



Gideon's Trumpet

Church of Our Saviour
Lebanon Springs, NY

Volume 2005 Issue V

December 11, 2005

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.

Winter Frosting!

Although we know snow comes with winter, our first snowfall is always a surprise! Advent is like a first snowfall -- our Lord's surprise for us -- we know He is coming but on Christmas Eve, as we sing the carols and close with Silent Night, we truly feel His presence among us. May everyone feel the love, wonder and joy of His coming this Christmas!



Special points of interest:

- Pastor's Points
- Parishioner's Corner
- A Very Special Letter to All
- The Living Bible
- More Church News
- Sunday School Update
- Youth Corner
- An Honest Gift
- Quiz - Birth of the Saviour
- Church Calendar
- Important Dates At a Glance



Pastor's Points

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:

The joy of a child's delight or the joy of an unexpected gift, these are the joys Our Lord has in store for all of us. Each year at this time we expect the unexpected.

Our God has already given us the greatest gift -- His Blessed Son, Jesus. May we all relive the child's delight we experienced when we first received this unexpected gift into our hearts.

A Blessed Christmas to all in His most glorious Name.

Rev. Canon & Mrs. Clinton G. Dugger



Church of Our Saviour

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 Lebanon Springs, NY 12125-0827
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Serving the mission of our Church are the following dedicated people:

Priest Assigned	Canon Clinton Dugger	518-794-9740	
Minister of Music	Anne Wever	518-794-7594	
Senior Warden	Elizabeth Sheffer	518-766-6343	(01/2006*)
Junior Warden	John Holbrook, Jr.	518-781-0063	(01/2006*)
Treasurer	John Holbrook, Jr.	518-781-0063	

Vestry Members	Jane Chittenden	518-794-9591	(01/2008*)
	Virginia French	518-794-8092	(01/2006*)
	Wyatt Haley	518-733-5771	(01/2007*)
	Vincent Teachout	518-744-9242	(01/2007*)
	Mary Young	518-794-7538	(01/2008*)
	Eugenia Browning	518-794-8321	Clerk

(*Term Expires)

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)	
President	Eugenia Browning
Vice President	Molly Laird
Secretary	Susan Schauder
Treasurer	Virginia French

PRAYER LIST

As Christians we use prayer to communicate to God regarding our concerns, hurts and thanksgivings. The Bible says where two or three are gathered together the Lord is in their midst. Group prayer is just that, bringing many voices to the Lord.

Would you like to have prayer given by the group for yourself or someone else? You may call (518-794-7538) or write Mary Young a note, with the person's name you would like to have on the prayer list. Please include your name so that she can get back with you every thirty days or so to check on the person you added.

Some prayers are needed for a long time, some a short time, plus it is nice to know how the people we pray for are doing, one of the best thanksgiving prayers is to thank God for answered prayer.

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!

Parishioners Corner

Starting with our first Trumpet in 2006, there will be a new series -- **Spotlight on Parishioners!** Have an unusual hobby? Are you doing something different? Volunteer to be interviewed! But watch next issue for an article on our Parishioner, Birgitta Peterson.



The Nativity

A scene so peaceful in the night,
 The starry sky is soft and bright,
 A stream of light shines from a Star,
 To guide the Wise Men from afar.
 A stable's where the Christ Child lay,
 Asleep so precious on the hay.
 Mary and Joseph are close by,
 With angels singing from on high.
 The shepherds kneel down to adore
 The Babe Who comes to bless the
 poor.
 A King has gold to give this day,
 A drummer boy, a song to play.



A VERY SPECIAL LETTER TO ALL

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated.

During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer.

It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me.

As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago.

At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration.

Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration. I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts.

But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited.

I was the guest of honor and they didn't remember to send me an invitation.

The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face ... and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner.

They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a grand time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus" as if the party were in his honor!

At midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and do you know no-one hugged me.

Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one?

I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left.

