

# THE SPIRE

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St. Paul's On The Hill Episcopal Church  
40 Ganung Drive, Ossining, New York 10562



*Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

This prayer is called the prayer of self-dedication. It was written by a former Archbishop of Canterbury named William Temple. The Archbishop was both a theologian and a force for justice. He was a supporter of the workers' movement in England and an influential voice against Nazi atrocities during the Second World War.

The prayer is a window into Temple's mind. It shows him to be a holistic thinker. In it, God is invited into hearts, minds, and imaginations. And finally, God is asked to touch our wills so that we may be dedicated to God's purpose for us.

As we at the two Episcopal churches in Ossining enter this year, it will benefit us to think about Temple's prayer. We are taking on a year-long process of strategic visioning. Everyone will be included. Each of us must bring heart, mind, and imagination to the task...not in a self-centered way but in a way that is constantly referencing God's will for us and for those around us.

We are living in a time where Christian religious institutions are shrinking. And in parishes, the membership is aging. What's more, we don't understand what this means or why it is happening. But, as people of faith we know that God is present with us as we experience these trends. And we know that we still have a gift to bring to this world: the assurance that there is something more to life than we can see— healing and loving God.

And so, in 2019 we shall search our hearts, employ our minds, and release our imaginations to discern God's will for St Paul's and Trinity. "How," we shall ask, "can our parishes give glory to God and serve the welfare of people?" The process will be lay-led, facilitated by the Kaleidoscope Institute, and the Rev. Bill Cruse will be our facilitator. At the end of the process, we expect to have a practical three-year plan for our churches going forward.

Right now, the Strategic Visioning Team is being formed and their names will be released shortly. I would ask at this time that you pray for this process EVERY DAY. It doesn't have to be a long or complicated prayer, just perhaps a good thought for our churches that our hearts, minds, imaginations, and wills may be touched by God in this year to come.

You are dear and faithful people and I will pray for you too as you discern your path. And remember, as Joseph Campbell said, "if the path ahead is clear, you are probably on someone else's."

Mo. Cooper+

I am married to my husband, Rick, for 35 years. Together we have three sons: Cole, 32; Max, 30; and Sean, 28. Cole and his wife, Allison, have two children, our grandchildren: Dylan, 7 and Sadie, 5. Interests – family, friends, reading, knitting, praying, volunteering, binge-watching series TV – not necessarily in this order! Mostly, I like to laugh.

I stayed home to raise my children and started a family daycare business in the mid 1980's. When my youngest son was in school full-day I became a teacher's assistant in the local elementary school, which I loved. I officially entered the process to become a deacon after feeling called in 2000 to a new church, All Saints' in Briarcliff Manor. In 2001, just after 9/11, I started work as an administrator in a church in Rye. My ordination process was put on hold following the tragedy in NYC since our Rector left to work for the diocese. During that pause, I became a hospice volunteer and started my work with Ossining Prison Ministry at Sing Sing.

In 2006, I was ordained at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC following almost 10 years of reflection and study. My first placement was with the four churches of Ossining and Briarcliff Manor and together we began what was then known as the Landmark Churches—because all four rectors and I met at the Landmark Diner monthly to discuss our community and communities. I became known as the Landmark Deacon! For 3 years I was privileged to share ministry with the 4 churches. We started the Landmark Education for Ministry, then meeting at St. Mary's, and having members from all 4 churches; the Landmark Choir was formed to sing at the shared services. We did outreach projects and a mission trip together. It was a blessed time for me. During that time I also became the On-call Chaplain for the Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit at Phelps Hospital in Sleepy Hollow.

I was called to serve for the last 9 years as deacon in the same parish where I worked as the Administrator. During that time, I studied to become a Spiritual Director with The Guild for Spiritual Guidance and graduated in 2016.

I am currently the Director of Ossining Prison Ministry, Inc. I work part-time for The Guild as their Administrator and Assistant to the Director of the Apprenticeship Program, and I am employed by the Burns Film Center Media Labs as their Office Manager/HR Assistant.

I am honored to be called back to work with the Sister Parishes of Ossining, the town in which I live. It gives me such joy to be worshipping God with all of you and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,  
Deacon Dorothée





## By Another Way

Daily Devotional • January 9

By the Rev. Emily R. Hylden

When Jesus asks the sick man if he would like to be made well, the man answers by telling him the obstacles that prevent him from finding healing. I'm struck that this man jumps straight to his excuses rather than just answering the question that Jesus has posed.

It's as if it doesn't occur to him that maybe there's some other way, an unaccounted catalyst that might make healing happen outside of the stirred-up waters and the rush for a bath.

I wonder if the wise men, whose witness we remembered on Sunday in the Feast of the Epiphany, had the same struggle after they found the baby Jesus and, having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, weighed how to reach home.

Sometimes God's answer is very clear, though the method or path to go there from where we stand is much less clear. What a joy and comfort that we are not charged to know each step of the way, but only to trust God's guidance to draw us along the plan he has set.

John 5:1-15

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 6When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." 8Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

## From the Desk of Julie Gross: Poetry from Mary Oliver

Like “How I go to the woods

Ordinarily, I go to the woods alone, with not a single friend, for they are all smilers and talkers and therefore unsuitable.

I don't really want to be witnessed talking to the catbirds or hugging the old black oak tree. I have my way of praying, as you no doubt have yours.

Besides, when I am alone I can become invisible. I can sit on the top of a dune as motionless as an uprise of weeds, until the foxes run by unconcerned. I can hear the almost unhearable sound of the roses singing.

If you have ever gone to the woods with me, I must love you very much.”

—*Mary Oliver, Swan: Poems and Prose Poems*

“Tell me,  
what is it you plan to do  
with your one  
wild and precious life?”

—*Mary Oliver*

“Sometimes I need  
only to stand  
wherever I am  
to be blessed.”

— *Mary Oliver, Evidence: Poems*





Final performance of the Youth Music Program on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Singers. Drummers and volunteers.

## THE LANTERN GIFT SHOP - FEBRUARY 2019

We kicked off 2019 with our annual January Clearance Sale on January 12th. The weather, though cold, was nothing like last year when only a few very loyal customers showed up. We took in \$768.29 which was the best we have done in a long time in January.

As this article is being written, we are one week away from the annual Valentine Sale & Bake Sale on Saturday, February 2nd. A look at the long range weather forecast shows sunshine for that day and we are hoping for a successful sale day. Stay tuned for the results.

On Sunday, February 3rd, Marti and Francesca will head to the Gift Show in NYC. This is a long day for our buyers and we should all appreciate their efforts. Since we are a small shop with a limited budget, it is not an easy task for them to find unique and affordable items for us to sell. They do a great job!

Next up will be the Easter Sale & Bake Sale, which will be on April 1st. Thanks to a later Easter this year, we are rewarded with a little breathing room between special events. We will be using the time to put away all Christmas merchandise, clean the shop and organize and clean our wonderful attic work space. Of course we will also create some special items for Easter. We will gradually transition the shop into a "Spring shop"...what a welcome thought that is! Remember, the shop is now back to regular Saturday hours of 10-1. Stop by and bring friends. The Lantern Gift Shop Committee



## **True...Very True! (Sent by Sue Bayliss)**

Most of our generation of 60+ were *HOME SCHOOLED* in many ways.

**1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.**

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

**2. My mother taught me RELIGION.**

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

**3. My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL.**

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!".

**4. My father taught me LOGIC.**

" Because I said so, that's why."

**5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC.**

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

**6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT.**

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

**7. My father taught me IRONY.**

"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

**8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.**

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

**9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.**

"Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

**10. My mother taught me about STAMINA.**

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

**11. My mother taught me about WEATHER.**

"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

**12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY.**

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!"

**13. My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.**

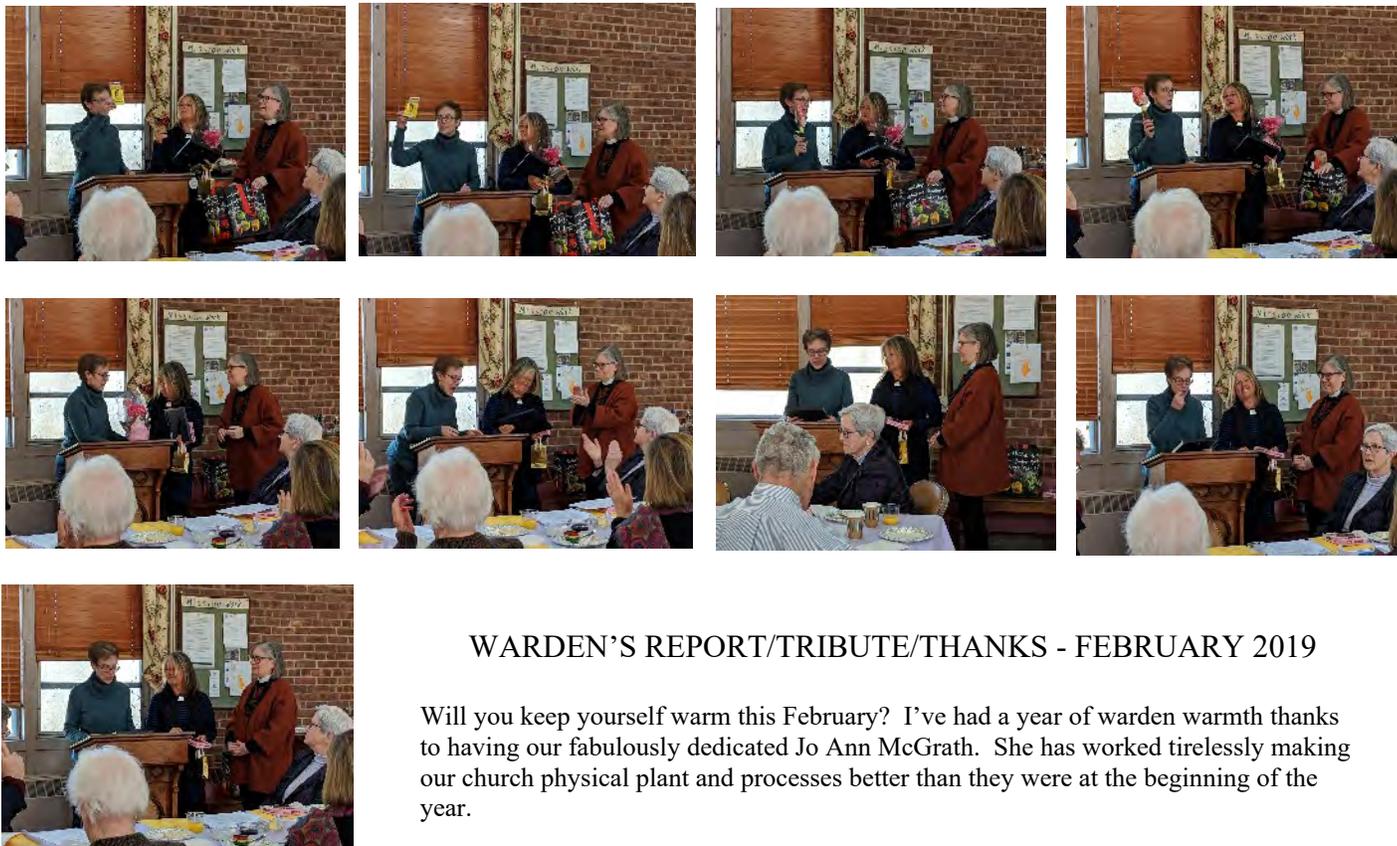
"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out..."

