

Pious Press

St. John's Episcopal Church



"Our doors are always open."

December 2011 – January 2012



Thanksgiving Day Service

We will have a service of Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Pastor John Loeser of Exley Methodist Church will be our preacher. We hope that this joint service will be a new tradition for our two congregations.

Dates To Remember

Community Missions – Non-Perishables for Holiday meals

December 1 11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Deanery Clergy meeting

December 3 2-4 p.m. Christmas Pageant Practice at St. Andrew's

December 4 Annual Parish Meeting

December 7 6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting

December 11 9 a.m. service @ St John's

10:30 a.m. – Service of Advent Lessons & Carols w/Christmas

Pageant

December 18 Greening of the Church & Cookie Exchange

December 24 Christmas Eve

5:40 p.m. Carols and Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew's

10:40 p.m. Carols and Holy Eucharist at St. John's

December 25 10a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. John's

=====

Community Missions – Pasta, Sauce & Mac 'n Cheese

January 5 6 p.m. Deanery Clergy meeting

January 18 6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting

January 22 Parish Town Meeting following service

January 23 7 p.m. Covenant Team meeting @ St Andrew's

Your Priest's Perspective

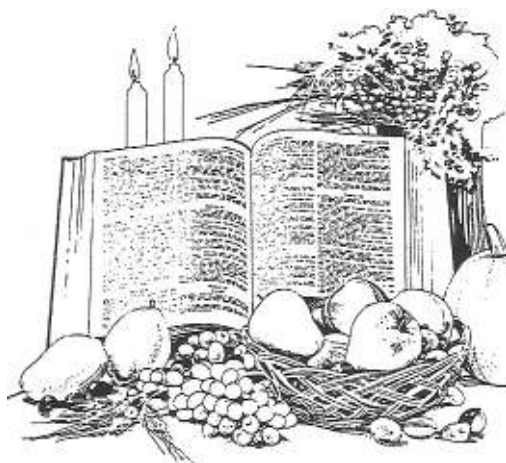
I want to use my "perspective" this month to call attention to a new venture in our partnership with Community Missions.

Community Missions will be releasing its *Joy 2011* CD on November 24th. *Joy 2011* includes songs from performers from throughout Niagara County. The Mission produces the CD each year to raise awareness and funds to help support their Crisis Housing, Community Kitchen, Food Pantry, Mental Health and Youth Services. Community Mission provides services to families and individuals from throughout Niagara County.

This year we have a special connection to this CD. The Combined St. Andrew's and St. John's Episcopal Choir contributed to this year's CD with performances of "When Will the Little King Come" and "My Heart, Your Bethlehem." These are two wonderful anthems that the choir performed during last Christmas, and in October of this year the choir recorded these songs specifically for Community Missions.

Joy 2011 will be available for sale at St. John's and St. Andrew's beginning Sunday, November 27th and it will also be available for sale at the Fashion Outlets Mall in Niagara Falls, on December 2nd-4th. It can be ordered online and is available for download through the Missions' website (www.communitymissions.org). *Joy 2011*, as well as the several CDs that Community Missions has produced in the past, make wonderful inexpensive Christmas gifts. But best of all, when you give them as gifts, you are truly doing the work of Christ by helping the poor, marginalized and oppressed. For more information visit Community Missions on line at www.communitymissions.org or you can contact the Mission at 716-285-3403, ext. 2259.

We encourage the St. Andrew's and St. John's communities show their appreciation for the contribution the Combined Choir made to *Joy 2011* to support the work of Community Missions.



Deacon's View

We are entering the season of Advent, a time for reflection and anticipation as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. At Thanksgiving, we gather and offer our thanks to God for all the blessings we have received. We have all meditated on what God-given gifts and skills we have and how we all must be stewards of those gifts.

We will be helping families this Christmas with gifts of needed clothing and toys for the children to brighten their day, and a holiday meal that they might not have had that reminds them that God loves them.

I look forward to attending the Christmas party at Collins Correctional on Friday evening December 23rd with all the inmates who have attended one of the Christian retreat weekends. The joy that is in their hearts as they await the gift of the Christ Child is one of my best Christmas presents.

I wish for all of you a Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

Blessings,
Deacon Rocky

Vestry Highlights

November 16, 2011

Resolved

- ✓ To allocate 30% of Applefest funds to community outreach
- ✓ To designate the Lighthouse proceeds to the Building Fund Account
- ✓ To schedule an assessment by National Grid for energy use in order to evaluate their proposal for energy efficiency plans. National Grid will pay up to 70% of the costs associated with suggested renovations.
- ✓ To participate in the network of diocesan congregations who are implementing an evangelism project proposed by the United Methodist Church. Denise Failla will be the contact person for this project, and the new Vestry will make plans for implementation.
- ✓ To use Memorial Funds to purchase 2 new snuffers and a new Altar Book.

Discussion

- ✓ Denise Failla announced the 2012 slate of candidates for Wardens and Vestry:
 - Warden – 2-year term: Jacquie Rodgers
 - Warden – 1-year term: Robyn Krueger
 - Vestry – 3-year terms: Jim Alessi & Lois Carter
 - Vestry – 1-year term: Robin Schulmeister
 - Vestry – 2-year term: Jennifer Farwell-Puskas
- ✓ We will schedule a Vestry Retreat early in 2012 to initiate a Mutual Ministry Review and set our goals for the year
- ✓ Our Giving Tree will be in the Parish Hall from November 20-December 18 to benefit a local family.
- ✓ Lois Carter has volunteered to be parish coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development

Christmas Giving Tree...

St. John's Vestry has decided to adopt a local family for the holiday season. A tree will be put up in the Parish Hall filled with homemade ornaments with a label on the back. The label will have the information that is needed for each family member along with a food item for their Christmas dinner. The ornament is yours to keep as a reminder of how you have helped make this Christmas season special for someone in need. Many thanks to Barbara Farwell-Kolipinski and Jennifer Farwell-Puskas for donating the ornaments for our tree.

The tree will be available from Sunday, November 20th through Sunday, December 18th. Please bring your items back to church, unwrapped and place them under the tree. Once all items have been collected we will distribute them to the family for the holiday. Hopefully this will be a Christmas holiday that this family will never forget, thanks to all of you!



You may also contribute money to purchase last minute perishable food items by making a check payable to St. John's with "Giving Tree" on the memo line. If you have any questions please contact one of us. Thank you and God Bless!

Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Sharon Rhodes & Diane Dworak

Warden's Reflections ~

We must become the change we want to see. --*Mahatma Gandhi*

Advent is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Since the 900s Advent has been considered the beginning of the Church year. Advent is about change.

The Good News is that God loves us with an exceedingly great love! That never changes! What does change? We change! At times enthusiastic, at times indifferent or even opposed to God's plan. We can change! We need to change! That's what Advent is all about.

The beginning of the Church year is a time for us to think about St. John's - to look back and reflect on how we have grown as a congregation, as well as to ponder what may be in the future for us. It is a time for new beginnings. - A time for different perspectives and new ideas - as we welcome a new senior and junior Warden and 3 new Vestry members. It is a time for new hopes for St. John's.

If I have the belief that I can do it, I will surely acquire the capacity to do it, even if I may not have it at the beginning. - *Mahatma Gandhi*

I would like to end this by saying thank you very much for allowing me to be your Warden. It has truly been a very rewarding experience.

Denise Failla

Dinner for Eight at Van Horn Mansion

Benefit for Our Little Roses

Tickets: \$5.00 Each

Contact Lois Carter or Diane Dworak for tickets.

Drawing will be held on January 8, 2012

You will arrive at your "home" for the evening at 6 p.m. Your butler welcomes you home with your guests. Your first floor maid greets you and escorts everyone to the parlor, where your chef, Joanne, has prepared scrumptious hors d'oeuvres to delight your taste buds. Guests will be able to tour this home that has been restored to its former grandeur, while a delectable dinner is being prepared. Your seven-course dinner will be served in the elegant dining room at 7 p.m., using the best china, crystal and silver.

A note from Lois:

You know you only need one to win. The last meal like this was done for the Acolyte

Festival fundraiser and Fr. Jack Marshall bought only one ticket and wouldn't you know, HE WON!! Soooooo it just goes to show you. Your money goes for the girls at Our Little Roses as Joanne Stanton is donating the meal for eight. You have a year to set this up with her and choose your menu. Good luck and thanks for your support.

A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ

and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a little town,

and whose Spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room,

and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the One whom the rulers of the world ignored and the proud could never understand;

whose life was among common people,

whose welcome came from persons with hungry hearts.

I believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms,

whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth,

who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them,

who by love brought sinners back to purity,

and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my everlasting need of God:

The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed,

the need of new life for empty souls,

the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

I believe in Jesus, the Son of the living God,

born in Bethlehem this night,

for me and for the world.

Anonymous

Annual Parish Meeting – Sunday December 4

At this meeting we will elect new Wardens, Vestry members, and Delegates to Deanery Council & Diocesan Convention. We will hear reports for our ministries during the past year, and we will set our goals for 2012. This is the time for us to come together to remind one another of the blessings and responsibilities that come with being called to be the Body of Christ in this region.



Lessons and Carols:

This year's Lessons & Carols will take place at St. Andrew's on Sunday December 11th. We are asking that the families with participating children arrive at St. Andrews by 9:30 a.m. Rehearsal will be held on Saturday December 3rd, from 2-4 p.m.. The snow date for rehearsal will be Saturday December 10th, also from 2-4 p.m. Sarah Harrington and I look forward to working with your children this year. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. ~Kirsten Rodgers



January 8 - Epiphany

We will observe the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, January 8. On this Sunday, we remember the visit of the Magi, which signified the revelation to the world that Jesus was the Messiah. Epiphany marks the end of Christmastide, so please plan to help take down decorations from the church after the service.

Thanksgivings

We give thanks especially this year for the generosity and joy with which St. John's parish family has come together to serve the community for our annual fall events:

- ❖ To **Kirsten Rodgers** for coordinating Applefest this year, to Sharon Rhodes for assisting and mentoring her, and to everyone who baked, sewed, knitted, crafted, carved, cooked, gathered, served, decorated, and tidied up for a very successful day.
- ❖ To **Sharon Rhodes** for organizing our extraordinarily successful Chicken and Biscuit Dinner on November 8th, to **Jennifer Farwell-Puskas** and **Barb Farwell-Kolipinski** for the lovely table decorations, and to everyone who peeled potatoes & chopped apples, rolled dough, cooked & baked, set tables & washed dishes, served and welcomed our guests so graciously and joyfully.
- ❖ To **Jean Reid, Millie High**, and everyone who contributed to a very successful Rummage Sale this year. A lot of work goes into collecting, sorting, arranging, and gathering the clothing and other gifts that are offered for the sale, and our community relies on us for this event.
- ❖ To **Jennifer Farwell-Puskas** and **Jim Puskas** and to everyone who baked, prepared, and served our delicious and successful Pulled Pork dinner in September. This has become a new St. John's tradition!

- ❖ To **Wendy Brown** for organizing our Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox project this year and to Nicole Alessi who helped with shopping and setting up. St. John’s contributed over 60 boxes to this project, and joined together with St. Andrew’s to send over 90 boxes – a big increase over past years.
- ❖ To **Marcia Sabey** for the beauty she contributes to our altar every week. These arrangements are possible only because Marcia spends many hours picking and arranging whatever she can find in the gardens or even in the ditches! She has always done a wonderful job.
- ❖ To **Jim Alessi** for making the arrangements for our driveway and parking lot to be made smooth with new stones.

Retirements

At our annual meeting we will give special recognition to two members of our parish family who have served St. John’s faithfully for so many years in key roles. **Lois Bateman** has decided to retire as Treasurer as of December 31st and **Gloria Bryant** has decided that this will be the last issue of *Pious Press* that she will oversee. **Millie High & Jean Reid** are also retiring from Pious Press duties. We are so grateful to Lois and to Gloria, Millie, and Jean, who have done an immeasurable amount of invisible work in these ministries. **Wendy Brown** will begin duties as Treasurer on January 1st, and we will announce new plans for the Pious Press with our February-March issue.



Winter Coat/Boot Project :

This year St John's provided 19 coats & 3 pairs of boots to children in the Wilson Central School District. This was possible through generous donations from our parishioners. It was greatly appreciated by all. We obtained the coats from Park Ave Coat Company & they gave us 19 scarves also. They were so helpful working with us again. Again, thank you to all for your commitment to our community outreach projects.

Lois & Tom Bateman

Outreach - Community Missions



This is just a reminder that it is time again to fill the Toy Box at the Mission. As many of you already know, small unwrapped toys are needed for this purpose. Children who come for refuge are allowed to choose one toy; they often have nothing when they arrive. Soft toys as well as toys for older children are needed. Please put the toys into the basket at the back of the church before December 11. They will be taken to Niagara Falls that week.



Financial Report ending September 30, 2011

Total Income: \$4,549.66

Total Expenses: \$4,885.78

Difference: \$-336.12

The Shoebox Project: Operation Christmas Child

Nicole Alessi and I were able to go shopping and purchase a carload of items for the shoebox project. We are happy to announce that we were able to prepare over 90 boxes between St. John's and St. Andrew's. The boxes were taken to the drop off church in Pendleton the week of November 14th. Thanks to everyone for their help packing and wrapping and for your generous donations for mailing and items for the boxes. Thank you to the people who took boxes home and prepared them. They were all so nice. I know the method was a bit different this year, but it all turned out to be a great success. These boxes will spread a message of joy and love throughout the world during the Christmas Season. Thanks again to all for making this a successful project.

~ Wendy Brown



Church School:

For grades pre-K-5: The children helped with the shoebox project by making cards for the boxes and helped pack them on Sunday November 6th. Their help and cards were a huge part of making our shoebox project the success it was. Thanks to all the children for the help. We will be working on our lessons, as well as preparing for the Christmas Pageant on December 11th in the coming weeks.

~Wendy Brown & Kirsten Rodgers

Report on Applefest:

Apple Fest 2011 was another great success! Thank you to everyone who helped out this year; your contributions were greatly appreciated and helped us to have a wonderful and successful event overall. It is always inspiring to see everyone come together each year, and I cannot thank you all enough. The baked goods table was full of wonderful goodies, the crafts and gifts tables had beautiful items, the food from the kitchen was delicious as always; we had lots of fresh produce outside, and the basket raffle was a success as usual. The Lighthouse raffle was also a great success this year. Once again, I would like to thank you all for your efforts, contributions, and hard work.

~Kirsten Rodgers

Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls have been very meaningful gifts to the families and friends of St. John's. Your generous artistry has brought comfort and inspiration to everyone who has received them. We don't have any prayer shawls in reserve at this time. Please consider knitting or crocheting a shawl, perhaps as part of your Advent spiritual reflection, perhaps as a way to begin the new year. Please speak with Pastor Judith if you would like to learn more about this project.

Discretionary Funds

Your Priest's Discretionary Fund and your Deacon's Discretionary Fund are used to help families who are going through a hard time. Through your generosity, we pay heat & electric bills, rent, and grocery expenses. During the holiday season and the winter months we receive more requests than usual. Please speak with Pastor Judith and Deacon Rocky if you know of anyone who could use some extra support, or if you yourself need a helping hand. If you are able to contribute to these funds, please write a check to St. Andrew's with "Priest's Discretionary Fund" or "Deacon's Discretionary Fund" on the memo line.

From the Bench

Christmas is a time for music! Singing sweetly o'er most anything we do during the season. Come on, admit it, you find yourself humming along at Big Lots or the grocery, almost everywhere you go during this season. By the time Christmas comes we are worn out with the carols and cry "Enough already!" So I would like to share with you a poem by Robert Herrick that might help keep Christmas music special.

What Sweeter Music Can We Bring

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly king
Awake the voice! Awake the string
Dark and dull night fly hence away,
And give the honor of this day
That sees December turned to May.

If we may ask the reason, say
The why and wherfore all things here
Seem like the Springtime of the year
Why does the chilling Winter's morn
Smile like a field beset with corn
We see him come and know him ours,
Who with his sunshine and his showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The Darling of the world is come
And fit it is we find a room
To welcome him , the nobler part
Of all the house here is the heart
Which we will give Him and bequeath
This holly and this ivy wreath
To do him honour who's our King
And Lord of all this reveling.

Lois Carter

Covenant Team

The Covenant Team meets quarterly and makes recommendations to the Vestries for decisions involving parish life and financial obligations. Their faithful, thoughtful, and creative work together is responsible for the remarkable success of our Covenant relationship as we begin our sixth year together. The Team includes wardens and four other members from each parish. Currently, St. John's representatives are Robyn Krueger, Janet Hoffman, Millie High, and Lois Carter. Terms are open-ended; members serve for as long as they wish. Please talk with Pastor Judith if you are interested in serving on the Covenant Team.

Vestry Highlights

October 19, 2011

The Focus of this meeting was developing the budget to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on December 4, 2011.

Resolved

- ✓ To have an account at Budwey's with the following persons authorized to sign: Pastor Judith, Sharon Rhodes, Jerilyn Carney and Lois Bateman.
- ✓ To contribute the "extra mile" in our Fair Share to the diocese

Discussion

- ✓ To designate Applefest funds and Lighthouse income at our November meeting, when we have a better financial overview for the year.
- ✓ Jennifer Farwell-Puskas, Barb Farwell-Kolipinski, and Sharon Rhodes will work with Diane Dworak to coordinate Christmas gifts for a family referred to St. John's by NIACAP.
- ✓ We commended Jared Carney and Michael Pyskaty for their work at the Applefest Basket Raffle.
- ✓ We emphasized the importance of making sure that everyone is invited to participate in Applefest and other parish events.
- ✓ We will donate winter coats, hats, and mittens to children referred to us by the Wilson Schools.
- ✓ The Phone Tree has been established.



December 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>BY THE LIGHT OF YOUR COMING, O LORD, EMPOWER ME TO TRUST IN YOU WITH FIRM FAITH AND TO SEEK TO DO YOUR WILL. KEEP ME MOVING IN THE DIRECTION YOU WOULD HAVE ME GO.</p>				1 11:00 AM Eucharist	2	3 Fund Raiser for Cat Shelter @ St John's
4 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Annual Meeting PotLuck Meal	5 8:00 PM AA Meeting	6	7 Jim Alessi	8 11:00 AM Eucharist	9	10
11 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Lessons & Carols w/Christmas Pageant @ St Andrew's	12 8:00 PM AA Meeting	13	14	15 11:00 AM Eucharist	16	17
18 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist Greening of Church & Cookie Exchange Ellen Colangelo Tom Sharpe	19 8:00 PM AA Meeting	20	21 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting - St John's	22 11:00 AM Eucharist	23	24 5:40 PM Carols & Eucharist @ St Andrew's 10:40 PM Carols & Eucharist @ St John's Christmas Eve
25 10:00 AM Christmas Eucharist Ken & Janet Hoffman	26 8:00 PM AA Meeting	27 Michael & Sandra Kerwin	28	29 11:00 AM Eucharist	30 Halie Davis	31 New Year's Eve



January 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist New Year's Day The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ	2 8:00 PM AA Meeting	3	4	5 11:00 AM Eucharist	6 Epiphany	7
8 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist Epiphany Sunday	9 8:00 PM AA Meeting	10 Ella Alessi Priscilla Moot	11 Baptism of our Lord	12 11:00 AM Eucharist	13	14 Heather Aiken
15 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	16 8:00 PM AA Meeting	17	18 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting - St John's	19 11:00 AM Eucharist Martin Luther King, Jr.	20 Andrew Attfield Pious Press deadline	21 John Carney, III
22 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist John Aiken Parish "Town Meeting" Taylor High	23 7:00 PM Covenant Team meeting @ St Andrew's 8:00 PM AA Meeting Ben Rhodes	24	25	26 11:00 AM Eucharist Dale Haidvogel	27	28 Jared Carney
29 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	30 8:00 PM AA Meeting	31	SHINE IN MY HEART, O LORD, AND SO ILLUMINATE MY LIFE. LET ME LIVE IN THE WARM GLOW OF YOUR TRUE AND REAL LOVE FOR ME AND RADIATE IT TO THOSE AROUND ME.			

69. Biblical Scrambled Words

Read the clues and unscramble the words
at the left. Then unscramble
the enclosed letters.

TCRIHS Jesus. () _____

HCURHC House of
worship. ____ () _____

DFIERN Buddy. _____ () _____

TLE Allow. () ____

WODSR Remarks. _____ () ____

SRTYO Parable. _____ () ____

VOLE Devotion. _____ () ____

YNOGU Not old. _____ () ____

