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**Out in our
Neighborhoods**

**Seaman's Church Institute -a
big neighborhood**

The world depends on mariners.
Mariners depend on SCI.



SCI's International
Seafarers' Center
(<http://seamenschurch.org/port-newark-center>

), located in the heart of Port Newark, NJ, right here in Province II, serves the largest port complex on the East Coast of the United States. SCI welcomes all seafarers and port workers, including truckers, stevedores, and warehouse workers, to this friendly and safe environment for relaxation, recreation, and spiritual refreshment.

SCI maintains a staff of professional chaplains with interfaith and cross-cultural backgrounds. Chaplains and volunteers assist thousands each year, extending a hand of friendship and hospitality. Those who live in the NY metropolitan area remember the extraordinary efforts of those



September, 2015

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neighborhoods:**

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- Albany
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- Western NY

Coming soon...

Events and opportunities



Send your stories for the **In Prov 2** by the 10th of the month and they will appear!

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chaplains following the 9/11 attacks. The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe may remember the Rev. Kempton D. Baldrige, who was rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Waterloo, Belgium and is now Chaplain for the Ohio River Region with Seaman's Church Institute.

The sea is a very large neighborhood and the mariners are from around the world. SCI depends on us for its support. Many congregations and individuals are familiar with the Christmas at Sea program. Some people have been knitting socks, scarves, hats, and vests for years. There are several new patterns out and new sources of great sea-going yarn available. Check the Christmas at Sea link on the website : <http://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea> to find the patterns and much more. The website also lists many other ways you can support SCI: <http://seamenschurch.org/ways/> .



There are several events each year to raise funds and visibility. One event took place on September 15, the Pilot Boat Harbor Cruise to which sponsors and donors were invited. The cruise left from Battery Park, NY on Pilot Boat Number 1 of the Sandy Hook Pilots. This year's cruise went down the Hudson, past the Statue of Liberty and on to the global container port on the NJ side of the river. See some photos of the event here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1W8LN6XmaVNR5rY9OHBmwmlKBUQ_cv2-NdreAxTLsjYg/pub?start=true&loop=true&delayms=3000

Coming up next is the Mountain Challenge, which you can follow live at pinnacletracking.com/live/?sci15 . From September 24-27, 2015, the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) sponsors a race that mirrors the one mariners run every day as they make deliveries of precious cargo safely and on time. The SCI Mountain Challenge puts teams of three persons on the mountains of Maine to navigate unfamiliar paths, changeable weather and difficult routes. Their efforts do not just pay "lip service" to the struggles mariners face, but competitors' sweat actually benefits mariners, raising funds to support North America's largest mariners' service agency, SCI. Find out more at <http://scimountainchallenge.com/> . Maybe you can donate to a team!

Diocese of Albany

Prayer Table Ministry

By The Rev. Jill Stellman, Diocese of Albany

They come from many backgrounds. Sometimes they come eagerly, sometimes they come warily. Sometimes they ask what they're selling, only to be told they're not selling anything – they're giving something away for free. Sometimes there are tears; sometimes there is laughter. For some, it is the first time they've come. For others, it is part of their routine. They come, all with a need, whether they know it or not. They come to a prayer table.

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Albany offer prayer table ministries to the communities they serve. The first prayer table in the diocese began at Christ Church in Schenectady about fifteen years ago. Two parishioners at Christ Church, Larry and Jerusha Hubert, had heard about something similar in New Jersey and decided to give it a try. Through the urging of his wife Jean, Torre Bissell, Coordinator of the Albany Diocesan Intercessor Ministry went and was immediately hooked. Soon after, Larry and Jerusha felt called other ministries and

Torre nurtured it. The table is still going strong on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 on State Street in Schenectady, with another table on Albany Street.

