



Gideon's Trumpet

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Volume 2004 Issue 3

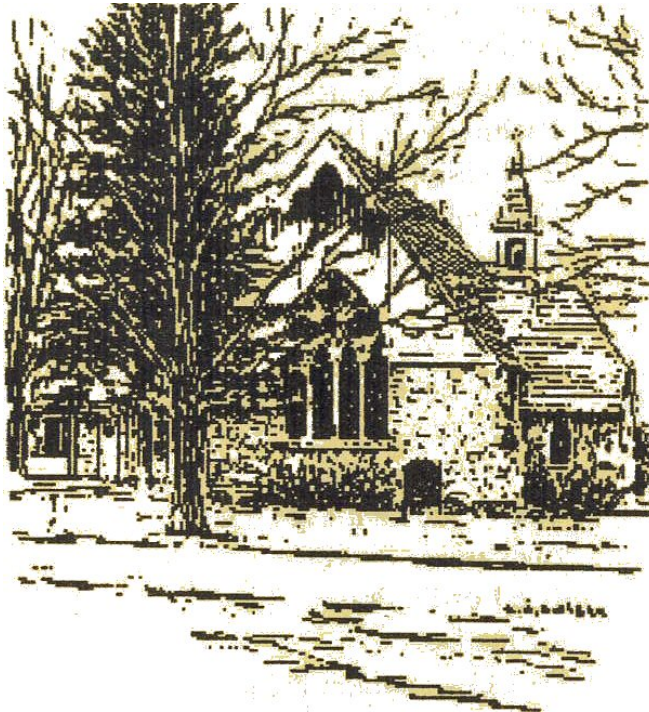
October 3, 2004

Fall Arrived!

All around us we see God's touch -- the leaves with vibrant colors and the sky so clear and bright against the colors, it makes one breathless at the beauty of it all.

We probably don't always recognize God's touch in our lives and thank Him for everything in our lives.

Thank you Lord for my life, friends and family.



Special points of interest:

- Fall Arrived!
- Pastor's Points
- Snippets and Bits
- Agape
- Youth Corner
- Sunday School
- Comings and Goings
- Youth for Christ
- Church Calendar
- Important Dates At a Glance



Pastor's Points

September 26th was Homecoming Sunday and the turn out was FANTASTIC!. My thanks to all for making it possible. The Sunday before was the Episcopal Visitation by Bishop David Bena. In the Priest and Deacons Update sent out by Bishop Dan, he states that the visit was a success and very enlightening. Bishop Bena was very interested in the changes that have occurred since his last visit. Let us all put forth an effort to increase our attendance. Make a friend; Be a friend; Bring a friend to church.

Fr. C. Dugger



Snippets and Bits

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large work-room filled with angels.

My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received." I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world. Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them."

I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section," my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that? There's no work going on here?" I asked.

"So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked.

"Simple," the angel answered. "Just say, 'Thank you, Lord.'"

"What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... you are richer than 75% of this world. "If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

"And if you read from the website on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity."

Also

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 700 million people in the world.

"If you can attend a church meeting without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death ... you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world.

"If your parents are still alive and still married .. you are very rare.

If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you are unique to all those in doubt and despair."

Ok, what now? How can I start?

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you want, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

Attn: Acknowledge Dept.: Thank You Lord! "Thank you Lord, for giving me the ability to share this message and for giving me so many wonderful people to share it with."

For every minute you are angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness. -Ralph Waldo Emerson



YOUTH for CHRIST

New Lebanon Youth For Christ Chairman's Report
September 8, 2004

The New Lebanon Youth For Christ Youth Center had a great first summer. The Center was open for seven days during the summer, Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Two of those seven meeting days were open house and the kids enjoyed a place to come and relax with their friends. Twenty-one different kids came to the summer events.

Activities were scheduled on the other five days. We took the kids to Lanesboro Miniature Gold with King Kone ice cream afterwards. Then we took them to the New York State Museum in Albany followed by a trip to the Alpine Slide at Jiminy Peak. We had a picnic and swim at Onoto Lake in Pittsfield and then took the kids on a hike to a beautiful waterfall on Mount Greylock.

The summer program was fittingly capped by a trip to Pennsylvania to see the Sight and Sound Millennium Theater's "Noah, the Musical" in Lancaster. I want to thank Barbara Robertson, Scott Groves, and my wife, Cindy, for their commitment to drive and chaperon the trip. It was a memorable trip for all of us. Ten kids were able to go on the trip. The salvation message was shared with the students in our morning prayer time as we read the story of Noah and how God closed the door to the ark- those who did not believe in God perished. The musical was something the kids had never seen before. The show ended with the salvation message as Jesus appeared at the door of the ark after Noah and all the animals departed and told the audience that the door will close again and that Jesus will close that door, that last chance for eternal life with God!! The musical clearly showed that the people of Noah's age lived for the moment and did not want to give up their "lifestyle", just as it is today!

I also want to thank the donor of the tickets to the show. And, I want to thank Don and Pat Dobert for their monetary donation that paid for three kids' overnight at the Blackrock Christian Retreat Center (another blessing - what a beautiful and fun place).

We are preparing to open in the fall now that school is underway. Clint Garrigan, our school science teacher, has volunteered to anchor Thursday afternoons. We will continue to be open on Tuesdays. Opening day will be Tuesday, September 14th, 2004. Please continue to keep this ministry in prayer. We need volunteers - at the Center, drivers, workers. The field is ripe unto harvest!

In Christ's Name,
Rick Morgan, Steering Committee Chairman

Got something you would like to have in Gideon's Trumpet? Want to share with your Brothers and Sisters in Christ? We encourage *YOUR* participation in the Trumpet and solicit your contributions which can be left in the Church Office; or mailed to Susan Darcy, 7 Hutchinson Lane Lenox, MA 01240-2217 or sent by email to:

Susan@darcy-systems.com.

I'm looking forward to your suggestions and contributions!

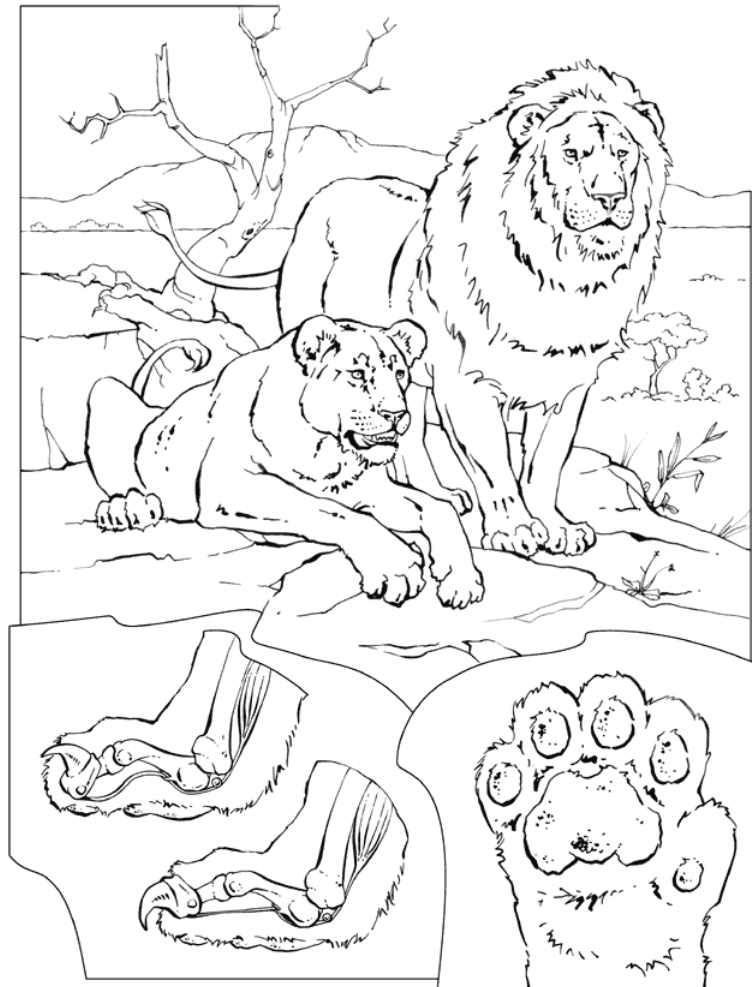


Youth Corner



Our talented Sunday School teacher, Debi Galusha, welcomed our students as Sunday School began on 26 September. If your students were unable to attend the first few classes, bring them next time. All students ages 3 to 12 are welcome to join Debi's class. There are fun projects, bible stories, and other lessons for everyone.

Got a question about Sunday School? Please call Debi Galusha at 518-733-9356.



Color the African lions -- notice the paw and bone structure?



Marriage Encounter Weekend

October 22-24

WHY SETTLE FOR A "GOOD" MARRIAGE WHEN YOU CAN HAVE A GREAT MARRIAGE?

You can make the leap from just "good" to GREAT on an **Episcopal Marriage Encounter** weekend! Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones - and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference an Episcopal Marriage Encounter weekend can make! The next weekend is **October 22-24, 2004** at the Ramada Inn in Glens Falls, NY. Registration is limited so a quick response is encouraged. For more information or to register, please contact: Jim and Kathy Parnapy, 114 Crooked Trail, Middle Grove, NY 12850 (518) 882-6541 papa@capital.net or go to: <http://www.episcopalme.com>

WANT TO GET CLOSER TO THE ONE YOU LOVE?

You can do that on an **Episcopal Marriage Encounter** weekend! Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones - and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference an Episcopal Marriage Encounter weekend can make! The next weekend is **October 22-24, 2004** at the Ramada Inn in Glens Falls, NY. Registration is limited so a quick response is encouraged. For more information or to register, please contact: Jim and Kathy Parnapy, 114 Crooked Trail, Middle Grove, NY 12850 (518) 882-6541 papa@capital.net or go to: <http://www.episcopalme.com>

IF YOU LOVE THE PERSON YOU'RE MARRIED TO...YOU'LL LOVE A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND!

Episcopal Marriage Encounter weekend is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones - and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference an Episcopal Marriage Encounter weekend can make! The next weekend is **October 22-24, 2004** at the Ramada Inn in Glens Falls, NY. Registration is limited so a quick response is encouraged. For more information or to register, please contact: Jim and Kathy Parnapy, 114 Crooked Trail, Middle Grove, NY 12850 (518) 882-6541 papa@capital.net or go to: <http://www.episcopalme.com>

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's Mission of renewal in the church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

Renewed marriages renewing the Church and the world through the power of divine love.

ALREADY ENCOUNTERED? We'd love to hear from you. As you may remember from your Weekend, the loving support of couples praying was an important element of its success. Also- you may want to make an Anniversary Weekend. The Weekend has changed - you may have too. The next weekend is **October 22-24, 2004** at the Ramada Inn in Glens Falls, NY. Registration is limited so a quick response is encouraged. For more information or to register, please contact: Jim and Kathy Parnapy, 147 Feeder Dam Road, South Glen Falls, NY 12803 (518) 793-0215 papa@capital.net or go to: <http://www.episcopalme.com>



The Power of LOVE



What is the strongest motivation in your life? Some people are driven by fear, greed, or lust. Others see faith as a primary incentive. But when love is present in a person's life, it is one of the most powerful motivating forces known to man.

First Corinthians 13 is sometimes referred to as the "love chapter" of the Bible. There, the apostle Paul talks about the pre-eminence of love over biblical knowledge, powerful faith, generosity, and even the ultimate sacrifice of one's own life. (**verses 1-3**) Then, in the next four verses, he explains how genuine love acts. You might react to this description by thinking, *I'm not sure I can do that!* And you would be absolutely correct—no one can, in his own strength, carry out all these actions of love. It is impossible apart from almighty God, who is the source of love.

In fact, the Bible tells us God is love. (**1 John 4:8**) When you and I trusted Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, the Holy Spirit came to indwell us, and therefore we have the love of God inside of us. As we surrender ourselves to Him, He allows His divine love—not human love—to flow through us. That means Christians have a capacity to love that the unbeliever does not have; it supercedes what human beings can do in their own strength. The Bible terms this love "agape."

Unselfish, willing to sacrifice, and ready to serve, agape love is committed to someone else's best interest. So how does divine love act? It is first of all **patient** for God's timing and purposes. In those frustrating circumstances that we are helpless to change, God's love provides the power, capacity, and courage to continue waiting until He sees fit to alter the situation. For example, marrying quickly because you "just can't wait" reveals a desire to fulfill self, even at the other person's expense. Agape gives us the patience to wait for what is best.

With God's love, we also have the capacity to be **kind** toward others, whether or not they are kind to us. When we are criticized, mistreated, or falsely accused, we may want to respond vengefully, as the world would. But with God living and loving on the inside of us, we can respond considerately. Kindness also conveys the idea of healing—it means being willing to go out of our way to lift a person up. Today we have many opportunities for kindness because discouragement, disillusionment, and despair abound.

Notice that in every agape action Paul describes, we must forget ourselves. Unfortunately, most people never truly learn to love because they can't get beyond themselves. We have to get out of the way and let God's love flow through us. Then kindness, gentleness, and a desire to heal will naturally exude from us. Believers have Jesus' love on the inside; as we submit to the Holy Spirit, who controls the flow, agape love can pour forth and touch other lives.

Paul also tells us that divine love is **not jealous**; it enables us to share. Some people might regard jealousy as a protective attitude, but it actually has more to do with fear than protection. If we are afraid of losing someone's faithfulness, we can become protective of it, attempting to restrict which companions that individual may have. We may even become jealous when someone receives rewards or recognition. These attitudes speak of self, while agape love—the kind God wants us to have for Him as well as those around us—is concerned with others. It asks, not "What is good for me?" but "God, what is *Your* will, *Your* purpose, and *Your* plan?"

Another aspect of agape love is **humility**. People overflowing with God's love do not feel a necessity to prove anything; they are "poised"—comfortable sitting quietly and listening—no matter what is going on. The opposite of humility is boastful pride; such arrogance is the equivalent of confessing, "I am empty, so I want your attention. To get it, I must dominate the conversation and gain recognition as the best." But love need not brag because a relationship with God is so satisfying it requires nothing external to feel complete.

Next, Paul says love "does not act unbecomingly"; in other words, agape love is **polite**, enabling us to demonstrate godly character when interacting with other people. We can be well-mannered both publicly and privately, regardless of what is happening. **John 13:35** elaborates, "By this all men will



know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Furthermore, love **does not seek its own**. In other words, love surrenders its rights. Think about today's culture, where there is so much talk about protecting our "rights." Isn't it interesting that Jesus never talked about His rights? In contrast, as our innocent Savior hung upon the cross, His concern was for the ones who crucified Him to be forgiven. (**Luke 23:34**)

If you and I belong to God, we lay down our rights. We do not necessarily allow people to trample us; we simply do not regard our rights as our primary concern. Instead, we should focus on allowing the love of God to flow through us to the other person. For the child of God, the power and capacity to love is available, even in the midst of horrible or embarrassing mistreatment. Why does **Matthew 5:39** instruct turning the other cheek if someone strikes us? Because love never loses—but we certainly can lose when we demand our rights.

Another evidence of agape love is that it **is not provoked**. Godly love makes it possible to have a quiet spirit, no matter what. Being serene around loving friends is one thing; it is another matter to remain composed around nonbelievers who hope to discover and expose some hypocrisy in a Christian. Paul's expression also relates to touchy people who are ready to explode at the slightest misdeed—such people are living with their focus on themselves and their fuse already lit. Even if that has been our tendency, God's supernatural love flowing through us enables us to step out of our normal pattern and live on a higher level.

One of the main benefits of agape love is that it **does not take into account** a wrong suffered. This supernatural love empowers us to forgive, regardless of the circumstances. Some people are "scorekeepers," remembering how they were wronged last week, last year, and twenty years ago—this unforgiveness reveals a spirit of imprisonment. The person keeping track of wrongs ends up in bondage to the offenses. God does not intend for us to act that way; He wants us to follow His example—how many sins have you committed that our Father would not forgive? None. When you trusted Jesus as your personal Savior, God did not just erase the scoreboard; He tore it up. (**Psalms 103:12**) It is His love in us that enables us to do likewise.

What's more, agape love "does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but **rejoices with the truth**" This means God's love enables us to see the hurt in other people's lives and to hate evil that befalls them unjustly. At the same time, we can regard the perpetrators of such evil in a new light: God loves every person equally, even those we might consider despicable and unlovable. (**John 3:16**) He wants us to love in the same way.

Verse 7 says that love "**bears all things**"—agape love empowers me to keep to myself any negative remarks I hear about people. Genuine love means looking out for another person's happiness, security, and well-being; it covers a multitude of sins by not being openly critical or spreading gossip. This term also refers to bearing someone else's burdens (**Galatians 5:2**), which may be an emotional, relational, financial, occupational, or spiritual load. Burdens can seem overwhelming, but we are tapped into an inexhaustible resource: God. If He is our source, then our love is broad enough, deep enough, and wide enough to encompass someone else who is hurting. (**Ephesians 3:18-19**)

When Paul says love "**believes all things**," he is not accusing us of gullibility; rather, he is saying God's love is not suspicious and does not seek a reason to criticize. Agape makes us willing to believe the best about someone in the absence of absolute proof to the contrary.

Love also "**hopes all things**," which simply means it enables us to hope for the best in others, no matter what is going on. Think about what gives us the most optimism in our lives, especially during times of difficulty and suffering. When we feel someone else's love, it makes no difference how dark or dingy our circumstances may be—love invigorates us and breeds expectancy in our life. As children of God, we can be the vessel through which His supernatural love flows to a world hungry for hope.

Paul concludes this passage by saying that "**love never fails**." Not only does this indicate agape love will never run out; it also means that whatever the situation, the proper response always is love. Responding with agape keeps us free—we are not imprisoned by bitterness, anger, hostility, or an unforgiving spirit. You can live in the shackles of hatred, depression, and resentment, or you can be free—the choice is yours. God is waiting to lead you into an abundant life, redeemed by His love.

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October and November Calendar At a Glance

October 2004			
Saturday	October 2	10:00 AM	Episcopal Church Women Meeting
Sunday	October 3	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
Thursday	October 7	6:30 PM	Simple Meal
		7:00 PM	Bible Teaching, Prayers for Local Churches, Compline
Sunday	October 10	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Last Sunday School Class until Fall
Thursday	October 14	9:00 AM	Vestry Meeting
Sunday	October 17	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
Friday	October 22	7:00 PM	Free Showing of Mel Gibson's The Passion of Christ
Saturday	October 23	2:00 PM	Free Showing of Mel Gibson's The Passion of Christ
Sunday	October 24	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
Sunday	October 31	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Laying on of Hands & Sunday School
November 2004			
Monday	November 1	7:00 PM	All Saints Day
Saturday	November 6	10:00 AM	Episcopal Church Women Meeting
Sunday	November 7	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
Thursday	November 11 - Veteran's Day	6:30 PM	Simple Meal
		7:00 PM	Bible Teaching, Prayers for Local Churches, Compline
Sunday	November 14	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
Saturday	November 20	9AM - 2PM	Holiday Sale - Bake Table
Sunday	November 21	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
Thursday	November 25	TBD	Thanksgiving
Sunday	November 28	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
Mark Your Calendars to Plan for these Future Events			
Friday	October 22	7PM	Free Showing of Mel Gibson's The Passion of Christ
Saturday	October 23	2PM	Free Showing of Mel Gibson's The Passion of Christ
Saturday	November 20	9AM -- 2PM	Holiday Sale - Bake Table



Gideon's Trumpet

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.churchofoursaviour.us/>



The mission of the Church of Our Saviour is to spread the Gospel and inspire a renewal and commitment to living the Christian life through the love of Jesus Christ as expressed by His People.

During October and November Remember these Important Dates

Date	Subject
22 -- 24 October	Marriage Encounter Weekend
22, 23 October	Free Showing of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of Christ"
20 November	Holiday Sale
25 November	Thanksgiving

Remember Friday - October 22 Friday and Saturday - October 23

Free showing of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ".

Fri - Oct 22 - 7:00 PM and Sat - Oct 23 - 2:00 PM

We will be renting a large screen TV – Please bring lawn chairs for comfort, (if possible) because it's a 2+ hour movie and the chairs in the parish hall are not built for extended occupancy!!