

# The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

December 2024

## *From Pastor Susan...*

I would like to begin using a more interactive approach to preaching. I've done this in the past with other congregations and find it a livelier way for a congregation to consider a topic than having me drone on about it.

It can take a little while for a congregation to become comfortable with this approach: initially, I think folks are afraid of giving a wrong answer to my questions and appearing ignorant. But this kind of approach is not a quiz or test—rather it is a way of enlisting everyone's experiences and reflections, letting us all hear from our whole faith community, not just the priest. I would never want to make anyone feel bad about participating—in the past, even the kids have participated in such preaching. (I remember an acolyte once remarking to me that he always knew it was going to be a good sermon if he saw I had the dry erase board out and ready to go!) I won't be doing this every Sunday, but I do intend to begin this Sunday, December 1st. See you in church!

† † † †

## **Our Annual Meeting**

...will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8th following the 9:30 service and brunch. Treasurer Wendy Brown has prepared a budget to present at the meeting; the Nominating Committee has been working to prepare a slate for Vestry; the Vestry has planned out the brunch, which they will provide. If you are (or were) in charge of a parish activity in 2024, please consider writing a few paragraphs to report on that activity. This is a great time to thank helpers you had, to share hopes for next year's activities and to let the congregation know how they can support that ministry in 2025. The only other thing we need is YOU—please plan on attending!

## **Christmas Lessons & Music**

On December 29th, the Sunday following Christmas, we are going to offer a service of Christmas lessons and music. This is not a eucharistic service and there is no sermon, but it is full of scripture and music. The Bible lessons track salvation history from creation and the fall of humanity, to the birth of Jesus and signs that he is God's Messiah. The rubrics say it is desirable to have each lesson read by a different lector, so we are looking for readers—quite a number of them? Please let me know if you would like to read for that service.

We're also looking for musicians—both singers and instrumentalists—to help make the music extra special. Do you play an instrument? Would you like to sing as part of a small group ensemble, or perhaps a solo? This is a great time for variety and participation. Again, please let me know if you might be able to help with the music.

## *Sr. Warden Report...*

I want to thank each and every one of you who entrusted me with being Senior Warden a year ago. Without all of you helping, it would have been a challenge. Helping hands and suggestions were always there for me, which made my responsibilities easier. Janie Hamilton is moving up from Junior Warden to Senior Warden. I know we will all help her any way we can. This year has gone by so quickly. From our Solar Eclipse fundraiser, major plumbing repairs for water issue to our successful chowder and chicken 'n biscuit dinner. All of this is because of everyone's help.

As always, feel free to contact me anytime.

Moving forward with God,  
Lucy Kraatz  
859-816-6869





### **Birthdays....**

**Wayne Brown** 12/05  
**Frank Boeck** 12/20

### **Anniversary...**

**Janet & Kenneth Hoffman** 12/25

### **Vestry Report – November 2024...**

*The following was discussed at our last meeting:*

- We were asked to advertise the GoFundMe for the Catholic Church on our sign out front. A motion was made to decline and approved.
- Pastor Susan suggested that if the Catholic Church were to close that she would like to invite them to worship at St. John's when the building is not being used.
- Annual Meeting: Nominations for open positions are still being thought about.
- Christmas Eve Service: Carol Sing will be at 9:15 p.m. and Eucharist will be at 9:30 p.m.
- Jerilyn Carney will be leaving her job as Sexton on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Jane Hamilton is looking for a replacement.
- Food donations to the food pantry are completed for Thanksgiving.
- Insulation will be fixed inside the sanctuary.
- Bedford Blacktop will be paving the remainder of our driveway in the Spring of 2025 and a deposit has been made.
- Health Department inspection was completed. A new meat thermometer has been ordered.
- Jane Hamilton is still checking on the water meter issues with the Village.
- Jane Hamilton has asked John Frank to be Jr. Warden in 2025 and he has accepted.
- Jane Hamilton has asked her neighbor to finish off the door frames in the kitchen. This will be paid for with the memorial monies that remain from Barbara Farwell. Jennifer Farwell-Puskas will cover the overage if there is one.
- Fellowship Committee will be taking care of refreshments for the Thanksgiving Eve service.
- This year we will be doing two Reverse Advent Calendars as part of our Christmas Outreach. An item will be listed on the tags on the Giving Tree for our family. The other is for ABCD (Agricultural Business Child Development Center) St. Andrew's will be providing a simple Christmas meal for a family. Two boxes will be provided.

- SJC Moms Group will be donating money to Domestic Violence Against Women and getting gifts for children of a family in need.
- Cookie Exchange will be at the beginning of the next meeting on December 11th.
- Puzzle pages for clipboards in sanctuary will be switched to Christmas pages.
- The Budget for 2025 was reviewed and Wendy Brown will be making copies for everyone at the Annual Meeting.
- Our Giving Tree will be up as soon as we get the list from the school.

*Jennifer Farwell-Puskas*  
*Clerk of Vestry*

### **Treasurer's Report...**

**January - October 2024**

Income:	\$32,509.48
Expense:	-\$29,258.25
Interest:	+\$ 19.54
Total Income:	\$ 3,270.77
Dividends Re-Invested:	+\$ 2,359.15
Total Net Income:	\$ 5,629.92

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Dylan, Kevin, Matty, and Zack (recovering from collisions); Priscilla & John, Lincoln, Baby Owen, Joan, Joann, John, Theresa, Laura, Matty, Maria and her mother Deloris, Jessie, Eleanor, Ron, Craig, Kirsten Rodgers, Michael, Chris and Ela, Jennine, Penny, Ann, Jayne, Jenny, Chip's Chappy. Pray for the families of: Kacee and Jonathan, Adam & Becky, Tom & Kelli. Pray for our Diocesan partnership, as we consider our future leadership needs, and for our Roman Catholic neighbors who are facing the closing of their church; the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine.



***Buildings & Grounds...***

I met with the Niagara Health Department for our annual inspection. We passed and have received our certificate. We are covered for a year.

The insulation is going to be secured in the upstairs storage area in the near future.

Thank you again to everyone who has helped me in this past year.

Lucy Kraatz, Chairman

***Election Day Chicken N' Biscuit Dinner:***

Another successful year! Thank you for everyone's support from food prep; pulling chicken; cutting gelatin and desserts. Thank you for all the desserts made, monetary gifts and those who worked endlessly. We gave 10% of our profits to support Hurricane Relief through ERD.

Priscilla Moot, Chairman



The "Giving Tree" is up! We will be adopting a family again this year for Christmas. We have a mom and dad and three children. Please take an ornament as our gift to you and purchase what is on the tag for the family. Please wrap your gift and mark who it is for. All gifts and food items must be back to the parish hall by Sunday, December 15th. As part of our Christmas tradition, we will be using the Reverse Advent Calendar.

Thank you for all you do to make this a wonderful ministry for St. John's. It is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, you can contact me. Lois Bateman

Many thanks –  
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas & Lois Bateman  
Chairman

***Fellowship Committee September 2024...***

We hosted refreshments after our joint service with Exley Community Church held at St. John's on Thanksgiving Eve. Pastor Shelly Andrews gave the sermon and Pastor Susan officiated. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship.



God is Good.  
Priscilla, Chair Fellowship Committee



## SJC Moms Group...

The moms had fun at the November meeting making sparkling Buffalo Bills ornaments.

The group has invited the childcare volunteers and St. John's women to sign up for the cookie exchange; right now we have 16 ladies.

This year for outreach during the Christmas season the group will be giving a monetary gift to Woman of Domestic Violence from their funds. They also will be giving plates of homemade Christmas cookies to Seniors at Wilson Food Pantry and to the Senior Group that meets at the Wilson Public Library.



GOD is Good.  
Priscilla Moot



## Advent/Christmas Cantata :

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> at Exley Community Church choir will be performing at 9 AM and 2 PM. The community is invited. It will be a wonderful production. Hope to see you all there.



Many, many thanks to everyone who helped make our contribution to the Wilson Food Pantry for their Thanksgiving dinner a great success. I know it was greatly appreciated by all.

We have been asked for brownie mix or boxes of au gratin or scalloped potatoes. These will be used in the Christmas dinners offered by the food pantry.

As always, your support is appreciated by family, friends and neighbors who use the food pantry.

Lucy Kraatz  
859-816-6869

Join Us at St. Andrew's  
This Holiday Season

- Sunday, December 1st --  
1st Sunday in Advent  
10:45 am Service
- Sunday, December 8th --  
2nd Sunday in Advent  
10:45 am Service
- Sunday, December 15th --  
3rd Sunday in Advent  
10:45 am Service  
Christmas Pageant, followed by  
Greening of the Church and Potluck Luncheon
- Sunday, December 22nd --  
4th Sunday in Advent  
10:45 am Service
- Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve --  
6:30 pm Carols, 7:00 pm Service
- Sunday, December 29th --  
10:45 am Service of Lessons & Carols

Christmas Crafts  
at St. Andrew's  
Sunday, December 8th  
at 12 pm

Get into the holiday spirit and join us for a  
FREE children's craft event!  
Light refreshments will be provided

Sign Up Required  
Find the link at  
[StAndrewsBurt.com](http://StAndrewsBurt.com)  
or use this QR code



SCAN ME

For questions, please contact Pam  
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(716) 807-9535

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**