Every year it gets worse. People only remember the gifts, the parties, to eat and drink, and nobody remembers me.

I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life.

I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you.

Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart.

I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements.

Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters, in my great guest book.

Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party.

Those who don't answer the invite, will be left outside. Be prepared because when all is ready you will be part of my great party.

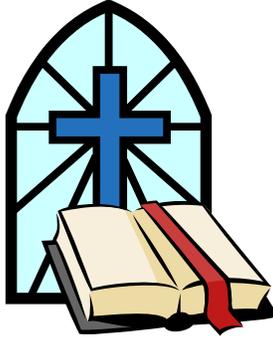
See you soon. I Love you! *Jesus*



The Living Bible

T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He is brilliant. Kind of esoteric and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college. Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks wild hair. The service has already started for a seat. The church is completely packed are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he down right on the carpet.



in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and and so Bill starts down the aisle looking and he can't find a seat. By now, people no one says anything. Bill gets closer and realizes there are no seats, he just squats

By now the people are really uptight, and time, the minister realizes that from way at making his way toward Bill.

the tension in the air is thick. About this the back of the church, a deacon is slowly

Now the deacon is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor?

It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The minister can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do. And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone.

Everyone chokes up with emotion. When the minister gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget." "Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read".

I asked the Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today. To guide you and protect you as you go along your way..... His love is always with you, His promises are true, and when we give Him all our cares, you know He will see us through.

Pass this to people you want God to Bless. I DID



Youth Corner

Our Sunday School is practicing their participation in the Christmas Eve service at 7PM. Bring your children or grandchildren to the 10 AM Service and let them share in this wonderful experience! Have a question about Sunday School? Please call Debi Gallucci at 518-733-9356.



Jumble -- Find the word in the scrambled letters. The "block" letters are then used to solve the scrambled saying on the last line.

"A Honest Gift" Jumble

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. LASHYMEPS | _____ □ | 6. HDDNEI | □ _____ |
| 2. ASHGIGNN | ___ □ _____ | 7. AEIVRSR | ___ □ _____ |
| 3. SWEDO | _ □ ___ | 8. CERPIEVE | _____ □ _____ |
| 4. PALER | □ _____ | 9. SLARECES | □ _____ |
| 5. AUNTOM | _____ □ | 10. WETRIH | _ □ _____ |

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ do in the synagogues and the streets, to be honored by men." (Matthew 6:2)



Bible Quiz

"Birth of the Saviour"

Think you know the answers? Take the quiz and find out

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Who was sent to prepare the world for Jesus?
A. Joseph
B. John the Baptist | 6. Why was the holy delivery in this place?
A. The king wished it so
B. There was no room for Joseph and Mary at the inn |
| 2. How did Mary come to name the Saviour Jesus?
A. She discussed it with Joseph and they agreed.
B. John the Baptist named him so
C. An angel of the Lord | 7. In what was the baby Jesus immediately wrapped?
A. Joseph's cloak
B. Mary's robes
C. Swaddling clothes |
| 3. In what special way was Mary with child?
A. She was not expected to have children ever.
B. She was really past the childbearing years.
C. She was a virgin and was carrying an immaculately | 8. What event proclaimed the arrival of the Lord Jesus?
A. The Star of Bethlehem
B. God's voice speaking to the world
C. The death of the anti-Christ |
| 4. Where was Jesus born?
A. Bethlehem
B. Tel Aviv
C. Jerusalem | 9. Who first heard of the coming of Christ on that blessed eve?
A. The king and queen of Rome
B. Shepherds in the fields |
| 5. Where in the city (Question No. 4) was Jesus born?
A. In the royal palace
B. In a stable (for cattle)
C. In Joseph's tent just outside the town | 10. How did they (answers to Question No. 9) hear the most holy news?
A. The devil spoke to them
B. Angels told them |



More Church News

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 10, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Chittenden, Mary Young, Bitsy Sheffer, Virginia French, Vince Teachout, Father Dugger, Eugenia Browning, Clerk, Guest, Jim French

Meeting opened at 7 pm with a prayer by Father Dugger.

