

## Dates to remember

**February** Food collection – Any Non-perishable food

February 4 – 7pm Deanery Council @ St John's

February 11 – 6:30pm Vestry

February 15 – Valentine Brunch

February 15 – Sundays Live @ St Andrew's "*Nite Cruise*"

February 16 – 11:30am Acolyte Trip Planning

February 20 – Fish Fry starts at St Andrew's

February 24 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 25 – Ash Wednesday Noon @ St John's  
7pm @ St Andrew's

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**March** Food collection – Pasta

March 2 – Lenten Reflection Group begins @ St Andrew's - Read Priest's Perspective for details

March 5 – Lenten Reflection Group begins @ St John's - Read Priest's Perspective for details

March 11 -- **Pious Press Deadline**

March 11 – 6:30pm Vestry

March 22 – Lenten Meal & Soup Sale  
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## January Finances

Total Offering: 2505.00, Total Expenses paid 3176.01. Difference: -671.01, Not paid: Diocesan pledge, Discretionary fund, Keith Dixon drainage work, half contract for snowplowing totaling 1121.

## *Your Priest's Perspective*

After the jubilant celebration of Candlemas Day on February 1<sup>st</sup>, we begin to prepare for Lent. On Sundays in February, we read of Jesus' miracles with repeated reminders of the danger that he faces in his ministry and cautions for secrecy. Even our preparation for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper involves clearing our physical and spiritual cupboards of extras that we do not need. (The tradition of Shrove Tuesday suppers developed as a way of using up the flour, eggs, butter, and meat that would not be used for the more austere meals that families would have during Lent.)

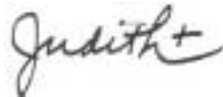
I hope that Lent at St. John's will be a time when we can pause and reflect on the abundant grace that we have, finding peace in distinguishing between what we *need* and what we *want*. The greatest teachers in the Christian tradition for understanding that difference were the men and women who lived as monks in community or hermits in solitude in the desert 1700 years ago. Disturbed by what they perceived to be dangerous worldliness in the church under the rule and conversion of Constantine in the fourth century, they retreated to the desert to live in austere simplicity. Their sayings are surprisingly relevant today, guiding us to trust our strength, to clarify our needs, and to be absolutely honest with ourselves.

The teachings of our Desert Mothers and Fathers will be the subject of our Lenten reflection groups. One group will meet on Thursday mornings after our 11 a.m. Eucharist at St. John's and another will meet on Monday evenings at St. Andrew's at 7 p.m. A third group, with a slightly different focus will meet on Monday mornings at 10 a.m. at St. Andrew's. Our discussions will be based on Rowan Williams' *Where God Happens*, combined with the meditations in a booklet—*Peace and Compassion: To Heal a Wounded World*-- published and distributed by Episcopal Relief and Development free of charge. Please sign up for these groups (the Monday evening group will be held only if we have at least 6 participants), and let me know if you would like to order a copy of the book for you.

Our support for Episcopal Community Services is another way to build our community together during Lent. This year again, proceeds from our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Support and our Soup, Bread, & Bake sale will go to ECS.

In yet another opportunity for the Lenten sharing will be to bake desserts for St. Andrew's Fish Fry on March 20<sup>th</sup>. By this fifth week of Lent, our friends at St. Andrew's begin to get tired from the weekly routine of serving dinners and baking 400 desserts, so we have offered to help during this one week.

May we treasure the simplicity of our life together during our Lenten journey this year. In the words of the Shaker song,  
*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.*



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## **Dessert Alert!**

Feb 20 is the beginning of St Andrew's weekly Fish Fry. This is their major fundraiser for ECS. It is an extremely busy time for them and we are going to reciprocate for their assistance at our events by providing desserts for March 20.

Plan ahead: Pies, cakes, Cookies, Jello, Pudding, etc. Some of us could get together and make several items at one time.

## ***Covenant Team Highlights - January 26, 2009***

The Covenant Team representatives for 2009 are: Stacy Lampman, Cindy Harrington, Dorothy Cheasty, Bonnie Wintersteen, Judi Naylor, Liz Depew, Jacquie Rodgers, Janet Hoffman, Millie High, Bob Colangelo, Eric Freischlag, and Lois Carter.

We began with a brief report from each parish. At St. Andrew's, the highlights of the past few months were the Ecumenical Choral Festival and a new reflection group on biblical hospitality; St. Andrew's central effort at present is to address their budget deficit. At St. John's, the major news was the flood that has caused major damage to floors and walls in their basement schoolroom, damage that is not covered by insurance. Both congregations enjoyed their shared workshops: The discussion of *The Shack* in October and the *Painting Prayers* workshop led by Joanne Frake in January.

We discussed opportunities we would like to plan for in the coming months: a Fools for Christ clown liturgy; a bell choir recital to benefit the poor; and a Dinner Dance for adults with a DJ, probably in early September. We agreed that we would again share liturgies every day of Holy Week, developing our overnight vigil at St. John's on Maundy Thursday to include a lock-in for our youth that would combine an outreach project, prayer, music, and possibly fasting. A joint planning group will be formed to plan the Maundy Thursday dinner and overnight vigil. The St. John's representatives that St. John's would support St. Andrew's hard work during Fish Fry by baking the desserts for March 20<sup>th</sup>—the 5<sup>th</sup> Fish Fry night. This proposal brought enthusiastic gratitude from the St. Andrew's representatives.

Our next meeting will be on Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's.

You're invited to

## **“Sunday Live at St. Andrew’s”**

6 – 9 PM, February 15, 2009

Presenting for your entertainment...



*Drew Azzinaro, Doug Wintersteen, Ken Gillis, Mike Townsen*

Live Classic Rock

This is a family event for all ages!  
Soft drinks, coffee, snacks will be served

Donation \$5/person, \$10/family

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Wilson-Burt & West Creek Roads,

Burt, NY 14028

716-778-7633

[www.standrewsburt.com](http://www.standrewsburt.com)



## Listening Day Focuses on Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry Revitalization Team, part of the diocesan revitalization process, will be holding a Listening Day around the diocese on Saturday, February 7. The goal is to hear from anyone and everyone who is interested in the future of youth ministry at all levels here in WNY.

We are deeply interested to hear what youth of all ages, adults of all ages, clergy, lay leaders, parents, and/or youth leaders are thinking, wondering, hoping, fearing and dreaming. From that input we hope to create a vision for the place of young people in our diocese and how we meet their needs.

### Locations:

- St John's, Youngstown 9-11 am
- Church of the Advent, Kenmore 10 am - Noon
- St. Luke's Jamestown 10 am - Noon
- St. Patrick's, Cheektowaga 2- 4 pm
- Trinity, Hamburg 6-8 pm

**February 7 9:30 a.m. - 4pm** Children & Youth: worshipping through the Arts @ Calvary, W'msville

## *View from our Youth*

### **Niagara Deanery Youth Group**

Our "Un-Birthday" party in January was lots of fun! We began the evening by creating "Birthday cards" through a prayer meditation that involved relating colors to words. We also traded gifts and had a competitive game of "pin-the-nose-on-the-clown!"

Through our Deanery wide "Gifts for Life" collection we raised \$575 to donate to Episcopal Relief and Development. A great BIG THANK YOU to all who gave generously and to those who helped to host our meeting!



February meeting:  
Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 4-6:30pm  
at St. Andrew's

We will be making cookies to spread Saint Valentine's love to those in need of cheer in our own lives and congregations.

- Sarah Harrington  
Niagara Deanery Youth Missioner



## **Building Refurbishment Fund**

Our Vestry has decided to offer a separate envelope for anyone who might wish to donate to St John's Building Refurbishment Fund at any time for any reason. We have needed to make repairs to the roof, drainage system and will need to repair the Sunday School room when the other work is complete. These will be available in the pews.

***Acolyte Trip Planning Meeting – February 16, 11:30 a.m.*** – For all acolytes, their parents and other adults who are taking part in the planning for the Acolyte trip in October. We’ll have a pizza lunch and share ideas for fundraising and for ways to help our acolytes from Deanery churches build a community together.

***Ash Wednesday – February 25<sup>th</sup>*** – We think of Lent as “Fish Fry Season”, but it is larger than that. It is a time when we put aside certain habits and create space for contemplation and reflection. We mark the beginning of this season on Ash Wednesday with a service of Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at **noon**. There will also be a service of Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at St. Andrew’s at 7 p.m.

***Sundays Live at St. Andrew’s*** – St. Andrew’s is beginning a series of performance events—2 or 3 each year—that will bring people in the community to St. Andrew’s for fun and fellowship. The first event will be on **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-9 p.m.** ***Nite Cruse***, a classic rock band with their own Doug Wintersteen, will perform. It’s an opportunity for families and friends to gather on a holiday weekend—children of all ages will enjoy music, food, and dancing. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the narthex for snacks and opportunities to greet and to help with set-up and clean-up.

***Celebrating our Children*** - We like to include congratulations in the newsletter for our children’s achievements. Please let Pastor Judith know if your child has received an honor, passed a milestone, or earned our congratulations in any way.

***New Directory*** – our directory has been updated—some copies are in the Parish Hall, or let Gloria Bryant know if you would like a copy.

***Godspeed*** to Lois Carter on her journey to Little Roses Orphanage in Honduras to work and to learn Spanish.

***Thank you*** – Jacquie Rodgers and Bob Colangelo for their tireless work in responding to our flooded basement.  
Denise Failla for organizing our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper this year.

## Altar Schedule

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE	COLOR	MEMBER
Feb. 8	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Marcia Sabey
Feb. 12	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	Marcia Sabey
Feb. 15	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Lois Bateman
Feb. 19	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Green	Lois Bateman
Feb. 22	_____ Sunday after Epiphany	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	Allison Carter
Feb. 25	Ash Wednesday		Eucharist	Purple	Allison Carter
Feb. 26	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Allison Carter
Mar. 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Gail Freischlag
Mar. 5	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Gail Freischlag
Mar. 8	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Millie Ilgh
Mar. 12	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Millie High
Mar. 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Jean Reid
Mar. 19	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist Saint Joseph's Day	White	Jean Reid
Mar. 22	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Eucharist	Rose	Lois Bateman
Mar. 26	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Lois Bateman
Mar. 29	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Allison Carter
April 2	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	Purple	Allison Carter

## **St John's "Town" Meeting**

Our quarterly 'town' meeting was held after service January 25. A report on the water damage to the Sunday School room was presented by Sr Warden Jacquie Rodgers. Any donations to our Building Refurbishment Fund will be gratefully accepted.

Reminding St John's congregation that Vestry meetings are open to all members. You may speak your piece at any meeting even if you don't have a vote.

Lenten Bread & Soup meal will take place on March 22 following the service.

Easter Service will be at the regularly scheduled time: 9am. Any additional service which might be scheduled will be announced in the bulletin.

If you have access to the Internet, we have a website: [www.stjohnswilson.com](http://www.stjohnswilson.com) and our Pious Press is posted there as soon as possible after it is published.

## **Outreach - Community Missions**

Fifty personal hygiene bags were delivered to Community Missions in December. Several bags of toys for the toy box were included.

Please keep in mind that we continue to need small travel items such as soap, shampoo, Kleenex and deodorant. We also include combs and razors in these bags. Crayons and activity books are put in the children's bags.

The Wilson Pharmacy and Dr. Michael S. Dick have been kind enough to help in this outreach. Dr. Dick and his office assistants supply us with toothbrushes and toothpaste. The Pharmacy helps to fill in the gaps of the other items.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support this outreach.

## Lessons

Sunday	First Lesson	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
February 1 Epiphany 4	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
February 8 Epiphany 5	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
February 15 Epiphany 6	2 Kings 5:1-14	30	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Mark 1:40-45
February 22 Transfiguration Sunday	2 Kings 2:1-12	50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58: 1-12	51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
March 1 Lent 1	Genesis 9:8-17	25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
March 8 Lent 2	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38
March 15 Lent 3	Exodus 20:1-17	19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
March 22 Lent 4	Numbers 21:4-9	107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1- 10	John 3:14-31
March 29 Lent 5	Jeremiah 31:31- 34	51: 1-12	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33

## Reader Schedule

Service Date	Lector	Prayers of the People	Lay Reader	Chalice	Crucifer	C 1st Acolyte	2 <sup>nd</sup> Acolyte
February 1 Epiphany 4	Allison Carter	Robyn Krueger	Sharon Rhodes	Allison Carter	John Carney	Jared Carney	Michael Pyskaty
February 8 Epiphany 5	Jacquie Rodgers	Allison Carter	Mike Kerwin	Sharon Rhodes	John Carney	Brian Kerwin	Matthew Pyskaty
February 15 Epiphany 6	Tom Sharpe	Jacquie Rodgers	Keith Rhodes	Gail Freischlag	Josie Lyons	Jared Carney	Kyle Lyons
February 22 Epiphany 7	Justin Naylor	Sharon Rhodes	Janet Hoffman	Robin Schumelster	Josie Lyons	Michael Pyskaty	Matthew Pyskaty
March 1 Lent 1	Janet Hoffman	Robyn Krueger	Jacquie Rodgers	Keith Rhodes	Nick Falla	Matthew Pyskaty	Michael Pyskaty
March 8 Lent 2	Robyn Krueger	Allison Carter	Sharon Rhodes	Allison Carter	Nick Falla	Brian Kerwin	Jared Carney
March 15 Lent 3	Allison Carter	Jacquie Rodgers	Allison Carter	Mike Kerwin	Josie Lyons	Michael Pyskaty	Kyle Lyons
March 22 Lent 4	Jacquie Rodgers	Robyn Krueger	Mike Kerwin	Sharon Rhodes	Nick Falla	Kyle Lyons	Brian Kerwin
March 29 Lent 5	Justin Naylor	Sharon Rhodes	Keith Rhodes	Gail Freischlag	John Carney	Jared Carney	Matthew Pyskaty

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment, please find a replacement, or contact Pastor Lee! Thank you!

## **From the Bench Z y Z y Z**

Epiphany, the time of the three kings, little Christmas and the period of the church year leading up to Lent. In the everyday world it is a time of Christmas returns and exchanges, thank you notes, store sales and generally bitterly cold weather. It is the restarting of yet another calendar year and in the church year, the retelling of the life of Christ. The season is symbolized by the guiding star and the related images of light.

On the first Sunday after Epiphany we mark and recall the baptism of Christ. It is a day in the church when actual baptisms are encouraged as it all fits together. However, St. John's has not had this occur in a while. The hymns tend to be of a baptismal nature, the washing clean of ones self with baptismal waters where we are "buried" with Christ and rise up to a new life. In this process we are mystically transformed and find ourselves full of something new: Grace.

On this particular Sunday we sang hymn #294, Baptized in Water. This is a newer hymn than many others in the hymnal having been written in 1977 by Michael Saward. He was born in England in 1932, schooled there and ordained to the priesthood in the Church of England in 1956. Besides serving many parishes he served as Church of England Radio and TV Officer from 1967 - 1972. He was named Vicar of Ealing Parish Church in West London in 1972. It was while he was there that he wrote "Baptized in Water" and it was published in Hymns for Today's Church. The hymn was written during a time he was teaching a series of classes about the doctrine and practice of baptism.

The tune in the hymnal supports the irregular metrical structure of the text but I have found one concentrates more on the unfamiliar music than the powerful words and imagery that the words supply. Recently, I learned the hymn can be sung to a more familiar tune: Bunesan or Morning Has Broken. We sang this hymn to that tune this past Epiphany 1 and sang it well. I hope the message and symbolism of the words gave a sense of the baptismal mystery to each one who sang.

Keep Singing!

Lois

### **I wish you enough!!**

Recently I overheard a mother and daughter in their last moments together at the airport. They had announced the departure. Standing near the security gate, they hugged and the mother said, "I love you, and I wish you enough."

The daughter replied, "Mom, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough too Mom."

They kissed and the daughter left. The mother walked over to the window where I was seated. Standing there I could see she wanted and needed to cry. I tried not to intrude on her privacy, but she welcomed me in by asking, "Did you ever say good-bye to someone knowing it would be forever?"

"Yes, I have," I replied. "Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever good-bye?"

"I am old, and she lives so far away. I have challenges ahead and the reality is - the next trip back will be for my funeral," she said.

“When you were saying good-bye, I heard you say, ‘I wish you enough.’ May I ask what that means?”

She began to smile. “That’s a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone.” She paused a moment and looked up as if trying to remember it in detail, and she smiled even more. “When we said, ‘I wish you enough,’ we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them.”

Then turning toward me, she shared the following as if she were reciting it from memory:

**I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright no matter how gray the day may appear.**

**I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.**

**I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.**

**I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.**

**I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.**

**I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.**

**I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye.**

She then began to cry and walked away.

TAKE TIME TO LIVE...

To all my friends and loved ones,

**I WISH YOU ENOUGH!**

## **Spiritual Benefits Givers Can Expect**

God's desire for cheerful givers is not to help Him, but to help *us*. Even if your church didn't need financial resources to fund ministry, we still need to grow in the understanding and practice of whole-life stewardship.

We should understand the scriptural benefits we can expect when we give. Here are three:

### **Giving helps us know God**

God invented giving. Giving is His nature, and He built His nature into us. God so loved that he gave - and we meet the God. of the universe in our own giving!

### **Giving helps us know ourselves**

We were created to imitate God by giving and to experience His *joy* in giving. Giving helps us offset our tendencies to trust our abilities rather than God. As we resist those inclinations, we become the people God intends us to be.

### **Giving helps us to know our mission**

Giving is God's only plan for redeeming a lost world. That giving started with Jesus, and it is to continue with his disciples...us. Only as the world sees our faith extend to include the sacrificial giving of our energies and possessions does the power of our invisible Savior become visible to the people Christ calls us to save.