

Dates to remember

February Food collection – **Soup & Crackers**

- February 4- 5 Confirmation Class Lock-In at St. Andrew's
February 5 8am – 1pm Confirmation Class Service Project at Community Missions
February 6 Scout Sunday
Souper Sunday – Bring a can of soup for Community Missions
1:30-3 Adult Confirmation/Reception Class
February 10-13 – Judith+ away for Continuing Education
February 13 Valentine's Brunch
February 16 7pm Vestry Meeting
February 20 9am Holy Eucharist at St. John's
3pm Confirmation at St. Andrew's
February 26 10am Confirmation Class Vigil Service
at St. John's
7-9pm Bishop's Ball – Diocesan Ministry Center
February 27 3pm – Confirmation at St. John's

March Food collection – **Pancake Mixes & Syrup**

- March 6 3pm Holy Eucharist in Celebration of Bishop Michael's Ministry, St. Paul's Cathedral
5:30pm Dinner Dance at Salvatore's to celebrate Bishop Michael's ministry
March 7 7pm Deanery Council Meeting – St. Paul's-Lewiston
March 8 4pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 9 **Ash Wednesday**
March 13 First Sunday in Lent – Distribution of Hope Chests
March 24-26 Judith+ away for Continuing Education

Your Priest's Perspective

*Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly . . .
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
You shall cry for help, and he will say,
Here I am
(Isaiah 58.8, 9)*

As we look out at the beautiful-- if bleak--landscape, it's hard to believe that we are slowly growing into spring. Beneath the frozen ground, bulbs and seeds are growing, and buds that we cannot see are preparing to form on the bare branches of our trees. Our new children's garden is covered with snow, but the bird bath is a sign of new and welcoming life.

Our own preparations for spring involve, of course, preparing ourselves for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. In these preparations, we will strengthen our shared relationship with God, deepen our commitment *To love and serve the Lord* in this place, and marvel at the abundance of grace that has brought us together.

One way we are preparing is in getting ready for Bishop Michael's final visit to St. John's on February 27th. We will give a special donation for Our Little Roses Home for Girls in Honduras, a ministry that has been a priority for Bishop Michael and Carol throughout his episcopacy. Four of our young people will be confirmed this year: John Carney III, Aric Freischlag, Brian Kerwin, and Michael Pyskaty. Five adults will be received into the Episcopal Church at St. John's: Jim Alessi, Kevin Brown, Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Barbara Farwell-Kolipinski, and Jeff Pyskaty.

Adults received into the Episcopal Church are eligible to serve in leadership positions in the parish and the diocese (Vestry, Warden, Diocesan Council, Standing Committee), and they have made the commitment that their spiritual journeys can be most meaningful in the prayers, approach to Scripture, and structures of the Episcopal Church. It takes my breath away to witness the passion and confidence that we will celebrate together on February 27th. There is no better way to thank Bishop Michael for his ministry as our chief pastor.

Another way we are preparing is by joining together with our children in the Lenten discipline of contributing to Hope Chests from Episcopal Relief and Development. We will distribute these Hope Chests to everyone in the congregation on March 13--the First Sunday of Lent--with prayers of commitment to be mindful of our prayer partners and struggling brothers and sisters throughout the world; we will gather our filled Hope Chests on April 10-- the last Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a season of being mindful of our relationships with the local community as well as with the global village. Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will benefit Episcopal Community Services, to assist the social service agencies in Western New York communities. Watch for other opportunities to support the ECS campaign during Lent.

It is in our ministry to our communities that we will continue grow.

In this will we be freed from anxiety about the future.

In this will we be reminded that we are not alone,
no matter how personal our struggles.

In this will we celebrate most joyfully the grace of God working in and among us.

In this will we become boldly and humbly what we have promised to be:

the Body of Christ,
a Light to the world.

In thanksgiving and peace,



Vestry Highlights
January 24, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of Vestry was to be held on January 12, 2011; however due to bad weather it was cancelled. The meeting was held on Sunday, January 23, 2011 after the morning service. Warden Denise Failla opened the meeting in the absence of Pastor Judith.

The following items were resolved:

- Deacon's Discretionary Fund: *Question regarding whether or not the Deacon should have a Discretionary account at St. John's or a single account managed at St. Andrew's, whereas St. John's would send a check for \$40/month and any other donations.*
A check will be cut monthly to Deacon Rocky in the amount of \$40 with "Discretionary Fund" in the memo portion of the check.
- St John's will host a reception on February 27th for Bishop Garrison. A cake will be made to incorporate all happenings of the day: Bishop Garrison leaving; Confirmation of Michael, John, Aric, Brian; reception into The Episcopal Church at St. John's, Kevin Brown, Jim Alessi, Jeff Pyskaty, Barbara Farwell-Kolipinski, Jennifer Farwell-Puskas; and First Communion of Daniel Pyskaty.
- Authorization to purchase five new acolyte robes was given.
- Authorization to hire John Carney for lawn care for the summer with advance payment of \$400 was given.
- Approval of new Parish Directory designed by Jennifer Farwell-Puskas was given.
- Office Management Goal for 2011: Jennifer Farwell-Puskas volunteered to take over this function. The following will be addressed in the office: organization of files, develop and maintain database for Parochial Reports, monitor office supplies, produce publicity.
- Approval of the purchase of new Sunday School curriculum was given.

Discussion:

- Green Team: Jeff Pyskaty suggested that the children start to work on recycling envelopes for next year so that we don't have to purchase the offertory envelopes. The Green Team will initiate this project through Sunday School.

GREEN TEAM



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Practice Random Acts of Greenness

Every aspect of our lives is, in a sense, a vote for the kind of world we want to live in."
Frances Moore Lappe

Warden's Corner

" Our Doors Are Always Open"

I really like that statement. It is such a great depiction of what our church represents. The pictorial image with our red doors of the church wide open – says it all without any words spoken.

I think that it is wonderful that we can leave the church open, unlocked for anyone to enter and share in our sacred space. On several occasions when I drive by the church, in the early morning hours, on my way to work, I see that the church and the beautiful stained glass windows are illuminated. Someone is inside utilizing this space, in their own way.

Each one of us reaches out to God in our own manner. Maybe it is quietly in the morning, alone. Maybe it is on Sunday, making a joyful noise. Maybe it is in the car on the way to church, a sporting event or on our way home to be with our families. It is important to remember this.

I have to wonder ... do we open our hearts as freely as we open our church doors? It is important that we let down our shields and open the doors to our hearts - sharing what we have within each and every one of us.

Leo Buscaglia has said, " Too often we under estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Denise Failla

What Is Scout Sunday?

The Boy Scouts of America celebrate annually in the month of February the anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scout program by Lord Baden Powell in England. Scout Sunday was added to the scout celebration around the middle 1940s. Scouting's anniversary is celebrated on February 8. Scout Sunday is always the Sunday preceding the 8th, unless the 8th is a Sunday, in which case the 8th would be Scout Sunday. The Saturday following February 8th is Scout Sabbath.

Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in church aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out parts of what is pledged each week.

The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.

The Scouting program is more than just an activity for our youth to learn about the outdoors. Scouting provides fun, fellowship, and training to our youth as well as to youth in our community. It emphasizes honesty, self-reliance, and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship, and personal fitness.

The success of our Scouting depends on our volunteers, who serve in a variety of leadership roles so that our young people may benefit from our Scouting ministry.

As the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its anniversary, we salute the splendid volunteers who serve as Cubmasters, Den Mothers, and Scoutmasters which are all positions of leadership. Many volunteers give their time so Scouting's members will be involved in a quality program. Merit badge counselors help Scouts learn more about vocations and hobbies. Volunteers see that the Scout camps of the Iroquois Council have the necessary physical facilities and that all camp activities meet the high health and safety standards of the national organization.

Volunteers serve behind the scenes on committees so that community organizations using the Scouting program can find the best leadership possible for the youth related to their organizations. Volunteers, too, provide training for these leaders and offer a continuing service to every Cub Scout pack and Boy Scout troop.

St. John's Episcopal Church
Town Meeting
Sunday, January 23, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Warden Denise Failla ran the meeting in the absence of Pastor Judith. The members of Vestry were introduced to the congregation.

The Goals for 2011 were outlined as follows:

1. Office Management:
 - Organize paper files
 - Develop and maintain a database for Parochial Report records
 - Monitor office supplies
 - Produce publicity
2. Hospitality
3. Change to energy-efficient light bulbs in the Parish Hall
4. Year-round Stewardship education
5. Increase children's participation in worship
6. Build a \$3,000 cushion in the Operating Budget
7. Pay Priest's pension quarterly

Holy Week Discussion: Hopefully there will be no snow this year and everyone is hoping for good weather. It was suggested that a service on Thursday morning at St. John's along with the stripping of the altar might be a good idea. It was asked if the Deacon can strip the altar. If so, can it be shared between Deacon Rocky and Judith?

Ash Wednesday: The service should be at St. John's this year in the evening. Lois Carter suggested possibly having a Taizé Service on Monday or Tuesday of Holy Week.

Bishop Garrison's Visit on February 27th: The service will be held at St. John's at 3:00 p.m. For the reception a cake will be ordered. Robyn Krueger offered to contact Harry and Kelly Sam to make the cake (half/half). A gift for the Bishop was discussed and it was decided that a gift to Little Roses would be appropriate.

Snack Pack Program: This program has been put on the back burner while the Wilson School District works out details regarding confidentiality and liability.

Pantry Supplies: Marcia Sabey usually does this but in her absence Denise Failla went to Dollar General for supplies last week. The list in the kitchen should be maintained so if anyone sees that we need something please add to the list. It was agreed that one person should be in charge of the supplies.

Office Supplies: Jennifer Farwell-Puskas offered to take care of this. No one could think of anyone that was in charge of this function in the past.

Altar Flowers: In Marcia Sabey's absence, Gail Freischlag will be taking care of the flowers on the altar through March 6th. If anyone would like to place flowers in memory of someone please let Gail know in advance.

Valentine's Brunch: Sharon Rhodes will be the chairperson this year.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner: Denise Failla will be in charge this year.

Offering Counters: The doors to the office will be closed during this time to keep the congregation from interrupting the counting of the monies collected. This is to avoid mistakes.

Parish Directory: A new parish directory was passed around and changes were made if needed. Everyone thought it was a good design.

Flower or Gift Donation Forms: Denise Failla made up a form that will be placed in the back of church for everyone's use.

Warden Denise Failla thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Clerk of Vestry

A Choice To Make

I believe that, at least to some degree, we can each exercise control over our outlook and attitudes. And the problem is - if we don't control our attitudes, they will surely control us.

One farmer took charge of his outlook. He did it by filling his mind with awe and gratitude. He found that doing this gave him more energy to work on problems and to tackle those things that needed his attention. His neighbor's outlook could not have been more different.

One summer morning he exclaimed, "Look at the beautiful sky. Did you ever see such a glorious sunrise?"

She countered. "It'll probably get so hot the crops will scorch."

During an afternoon shower, he commented, "Isn't this wonderful? Mother Nature is giving the corn a drink today."

"And if it doesn't stop before too long," came the sour reply, "we'll wish we'd taken out flood insurance on the crops." And so it went.

Convinced that he could instill some awe and wonder in this hardened woman, he bought a remarkable dog. Not just any mutt, but the most expensive, highly trained and gifted dog he could find. The animal was exquisite. It could perform remarkable and impossible feats that, the farmer thought, would surely amaze even his neighbor. So he invited her to watch his dog perform.

"Fetch!" he commanded, as he tossed a stick into a lake, where it bobbed up and down in the rippling water. The dog bounded after the stick, walked ON the water, and retrieved it. "What do you think of that?" he smirked.

Her brow wrinkled. "Hmmm. Can't swim, can he?"

Not to sound too Pollyanna, but I agree with newscaster Paul Harvey when he said that he has never seen a monument erected for a pessimist. A stubbornly positive attitude can often make the difference between happiness and misery, between health and illness and even between life and death.

Viktor Frankl would have agreed. Dr. Frankl chronicled his experiences as a Holocaust and concentration camp survivor in his book *MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING*. In it he asserts something really quite remarkable. He says that everything can be taken from a person except one thing. What can never be taken away is the power to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances.

We can decide to choose our attitudes every day. That may be one of the most important decisions we will make. I don't want to neglect making that choice.

-- Steve Goodier

Reader Schedule

Service Date	Lector	Prayers of the People	Lay Reader	Chalice	Crucifer	C 1 st Acolyte	2 nd Acolyte	
February 6 Epiphany 5	Allison Carter	Robyn Krueger	Sharon Rhodes	Robin Schulmeister	ALL ACOLYTES	ALL ACOLYTES		
February 13 Epiphany 6	Jacquie Rodgers	Gail Freischlag	Allison Carter	Mike Kerwin			Jared Alle	Kevin
February 20 Epiphany 7	Janet Hoffman	Jacquie Rodgers	Keith Rhodes	Sharon Rhodes			Johnnie	Matthew Courtney
February 27 Epiphany 8	Justin Naylor	Sharon Rhodes	Jacquie Rodgers	Keith Rhodes	Kyle	Jared Daniel	3:00pm Confirmation	
March 6 Last Epiphany	NICK Fallis	Allison Carter	Janet Hoffman	Gail Freischlag	Johnnie	Michael Courtney	Matthew	
March 9 Ash Wednesday								
March 13 Lent 1	Allison Carter	Robyn Krueger	Sharon Rhodes	Robin Schulmeister	ALL ACOLYTES	ALL ACOLYTES		
March 20 Lent 2	Robyn Krueger	Jacquie Rodgers	Janet Hoffman	Mike Kerwin			Jared Daniel	Kyle
March 27 Lent 3	Justin Naylor	Gail Freischlag	Jacquie Rodgers	Keith Rhodes			Brian	Michael Alle

Lessons

Date	First Lesson	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
February 6 5 Epiphany	Isaiah 58:1-12	112:1-9	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	Matthew 5:13-20
February 13 6 Epiphany	Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20	119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
February 20 7 Epiphany	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18	119:33-40	1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23	Matthew 5:38-48
February 27 8 Epiphany	Isaiah 49:8-16a	131	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Matthew 6:24-34
March 6 Last Epiphany	Exodus 24:12-18	99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
March 9 Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58:1-12	103	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
March 13 1 Lent	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
March 20 2 Lent	Genesis 12:1-4	121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
March 27 3 Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42

Altar Schedule

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE	COLOR	MEMBER
Feb 6	5 th Sunday after Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Jean Reid
Feb 10	Anointing and Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	Jean Reid
Feb 13	6 th Sunday after Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Lois Bateman
Feb 17	Anointing and Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	Lois Bateman
Feb 20	7 th Sunday after Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Allison Carter
Feb 24	Anointing and Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Red	Allison Carter
Feb 27	8 th Sunday after Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Gail Freischlag
Mar 3	Anointing and Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	Gail Freischlag
Mar 6	Last Sunday after Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Millie High
Mar 9	ASH WEDNESDAY		Eucharist	Purple	Millie High
Mar 10	Anointing and Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Millie High
Mar 13	1 st Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Jean Reid
Mar 17	Anointing and Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Jean Reid
Mar 20	2 nd Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Lois Bateman
Mar 24	Anointing and Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Lois Bateman
Mar 27	3 rd Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Allison Carter
Mar 31	Anointing and Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Allison Carter