READING OF MINUTES: Approved on a motion/second Mary Young/Virginia French with the following corrections: Worship committee key board here no speakers; Building and Grounds, work detail on 10/22/05 omitted; New Business, Wednesday morning meeting is a group of Christian Women meeting for Bible study.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved as presented.

PRIEST ASSIGNED: Father Dugger, on Sunday 11/13/05 Father Robert Haskel will preach on Spiritual Life Center fund raising campaign. Mary Sherwood, a missionary is home, Father Dugger to contact her to come at speak at Church of Our Saviour.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Father Robert Haskel from Spiritual Life Center will speak at both services on 11/13/05. Christmas Eve Services at 7 and 11 PM and Christmas Day at 9 AM. Virginia French & Bitsy Sheffer will be the committee for Parish Gathering and Greening of the Church on 12/18/05 after the 10 AM service. Lessons & Carols will be held on 1/8/06 at 2 PM followed by light refreshments. Mary Young to be chairperson for this.

EDUCATION & DISCIPLESHIP: Jim French to show ALPHA video after meeting. Suggested Nigel Mumford for next healing service. Jim French to contact him. Back of Basic is completed.

STEWARDSHIP: Bitsy Sheffer, John Holbrook gave sermon at both services on 10/30/05 and letters went out to all parish members with pledge card and time & talent form to be completed and returned by Sunday 11/27/05.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Roof over kitchen & flower room 100% completed. 3 windows ordered for basement in rectory, one window to be boarded up, cannot reach to replace because of oil

tank, will be boarded shut. Clean up on 10/22/05 was a great success, bushes trimmed, tree cut down and ground cover moved. Hedges still need to be trimmed. Sound system in Friendship Hall nearly completed. Shades for window purchased and to be installed. Speakers for Church still not here.

RESTORATION: Bell tower to be worked on.

CORRESPONDENCE: Forward Movement Cycle of Prayer cards for January. Bishops visitation list here, C.O.S. not on cycle for first six months.

ECW: Mary Young Christmas Bazaar 12/10/05 10 am to 2 PM. Work detail 12/6/05 and set up 12/9/05 day & evening.

HUDSON VALLEY DEANERY: Susan Baker-Borkensen named Cleric Representative to Deanery Council. Deanery assessment to be sent out shortly. Deanery has a Katrina assistance program with a church in Mississippi.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST: Virginia French Youth doing a project for Charlie's Pantry for Thanksgiving baskets, making corn muffins. In December will be holding a Christmas Party. Weekly meeting going very well.

OLD BUSINESS: Nominating Committee, Mary Young and Bitsy Sheffer, Bitsy to contact someone from 8 am service to be on committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Bitsy, request from High School to use Friendship Hall on Tues & Wed 1/24 & 1/25/06 for tests. Jane Chittenden asked if the hall had every been offered to the Town of New Lebanon for use. Mary Young suggested a letter be sent to Town Board that the hall is available for their use if needed. Jane also suggested that we continue the parish meeting more than once a year, possibly January and August.

Meeting closed at 8:40 pm with prayer by Father Dugger. Alpha video presented to members.

Respectfully submitted
Eugenia Browning, Clerk



The 'L I T T L E' Things

As you might know, the head of a company
survived

9/11 because his son started kindergarten.

Another fellow was alive because it was
his turn to bring donuts.

One woman was late because her
alarm clock didn't go off in time.

One was late because of being stuck on the
NJ Turnpike
because of an auto accident.

One of them
missed his bus.

One spilled food on her clothes and had to
take
time to change.

One's
car wouldn't start.

One went back to
answer the telephone.

One had a
child that dawdled.
and didn't get ready as soon as he should
have.

One couldn't
get a taxi.

The one that struck me was the man
who put on a new pair of shoes that morning,
took the various means to get to work

but before he got there, he developed
a blister on his foot.

