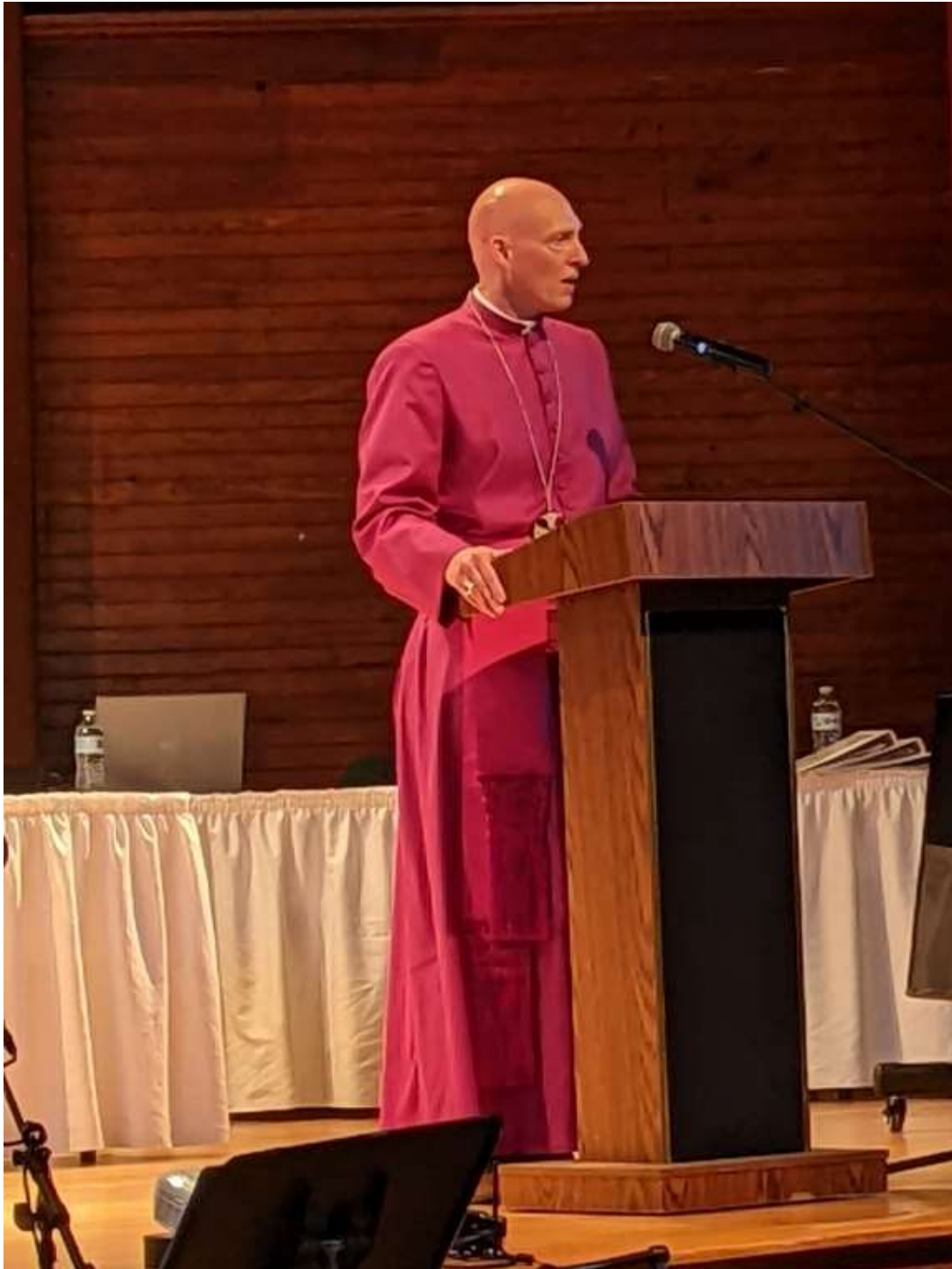


**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
**PO Box 827 Lebanon Springs, NY 12125**

**GIDEON'S TRUMPET JULY 2024 VOLUME 16 #3**

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## . Vestry Notes

The vestry will be taking the summer off and resume in September. As always if you have a concern regarding the finances or the plant or property contact the Senior Warden Bitsy Sheffer-Winig.

Eugenia is doing so much better and for that we thank GOD. She will resume her Vestry Clerk duties in September.

