

The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

July 2024

From Pastor Susan...

I expect by now you all have heard of Bishop Sean's election as Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. I can see why he was elected: he has been dealing "hands-on" with the challenges facing the Church for some time now and doing so in innovative and creative ways. This is from an article about his election:

His speech acknowledged some of the challenges facing The Episcopal Church at a time of membership decline when some dioceses say their ministries are struggling under financial burdens and diminished congregational vitality. Rowe affirmed the concerns raised by some bishops and deputies at this week's convention, that some aspects of churchwide governance and structure could be hindering the church in adapting to a changing world.

"It's not too strong to say we're facing an existential crisis," Rowe said – not because the church doesn't have something to offer the world, he said, but "because the world around us is changed and continues to change and is changing all the time. God is calling us ever more deeply into the unknown."

But Rowe pointed to signs of a more hopeful future in some of the collaborative experiments underway in some dioceses across the church, including his own dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York.

"We know that we cannot continue being The Episcopal Church in the same way, no matter where we live," he said. "It's time to reorient our church ... to support dioceses and churches on the ground, where ministry happens."

Of course, it is not only the Episcopal Church that is facing these challenges; we see churches of many (all?) denominations struggling. The culture has changed around us, so our traditional ways of expressing and living out our church life no longer help us to grow and spread the good news. As we shrink, more and more effort is required just to "keep the lights on." The hard part is that, though we can see it is all changing, we do not see what it will look like on the other side. It is unsettling and sometimes leaves us feeling bereaved, but I like what Bishop Sean said—that "God is calling us ever more deeply into the unknown." When God called Abraham to leave his home in Ur to find the Promised land—when God called Moses to lead the children of Israel out of

bondage in Egypt—when Jesus called Simon, James, and John to leave their nets to follow him—they didn't know what they were getting into, either, but they knew God would be with them as they went through it. True for us, too.

Sr. Warden Report...

We received formal notification from the diocese what our "fair share" is for this year. It is not as low as what we had requested, but Wendy feels that we will be able to meet this obligation. The importance of paying it will reflect on two different items. First, the grants that I will be applying for, since this is where the financial backing for these grants come from. The second is so that our delegates, that will be attending the annual convention in October are able to vote on issues.

"Thank you" to Priscilla for chairing the Father's Day Brunch which was a great success. Also "thanks" to all who assisted her. It was enjoyed by all!

The vestry will not be meeting in July, however if you have anything that needs to be addressed, please contact me directly. We certainly continue to take care of business even if we don't have a formal meeting.

"Thank you" also to our new lectors who will be sharing the readings on Sundays.

Enjoy your summer and be safe!!

Moving forward with God,

Lucy Kraatz

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Buildings & Grounds...

The building inspection has been completed and we are all set. The exit signs are appropriate, the fire extinguishers have been inspected and new CO2 detectors have been placed in the parish hall and nursery. The one in the kitchen is still working, however if you hear two beeps it means it is at the end of its life. There is a new one in the desk that the coffee maker sits on so it can be replaced immediately.

Thank you to Denise for planting the raised beds in Nick's Garden. Everything seems to be taking hold and growing well. Can't wait to see all the flowers.

Thank you to those that have taken care of the flower beds and lawn. It is so appreciated.

As always, feel free to contact me anytime.

Lucy Kraatz

Chairman, Buildings & Grounds

Vestry...

Below are highlights from our June Vestry meeting:

- Pastor Susan offered to do a July 4th service if wanted. It was voted that everyone usually has plans with family that day so it was postponed.
- Our Warden, Lucy Kraatz has received a bid from Bedford Blacktop to finish up the parking lot in the back for \$9,000.
- Discussed the letter received from the Diocese regarding our "Fair Share."
- It was decided among Vestry that there will be no monthly meeting in July. We will meet again on Thursday, August 15th at 6:30 p.m.
- Lucy Kraatz is currently seeking bids for concrete work to be done on the sidewalks and the pad in front of the parish hall.
- The Village came and inspected the building and we are good. Fire extinguishers have been inspected and new CO2 units have been purchased.
- Jennifer Farwell-Puskas notified the Vestry that the Diocese will no longer be hosting our website on the current platform. They will now be going through WordPress. We will be switching our website over the WordPress with a \$20/month maintenance fee and a yearly fee for our domain name of \$18/year.

Jennifer Farwell-Puskas
Clerk of Vestry

Birthdays...

Lois Bateman 7/11
Jim Puskas 7/12



Anniversaries...

Jim & Jennifer Puskas 7/07

Many thanks to all who helped with St. John's ice cream booth at Wilson's LEON Festival event. St. John's supported this community event. Lucy handed out coloring books/crayons, MOMS flier and an updated Church pamphlet from Susan. Foot traffic was light, but we made the crowd aware of St. John's and that our doors are always open!

God is Good.

Priscilla Moot

Treasurer's Report...

January - May 2024

Income:	\$14,676.03
Expense:	<u>\$15,869.93</u>
Total:	\$-1,193.90
Dividends:	<u>\$ 825.25</u>
Total:	\$- 368.65

Please keep the following in your prayers: Kevin, Barb and her family, Will, Brian, Kelly, Heather, Rom LeMay, Nick, Owen Wright, Brian, Emily, Jack, Eric, Megan, Betty, Pamela, Josh, Jon & Kacee, Craig, Deidre, Sandy, Ron, Margaret, Jessica, Jeffrey, Zack, Cassie, Brandi, Don, Lizzy, Rose, Laura, Terry, Michael, Lilyana, the Schroeder family; Bonnie & Bill; Al, Christianna & their unborn baby; the Faqiri Family, and our prayer partner, St. John's, Youngstown. We pray for peace in Israel and Ukraine, and for those affected by storms in the mid-West.



With summer here and lots of fresh vegetables we are collecting salad dressings for the month of July. It has been asked that we get Ranch or Italian dressings, since these are the most popular. If you have other items you would like to donate, feel free to bring them in. Your continued support for the community is greatly appreciated by all who utilize it.

*Thank you for your continued support.
Lucy Kraatz*



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!

We all enjoy St. John's fellowship coffee hour. We are searching for parishioners to take turns being in charge. It can be as simple as beverage and cookies; store bought at that. The first Sunday of each month is birthday/anniversary Sunday and we have cake/cupcakes and/or whatever else you want to serve making it a little special.

- I will be putting up instructions for the coffee maker this week. Coffee, tea and water are always available.
- There is a special plastic container with cookies. Most generally there are extra or leftovers. If you are a baker and want to make something for all to enjoy; go for it! At many times we have cheese and crackers; leftovers are also in refrigerator.
- Get to church 15 minutes early, set up and clean up after. We use paper products except for those who choose to use a mug hanging on the wall. Just wash it and put it back.
- There is a signup sheet on the counter; let's fill in the blanks. There are special coffee hours the fellowship committee will do i.e. baptism; graduation, Father's Day, etc.

Thank you to those who continue to support our coffee hour by taking charge, in baking or monetary gifts.

God is Good
Priscilla, Chairman of Fellowship

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