He stopped at a drugstore to buy a band-aid.
That is why he is alive today.

Now when I am
stuck in traffic,
miss an elevator,
turn back to answer a ringing telephone ...
all the little things that annoy me,

I think to myself,
this is exactly where
God wants me to be
at this very moment..

Next time your morning seems to be
going wrong, the children are slow getting
dressed,
you can't seem to find the car keys,
you hit every traffic light,
don't get mad or frustrated;
God is at work watching over you.



May God continue to bless you
with all those annoying little things
and may you remember their possible purpose.

AMEN





A Day of Preparation and Fellowship

Church of Our Saviour
December 18th, 2005

Please come, share in the excitement as we prepare for Christmas
Take some time out to enjoy a delicious turkey luncheon and a movie
Enjoy our Youth Christmas presentation
Bring a friend!!

10:00 Holy Eucharist and Youth Presentation

11:00 Greening of the Church
Youth Movie
Lunch Set-Up

12:00 Lunch
Followed By Christmas Movie and Fellowship

Perhaps you would like to place one of the following items under the Christmas tree:

An unwrapped toy for Saint Margaret's Home for Children
A check or non-perishable food item for Charlie's Pantry
A new or used coat, hat, scarf, gloves or other winter apparel for
Capital City Rescue Mission

If you would like to sign up to bring food to share at the luncheon
please call Ginny French at 794-8092



December and January Calendar At a Glance

December 2005

Sunday	December 11	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
Sunday	December 18	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
		11:00 AM	Greening of the Church See Flyer Page 8
		11:00 AM	Youth Movie and Lunch Setup See Flyer Page 8
		12:00 Noon	Luncheon and Christmas Movie and Fellowship See Flyer Page 8
Saturday	Christmas Eve December 24	7:00 PM	Holy Eucharist
		11:00 PM	Holy Eucharist
Sunday	Christmas	9:00 AM	Holy Eucharist

January 2006

Sunday	New Years Day January 1	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
Thursday	January 5	6:30 PM	Simple Meal - Bring a Sandwich - drinks provided
		7:00 PM	Bible Teaching and Study
Saturday	January 7	10:00 AM	Episcopal Church Women Meeting - Friendship Hall
Sunday	January 8	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
		2:00 PM	Lessons and Carols
Thursday	January 12	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
Sunday	January 15	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
Sunday	January 22	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
		11:30 AM	Church of Our Saviour Annual Meeting
Sunday	January 29	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School

Mark Your Calendars to Plan for these Future Events

Sunday	January 8	2:00 PM	Lessons and Carols
Sunday	January 22	11:30 AM	Church of Our Saviour Annual Meeting
Friday & Saturday	Feb. 10-11	TBD	Vestry Retreat
Saturday	February 25	2:00 PM	Healing Service



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Remember these Important Dates

Date	Subject
December 18	Greening of the Church and Christmas Luncheon
January 8, 2006	Lessons and Carols
January 22, 2006	Annual Meeting of the Church of Our Saviour
February 10 & 11, 2006	Vestry Retreat
February 25, 2006	Healing Service

These are the Every Month Important Dates

1st Saturday - Episcopal Church Women Meeting - Jan. 7 & Feb. 4

1st Thursday - Simple Meal (Bring a Sandwich) and Bible Study - Jan. 5 & Feb. 2

2nd Thursday - Vestry Meeting - Jan. 12 & Feb. 9

Answers: Birth of the Saviour 1. C 2. B 3. C 4. A (they had studied the stars and were sure the Christ had come) 5. A 6. B 7. B 8. C 9. B 10. B
 An Honest Gift Jumble - 1. BLASPHEMY 2. GNAISHING 3. SOWED 4. PEARL 5. AMOUNT 6. HIDDEN 7. ARRIVES
 Overall Answer: " So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the HYPOCRITES do in the synagogues and the streets, to be honored by men. "