

The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

January 2024

From Pastor Susan...

An Exciting New Experiment: Sunday Evening Services!

After some interesting conversations with a friend who would like to attend St. John's, but has to work every Sunday morning, Pastor Susan proposed to the Vestry that we try offering a Sunday evening service as an experiment. We decided to give it a go, and offer a 6 PM service on Sundays in Lent, through Holy Week and Easter (Feb. 18-Mar. 31). We are hoping this time may better serve those who have to work on Sunday mornings, or families who have school sports events on Sundays. Who knows? Maybe it will also work better for those who are older and have more trouble getting their motors going in the early part of the day! We shall see.

We are letting you know ahead of time in order to give this as much chance as we can. We need to get the word out! Do YOU know someone who might benefit by our having a later service? Please let them know it will be happening, beginning Feb. 18th.

Thanks for your help!

"Go ahead; we're listening"

In congregational development training, there is a process called "Appreciative Inquiry". It's a process by which a person is given the opportunity to share his/her perspective on their church, focusing on strengths and assets (as opposed to focusing only on problems). It's meant to generate new positive ideas and uncover connections between the congregation and larger community.

A few years ago, St. John's had the opportunity to engage this process with some partnership "listeners", who would learn what they could about St. John's and its community; and would then come back to the Vestry with information, statistics, and projections about the future of the larger community—and mission opportunities for the congregation, based on what they had learned.

That opportunity came and went, as St. John's was at that point in a state of transition and trying to address a change in pastoral coverage.

We have the opportunity to engage that process this winter. We are hoping to offer listening sessions with diocesan staff at some point in February. Please keep an eye and an ear open for further information; when we have the dates, we'll be asking YOU to sign up for a session, to share your own experience and perspective on St. John's and the communities we are here to serve.

Sr. Warden Report...

Where did 2023 go? It seems like it was only a six month year. We have had so many great things happen for us at St. John's. Our attendance is up, we have a full time organist and an acolyte. All very promising signs of us continuing forward. Pastor Susan and Doug have brought about many of these changes and our thanks to them.

I want to thank Janet Hoffman for all of her hard work and time devoted to her position as Senior Warden. Her dedication to St. John's is so very appreciated. Also her work (with Kenneth's help) as Building and Grounds person. She is continuing to work on the water bill issue and hopefully the answers will be found quickly.

When I took the Jr. Warden position, I knew that I would be moving up to Sr. Warden which I am looking forward to. I know that I will have the support of the congregation.

Looking at this next year there will be challenges but I know we will be up to them. I also know that you, the congregation will be there to help as always.

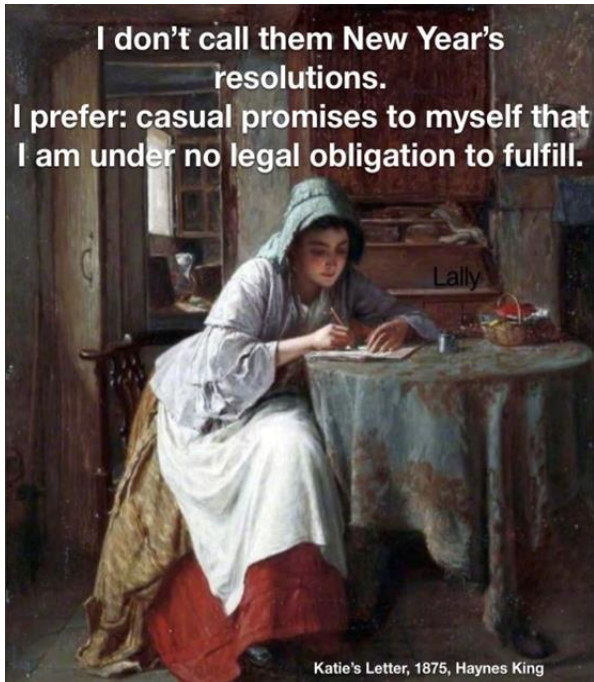
A personal thank you to John and Anne Frank for addressing the bathroom situation and taking care of it. Also, I want to thank all who helped with the greening of the church and Vicki Jancef for taking care of the flowers for Christmas. Great job as always.

In closing, I want to let you know you can contact me anytime with questions, concerns, suggestions or your thoughts on what is happening at St. John's. May 2024 be a great year for all of you and at St. John's.

Doing God's work,
Lucy Kraatz
859-816-6869
lucykraatz@aol.com

It's That Time of Year.....

