



This has been an unusual year. COVID has kept us sheltered in our homes or, at least, afraid to visit many of our family and friends. We face a second Easter in which we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection with worship that is not inside the building. This is hard for us because we have fond memories of the church filled with the sights and smells of Easter. We are accustomed to coming to church and finding the risen Christ among us.

One of my favorite Bible stories is that of Jesus with the woman at the well. One thing Jesus said to her is relevant to our COVID times. The two were discussing a difference between holy places of the Samaritans and those of the Jews. The Samaritans believed that God had designated Mount Gerizim as the place to worship Him. The Jews believed that they were to worship God in the Temple in Jerusalem.

Jesus said, "The hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem." Instead, the time is coming when we will worship God in Spirit and truth.

Even though we are not in the "Temple," we worship God through prayer, modeling our lives like Christ, reading the Scriptures, and helping others.

Randi+

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

Warden
Lois Bateman



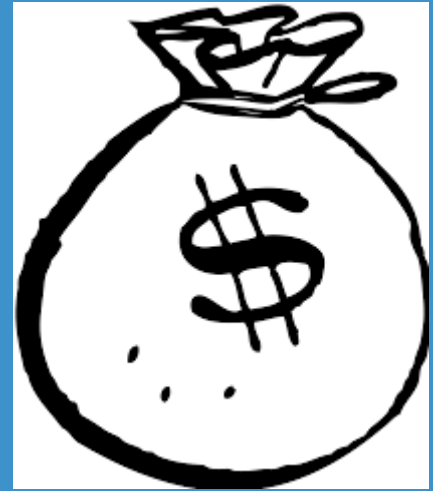
Vestry

Priscilla Moot	Frank Boeck	
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas	Lucy Kraatz	Courtney Brown

Treasurer's Report

January, 2021

Income:	\$ 1,508.71
Expenses:	\$ <u>2,692.29</u>
Total:	\$ -1,183.58
Dividends:	\$ - <u>148.34</u>
Total:	\$ -1,331.92



Schedule for Newsletter for 2021

January/February:

Articles Due By: 12/30/20
Distributed: 01/03/21

March/April:

Articles Due By: 02/24/21
Distributed: 03/07/21

May/June:

Articles Due By: 04/28/21
Distributed: 05/02/21

July/August:

Articles Due By: 06/30/21
Distributed: 07/04/21

September/October:

Articles Due By: 08/25/21
Distributed: 09/05/21

November/December:

Articles Due By: 10/27/21
Distributed: 10/31/21

Please support
St. Andrew's
Community Store

THE STORE IS OPEN

Wednesday: 11-4
Thursday: 1-4
Friday: 12-3
Saturday: 10-2

2768 S. Main Street
Newfane, New York

**MASKS MUST BE WORN AT
ALL TIMES !!**

DONATIONS ACCEPTED



SR. WARDEN'S REPORT: LOIS BATEMAN

Your vestry has continued to meet via zoom. We had Cathy Dempsey-Sims present for our January meeting and two meetings in February. Many issues were discussed at both meetings and we decided to have a vestry retreat. This occurred on February 13th and much brainstorming was done to set some goals for St. John's and also some fundraising ideas. We will continue these discussions to try to meet our deficit budget so that we do not need to take money out of our investment funds.

The main thing everyone at St. John's needs to do is talk to each other and listen to each other, especially with the separation and distance that COVID-19 has caused. In these times we all need to remember that we are the family of St. John's and we cannot let one or two discourage us from remembering this. St. John's is important to each other and to the Wilson community. I would like to refer to Psalm 91. Remember that God is our refuge, no matter how many troubles or uncertainties surround us. The path ahead may seem long, scary or overwhelming, but his love envelopes us. He hears us, answers us and stays with us, now and forever into eternity. We can embrace the quiet and lean into God's unfailing love and constant presence. We can be still and rest in Him because we're safe under the shelter of his unchanging faithfulness. (v.4).

Building News: We have had two separate leaks in the vestibule of the parish hall. Both were caused during the renovation many years ago. The door frame and the floorboard each had a nail into the hot water pipe. It took many years to corrode and finally start to leak. They have both been fixed now, but in the spring/summer we will need to do some cosmetic work to the drywall. Hopefully, this is the last of such issues!!!

God's peace to all.

BUILDING & GROUNDS – Janet Hoffman

The furnace has passed it's annual inspection. We need to fix one small issue which will be done in the spring.

FOOD PANTRY REPORT – Janet Hoffman

The Wilson Community Food Pantry wishes to thank you for taking the time to think of those in need. Thanks to you we are making a difference. In 2020 we served 69 families, 143 individuals and 1,270 meals. A special thank you for the Holiday Bags that St. John's donated to the Pantry.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Have you noticed the new wreaths on our church doors?!

There were funds leftover from Norm Kopeck's Funeral Dinner made by the women of St. John's. It was decided to get grapevine wreaths and Vicki Jancef would design and decorate in memory of Norm Kopeck. With God, many good things happen. Vicki's friend donated the wreaths and Vicki beautifully decorated the wreaths with appropriate Lenten ribbon. They will be decorated for Easter also.

Many thanks to Vicki for your time and talent for this memorial.

God is Good.
Priscilla Moot



We pray for those who suffer in body, mind and spirit, that they may be comforted and healed, especially:

Deidre, Sandy, Father Sam, Karyn, Millie, Ron, Lori, Jayliann,
Connie, Margaret, Peter, Zada, Gracelynn, Jaxon, Anastasia,
Our Prayer Partner – St. John's, Youngstown,
Nancy, Hugh, Clara Jean, Nan, Nola, Vince

In Memory of Norm Kopeck

The Fellowship Committee coordinated and served a wonderful homecooked meal for the Kopeck Family after Norm's funeral on Saturday, February 27th. A special thank you to Millie High, Lucy Kraatz, Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Barbara Farwell, Lois Bateman, Sharon Rhodes, Janet Hoffman and myself. In addition I asked Pastor Judith for a copy of her Homily for Norm as many of St. John's parishioners were not able to attend. I am happy to share from Judith.

The Rev. Judith Lee Homily for Norm Kopeck

It is truly an honor to be with you today, and the past week has brought so many wonderful memories of St. John's and St. Andrew's. I have had this wonderful image of Lee Sabey meeting Norm as he arrives, handing him a set of tools, and the two of them going off to fix whatever might be awry throughout the heavens!

We —each of us—come into this world with work to do. Norm came into this world to teach.

He was blessed to spend his life doing what he was born to do and countless people were blessed to teach with him and to learn from him, whether in the classroom or in St. John's kitchen, whether sailing or peeling potatoes for a parish dinner.

Whether he was leading projects for the Wilson Lion's Club, or making plans with the United Way, or fixing St. John's building, Norm showed us the big picture and he would not let us settle for less.

The world is our classroom, according to Norm, a place to experiment, to play, to test the rules.

There is a solution to every problem; everything that's broken can be fixed. And the hardest hearts and knottiest problems will give way with a laugh.

The readings for today present us with that larger vision, that "big picture" that is a legacy of Norm's life. Today we proclaim a God who gathers us even with our differences and our flaws, our fears and our doubts.

Isaiah reminds us that God will gather all of us together one day—

God will "make for all peoples a feast of rich foods"

and God will destroy "the shroud that is cast over all peoples

The sheet that is spread over all nations."

Continued.....

Pastor Judith's Homily Continued

The Revelation to John presents a vision of the community--beyond space and time—where we will find comfort with each other, where the fears and sorrows that get in our way now will disappear.

"I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne. . . .never again will they hunger, never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heart . . . And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

In the Gospel of John Jesus assures us that there is room for everyone and no one will be left behind:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. . . . In my father's house there are many dwelling places. . . .And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am there you may be also.

And the Psalmist expresses the deepest peace that is possible for human beings – that we are known and loved at our deepest core and that we are safe.

Norm's work is finished. He is now able to see it bear fruit.

Our work is not. Let all of us today renew our commitment to do the work that God has called us to do in all the different ways and places we live.

There is one task that we share, one job that cannot go undone—the work of love.

It is not our individual love- It's not my love, your love, or Norm's love that comes and goes in our brief lives.

It's the love and light of Christ that we make visible--and that love continues on and on without end.

Let us love with a righteous anger those whose misguided decisions cause injustice and inequality in our world.

Let us love with compassion those who are crippled by poverty, disease, ignorance and addictions.

Let us seek forgiveness, and let us forgive.

Let us work with mercy and grace to feed the spiritual and intellectual hunger that so devastates our country.

Let us work with mercy and grace for the foundational principle of fairness.

Let us get out our tool kits.

Let us laugh – every day.

Let us love tenderly those who have hurt us.

Let us love gently those who have lost their way.

Pastor Judith's Homily Continued

Let us be mindful of the big picture—the larger community to which we all belong--where we will find and give the comfort and the joy we long for.

Let us all be teachers who are eager to learn.

I want to close with this reflection by David Harkins:

**Do not shed tears
When I have gone
But smile instead
Because I have lived.**

**Do not shut your eyes
And pray to God
That I'll come back
But open your eyes
And see all that
I have left behind.**

**I know your heart
Will be empty because
You cannot see me
But still I want you to be
Full of the love we shared.**

**You can turn
Your back on tomorrow
And live only for yesterday
Or you can be happy
For tomorrow because of
What happened between us yesterday.**

**You can remember me
And grieve that I have gone
Or you can cherish my
Memory and let it live on.**

**You can cry
And lose yourself,
Become distraught
And turn your back
On the world
Or you can do
What I want—
Smile, wipe away the tears,
Learn to love again
And go on.**

- David Harkins



As we spring ahead with SJC MOPS we are beginning to see a little light; like many hoping for the normal to return. Normal will never be the same; but we will create a new normal; what can be; what will be with Christ. We at SJC MOPS are following the International theme Decide to Rise.

Through this pandemic Jennifer and I have seen how the girls have gotten to know each other and support one another not only at our monthly meeting but through social media. SJC MOPS are rising and growing as a mom, parent, spouse/significant other, friend, person and the list goes on.

February, we made a fun snowman with Jennifer's assistance. We followed with discussion on many different topics. At the last meeting one mom was talking and then stopped; looked at all of us, threw her hands up and said, "sorry you aren't here to listen to my issues". Immediately we said "YES" we are here to listen and support!

This month, March we will make "The Easter Story Snack Mix".

There are 6 snack items representing the Easter Story.

You may want to make and share!

1. Pretzel Sticks - The Cross (Colossians 2:14)
2. Raisins - Jesus' Blood (Ephesians 1:7)
3. Round Cracker - The stone rolled away from the tomb (Luke 24:2)
4. Goldfish - Be fishers of men (Matthew 2:14)
5. Sweet Treat - "Taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8)
6. White Marshmallow - Our sins are washed away! (1 John)



We too at SJC MOPS are looking forward to next fall when we can meet in person with childcare.

Thank you again for the continued support of SJC MOPS.

God is Good.

Jennifer and Priscilla



**We held our annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on
Saturday, March 6th.**

**With lots of help and your generosity we sold
100 Dinners
and made
\$1,100.00 for St. John's**

**Many thanks to everyone who pitched in and donated
and helped out.**

Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Chairman

**Spring is here – we are looking for volunteers to help in
Nick's Garden again this year. If you have some
time to spare please contact Lois Bateman.**





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



- Your Vestry is still meeting each month via “Zoom”.
- Please note that the “Book of Common Prayer” is located online at: <https://episcopalchurch.org/files/bookofcommonprayer.pdf>
- Please continue to check your email, the website and your US Postal mail for current information regarding St. John’s.

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

DATED MATERIAL

If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar for Easter
please fill out the attached form and return it.

FLOWER / GIFT DONATION	
FROM:	_____
ENVELOPE #:	_____
AMOUNT:	_____
IN HONOR OF:	_____
IN MEMORY OF:	_____