When Torre began including a “Report from the Prayer Table” in his intercessor blog posts a few years ago, other parishes began starting their own prayer table ministries. Some are in cities, some are in villages. Some happen once a week, some happen once a year. Some give away Bibles or crosses or rosaries or devotional cards. Some give away those things along with canned goods or clothing or hats, scarves, and mittens in the winter. They all give away prayer, and they pray in sun or rain or snow or sleet. And they all receive blessing – both those who offer the prayer and those who receive it. Prayer tables are scattered throughout the diocese. There are three different prayer tables in the city of Albany. One is at the Cathedral. It has been there on Wednesdays from 12 – 1 pm since 2011. There are about twelve people who rotate in teams, spending that hour in front of the Cathedral, offering prayer to state workers or visitors or those making their way to a local shelter. There is a “satellite” prayer table staffed by Cathedral clergy on a nearby street corner in Albany on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. There is also a prayer table at the diocese's St. Francis Mission, offering prayer to those waiting to have a free community meal in one of the poorest sections of Albany on Saturday mornings at 11. Two churches combine forces to staff this table.

St. Ann's, in the city of Amsterdam, has a table that has been available every Monday morning from 10 until 11, except for one, since July of 2012. The prayer ministers are there whether it is 9 degrees below zero or 90 degrees above. Some that come to their prayer table would never enter a church, but they gratefully ask for and accept the prayers offered at the table. Some have accepted Christ as their Savior. Not every prayer has been answered, but many lives have been changed.



St. Ann's, Amsterdam



Trinity, Watervliet

Trinity Church in Watervliet's table sets up near a local grocery store and a bus stop. The people who come there are from the community, some from the church itself. Some know the people at the prayer table from seeing them at the prayer table offered by the church at a community dinner. Sometimes prayers are answered, sometimes spiritual healing happens, but most of all people begin to know the power of our Lord Jesus Christ to give people hope, peace, and faith.

St. John's in Johnstown's table is relatively new – only about a year old. They see their call as being present in the community so anyone can stop by to ask for prayer. They have met neighbors they never knew. They have prayed for pets, for cars, for health and for jobs. They have heard that some of those prayers have been answered. They have heard

many amazing stories. Sometimes the police or other passers-by stop to chat and the prayer table becomes a community within the community.

Some prayer tables happen in conjunction with other village activities. St. John's in Delhi's prayer table has been offering prayer on Wednesdays during the Farmer's Market since 2010. People driving by sometimes pull over just for prayer. Sometimes people return a year later, to share that their prayer was answered and to offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

Christ Church in Gilbertsville's prayer table has also been happening in conjunction with the local Farmer's Market for the last five years. The parishioners sitting at the table invite those who pass by to sit and chat awhile. They have made many friends this way. They have learned of needs in the community they would not have known about otherwise. The goal of this table is to establish relationships and let people know that Christ Church, through their prayer table, is a place that can bring the comfort and fellowship we find in Jesus.

Christ Church in Cobleskill has a prayer table at their annual village-wide celebration known as "Cobleskill Days." They are set up in the midst of the booths of local farms and businesses, children's games, and musical acts. Not everyone accepts their offer for prayer, but many do. Some who decline prayer request a blessing for the animals that accompany them.

Each prayer table is unique, but each is a conduit for God to show His mercy and love for those in the communities these tables serve, through those who serve at the tables. There are hundreds of stories of prayers answered, of love experienced, of tears and laughter shared. Each prayer table is a "thin place," where God reaches out to His people, and they come.

The Prayer Table

A poem by Frank, a frequent prayer table visitor in Albany, in 2012

Two women of the Cathedral sit in the windy summer heat.
Like a bake sale or church supper they offer
sustenance for the soul, so generously,
like the washing of the feet.

As a person randomly walks by,
stops to talk or slows to stare,
A young man sees them in
his path and crosses the street.
Does that become the prayer?

Creator, guide me to cross safely
and keep me from facing the
possibilities of faith,



as it pulls on me
with its strange weight,
against the relief
of everyday distractions
idolized with zeal.

Content with concupiscence,
greed and old-fashioned hate,
striving to avoid any taste
of fate near such holy ground,

vainly dissecting further from grace.

The table's offering - a sign:
Even moving away
can be moving toward.
The silent Spirit will chase,
like it chased Jonah,
to an unlikely place. Even when
willing darkness, one must face into
that terrible brightness.

Diocese of Central New York

Ramp It Up! with St. Mark's, Chenango Bridge

For the sixth year in a row, the youth of St. Mark's, Chenango Bridge came together to build a much-needed wheelchair access ramp for a local homeowner. The Ramp It Up! project of the Broome County Council of Churches connects teams of youth and adult mentors with homebound Broome County residents. See the photo album: <http://www.stmarks-cb.org/index.php/pictures/events?view=album&album=6191766734402859185&page=1>

The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

[ENS] Every week in north Paris, a few hundred Iraqi Christians gather for worship. It's a bittersweet reunion for them. Their lives have been spared, but the events of the past 10 years have forced them into exile. Many have lost close family and friends in the bloodshed of the Iraq War and the resulting rise in terrorism. [See more...](#)



The Diocese of Haiti

The diocese now has a Facebook page and the Newsletter is available there. [Visit them on Facebook.](#) The next Haiti Connection Conference will be held in Haiti in October 2015. The date and all necessary information will be announced soon. Keep up with what is going on at the [blog of the Haiti Partnership Program.](#)

Diocese of Long Island

Did you know that there is a Homeless Shelter for LGBTQ Young Adults? Episcopal Ministries of Long Island has partnered with the Ali Forney Center to provide shelter to homeless Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning young people. The Ali Forney Center is the largest provider of shelter for LGBTQ youth and young adults in the country, many of whom were kicked out of their homes by parents because of their sexual orientation. [Find out more...](#)

Diocese of New Jersey

On September 12, Bishop Chip Stokes was worshipping at Christ Church in Bordentown, where the Rev. Matthew Tucker and Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. John Sosnowski, blessed the town's fire trucks following mass. It was a beautiful service in a church packed with servicemen and women, followed by a barbecue, complete with bounce house. Thanks and blessings to all our firefighters, police, EMTs and first responders.



Diocese of New York

EcclesiaNY: "We are a group of people who desire to be in community with the poor and marginalized of our society. As Christians of every stripe, we acknowledge the call of Jesus Christ to be in solidarity with the disinherited among us." There are congregations in Madison Square Park, Marcus Garvey Park, and Tompkins Square Park. [Check their website...](#)

Diocese of Newark



On the anniversary of 9/11, blessings for a wounded world

by Nina Nicholson

During morning rush hour on the 14th anniversary of 9/11, Bishop Mark Beckwith and the Rev. Pam Bakal of Grace, Nutley gave "Blessings to Go" at Newark Penn Station.

Newark Penn Station is part of the neighborhood of the Diocese of Newark headquarters and Bishop Beckwith makes a practice of ministering to commuters there four times a year, offering Blessings to Go one day in the spring and another day the week of Thanksgiving, and offering Ashes to Go on Ash

Wednesday. At the same time, other diocesan staff have offered Ashes or Blessings to Go at Broad Street Station in Newark, and numerous churches have followed Bishop Beckwith's lead by offering Ashes or Blessings to Go in their neighborhoods.

Diocese of Rochester

As part of the Week of Moral Action for Climate Justice, Episcopalians from around the Rochester region will be participating in two key events during the week of September 21: an interfaith service to raise voices and prayers for the future and the Moral March for Climate Justice. [Read more...](#)

Diocese of the Virgin Islands

All Saints Cathedral School on the island of St. Thomas provides an opportunity for a top-tiered education to students of multiple ethnicities. [See their website...](#)

Diocese of Western New York

Blood Drives

The Episcopal Diocese of Western New York is sponsoring a series of blood drives throughout Western New York in memory of Nolan Burch. Nolan, a freshman at West Virginia University, passed away in November of 2014 after a fraternity hazing incident. TJ and Kim Burch, Nolan's parents and Calvary, Williamsville parishioners, arranged for organ and tissue donations after his death, and have since sought to raise awareness in the community. The goal is to have 200 units of blood donated. The results of the drive will be celebrated at the 178th Convention of the Diocese in October being held in Mayville.



The Rt. Rev. Bishop Franklin, who was among the first to make a donation appointment, said, "This Western New York Community and the nation have heard Nolan's story, and, while grief is a part of it, there is an outpouring of support for his family, turning it into positive action. What we cannot do for Nolan we can do for others: make others well and whole, with donations of blood and organs. This demonstrates what I have so often said: we are all connected in a web of grace. Here's one way we can demonstrate that connection in an outward and visible way." He further encouraged other faith communities and organizations to consider holding similar donor events and raise awareness of organ, tissue and blood donation.