**A Journey through Genesis
A 50 Day Bible Challenge**



We are very glad to offer a new resource this Epiphany season! "A Journey through Genesis" is a Bible study that offers both a daily individual experience and also a group study experience.

The book is set up so that each day we will read a chapter of Genesis and a brief reflection upon that chapter; then reflect on a few questions; and finish our daily routine with a prayer.

Once a week, we will meet at the church to discuss that week's reading and reflections and try to address questions we might have. If the weather doesn't cooperate with us, we can "tune in" to an online offering that week. We are planning on meeting on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. beginning January 9th.

Many thanks to Pat Walker (known to many of us through the Deanery) for organizing this for us! If you would like to get a copy of the book, contact Pat at (716) 870-4203 or email her at patwalkervillage@yahoo.com.

Treasurer's Report...

January thru November, 2023

Income:	\$35,984.80
Expense:	\$25,521.83
Total:	\$10,462.97
Dividends:	<u>\$ 402.44</u>
Total:	\$10,865.41



Thank you to all who helped with the donations for the Christmas Dinner for our friends and neighbors who utilize the Food Pantry. Approximately 75 families were helped this year by your generosity. I know I can always count on you to come through on these very special occasions. You never let me down or our community. We will continue collecting non-perishables throughout the year with the container in the rear of the church. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Lucy Kraatz

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Many thanks to all who helped make our Advent and Christmas so lovely!

It's a busy time of the year for the Altar Guild, flower arranger, musicians, readers, Parish Administrator, and all who pitched in to decorate, or bring food and gifts. Thank you for making it meaningful!

Pastor Susan

Pamela, Aryann, Betty, Dawn, Dana, Michael Curry, Cathi, Brian, Josh, Norbert, Deidre, Sandy, Ron, Margaret, Jessica, Craig, Giovanni, John, Jeffrey, Zack, Cassie, Brandi, Don, Lizzy, Rose, Laura, Terry, Owen Wright, Michael, Lilyana, Shirley & Dean; Bonnie & Bill; Bonnie & Richard; Dean & Jim; Tomi, Kyle, & 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.



SJC MOMS GROUP

December 2023

December SJC MOMS prepared for the holidays!

- Vicki Jancef worked with the moms designing and putting together their holiday evergreen swags for their doors at our December 13th meeting.



- A successful cookie exchange with parishioners on December 20th. We had twelve different kind of cookies and all took a half dozen home of each kind. Already talking about next year - we will have the cookie exchange at someone's house!



- The Reverse Advent Boxes of food for two families were delivered. Janet Hoffman provided a turkey for each family. This is the message I received from one of the families: "Lindsey was overwhelmed with the food. She said thank you so much! We will use everything in the box! It's an amazing gift!" There are families that had a wonderful Christmas dinner and more because of SJC MOMS.

Welcome 2024!!

- Looking forward to new experiences in 2024. Megan Schmitt, who leads the MOMS group activities continues to post new activities to do on their Facebook Page; EPIC in Lockport with free play time with structured activities for all age groups and including home school children, consignment shops, community activities in surrounding areas, library (Lewiston, Wilson, story hour in Barker) and the list goes on. If there is an activity of interest for a toddler or a family, please send me a text and I will have Megan post.
- Mark your calendar for SJC MOMS fundraiser Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
- **SHROVE TUESDAY "free will" PANCAKE SUPER, Tuesday February 13th.**

- We are in 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.

GOD is GOOD.
Priscilla



Vestry....

The following was discussed at our December Vestry meeting:

- Pastor Susan welcomed the new Vestry Members.
- A discussion was had regarding evening services at St. John's. It was decided that we will have a trial run during the season of Lent and Holy Week. Starting on Sunday, February 18th at 6:00 p.m.
- Sr. Warden thanked everyone for all of their help. Is still working on the water issue and will keep us informed.
- We have received our "Fair Share" letter from the Diocese for 2024. Lucy Kraatz as Warden will be writing them our usual letter to get a reduced amount.
- The kitchen is still available to rent as a "commercial kitchen." Please see Janet Hoffman.
- Priscilla Moot encouraged Vestry to take a turn at coffee hour.
- Priscilla Moot would like to get the back office turned into a meeting place for Pastor Susan and members who need to talk in a quite/private place.
- SJC Moms had a successful cookie exchange and are looking forward to 2024. Childcare help is always needed – if interested please see Priscilla Moot.
- Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

**St. John's Episcopal Church
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED