

# September Is Celebrate National Recovery Month!



## Join the Voices for Recovery: Strengthen Families and Communities

In the spirit of **Holy Comforter's** commitment to radical hospitality, we welcome and encourage all persons seeking the abundance and fullness of life in their recovery and renewal. Our faith provides support and hope to those seeking recovery and the Gospel promises of redemption and grace through recovery.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TEUSDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 1 Corinthians 6:12	2 BCP 56: For the victims of addiction bcponline.org
3 "One Day at a Time"*	4 Visit na.org	5 NA Meeting 7:30 pm CHC Library	6 Romans 5:3-5	7 Visit Episcopal recovery.org	8 Philippians 4:13	9 Visit alanonva.com
10 "Keep it Simple"*	11 Psalm 50:15	12 NA Meeting 7:30	13 Titus 2:12	14 Psalm 95:8	15 Attend an Al-Anon meeting	16 Serenity Prayer 5 Hebrews 4:15-16
17 "Just for Today"*	18 Visit episcopal recovery.org/	19 NA Meeting 7:30	20 Isaiah 40:31	21 Visit aa.org	22 James 1:2-4	23 Visit oa.org/
24 "First Things First"*	25 "Let Go and Let God"*	26 NA Meeting 7:30	27 Visit adultchildren. org	28 1 Peter 5:10	29 Philippians 4:13	30 1 Thessalonians 5:11
OCT 1 Holy Comforter Recovery Sunday! 1-3 pm	* Slogans from the 12 Step Recovery Programs					

## Addiction: The Church's Role in Recovery

Recovery Resolutions of The General Convention of the Episcopal Church 2015

In 2015, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church resolved that the 78th General Convention acknowledge The Episcopal Church's longstanding tolerance for the use of alcohol which, in some cases, has contributed to its misuse, and has undermined a climate of wholeness and holiness for all; that our Church culture too often avoids hard conversations about alcohol use, and the role of forgiveness and compassion in healing and recovery; and that The Episcopal Church now commits to create a new normal in our relationship with alcohol. We aspire to be a place in which conversations about alcohol, substance misuse, or addiction are not simply about treatment but about renewal, justice, wholeness, and healing. Full text available at:

[www.episcopalrecovery.org/resources/Documents/Resolution%202%20Page.pdf](http://www.episcopalrecovery.org/resources/Documents/Resolution%202%20Page.pdf)

The following is a personal reflection from a Holy Comforter family:

Many people have difficulty controlling their drinking. Some of them may eventually get help. Others unfortunately do not. Some are able to stop through self-determination. Others find help in places such as church, AA or another self-help group, or from a doctor. Many achieve long-lasting sobriety. Often, that does not happen until they have numerous negative consequences such as DUIs, failed relationships, loss of jobs and jail time. Problems associated with excessive drinking can have devastating costs and cause irreparable damage to those who drink and those around them. You probably know someone who falls into that group—it could even be you.

You may know someone in recovery as well. They may live next door, work in the office next to yours, go to your church or be married to you. Or it could even be you.

Addiction is a disease. It is not a choice. Making a decision to do something about it, however, is. People in recovery have accomplished a daunting task to save themselves and live a better life. It is never easy. They deserve support, respect and admiration.

**We celebrate their bravery and strength in dealing with their addiction.**

The theme for Recovery Month 2017 is:

## Join the Voices for Recovery: Strengthen Families and Communities.

The 2017 theme highlights the value of family and community support throughout recovery and invites individuals in recovery and their family members to share their personal stories and successes in order to encourage others.

### Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church

<http://www.episcopalrecovery.org/>

Is an organization with a mission to those who, through addiction, have lost their health and freedom. Our ministry seeks to:

- Help the addicted and those who love them connect with spiritual resources and find lasting recovery.
- Witness to Christ's unfailing mercy by welcoming unchurched members of Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-Step programs into an Episcopal faith community.
- Raise the awareness of bishops, and other clergy and leaders, about the disease of addiction and the redemption and grace found in recovery.
- Strengthen recovering Episcopalians in the work of their recovery and help proclaim the Gospel in the world and carry their recovery into the Church.

### Through the Red Door - Stories of Recovery

<http://www.episcopalrecovery.org/>

In the early days of the Church, when the front door of the parish was painted red it was said to signify sanctuary – that the ground beyond these doors was holy, and anyone who entered through them was safe from harm. In the lives of many recovering people, it is through these same red doors that sanctuary is found on a daily basis. Initially that sanctuary may not have started in the rooms with high vaulted ceilings and stained glass windows, but in the basements and back rooms of churches where 12-step meetings are held. This blog was created for recovering people to share the experiences they found walking through those doors of safety, refuge and peace.

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### Book of Common Prayer

**56** For the Victims of Addiction; O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. Amen.

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### 1 Corinthians 6:12

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything."

### 1 Peter 5:10

**10** And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

### Romans 5:3-5

**3** Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

### James 1:2-4

**2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:11

**11** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

### Psalms 50:15

**15** and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.

### Psalms 95:8

**8** Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness.

### Philippians 4:13

**13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

### Isaiah 40:31

**31** But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

### Titus 2:12

**12** It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

### Hebrews 4:15-16

**15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. **16** Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

### Philippians 4:13

**13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength,

### 1 Corinthians 10:13

**13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful, he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But, when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. **14** Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

### Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

**for more information:**  
Alcoholics Anonymous:  
[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

Families of Alcoholics:  
[www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

[www.caron.org](http://www.caron.org)

[www.inova.org/CATS](http://www.inova.org/CATS)