Headquartered in downtown Buffalo and established in 1981, Unyts is among the leading procurement organizations in the United States, and is one of the only eight centers nationwide to house organ, eye and tissue procurement in one location. With the addition of Community Blood Service, Unyts has become the first organization of its kind nationwide. Unyts operates as a non-profit serving the eight counties of Western New York and works to assist donor families, coordinate the donation process and increase knowledge and awareness within the community regarding transplantation.

Coming Soon...

Healing A Woman's Soul

Healing A Woman's Soul offers its annual retreat entitled Tools for the Journey: Well Woman on Friday, September 11th - Saturday, September 12th at the Dominican Retreat Center, 1945 Union St., Niskayuna, NY 12309. [Download the brochure...](#)

Registrations accepted for Called to Transformation

Samuel McDonald, Deputy Chief Operating Officer and Director of Mission, announced that registrations are now accepted for the Called to Transformation Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) facilitator formation workshop September 14 – 17, designed to train leaders in methods and tools to enhance local ministry and mission.

Called to Transformation is a partnership between the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and Episcopal Relief & Development. The Asset-Based Community Development online toolkit and workshops were developed to train facilitators in leading a faith community in understanding the ABCD process, explained the Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson, Domestic Poverty Missioner for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. [Find out more...](#)

Young Adult Pilgrimage to Ferguson

The Episcopal Church is sponsoring a young adult pilgrimage to Ferguson, MO. The focus of the event will be to engage in racial justice and reconciliation. Young adults aged 18 to 30 are invited to apply for the pilgrimage, which will take place October 8 - 12. The cost is \$500 per participant and scholarships are available. More information is available at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/ferguson-pilgrimage-2015>

Icon Writing Retreat

There will be an opportunity to learn about icon writing on Oct. 20-23 With Patricia Miranda at St. Marguerite's Retreat House. Cost: \$410 full board, \$350 (Day only) & all meals. For more information, call Sister Pamela, CSJB 973-543-4641 ext 9 or sr-pamela@csjb.org

Episcopal Foundation Webinars July - September

For the full calendar, information and registration, go to the [website](#).



- Blessings and Struggles of Scrappy Church Ministry - September 22, 2015 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm EST
- Basics of a Capital Campaign - September 23, 2015 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm EDT

Parish Nurse Conference

Parish Nurse Ministries of New York will hold its Conference, "Finding the Abundant Life with a Compassionate Conversation" on Monday, November 2nd at the Millennium Hotel. The conference will focus on Interfaith, multicultural and spiritual implications surrounding end of life care. Download a brochure [here](#). For more information call Lois Tripp RN, Faith community Nurse- 716-870-2807 or e-mail ljt203@yahoo.com. Registrations may be made at www.pnmny.org or by phone at 566-1163.

Prison Alpha Ministry

Tom Gizara will be leading an ***Alpha For Prisons*** course and the follow-up, ***Jesus Lifestyle***, at Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Comstock, NY. The course will begin January 11, 2016, and Tom is in need of Explore Life manuals for the basic course. Anyone who has a copy or copies and is willing to donate them to this much-needed ministry can email Tom by clicking [here](#).

Mons Nubifer Sanctus

Mons Nubifer Sanctus (Holy Cloud-Bearing Mountain), a contemplative retreat center at 55 Lake Delaware Drive, Delhi, NY 13753 announces its Fall/Winter Program Schedule. Many opportunities for contemplative prayer, vigils, and education are available in the programs offered this fall and winter. [See what is being offered...](#)

The Holy Eucharist with the Installation of Bishop Michael Bruce Curry as the Presiding Bishop

Nov. 1 at Washington National Cathedral, live webcast [Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs press release] The Holy Eucharist with the Installation of the 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Bishop Michael Bruce Curry, will occur on Sunday, November 1 at noon Eastern at Washington National Cathedral. Information on the process for general seating tickets is now available. [Read more...](#)

