



Your Priest Perspective...

I enjoy reading the words of Richard Rohr, a Roman Catholic Priest, who operates a center for action and contemplation. I found these words challenging and useful. Randi+

If We Were Christian

A Circle expands forever
It covers all who wish to hold hands
And its size depends on each other
It is a vision of solidarity
It turns outwards to interact with the outside
And inward for self critique
A circle expands forever
It is a vision of accountability
It grows as the other is moved to grow
A circle must have a centre
But a single dot does not make a Circle
One tree does not make a forest
A circle, a vision of cooperation, mutuality and care –*Mercy Amba Oduyoye [1]*

Hospitality is the practice that keeps the church from becoming a club, a members-only society. –*Diana Butler Bass [2]*

Practical, practice-based Christianity has been avoided, denied, minimized, ignored, delayed, and sidelined for too many centuries, by too many Christians who were never told Christianity was anything more than a belonging or belief system. And we only belonged to our own little club or denomination at that! Some of us were afraid to step foot into a house of worship across the street for fear of eternal punishment. Now we know that there is no Methodist or Catholic way of loving. There is no Orthodox or Presbyterian way of living a simple and nonviolent life. There is no Lutheran or Evangelical way of showing mercy. There is no Baptist or Episcopalian way of visiting the imprisoned. If there is, we are invariably emphasizing the accidentals, which distract us from the very “marrow of the Gospel,” as St. Francis called it. We have made this mistake for too long. We cannot keep avoiding what Jesus actually emphasized and mandated. In this most urgent time, “it is the very love of Christ that now urges us” (2 Corinthians 5:14).

Quaker pastor Philip Gulley superbly summarizes how we must rebuild spirituality from the bottom up in his book, *If the Church Were Christian*. [3]. Here I take the liberty of using my own words to restate his message, which offers a rather excellent description of what is emerging in Christianity today:

1. Jesus is a model for living more than an object of worship.
2. Affirming people’s potential is more important than reminding them of their brokenness.
3. The work of reconciliation should be valued over making judgments.
4. Gracious behavior is more important than right belief.
5. Inviting questions is more valuable than supplying answers.
6. Encouraging the personal search is more important than group uniformity.
7. Meeting actual needs is more important than maintaining institutions.
8. Peacemaking is more important than power.
9. We should care more about love and less about sex.
10. Life in this world is more important than the afterlife (Eternity is God’s work anyway).

If this makes sense to you, you are already participating in evolving Christianity. Do read it several times. It only makes more and more sense.

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Treasurer: Wendy Brown
Sexton: Jerilyn Carney

Warden
Janet Hoffman

Jr. Warden
Jerilyn Carney

Vestry

Lois Bateman
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas

Priscilla Moot
Lucy Kraatz



Treasurer's Report

Year to Date - November, 2019

Income:	\$32,066.38
Expenses:	\$48,977.51
Total:	- \$16,911.13
Plus Dividends:	\$ 8,928.37
Total:	- \$ 7,982.76



Schedule for Newsletter For 2020

January/February:	Articles Due By:	12/29/19
	Distributed:	1/05/20
March/April:	Articles Due By:	2/23/20
	Distributed:	3/01/20
May/June:	Articles Due By:	4/26/20
	Distributed:	5/03/20
July/August:	Articles Due By:	6/28/20
	Distributed:	7/05/20
September/October:	Articles Due By:	8/30/20
	Distributed:	9/06/20
November/December:	Articles Due By:	10/25/20
	Distributed:	11/01/20

Please support
St. Andrew's
Community Store

Closed: Sunday & Monday
Tuesday & Wednesday:
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

2768 S. Main Street
Newfane, New York

Anyone can submit an article for the newsletter. Please send to Jennifer by the due date above via email at: stjohnswilson@juno.com .

Our Diocesan Prayer Partner:
St. Peter's, Niagara Falls

Please take time to include them in your daily prayers



January 22nd
at
7 p.m.

Wilson Community Food Pantry 2019

Myself, the volunteers and the pantry shoppers want to thank the community for its generosity.

We at the pantry have been able to keep the shelves full as well as the freezers and the refrigerators. We have had fresh produce in the summer months and then canned goods when fall came.

We gave out the following number of Holiday meals:

Thanksgiving Dinner: 76 meals, 179 Individuals

Christmas Dinner: 70 meals, 169, individuals

The pantry shoppers were very grateful for their gift bags from St. John's.

The numbers will increase over the winter and with the community's generosity we will be able to provide for their needs. We all thank you again.

With God's Blessing,

*Janet M. Hoffman, Administrator
Wilson Community Food Pantry*

to the full

SJC MOPS continues to bring 9- 15 moms each meeting with the excitement of each other's support and a special message, as they leave their toddlers with provided childcare.

SJC MOPS again this year invited the ladies of St. John's Church to join their Christmas Cookie Exchange. We had 15 participants with a wide assortment of delicious cookies and busy little ones among us. Jennifer had a giveaway of five grapevine wreaths to close our gathering.

Interesting note: SJC MOPS ladies were talking about Cathy Dempsey-Sims' Christmas story of the donkey from the previous week's meeting. What an uplifting warm feeling to see "it matters" what happens at SJC MOPS.

SCJ MOPS 2nd annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 26th starting at 4:00. This "free will offering" will go directly to support SJC MOPS. SJC MOPS along with their leaders and childcare volunteers will be coordinating, cooking, serving and do the cleanup for the event. Again, this year SJC MOPS will be funding expenses, so the exact cost of the supper is unknown. It is desired "we" mentor the young SJC MOPS to be able to coordinate and execute future events. SJC MOPS is asking instead of donating items for the meal, to support us by coming and enjoying the meal with family and friends, meet SJC MOPS, and put your "free will donation" in the jar!!

SCJ MOPS topics: January 8th - Carol Nochajski - Relationship Styles

January 22nd - Chet Frey - "Mr. Breadman"

We are always in need of additional childcare people. If you can volunteer or know anyone that is available the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month, please contact Priscilla or Jennifer.

Thank you for your continued support for SJC MOPS.

God is Good.

Priscilla and Jennifer



January 10 Priscilla Moot
 January 21 John Carney, III
 January 23 Jared Carney

February 15 Nancy Thompson



February 21	St. Andrew's Fish Fry Dinners Begin
February 25	Shrove Tuesday - MOPS Fundraiser
February 26	Ash Wednesday
April 12	Easter

Birthday Celebration Sign Up Sheet

There is a sign-up sheet hanging up in the parish hall for volunteers to take care of the HIGH COFFEE hour on the first Sunday of the month. The fellowship is just the icing on the cake (or cupcakes or whatever you want)! Thank you, Lucy Kraatz

Food Pantry Gift Bags

Thank you to all who donated items and time to this special project. Through the generosity of our parishioners and supporters we assembled about 75 bags that were given to those that use the services offered by the food pantry. Although their need is all year long, everyone enjoys receiving a little extra at Christmas time. Please continue to support our local food pantry by leaving donations in the bin at the rear of the church. Thank you, Lucy Kraatz



- The Fellowship Calendar is being updated and will be distributed soon.
- Easter Flower Donation Forms are available in the sanctuary. Please fill out and return before Sunday, March 29th.
- Vestry meets every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Any parishioner may attend these meetings.
- Currently our Parish Hall is being used on:

Monday: AA
Tuesday: Pierogi Lady
Wednesday: MOPS and 4-H Club

Please note the Parish Hall is available for use. See Janet Hoffman for details. Our kitchen is certified by the Niagara County Health Department also.

- Many thanks to those who contributed towards the Christmas flowers.

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DATED MATERIAL