

The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

February 2024

From Pastor Susan...

It doesn't seem that long ago that the Christmas decorations came down—and we still have our lovely poinsettias on the altar—but Lent is almost upon us! Our Lent here at St. John's begins with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, organized by members of our SJC Moms Group. That takes place on Tuesday, February 13th from 4:30 to 7:00, with our little Ash Wednesday service sandwiched in there at 5:45. I call it "little" because we try to simplify it to be more child-friendly: it'll include communion from the reserve (a much shorter service than our usual communion prayers) and the imposition of ashes. Let me say that "simplify" does NOT mean "dumb down"! I think adults will get something out of the service too. I hope you all will join us.

Another good thing happening this Lent is that we will be holding two Sunday services: our usual 9:30 AM service and a 6:00 PM service as well. Both will be communion services, using the same scriptures and sermon; we're not asking anyone to come twice on Sunday, but hoping the later service may draw in some who currently do not attend because they must work on Sunday mornings. Perhaps the later service may help those of us who have difficulty getting moving in the morning, too! We shall see. At any rate, we will begin the Sunday evening services on Feb. 18th (the first Sunday of Lent) and carry through Easter Sunday, March 31st. Whether or not we continue past that will depend on what sort of turnout we get. Please help us get the word out!

Lent is meant to be a penitential season: a time to take stock of one's life and face up to changes that need to be made to be better human beings—and better disciples! Many take on special spiritual disciplines as a way to wrestle with their unruly wills, or to form new and better habits. Recently a member of St. John's was asking me about the purpose behind fasting, and it occurs to me that perhaps others would benefit by being part of that conversation. I would like to have some discussion of this at coffee hour on Feb. 11th, the last Sunday of the Epiphany season: not only about fasting, but other sorts of Lenten disciplines as well. It'll give us a chance to mull over our options before Ash Wednesday, and perhaps enable us to enter into Lent with thoughtful intention.

Also in February, Bishop Sean and the partnership staff will host five regional gatherings to build relationship and connection among congregations and with staff. Everyone is invited to attend. Participants will hear from the Bishop and staff and have time to talk with one another, share successes, and discuss how we might collaborate to continue answering God's call in our communities. The gathering for our area will take place on February 7th, at Christ Church, Lockport. The gathering will begin at 6 p.m. and refreshments will be provided. We are asked to register online for this event. If you are currently receiving "Leadership News" email from the Diocesan Partnership, you have no doubt seen the articles about these gatherings, including the registration link. If you have not been receiving them, I would encourage you to sign up for them to help you stay informed. You can sign up at episcopalpartnership.org/news/newsletter. If you don't "do" email, call Pastor Susan or our Parish Administrator Jennifer Farwell-Puskas and we'll get you registered.

Sr. Warden Report...

We have someone who is interested in using the kitchen one or two days per week and the individual is doing her part and hopefully will be ready in about two weeks.

On April 8th, Wilson is planning a solar eclipse event to be held at Krueger Park, which we are hoping to participate in. There is a meeting next week which I will be attending to get final details, which I will pass on. Since we are on the direct path of the eclipse, they are expecting a large turnout.

For the last several weeks we have had a bible study group on Tuesday afternoons. This is my first ever bible study and have thoroughly enjoyed attending. It is so refreshing to find others who have many of the same questions and thoughts as myself. Thank you to Ed and Pat Walker for spearheading this.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Moving forward with God,
Lucy Kraatz
859-816-6869
lucykraatz@aol.com

Buildings & Grounds...

We are continuing to work on the water issue and hopefully will have it rectified soon.

The old screen door in the back office is going to be removed since it is of no use. Please let me know if you can re-purpose it for your own use and would like it.

Working on front porch and bell tower lights. Please feel free to contact me anytime with other items that need addressing.

Lucy Kraatz



It has been suggested that we have specific items each month to donate to our friends and neighbors who utilize the Food Pantry. For the month of February we are collecting Italian or Ranch salad dressings. Any and all other items are also appreciated. Thank you for helping our community.

Lucy Kraatz

Treasurer's Report...

January thru December, 2023

Income: \$37,262.89
 Expense: \$29,974.34
 Total: \$ 7,288.55
 Dividends: \$ 2,272.69
 Total: \$ 9,561.24

Please keep the following in your prayers: Addison, John Paul Boyer, Dawn, Brian, Aryann, Jonathan, Betty, Dana, Pamela, Michael Curry, Cathi, Josh, Jon, Craig, Giovanni, John, Bev & Jack, Deidre, Sandy, Ron, Margaret, Jessica, Jeffrey, Zack, Cassie, Brandi, Don, Lizzy, Rose, Laura, Terry, Owen Wright, Michael, Lilyana, Shirley & Dean, Mark; Bonnie & Bill; Bonnie & Richard; Dean & Jim; Tomi, Kyle, & their unborn baby; Al, Christianna & their unborn baby; the Faqiri Family, and our prayer partner, St. Martin's in the Field, Grand Island. We pray for peace in Israel and Ukraine.

**FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR
 St. John's Episcopal Church
 2024**

February 11	Valentine Coffee Hour	Jerilyn Carney & Denise Failla
February 13	SJC MOMS Group Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Child Friendly Ash Wednesday Service	MOPS Priscilla/Jennifer
March 17	Soup & Bread Lenten Meal After Church	Fellowship Committee
April 8	Solar Eclipse Event	??
May 4	Plant Sale	Jennifer Puskas Lucy Kraatz Jane Hamilton Vicki Jancef Priscilla Moot
May 12	Mother's Day	Fellowship Committee
September 21	Chowder Sale	Frank Boeck
November 5	Election Day Chicken & Biscuit	Priscilla Moot, Jim & Jennifer Puskas, Jane Hamilton
December 1	Annual Meeting	Vestry
December 15	Greening of the church	ALL
December 22	Final Decorating of church	ALL



SHROVE TUESDAY

SJC MOMS GROUP ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

Free Will Offering

Toppings Bar Available!
 Pancakes, Sausages, and Homemade Applesauce

Child Friendly
 Ash Wednesday
 Service 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13th
St. John's Episcopal Church
431 Lake Street, Wilson
 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 Takeouts Available
 751-6109

SJC MOMS GROUP

In January the MOMS Group began to prepare for their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Tuesday, February 13th starting at 4:30.

- This is a “free will” event.
- Eat in or take out.
- There will be an abbreviated Ash Wednesday Service, geared for the children.
- Attending this Ash Wednesday service will free you up for a Valentine Celebration with a loved one on Wednesday!!!
- Our group is small in number; so if you are available and would like to lend a helping hand please let me know. Thank you in advance.

In the fall Megan collected rocks and painted them white. The girls all had fun creating their snowmen with the rocks and painting their faces and clothes.



Even though we are small in number the girls are a great support group for each other. One of our moms lost her 40+ brother suddenly. These girls started a meal train to help out for several days after. They not only provided food, supported her emotionally, physically but sent unending prayers and love. Our own Pastor Susan was right there and when Heather was lost at the end of the service Susan stepped up. Thank you Pastor Susan. You are loved.

There is a continuing need of childcare volunteer workers 2nd & 4th Wednesday mornings; school calendar year. Please let me know if this is something you would like to help with; or you know anyone who may.

GOD is GOOD.
Priscilla



Vestry...

The following was discussed at our January Vestry meeting:

- Pastor Susan opened the meeting with prayer.
- A discussion regarding the importance of the Deanery was had. The next meeting is on February 15th at 7:30 p.m. at St. Martin's.
- Lucy Kraatz is now in charge of Buildings & Grounds. If something needs to be fixed please contact her.
- Donations for the Wilson Food Pantry for January and February are Italian and ranch dressings.
- The fundraisers for the year were discussed and dates have been set:
 - Shrove Tuesday – February 13th
 - Plant Sale – May 4th
 - Solar Eclipse – April 8th
 - Chowder Sale – September 21st
 - Chicken N' Biscuit Dinner – November 5th
- Bishop Sean will be visiting on February 7th at 6:00 p.m. at Christ Church in Lockport. Registration is required.
- All members of Vestry are required to complete the “Safe Church Training” as soon as possible. Jennifer Farwell-Puskas will send everyone directions to register online.
- Next meeting is February 22nd at 6:30 p.m.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED