



# Ever Growing in Spirit

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



By the rivers of Babylon—  
there we sat down and there we wept  
when we remembered Zion.  
On the willows there  
we hung up our harps.  
For there our captors  
asked us for songs,  
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,  
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”  
How could we sing the LORD’s song  
in a foreign land?

Psalm 137 is a lament from those Israelites—those of God’s chosen people - who were captured by the Babylonians in 597 BC and carried off with them into exile in Babylon. The exiles, who had been used to worshipping God in the Temple, were unsure how they could praise God in a different environment.

In a way, we also have been exiled. We aren’t able to go out and do all the things we used to do. We haven’t been able to worship God in our familiar building or with all of us physically together. The good news is that we have learned how worship together as a community in another way - over Zoom. And we have learned how to reach out to each other, especially to those who aren’t able to use Zoom. We have learned how to sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land. We’ve learned how to move forward with our lives as best we can, adjusting to our new circumstances.

Sometime - whether two weeks from now, or a month from now, or two months from now - we will begin going back. Just as the Israelites returned from their exile gradually, we will return gradually as well. Everything won’t happen all at once.

For the Israelites, post-exilic life was a little different than their life before the exile. Their values had changed during the exile; before exile they were a kingdom, post exile they were a theocracy (governed by religious leadership.) Keeping Torah became more important to them than almost anything else. They also spoke a different language. They installed the Levites as auxiliary priests.

Things will be different for us when we return to our building. Since that time hasn’t arrived yet, we don’t know exactly how things will be different. But we can be sure that they will be different. They will likely differ practically because of the need for social distancing. They will also differ because of how and what the Spirit has led us to discern about God, self and community during the pandemic.

Whatever things look like when we return, we can be sure that God goes with us. We can be sure that God works for good in all things for we who love Him.

Randi+

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The Very Rev. Randi Hicks Rowe  
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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

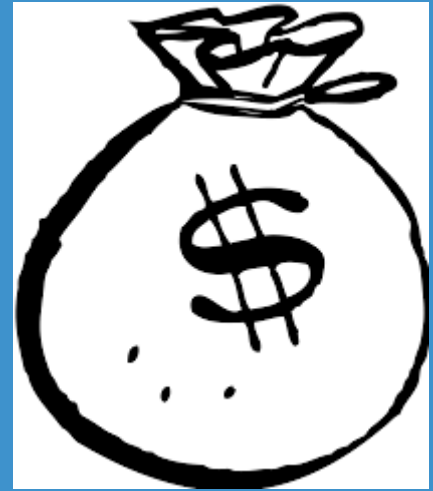
Priscilla Moot  
Lucy Kraatz



# Treasurer's Report

March, 2020

Income:	\$ 2,321.20
Expenses:	\$ 3,970.65
Total:	\$- 1,649.45
Minus Dividends:	\$-2,031.56
Total:	\$-3,681.01



## Schedule for Newsletter For 2020

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](mailto: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

**STORE IS  
TEMPORARILY  
CLOSED**

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

Please hold your donations until  
we re-open.

## *Wilson Community Food Pantry April, 2020*

Well this new pandemic has certainly got everyone thinking about their priorities and general thoughts on caring for their community and others. This has been very evident in the monetary donations, the perishable and non-perishable items that the pantry has received over these last 2 months. I can tell you that our shelves are bulging thanks to our community. The number of families has increased by about 10-15 new ones per month and we have shared with 9 Covid-19 laid-off or furloughed families.

We adopted the “stay in your vehicle” policy. I created a shopping list and it is given to them in their car and they fill out what they want and then I pick it up and take it to the volunteers inside and they shop our shelves and pack the bags. We do not use the shoppers bags, but our own. Everyone wears a mask and gloves for protection. This has been working very well for the last 2 months, so we shall continue.

I have sent out some simple responses to the community, if I have been asked and these are items that I cannot get from the store in the quantity that I need or I cannot get it from the Food Bank. Ask and ye shall receive and that is what has been happening!!!

The Pantry, Pantry Board and our Volunteers thank everyone for their caring, thoughtfulness and generosity.

Please stay safe, stay healthy and follow the rules and this too shall pass.

Sincerely,

Janet M. Hoffman, Administrator

Wilson Community Food Pantry

# *to the full*

Unfortunately SJC MOPS had to end their meetings for the year in March due to the COVID 19. Like other gatherings it is sad, but life does go on, down a different path with twists and turns and ups and downs; a new normal. Jennifer has done a nice job putting things out to the group for projects during this time. We have to focus on our mindset; we can feed the fear or feed our faith and hope. I do not mean you ignore what's happening but focus on what we can control; going out to the heart of people and loving and serving people in the community. If overwhelmed; "God give me the wisdom to manage these blessings."

Jennifer and I are working on recruiting additional leader(s) in the group,

Jennifer has registered SJC MOPS for next year. The theme for this year is:



Thank you for the continued support of SJC MOPS and to our devoted childcare ladies during this past year: Cindy Harrington, Sharon Rhodes, Lucy Kraatz, Carol Nochajski, Lois Bateman, Nancy Thompson, Courtney Brown, and Hannah Cavanagh.



- |         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| May 6   | Lucy Kraatz             |
| May 9   | Jennifer Farwell-Puskas |
| May 12  | Jerilyn Carney          |
| May 28  | Bob Colangelo           |
| May 29  | Norm Kopeck             |
| June 7  | Alison Carter           |
| June 14 | Barbara Farwell         |
| June 17 | Millie High             |
| June 22 | Bob Failla              |
| June 26 | Christy Rodgers         |

Norm & Donna Kopeck    May 27



*Did You Know.....*

I was talking with our Senior Warden, Janet Hoffman recently and learned something new about the "Pierogi Lady." Yes, she pays St. John's to use our kitchen, so we miss the \$\$\$ but I think more importantly we need to be aware and know something greater about the "Pierogi Lady." At this time, she puts prepared foods on her front porch for anyone to take at NO charge. As weeks have gone on people began to leave a donation and then the "Pierogi Lady" put a box out there for people to donate to the Wilson Food Pantry (WFP) instead. As a result the "Pierogi Lady" gives the food donations she receives to the WFP and takes the money and purchases necessary items for the WFP. This is certainly taking care of the community! So it is not only a challenge for the Pierogi Lady to prepare the food for her business at her home v.s. St. John's kitchen, BUT her community giving is limited. We will need to have a special celebration when the kitchen is completed.



Our Senior Warden, Janet is correct when she says Jesus said "we are to be in this world, not of this world." Being a needed part of our community is perhaps St. John's legacy to come.

Priscilla Moot

***\*\*Our summer fundraiser that we were planning in June is cancelled due to COVID-19\*\****

***Please keep the following people in your prayers during our time away from each other:***

***We pray for..... Ann, Geoffrey, Carolyn, Deirdre, Sandy, Ruthie, Cathy Dempsey-Sims and family, Peter, Barb, Bob, Father Sam, Karyn, Joan, Linda, Marge, Millie, Marcy, Scott, Brianna, Jessica, Zach, Ron, Lori, Jayliann, Connie, Margaret, Peter, Zada, Madeline, Mr. Shannon and our Prayer Partner - St. Peter's in Niagara Falls.***

***\*\*\* PLEASE FORWARD UPDATES TO CHURCH EMAIL \*\*\****

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

The "Kitchen Project" is partially completed but due to the Bishop's directive we cannot be in the church until at least May 16, 2020. Even with this directive we have some good news, thus far we have received \$3,075.00 in matching funds towards the project. I cannot begin to thank you enough for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Attached are some photos of what has been done to date. You will also see photos of the furnace valves, etc., these need to be replaced as the corrosion on some has caused some to leak. This was noted when we had to rerun the pipes for the baseboard heat in the kitchen. This cost is included in the initial estimate.

I have been given some ideas for usage of the Parish Hall. The Alzheimer Association may be interested in our place as a rural site for some of its services and therapies. I also was given information on IHA (Independent Health) as a possible "yoga" site, especially in a rural area. I am not aware of how well their "yoga in the park" events did and the number of attendees. I will keep investigating.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, 751-0165.

Thank all of you for your continued support and remember; while we watch over others, HE is watching over us.

Respectfully,

Janet M. Hoffman, Sr. Warden

***PICTURES ARE ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES***

# KITCHEN / BATHROOM REMODEL





## FURNACE REPAIRS NEEDED



## We are worshipping together via Zoom each Sunday

<https://zoom.us/j/578708315>

**Password: ontario**

### Zoom

We will be using Zoom to meet and worship together while we cope with COVID 19. It isn't perfect, but it is better than many of the alternatives because we get to see and hear each other in real time. Over these next few weeks we will all be learning the ins and outs together, so join in and don't be shy.

#### What is Zoom?

Zoom is a cloud-based video conferencing service you can use to virtually meet with others - either by video or audio-only or both, all while conducting live chats - and it lets you record those sessions to view later. Over half of Fortune 500 companies reportedly used Zoom in 2019.

You do not have to have a Zoom account to attend a Zoom meeting. You will need a computer, mobile phone or iPad with a webcam and microphone to participate in a Zoom session.

Think of a Zoom Meeting as a face-to-face meeting and conduct yourself as you would if you were all present in the same room. There are some additional useful tips below to observe to help ensure the meeting goes smoothly for all involved:

- Join early - up to 5 minutes before the meeting start time
- If you haven't used Zoom before click the link to download Zoom prior to the day of the meeting and familiarize yourself with any features you may need to use on the day - mute/unmute microphone, stop/start video, screen share etc.
- Have your video on unless you are experiencing connection issues
- **Find a quiet space without interruptions / background noise**
- Have a plain background - avoid backlight from bright windows
- Have good lighting on your face so you can be seen clearly
- Adjust your camera to be at around eye level if possible - especially take note of the angle of your laptop screen if using the built-in camera.
- **Mute your microphone when not talking**
- You can demonstrate active engagement through eye-contact, visual cues such as head nodding or thumbs up.
- Try to avoid talking over / at the same time as other participants
- Pay attention to the time and focus on equitable participation. Self- monitor your sharing to ensure that everyone in the group has an opportunity to participate. You can raise hands in the group or use the chat to indicate you would like to speak.
- Be aware you are on camera and try to avoid doing other tasks, checking emails, looking at your phone, etc.

I hope this finds all of you doing well, or at least, as well as can be expected. I heard the other day we may be in different boats but we are all in the same storm. We are all impacted differently with the situation, whether it be loss of job, working from home, not being with friends and family, etc. One thing that has not changed is our need to be able to feed our families. As I watch the news, which I am doing more than ever before, it is so disturbing to see hundreds, if not thousands of people waiting in line for hours to be able to get food. I am so thankful that we have the Wilson Food Pantry to help our friends and neighbors. I am sure the need has increased and more people are using the services of the Food Pantry than ever before. Since shopping and dropping donations off are challenging these days, here are 2 ways you can help support the work of the Food Pantry and our own Janet Hoffman.

You can include a check made out to Wilson Food Pantry when you send in your pledge to church. One envelope, one stamp and 2 separate checks-nice and easy. The church mailing address is PO Box 28, Wilson, NY 14172

You can also mail donations directly to Wilson Food Pantry, PO Box 864, Wilson, NY 14172.

Thank you in advance for your donation!! It is truly appreciated.

Take care and stay safe,

Lucy



To Lois & Alison Carter on their move to their new home:

43 Crestwood Court

Wheatfield, NY 14304



- Your Vestry is still meeting each month via “Zoom” to determine what needs to be taken care of while we are away from church. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m
- Donations that came in for Easter flowers from the following people will be purchase once we return to church. Thank you to:
  - Lois Bateman in Memory of Tom, Nick and Family Membrs
  - Janet & Ken Hoffman in Memory of Hoffman Family & Friends
  - Jacquie Rodgers in Memory of Pallage & Rodgers Families
  - Priscilla Moot in Memory of Kutrybala & Moot Families
- Vestry is working on updating the Parish Directory. If you have or know of any changes please submit them via church email at: [www.stjohnswilson@juno.com](mailto:www.stjohnswilson@juno.com)
- Please note that the “Book of Common Prayer” is located online at: [https://episcopalchurch.org/files/book\\_of\\_common\\_prayer.pdf](https://episcopalchurch.org/files/book_of_common_prayer.pdf)
- Many thanks to Bob Colangelo for helping out with the cost of postage for our mailings during this time of virtual worship.
- Thank you Kevin Brown for sprucing up our landscaping - looks wonderful as usual.
- Jerilyn Carney is looking for helpers with Nick’s Garden. Let her know if you can help.

**St. John's Episcopal Church**

**P.O. Box 28**

**Wilson, NY 14172**

**DATED MATERIAL**