Last June 1, as a music group rehearsed in the church, a small piece of plaster fell from the top of a stone column close to the ceiling. The band members were safe, but this was a wake-up call to investigate further. The Rector and Vestry took great caution and closed the sanctuary for worship and public use. Then, over ten months of painstaking plaster repair and stabilization work, parish life continued uninterrupted with Sunday services and community events held in the Parish Hall. Reflections on this memorable period at St. Ann’s are shared in the pages of this edition of The Good News – the first published in all this time.

Following a momentous reentry into the church on Palm Sunday, it is fitting to consider our experience amidst a holy season that culminates in a celebration of resurrection and new life at Easter!
A TRAVELING BAND

In a blessed coincidence, our return to the sanctuary following months of repairs occurs as we at St. Ann & the Holy Trinity mark the anniversary of the opening of the doors of the church building. On April 25, 1847, 170 years ago, the Church of the Holy Trinity held its first services here after a period of three years worshiping in its original chapel building to the west (now the Parish Hall). Over a century later, conflict resulted in the dissolution of Holy Trinity parish in 1957, and the people of St. Ann’s took up residence in the church in 1969.

In fact, we are the heirs of the legacy of St. Ann’s, the oldest Episcopal parish in Brooklyn, founded during the American Revolution in what is now Dumbo. St. Ann’s has always been a community on the move and has called numerous spaces— including a living room, a barn and four church buildings— its spiritual home.

With our interior plaster stabilized and our congregation growing and in many ways thriving, our parish is at a crossroads now. At the start of this new era, I am asking parish leaders and our whole community to contemplate a vision for moving forward and living into the many possibilities for mission. I believe we owe it to our forebears, a traveling band that has persisted in ministry in Brooklyn for well over 200 years, to discern a path of faithful service at this juncture.

A building like ours should remain a place of welcome to pilgrims and seekers. I also like to think of it as a community commons. When asked about our present identity, one long-standing parishioner said she has a newfound sense of our church as a safe space for children. Several years ago, we held a neighborhood observance of the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001, to mark that tragedy for our city and nation and to affirm the decision of parish leaders on that day to reopen the church after an earlier, briefer closure. We called our event “Sanctuary Still.”

This era in our national life has revived an interest in the larger meaning of sanctuary in churches and communities across the country. We recognize the vulnerability that immigrants and refugees feel in light of policies advanced by President Trump in the early days of his presidency. We’ve chosen with other houses of worship of many faiths in Brooklyn Heights to make our broadest welcome clear by hanging a banner on our fence that reads: “Our Sanctuary Welcomes Refugees and Immigrants.”

This time will be another season for our church to serve as a house of prayer for all people. So let’s throw open our doors and welcome one and all. Let’s be ready to listen and serve in familiar and new ways. And, in the spirit of our forebears, let’s persist in our faithful travels and move within and beyond our building to be emissaries of hope to a hurting world.

The Rev. John E. Denaro

PARISH FORUM

As the transition back into our sanctuary for worship and other events continues, all are invited to a parish forum to discuss developments of the last year or so and the work of mission ahead. Your ideas, insights and opinions are greatly valued and sure to enrich our conversation and discernment about our future. Please plan to attend one or both meetings scheduled on Sunday, April 23, immediately following the 9:30AM Early Church service and 11:15AM Holy Eucharist.
A LOVELY DAY FOR A PROCESSION!

Ten months ago we made the decision to move out of the sanctuary so we could review what repairs needed to be made to the ceiling after a not-large piece of plaster fell. For ten months we have worshipped in the Parish Hall. We have kept the front doors to the church closed to the public and have kept out friends who would have used our space as well. We prayed, planned and then got those repairs done. So now, with great excitement and anticipation and a pinch of anxiety we returned on Palm Sunday to open the doors and march boldly before our friends and neighbors and into the sanctuary with its wonderfully repaired ceiling.

This experience has been filled with all sorts of emotions, beginning last June with the shock and confusion of “Now what do we do?” We inhaled deeply. But then we settled into having two Sunday services in the Parish Hall, which we shared simultaneously with other members engaged in outreach sandwich-making and soup Sundays. Sunday services, Wednesday evening services and our other activities continued to thrive in the smaller space, which became a cozy and intimate setting filled with our parish community and others who came as visitors. We faced each other when we read psalms responsively and could see the joy in one another’s eyes. Sitting closer together, we could hear each other more clearly as our voices joined in enthusiastic singing that escaped the Parish Hall through open windows. We renewed our sense of supporting each other when we prayed.

We had a marvelous Christmas pageant and beautiful Christmas services, delightful baptisms, a barn dance fundraiser. We have always been a close-knit, caring and welcoming community; we built on this base and continued this. We are stronger for this experience and we applaud what we have accomplished, both in completing a large repair project and growing in ways we could not have imagined ten months ago.

Now we have pushed open the front doors and marched joyfully back into our familiar sanctuary home, waving our palms and exhaling to fill the space and grow bigger.

Claudia Barber & Léon Willis

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of the members of St. Ann & the Holy Trinity who showed patience and goodwill throughout the long period of our displacement from the sanctuary during the recent repair project. And more thanks still to a number of generous individuals for their financial help that facilitated the reopening of the doors of our landmark church in a timely way.

Our deepest gratitude also to our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano, the Rev. Canon Andrew Durbidge, Real Estate Manager for the Diocese, and the Trustees of the Estate Belonging to the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island for their support, counsel and guidance that ensured the success of our efforts.

Finally, we acknowledge the support and good wishes of our neighbors and other partners, including Saint Ann’s School, the Brooklyn Folk Festival – which held a barn dance fundraiser on our behalf – and the Brooklyn Historical Society.
From the Associate Rector

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

Sunday School
In Sunday School over the winter, we spent Epiphany learning about Jesus’ childhood: the community in which he lived, the prayers and sacred stories he would have known and the festivals he would have celebrated. Sitting around a handmade map of the Mediterranean, we became acquainted with the kingdoms along its shores: Egypt, Greece, Rome, Babylon and, of course, Israel. We mapped the story of the Exodus and read several versions of the crossing of the Red Sea. We traveled through our own building to get a feel for the Shalosh Regalim, or Festival Pilgrimages of Passover, Pentecost, Sukkot.

In Lent, we turned our attention to the prophets, who often traveled great distances to serve as God’s messengers. We paid particular attention to Jonah. Jonah was a reluctant prophet who, in trying to avoid God’s path for him, found himself in the belly of a whale with time to reflect and pray. We created a whale to accompany us through the holy season of Lent. Jonah’s eventual deliverance from the whale has parallels to the Resurrection and was a common motif on early Christian tombs. Along with the story of Daniel in the Lions’ Den, it offers an exciting lens for the stories of Holy Week and Easter.

On Palm Sunday the children processed – with our whale – up Montague Street to the doors of our newly reopened Sanctuary. During Sunday School, we revisited the story of Passover at an instructional Seder. On Easter, we’ll hear new music from the Children’s Choir and enjoy an egg hunt in the garden. In all of this is the promise that God is with us even in far-flung places, ready to draw us close.


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20s & 30s
This spring, St. Ann’s 20s & 30s prepared for Lent with dinner and discussion at Mother Kate’s apartment. Later in the season, we joined other St. Ann’s parishioners at All Saints, Park Slope, to hear best-selling author Ari Berman discuss his recent book Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America.

Upcoming! Saturday, May 13, 5:30-7:30PM – Twilight tour of Green-Wood Cemetery. Arm yourself with a flashlight to explore Green-Wood Cemetery’s stunning landscape as the sun fades over the horizon. You will visit the graves of fascinating and historic figures in NY while your tour guide Harry Weil, parishioner and Green-Wood Program Manager, regales you with mysterious tales. The night ends at the cemetery’s famous catacombs.

The Rev. Katherine A. Salisbury

Photo by Ellen Reilly
Some time ago, *The Christian Century* published a series of articles by notable theologians about how their minds had changed over the years. As a young student of theology, I have read some of these articles with great interest, in the hope of gleaning some wisdom from my intellectual heroes. What I learned from each of them—and they were quite different from one another—is that what makes for a good theologian, a good Christian minister, or just a good person more generally, is that one’s mind must change. People who, either proudly or fearfully, cling to what they already know are getting in their own way, preventing themselves from receiving all that God has in store for them. We find greatness in humility, just as we find our lives by letting them go.

I have attempted, with mixed success, to imitate the great theologians and saints in their readiness to grow and change. Nowhere has such openness been more necessary than in discerning my call to the Church’s ministry. At every step of this journey, I have encountered God’s call not to rely on my skills or previous learning, but to trust in the Spirit as God forms me into the minister that the Church needs me to be. My time at St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church has been integral in this journey to the priesthood. My service at St. Ann’s has called me into a deeper life of prayer, study of Scripture, contemplation of God, and love of neighbor.

Every baptized person is called to a particular service in the Body of Christ. Every baptized person is called to a time of discernment and formation for service. One of the things I have learned is that discernment is not only about answering the question, *What will I do?,* but is equally about the question, *Who must God form me to be, if I am to do it?* My time at St. Ann’s has been a time of learning who I must be and a time of wonder as I have seen God working to form me for service. The saying of Scripture is true: We are all one body, and members of one another. As I served you, you have served me. I am not the same person who joined you in August 2016. By God’s grace and your willingness, I am one step closer to being the minister I am called to be.

Dr. Matthew Burdette

Matthew will graduate from the General Theological Seminary on May 17 with a diploma in Anglican Studies. He is a Candidate for ordination to the priesthood in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey and will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on Friday, May 19, at 7:00PM at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. A contingent from St. Ann’s will travel down to this special event!

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**ST. ANN’S TO HOST DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION SERVICE**

On Saturday, May 6 at 11:00AM, we will welcome the Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf, Assistant Bishop of Long Island (and retired Bishop of Rhode Island), to St. Ann & the Holy Trinity. She comes among us to preside at a liturgy during which she will confirm, receive and reaffirm the baptismal vows of more than 20 individuals from many of our sister parishes. Our own John Evans and Dorrit Walsh are among the group. It is an honor and a privilege for us to host this diocesan service, which is sure to be a blessed occasion. All are encouraged to attend.
Parish Outreach

**SANDWICH SUNDAYS TURNS FOUR! WE’VE MADE 14,000 SANDWICHES!!**

To mark the fourth anniversary of a most successful outreach program, and the making of the 14,000th sandwich, the entire congregation is invited to participate in a Special Sandwich Sundays Celebration. On **Sunday, May 7**, between the two services (from 10:15AM to 11:15AM), all those who can participate in an assembly line of sandwich makers in the Parish Hall are welcome! If you can’t join in, please consider dropping off premade sandwiches, supplies or a donation. Ziploc sandwich baggies, loaves of bread, sandwich meats and sliced cheese are needed. No lettuce, tomatoes or condiments, please!

Rosanne Limoncelli

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Sandwich Sundays provides sandwiches to The Gathering Place Drop-In Center, a program run by CAMBA in East New York. We are the only organization providing such food for their clients on Sundays. As you may well have seen or done, we make sandwiches in the Parish Hall each week between the services. The 14,000 sandwiches over four years mean we average 67 sandwiches a week.

Congratulations and much gratitude to Outreach coordinators Rosanne Limoncelli and John Bickerton. They are ably and faithfully assisted by daughter Jesse Bickerton and by Mary Nesbit and her granddaughter Jahzara Crawford, along with numerous parishioners. Many thanks to you all!

Carol Stone

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The Forum @ St. Ann’s

**STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT SCHOOL SEGREGATION**

The New York City school district is the most segregated in the country. To make the case for school integration policies that benefit all young people, the EPIC Theater Ensemble cast the best possible actors: public school students. The result is the EPIC Next production of *Laundry City* – a show conceived, written and performed by NYC high school youth that the company describes as “a hilarious and provocative exploration of what ‘separate but equal’ means to us today.”

In partnership with New York Appleseed and The Century Foundation – organizations on the forefront of education policy – the Forum @ St. Ann’s will host a performance of *Laundry City* on **Tuesday, May 30**, at 7:00PM. The 40-minute piece will be introduced by St. Ann & the Holy Trinity parishioners David Tipson, New York Appleseed executive director, and Halley Potter Taylor, a policy associate with The Century Foundation. Tipson and Taylor each have written extensively on and advocate for reversing policies that disproportionately favor white students in the New York City school system. In their remarks, they will place the matter of school integration in a broader context of the values espoused by people of faith.

The event takes place in St. Ann’s historic sanctuary, which remains a magnificent setting in which to foster dialogue and discourse about significant issues of the day. A reception will follow. A freewill offering will be invited to support the sponsoring organizations and future Forum @ St. Ann’s programming. All are encouraged to attend what promises to be a truly educational and enjoyable evening.
WELCOME TO INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR GREGORY D’AGOSTINO

We returned to the sanctuary on Palm Sunday to the strains of our cherished E.M. Skinner organ played by our new Interim Director of Music, Gregory D’Agostino.

Dr. D’Agostino is an accomplished organist who has performed far and wide, from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine to St. Paul’s Cathedral in London and Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris to Suntory Hall in Tokyo. His Doctor of Musical Arts degree is from The Juilliard School, where he has also taught. He now teaches at Mannes College of Music at the New School. Most recently he was organist and choirmaster at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament (Roman Catholic) near Lincoln Center. Dr. D’Agostino is a member of the select Musicians Club of New York and has served as a jurist for that organization’s Serge & Olga Koussevitzky Young Artist Awards.

His repertoire includes works by a wide variety of classical composers, especially Bach, Liszt and French Romantics, such as Widor. Additionally, the Musicians Club website describes him as “a champion of 20th century music.” His ministry among us is sure to enrich us musically and spiritually. Welcome, Gregory!

The Palm Sunday procession moves around the block . . .

. . . to the front door of the church. The Rector knocks, the door is opened and the congregation enters once again.

All photos by Ellen Reilly
## UPCOMING EVENTS

| **EVERY SUNDAY** | Sandwich Sundays program, between the worship services  
Also see May 7 below for special Sandwich Sundays event | page 6 |
| **EASTER II, APRIL 23** | Parish Forums, 10:15AM and 12:45PM | page 2 |
| **FRIDAY, APRIL 28~ SUNDAY, APRIL 30** | Brooklyn Folk Festival  
| **EASTER III, APRIL 30** | Exploring Confirmation & Christianity 101, 12:45PM |  |
| **SATURDAY, MAY 6** | Diocesan Confirmation Service, 11:00AM | page 3 |
| **EASTER IV, MAY 7** | Sandwich Sundays Anniversary Assembly Line, 10:15AM  
“First Sunday Soup”, 12:45PM | page 6 |
| **TUESDAY, MAY 9** | Vestry Meeting, 7:00PM |  |
| **SATURDAY, MAY 13** | 20s & 30s Twilight Tour of Green-Wood Cemetery, 5:30-7:30PM | page 4 |
| **FRIDAY, MAY 19** | Matthew Burdette’s Ordination, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, NJ, 7:00PM | page 5 |
| **EASTER VI, MAY 21** | Matthew Burdette serves as Deacon Christianity 101, 12:45PM | page 5 |
| **TUESDAY, MAY 30** | Forum @ St. Ann’s: School Segregation in New York, 7:00PM | page 6 |

### CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

- **The Rev. John E. Denaro**
- **The Rev. Katherine A. Salisbury**
- **Dr. Matthew Burdette**
- **Dr. Gregory D’Agostino**
- **Lauren Bakoian**
- **Haidrah Burke-Maduemezia**
- **James White**

**Newsletter Editor**

- **Carol Stone**

### LEADERSHIP

- **Rector**
- **Assoc. Rector**
- **Seminarian**
- **Interim**
- **Music Director**
- **Facilities Mgr.**
- **Parish**
- **Administrator**
- **Sexton**

- **Claudia Barber**
- **Léon Willis**
- **John Bickerton**
- **Barbara Gonzo**
- **John Bickerton**
- **Donna Evans**
- **Sven Heemeyer**
- **Duncan Kruse**
- **Lauren Watkins**

**Warden**

- **Warden**
- **Treasurer**
- **Clerk**

**Vestry**

- **John Bickerton**
- **Wladimir Lewis-Thomas de Rosier**
- **Nancy Nicolette**
- **Benjamin Spier**
- **Halley Taylor**

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