
The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

April 2026

From The Pastor's Desk...

I am fascinated when animals seem interested in relating to human beings. Every morning, I go outside and fill the bird feeders and spread “critter crunch” on the ground. I whistle as I do this—“There’s just something about that name”—and over the months I have noticed that some birds start calling loudly when I do this and draw nearer to the yard. Squirrels appear quickly, sometimes making their way to the feeder before I can even get back to the house; a vole has started coming out from under the back deck when I whistle, and seems to watch me; he lets me get pretty close before he runs back under the deck.

I think they have become familiar with my routine and know it means breakfast is served, and that I have never tried to hurt them. Are they also saying “Hello” to me? Is the vole asking me to throw something his way? If it’s just the food that excites him, he’d do better to stay hidden—I leave as soon as I am finished, and then he’s free to approach and eat, but I linger when I see him.

Or what about our cats? Many mornings when I get up, I find a cat toy in the bedroom—Garrett Thunderpaws’ favorite toy, which I call “Blue Baby”. Is he giving us a gift? Proof of his expertise in hunting? Something to play with when we get up? Maybe it is payment for the breakfast he is hoping we’ll set out for him before he starves to death (which appears to be imminent).

Such questions fascinate me; they make me think of our attempts to connect with God. We pray to God—we build buildings and create art and music in God’s honor—we offer gifts of bread, wine, money, service, ourselves—we try to understand the mind and heart of God. And I am very aware that this is not just another person we are trying to know: we are said to be created in the image of God, but at the same time we are also very different from God. Are we

as different from God as I am different from a cat, a bird, a squirrel, a vole? I don’t know, but it strikes me as interesting and somehow hopeful that creatures of different species can be curious about one another and want to connect in friendly ways.

I am moved when Garrett brings me Blue Baby—a slobbery stuffed blob for which I have no use at all! Is God moved by my gifts?

I am tickled by the vole who comes out to see Food Person in action—is God tickled by my attempts to come close in prayer?

I may never have answers to these questions, but I enjoy pondering them.

As Frederick Buechner wrote in his book *Wishful Thinking*: “Theology is the study of God and his ways. For all we know dung beetles may study man and his ways and call it humanology. If so, we would probably be more touched and amused than irritated. One hopes that God feels likewise.”

If we can trust what we learn by watching the other critters, I think we can indeed hope that is the case.

Did you know...

...that in 2025, the United Thank Offering (UTO) brought in and made grants for over a million dollars?

The UTO began in 1883 when the women of the church took up a thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion that the church budget could not cover. Today, UTO includes members of all ages and genders, and welcomes people regardless of church affiliation. It still focuses on promoting gratitude and supporting innovative projects that address compelling needs around the globe.

In many of our homes, you will find the iconic little blue and white box that receives our change throughout the year. Come Fall, we bring them in and offer them up at the Diocesan Convention.

Have you picked up your UTO box yet? If not, they can be found on the shelf behind the last pew, **along with more information about UTO.**

Treasurer's Report...

YTD February 2026

Income:	\$ 3,928.40
Expenses:	- \$ 6,318.00
Total Income:	- \$ 2,389.60
Dividends:	+\$ 1,254.74
Interest:	+\$ 2.06
Total Net Income:	- \$ 1,132.80

Happy Easter !!



Prayer List...

Please pray for The Doty Family, who are expecting a new baby boy, Lincoln, Tina, Bonnie, Kelton Oliver, Judith Lee, Priscilla & John Eodice, Kenneth, Allison, Janet Failla, Doloris, Chester, Edward Wysocki, Tim, Jackie, Clyde, Barb & Kali, Robin, Michael, Craig, Patrick and Nicole McCartney, Rebecca, Laura, Craig and Nicole, Chris and Ela, Zack, Rose, Donna, Miranda & Kaila, Melissa, Jeffrey, Ellen Montgomery. Pray for Elizabeth and Cody, who have been called up to serve in the war with Iran. Pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, and in Nigeria. Pray for the renewal of the Church worldwide, and for this Diocese as we search for our new Diocesan Bishop.

Leadership Day...

Saturday, March 7th I attended the leadership meeting for Wardens and Vestry at the Diocesan Ministry Center. The meeting was well organized and a very informational meeting. For me these meetings rejuvenate me and feed me. Below I have listed a few highlights for myself.

- Words from Cathy Dempsey-Sims: The Look of Leadership: 3 components of a church community
 - Spiritual – that which draws us closer to Christ
 - Relational friendship – those things that connect us to each other
 - Administrative – that which supports the institution. Best done through community; Jesus didn't do alone.
- Words from Bishop Steve:
 - Vestry is soul agent for business of clergy and church.
 - Fundamental – "Don't get mad get close"
 - "Use energy not fighting the old But on building the new"
- The program had 4 different sessions
 1. Website & Communications – Shawn Slother
 2. Finance – Maria manocchio
 3. Constitution & Canons of the Episcopal Church -Bishop Steve
 4. Keeping Your Church Vibrant – Cathy Dempsey-Sims & Mother Bonnie Morris

I strongly suggested to Pastor Susan that St. John's should have two people attend. There is a lot of valuable information. This year we could only pick three out of the four sessions.

