

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



## From Your Rector

Dear Parish Family,

Now, we begin another liturgical year – this one with the unusual configuration of the Fourth Sunday in Advent merging into Christmas Eve at sunset. I hope to see everyone at both the final Advent and Christmas Eve services.

As we journey through this liturgical year, our Gospel lessons will primarily come from Mark. Unlike Matthew, which we just completed, Mark was written for Gentile believers. It stresses that Jesus is for everyone. We don't have to be descended from God's Original Chosen People. Mark is also a compact, vivid Gospel that directly links the Kingdom of Heaven with discipleship. It stresses the call to follow Jesus with all our being.

As we go through Mark this year, I invite us to thank God that Jesus loves all humanity and includes all of us in His Kingdom. I also invite us to consider ways in which each of us can more closely follow Jesus. Finally, I invite us to consider how we can, through our discipleship, bring about the loving Kingdom of God on Earth.

Randi+



**Join Us Sundays**

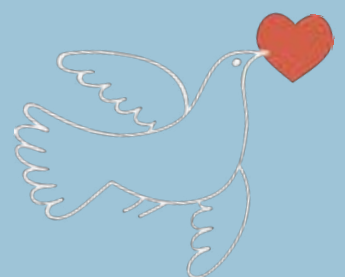
**10:45**

**In-Person or on Zoom**

**Sunday School at 10:30**

**StAndrewsBurt.com**

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



# St. Andrew's Leadership

**THANK YOU to our outgoing Warden, Vestry Members,  
and Convention Delegate!**

Sarah Hornquist, Warden

Nancy Pestinger, Vestry Member

Jerry Harrington, Vestry Member

Sue Villeneuve, Convention Delegate

*"There are three essentials to leadership: humility,  
clarity and courage." – Chan Master Fuchan Yuan*

## **From Your Outgoing Warden**

For the past 3 years I have had the honor to serve on our church Vestry. I embarked on this journey with the knowledge that it would not be easy, yet it was important for me to take a step to be an active voice for the good of our church. I began a term as we tried to restart and rebuild the community of our beloved St. Andrew's as we emerged from a time of isolation, uncertainty, and learning new ways to connect both in person and through technology. It has been energizing to work with a group of people who are creative problem solvers, with big dreams, that share a passion to come together to focus on our mission and continue to be relevant in our forever changing world.

As my time on Vestry comes to an end, I'm looking forward to staying involved in different ways. With the approach of a New Year, I challenge each of you to consider ways you can connect with groups, outreaches, and individuals in our congregation. Look outside your comfort zone. A church is NOT just its minister, or the Vestry, or one group of people. St. Andrew's is a collaboration of unique and passionate individuals with common ties that thread us together. When we become involved members within the community of our parish, then we can truly "Share God's Love with a faith and outreach presence that is welcoming to all".

I wish each of you a reflective Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

With Faith & Hope,

Sarah Hornquist

**Our Annual Meeting,  
Election for New Leadership, and Potluck is  
Sunday, January 28th, 2024**



# The Bishop's Visit, Confirmation & Reception 2023

## Received

Jacquelyn Jordan  
Rose Marie Stroyan

## Confirmed

Brooke Marie Beilein  
William Thomas Beilein Jr  
Jonathan Matthew Clarcq



## Earth Art

The Confirmands studied the Baptismal Covenant and the History of the Episcopal Church.



As part of the discussion on Prayer, the Confirmands created Earth Art in the Prayer Garden. Their inspiration included artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Jon Foreman, and Mary Oliver.



January 14th, 2024  
12 pm - 1 pm

# St. Andrew's POP-UP PET FOOD PANTRY

Serving all dog and cat owners affiliated with either  
The Newfane Community Food Pantry or  
The First Baptist Church Food Pantry of Newfane



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

Questions: [lsbewley@gmail.com](mailto:lsbewley@gmail.com)

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

## Connecting With Community!

January 14th,  
2024

ST. ANDREW'S  
**FREE FAMILY EVENT FEATURING  
RHYS THE MAGICIAN**



Sunday, January 14th, 12 pm - 1:30 pm  
at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Burt

Magic Themed Crafts & Magic Show  
Performed by Rhys the Magician

Light Snacks Will Be Provided

SIGN UP (REQUIRED) VIA SIGN UP GENIUS  
(LINK ON WEBSITE)  
OR BY CALLING PAM LEIBRING AT (716) 807-9535

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

# Diocese

## 2023 Diocesan Convention

Hello, St. Andrews,

I am writing about the Diocesan convention. This year's convention was pretty much uneventful as there is no real political issues at this point. The convention is a time to join with many others in the Partnership Dioceses to worship, do the business of budget approvals, and a few other communication needs.

The hotel, The Hampton, was nice and the continental breakfast was good. The food at the convention was much improved this year.

I would REALLY like this to be my last convention after being a delegate for 30 yrs. (with only a 1 yr. break in the last 30 yrs).

2024's convention will be a 1-day convention, and it will be in Erie, PA. The commitment as a delegate is at 1-2 deanery meetings in September before the convention, then the travel to convention, and probably a 1 nite stay in Erie. If you want more info, just ask me, I am willing to chat about it.

Have a blessed holiday season,

Sue V



## Episcopal Family Fun Bowling Day

On December 10, the partnership dioceses will hold a family bowling day from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at **Broadway Sports Center** in Cheektowaga, New York. Tickets are \$10 for three games, pizza, soda, and shoe rental for bowlers, and \$5 for non-bowlers. Families will not pay more than \$30. All payments will be collected on December 10.

To reserve a spot **email Wendy Schumacher.**







# Lock City Sound

## Of Christmas

Holiday sounds from  
around the world!

**Saturday December 2, 2023 - 7 PM**  
**The spirit of the season, a community in Song!**

In conjunction with the Buffalo Gateway Chorus  
and the Niagara Falls Community Choir  
Niagara County Community College -  
Building F Auditorium  
3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
Sanborn, NY 14132

**Sunday December 10, 2023 - 2 PM**  
**Lock City Sound Christmas Concert**  
Lockport Alliance Church -  
555 Davison Rd.  
Lockport, NY 14094

All Concerts are free,  
but donations are  
graciously accepted.

The Lock City Sound acknowledges support from:



"Program is partially funded by  
York State Council on the Arts in  
support of Governor Kathy Hochul  
the New York State Legislature  
administered by Arts Services Inc.  
of Western New York."

ST. ANDREW'S  
ANNUAL

# Christmas Party

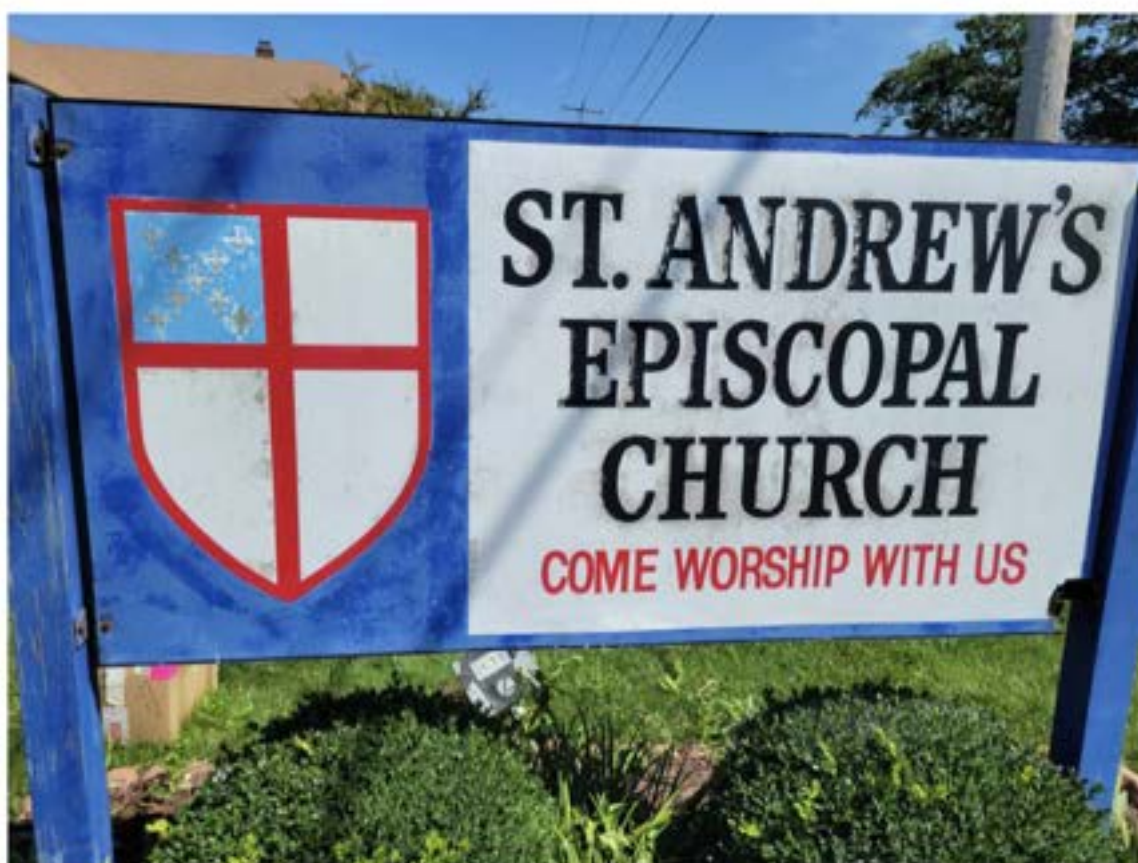
DECEMBER 9TH AT 6:00 PM

AT THE JORDAN'S HOME  
2071 N. BEEBE RD, BURT

SIGN UP SHEETS ARE ON THE  
BULLETIN TABLE AT CHURCH



## New Sign Fund



Fellow Parishioners! Our poor old sign has seen better days and needs replacement! We are looking to replace our old sign with a beautiful new one and need to raise \$2000 to do so! You can help by making your donations today! Make your check payable to St. Andrew's Church, New Sign Fund. Thanks!

# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 10.1.23

When I was a little girl, I wanted to be a missionary. Not a firefighter, teacher, policeman, or nurse, like most children. A missionary. My friends always laughed at me. My parents discouraged me because their understanding of a missionary was as someone who went off to a Third World country to tell people to follow Jesus. I grew up and instead became a journalist, then a communications professional, then a Fortune 500 executive, then a non-profit executive, then a Christian education director, and then, finally, a priest. Not a missionary in the traditional sense of being sent to a foreign country on behalf of a Christian group, but a missionary in the sense of being on a mission to spread the love of Jesus.

My spiritual director has a saying that sometimes it takes us a long time to catch up with ourselves. Sometimes, God calls us to do something, and we put off doing it.

Putting off doing what God calls us to do may not be ideal. But, as long as we stay open to God working in our lives, we do eventually catch up to ourselves. And God finds a way to use all our experiences along the journey to form us.

A worse situation occurs when we decide we're already doing what God wants us to do and so decide we don't need to be open to change. So, God may be calling us to transform a part of our lives, but we're so sure we're already righteous that we don't hear God. When that happens, we become like the chief priests who were so engrained in their own righteousness that they failed to recognize Jesus for Who He Was. And they also failed to change their lives to follow Jesus.

God gives us free will and won't beat us over the head with a call to change. Sometimes, the call comes in subtle ways. We need to be open to God's call in these ways. For example, new people may come into our church with different ideas. Their new ideas may well come from the Holy Spirit. Indeed, the newest converts to Christianity are often the most Spirit-filled. But because their ideas differ from those we're comfortable with, we reject them. We fail to keep our hearts open to being transformed and finding new ways of reaching out to the community or worshipping God.

Likewise, generations differ. Although the Gospel is unchanging, the ways we must make the Gospel accessible to new generations do change. The absence or underrepresentation of some ages in our church community may be God's call to us to try something new. The lack of new members joining our community may also indicate that God is calling us to a new thing.

*continued on page 9*



# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 10.1.23, *continued*

*continued from page 8*

Sometimes, we sense God's call in restlessness. We've been doing something we used to love, yet we yearn for something else. If we remain open and prayerful, we may discover that restlessness was the Holy Spirit stirring up our hearts.

We may also sense God's call when something unexpected happens. God sometimes causes unexpected things, but more often, God works through them. For example, I don't believe God ever causes bad things to happen to us. But God often works through the bad things to call us to change our lives. For example, consider Eunice Kennedy, who started the Special Olympics after watching how society treated children with intellectual disabilities like her sister Rosemary. Or Candace Lightner, who founded Mothers Against Drunk Driving after a drunk driver killed her 13-year-old daughter. These women could have allowed these tragedies to turn them away from God. Instead, they were open to hearing God's call and allowing it to transform them into something new and to try to change the world.

Sometimes, adults are like children. When their mom asks her children to pick up their shoes from the floor, they keep doing whatever they are doing and say, "in a minute" several times until finally, they run out of minutes and have to do what their parent asked them to. But, at least the child finally picks up the shoes. Even though the child kept playing, they still listened to their parent. They were still open to answering the call. It's far better that we be that child instead of the one who never picks up the shoes, even after their grandmother trips over them and falls.

As long as we stay alert and open to where God is calling us and as long as we realize we need to continually be open to transformation, we remain in good fellowship with God. We avoid becoming Phariseeical in our lives.

As long as we are open to the Holy Spirit – even if it shows up in unusual places – we will eventually catch up with ourselves. We'll be the change God wants in the world.



# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 11.26.23

Some years ago, I worked as a counselor at a day camp for children who were infected or affected by HIV/AIDs. Either the child had HIV, or a sibling, or the parent.

I had 11-year-old girls in my group, and they enjoyed various very active pursuits. Most of the week, the day camp occurred on the extensive grounds of one urban Episcopal church. One day during the week, we took a bus to the diocesan's camp on the James River. It was a vast amount of land with kayaking, ropes courses, hiking, and other activities that the church grounds did not offer. It was the highlight of the camp week. The challenge (and the reason we didn't have a camp there every day) was the water. The water in the river and all the water fountains throughout the camp was less than pure. It was good enough that most of us could drink it and feel refreshed without negative consequences. However, for those with compromised immune systems, like most of our children, drinking this water that contained a little bacteria could be fatal. The task of the camp facility's staff was to bring bottled water near each place where we had activities.

The camp was held in August in Virginia. Virginia is very hot and humid in August, especially in low-lying areas near the river. My group and I had a wonderful time hiking for about two hours, and when we got back to our starting point, the only water we found was the camp's water fountain. I felt like I was about to die of thirst, having run behind these 11-year-olds for the whole hike. (Yes, these kids had a lot of energy despite their challenges.) But I knew I couldn't drink from the fountain because it would set a poor example for my kids, who couldn't drink from it safely. Our bottled water, which would have been safe, was late arriving. All of us were longing for that water. The journey of that hike had exhausted us and depleted our energy. We struggled for the five minutes we had to wait for it to arrive.

Water is critical to our lives. It quenches our thirst and rejuvenates us. It irrigates vegetation. It keeps us clean. Likewise, living springs of water are essential to our faith. We encounter living water in Baptism. We encounter the water mixed with wine in the Eucharist. The water in Baptism and the Eucharist are outward signs of the living water God places within us as children of God. They also foreshadow the streams of living waters we will encounter when our time on earth is over. They tell us about the refreshing water our loved ones who have gone before us now drink from.

*continued on page 11*



# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 11.26.23, *continued**continued from page 10*

When we are beaten down and broken by being part of the world around us, the living water that Jesus brings renews us. Jesus's water is pure and clear. It blesses us as we struggle to walk faithfully in this broken world. It comforts us. As we work to bring peace to a violent world, Jesus leads us to places of refreshment and comfort. As we grieve for those people or things we've lost, Jesus leads us to places of comfort. When we realize how much our souls need God, Jesus takes us there. When we cry out because of injustices we see in the world, Jesus helps renew our spirits. When others turn against us because we stand firmly for what is right, Jesus is there for us.

We are all broken, and we exist in a broken world. But God blesses us as we try to live good lives – saintly lives – in this broken world. God comforts us as we wait for God in silence. God comforts us through the sacraments. God comforts us through our time together in community. God has always existed to bring comfort to humankind. God comforted our ancestors, refreshing them while they struggled to live godly lives amid a broken world. No matter what, God is here for us. We can access that living water of God through prayer, participation in the sacraments, and the encouragement of each other. Indeed, as we gather around the Eucharistic table, we join with God, each other who are physically present, and the Spirits of all those who have ever gathered around this Table and now gather for a similar feast face to face with Jesus.

God also comforts us as we realize that our ministry in this broken world isn't all there is. Almost all of us have experienced times of grief or loss and times of frustration in trying to live as holy people in an unjust and unholy world. Another way God comforts us is to remind us that the world to come offers us eternal bliss. At the end of our time on earth, we'll drink continually from the refreshing springs of cool, clear water. We will join those in white robes who now see God face to face.



## Around Our Parish

### CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's Ladies Guild Sponsored Bazaar super successful! Over \$7000.00 was raised!

At the December Ladies Guild meeting it was decided to donate some of the funds to many community needs, including St. Andrew's General Fund, The Newfane Food Pantries, SPCA, Newfane Alumni Association Christmas Fund, New Vacuum and Refrigerator for St. Andrew's, Our Little Roses, and more!

Did you know: Every woman of St. Andrew's is considered a member of the Ladies Guild. Each one serves the church both individually and through the Guild.

### St. Paul's and St. Andrew's Team Up for the annual Episcopal Relief & Development Campaign

Joint parish ERD outreach campaign with St. Paul's Lewiston was a success! St. Andrew's was invited by the St. Paul's mission outreach group to fundraise for the "One Thousand Days of Love" package. This ERD package for \$1000.00 dollars offered aid an underdeveloped area to give care for 5 mom's and newborns, nurture and nourish twelve children, provide clean water for a family, provide mosquito nets and training for ten families, It also gave four savings & loan group memberships. The goal of ERD is to positively impact the women and children in a way that enables them to provide for themselves and train them to impact their community.

We, as a joint team, exceeded the goal and were able to designate the extra money to assist in a war-torn area.

Thank you, my church family, for your support of this project.

Cindy Harrington & St. Paul's Mission Committee



### News From St. Andrews Community Store

"Turkey, Turkey"

How many shoppers does it take to buy 25 turkeys?

How many shoppers and donators does it take to allow this to happen?

Who ate the Turkey?

It took one (1) shopper and a wing man.

It took all of you who have donated, volunteered, and shopped with St. Andrew's Community Store throughout the year.

The turkeys were given to the ABCD childcare and development center to be enjoyed by farm and agricultural industry work families. This outreach brings smiles to faces and nourishment to hungry bellies on Thanksgiving. Thanks so much!





# **St. Andrew's Holiday Season Schedule**

**-- Sunday, December 3rd --**

1st Sunday in Advent

10:45 am Service

**-- Sunday, December 10th --**

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:45 am Service

**-- Sunday, December 17th --**

3rd Sunday in Advent

10:45 am Service

Christmas Pageant, followed by  
Greening of the Church  
and Potluck Luncheon

**-- Sunday, December 24th --**

4th Sunday in Advent

10:45 am Service

**Christmas Eve**

10:30 pm Carols, 11:00 pm Service

**-- Sunday, December 31st --**

10:45 am Service of Lessons & Carols

# Schedules

## December

### Lay Readers

- 3 - Jerry Harrington
- 10 - Jerry Harrington
- 17 - TBD
- 24 - 10:45am, Jamie Gailie & Sharon Rhodes  
- 10:30pm, TBD
- 31 - TBD

### Video Producers

- 3 - Jamie Gailie
- 10 - Natalie Beilein
- 17 - Jamie Gailie
- 24 - 10:45am Pam Leibring  
- 10:30pm, TBD
- 31 - Lynn Schauer-Bewley

### Altar

Prudy Waters & Jackie Jordan

### Collection Counters

Cindy & Jerry Harrington

### Coffee Hour Clean Up

Sign up to help  
at church or online  
(find the link on our website)



## January

TBD

## Office Hours: 5-8 pm Tuesday and Thursday

### Community Store Hours Updates

We will be running regular Wednesday through Saturday hours until December 21 for our holiday shoppers. We will be closed Friday, December 22, 2023, through January 2, 2024 to allow our volunteers a vacation after the busy holiday season. We will reopen on January 3 at 11am for the new year.

In case of nasty winter weather, St. Andrew's Community Store will be closed when Newfane Schools are closed.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our Volunteers and Shoppers!

## Community Store

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



# Calendar

## December

- 9 - Jordan's Party, 6 pm
- 13 - Vestry at 1776 Coomer, 7 pm
- 17 - Christmas Pageant,  
Greening of the Church,  
& Potluck
- 17 - Rehab Service
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service  
10:30 Carols, 11pm Service
- 25 - Jan 1st - Office Closed
- 31 - Lessons & Carols

## January

- 10 - Vestry, 7 pm
- 14 - Children's Event &  
Pop Up Pet Food Pantry
- 21 - Staff Meeting, Noon
- 21 - Rehab Service
- 28 - Annual Meeting & Potluck

### Christmas Flowers

I will have a sign up sheet for Poinsettias this weekend. The money will be due no later than the 17th of December when the flowers will be delivered. I will need a good majority of the order to Heimiller's by the 10th.

If you are not able to add to the sign up sheet you can email me: [jack.bartoszek@gmail.com](mailto:jack.bartoszek@gmail.com) or text/call 716-553-9748 to order.

*Colors: Red, White, Pink and Marble (no curly leaf/rose this year)*

*Cost: 6" pot for \$6.10 OR 8" pot for \$11.25*

If you are writing a check, please make them out to Heimiller Greenhouses (not Jackie).

Thank you, Jackie



**St. Andrew's Newsletter**

Office Manager: Shawn Slother

Music Director & Organist: Joe Brezka, Jr.

Music Associate: Evan Bleiler

Treasurer: Doug Wintersteen

Sexton: Jerilyn Carney

St. Andrew's Community Store: Cynthia Harrington

Church School Superintendent: Nancy Pestinger

Choir Librarian: Shirley Litz

Altar Guild Director: Jackie Jordan

Deanery / Convention Delegates:

Sue Villeneuve

Cynthia Harrington

Janelle Dengate

**December 23/January 24**

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

Rector: The Very Reverend Randi Hicks Rowe

Deacon: Martha Farone

Wardens

Sarah Horquist

Lynn Schauer-Bewley

Vestry

Nancy Pestinger

Steve Clark

Jerry Harrington

Pam Leibring

Melissa Bleiler

Tom Villeneuve

**St. Andrew's Newsletter**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
2239 West Creek Road  
P.O. Box 133  
Burt, New York 14028-0133

Dated Material

To: