
The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

February 2026

From The Pastor's Desk...

What's in a name? Well, sometimes how you name something can reflect more (or less!) accurately the nature of the thing named.

Case in point: my job title. Up to now I have been designated "Steady Supply" for St. John's. That's not really an accurate description of my work, since the role of a supply priest is simply to conduct Sunday services, whereas I also help with the Moms group, meet with the Vestry, do regular home communions, teach the occasional class, and help with events.

This point came up recently when I met with our Bishop Provisional, the Rt. Rev. Steve Lane. Bishop Steve is trying to get to know all the clergy and congregations, and we had a Zoom visit recently. He raised the point, and recommended we change my title to *Priest in Charge*. He said he didn't think it would have any financial impact on the church: since I am technically retired, St. John's doesn't have to pay into my pension plan or health insurance.

I asked our treasurer Wendy Brown to investigate that, and she was able to affirm that it won't change my compensation; she presented that information to the Vestry at our January meeting, and they approved the change of title. So, there you have it: Pastor Susan is now the PIC!

A rose by any other name... 😊

In other news... if you were at the Annual Meeting, you may remember that the Vestry expressed its hope of creating a "Sunshine Committee", which would send out cards to acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries. Vestry member, Tina Zemla offered to help with that and has begun sending out cards... I know, because Doug and I received a nice card for our anniversary. Thank you, Tina! If anyone would like to give Tina a hand with this, please speak to her.

Last, but not least, Ash Wednesday is February 18th. We are going to do something a bit different this year: we will offer the Ash Wednesday liturgy ON Ash Wednesday at 7 PM, instead of holding it the night before in conjunction with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. If the evening service doesn't work with your schedule, St. John's, Youngstown, will be offering their service at noon.

Now is the time to think about how you would like to observe Lent this year. In a time as fractured, polarized, and violent as this present time is around the world, perhaps we should be extra vigilant in rooting out any spirit of division, any party spirit, from our hearts. There is so much misinformation "out

there" that it is more than a little challenging to discern where truth lies in many situations—but we can strive to:

- Continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.
- Persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.
- Proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.
- Seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.
- Strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

I expect that will be more than enough to keep us busy!

Treasurer's Report...

January – December 2025

Income:	\$ 44,917.70
Expenses:	\$ 36,210.84
Total Income:	\$ 8,706.86
Dividends:	+\$ 4,541.63
Interest:	+\$ 14.61
Total Net Income:	\$ 13,263.10



Sr. Warden – John Frank

Every wall, beam and hallway of our sanctuary tells a story of faith, generosity and community.

As we close another month, I'd like to share a few items that have been accomplished.

The burnt out lights in the alter area have been replaced.

A heating disaster was averted when the furnace stopped working. Jennifer happened upon it when she went into the parish hall. She was able to contact the heating contractor who repaired the problem last Saturday. Great job Jenn. Thank you.

To lessen another heating issue, a temperature monitoring system will be installed for the Building and Grounds Committee and all parishioners. It will

send out an alert when the temperature is above or below the set temperature. Once it is installed instructions will be available.

Transparency in our building stewardship not only honors the gifts God has given us but also invites each of us to partner in the ongoing work of keeping our facilities safe, welcoming and functional. Stay warm.

The Western New York Diocese publishes a newsletter via email. If you haven't signed up for it and would like to please follow these directions:

*Go To: episcopalwny.org
Click On: News
Then Click On: Newsletter
Scroll Down To: "To Subscribe Click Here"
Then: Enter your information*

Prayer List...

Pray for those who are ill or injured, and those who minister to them, especially Janet, Tomi, Priscilla, Felix, Barbara, Kevin, Stephanie C. & Allison W., Kevin, Judith Lee, Priscilla & John, Kenneth, Janet Failla, Doloris, Chester, Josh, Edward, Tim, Jackie, Barb & Kali, Robin, Michael, Craig, Patrick and Nicole, Rebecca, Stephanie, Laura, Craig and Nicole, Bonnie, Chris and Ela, Zack, Rose, Donna, Meshawn, Miranda & Kaila, Melissa.



We provide Forward Day by Day to parishioners as a simple and effective daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse from the daily readings and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in less than 200 words. It even includes the daily feast days, as well as prompts to take faithful action in your daily life. These can be found in the vestibule of the sanctuary and in the parish hall.

The Forward Day by Day podcast is available on all streaming platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and anywhere else you listen to podcasts.



Food Pantry....



For the month of February, we have been asked to collect hygiene products. These include toothpaste, toothbrushes and bars of soap. The soap needs to be individually wrapped but can be a pack that can be broken down to individual bars. Any brand of toothpaste is fine along with any brand for toothbrushes.

Let's help our neighbors, friends and family with some basic items. We know how much all of our donations are appreciated by all who distribute them and those on the receiving end.

Please put the items in the basket in the rear of the church. Also, if you prefer a monetary contribution is always welcome. Just note "Food Pantry" on check or on the outside of an envelope if donating cash.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or suggestions. Keep warm and safe during this brutal cold.

Lucy Kraatz
859-816-6869



Elliot Thurston 2/13
Dawn Veach 2/28

SJC MOMS Group...

February 2026

- ★ It certainly felt like a cabin frenzy morning as one person said Wednesday! As winter arrived the MOMS created an indoor spring pot with daffodils and crocus; forcing them to bloom. Our Vicki Jancef prepared handouts for the girls explaining the preparation of the bulbs. Did you know the bulbs need to be probably chilled before planting for indoor blooming?? The handouts also included how to plant and arrange the bulbs in containers and caring for their blooming. The girls prepared one for Pastor Susan. Let's watch them grow and bloom!!
- ★ The girls worked on preparation for their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
- ★ Janet Hoffman has joined with childcare before going south for a month. Thank you to Denise Failla for joining on a day off with the kiddos!

GOD is good.
Priscilla Moot



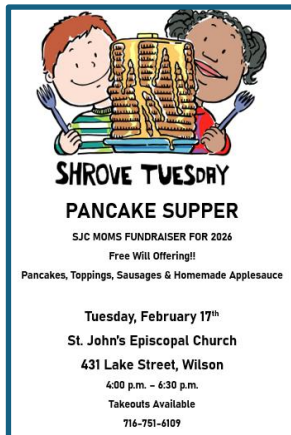
Cousins at Play



Lilyana Helping Out



Some of our Moms Planting Bulbs



Vestry – January 2026

The following was discussed at our last meeting:

- Pastor Susan reviewed our Vestry standards with all.
- Light bulbs have been replaced in the sanctuary.
- Snow plowing has been very good.
- Cleaning service – we are committed for four hours per month at \$40/hour. Discussion pursued regarding what exactly the cleaners are doing for four hours. Maria Carillo has expressed an interest in helping out. It was determined that we need a schedule of when the cleaners are here. Jerilyn Carney will follow up with them.
- Spring Rummage Sale: April 17th & 18th. 9 – 5 on Friday and 9 – Noon on Saturday. Jerilyn will have sign up sheets this time to help out. Free will offering. Community Missions will be called to see if they can pick up what is left.
- Priest in Charge agreement for Pastor Susan. Wendy Brown went over the agreement. A motion was made by Frank Boeck, seconded by Priscilla Moot to approve the agreement. Approved.
- Discussion regarding lowering our fair share to the Diocese. There was a time limit to submit a letter so the reduction isn't possible this year. Wendy suggested that we watch our monies going forward and if we need to discuss with the Diocese we can contact them. Priscilla Moot suggested we contact Maria from the Diocese now to discuss. We also need to clean up our member numbers for the parochial report.

- Committee to send cards for birthday and well wishes to parishioners. Tina Zemla has offered to take care of this. Jennifer will get a box of cards and give Tina some stamps.
- Grant request: Sidewalk was verbally turned down for approval in 2025. If we have any other project please let John know so it can be submitted. Frank suggested that we submit it again for just the sidewalk. Safety issues should be mentioned.
- Tina Zemla and Karen Keil are now running the Wilson Food Pantry.
- Vestry Day at Diocese Center in March.
- Priscilla Moot:
 - Time table for things that are due with regard to the church. For example grant deadlines, audit, parochial report.
 - Should we be opening the cupboard doors and running the hot water for the pipes? Wendy suggested that our fix with the plumbing should take care of that.
- Frank Boeck suggested we have a separate listing for communications. Jennifer commented that we have that.
- Next meeting will be Sunday, February 22nd at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Clerk of Vestry

Fellowship Committee...

February 2026

- ★ Looking forward to our Valentine's Celebration, Sunday February 15th. Denise and Jerilyn will be our hosts this year again. Don't miss it!!
- ★ The calendar for the year is on the kitchen counter in the parish hall. Please check your schedule and don't hesitate to sign up. You don't have to do it alone there is always another set of helping hands, just ask.
- ★ The basket at the end of the kitchen counter is for loose contributions used for kitchen supplies, paper towels, dish soap etc.

God is Good.
Priscilla Moot

Many thanks to Joel Farwell at JCF Woodcrafting for getting us an awesome frame for our Flower Chart. This is something new – we will be able to reuse it every year!



St. John's Episcopal Church
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