
The Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NY

July & August 2026

From The Pastor's Desk...

As you are probably aware, the schedule for our Diocese's search for a Bishop experienced a "re-set" in recent months, as the Search Committee realized there was a significant lack of clarity about our identity as a diocese. I think this is not surprising, given that we as a diocese have been experiencing decline in our membership and took several years out to experiment with a Diocesan Partnership with Northwest Pennsylvania. The upheaval caused by Covid and having our Bishop leave to become the Presiding Bishop and didn't help anything, either! It's no wonder things have been "up in the air" from an organizational standpoint. So, we are slowing down the search process a bit to allow for more time to discern who we are as a diocese and what we need in our next bishop.

Here's the plan for this summer: the Diocese is approaching each and every congregation individually to engage in a listening process. They will share what has been learned so far—you may remember that there were deanery-based listening sessions, and online questionnaires we were encouraged to fill out over the last year. Then we will respond to what has been learned so far with our own ideas, perceptions, and experiences. They'll listen for the Holy Spirit in the voices of the people and we'll refine our understanding of our diocesan identity, and what we're looking for in a bishop.

Our Listening Session will take place following the service on Sunday, July 26th at Coffee Hour. It should take around an hour. We'll view and discuss a video re-cap of what they have learned so far, offering whatever we have by way of insight and experience. Ed Walker and I have agreed to be the listeners who will organize this for St. John's and take notes which we will submit to the Search Committee the following week. Please arrange to be part of this session! If ever there was a time for all voices to be heard, this is that time.

† † †

Have you ever thought about serving in a Diocesan ministry? Nominations and resolutions for the 2026 Diocesan Convention are due Aug. 3rd. Open Offices Standing Committee: 1 clergy and 1 lay (4 year term) Diocesan Council: 1 clergy and 2 lay (3 year term) Trustees: 2 lay (3 year term)

The Standing Committee has eight members (four clerics and four lay persons) and meets monthly throughout the year to accomplish these goals:

- To act as the bishop's Council of Advice
- To consent to bishop election processes as provided for by canon
- To make determinations on those in the ordination process as provided for by canon
- Represent people of the diocese in relation to the bishop.

Diocesan Council meets monthly throughout the year to oversee the program and priorities for the diocese. They develop and present to Diocesan Convention the annual budget and approve the expenditure of funds and/or indebtedness of the diocese. Council consists of nine people (6 lay persons and 3 clerics) and three more may be appointed by the Bishop.

Trustees consist of six people (4 lay persons and 2 clerics). All funds and property of the Diocese of Western New York held for investment are entrusted to the Trustees. The Trustees usually meet periodically and report annually to the diocesan convention on the funds committed to their care.

Do you have a resolution to propose to Diocesan Convention? If you are curious about the sorts of resolutions that come before Convention, you can see examples of what was considered at last year's Convention at:

<https://episcopalwny.org/diocesan-convention/2025-diocesan-convention/>

Our annual Diocesan Convention will be held in Celeron, NY at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel on October 23rd & 24th.

† † †

Sidewalk Repairs... by now you may have received a letter from me and the Vestry asking your support of this project. You may have noticed that our sidewalk needs some repair. We are concerned that someone could trip and be hurt. Cement work is not inexpensive! We have gotten some estimates and need to raise \$5,000. (Many thanks to Kyle Doty for giving us a very generously low estimate!)

We approached the Diocese for a grant, and were turned down—no hard feelings there, as they gave us a very generous grant to resurface and extend our parking lot, which is why we are no longer slogging through mud on rainy Sundays! We think we can probably cover the cost ourselves, between using a portion of our fund-raiser profits (like from the next Rummage Sale, which will be held Sept. 25th & 26th

and all of us doing what we can to give a little toward it. If you would like to help us with this, please send in your donation earmarked for "Sidewalk repair", or put it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Thanks for your help, folks!

Treasurer's Report...

YTD May 2026

Income:	\$ 18,768.42
Expenses:	- \$ 16,492.10
Total Income:	\$ 2,276.32
Dividends:	+ \$ 2,751.18
Interest:	+ \$ 5.37
Total Net Income:	\$ 5,032.87

Prayer List...

Please pray for the following: The Doty Family, Aryann & Vicki, Dee Shufelt, Maria, Bonnie, Doloris, Priscilla & John Eodice, Janet Failla, Kenneth, Alithea, Judith Lee, Lois Carter, Clyde, Barb & Kali, Jessie Rankin, Michael, Craig Stalker, Patrick and Nicole McCartney, Rebecca, Craig and Nicole, Zack, Rose, Nick & Barry. Pray for those affected by the Ebola outbreak, Christians who are facing persecution in Nigeria, Sudan, and the Middle East. Peace in the Middle East and Ukraine. Elizabeth & Cody, serving in the Iran war.



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.



Start looking for those deals on school supplies. We again will have a drive for school supplies for the Wilson school district. We will need the items by August 30th. If you wish you can write a check to St. John's with school supplies in the

memo line and I will gladly do the shopping. Thank you to everyone for your caring and sharing for our school children. Lois Bateman.



July & August

Lois Bateman	July 11
Jim Puskas	July 12
Kyle Doty	August 1
Courtney Brown	August 2
John Carney	August 4
Pastor Susan	August 11
Ken Hoffman	August 12
Donna Kopeck	August 30
Ryan Thurston	August 31



Jim & Jennifer Puskas	July 7
Kevin & Wendy Brown	August 22



The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to help them. It is a three hour shift **ONCE** a **MONTH**. It is on Tuesdays and the shifts are 2PM-5PM or 5PM-8PM. Volunteers are the

backbone of the Pantry and it's what keeps it going to be able to do this very important and necessary work. Please contact Karen Keil (who stepped up when Janet stepped down). You can call 716-727-4074 to get more information on helping. Please leave a message, if no answer, and Karen will get back to you.

Summer has officially arrived and the 4th of July is right around the corner. With school being out for now I am sure the need for help is greater than ever for some of our friends, neighbors or family members who utilize their services.

For July and August, we have three types of items that we are collecting. Soup (any flavor or brand), cereal (any kind) and granola bars. Since we are collecting for both months, we should be able to help stock their shelves.

Thank you again for your support for our community.

Lucy Kraatz
859-816-6869

Vestry – June 2026

The following was discussed at our last meeting:

- Pastor Susan reminded everyone about the Diocesan Listening Process. Search committee is soliciting responses from each congregation. July 26th after church.
- In person safe church training at Diocesan Center and you can register online. Shawn Slother can verify if you need to attend.
- Church picnic will be held on Saturday, September 19th at Cambria Town Park. Pastor Susan will be getting hamburgers, hotdogs, snacks and rolls. Congregation can bring a dish to pass, chairs, drink.
- Diocesan Convention: October 23rd & 24th at Chautauqua Harbor Hotel. Nominations and resolutions need to be submitted by August 3rd.
- Thanked the congregation for helping out with Darlene Boeck getting back and forth due to her eyesight.
- John Frank reported that the furnace has been inspected by the Diocese and is good for five years.
- We have a water leak in the bathroom again. It has dried out some but will need to be fixed.
- Water leak/moisture coming from the wall in the basement. It seems to be drying out. Will keep an eye on it. There are three cracks on the outside wall.
- Sidewalk funding. We were turned down by the Diocese for the grant. Lois Bateman said in the past we have sent out letters to ask for donations from the congregation. Priscilla Moot said when the kitchen was done a lot of the work was donated. She spoke with Kyle Doty awhile ago and he is willing to do the job for the cost of materials. Pastor Susan will write a letter and verify it with vestry via email. Frank Boeck made a motion to use the monies from the checking account, Priscilla Moot seconded. Approved. Any money we get in will be put back into checking. John will contact Kyle.
- Fall Rummage Sale: Jerilyn Carney would like to have it on September 25th & 26th. She would like to leave it up until Sunday and then after coffee hour if everyone pitched in to pack up the leftovers it will be faster.
- Lois Bateman updated the first aid kit and placed a sticker on it.
- John Frank got some vinyl donated by Vinyl Outlet to repair the ramp.
- Audit: Lois Bateman reached out to the Diocese for an outside name.
- Sleep Away Camp: Jerilyn Carney was wondering if Ariane would want to go.
- Parish Directory: Jennifer Farwell-Puskas handed out a new directory for review.

- John Frank thanked Tina Zemla and her husband for the air conditioner.
- Lois Bateman asked Tina to send a get well card to Lois Carter. She broke her hip.
- Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 20th at 6:30 p.m. No meeting in July.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Clerk of Vestry



Exley Community Church has invited the women of St. John's to their annual summer picnic on July 9th at 5:00 p.m. We do not need to bring anything. They just want us to come and enjoy the evening. We do need to let them know how many are planning on attending by July 2nd. So please let me know so I can give them a head count. Lois Bateman.



Vicky and I are reaching out again to anyone (male or female) who might be interested in joining us on the altar guild. It is a very rewarding experience. If you feel that you can't because of lack of knowledge, we will gladly work with you. Also, if you feel because of job obligations, we gladly work around that. So please pray about it and we hope to hear from you. Lois Bateman.

Fellowship Committee...

- ✓ We served a hearty Father's Day Brunch to 27 members of the congregation following our worship service, June 21st. Nobody went away hungry. Thank you everyone for your continued support. Many hands make light work.
- ✓ "Belgian Waffle Sunday" will be on September 13th. Signup sheet will be out on the counter in mid August for sides!! John and Ann are manning the waffle makers.
- ✓ Please don't forget to fill in the blanks on coffee hour sign up. Thank you in advance for your help.

God is Good.
Priscilla

SJC Moms Group

- SJC MOMS group will resume Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, September through May; coinciding with the school year. If you would like to lend a helping hand in person or know a friend or family member that would like to volunteer a total 3.5 hours a month please reach out to me. I am always looking for ideas for presenters 20-30 minutes. The girls like their chatting time without sharing their treats with the toddler hanging on their leg.
- We currently have 12 mothers and some families have two children in childcare. It can be a very busy downstairs some mornings but we manage well. A huge thank you to Pastor Susan, Cindy Harrington, Lucy Kraatz, Lois Bateman, Jerilyn Carney, Janet Hoffman, Jennifer Farwell-Puskas and Carol Nochajski. This may seem like a lot of childcare but we have snowbirds so always looking for subs. You can be a drop in when you have time off like Denise Failla has!!
- Reminder to our volunteer childcare we need to register for the Safe Church Renewal Training. There is in-person training Saturday, July 25th OR Wednesday, July 29th from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lunch is included as part of our day. Please let me know which day is more convenient for you to attend so we can get registered. Thank you in advance. I know Jerilyn and Jennifer are still within their three year time period.

God is Good,
Priscilla Moot



"American 250" parade on Saturday, June 20th at the LEON Festival. St. John's handed out water to those passing by for the parade. We ended up passing out water to many of those marching. It was a lot of fun. We had four bottles of water left reaching almost 100. This was a great outreach to the community!!! Thank you Lois, Jerilyn and Lucy. WE had a fun time. Ms. Anita Pearce and Janet Hoffman were both Celebrate Wilson emeritus members. Lucas and Mason belong to SJC MOMS and rode in a Historical Car with mom and uncle.

God is Good,
Priscilla Moot



SAVE THE DATE !!!



St. John's Episcopal Church

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