

The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

August 2024

From Pastor Susan...

I'd like to draw your attention to some notices from the Diocesan Partnership. The Partnership is in the process of evaluating this experiment of two dioceses sharing one bishop; we'll be getting their report at Diocesan Convention this October. The consultants for this process are the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, former president of the Episcopal Church's House of Deputies, and the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, retired bishop of the Diocese of Connecticut. They are employing both qualitative methods, such as interviews and focus groups, and quantitative methods, such as surveys and financial analyses, in preparing their evaluation of the partnership and its efficacy in advancing mission and ministry in the Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York. They want to perceive both the successes and shortcomings of the partnership, and how it has affected clergy and lay members of the two dioceses.

The consultants conducting an evaluation of our diocesan partnership posted a survey for all laypeople and clergy. You are invited to take the survey online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LPKJMX8>
The deadline to participate is August 6.

I have filled out the survey myself; it will not take a lot of time, nor does it require specialized knowledge. Besides the survey, we are invited to attend one of the evaluation listening sessions in October:

- Thursday, October 10, 6:30-8 p.m.: session for WNY laypeople at the Diocesan Ministry Center
 - Friday, October 11, 10-11:30 a.m.: session for WNY clergy at the Diocesan Ministry Center
- Your input is welcome!

We are also invited to some farewell events for Bishop Sean in September, as he prepares to become the 28th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church on November 1:

Saturday, September 14 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Amore Ballroom at Salvatore's in Buffalo; an hors d'oeuvres reception. Salvatore's is located at 6461 Transit Road in Buffalo. I'll be attending this, and I hope others will, too.

Saturday, September 21, at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie

Join Bishop Sean and his family for a service of Eucharist celebrating his 17 years as bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania. He will preach and the service will be followed by a reception in the cathedral hall. (This is our chowder day, and the Alzheimer's Walk day—too many good options for one day!)

Sr. Warden Report...

Summer is moving right along. Can't believe it is August already. Didn't we just celebrate Memorial Day? I sincerely hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer.

I have submitted three different grant requests from the WNY Diocese to cover repairs/upgrades at St. John's. Twice a year the diocese offers Holy Communion Grants specifically for building/maintenance for the churches. I hand delivered our paperwork yesterday to the diocese. At that time, I was advised that we were the first to submit requests. August 1st is the deadline so I am hoping we will get monies.

The first grant request is to cover the plumbing issue which was repaired in April which was \$3,200. It was money well spent since our water and gas bills have decreased as a result. The second grant request is to cover the replacement of our front sidewalk from the street to the entrance steps and the area in front of the parish hall. The amount submitted was \$4,000. The third grant request is to cover the cost of having our back parking lot blacktopped. The amount submitted was \$9,000. Please say an extra prayer that we are approved for monies from the Grant Advisory Committee. I don't have a specific timeframe as to a response, but I believe it is done quite quickly. I will keep everyone updated as I hear more.

Fall is always our busiest time at St. John's. We are participating in the Back-to-School drive for supplies. Please see the additional article from Lois Bateman in this publication with specifics. We are having a chowder sale on September 21st, chaired by Frank Boeck. Details to follow as it gets closer. We also will be holding our traditional and well received Chicken and Biscuit dinner on Election Day.

St. John's has been able to continue because of the giving people of our congregation. I am personally so very blessed for my church family. Hearing of churches closing, it is comforting to know that we are continuing to maintain and grow.

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



Thank you for the continued donations for our friends and neighbors in need of a helping hand. For the month of August we have been asked to donate Raisin Bran cereal. Since breakfast is supposed to be the most important meal of the day, this should benefit everyone.

Also, as always, if you have something else to donate, feel free to bring it in. Everything is appreciated by those in need.

You can also make a monetary donation if you prefer. Just mark on the check in "memo" section that it is for the Food Pantry. If donating cash please mark the envelope "Food Pantry". I know our continued support of the Food Pantry is greatly appreciated by all who are involved with it.

Lucy Kraatz
859-816-6869

Birthdays...

Kyle Doty	8/01
Courtney Brown	8/02
John Carney	8/04
Pastor Susan	8/11
Kenneth Hoffman	8/12
Kirsten Rodgers	8/28
Donna Kopeck	8/30
Ryan Thurston	8/31



Anniversaries...

Kevin & Wendy Brown 8/22



Our family would like to thank everyone that donated food items and their time to help out for our mother's Celebration of Life. It gave us much needed time to visit with family from out of town that we don't see very often. Mom would have loved the entire day. St. John's held a special place in her heart for many years.

Joel & Paula Farwell, Jeff Farwell, Tori Farwell, Nate Farwell & Kate Tesla, Sam & Brandon Stroyan, Jennifer & Jim Puskas, Kyle Doty & Tomi Jackman and Lincoln John Doty.

Buildings & Grounds...

Thank you, Denise for planting the raised beds with flowers. They look great and add to the landscaping. Your invitation to us to please "help ourselves to them" is so very kind. Nothing like a vase of fresh cut flowers to brighten up your home.

I haven't noticed as many spiders/bugs near the parish hall entrance, so I am glad that the pest control is helping with that.

As stated in the Warden's report we are looking into the possibility of addressing the sidewalk and rear parking lot. Again, I will keep you updated as I hear more from the diocese.

"Thank you" to Jennifer and Jim Puskas for donating two of the window air-conditioners that are now in the parish hall. It certainly makes it much more comfortable for all.

As always, feel free to contact me anytime.

Lucy Kraatz
Chairman, Buildings & Grounds

Treasurer's Report...

January - June 2024

Income:	\$21,617.03
Expense:	<u>\$19,233.78</u>
Total:	\$ 2,383.25
Dividends:	<u>\$ 1,291.60</u>
Total:	\$ 3,674.85

Please keep the following in your prayers: Will (who is stationed in Iraq); Dylan, Kevin, and Joe (recovering from collisions); Priscilla & John, Eleanor, Priscilla, Shirley, Theresa, Ron, Dawn, Craig, Alberta, and Brian (who seek healing); our Roman Catholic neighbors who are facing the closing of their church; the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, the hostages taken in the October attack on Israel. Please pray for Dan Sievert, who died last week, and for Dan's family.



We again at St. John's will be doing a school supply drive for the students at Wilson Central school district. We will begin it now and end it August 25th. We will set up a table in the parish hall for the supplies and if you choose to just give money, you can write a check to St. John's with school supplies in the memo line and I will go at the end and get what else is needed. The supplies we give are greatly appreciated because there are many in the school system whose parents cannot afford to buy everything that they need, so thank you very much for all that you do.



Lois Bateman

2nd Annual Belgian Waffle Breakfast September 8th following Church



Anne and John Frank 's annual Belgian Waffle Sunday is approaching next month, welcoming a new school year and a sendoff to our snowbirds until next spring.

Look for the signup sheet in the parish hall for needed supplies.

Please join us for a morning of fellowship with family and friends. Mark your calendar!!

God is Good.

Priscilla Moot

Fellowship Committee September 2024

The Fellowship Committee coordinated a luncheon for the family and friends of Barbara Farwell on Saturday, July 13th following her Celebration of Life Service at St. John's. Barb will be missed at potato peeling for dinners, baking, folding weekly bulletins, cleaning and the many crafty/decorating things she did.

Thank you to all parishioners, family and friends, who served or gave a monetary gift. Thank you also to the altar guild and lay ministers. We are a giving and loving family. Many hands make light work. We are doing God's work.

A special thank you from me, since I was only a week out from hip surgery and physically couldn't do much. All of you were great pitching in as a family team!!

Anyone who would like to join the Fellowship Committee please feel free to reach out to me.

God is Good.

Priscilla, Chair Fellowship Committee



SJC MOMS August 2024

Getting ready for this year's SJC MOMS

SJC MOMS will be starting Wednesday, September 11th at 9:30- 11:15. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 9:30 -11:15; September – May, coinciding with public school schedule.

- I will be meeting with Megan, SJC MOMS coordinator next week to review their activities and their needs.
- Please reach out to me if you would enjoy a change. A couple of mornings a month will keep you feeling younger and put a smile on your face filling your heart with joy; doing God's work.
- With many schools having Pre-K available, it limits some of the moms from coming because of the timing of school dismissal. Our children are younger and require more hands on in some cases.
- Watch in the September Pious Press for updates!!!!

God is Good.

Priscilla Moot



I would like to take a moment to thank the leadership team and congregation at St. John's for your patience and understanding during the past couple of years while I have been caring for mom at my home.

I am concentrating more on my business now but am always available at St. John's.

*Jennifer Farwell-Puskas
Parish Administrator*



St. John's Episcopal Church
431 Lake Street, Wilson

**CHICKEN
CHOWDER SALE**
TAKE OUT ONLY
Saturday, September 21st
Noon—??

Quarts of Chowder Can Be Pre-Ordered
716-751-6109

I will be updating and distributing the Parish Directory before September 1st. Please take a moment and make sure your phone numbers, address and email addresses are correct.

If you have not submitted your birthday, anniversary or the above information to me, please jot it down on a piece of paper and put it on the desk in the office so I get it.

*Thank you –
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas
Parish Administrator*

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED