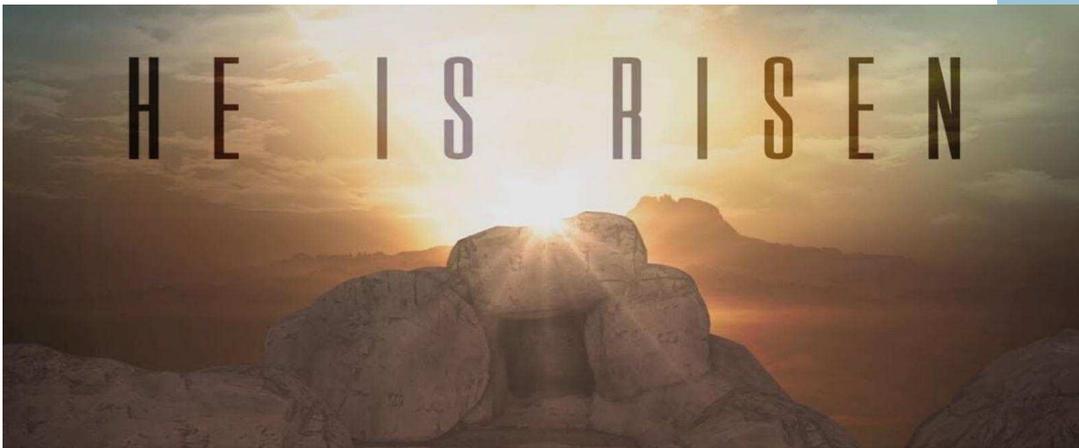


# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



## From Your Rector

We are now in Eastertide, a season of great joy for the church. Indeed, we have much to be joyful about. Many of us have had at least one vaccine and some of us are fully vaccinated. We can do more things we enjoy without risk to our health. We can see our families and our friends. We can come back to in-person church, at least on a rotating basis.

Many are looking for things to get back to “normal.” I urge us, however, to intentionally create a new normal rather than just mindlessly doing everything the way we did before. While many parts of our lives pre-COVID were Christ-filled, other elements could use some changes. As horrible and frustrating as COVID was and is, we’ve learned some ways of relating to each other that I hope we’ll keep as we move forward.

The first is to continue to think in terms of “we” rather than “me.” During the pandemic, we’ve worn masks, quarantined after travel, and avoided visiting relatives at higher risk because we care about other people. The virus hasn’t just been about us, but about all of us. Loving others is a crucial tenet of the Christian faith. I hope we’ll continue to be willing to make sacrifices ourselves for the health of others as we return.

The second is creativity. We’ve learned to do some AMAZING things during COVID that we probably never thought we’d do. That includes Zoom worship, a funeral where the preacher was in another state, curbside pickup fish fry, a thrift store with a limited workforce and hours, and a community peacebuilding campaign called Love Rising. Perhaps God is calling our community to continue to be creative in worship and how we interact in the community.

The third is caring for each other. During the pandemic, the vestry called folks to see how they were doing. Many of you reached out to other parishioners to help them learn how to navigate Zoom. We all let each other know when we heard of a place that had vaccine dosages available. We’re a great St. Andrew’s family, and I know we’ll continue to find ways to be sure we all are OK as we move forward post-pandemic.

Randi+

Join Us Sundays

10:45

In-Person or on Zoom

[StAndrewsBurt.com](http://StAndrewsBurt.com)

*St. Andrew's  
Seeks to Share  
the Unconditional  
Love of God*





## February

### Vestry Highlights

>> In place of the March Meeting, the vestry had a retreat on March 20th to discuss future ideas and goals. *(see next column)*

>> A description and goals were discussed for the Lake Churches Collaboration (Sts Andrews, Paul's, John's (Wilson & Youngstown) & Christ Church.

>> The vestry approved applying for the latest Payroll Protection Plan Loan. Once the funds are used, as per the federal requirements, the loan will become a grant and will not need to be repaid.

**LIVING BY  
FAITH**

## Business

### 2021 Goals Vestry Retreat , March 20, 2021

#### Community

1. Reinstate the live Café Service – Sept 2021

#### Worship

1. Reinstate Sunday School – Sept 2021
2. Recruit 5 new service participants – Dec 2021
3. Hire weekday/back-up service producers (2) at \$50/service

#### Financial

1. Reduce deficit by \$6,000 (20%)

#### Lake Ontario Collaboration

1. Select a team/steering committee – April 1, 2021
2. Participate in 2 Lake Ontario Collaboration events – Dec 2021

#### Family/Inter-Generational

1. Host 3 events – Dec 2021 (Easter Egg Hunt + two more)

#### *Financial Status as of February 2021*

**Total Expenses: \$25,006**

**Actual Income: \$25,324**

**% of Pledges on Time: 53%**

**Goal for Pledges on Time: 80%**

**Income Equals  
101.3% of Expenses**

# Warden's Message

## Light at the End of the Tunnel ...

The isolation due to the pandemic for the past year has been tough on all of us. We are a close-knit church family, and not being able to worship, laugh, and hang out together in person has taken its toll on our basic need of personal human contact. And being together in church with you guys is fun.

We have made significant strides in the technology to live stream and worship together virtually, but it just ain't the same as being there together.

As more of us get vaccinated and the infection rate continues to decline, we see some light at the end of a long dark tunnel. And our new vestry is moving forward while seeing this light in setting our 2021 goals.

We had an energetic vestry retreat in the undercroft at St. Andrew's on March 21st. While we practiced social distancing, it was great to be together in one large room at least. We brainstormed our "Hopes and Dreams" for the future of St. Andrew's. They included financial stability and increased collaboration with our neighboring churches, but the dominant feeling among our hopes and dream was returning to being together live as a family. We then condensed and refined our hopes and dreams into goals.

Moving forward together, we set 2021 goals to return to Sunday School, have Choir in Church, and return to live Café Services, all by September 2021, as well as other goals by the end of the year. The goals will require conformance to local Covid-19 guidelines and approval by our Bishop, but hey, this Vestry has the vision and commitment to make it happen. And we can come up with the procedures and hardware additions to make it safe. We will continue to advance our technology to live stream St. Andrew's for those of us who can't be there.

I'm sure we're all amped to be together again-I know I am! It may take a little more time, but let's all keep our eyes on the light at the end of the tunnel.

It is the Light of God.

May God bless you all,  
Doug Wintersteen, Senior Warden

# Diocese

## Support Winter Storm Relief

The Dioceses of Dallas, Texas and West Texas continue to respond to the damage done by the February 2021 winter storm, which devastated communities in Texas, Oklahoma and beyond.

The US Disaster Team at Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting the dioceses as they respond. Please donate today. Your gift will help provide emergency shelter, groceries, and other supplies in affected areas.



## St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, New York

Construction of this Buffalo cathedral began in 1749 and serves a congregation that was established in 1817. The congregation secured its first permanent structure in 1820, and despite the grandeur of this Gothic cathedral, financial woes plagued the church during its first few years until Buffalo experienced a population and economic boom in the mid-nineteenth century. Designed by architect Richard Upjohn with features inspired by European cathedrals of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth century, St. Paul's was built in stages owing to the cost of the undertaking. The massive tower was completed in 1871. Richard Upjohn was also the architect of New York City's Trinity Church. A devastating fire in 1888 forced the members to re-build its interior. Robert W. Gibson managed the renovation and the church re-opened early in 1890.

# Easter Egg Hunt 2021

## A Fun Day For Our Community!

Over 70 children participated in our annual Easter Egg Hunt. 700+ eggs were hidden, and over 110 prizes were given away. In addition, coloring books and goodie bags were distributed.

The Famous Easter Dinosaur visited the children and gave out jelly beans and jelly bean prayers.

THANK YOU to all who donated candy, prizes and money to make this event possible. Also thank you to the team that organized and volunteered for the event: Lizzy Depew, Cindy Harrington, Sarah Hornquist, Nancy Pestinger, Melissa Naylor, Sarah Leibring, Jerry Harrington, and Mike Depew.

Pam Leibring, Coordinator



# Purse Raffle



Our first joint fundraiser with the Lake Churches Collaboration ( St. Paul's Lewiston, St. John's Wilson and St. Andrew's) will be Twenty Days of Designer Purses. For twenty consecutive days a purse would be awarded through a raffle. Featured purses designed by; Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Dooney & Bourke, Vera Bradley, etc would be awarded to the individual with the winning lottery number for the day.

-- Ticket Price \$25.00

-- 3 lottery numbers on each ticket for a total of 333 tickets to be sold. (111 Tickets to be sold by each church starting in April)

-- Lottery numbers will be taken from the NYS Lottery (3 numbers) for twenty nights starting May 1st.

The three churches will share the expenses and split the profits. Estimated profit from this joint adventure would be approximately \$2,100 for each church. Sonja Slother from St. Paul's Lewiston has researched this project and will be the coordinator for this raffle. The vestry decided to donate 10% of our proceeds to the Newfane Food Pantry. This will bring our churches together in a working format during this pandemic and our ever-changing structure of this Diocese. With prayer and action, it will allow all of us to grow together in furthering the work of God in our community. It will bring a smile to a purse winner and perhaps allow us the opportunity to introduce the light of Jesus to someone's heart.

Cynthia Harrington

Twenty Days of Designer Purses

Committee Member

# News

## Happy Spring from St. Andrew's Community Store

Happy Spring from St. Andrew's Community Store. With the help of regular volunteers and two high school students we were able to complete inventory change over smoothly. And after a very slow donation period the donations have started to accumulate once again. We are blessed.

During April and May, the store will participate in two events. We will partner with Newfane Public Library for the **Creative Crafting Contest**. This is an artistic crafters' contest in which items bought at the store are used to create something new. Artisans shop for items during April, create their art, take it to the library for display by May 1st. Artistic items will be displayed at the Library and voted by the public from May 3rd to 15th. Gift card awards are given to the winners. So put your creative skills to use and join the contest.

On **April 30 - May 2** St. Andrew's Community Store will participate in "**Shop Newfane**" weekend. Shoppers will be encouraged to visit local businesses and if they make a small purchase at three local businesses, they can be entered into a drawing for gift cards to local businesses. This event is sponsored by Newfane High School Senior Class.

Come see  
what's new at the store:

Wednesday 11 am – 4 pm

Thursday 1 – 4pm

Friday 12 – 4pm

Saturday 10 – 2pm

## From Your Communication Team

*When you're finished changing, you're finished.*  
Benjamin Franklin

We recognize that times are changing, and with that we must change, too. The pandemic forced us all to reconsider how we do things, why we do things, and if we want to even continue doing said things. Producing the newsletter has been no exception to this process.

Traditionally a publication such as our newsletter is done using software that exists on a computer's hard drive. The best publishing software is expensive, and the free software is clumsy and inflexible. The application options that exist remotely - or "in the cloud" - are becoming more and more common. They are often free, accessible from any device, Mac and PC compatible, easy to learn, and they do an adequate job for small publications.

There are many cloud-based options available, and after much experimentation and trial, we have settled on Crello, at least for the time being. Along with the general perks of editing in the cloud, this new application gives us the opportunity to streamline our design and enhance the digital newsletters to make them more dynamic, all while still producing a high quality print copy for those who prefer that format.

Like all new things, there are some kinks to be worked out. Please be patient and stay tuned as we continue to evolve and hopefully improve our newsletter and other forms of communication during these rapidly changing times.

Lynn Schauer-Bewley

# Ministries

## Sunday School

My mind is reminded of an old 1970's song...

*"Don't give up on us, baby  
Lord knows we've come this far  
Can't we stay the way we are?  
The angel and the dreamer  
Who sometimes plays a fool  
Don't give up on us, I know  
We can still come through."*

If we look really hard, there is a glimmer of light at the end of this long coronavirus-created tunnel. Leaders are beginning to ask the question, "What should be doing to get ready for gathering together again?"

We may not return to the way children's Sunday school operated in the past, but there's incredible opportunity for us to depend on God more and bond with your children in stronger ways than before.

Clear and consistent communication will be an important part of our process of coming back together again. We will communicate with families to let them know what to expect the first Sunday they return. We will share the comprehensive plan and updated guidelines for engagement. We will set predictable cadences and methods of communication so that everyone knows where and when to look for official updates and information. This may include updating or establishing our Sunday school communication lines through our church website, Facebook group, newsletter, email and /or text updates. Effective communication will make the transition as smooth as possible.

Kids, families and Sunday school teachers will be excited to get back together again. We know that you will all be looking to church leadership for a reentry plan that is safe and sound. They will prayerfully design our plans around the key areas of strategy, environments, resources, policies, volunteers and communication. We will ask the Lord to give us wisdom and strength to meet the new and emerging challenges of ministry in this unprecedented time, and know that in the coming days, St. Andrew's will provide tangible tools to help us navigate this unique time.

St. Andrew's Sunday School Team

# Sermon

Pastor Randi, Good Friday

One night last week I got up in the middle of the night. With the lights off, I couldn't see very well, but started walking anyway. At the doorway of the bedroom, I stepped on the dog, who I hadn't seen. The poor dog yelped and I had to bend down and pet her and apologize. I felt really bad for having stepped on the dog.

The next morning at dawn, the dog bounded up on the bed to wake me up just as she does every morning, her tail wagging. She'd obviously forgiven me.

I was relieved because the dog seemed to suffer no ill effects from being stepped on and because my relationship with the dog seemed intact. She was just as happy to go walking with me as she always is.

Now dogs are known for their forgiving natures. And one of the blessings of having a dog is that you always feel that you're forgiven for any transgressions. You always feel that your relationship is intact and that your loved no matter what you've done.

When relationships are broken we feel sad. In fact, if relationships remain broken for very long we can develop physical symptoms such as chest pains and upset stomach. Our bodies and minds fail to handle stress well and our self-esteem may lower. We just don't function the way God intended that we function.

When a broken relationship is healed, however, we feel at peace. Our stomach settles down. We feel better about ourselves. We function as we should. In a way, it seems like all of a sudden the sun has burst forth into what had been a long rainy, gray day.

When we fall short of the mark, or to use a churchy word, sin -- we hurt God and we put a little tear in that relationship. When Jesus lived and died, he made a way to mend that tear so that if we fall short, but say we're sorry, the God forgives us and our relationship with God is healed. We can continue to function as God created us to function. We feel at peace.

We can see some specific examples of that as we watch how Jesus interacted with his disciples, who fell short of the mark, too. For example, Peter desperately wanted to love and be faithful to Jesus more than he was. He denied he even knew Jesus because he was afraid of being tried and crucified along side of Him. Yet, we know later that Jesus forgave Peter and commissioned Him three times to "feed Jesus's sheep. Almost all the disciples deserted Jesus when He was taken into custody, but after Jesus rose from the dead, He went to the locked room to see them there and to make sure they knew that their relationship with Him was intact. Jesus would have forgiven Judas, too, had Judas asked for it. Jesus forgave these who denied Him, betrayed Him, and deserted Him in time of need.

*continued on page 10*

# Sermon

Pastor Randi, Good Friday, *continued*

Jesus also forgave those who tortured Him and taunted Him and those who sentenced Him to death. We see that in His words from the cross. Should they choose to take a step toward God, these individuals would know that they had been forgiven and that relationship restored.

So, let's get back to us. Like Peter, we desperately want to love and serve Jesus. But, sometimes, we deny Jesus when we know Jesus wants us to do something but we do the opposite. For example, we mistreat our neighbor. Or we fail to share what we've been given. In all those actions, we deny Christ because we go against everything He taught us. We desert Christ, too, when we fail to spend the time with Him that He longs for. We skip our prayer time because we're too busy. Or we skip church because we'd rather do something else.

Perhaps it seems harsh to think about, but we also sometimes betray Jesus too. Jesus doesn't always respond to our prayers in the way we like. We may pray for wealth, but we only get subsistence or we pray for healing for someone, but they die, instead. This isn't what we expected from Jesus so we get mad and think to ourselves that maybe Jesus isn't really the answer.

The good news is that Jesus forgives. He forgave Peter when Peter denied Him and He restored Peter to his role as a leader in the church and as a trusted friend. He forgave all those disciples who deserted Him and brought them back into relationship with Him. He forgives those who betray Him and even those who killed Him. And, if we choose in our time of betrayal to return to Jesus, our relationship will be restored, too.

We fall short of the mark every day. We fail to do things we should. We do things we shouldn't. In those ways, we're not very different from Jesus's disciples, accusers, and executioners. But we, like them, also are forgiven. Because of how Jesus lived and died, our relationship with God remains intact. Despite what we've done, God is always willing to walk with us. God always loves us.



# Sermon

Pastor Randi, Easter Sunday

Three people came to the empty tomb that morning. Peter, the beloved disciple – John – and Mary Magdalene. Peter goes into the tomb and sees the linens with his eyes, but he doesn't really see them. He doesn't understand what they mean.

John sees the linens left as they were and believes. The Greek word used for "see" when it refers to John here is a different word than the one used for what Peter sees. John's sight is with the eyes, the mind, and the heart.

Mary Magdalene at first sees only with her eyes. She sees the empty tomb and she sees a man she thinks is the gardener. She thinks the body has been stolen.

After all she had given her allegiance to a man she thought would have a longer ministry and He died too young. She is disappointed and grief-stricken.

When Jesus speaks her name, however, she sees with the eyes, mind, and heart and believes. Her whole outlook changes. She realizes that Jesus's ministry is different from what she thought. She realizes that it is a ministry that is unending – a ministry of being with us from the beginning and always. With Jesus's resurrection all things have been created anew for her. She runs to tell the others about what she has seen. She's become both a preacher and a missionary in the days when women weren't even considered full persons.

It's easy for us to be like Peter, "seeing" but not really seeing. Or like Mary before she really saw. Sometimes we append the word Christ to Jesus's name as if it's just an ordinary last name without thinking about what it really means. Jesus Christ is the anointed one, the divine Son of God who came into the world because He loved us. Out of that love, He died for us and in His power and omnipotence conquered death and rose again. He sent His Spirit to dwell with us and that Spirit dwells with us still every day.

When we really see Jesus, we take Him with us throughout the week. We don't just leave Him here in the church and come back and visit Him. We understand that with the resurrection everything is created anew. We are new creatures and we have within us the power of the Spirit. Through that Spirit we have the power to make all things new in ourselves and in the world around us.

We have the power to work to create a better society, one that is more compassionate. We have the power to see things in a new way. When we really see Jesus, we have more power than we realize through Him. We have that power as individuals, and we have that power as a congregation of resurrection people.

I shared with some of you this week a story of what happened when the people of God in one church in Alexandria, Va, really saw Jesus. Perhaps not by accident the name of this church was also Resurrection.

*continued on page 12*

# Sermon

Pastor Randi, Easter Sunday, *continued*

This church was a dying church. Everybody in the area around knew it was a dying church. They wanted to call a rector but they couldn't because they only had enough money to pay a priest for about a year and then they'd close. They were crestfallen and didn't believe they had a future.

A new seminary grad named Josephine – or Jo for short-- signed on to be their priest. Jo was a positive person who really saw Jesus and, after a while, the members of the congregation took another look and saw Him again too. One thing many of them shared was having lost their homes because the gentrification of the neighborhood had forced property values up. In fact, one member of the vestry had become homeless. The organist was barely hanging onto her own home. The congregation did some research and realized that the city was pushing out almost all those in the neighborhood who rented by demolishing older buildings and helping developers to build posher ones at twice the price. They were pushing people out into the suburbs 20 miles or more from their jobs, beyond the reach of public transportation. For families with children such a move was extremely difficult.

At the same time, the church had a large, older building that they could not support and no longer needed. Gone were the days of six Sunday school classes meeting in downstairs rooms. Gone were the days of 250 people in church.

They conceived of a plan to tear down their old church and, instead, build on their property a high-rise with affordable housing using federal and state grant monies. Their new church would be on the ground floor of the high-rise. The plan would give them a right-sized church that they could afford, while also providing for the needs of neighborhood. It also would give them the potential of new members because a 100 or so families now would only have to get on the elevator to come to church. The plan took more than eight years from vision to completion, with all the turns you'd expect in dealing with government grants. Yet, this Easter, it's now a reality. They saw Jesus as the Christ. They claimed that power that is within them and with their congregation. They became co-creators with God in something new. Their congregation rose to new life and so did those families.

When we really “see” Jesus – really know Jesus for who He is and believe – then we see things differently. And all things are made new.



# FISH FRY 2021

**St. Andrew's ROCKED the new "Curbside" Fish Fry this year!**

**Week 1 we struggled to keep up with demand, week 2 we adjusted, succeeded, and never looked back!**

**Team Leaders Jaimie Gailie and Tom Villeneuve made it look easy.**

**THANK YOU to all who supported this important parish project. It was a team effort, and we raised over \$9000.00 in six weeks!**

**Stay tuned for specific details about the numbers of dinners served and the total profit earned.**

# Notes



## Community Store Hours

Wednesday 11 am - 4 pm  
 Thursday 1 pm - 4 pm  
 Friday 12 pm - 3 pm  
 Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

## Adopted Families & Little Roses

*Our families were SO GRATEFUL for the outpouring of Easter Love from St. Andrew's! Thank you to all who contributed this season!*

If you have any questions regarding adopted family donations, or would like to donate, or have a letter to give to Evelyn, please contact me:  
 Jamie Gailie 716-270-7066  
 jgailie30@gmail.com



## We Need YOU on the Communication Team!

>> Nathex Presentation Designer

Have fun creating the presentations for the Narthex monitor each week, adding news, photos and reminders!

Training Available: Contact Lynn at [lsbewley@gmail.com](mailto:lsbewley@gmail.com)

# Calendar

## April

April 1, Maundy Thursday

April 2, Good Friday

April 3, Community Easter Egg Hunt  
at 11am

April 4, Easter Sunday

April 14, Vestry Meeting at 7 pm

April 26, Pastor Randi away on  
vacation

April 27, Staff Meeting at 5:30 pm

## May

May 2, Pastor Randi back from  
vacation

May 9, Mother's Day

May 12, Vestry Meeting at 7 pm

May 23, Pentecost Sunday

May 25, Staff Meeting at 5:30 pm

May 31, Memorial Day (Office Closed)



**St. Andrew's Newsletter**

**April/May 2021**

Office Manager: Shawn Slother

Music Director & Organist: Joe Breczka, Jr.

Treasurer: Bill Buchanan

Vestry Clerk: TBA

Sexton: Jerilyn Carney

St. Andrew's Community Store: Cynthia Harrington

Church School Superintendent: Nancy Pestinger

Choir Librarian: Shirley Litz

Altar Guild Director: Dorothy Cheasty

Convention & Niagara Deanery Delegates:

Susan Villeneuve & Cindy Harrington

Bishop of Western New York: Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe

Rector: The Very Reverend Randi Hicks Rowe

Deacon: Martha Farone

Wardens:

Doug Wintersteen

Jamie Gailie

Vestry:

Sue Villeneuve

Chris Jordan

Lynn Schauer-Bewley

Sarah Hornquist

Nancy Pestinger

Sharon Rhodes

**St. Andrew's Newsletter**

**April/May 2021**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

2239 West Creek Road

P.O. Box 133

Burt, New York 14028-0133

Dated Material

To: