

Your Priest's Perspective

Be still, and know that I am God. [Psalm 46.10]

In a volume of story meditations titled *Taking Flight* Anthony De Mello tells the story of an old man who would sit very still in church for hours at a time. One day the priest asked him what God talked to him about. God doesn't talk. He just listens, the old man replied

What do you talk to him about?' asked the priest.

I don't talk either, said the old man. I just listen.

It's helpful to keep this story in mind during these busy months of Applefest, Chicken and Biscuit Election Day Dinner, friends returning to Florida and families gathering—or scattering—for the holidays. This is the season of Harvest and Thanksgiving. During this season we gather the fruits of our hopes and we plant the bulbs of our deepest dreams.

We have much to hope for at St. John's. In the challenges of this year, we have discovered our shared ingenuity and grace-filled fellowship in working together on our building. Lee Sabey and Norm Kopek and crawled behind walls and climbed up the bell tower; they have repaired, sanded, and painted. Gil Thompson, Linda Miller, and Marcia Sabey have cleaned, painted our shed, and tended to our garden. Sharon Rhodes, Jacquie Rodgers, Janet Hoffman, and Gloria Bryant have spent hours organizing the raffle for the swing that Linda Miller has built to benefit our building fund and the concessions and basket raffle for the horse performance sponsored by the Lyon family. The perfect balance of the challenges and gifts of this year together was unmistakable on the beautiful sunny afternoon of September 19th, at the first annual performance of the *Drifting Meadows Dancing Horses: An American Gala*. People of all ages from through Niagara County, Buffalo, and Amherst gathered for a new experience; we laughed and clapped, ate and talked; we made new friends and imagined new possibilities.

But we will bring forth the fruits of the grace with which God has blessed St. John's only if we find some moments of quiet in the midst of these busy days, if we give ourselves permission to pause in our work. God will continue to ask much of us, and we must not get distracted by our fears or burdens. God will not *tell* us what we are called to become, nor can we tell God what we want. Such truths are beyond words, and can be heard only in shared silence. In the words I keep on my desk at home:

*Behold God,
beholding you,
and smiling.*

Judith+

Dates to remember

October Food collection -

October 2 – 9-4 - Rummage Sale

October 3 – 9-12 - Rummage Sale

October 4 – 2pm - Blessing of Animals

October 14 – 6:30pm Vestry

October 15 – Applefest setup

October 18 – 11-3 - Applefest

October 24 –pm – Halloween Party, Lyon's, Daniels Rd

November Food collection – **Food for Holiday meal**

November 1 – 4pm - Choral Festival 1st English Lutheran Church, Lockport

November 3 – 4pm - Election Day Chicken 'n Biscuit

November 11 – Christmas Shoebox Project

November 11 - **Pious Press Deadline**

November 11 – 6:30pm Vestry

November 14 – St Andrew's Bazaar

November 26 – 10am – Thanksgiving Eucharist

December 6 – Annual Meeting

We are updating our mailing list and need to know if everyone is still interested in receiving our newsletter. If not, please contact us by email

stjohnswilson@juno.com or by mail. Thanks! Communications Committee

**Included at the request of the Standing Committee,
September 18, 2009:**

As the search committee continues its work and prepares to release our diocesan profile, it is also time to think about the next part of our process-the creation of the Transition Committee. Led by the Very Rev. Deliza Spangler, the Transition Committee is charged with presenting the final nominees to the diocese, planning the electing convention and both the consecration of our next bishop and the farewell to our current bishop.

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the 171st Convention of the Diocese of Western New York, the Transition Committee shall consist of one clergy member and one lay member from each deanery. Those persons shall be elected during the 172nd Convention of the Diocese of Western New York during caucuses on Saturday, October 31. In order to prepare for these elections, deans are asked to remind prospective candidates of the qualifications for the Transition Committee adopted at convention:

- Persons of spiritual and emotional maturity, open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit;
- Persons who are able and willing to commit the required time and energy to be active and contributing members of the committee;
- Persons who have a track record as team players, able to cooperate and collaborate effectively;
- Persons who reflect the age, gender, ethnic and racial diversity within this diocese and who are sensitive to the diversity of liturgical and theological viewpoints in this diocese;
- Persons who can understand and reflect the concerns of the diversity of congregations in this diocese: large and small, urban, suburban and rural;
- Persons who have the gift of hospitality and skill in organizing and planning events and liturgies.
- We hope that there will be some conversation about this process at the preconvention meetings to be held in each deanery prior to convention.

We understand this to be a critically important ministry at a critically important time in our diocese and we ask the members of the diocese to prayerfully and carefully consider their choices as we move forward toward the election and consecration of our next bishop. Prospective candidates should also be prepared to attend a retreat scheduled for November 13-14 at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora.

Eric Williams for the Standing Committee



International Day of Climate Action

If your congregation has identified environmental stewardship as an important cause you wish to support, perhaps you'll want to bring attention to the climate action cause by ringing your church bell 350 times on October 24 or come up with some other cool and creative way to lend your voice of support and action. Visit <http://www.350.org/invitation> to learn more!



Ephphatha Church of the Deaf on the Move

St. Peter's, Eggertsville officially welcomes Ephphatha Church of the Deaf to its worshipping community effective Sunday, August 30th. After a period of prayerful discernment, Ephphatha elected to move to St. Peter's and join together in worshipping each Sunday at the 10 am service, which will be interpreted by our Diocesan Deaf Missioner, Sarah Hardy. Ephphatha will continue to have its own Vestry and Treasurer and remain a separate mission of the Diocese. Barbara Price will be their Vicar. Please keep Ephphatha and St. Peter's in your prayers through this happy transition. May we all 'be open' (Ephphatha) to the changes the Holy Spirit brings to our lives.

Liturgy and the flu: We will continue our usual practice in sharing the Peace and in sharing Holy Communion. If you are uncomfortable shaking hands during the Peace, just nod in acknowledgement of someone's greeting in Christ and do not be offended if someone does not want to shake hands with you. The Eucharistic Ministers and I will sanitize our hands before distributing communion, and please allow the Eucharistic Minister to intinct for you; if you prefer not to take the wine, simply cross your arms in front of your chest and bow your head;

Deanery news – As some of you know, I have been appointed Dean of Niagara Deanery. The Dean is the bishop's representative in the deanery; I will support the clergy in their ministries, organize monthly clergy meetings (called the *clericus*), and work with the lay officers to plan Deanery Council meetings. I will also attend a quarterly meeting with the other deans and the bishop.

The **Niagara Deanery Reflection Group** led by Dr. Dan Anger will meet on Sunday October 4, at 4p.m. at St. Andrew's, so that participants can then stay for the performance by *The Lake Effect* men's a capella group at 6 p.m.

As part of the new Sunday School curriculum, our children will be in the service on **October 4th** and **November 1st**.

On **October 4th** we will have special prayers of thanksgiving for our pets. Please bring a photo of your pet for the service.

Vestry Highlights

August 30, 2009

Reports

- ✓ 2008 Audit has been completed
- ✓ Schoolroom repair and renovations:
- ✓ Youngs Waterproofing has assessed our ongoing water damage, and has discovered that in reinforcing the foundation when the basement was excavated, inadequate drainage was provided. Estimate for repair is \$27, 000. Norm Kopeck and Lee Sabey have created a drainage pipe that seems to be eliminating the dampness. Plans for painting the floor will proceed.
- ✓ Drifting Meadows Horse Performance plans for concessions and baskets are in place
- ✓ The Swing Raffle has brought in \$260 as of August 30th.
- ✓ Applefest preparations are on track. Kirsten Rodgers will coordinate this year. Ads for the booklet are coming in.

Resolved

- ✓ to withdraw \$5000 from investment funds to pay outstanding bills for the Acolyte Fund and Church Pension Fund
- ✓ to ask the Finance Committee to review our investments and to advise long-term strategy

Concerns

- ✓ Financial concerns about the future viability of the parish
- ✓ Concern that a few people are trying to do too many things

Vestry Highlights

September 9, 2009

Reports

- ✓ St. Andrew's has contributed \$100 to St. John's Building Fund
- ✓ In November, Pastor Judith will begin a 2-year program for Certification as a Spiritual Director, drawing upon Continuing Education funds that have been in reserve.
- ✓ Preparations for the September 19th Horse performance at Drifting Meadows Farm are on track
- ✓ Preparations for Applefest are on track. The Deanery Youth Group will contribute crafts to be sold
- ✓ The Rummage Sale will be held on October 2nd & 3rd
- ✓ A Parish meeting will be held on Sunday September 20 in preparation for the Covenant Team meeting the next day
- ✓ Niagara Deanery Council – Janet Hoffman has been elected Secretary, and Pastor Judith has been appointed Dean.

Resolved

- ✓ We will begin a Mutual Ministry Review at the Annual Parish meeting in December, with interviews and planning taking place during January and February of 2010
- ✓ We will plan on having a day-long Vestry Retreat in January 2010

Discussion

We discussed the consequences of the possibility that the Wilson Food Pantry may close within the year. We agreed that Wilson should have a Food Pantry, but there was no consensus on what St. John's role might be. We agreed to begin exploring alternative possibilities and locations.

Covenant Team Meeting Highlights

September 21, 2009

- Eric Freischlag has resigned from the Covenant Team; Robyn Krueger is serving in his place
- Both Vestries voted unanimously to renew the covenant, without changes
- Jeff Edmister, our intern, will design an Advent program; it will be a single 2-3 hour program, modeled on a Quiet Day, that will be offered 2 or 3 different times to accommodate different schedules. Stacy, Dorothy, and Lois will work with Jeff and Judith+ to design the program.
- The annual Carol Sing at the Carter's will be held on December 6 – St. Nicholas Day; the adult Christmas Party with Kevin Clark, hosted by a member of St. Andrew's will be on December 11.
- Judith+ will stay at St. John's for the Annual Parish Meeting on December 6; she will not be at St. John's on January 17 because of St. Andrew's Annual Parish Meeting.
- The Operation Christmas Child—Shoebox Project will be held at St. John's on Wednesday November 11, 11-1. We will need monetary donations to cover the costs of the boxes and the shipping.
- We discussed the possibility of having a shared Service of Lessons and Carols in December 2010, perhaps on a Sunday afternoon instead of a morning service of Holy Eucharist.
- St. Andrew's will put a collection basket in the narthex for hygiene items for St. John's to use for their ministry of preparing welcome packets for clients of Community Missions

In Thanksgiving

Thank you to **Todd and Cheri Lyon** for hosting the Dancing Horses performance on September 19 to benefit St. John's. The event was sold out, and the crowd had a wonderful time. We earned almost \$2000. for St. John's. **Thank you** to everyone who donated baskets and desserts, who cooked hot dogs and prepared coffee, who transported chairs and set up tents, who helped with the program. Your hard work brought joy to a lot of people.

Thank you to **St. Andrew's** for a donation of \$100. to our Building Reserve Fund.

Thank you to Kirsten Rodgers for assuming a new role as coordinator for Applefest.

Thank you to Linda Miller for a spectacular swing and a successful raffle to raise money for our Building Reserve Fund.

Thank you to Norm Kopek, Lee Sabey, Marcia Sabey, Gil Thompson, and Linda Miller for a summer of painting, building, and inspired creative repairs.

We have all enjoyed the beautiful flower arrangements on our altar every Sunday. Many thanks to Marcia Sabey for this service. As always, she has done a great job. If anyone is missing a few flowers from your garden, we thank you as well. You may be sure they were appreciated at St John's.

Second Annual Ecumenical Choral Festival

November 1, 2009 4 pm

First English Lutheran Church

St. John's will join St. Andrew's and Combined Choir of singers from the Niagara Deanery and local area churches for joyous afternoon of song to benefit an organization working to end world hunger.

Little Roses Tea

St. John's has been very supportive of the Little Roses Girls Home in Honduras over the last several years. This past February I had the opportunity to visit and be with the girls on their home turf for a month and I am very happy to report that all the goods and monetary donations you give to them and for them is used for that purpose.

The last few years I was involved in getting a group from our churches to attend the annual Tea that we hold here in the Diocese for their benefit. Once again I want to invite one and all, yes, men are welcome too, to come to the Tea to benefit the Little Roses Home. It will be held on November 7th at Trinity Delaware from 1pm usually until 3. There is plenty of food and of course tea. I have 20 tickets for the event to share with St. John's and St. Andrew's.

If we have sufficient folks to attend, we can reserve tables for our group. Invite your friends to join you in this fun afternoon. Besides good food there will be a basket auction which is also fun.

Tickets are \$20 and you can get them from myself or Cindy Harrington at St. Andrew's. We will plan to carpool for those who are timid about driving to the big city of Buffalo. Think about it and let me know of your interest. I guarantee a good time, good food and that you will be supporting a good cause.

Lois Carter

Deanery Youth Group
Join us for a year of fun,
All youth in 6th-12th grade are
friends!



2009-2010
friendship, sharing, and faith!
invited and encouraged to bring

**Sunday September 13th- Game
more!**

St. Paul's, Lewiston 4-6:30 pm

Sunday October 11th- Community Service- Gettin' Crafty

St. Andrew's, Burt 4-6:30pm

Sunday November 8th- Movie Night!

Place- TBA 4-6:30pm

Sunday December 13th- Community Service- Caroling for Seniors

Place- local nursing home 1pm-4pm (tentative)

Sunday January 3rd- Annual Epiphany Gifts For Life collection

**1/2 of the donations will go to the Diocesan Disaster Relief Fund*

Place- Deanery churches during their Sunday service

Sunday January 10th- Annual Un-Birthday Party!

*Bring a \$5 gift to exchange

Place- TBA 4-6:30pm

Night! Guitar Hero, DDR, and

Sunday February 7th- Community Service- Valentine's Cookie-Making Extravaganza!

St. Andrew's, Burt 4-6:30pm

Sunday March 14th- Community Service- UNYTS Blood Drive

Place- TBA Time- TBA

Friday April 9th- Saturday April 10th- Overnight!

St. Andrew's Time- TBA

Saturday May 1st- Community Missions "Feet or Famine" 5K Walk

Whirlpool State Park, Niagara Falls 10:30 am- early afternoon

Sunday June 13th- Annual Picnic and Senior Recognition

Place- TBA 4-6:30pm

If you would like to continue to receive monthly fliers for our meetings and/or want more information please contact your Niagara Deanery Youth Missioner, Sarah Harrington, by e-mail at dancinsarah83@yahoo.com, or phone- 778-7986.



Internet Safety

One way to help insure the security of your computer and the information it contains is by choosing strong passwords. [Fix Your Terrible, Insecure Passwords in Five Minutes](#) is an article that provides a lot of good information and an easy way you can establish passwords that will be easy for you to remember, but hard for hackers to decode. Go to: <http://www.slate.com/id/2223478/?yahoo=y>

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

“Every shoebox offers an opportunity to share the Good News of the Savior with a hurting child.”

Franklin Graham

On **Wednesday**, November 11, 2008, St. Andrew’s and St. John’s children (of all ages... that means adults as well) will come together for the third annual Operation Christmas Child extravaganza. We will prepare and pack up shoebox Christmas gifts and enjoy lunch and fellowship together.

As most of you know, Operation Christmas Child is sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse (www.samaritanaspurse.org). The idea is to create Christmas shoeboxes for children 2- 14 years old to be shipped around the world to needy children. We had a great turnout and a **great** time again last year and we made over 85 boxes all together.

You can be a part of this in many ways:

- You and your family can make up your own box(es) or bring your gifts to St. John’s on November 11 to join with us as we all put our boxes together.
- You can donate monetarily towards gifts. Several of us will go shopping before November 11 to get the gifts we need to stuff the boxes. In addition it costs \$7.00 **to mail one box** so money for shipping expenses will also be needed. In order to have another successful year, we will need to raise **at least \$1000**. Envelopes marked Operation Christmas Child will be available in the pews and the narthex and all checks should be made payable to St. John’s.
- You can donate toys, school supplies, hygiene items and other gifts in the large box that will be in the back of the church beginning on October 25. The Dollar Store is a great source for these items. You can come on November 11 and enjoy fellowship and lunch at 10:00 a.m. at St. John’s where we will pool our resources and put the boxes together to be shipped the following week.

Here are some gift ideas suggested by Samaritan’s Purse:

TOYS – small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yo’s, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise, Slinky, etc (make sure you include extra batteries if the toy requires them)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES- pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pads, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books

HYGIENE ITEMS – toothbrush, toothpaste, bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth

OTHER – hard candy or suckers (double bagged), mints, gum, t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights

We will also need Christmas wrapping paper, scotch tape, shoeboxes (regular sized), small zip-lock bags and large rubber bands for wrapping the boxes.

Things not to include: used or damaged items, war-related items, chocolate, food, liquids, lotions, medications, vitamins, breakable items, aerosol cans.

A sign-up sheet will be in both parishes so we can get a head count for lunch. Don’t miss this great day for you and your kids!!!

Prayers for the Search for the 11th Bishop of WNY

Congregations wishing to add a prayer for the search for the next Bishop of WNY to their liturgies may wish to use either of the following:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift,
look graciously upon your church
and so guide the minds of those
who shall choose a bishop for this diocese,
and those who offer themselves as candidates,
that we may receive a faithful pastor
who will care for your people
and equip us for our ministries. *Amen.*

Gracious God,
source of all wisdom and goodness:
Together as one diocese,
we recommit ourselves to its ministry,
its future, and the vision of what we may become.
As we search for our next bishop,
we give thanks for the ministry
of our Bishop Michael, our chief pastor.

We ask you to summon our dreams and our courage.
We pray for realism in our discernment
that we may ask nothing more of our next Bishop
than we are willing to do ourselves.
we pray for the ability to listen to one another
and to your voice in our midst.

Ground us in common love and spirit.
Ignite us with a passion for the ministry
you have called us to do
and set our hearts on fire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Date	Day	Time	Service	Color	Member
October 1	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	M. High
October 4	18 th Sunday After Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	J. Reid
October 8	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	J. Reid
October 11	19 th Sunday After Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	M. Sabey
October 15	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	M. Sabey
October 18	20 th Sunday After Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	L. Bateman
October 22	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	L. Bateman
October 25	21 st Sunday After Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	A. Carter
October 29	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Red	A. Carter
November 1	All Saints	9:00am	Eucharist	White	G.Freischlag
November 5	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	G.Freischlag
November 8	23 rd Sunday After Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	M. High
November 12	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	M. High
November 15	24 th Sunday After Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	J. Reid
November 19	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	J. Reid
November 22	Christ The King	9:00am	Eucharist	White	M. Sabey
November 26	Thanksgiving	10:00am			
November 29	1 st Sunday of Advent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	L. Bateman

Service Date	Lector	Prayers of the People	Lay Reader	Chalice	Crucifer	C 1st Acolyte	2nd Acolyte		
October 4 Pentecost 17	Allison Carter	Kirsten Rodgers	Jeff Edminster	Nancy Thompson	All Acolytes	All Acolytes	All Acolytes		
October 11 Pentecost 18	Justin Naylor	Jacque Rodgers	Allison Carter	Jocie Lyon				Kyle Lyon	
October 18 Pentecost 19	Robyn Krueger	Sharon Rhodes	Jacque Rodgers	Jocie Lyon				Matthew Pyskaty	Kyle Lyon
October 25 Pentecost 20	Kirsten Rodgers	Robyn Krueger	Sharon Rhodes	Johnnie Carney				Jared Carney	
November 1 All Saints Day	Jeff Edminster	Allison Carter	Janet Hoffman	Mike Kerwin	All Acolytes				
November 8 Pentecost 22	Janet Hoffman	Kirsten Rodgers	Keith Rhodes	Sharon Rhodes	Nick Failla	Matthew Pyskaty			
November 15 Pentecost 23	Justin Naylor	Jacque Rodgers	Allison Carter	Jeff Edminster	Johnnie Carney/ Brian Kerwin	Jared Carney			
November 22 Pentecost 24	Allison Carter	Sharon Rhodes	Jacque Rodgers	Robin Schulmeister	Jocie Lyon	Kyle Lyon	Matthew Pyskaty		
November 26 Thanksgiving									
November 29 Advent 1	Jacque Rodgers	Robyn Krueger	Jeff Edminster	Gail Freischlag	Jocie Lyon	Michael Pyskaty	Jared Carney		