The pamphlets regarding the Convention are in the Hall to look at if you desire. Vince has his own report here in the Trumpet. Thank you, Vince, for going to represent Church of Our Saviour.

Father Lockwood is continuing to meet with the rectors or leaders of other churches in the area and we look forward to meeting with them in August.

As you know we lost our Facebook ability to video in real time as we had not met the rules of Facebook of 100 followers. We reached out to our friends and families and the diocese who put up an article in their weekly newsletter and we surpassed our goal and had 250 followers. We are now back on all platforms, Facebook, Zoom and You-Tube. Last week we had 122 views on Facebook. If you can not join us in person, please accept our invitation to join us on the internet and be fed by the word of God.

**The New Lebanon Community picnic** will be Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup> from noon to four at Shatford Park. We as a church will have table there to share our love of the Lord and invite more residents to join us for worship. Everyone is invited, the Town provides hamburgers and hotdogs, fresh corn on the cob and drinks. Many of the groups in Town have table set up to let residents know about our Town. There are games and usually a bouncy house for the children and plenty of music of all types. Bring a dish to pass and join us and our neighbors for the fun. On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Bishop Jeremiah Williamson will be joining us for our morning worship service. The details of the service have yet to be worked out but after the service we will join together for fellowship. We will have our usual coffee hour treats and will have the hall set up to display our past, present and future dreams. Mark your calendar now to join us on that day. Missions: Even though summer usually means a slower pace and time away from our usual schedules, our missions continue to need our help. The Charles Pantry basket is at the back of the church for you to place an offering in as well as the box for personal hygiene items for Healing a Woman's Soul, the domestic violence program we support. Loaves and Fishes gave away 120 bags of toilet paper this last week again, each bag contained four rolls. This ministry is on Facebook also so you can see what they are doing.

We will be collecting for high school this year. The school bus will arrive on 18th and stay until 9/15 on the back pew. I will have the items needed by high schoolers posted on the back of the bus.

**We will be doing the shoebox program again this year**, on November 24<sup>th</sup> we will gather to box up the items and then I will take them to the transfer point to be sent to Tennessee. I will collect a list of items we have and will need within the month. When you see the school sales, pick up some of these items as the age range for the shoeboxes is 1- 12.

Bible Study continues through the summer this year, we are studying the Minor Prophets, this week starting the book of Amos, who we heard from this morning during our worship service. We meet at 5:30 pm for a meal and then study starting at 6pm, we are on Zoom as well if you wish to join with us that way.

From the Vestry we wish all of you a safe and relaxing summer to refresh yourself and be with family and friends.

Mary Young Junior Warden

### **Programs:**

**Charlies Pantry:** Our members give nonperishable food items and household supplies as well as support the fuel fund. A food basket for donations is located in the back of the sanctuary. Eugenia delivers the food twice a month to Charlie's Pantry for distribution. This Pantry is open to the community in need on Saturdays.

### **From the Senior Warden**

The Senior Warden's Desk

Have you ever given pause to think of the gifts you have been given? I mused on the topic yesterday afternoon as I sat under a shade tree on the lawn at Tanglewood listening to one of the greatest voices ever, Renee Fleming (FYI – graduate of my alma mater, SUNY Potsdam.) The ebb and flow of her rich voice carried me to the gifts that God grants us. We all have gifts, some we use, others we don't realize are gifts. My gift is teaching. I loved bringing to life the history of us, the good, the bad, the ugly, the marvelous, and the strange. I attempted to make the study fun, interesting, and not fill it with rote memorization of dates and people, but why the dates and people are important to who we are as a nation and as members of the wider global community. God is our teacher through His word; Father Frank is our teacher through his interpretations of God's word. We are to use this instruction to help us navigate the lives we live and the paths we take.

My thinking has taken me to wanting to go back to my gift of teaching. Now I need God's guidance as to how to undertake that path. What are your gifts and how will you use them?

### **Bishop Williamson's Visit to Our Saviour**

Mark September 22, 2024 on your calendars. On that Sunday our Bishop will be serving the Eucharist and delivering God's word at Our Saviour. It will be a blessing for all who attend. Please consider joining us in person to welcome Bishop Williamson to our parish. In good Episcopalian tradition, you know that there will be good food shared after the service. Hope to see you then.