**14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION .**

"Stop acting like your father!"



February is the  
month of love



## Thank You Jo Ann

### WARDEN'S REPORT/TRIBUTE/THANKS - FEBRUARY 2019

Will you keep yourself warm this February? I've had a year of warden warmth thanks to having our fabulously dedicated Jo Ann McGrath. She has worked tirelessly making our church physical plant and processes better than they were at the beginning of the year.

Her biggest gift is getting our financial recording system into the 21st century by setting up a program called Church Windows. With the help of her daughter, Brooke, and Kate Pendzuk from Trinity, she spent hours inputting accounts, names, and more than we can imagine so the Vestry can review our financial position while Tina Farrell can create directories, pledge statements, etc. with a few clicks.

Another biggie, is motivating looking into our future relationship with Trinity. Without her candid declaration of concern for St. Paul's moving forward we would not be about to launch into the exciting Strategic Visioning process in 2019.

And lastly, there are all the other "jobs" that magically get done – such as garden planning and planting, poking me as needed, cleaning multiple closets, and purging the former counting room so that space can serve as Deacon Dorothee's office. (This is far from a complete list!)

It has been a blessed privilege to serve with her. Thanks, JoAnn for all you've done and have committed to do moving forward.

Love,  
Beth Pollack

Photos by Deacon Dorothee Caulfield

**FEBRUARY IS**



**BLACK HISTORY**  
*Month*

**BLACK**  
HISTORY MONTH



KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | [WWW.KSDE.ORG](http://WWW.KSDE.ORG)

FEBRUARY 2017

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2019**

Happy  
Valentine's Day





Mo. Cooper and  
all February  
Babies





## **Cooking Classes with Darryl Moy 2019**

**Chappaqua Continuing Education Spring 2019  
Registration is Open and...Darryl Moy is teaching  
Chinese cooking classes again.**

Classes do fill on a first-come/first-served basis, so, please act now to  
secure your spot.

There are many amazing offerings.

You can view and register online at

[https://www.ccsd.ws/uploaded/CCE/CCE\\_Spring-2019.pdf](https://www.ccsd.ws/uploaded/CCE/CCE_Spring-2019.pdf)  
or call CCSD at 914. 238-7201 ex 2318

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2/02 Karen Pauline  
2/09 Susan Holsten Madera  
Robert Docker  
Mo. Cooper Conway  
2/12 Christina Cowan Richmond  
2/13 Kathen Cowan Revnolds  
2/14 Nicholas Kip  
2/20 William Cowan  
Doris Beresford  
2/22 Stephanie Silicato  
2/24 Evelvn Marie Steckmeister  
2/25 Julie Gross  
Brooke McGrath  
Ian Robertson  
2/26 Audrev Del Bene  
2/29 Jessica Bowen

## **FEBRUARY BAPTISMS**

2/05 Stephanie Kip  
2/21 Jeanne Rothrock

## **FEBRUARY DEATHS**

2/1 Reggie Williamson  
2/01 Roger Trommelen  
Ann Potts (Barbara Rose's Mother)  
2/07 Mary Allen (Jayne) Jones  
Richard Vaillancourt  
2/12 John William Matherly  
2/18 Edith Skidgell  
2/29 Jeanne Rothrock