God is Good
Priscilla Moot



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....

Thank you to all who contributed to helping complete the Easter Dinner for over 60 families. Greatly appreciated by all.



For the month of April, we have been asked to collect personal hygiene items again. Toothpaste (any brand), toothbrushes and bars of soap. Multi packs of soap are fine as long as they are individually wrapped.

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



Darlene Boeck	4/03
Janet Hoffman	4/11
Wendy Brown	4/12
Kevin Brown	4/15

Jerilyn & John Carney	4/26
John & Anne Frank	4/18



Donations are now being accepted for our spring sale. We are collecting gently used items such as housewares, clothing, books, small appliances, crafts, tools, baby items and linens.

The sale will be April 17th, 9-5 and April 18th, 9-12.

Any questions, please call Jerilyn 716-628-9477

SJC MOMS Group...

This year one of SJC MOMS outreach ministry is for woman of domestic violence. April is sexual assault awareness month and they will be focusing on survivor bag donations. Some of the proceeds from Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be used.

The moms will also be having a Skin Care Bag session. There are only three meetings left this session before summer break.

I am also happy to announce that we have another childcare volunteer who is retiring May 1st and will be helping with childcare going forward; when they are not traveling.

GOD is good.
Priscilla Moot



Vestry – February 2026

The following was discussed at our last meeting:

- Temperature monitor is available via app. Email the church to get your code.
- Haven't heard back from Sterling Plumbing regarding the request to return the key.
- Moisture in the basement on the driveway side. Will be addressed in the spring.
- Submitted grant to Diocese for the sidewalk. \$3,825 was submitted for the grant. St. John's would be responsible for \$1,025 of the \$4,850. TLK Outdoor Services submitted the lowest bid.
- Spring Rummage Sale: Community Missions will pick up leftovers on Monday after the sale.

- Lay Leader Ministry Day was attended by Priscilla Moot. Noted the following:
 - Bishop Steve said, “Don’t get mad, get close.” Open communication brings us together. “Don’t fight the old way but take our energy and put it towards the new way.” Don’t dwell on the past and go with change.
 - When Bishop visits he will be meeting with the Vestry after the service. (October 3rd at 11:00 a.m.)
 - Cathy Dempsey-Sims: Three components of a church community: Spiritual, Relational and Administrative.
 - Priscilla feels that at least two members of Vestry should attend this every year.
- John Frank asked how we would fund the sidewalk project if we didn’t get approved for the grant. Priscilla Moot commented that when the kitchen was done we asked for a free will donation to fund the entire kitchen. John will be speaking with Janet Hoffman.
- Lois Bateman asked John Frank when the inspector came to look at the church if the ramp was o.k. John said the inspector felt it was fine. John will check it in the spring.
- Priscilla Moot – suggested that we need to concentrate on renting the parish hall and commercial kitchen.
- Next meeting will be Thursday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Clerk of Vestry

Fellowship Committee...

**Mothering Sunday, March 15th
(Bread & Soup Sunday)**

We at St. John’s celebrate Mothering Sunday with serving bread and soup during fellowship hour after our church service. Maria and Bonnie also provided wonderful desserts. They have lifted the bar!! We had ten different soups and lots to share and take home along with dessert. This was a wonderful meal and spiritual nourishment.

Maundy Thursday Celebration with Agape Supper
This year St. John’s hosted the Agape Supper before our joint Maundy Thursday service with St. John’s Youngstown. The table is set with an array of similar food including homemade vegetable soup and bread, somewhat resembling that of Jesus’ time. St. John’s now has handmade pottery bowls, which is certainly appropriate with the time. Thank you Janet Hoffman. This service as part of holy week.

Don’t forget to sign up in the parish hall for **Coffee Hour**. There is always room for more hands in the kitchen. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to one of us on the committee.

Priscilla Moot, Jerilyn Carney, Janet Hoffman, Anne Frank. Thank you in advance for your time and talent.

God is Good
Priscilla Moot, Fellowship Chairman

Palm Sunday at St. John’s





It's Time To Dig Up Those Plants !!
If you need pots please contact Vicky Jancef
You may drop off outside the parish hall

Many thanks to those who donated towards the Easter Flowers for the altar this year.

Lois Bateman **In Memory of Tom, Nick & My Family Members**

Denise & Bob Failla **In Memory of Nick Failla**

Anne & John Frank **Thankful for our St. John's Family**

Felix Kutrybala **In Memory of Kutrybala Family**

Priscilla Moot & Lucy Kraatz **In Memory of The Moot Family**

St. John's Episcopal Church
Perennial Plant Sale

• Saturday •
 May 2nd

• TIME •
 9:00 a.m.

• 431 Lake St. •
 Wilson

Slightly Used Garden Decorations
 &
 Plant Stands Locally Made By
 JCF Woodcrafting



Welcome back to our snowbirds!

Chair protectors were ordered for the parish hall.
 Thank you to Jerilyn and her helpers for fixing them for safety issues.



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
431 LAKE STREET, WILSON

RUMMAGE
SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH
9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH
9 A.M. – NOON

FREE WILL OFFERING !!!

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