**From Father Frank Lockwood:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

In the early spring of 2011, I was sent to a conference in California. It was held at Bethel Church, a large charismatic organization. The campus of the church is very large. It boasts several classrooms, counseling rooms and other buildings including a large “worship space” that is about the size of a large gym. Their worship style is a bit different than our own. There is no pageantry or formalized uniform prayers. Instead, it is a bit less formal with a lot of prayer and perhaps a bit of emotionalism involved.

The music that is used often is criticized by other religious leaders. They are accused of not being “Christian” enough in the words they use or in the tunes they present with. While I was there, one of the musicians during the conference was a man by the name of Jake Hamilton. Jake’s appearance is more of a truck driver than a “worship leader”. He is a bigger man with a baseball cap, tattoos and a raspy voice. He plays electric guitar as he leads people in simple yet deeply penetrating praise choruses as well as revisiting some songs that were originally presented by others, one such song was sung by a female worship leader originally. She has a beautiful and lofty voice. It is almost angelic. Yet, when Jake performs it, it takes on a raw tone. His rasp penetrates and shakes the words.

While he was leading music, he paused at one time. He said that there were many there who might be called to be leaders within the church. Perhaps even leaders of music. However, he cited many other worship leaders and spoke to the crowd gathered that they were not called to be duplicates of these already prominent leaders. He said that they were being called to be leaders as they are, That each of us presents to the world a face (style) of worship that might appeal to a particular individual or individuals that otherwise would not hear the message. One of the lines from his song, The Anthem, says that “you were born for such a time as this”, quoting from the book of Esther the words her uncle used.

Each of us who believe are a face of Christ to the world. You may be the only Jesus that someone ever meets. You may be **the face** that someone needs to see so that whatever dim spark may dwell deep within a person is fanned. Each of us who is a Christian is called to present the gospel to the world. We are called to share the good news. What is not said is how we are to do that. At least not the specifics of it.

Why?

Because the relationship that each of us has with the Father through the Son is a personal relationship. It has been shaped by the paths each of us has walked and is a culmination of all for each individual. My relationship with the Father is not the same as what yours might be. Perhaps we have similar elements in our relationship, perhaps slightly different elements and perhaps even greatly different elements. The only common thread that each of us should have is that we have come to the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

I share this with you by way of encouragement. Your story when combined with His story is a story that will speak mightily to those for whom it is meant. He has brought you to this point, or perhaps to a point in the future (maybe even many points in the future) for “such a time as this.” That your story shared with the right person will be exactly what they need in order to encourage their own story.

This also, and we can flesh this out at a later time, some of the reasons that someone maybe you have been through some of those things you have been through. One cannot know the beauty of a sunrise without first seeing the darkness that precedes it.

I pray that you might take encouragement from this.

In the love of Christ,  
Fr Frank

## **Report to Church of Our Saviour on The 156th Diocesan Convention**

### **by Vince Teachout, Delegate**

The 156th Albany Diocesan Convention was held on the beautiful grounds of Silver Bay YMCA, on northern Lake George, over the weekend of May 31 through June 2, 2024. The was the first convention led by our new Bishop, Jeremiah Williamson, and it gave a large number of people a chance to meet him and hear his thoughts.

The official business was divided over all three days. All business at this convention was fairly routine, and concerned with electing people to offices and resolutions for adding oversight to various church activities. All resolutions passed unanimously.

Friday evening was opening prayer and a speech by the Bishop, which was thoughtful, and at times humorous. This was followed by a sung prayer service led by the Bishop. The Secretary gave instructions to the convention, and the proposed order of business was presented and accepted. The Procedural Motion for the Discussion of Resolutions was made, and there was no discussion. Various reports were

presented. Nominations and voting then occurred for Secretary of the Diocese, Treasurer of the Diocese, and Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese. The convention adjourned for the night.

Saturday morning the Bishop invited the Pakistani congregation of Albany on stage to sing some of their hymns for us. The music was quite different, being in a foreign language and using instruments such as Djembe drum, accordion and tambourines! They taught us the meaning of some of the words, and invited everyone to join in.

After this, plurality nominations and vote-by-orders nominations were made, and votes cast for several offices. Because not all candidates had a majority on the first vote, another meeting was held Saturday afternoon. At the afternoon session, resolutions were also read, opened for discussion, closed, and in all cases unanimously passed.

The official business concluded Saturday afternoon, and Saturday evening was filled with visiting, Deanery games, music (several musicians in different locations) and too much wonderful food.

Sunday officially closed the convention with the always-popular Youth Mass in the auditorium.

Pictures in the Trumpet were provided by Vince from his attendance at the Diocesan Convention