



St. John's Episcopal Church

The Saint

*The Mission of St. John's Parish is to glorify God
by growing in Christ's love and sharing that love with others
through worship, fellowship, and service .*

It Was Cold! John 18:18

(It is said that you have Faith if you believe spring will follow winter. That's a lot of Faith!)

From the Pastor

Once again, the previous year has flown by and we find ourselves greeting the dawn of a New Year. Personally, I found 2017 to be a very difficult year filled with serious troubles and bad news both locally and globally. At times I found it challenging to remember the ever-present reality of Divine Providence caring for us and for all of Creation.

One small part of my morning prayer practice is to make a short list of thanksgivings in my journal. This never fails to get my mind and heart back on track remembering the goodness of God. As St. Paul reminds us: "Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice." (Phil. 4:4) Sometimes that's easier said than done, but when we DO remember to be thankful, it changes us. As the saying goes in 12-Step recovery, "Have an attitude of gratitude" for an attitude of bitterness, resentment, and fear easily becomes a vortex of negative energy that blocks us from experiencing the Fruits of the Spirit: joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, love, and self-control (Gal. 5:22).

My New Year's Resolutions this year combine being thankful with being more open – sharing my feelings and hope with others. I am making a commitment to reach out to friends and family as a priority, not as something I do when all my work is done and I find myself with some spare time. I am committing to taking as much time as I want and need to pray, read, study, and enjoy the gifts around me so graciously provided by God.

Life is so precious and fleeting. Treasure each moment; savor each glimmer of joy; be aware of the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit in all circumstances. Give thanks for the rich blessings of the past and for the opportunity for new beginnings.

May your New Year be filled serenity and grace.

In Christ,
Mother Barbara

Vestry Report

And it is cold and staying that way. Fortunately God continues to bless us and His love warms our hearts.

Great news! Lisa Leffler has agreed to be the clerk of the Vestry and we are thrilled to have her. Words cannot express our gratitude to Karran Swayze for “filling in until we get someone” for the past two years. Karran always did a stellar job and her depth of knowledge of St. John’s was always helpful. Thank you Karran!!

More great news!! Mike Bank is continuing as our Treasurer. He does a wonderful job and makes the financial statements make sense to the rest of us. Thank you Mike!!

We increased the hours of Mother Barbara from 5 to 8 hours a week as this is the amount of time needed and the hours of Chris Foster from 2 to 4 to 5 hours a week as needed. Chris is an unsung hero in our Church and her gentle and willing spirit blesses us as does the quality of her work.

The quality of the printer continues to decline. Replacing it will be something we will have to do in the future.

Financial reports for YTD were available. Pledge income is still running behind budget estimates. Mike is working on the budget for 2018.

We received our Full Share request from the Diocese--\$13,553 for 2018. (This assessment is based on the operating income for each parish) Currently we have paid \$8,732, which is under the amount asked for 2017. Note: this year the Full Share instead of Fair Share was initiated. A motion

was passed to increase our pledge to the Diocese to \$10,000 for 2018. This represents about 10% of our operating income.

Scott Szarejko of Design Builders has explained what he believes the problems of the north roof of the church are. When we return to warmth in the spring he will open up a portion of the roof to determine what is wrong and will work to fix it. Thank you Scott.

Alcohol Policy—At the Diocesan Convention, the membership voted to recommend that each parish consider adopting an alcohol use policy in which, if alcohol is served, that non alcoholic beverages should be made available as prominently as the alcohol, in an effort to make all events comfortable for all who attend. The vestry reviewed these recommendations and after discussion passed a motion that that St. John’s have a no alcohol policy at any events held on our property with the exception of communion wine.

The next Vestry meeting is January 10, 2017 at 7pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

Planning and Visioning Committee

St. Paul’s will host a joint meeting of the Planning and Vision Groups from St. Paul’s and St. John’s. The meeting will be at St. Paul’s in the undercroft at 7 pm. Two important items for discussion will be:

- Whether or not we are interested in continuing the clergy sharing and conversation(s) between the two churches. Each Vestry would need to

ratify any decision about this, but the input of the P & V groups is essential.

- What we'd like to do for our Lenten midweek study. The proposal for the Diocese this year is for all congregations to read and study the Gospel of Luke (see further information elsewhere in this newsletter). The proposal for our consideration will be about initiating midweek services that combine some form of worship, meal, and program, perhaps one in the daytime and one in the evening.

One Diocese, One Season, One Book – Lenten Study

Ash Wednesday is February 14th. After that, we will begin our Lenten study of the Gospel of Luke. A study guide will be available for \$10. We are ordering this through the Diocese, so we'll have a sign-up sheet at church soon. The book is called "A Journey with Luke." The midweek study times and dates will be announced in the February newsletter.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service was a wonderful celebration celebrating Christ's birth. As a special treat, both Mother Barbara and Fr. Dan co-celebrated the service. Dr. Carole Harris arranged beautiful music to enhance the celebration. Special thanks to the Altar Guild and flower coordinator Chris Foster and all our members who made the Church look so beautiful.

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree this year (2017) bore 167 items for those less fortunate in our lovely little village of Youngstown and our surrounding Town of Porter.

Among the items given were 33 pairs of gloves, 11 pairs of mittens, 37 winter caps 20 scarves, 47 pairs of socks including knee socks, 1 men's cap, 2 pairs men's gloves 5 head bands, 1 fleece throw, 2 sweat shirts, 3 pairs of slippers, 2 coloring books 1 Move & Crawl ball, 1 stuffed puppy dog and 1 Disney character.

Seventy five of the above items were given to the Village of Youngstown for their Christmas Baskets and the remaining 92 items were given to the Care-N-Share Food Pantry in Ransomville.

God has been so good opening the hearts of our wonderful parishioners here at St. John's to help those less fortunate around us.

Special thanks for help to my dear daughters Randy & Kris, and my dear granddaughter Casey.

Also thanks to Valerie Banks who helped to decorate the tree for Christmas Eve. Also special thanks to Kellie Smith who donated a coffee table for the tree to stand on.

God Bless each and every one of you who helped to decorate this Christmas Mitten Tree.

I love you all so much and again thank you all so much for our fullest tree ever.

Always remember "It is better to give than to receive."

Love and a Happy New Year
Shirley Oldfield

Personal Care Kits

Hooray!! We put together 50 personal care kits for Community Missions. These are vital help for those who have nothing.

Hooray for Rick at the Lewiston Dollar General for his generous donation of items to help us put these kits together. He also works with us to order everything that is needed and is a joy to work with.

Kay and Tony Collard headed up this effort and have it down to a science. They were helped by Lisa and Mark Leffler, Marie Oblamski, and Nancy Poole for the help with getting, setting up and delivering the kits. Our thanks to them and to everyone who helped put the kits together. Many hands make light work and the results were spectacular!! Job well done!

Line Dancing

Line Dancing will be continuing at the Church from January 23rd to March 27th on Tuesday nights except for the third week of the month when they will meet on Wednesdays. Contact:

Dancing.With.Suzanne.Diez@gmail.com

If you are interested in attending.

Cabaret Night

This year our Cabaret Night will be February 24th from 5-7 pm. We will be hosting the Cabaret Night with St. Paul's. St. John's with St. Paul's help will serve the meal and we will provide desserts for the cabaret. This year St. Paul's will be providing the entertainment while we support them there.

Please plan on helping that night.

Youngstown Christmas Baskets

Christmas Baskets helped 50 families this year and St. John's was a big part of this exciting outreach. We worked with a newly formed committee that took over this beloved task from Peggy Hansen who retired from the chairmanship. It took at least 15 people to replace her!! Mary Wieland, Chris Foster and Shawn D'Luhy were on the committee and many helping hands from our parish were there during the week to help. It was a great success!!

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 4th –

This is SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!!

St. Paul's is hosting a Chili Cook-Off for St. John's and St. Paul's. We'll be having a sign-up sheet at both places for folks who plan on attending and what they're bringing, especially the "chili competitors." We're also asking for donations of cans of soup based on the Super Bowl. Supporters of the AFC team should bring a soup with meat. Supporters of the NFC team should bring a soup with chicken. Folks who could care less about the Super Bowl are asked to bring a can of vegetable soup.

January Birthdays

- 9 Lark Mattoon
- 10 Mark Leffler
- 21 Michael White
- 23 Larry Walck
- 25 Jim Poole
- 26 John Mies
- 26 Nancy Poole
- 28 Donna Huggins
- 31 Gillian Game

Let Us Pray

The Parish Rota: This is a list of the members of the parish. It allows us to pray for everybody each month.



1. Betty Ames, Allan Aureli, Mary Ellen Aureli
2. Michael Banks, Valerie Banks, Shawn D'Luhy
3. Kay Collard, Tony Collard, Heidi Dent
4. Brandon Comerford, Debra Comerford, Ryan Comerford
5. Stu Comerford, John Eodice, Priscilla Eodice
6. Joseph Fabian, Kathy Fabian,
7. Doreen Enman, Donald Finkle, Heather Finkle
8. Christine Foster, Mark Foster,
9. Jerry Freischlag, Mary Lou Freischlag, Angela Gebauer
10. Jean Gerlach, John Gerlach, Annie Given, Carl Gonder
11. Art Hannah, Judy Hannah, Esther Hardison
12. Don Henry, Donna Huggins, Col. Jack James,
13. Donna Jeffs, Harold Jeffs, Kelsey Jeffs, Shannon Jeffs
14. Dolores Jones, Greg Jordan, Kris Jordan,
15. Casey Jordan, Lisa Leffler, Mark Leffler,
16. Pat Lloyd, Carla Lynch, Connor Lynch,
17. John Lynch Sr., John Lynch Jr. Alison Martin,
18. Brittany Machmer John Mies, Sandy Mies
19. Lark Mattoon, Ed McGreevy, Ed Tormay
20. Irene Myers, Marie Oblamski
21. Karen Oddy , Deborah Pauline,
22. Shirley Oldfield,, Helene Pavlock,
23. Sally Phillips, James Poole, Nancy Poole
24. Linda Reynolds, Raleigh Reynolds, Carol Reinbird,
25. Jane Richardson, Mickey Sutor, Deacon Vickie Sutor
26. Karran Swayze, Randy Walck, Larry Walck

27. Sabre Whipple, Deb White, Michael White
28. Marie Stephens, Ken Wieland, Mary Wieland
29. Kit Williams, Dr. Michael Wilson, Michael Wilson
30. Kristen Wilson, Luke Wilson, Barbara Yandian.

Diocese of Western New York

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin

Team Coordinator/Priest in Charge

Rev. Canon Barbara Price

Associate Priest Rev. Canon Dan Pinti

Associate Priest/Pastoral Care

Fr. Wayne Knockle

All other church concerns, contact the

Wardens

Deacon

Vickie Sutor

Wardens

Mary Wieland

Shawn D'Luhy,

Vestry

Mike Banks

Don Henry

Lark Mattoon,

Treasurer

Mike Banks

See us on Facebook at:

**St. John's Episcopal,
Youngstown NY**

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone/Fax: 716-745-3369

stjohnsytown@verizon.net

www.stjohnsyongstown.org

If you would like more information about St. John's, have a prayer request or would like to talk to the clergy, please call or e-mail the office.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

P.O. BOX 366

MAIN & CHESTNUT STREETS

YOUNGSTOWN, NY 14174-0366

Change Service Requested