperately need it.

Please consider sponsoring a child in our district for a full school year for just \$167.00. Please make your donation through Church of Our Saviour.