



Ever Growing in Spirit

St. John's
Episcopal Church
Wilson, New York
716.751.6109



Your Priest Perspective

“Self-denial means knowing only Christ, and no longer oneself. It means seeing only Christ, who goes ahead of us, and no longer the path that is too difficult for us... . Self-denial is saying only: He goes ahead of us; hold fast to him.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In the Ash Wednesday service, which begins Lent, we ask God to create in us a clean heart and to renew in us a right spirit. That right spirit is one that is focused on Christ alone - one that seek to see where Christ is leading and follows Christ. Because we are human, we get off track and focus on ourselves first. Lent is a time to begin again - to examine ourselves and see where we have missed the mark and then to put our focus back on Christ. It is a time when we promise to do a better job of staying in tune with what Christ is doing and following. It is also a time to remind ourselves once more that Jesus never calls us to do anything more difficult than what He did for us in His love and passion.

Randi+

***** SPRING AHEAD...TIME CHANGE*****
Sunday, March 8th

Schedule For Joint Services:

March 29 - St. John's: Soup & Bread Lunch - 10 a.m.

May 31 - St. Andrew's

September 13 - St. Andrew's: Picnic

November 29 - St. John's

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



The Very Rev. Randi Hicks Rowe
571-218-0984
saintjohnspriest@gmail.com

Diocesan Website: <https://episcopalpartnership.org>

Parish Administrator: Jennifer Farwell-Puskas
Treasurer: Wendy Brown
Sexton: Jerilyn Carney

Warden
Janet Hoffman

Jr. Warden
Jerilyn Carney

Vestry

Lois Bateman
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas

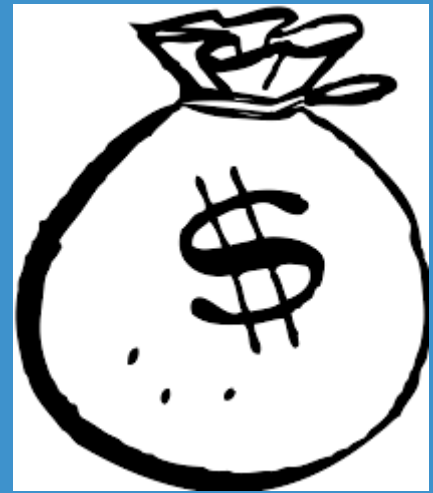
Priscilla Moot
Lucy Kraatz



Treasurer's Report

January, 2020

Income:	\$ 3,825.81
Expenses:	\$ 2,930.79
Total:	\$ 895.02
Minus Dividends:	\$ - 5.82
Total:	\$ 889.20



Schedule for Newsletter For 2020

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

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

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



March 25th
at
7 p.m.

Wilson Community Food Pantry 2020

January 2020

Dear Pastor Randi & Parishioners,

On behalf of the Wilson Community Food Pantry and the community that it serves, we wish to thank you for taking the time to think of those in need. Thanks to you we are doing great!!!

Your thoughtful generosity over the past seven years to the Pantry has helped to make us a success and many in the community have benefited from your thoughtfulness. Your donation whether food items or monetary, has helped to keep our shelves stocked, helping us to succeed as a nutritional and health food source for those in need. Averages for 2019, families and number of members of the family:

Families Served		Individuals Served
2019 mos	55	117
Easter	58	136
Thanksgiving	76	179
Christmas	70	162

The Pantry Board, Volunteers and myself, thank you again for thinking of the Wilson Community Food Pantry and the community that it serves. We thank you for making the Wilson Community Food Pantry your charity of choice.

Sincerely,

Janet M. Hoffman, Administrator

Wilson Community Food Pantry

to the full

SJC MOPS Second Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 26th was another success! Thank you for your support and inviting family and friends. It was a good time. Canon Cathy Dempsey-Sims joined us for supper and did the Children's Service with Pastor Randi.

Words from Cathy:

"The kids were great and when Pastor Randi was asking them what they thought "sin" meant one little girl said, "it's when you kick someone in the face!" Pastor Randi and I agreed that doing that would make God sad! The children helped with every aspect of the service, all

received ashes, some on their hands instead of their forehead (because ashes can be weird to a kid so by offering ashes on the back of their hand they could receive ashes in a way that was accessible to them.). All in all the kids were engaged in a holy conversation about how God loves them— at all times and no matter what!

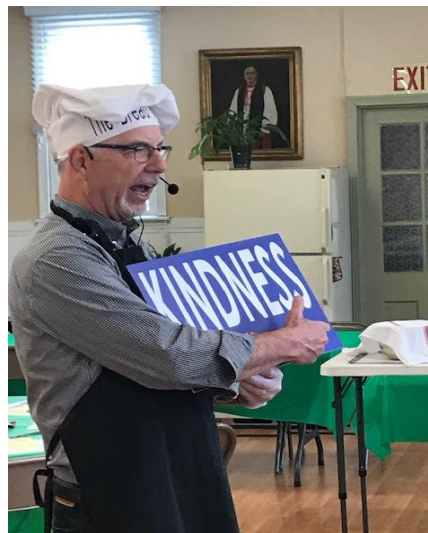
It was fun."

We served 69 people not including all workers, raising \$703 netting \$593!

Thank you again for everyone's support!!

Included at our February meetings was Jennifer Farewell-Puskas preparing and assisting the girls making their own Valentine pillow to take home. (Childcare helpers also got to do one too).

Vicki Jancef was our guest speaker this month sharing how to grow your own sprouts at home. The "whys" of growing sprouts are fresh, cheap, easy, varied, and nutritious. We sampled mung beans and broccoli sprouts. These seeds are all healthy, organic and not treated with any pesticides. They all seemed to enjoy "the tasting" and were eager to take home their own "to grow kit" and try.



MOPS - CONTINUED:

I would like to share this message from one of SJC MOPS, Heather who put this on Facebook after our meeting in January with Mr. Breadman. The Act of Kindness:

Hello Everyone! I just wanted to share a Facebook post from one of our mom's from yesterday's meeting. She reached out to Chet during his presentation looking for any suggestions he might have for her to deal with a personal situation which she explained to the group. This was her insight:

We had such a great day yesterday at SJC MOPS. Chet Fery aka "The Bread Man" came to talk to us at my moms group about the power of kindness. You may scroll past this now and say yeah blah blah Heather. But, his stories just capture you. He believes that one simple act can change not only how we feel but that other persons outlook as well because we never truly know what that other person is going through! His way of showing kindness is through loafs of Bread. He has given away 96,000 loafs!!! Listening to him and his stories was so uplifting and motivational, he makes you want to do more. He shares his stories with because "stories bring us closer" he goes on to say "We own our story and no one can take that away from us. The good the bad and everything in between, it makes us who we are today and it is all good. We learn from the joy and the pain. We are defined by our responses to life not the experiences alone. Be proud of the road that you have traveled. You survived and are better for it!!

– He told us over the last 20 years he has learned that "Bread is good but the feeling of kindness is what captures the heart." So, go out there today and.. Bee 🍪 Kind. Smile and say Hi to someone, compliment them do something to try and make that persons day. Not only for them but for you.

If you're Looking for a presenter like him he's worth the wait (he goes to mom groups, libraries, even visits preschools all the way to nursing homes,) you can contact Chet Fery at: Breadtime1950@gmail.com

SJC MOPS is still in need of substitute childcare helpers; yes we have retirees who travel. The number of children vary with weather and the flu season. Let's hope we are making a turn to SPRING.

Thank you again for the continued support of SJC MOPS.

God is Good.

Jennifer and Priscilla



March 3 John High
 March 14 Denise Failla
 March 16 Gil Thompson
 March 29 Jacquie Rodgers

April 11 Janet Hoffman
 April 12 Wendy Brown
 April 15 Kevin Brown

April 26 Jerilyn & John Carney
 April 28 Millie & John High



Birthday Celebration & Regular Coffee Hour 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)! We have also decided to do coffee hour every week so your help is needed. Thank you, Lucy Kraatz

TAIZE ECUMENTICAL CONTEMPORARY SERVICES

Thursdays in Lent starting March 5th through April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. St. John's will host this Ecumenical Contemporary Worship Service with sung prayers and meditation. It has been a very meaningful service for all. Rev. Barbara Price is assisting with the order of service and music and Kathleen Seib (St. Mark's, N. Tonawanda) and Jennifer Farwell-Puskas will also be at the piano. Come and join us!



CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

Saturday, March 14th

4:30 p.m.

Dessert is Included

Takeouts Available



*Bishop Sean's Lenten Message:**Deepening Our Commitment to Racial Justice*

Dear People of God:

In a prayer of confession often used in our church, we promise to “repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.” Understanding sin in this way—as both a personal and collective failing—seems particularly apt this Lent as we continue to deepen our partnership’s commitment to the work of racial justice.

Building on the work done by the Diocese of Western New York’s Commission on Racial Understanding and the Bishop James Theodore Holly Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians, in January we hosted author Richard Rothstein in order to understand better the policies that have segregated our communities and divided us from one another. Last Saturday, the commission sponsored a workshop with Dr. Ursuline Bankhead in which we learned to identify our implicit biases—the attitudes and stereotypes that we all impose unconsciously—and correct those patterns of thinking. And in March, we will begin participating in a racial justice survey, sponsored by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s office, that will help us transform our structures and practices to foster healing, reconciliation and justice.

In all of these ways, we are building our capacity to face honestly the history of structural racism in our church—to acknowledge, in the words of the confession, the evil we have done and the evil done on our behalf. Our journey toward justice will undoubtedly be difficult at times, but I pray that it will lead us to understand what Beloved Community might look like in our dioceses and how we as the people of God can foster reconciliation, justice, and healing.

If you would like to join me in making the work of racial reconciliation part of your Lenten discipline, you can find resources, including a video from Presiding Bishop Curry, prayers, reading lists, and more on the Episcopal Church’s website. I invite you to share your reflections and experiences with me as we undertake this journey together.

May this season of reflection and repentance lead us all to perfect liberation in Christ’s resurrection at Easter.

Faithfully,

+ Sean

***Sr. Warden's Report: Janet M. Hoffman
Chairperson Building & Grounds:***

"I am still working on utilizing the Parish Hall for events/meeting for the Community". With that note I would like everyone to know that the above quote has come with a requirement. The NYS Dept. of Health (DOH) became involved in the kitchen usage and now the only ones to use it, is us. For community use we will have to convert the kitchen to "commercial". I have had plans drawn up for a new kitchen area utilizing the bathroom area next to the kitchen. These plans have been approved by the DOH. The main kitchen area will remain, with us just replacing the sink (will be prep sink) and the wall removed between the bathroom and kitchen will make it the dirty area (3 basin sink with drain boards, mop sink and hand washing station). The amount for these items with the specialty drains that they require is \$3500, we will need an additional \$2000 for drywall, paint, plumbing and electric (if necessary), etc. I am applying for 2 grants to the Diocese for these monies but to get the project going I am also doing a "matching fund" capital improvement drive. Please note, all of the labor is donated to St. John's for our project. You will be receiving a letter from me regarding the project. If you would like to see the plans stop into the church or let me know and perhaps I can scan them to you.

The Kitchen Project is asking for donations of any amount and we have donors already agreeing to match what is donated. If you wish to donate and be a part of this evolution of St. John's make the check out to St. John's with Kitchen Project on the memo line.

You may ask "why" are we doing this and I will tell you again, we do not have enough money to survive. All staff has agreed to do their job, salary free. We made \$1200 last year from the "Pierogi Lady's" usage of the hall. For St. John's to remain a viable contributing entity in our community we need to think outside of the box and open our doors for other uses and "good news" projects. Our membership is declining and on Sundays we only have 12-15 people. I like the idea of St. John's becoming a multi-use community center for everyone. This may just be our "legacy".

Jesus said, "Be in the community, not of the community" and I think this may be the path/door we have been offered to open. Making a home for events/fellowship in our community by opening the door to all who wish to enter is something that we are good at.

Please think and pray on this matter. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, 716-751-0165. I thank all of you at St. John's for your continued support and efforts and remember while we watch over others, "HE" is watching over us.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Hoffman, Sr. Warden

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESES OF
**Western New York &
Northwestern Pennsylvania**

Coronavirus Preparations: Resources and Guidelines

On Tuesday, federal health officials urged Americans to begin preparing for the spread of the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. There are currently no known cases of the virus in Pennsylvania and only one possible case in New York, so right now, the risk to our congregations and communities is low. However, we can prepare to help slow the progress of the virus if it should spread to our region.

Episcopal Relief & Development is a reliable source of information about the symptoms of the virus, how it spreads, and what you can do to prevent it. Find information online.

To help limit the spread of coronavirus:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water, including after coughing, sneezing, handling diapers, preparing food or using the bathroom
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Stay home when you feel sick.

Congregations can take several modest steps to limit the spread of illness if the virus makes its way to our region:

- When celebrating the Eucharist or distributing the elements, use hand sanitizer visibly and have hand sanitizer available for worshippers to use.
- Avoid dipping the host or bread into the chalice (intinction).
- Pass the peace with a nod and a smile, a fist bump, an elbow tap, or another sign that avoids close physical contact.
- Encourage people who are ill to stay home and include them in prayers.
- Remind coffee hour and feeding program volunteers to wash their hands and handle food with plastic gloves or utensils.

If there are confirmed coronavirus cases in our region, the bishop's staff will be in touch quickly with additional guidelines and recommendations. Please monitor news from your local school system; if your local public school closes to limit the spread of illness, we will likely advise cancelling your congregation's in-person meetings and worship and replacing them with online gatherings.

If you have questions or concerns, please call Canon Cathy Dempsey-Sims at 716-881-0660 or email her.



- The Fellowship Calendar is available in the Parish Hall.
- Joint service on Sunday, March 29th is at St. John's at 10:00 a.m. We will be having Soup & Bread lunch.
- 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.
- St. Andrew's has requested desserts for their Fish Fry Dinners on Friday nights during Lent. Please have them there by noon on Fridays. Thank you for your help.
- A sign-up sheet for our Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner is in the parish hall for donations and for desserts. Please help us keep the cost down by donating.
- A new event will be taking place on June 20th here at St. John's this year. Watch for the flyer.....



CELEBRATE THE IRISH!!

Corned Beef & Cabbage
Dinner At

St. John's Episcopal Church
431 Lake Street
Wilson

Saturday, March 14th
4:30—??

\$12.00 Each

Includes Dessert



TAKEOUTS AVAILABLE

751-6109

St. John's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 28
Wilson, NY 14172

DATED MATERIAL