

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



From Your Rector

Qoheleth writes in the book of Ecclesiastes that to “everything there is a season, a time and purpose under heaven.” The Byrds sang a song based upon that verse, entitled “Turn! Turn! Turn!” The point of the passage, which the Byrds express well, is that change is a part of God’s creation and a part of our lives. Seasons change; tides change; the moon changes. We become accustomed to one way of being, then we turn around to find something different.

Throughout history, we can see changes in the church. Sometimes these changes reflect new theological understandings or knowledge gained through recent archaeological discoveries. Other times, they are the church’s way of ministering to people in changing times. Sometimes they are changes to make our worship relevant to people in a new culture. The Gospel never changes, but the church does change in how it lives out the Gospel in changing times. For example, the discovery of what became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 has changed how Christian scholars view the relationship between rabbinic Judaism and Christianity and how we understand John the Baptizer. Space exploration has changed how we view God’s creation and given us the origins of Eucharistic Prayer C in the 1979 Prayer Book, as another example.

I believe society now is undergoing tremendous change and that the church must change as well. Again, our message of God’s love is always the same. But the way we deliver that message is due for a change. The increasing mobility of society and the world view of the Millennials already have been urging a change. COVID is now accelerating those changes. Today’s society differs from society 50 years ago. The Gospel message is more urgent than ever, and it needs to be presented in a way that people in this culture today can hear it.

Tradition is essential too. I can hear the voice of Tevye crying out the merits of tradition even as I hear the call of God in the fiddler plucking the strings of change. And therein lies the challenge for St. Andrew’s next year and for the next few years. How do we present the Gospel so that new generations will hear it while retaining the most essential parts of our Anglican tradition? Finding the right combination will take the creativity, gifts, and perspectives of all of us. It will call some of us to be more flexible, while it will call others to proceed more cautiously. Christianity is never easy, but I believe that this community will find the right path forward.

Randi+

Join Us Sundays

10:45

In-Person or on Zoom

StAndrewsBurt.com

Special Section

Meet Our New Leaders

Pages 5 - 7

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





Bible Study

Pastor Randi will be leading a Bible study based around the crowd-funded series, *The Chosen*, starting on February 7. *The Chosen* examines the life of Jesus through the eyes of his disciples, including the 12 and other disciples close to Jesus. It will be offered in a hybrid format so that you can attend virtually or in-person and will continue until April 11 at 6:30pm. We will watch an episode, Randi will present some information relative to the episode, and we'll have a discussion. Randi will be in-person at St. Andrew's on February 7th and then rotate each Monday between St. Paul's and St. Andrew's.

Our Little Roses

We need to have more regular correspondence with Evelyn. I am thinking of creating a monthly letter to her that is a shared document that everyone can edit. People may feel more comfortable adding a picture or quick note rather than writing their own letter. I'd also like to do some kind of annual fundraiser to raise money for Our Little Roses. They have expressed that they are desperately in need of funds to run the home for girls. The pandemic has had a negative impact on them.

I'd appreciate hearing any feedback or ideas the vestry members may have regarding our mission to support Our Little Roses.

Laurie Gregory

Newfane Food Pantry

Friends and Supporters of the Newfane Community Food Pantry,

On behalf of the Newfane Community Food Pantry, I would like to thank you for your continued support. Your food and monetary donations during the Christmas Sharing helped us to give 102 families in need a bountiful Christmas package, making their holidays merrier and a little less stressful. Our mission to feed the hungry and assist families who need a helping hand is made much easier with your support. People were very thankful, and some were in tears saying how much this assistance helps them.

It is always a joy to see the weeks of work and organization come together with the help of the community. All the helping hands, time, talent, and food and monetary donations are always greatly needed and appreciated. We could not do this without you.

God bless you and thank you for being here for us. May the Lord bless all of you with increased faith, hope, and good health in the year to come.

In God's Hands,
Kathy Phillips

Co-coordinator of NCFP

Families

Intergenerational

In 2022 we hope to continue to build stronger relationships between our parish members, their friends, and the community in two main ways:

(1) Provide more inter-generational fun events for our congregation to participate in. Below is a list of POSSIBLE events.

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Spring Dinner Out
- Summer event – any ideas????
- Pumpkin Painting
- Community Christmas Ornament Event

(2) Continue to support local charities/outreach by participating in another regional walk to support cancer or another charity.

For us to achieve our two goals, we need continued support and encouragement from our youth, families, and the parish. We are hoping to build intergenerational partnerships and are always looking for ways to truly be helpful. If you are interested in helping in one or more of the events above or have other fun activities/outreach ideas that our youth may be interested in supporting, please contact Pam Leibring.

Acolytes

Happy New Year St. Andrew's Family!
January 2022 acolyte count is at 4: Gage Gallie, Cameron Naylor, Molly Dengate and myself, Sue Villeneuve, as director and acolyte. The past 2 years have brought a plethora of emotions. We all want a return to the old normal but that is not going to happen any time soon. Our new normal with zoom and in person services are going to be the normal for an indefinite time to come.



Sunday School

Whether we like it or not, the Covid pandemic crisis is having a huge impact on our St. Andrew's Sunday School.

Our mission in Sunday School remains the same, but the execution of that mission has looked different during Covid and will likely continue to be different after the crisis has passed. Our numbers in Sunday School have been extremely low, as our parents try to keep their children safe throughout this pandemic.

We understand that parents face "the fear of Covid" for their children five days a week as their children attend school. Knowing this, it is understandable that on weekends they would rather keep their children safe at home.

Also, our number of students is down because most of our students have grown up and moved on to college. True, we have a good number of very young children that we have no doubt will be attending Sunday School when they get older and this wicked pandemic is behind us.

We are confident that on the other side of this pandemic, we will see the return of our children back at Sunday School. We teachers stand at the ready, looking forwards to leading our children down the path to learning more about Jesus, the Bible and how having this knowledge will make them better people and help them live in this ever changing world around them.

St. Andrew's Sunday School Teachers

Diocese

Online Explorers' Series Begins in February

In February, the partnership dioceses will host a new, three-part online program, called the Explorers' Series, for people discerning a possible call to ordained ministry.

“This is called an 'Explorer' series because you do not have to be certain of a call or certain of a particular type of ministry to attend,” said Canon Twila Smith, who will lead the program. “This is a time to consider different ministries and learn more about them.”

The program begins with a 90-minute online session for both the explorer and their sponsoring priest, offered on either February 3 or February 6.

Lenten Bible Study: God Saves A People

On Thursdays in Lent (March 3 to April 14) from 2 to 3 p.m., the Rev. Brian Reid will lead an online Bible study using the Kerygma Program's "God Saves a People" curriculum. This seven-session series will trace the theme of God's saving grace throughout the Bible. The accompanying booklet is included in "the Bible in Depth" resource book, or can be purchased individually. Some copies are available to share.

To register and receive the Zoom link and/or to inquire about resources, email: gatchison@episcopalpartnership.org.

St. Andrew's Financial Status as of December 2021

Total Expenses: \$152,844

Actual Income: \$127,686

% of Pledges on Time: 71%

Goal for Pledges on Time: 80%

Income Equals: 83.5% of Expenses

Meet Our New Leaders

Sarah Hornquist ~ Junior Warden ~ 2 Year Term

It has been an honor and a learning experience this past year serving on Vestry. I am excited to take on a larger leadership role with the nomination for Junior Warden. St. Andrew's is more than a place of worship, it is a family, it is a constant in my personal life. I look forward to continuing to work together with all of you to continue St. Andrew's traditions of a strong group of diverse people working together to support one another on our Christian missions both within and outside of the walls of the church.

Pam Leibring ~ Vestry Member ~ 3 Year Term

I am honored to be nominated as a Vestry member. My family and I have been members of St. Andrews for almost twenty years. This church family has helped Eric and I raise our three children (James 20, Sarah 18, and Julia 12) and has played an important part of our spiritual lives. Over the past 10 years I have taken an active role in the church as the facilitator of the Intergenerational Group, member of the Partnership Committee, Vestry member and Warden. St. Andrew's Church is not only a place for me and my family to come weekly to worship, but it is a fellowship of family and friends who come together to love and support each other. I am excited to serve the church again and pledge to do my best to support and encourage all within our church to continue to strengthen our ties to each other and our community through faith.

Meet Our New Leaders

Steve Clark ~ Vestry Member ~ 3 Year Term

I was baptized right here at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Burt, NY, late in 1960. I also stood for Confirmation here as well. I currently serve as one of the Eucharistic Ministers. On the third Sunday of each month, I carry the collective Love of Christ and the St. Andrew's congregation to a Worship service for the elderly and residents of the Newfane Health Facility. I have completed the 4yr. course of Education for Ministry for which I received a certificate of completion from the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. In addition, I have been commissioned as a Chaplain for Transport for Christ Global; an international organization bringing the Love of Jesus Christ and support to the Professional Drivers Industry around the world. If I am selected for the opportunity to serve the Congregation and Community of St. Andrew's; I would serve responsibly with the best of my ability to work with the other members of the Vestry and our congregation and community to maintain the structure and property of St. Andrew's, as well as fiscal fitness as we move into our future. I would support our Clergy, congregation, and community to provide consistent, safe, Gospel based worship services, whether in person or on Zoom. I am excited to also act as a vessel through which I will hold open the door; inviting Jesus to join us and lead us in His ways; using innovative activities, resources, as well as, congregational and community interaction as He leads us to explore who and what He means to each of us individually; and how we can, as a congregation, grow and reach out to our neighbors in our community. L21 Peace 🙌 ☮️.

Thank You to Our Deanery / Convention Delegates!

Sue Villeneuve

Cynthia Harrington

Janelle Dengate

Meet Our New Leaders

Jerry Harrington ~ Vestry Member ~ 2 Year Unexpired Term

Hi, I am Jerry Harrington, and I am running for the 1-year unexpired Vestry term. I have attended St. Andrew's since 1979. I was an active Vestryperson and served on the "first" Search Committee when St. Andrew's went from a Mission status to becoming a Parish. I was asked to participate at that time because the membership wanted someone "young." As a Vestryperson I have held the positions of Warden, Jr. Warden, Building & Grounds Chair. Currently I participate as an Usher, Zoom producer, Lay Reader, church plumbing and heating technician, these are important ministries. They help me stay in touch with fellow parish members as well as help me serve the church. My wife and I are co-directors of St. Andrew's Community Store. The store is a vital ministry to our community. I have seen this parish through difficult times and those of great joy and prosperity. I hope to help lead this parish now in the challenging time, so St. Andrew's can continue to be beacon to all. Helping to let St. Andrew's serve the community by doing the work that Jesus has asked us to do. Also, I look forward to being an "older" member of the Vestry.

UPDATE: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 27th, 2022

Chris Jordan will be stepping down from the vestry to accept a role as Chairperson for the Building & Grounds Committee. As such, the vestry has agreed that Dorothy Cheasty will fill Chris' unexpired term which ends in 2023 at the Annual Meeting. Thank you to Chris and Dorothy for accepting these new roles in our parish!

Sermon

Pastor Randi, 1.16.22

Psychologists tell us that we tend to love those people familiar to us. We gain a sense of safety among the familiar and the predictable. We also prefer people who are like us. Finding people who think like us and act like us seems to build confidence in ourselves and our feelings. We also tend to be willing to risk liking someone we feel will like us in return. Subconsciously, we think familiar and similar people are more likely to like us back.

This tendency toward loving the familiar and similar can sometimes cause trouble in the church. God intends for the church to be a collection of people who are different. The church's mission is to spread the Gospel and minister to the community's needs in Jesus's name. To do that, we need people with different perspectives, different backgrounds, different life paths, and different gifts. For example, we need people in the church who can organize, empathize, welcome, keep us on the right track spiritually, understand money, make others feel better, and call us to evangelism. We need people who have mainly led conservative, conforming lives and those who have come to God through more wandering paths. We need people who talk a lot and people who listen well. We need all these gifts and perspectives. And we need to be able to sit down together, pray, and decide what we will do as a community of faith together. Once we've decided what we will do, we then determine what each person will contribute toward that common goal based on the gifts God has given them. We need to fight against the urge to listen only to those who think like us or who we most associate with. God has led each person into our community for a reason. Being able to do the ministry we're called to as a congregation depends upon listening to and working collaboratively with everyone.

We also need to honor the gifts we've each been given. To do that, we first understand what a gift really is. Society has changed the way it looks at gifts. Seldom do we really receive a true gift in society. At Christmas, most of us exchange gifts, which means that we give to those who also give to us. When we receive gifts that aren't part of an exchange, it's often because of some achievement – for example, we receive graduation gifts because we finished our schooling. Spiritual gifts are different. We receive them because God has chosen to give them to us. They are provided to us – the baptized-- to be used within a community of faith for the common good. We didn't do anything to earn them. They aren't given for us to hoard for our own benefit.

We also need to recognize that every gift is equal. That's hard to realize today. Society tends to value some gifts more than others – we can see that in how society compensates certain professions more than others even if they require similar training or education. We also tend to think some gifts are more valuable than others in churches too. We become envious because God gave someone else a gift we perceive as more important than the gift God gave us. Or, if we have what we consider a higher gift, we sometimes are proud. We think that gift was given to us because we are more special than others. Attitudes such as envy or pride distract us from using our gifts for the common good. Using our gifts for the common good means that we use them for the benefit of everyone – the whole church, the whole community, and the whole world. We need to be humble, cooperative, nonjudgmental, and open to using our gifts in the way that God intends.

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Sermon

Pastor Randi, 1.16.22, *continued*

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Here's a scenario to consider. A congregation is trying to discern one primary ministry it can undertake to benefit the community. It chooses a committee to consider this question. While the tendency would be to select people whose life experiences are similar and who all hang out together as part of the church "in-crowd," God would have us actively search for those who might bring a different perspective to this committee. God would have us listen to all perspectives.

Once the committee decides upon a ministry, God would have every person in the church contribute to this ministry. Each will contribute differently but equally. Some will be blessed financially and will give money. Others will be blessed with hospitality and contribute through parties or welcoming events. Some will be administrators. Others will encourage the administrators. Some will bring music into the ministry. The ministry would be incomplete without the gifts of everyone. It also will be lopsided if one or two people do everything while the rest of the congregation remains on the sidelines. EVERY PERSON has a gift that we need to do the bold ministry to which God has called our congregation.

Today's collect reads as follows:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

We all --- each of us -- are illumined by the Word and Sacraments of Jesus. We are all created by God and baptized by water and the Holy Spirit. When WE shine with the radiance of God's glory, WE make Christ known and worshipped.

When we each share our experiences, backgrounds, and gifts in community -- and when we all listen to and honor that sharing -- our congregation becomes the beacon of light that Jesus intends.



Sermon

Pastor Randi, 1.23.22

Most of us probably have experienced a time when one part of our body wasn't working as it was supposed to. Perhaps we sprained our ankle or broke our arm or pulled a hamstring or had or have osteoarthritis in our knees or hips. If an injury goes on long enough, we notice that the rest of the body compensates for it and we sometimes end up with a compensating body part being more injured than the original one.

For example, suppose you have tear the meniscus in your left knee but you continue to do your regular activities anyway. The rest of the body, especially your right knee, will work extra hard to allow you to complete these activities. Pretty soon, your right knee hurts as bad as your left knee. Or, suppose you sprain your ankle, but keep going. You soon notice your lower back hurts because it's taking on some of the work of the ankle. If you keep going, your hip also might begin hurting so that now you have a sore ankle, a sore hip AND low back pain.

To avoid compensation injuries, doctors will tell us to take care of the injured part by resting it, using ice, and providing assistive devices. Doctors will also advise physical therapy to help rehabilitate the original injury and restore the original body mechanics. This often means retraining the rest of the body so it doesn't compensate for the injured part.

Let's take this experience of physical body injuries and apply it to Paul's metaphor about the church as the body of Christ, with each body part representing a member. Suppose one member of the body of Christ is hurting. Maybe they've experienced the death of a loved one or they've been sick. Maybe someone in the church has hurt their feelings. Maybe they are just a little less than themselves, sort of like the body part that aches but has nothing really wrong with it. Or maybe they are just very anxious about the future.

The rest of the body of Christ has a choice of how to help this injured member heal. The church could try to ignore it and just keep moving forward. The odds are, however, that this tactic won't work any better in the church than it does with the physical body. Because each member is an important part of the whole, the church will become more crippled and less effective the longer it keeps ignoring this injured member.

Another option is that other members of the church could try to compensate for the injured one. They might overwork themselves or they might allow the dynamics or mechanics of how the church operates to change. Previously healthy members of the church may allow themselves to become involved in any drama around the injured person, especially if the injured person has become angry at or hurt by someone else in the church or is becoming anxious about a church-related situation. The result of this option is that the church fails to operate properly and may erupt in dissension or be unable to think creatively because anxiety or anger has spread.

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Sermon

Pastor Randi, 1.23.22, *continued*

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A third possibility for healing an injured member is to remain connected and provide them with the tools they need to heal, while avoiding doing their ministries for them or becoming part of their own drama. This balanced approach that cares for the injured body part while refusing to compensate for it or allow the injury to spread to other parts of the body is the healthiest. Yet, it's often the hardest. Just as it seems natural for our right knee to injure itself by compensating for the injury to the left one, it's natural for us to become injured ourselves in trying to help injured congregation members.

Edwin Friedman was a Jewish rabbi and family therapist who applied family systems theory to congregations. He coined a term "togetherness pressure" to refer to a situation in congregations where the desire to stay close to one another results into pressure to conform into a false unity. We see the results of togetherness pressure when one member of the church becomes anxious about new leadership, or budget problems, or changes in the congregation and the rest of the church suddenly becomes anxious too. Rather than providing the anxious person with the tools they need and being a nonanxious presence for them as they heal, we jump in and become anxious, too.

Another example of togetherness pressure occurs when we have a difference of opinion or feel we've been wronged, but we are afraid to express it appropriately because it might cause conflict. So instead, we let it fester until we blow up. Or we talk to everyone else other than the person we have a difference of opinion with.

God designed the church, just as God designed the body, to be a community of complementary interdependence. Each member brings something to the table that the others need. God also designed us to be unified, while still maintaining our identities as individuals. We care for each other and we care about the body without allowing either to subsume us. Friedman calls this self-differentiation. A healthy church invites its members to find a balance – to answer the question, "How can I be who I am and stay connected with you."

We become members of this body of Christ through our baptism. We come to the water as individuals, independent yet we rise out of it as part of a community. We are more than ourselves. We are a human being in relationship with others. We are who we are, yet we are connected. We work in tandem and provide space and tools for any who are injured to heal. Yet we don't overcompensate or become injured ourselves.

We are One body. We have complementary, interdependent members. And we are call each other and our community to wholeness and health.

St. Andrew's Famous

FISH FRY

Fridays, February 25th - April 8th

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

\$15 Adults, \$7 Children

Choice of Fish or Shrimp

Choice of Fries or Potato Salad

Cole Slaw & Roll w/Butter

Surprise Homemade Dessert!



Curbside Take-Out Only

Call 716-778-7633 to Order



Orders Starting at 2:00

Pick Up Begins at 4:00

Please Enter on West Creek Road

Cash or Charge Accepted

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Wilson-Burt & West Creek Roads, Burt, NY

StAndrewsBurt.com

Notes

The Elephant in the Room

We regret that we had to raise our prices this year. We know that the increase from our 2020 price of \$11 to our current \$15 is dramatic, but it reflects the amount that all of our costs have risen. Increases include fish (up 29%), fries (up 23%), oil (up a whopping 70%), and containers (up 100%+).



We have had to adjust to the take-out only model, and we are proud to say that after a tough start last year we were able to pivot and improve on our original model of serving you our famous fish. We are once again including a delicious homemade dessert with every dinner, and this is another reason we believe our fish fry is the best value around. We hope you find our quality of food and friendly service worth the price you pay.

Remember that the money we raise through fundraisers like this go back to our community through our outreach ministries. Learn more about us at StAndrewsBurt.com.

Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to serving you!

This information will be added to the Fish Fry flyers included with every order.



At-Home COVID Testing

Four At-Home COVID Testing Kits can be ordered from the government for FREE. Go to covidtests.gov to place your order.

Hospice Flowers

Jamie Gailie will be selling Hospice Spring Bouquets this year for \$10 each. Place your order with Jamie before February 22nd to purchase a bouquet. All proceeds benefit the specialized care of Niagara Hospice.

THANK YOU, TOM!

The Ladies Guild would like to thank Tom Villeneuve for the amazing job he's done cleaning the kitchen! It sparkles!

Schedules



February

Altar

Jackie Jordan

Sunday Collection Counters

The Depews

Lay Readers

6 – Dorothy Cheasty

13 – Liz Depew

20 – Steve Clark, Jamie Gailie

27 – Dorothy Cheasty, Jamie Gailie

Zoom Producers

6 – Jerry Harrington

13 – Jamie Gailie

20 – Doug Wintersteen

27 – Pam Leibring

Community Store

Wednesday 11 am - 4 pm

Thursday 1 pm - 4 pm

Friday 12 pm - 3 pm

Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

March

Altar

TBD

Sunday Collection Counters

The Mayers

Lay Readers

2 – Dorothy Cheasty

6 – Liz Depew

13 – TBD

20 – Steve Clark

27 – Dorothy Cheasty

Zoom Producers

TBD



Calendar



February

- 9 - Vestry 7 pm
- 20 - Nursing Home Service
- 21 - Office Closed in Observance of President's Day
- 22 - Staff Meeting 5:30 pm
- 25 - First Fish Fry!

March

- 2 - Ash Wednesday
- 4, 11, 18, 25 - Fish Fry!
- 9 - Vestry 7 pm
- 13 - Daylight Savings Begins, Set Clocks ahead 1 hour
- 20 - Nursing Home Service
- 22 - Staff Meeting 5:30 pm



St. Andrew's Newsletter

February/March 2022

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

Rector: The Very Reverend Randi Hicks Rowe

Deacon: Martha Farone

Wardens:

Jamie Gallie

Sarah Harrington

Vestry:

Nancy Pestinger

Lynn Schauer-Bewley

Sue Villeneuve

Steve Clark

Pam Leibring

Dorothy Chasty

Office Manager: Shawn Slother

Music Director & Organist: Joe Brezka, Jr.

Music Associate: Evan Bleiler

Treasurer: Doug Wintersteen

Sexton: Jerylyn 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

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2239 West Creek Road
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Dated Material

To: