

St John's Episcopal Church

431 Lake Street

P O Box 28

Wilson, NY 14172-0028

Office Telephone: 716-751-6109

Priest: ***The Very Rev'd Dr Judith Lee***

Priest's Telephone: 716-633-6941

Priest's Cell Phone: 716-949-8194

Deacon: *The Rev'd Rocky Dworak*

Deacon's Cell Phone: 716-474-9818

Vestry

Wardens

2011 Denise Failla
716-751-9649

2012

Christmas Flowers

You are invited to be a donor for our flowers. Please complete the form below and return it either in the offering plate or via mail to the Church by Sunday, December 12. Checks may be made payable to St John's and marked "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line.

Your generous response will help St John's to maintain this lovely holiday tradition. However, we wish this to be an opportunity for everyone and there is no specified donation amount.

DONOR NAME & PHONE (EMAIL):

Flowers are given in memory of or in Thanksgiving for:

16. Lose The Letters Biblical Puzzle

To discover these important things from the Bible,
cross out the letters from the first
words to read the second.

Cross out B U R N I N G from:

BBUURSNHING

Cross out F I E R Y from:

FFUIRENRAYCE

Cross out N O A H 'S from:

NAORAKHS

Cross out J A C O B 'S from:

JLAACDODBESR

Cross out L O T 'S from:

LWOITFSE

Dates to remember

December Food collection - **Food for Holiday meal**

December 3 – 7pm; Adult Christmas Part hosted by Prudy & Larry Waters, with Kevin Clark at the keyboard. All are welcome—mark your calendars for a night of joyful singing and fellowship.

December 5 – Annual Parish Meeting. We will have elections for a warden (2 years) 2 Vestry positions (3 years) and 3 Deanery Delegates

December 8 – 6:30pm Vestry

December 11 – 9-11am Confirmation Class

December 12 – Greening of the Church & Cookie Exchange

December 19 – 11am –Service of Advent Lessons and Carols at St. Andrew's, followed by a potluck lunch.

December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:40pm – St. John's

10:40pm – St. Andrew's

December 25– 10am – Holy Eucharist for the Nativity of Our Lord

December 27-January 4 – Pastor Judith will be on vacation

January Food collection – **Pasta, Sauce & Macaroni w/Cheese**

January 12 – 6:30pm Vestry

January 17 – 9-11am Confirmation Class

January 21 - Pious Press Deadline

January 30 – Parish Town Meeting

January 31 – 7pm Covenant Team Meeting

Your Priest's Perspective

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.*

One of the things that I enjoy most about winter in Western New York is the creative and extravagant ways that people decorate their homes for Christmas. One of the pleasures of my commute, especially at the end of a long day, is the great variety of bright lights and figures that light the roads between Wilson and Williamsville. During these short weeks between the harvest and the snow the landscape can be quite bleak, and there is a certain bravado in the snowmen, Santas, reindeer, and giant candy canes that beckon me from so many homes along the road

As I see the first lights go up late in November, I wonder how we might decorate our own hearts to be places where Christ might dwell. Our lights are the people who have guided us and reminded us of the best in ourselves. Our ornaments are images of our memories, regrets, plans, and unfinished projects, artifacts of our childhood yearnings and of our children's anticipation.

Going through our things in preparation to decorate requires our complete attention and brings mixed feelings. How many moments do we relive as we go through our dusty boxes, unwrapping delicate ornaments from layers of crushed tissue paper? Broken ornaments take their place beside those that have remained whole, for their cracks and ragged edges are as much a part of our history and our hope as are the smooth and shiny balls on which time has left no mark.

This year, our Advent meditations will focus on the Millennium Development Goals. Each church in the Deanery has chosen one goal, and ours will be the goal of insuring environmental stability in the world. We will read about projects that are being designed to meet this goal and we will take a collection to contribute toward one of these projects. Families from all our congregations will gather at St. Paul's-Lewiston on Sunday, January 9th, at 4pm for an Unbirthday Party organized by the Confirmation students of St. Paul's, St. John's, and St. Andrew's, where we will share the gifts that we offer for various MDG projects.

During this Advent season, we pray for the grace to welcome all the feelings that come to the surface during this time of year, when it's hard to separate memory from anticipation, gratitude from longing. In the Eucharistic Prayer that we will use each Sunday, we will give thanks for the creative Wisdom of God, which has been revealed in Jesus Christ and continues to bring forth new life in us. We will meditate upon the life-giving power of God's love, and we will promise to become light-bearers and God-bearers who will continue to nurture and nourish the seeds of life that are hidden in the darkness. In our Prayers of the People, we will call out to the God who has promised always to always be with us—Emmanuel.

And so let us be as extravagant in decorating our hearts this year as we are in decorating our homes. Let us search for the brightest lights and the most gaudy pieces of our history. Let us bring out the broken pieces, the patched and taped figures of our lives, so that Christ, too, will smile as he enters our hearts yet again, knowing now that *we* know he is here.

Judith+

Senior Companion Program at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's has become a Referral Agency for the Niagara Senior Companion Program sponsored by the Health Association of Niagara County, Inc. (HANCI). Their Parish Nurse, Judi Naylor, will take leadership of the program. She will do assessments, recruit volunteers, and schedule volunteer training and support.

Senior Companions are persons of limited income and aged 60 and over who are trained to serve adults with special needs. Serving approximately fifteen to forty hours per week, they are part of a comprehensive care plan which helps the homebound elderly to continue living independently. They provide supportive respite for families endeavoring to care for the elderly relatives or friends in their homes. They may assist clients with meal preparation, socialization, encouraging personal hygiene, transportation, tidying the home, encouraging exercise, writing cards and letters, listening and talking—being a companion.

This service is available at no cost to clients, and the Senior Companions receive a small hourly stipend (nontaxable), transportation reimbursement, liability insurance while working, paid holidays, and regular training and celebratory recognition. The Volunteer Center at HANCI Senior Companion Program is funded in part by the National Corporation for National and Community Service, the Niagara County Office for the Aging, United Way, and local contributions.

We hope to serve clients and companions in Central Niagara County, especially in the communities of Olcott, Burt, Newfane, Wilson, and Ransomville. Clients referred through St. Andrew's will be matched with a companion much more quickly than if they were assessed by one of the referral agencies in Niagara County because Judi is able to assess and refer directly to HANCI. As her work evolves, we hope that St. John's can partner with her in this ministry.

If you would like to explore being a Senior Companion, or if you would like to talk with Judi or a family member about being a client, please call St. Andrew's (778-7633) or standrewsburt@verizon.net with "Senior Companion" on the subject line.



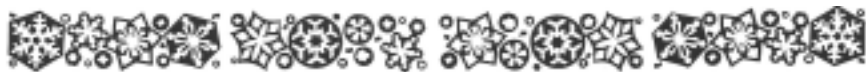
Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2010:

Total Income \$10,349.79

Total Expense \$ 4,475.16

Included in October's income is the Applefest profit of \$4564.61 and a private gift of \$1000.00.

We still have an outstanding payment of \$2250.00 to the pension fund for the year 2010 plus the disbursement of the Applefest funds.



Christmas Cookie Exchange

On December 12th, we will have our annual Christmas cookie exchange for all who care to join in. You need to make six dozen Christmas cookies and put a 1/2 dozen on small plates. You will then be able to return home with a variety of 6 dozen cookies. There will be a signup sheet in parish hall to list your name and kind of cookie you plan on sharing. If you are not sure of the kind, that's okay. So consider getting a jump start on those Christmas cookies and join us on the 12th. If you have any questions you can contact Lois Bateman at 751-6251. Happy Baking!

Report on Little Roses Tea



It was a sunny and pleasant day, that Saturday in early October when just under a hundred men and women came together at St. Paul's Harris Hill for a tea for the Little Roses Home for Girls in Honduras. Physically there were only a few of you there to join in the festivities, but St. John's was well represented in the food. Mary Gamble was there in her recipe for those yummy shortbread cookies she makes, Moira Hill was there in the form of the tastiest scones I have ever had, and Yes, Jan Sporleder was there in another new addition to the tea repertoire, namely the asparagus rolls that we at St. John's are known for.

There were many other items for the menu from other sources too and oh yes, tea of all descriptions. The large room was decorated in fall colors with a fall centerpiece on each table. Members of a Girl Scout Troop from Amherst were our very able servers and made sure that there was plenty of hot water and food available for all. This is part of earning their hospitality badge and I trust they all achieved that.

The large basket auction was once again a hit and the pre-sale of tickets in many churches helped to make it one of the best for the last several years. St. John's and St. Andrew's gave baskets to help with that part of the tea. Everyone looks forward to the baskets that some churches make annually for us. St. Matthias' makes a wonderful Chocolate basket and this year actually contributed two. Christ Church makes an ice cream basket, and this year St. Paul's in Mayville put together a lovely wine basket from their area. With everyone helping in his or her way, the day is always fun and successful.

This year several things happened that made it very special. It was the last time Carol and Bishop Michael would be at the helm of the endeavor. Carol promises to return for the tea in the future but once she is in Florida, it will be hard to pry her loose. Also her children and friends from California were there to help celebrate this occasion with us. We also were video-graphed as part of the Video that was done about the activities of the Anglican Church throughout the world. The video producers had been at our rummage sale at St. John's the day before and at other places in the diocese but came that Saturday to see the Tea. The bottom line was that over \$4,000 was raised to be used for Our Little Roses Home for Girls. To each and every one of you who help to support this cause, I cannot thank you enough!! We are able to sponsor a child there and see that others have fun and special treats when we return this January.

Dianne and Rocky were in the thick of the whole operation, even making the Asparagus Rolls. A Deacon and a Bishop with Mayo on their hands is a good thing to see. Part of the fun is the time we spend planning as well as giving the tea. Taking over this activity for our diocese is no small thing but one I have grown to love. Many people have already come up and offered their help in any capacity. This is the spirit of generosity that we find in Western New York. As soon as a date is picked for our next tea, you will be informed. Try to put it on your calendar so you too can be part of this fun time in the Diocese.

Lois Carter

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 12. They will be taken to Niagara Falls that week.



Personal hygiene bags are needed regularly at Community Missions. We are always in need of soaps, shampoo, deodorant, Kleenex, combs and razors. The travel size is just right for including in the bags. Small coloring or activity books are used for the children's bags. You may put your donations in the basket at the back of the sanctuary or hand them to one of us.

Millie High, Jean Reid, & Mary Gamble

Letter from Jesus about Christmas

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered anytime.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, having said that, let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth, here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.

2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.

3. Instead of writing the President complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.

4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

5 Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.

6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.

7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people

who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary-- especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.

9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then **behave** like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember :

**I Love You,
Jesus**

Lessons

	First Lesson	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
December 5 Advent 2	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalms 72: 1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
December 12 Advent 3	Isaiah 35:1-10	Canticle 15 Luke 1:46-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
December 19 Advent 4	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalms 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
December 25 Christmas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalms 98	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14
December 26 Christmas 1	Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3	Psalms 147	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18
January 2 Christmas 2	Jeremiah 31:7- 14	Psalms 84	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
January 9 Epiphany Sunday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
January 16 Epiphany 2	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalms 40: 1-12	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
January 23 Epiphany 3	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalms 27:1, 5-13	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

Reader Schedule

Service Date	Lector	Prayers of the People	Lay Reader	Chalice	Crucifer	C 1st Acolyte	2nd Acolyte
December 5 Advent 2	Allison Carter	Robyn Krueger	Allison Carter	Robin Schulmeister			
December 12 Advent 3	Jacque Rodgers	Jacque Rodgers	Sharon Rhodes	Mike Kerwin			
December 19 Advent 4	Janet Hoffman	Robyn Krueger	Janet Hoffman	Keith Rhodes			
December 24 Christmas Eve							
December 25 Christmas Day							
December 26 Christmas 1	Justin Naylor	Jacque Rodgers	Keith Rhodes	Sharon Rhodes			
January 2 Christmas 2	Allison Carter	Robyn Krueger	Jacque Rodgers	Gail Freischlag			
January 9 Epiphany 1	Jacque Rodgers	Allison Carter	Sharon Rhodes	Allison Carter			
January 16 Epiphany 2	Janet Hoffman	Sharon Rhodes	Janet Hoffman	Robin Schulmeister			
January 23 Epiphany 3	Robyn Krueger	Jacque Rodgers	Allison Carter	Mike Kerwin			
January 30 Epiphany 4	Justin Naylor	Allison Carter	Jacque Rodgers	Keith Rhodes			

Altar Schedule

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE	COLOR	MEMBER
Dec 2	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Lois Bateman
Dec 5	2 nd Sunday Of Advent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Allison Carter
Dec 9	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Allison Carter
Dec 12	3 rd Sunday Of Advent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Gail Freischlag
Dec 16	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Gail Freischlag
Dec 19	4 th Sunday Of Advent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Millie High
Dec 23	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Millie High
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	5:40pm	Eucharist	White	Millie High
Dec 25	Christmas Day	10:00am	Eucharist	White	Millie High
Dec 26	1 st Sunday After Christmas	9:00am	Eucharist	White	Jean Reid
Dec 30	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	Jean Reid
Jan 2	2 nd Sunday After Christmas	9:00am	Eucharist	White	Marcia Sabey
Jan 6	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	Marcia Sabey
Jan 9	1 st Sunday After Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	White	Lois Bateman
Jan 13	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	Lois Bateman
Jan 16	2 nd Sunday After Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Allison Carter
Jan 20	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	Allison Carter
Jan 23	3 rd Sunday After Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Gail Freischlag
Jan 27	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	Gail Freischlag
Jan 30	4 th Sunday after Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Millie High
Feb 3	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	Millie High