

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**P.O. Box 28**  
**Wilson, NY 14172**  
**[www.stjohnswilson.org](http://www.stjohnswilson.org)**



***Wilson Community Food Pantry***  
***Donation For January & February:***

***Peanut Butter, Cereal, Pasta, Meal in a Box***  
***Monetary Donations***

**Pious Press**

**St. John's Episcopal Church**



**"Our Doors Are Always Open"**

**Hope, Healing & Hospitality**

**January & February 2016**

**Sunday 9 a.m. - Holy Communion with Hymns**



# St. John's Episcopal Church

431 Lake Street  
P.O. Box 28  
Wilson, NY 14172-0028  
Office Telephone: 716-751-6109  
stjohnswilson@juno.com

### Priest:

**Deacon: The Rev'd Rocky Dworak**

Deacon Telephone: 716-877-3655

Deacon Cell Phone: 716-474-9818

**Parish Administrator**—Jennifer Farwell-Puskas 716-751-0101

**Treasurer**—Wendy Brown 716-791-8442

**Music Director**—Lois Carter 716-751-6525

**Sexton**—Jerilyn Carney 716-628-9477

**Housekeeper**—Allison Carter 716-751-6525



### Warden

Jim Alessi  
716-751-9479

### Jr. Warden

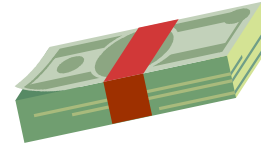
Lois Bateman  
716-751-6251

### Vestry

Denis Desso  
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas

Marcia Sabey  
Vicki Jancef

Lois Carter  
Jacquie Rodgers



### Treasurer's Report

	Nov. 2015	YTD 2015
Income:	\$ 4,365.04	\$ 42,216.28
Expense:	- <u>2,833.25</u>	- <u>41,879.89</u>
Total:	\$ 1,531.79	\$ 336.39
Add Dividends:	<u>17.96</u>	\$ <u>218.37</u>
Total:	\$ 1,549.75	\$ 554.76

### Don't Forget....

Anyone can place flowers on the altar at any time.  
What a great way to remember a special event or  
that special someone. Sign-up in the Parish Hall.



We are in need of Coffee Hour Hosts  
Please sign-up in the Parish Hall !!

BIRTHDAYS will be celebrated  
on the first Sunday of each month!

## Faith Matters

By Lizzy Depew, St. Andrew's

My country tis of thee...  
Sweet land of liberty..  
Of thee I sing.....but do we?

Freedom.....not a single word resonates with Americans and millions of others like *FREE-DOM*.

A television commercial announces that buying a certain car will make you “free” ...while flying a certain airline will make you “free”. We celebrate our country’s independence with songs of “freedom”. Politian’s, businessmen, advertisers, salesmen, military leaders and recruiters—all know how to use “freedom” to attract attention and draw interest. Few words are so common while carrying so much weight.

What do we do to sing our songs of freedom daily?  
How do we show our gratitude for having this freedom?

True freedom is a gift from God. This is true of religious freedom, political freedom and every other authentic freedom enjoyed by us.

With our country’s freedom, comes the freedom of choosing our religion. Religion, since it concerns itself with the relationship between us and God, lies close to the heart of our culture here at St. Andrew’s.

Freedom is not the ability to do what we want, but what we ought to do.

Our church, by celebrating the memory and continued presence of Jesus Christ, attempts to form us in a spirit of gratitude, love, and generous service.

St. Andrew’s, in its small way, contributes to the building of a civilization of peace and love.

We must work together with our fellow citizens for the common good of all who live in this land. That is the vision of our founding fathers and our constitution, which guarantees citizens of all faiths the right to contribute to our common life together.

This nation of freedom and opportunity was given to us. But, America will never be a finished project. We are handed a work in progress; -- one that can evolve for good or evil.

With liberty comes duty. We must reach out beyond our walls to continue to do good for others. To reach out to our fellow man with an outstretched hand to help all who are needy.

How?

Consider the cost of freedom.

Our freedom came and still comes at a high cost for many families. It is important to acknowledge that cost and be grateful for those who gave and continue to give their lives in service so that we can live as we do today.

## *Your Warden’s View....*

I am very happy to report that this transition to a new pastor has been going well. Our covenant relationship with St. Andrew’s continues to be strong. St. Andrew’s out-going Warden Lynn Schauer-Bewley and in-coming Sr. Warden Doug Wintersteen have been wonderful to work with. Without them, I would be lost in this process. I owe them a debt of gratitude for their diligence, commitment and managerial skills. I look forward to working with Doug and in-coming Jr. Warden Paul Mayer in 2016.

Through the work of Barbara Price and Pete Dempesy-Sims, the Diocese has been extremely helpful over the last several months to set up supply priests and get us on the right track in the selection process to find our next pastor. Your vestry has had several meetings with Barbara and Pete as they continue to provide excellent support and guidance in our efforts to make this transition as quick and as smooth as possible. Many thanks go out to Barbara and Pete for their work. Without them, both St. Andrew’s and St. John’s would be lost during this transition.

St. John’s search committee has been established. It consists of Lois Carter, Sharon Rhodes, Priscilla Moot, and Beth Pyskaty. We couldn’t ask for a better group of people to represent the interests of our church than we have in these four women. From the discussions at the transition meetings, it is clear that they have a daunting and time-consuming task ahead of them. But I have complete faith that their commitment and integrity will serve our congregation well. Let us all pray and offer them our combined strength and support as they undertake this difficult responsibility. Also, please be aware that they have been instructed by the Diocese that they will be in possession of sensitive personal information from potential clergy candidates. They will not be able to freely discuss much of the work that they have been asked to do. I ask everyone to be cognizant and respectful of their restrictions during this process. Their silence or inability to share certain information with the vestry and/or congregation is not by choice.

There is so much going on right now, I could write a book and still not report all the latest activity. So, please forgive my brevity, but rest assured, our congregation is strong, we are united with St. Andrew’s in faith through the covenant agreement, and this transition process is in good hands. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to another prosperous and Happy New Year!

Peace,  
Jim Alessi

## Upcoming Community Events

The following is a listing of upcoming community events in the Village of Wilson for **January & February, 2016:**



January 2	8 a.m.—Noon	Electronic Recycling Town Highway Dept.
January 5	2—8 p.m.	Wilson Community Food Pantry St. Brennan's On The Lake
January 12	2—8 p.m.	Wilson Community Food Pantry St. Brennan's On The Lake
January 19	2—8 p.m.	Wilson Community Food Pantry St. Brennan's On The Lake
January 26	2—8 p.m.	Wilson Community Food Pantry St. Brennan's On The Lake
February 6	8 a.m.—Noon	Electronic Recycling Town Highway Dept.
February 9	2—8 p.m.	Wilson Community Food Pantry St. Brennan's On The Lake
February 15—19		NO SCHOOL—WINTER BREAK
February 16	2—8 p.m.	Wilson Community Food Pantry St. Brennan's On The Lake
February 23	2—8 p.m.	Wilson Community Food Pantry St. Brennan's On The Lake

## Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner

St. John's Episcopal Church

431 Lake Street

Wilson



Friday, January 15th

4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

\$8.00 Adult / \$4.00 Children

TAKEOUTS AVAILABLE

751-6109



## St. Valentine—The Real Story

Flowers, candy, red hearts and romance. That's what Valentine's day is all about, right? Well, maybe not.

The origin of this holiday for the expression of love really isn't romantic at all -- at least not in the traditional sense. Father Frank O'Gara of Whitefriars Street Church in Dublin, Ireland, tells the real story of the man behind the holiday -- St. Valentine.

"He was a Roman Priest at a time when there was an emperor called Claudias who persecuted the church at that particular time," Father O'Gara explains. " He also had an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died."

"I think we must bear in mind that it was a very permissive society in which Valentine lived," says Father O'Gara. "Polygamy would have been much more popular than just one woman and one man living together. And yet some of them seemed to be attracted to Christian faith. But obviously the church thought that marriage was very sacred between one man and one woman for their life and that it was to be encouraged. And so it immediately presented the problem to the Christian church of what to do about this."

"The idea of encouraging them to marry within the Christian church was what Valentine was about. And he secretly married them because of the edict."

Valentine was eventually caught, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against command of Emperor Claudius the second. There are legends surrounding Valentine's actions while in prison.

"One of the men who was to judge him in line with the Roman law at the time was a man called Asterius, whose daughter was blind. He was supposed to have prayed with and healed the young girl with such astonishing effect that Asterius himself became Christian as a result."

In the year 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to a three part execution of a beating, stoning, and finally decapitation all because of his stand for Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter. He inspired today's romantic missives by signing it, "from your Valentine."

"What Valentine means to me as a priest," explains Father O'Gara, "is that there comes a time where you have to lay your life upon the line for what you believe. And with the power of the Holy Spirit we can do that -- even to the point of death."

Valentine's martyrdom has not gone unnoticed by the general public. In fact, Whitefriars Street Church is one of three churches that claim to house the remains of Valentine. Today, many people make the pilgrimage to the church to honor the courage and memory of this Christian saint.

"Valentine has come to be known as the patron saint of lovers. Before you enter into a Christian marriage you want some sense of God in your life -- some great need of God in your life. And we know, particularly in the modern world, many people are meeting God through his Son, Jesus Christ."

## St. Valentine—The Real Story.....Continued

"If Valentine were here today, he would say to married couples that there comes a time where you're going to have to suffer. It's not going to be easy to maintain your commitment and your vows in marriage. Don't be surprised if the 'gushing' love that you have for someone changes to something less "gushing" but maybe much more mature. And the question is, is that young person ready for that?"

"So on the day of the marriage they have to take that into context," Father O'Gara says. "Love -- human love and sexuality is wonderful, and blessed by God -- but also the shadow of the cross. That's what Valentine means to me."



*Celebrate St. Valentine's Day with us after the service on  
Sunday, February 14th at our Brunch*

## Dates to Remember

### January

January 15	4—7 p.m.	Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner
January 21	6 p.m.	Vestry Meeting (NEW DATE)
January 31	9 a.m.	Joint Service w/St. Andrew's at St. John's

### February

February 5	4:30 p.m.	Fish Fry at St. Andrew's
February 7		Scout Sunday
February 9	4—7 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
February 12	4:30 p.m.	Fish Fry at St. Andrew's
February 14		Valentine's Day Brunch After Service
February 18	6 p.m.	Vestry Meeting (NEW DATE)
February 19	4:30 p.m.	Fish Fry at St. Andrew's
February 26	4:30 p.m.	Fish Fry at St. Andrew's

**USHERS JANUARY:**  
**FEBRUARY:**

**Gail & Eric Freischlag**  
**Millie High & Jacquie Rodgers**

**COUNTERS JANUARY:**  
**FEBRUARY:**

**Denis Desso & Jim Alessi**  
**Jennifer Farwell-Puskas & Vicki Jancef**

### Happy Birthday To....

Ella Alessi	January 10
John Carney III	January 21
Jared Carney	January 28
Keith Rhodes	February 10
Nancy Thompson	February 15

Please make sure that your birthday and/or anniversary is on file in the office so that we can include you on our monthly celebration list. See Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Parish Administrator for all updates or changes.





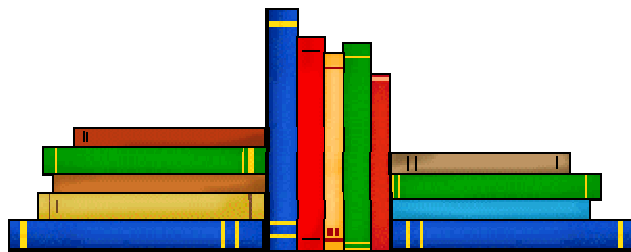
## *The Bookshelf*

*By Lois Carter, St. John's*

After hearing this author speak at Chautauqua some years ago, I have found her books very interesting and spiritual. They are written like she preaches, easy and full of meat, so you can revisit them many times and still find something new in them. I am talking about Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest who is at present teaching at Piedmont College and not having a church role, at the present time. The last book of hers I read is *An Altar in the World*.

She presents the fact that having no church at the present time where she can celebrate, she has found that the stone and mortar building is not a necessary thing to worship God. I personally have felt this for most of my life but find that I am still drawn to the community of the church for just that, community! She brings out many ways that you can indeed find God in the out of doors, while doing mundane tasks around your house, and in some unlikely places you might stumble onto. God is present everywhere, is her main theme, and you but have to be open and look for these many opportunities in your day to day life, to foster a sense of the holy.

I think this book would make a good study book for anytime in the church year as she presents so many themes for sharing viewpoints. We ultimately see God as each of us is given to and not so much when we are told we should or must see him in certain places or ways. I found and continue to find this book very freeing to my thinking. I hope you will too.



## **Faith Matters—Continued**

Do some good.

There are many among us who no longer can get out and enjoy a warm summer day or participate in the many festivities of the holidays. If we could take a moment to do one kind deed, invite someone over to dinner; take a plate of treats to the aged. Stop by and spend a few minutes and offer to clean up or render a service to others.

It will not only make the day more meaningful to you but will also gladden others.

Make a difference

With all the wrongs that need righting, ask yourself, “When was the last time I stood up, showed up, and spoke up for what was right or for what I believe in?”

Complacency has much to do with many of the issues that currently face us. If we don’t start taking the initiative to make a difference, we stand to lose many of our freedoms and blessings that we wish to pass on to the next generation.

Speak kind words

There are many good deeds, heart felt efforts, and wonderful performances that go unnoticed and unmentioned. Speaking kind words of appreciation will always gladden the heart of the recipient.

Reflect upon your blessings.

Take a moment to reflect upon all we have done and may yet do or want to do. Let the positive memories of your life wash over you and lift you in anticipation of what you may yet learn and accomplish.

We think of freedom as something of our special inheritance, fought at a great price, and a heritage to be guarded now. We are stewards of this gift, not only for ourselves but for all peoples who yearn to be free.

And you and I must teach our young the words we live by.

Teaching our children about our country’s heritage is important because they know no other way of life. They need to appreciate that the life they have in our United States is not a birthright—rather it is a gift from the culmination of past generations. It took enormous courage, loss of life, pain mistakes, hard work and risk to get here.

Our children need to be made aware that they are going to be the custodians of this country and be taught how to do it well.

And parents and grandparents should show that this freedom is really important to them. As children hear their parents’ voices crack and tears fall as they pour out their gratitude for living in a free country—and asking God to bless the young men and women who put their lives on the line to protect this freedom ---- children will feel that love of country and for the freedom they enjoy. When we as parents rise to our feet and put our hands over our heart and look to our national symbol with pride, our families will feel that and they will do likewise.

## Faith Matters—Continued

We are free. We have liberty. WE can speak our minds, make choices about our lives and be an influence on the influencers.

We here at St. Andrew's are always grateful for the privilege of being an American and we know that it our stewardship of God's gifts that ultimately is the measure. Because of these things, we are truly among the most fortunate people to live on this earth today.

And for this, may we be forever grateful.

**The Leadership of St. John's would like to wish each and every one of you a very prosperous and healthy New Year in 2016 !!**

A graphic with the words "Happy New Year!" in a large, blue, 3D-style font. The letters are decorated with colorful streamers and confetti, giving it a festive appearance.

## *From The Bench By Lois Carter*

Here we are fast approaching the end of the 12 days of Christmas and now I find an interesting recounting of the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas". I share this with you as I have often wondered what the symbolism of the carol is. This is one explanation:

My true love.....God, and the gifts from God  
The partridge..... Jesus  
Two turtledoves.....The Old and New Testaments  
Three French hens..... Faith, Hope and Charity  
Four calling birds.....The four gospels  
Five golden rings.....The Torah (The first five books of the Bible)  
Six geese a-laying..... The six days of Creation (Genesis)  
Seven swans a-swimming..... The Seven Sacraments  
Eight maids a-milking.....The eight Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount  
Nine ladies dancing..... Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience,  
Kindness Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness  
and Self Control  
Ten Lords a-leaping.....The Ten Commandments  
Eleven pipers piping.....The Apostles ( not including Judas) who spread  
the Good News  
Twelve drummers drumming.....The twelve Articles of Faith in the Apostles'  
Creed

Keep singing! Lois