

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



From Your Rector

Dear Parish Family,

St. Andrew's is a great church community. We love each other, and we care for each other. Many folks have joined our community because of the love they feel here.

We also are doing an excellent job in sharing that love with the neighborhood community. We share our love through Adopted Families, Love Rising, the pet food pantry, the church store, and gifts to charities from the Bazaar and other fund-raisers. We offer intergenerational community events that bring joy to many. We also participate in the community's welfare by attending business association meetings, high school plays, and sports events. We provide help for those in emergency situations to buy groceries or rent an apartment. We offer a Christian-based afterschool program in conjunction with Newfane Methodist Church. And we offer compassion, comfort, and a Christian burial to those who need it, even if they have lapsed in the practice of their faith.

We also share our Christian love with the wider community. Through the money we contribute from our budget to diocesan-wide outreach, we help support The Hope Center's addiction and grief recovery programs, diocesan camps, and several educational programs. We also help to support grants that enable our church and others within the diocese to undertake new community outreach programs or repurpose parts of their buildings to meet community needs. We give to Episcopal Relief and Development projects that help fight poverty throughout the world.

Sharing love – within the St. Andrew's community, the neighborhood, and the wider community – is our Christian calling. Answering that call requires resources – talents and treasure. I urge us to reflect on that call and pray about the gifts we can share to help St. Andrew's continue to share that love.

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*



Stewardship 2024



Ingathering Sunday October 22nd at 10:45 am

Please plan to join us for a light breakfast, sharing, and worship on Sunday as we explore “Connecting with Community” during our Stewardship Ingathering. Video broadcasting will also be available for this service for those who wish to join us from home.

You will be receiving information in the mail, including a Giving Card. You may return your Giving Card either in person in the weekly offering plate, directly to the Church office, or by submitting it online through the Google form that will arrive in your email. To help us assist with financial planning we ask that you promptly turn in your pledge by November 1st.

**But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you, and pray to the Lord on its behalf,
for in its welfare you will find your welfare.**

Jeremiah 29:7 (paraphrased)

Stewardship 2024

Dear St. Andrew's Family,

Our mission at St. Andrew's is to seek to share the unconditional love of God. Our vision is to share God's love with a faith and outreach presence that is welcoming to all. This past spring our book study frequently brought up that a parish must look outward to reach and find ways to support the community we are part of. Therefore we, as your Stewardship Team, felt called to have this year's focus be "Connecting with Community". Community includes many circles that often overlap; there are communities within our church in our different ministry groups, the local community in which we live and work, and our larger regional Episcopal community. We have a strong tradition of focusing on community; from our Fish Fry, Easter Egg Hunt, and Adopted Families, to name just a few. As a faith family we also support each other through the ups and downs of life as we pray together during our Sunday Service, catch up over coffee and a treat.

Supporting our parish and our larger community requires time, talent, dedication, and financing. Your commitment to St. Andrew's in the form of a momentary pledge supports our many connections to our community, allows us to explore new outreaches, and deepens support for our time honored faith traditions. We invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to contribute your talents, time, and treasure to support our parish mission, ultimately "Connecting with Community".

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You may return your Giving Card either in person in the weekly offering plate, directly to the Church office, or by submitting it online through the Google form that will arrive in your email. To help us assist with financial planning we ask that you promptly turn in your pledge by November 1st.

With Hope, Faith, and Love,
Sarah, Lynn, and Pam
Stewardship Committee



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for in its welfare you will find your welfare.**

Jeremiah 29:7 (paraphrased)

St. Andrew's
bazaar

Attic Treasures
Homemade Candy
Holiday Decorations & Gifts
Bake Sale
Basket Auction
New: Santa's Mailbox!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th, 2023
10:00-2:00
Chicken & Biscuit Luncheon
11:00-1:30

Wilson-Burt & West Creek Roads, Burt
Luncheon - Adults: \$12.00, Children 12 & Under: \$7.00
WE NOW ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS!
Handicapped Accessible

PUMPKIN DUMP CAKE

1 (29 oz.) can pumpkin
1 c. sugar
1 (13 oz.) can evaporated milk
3 eggs
4 tsp. pumpkin pie spice **
½ tsp. salt
1 box yellow cake mix
2 sticks of butter cut into slices

Combine: pumpkin, sugar, evaporated milk, eggs, pumpkin pie spice, and salt in mixing bowl. Beat well. Pour into greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle cake mix over pumpkin mixture. Lay sliced up butter all over top of cake mix. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes, until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Watch closely at end. Burns easily.

** May use instead of pumpkin pie spice**

1 tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. ginger
¼ tsp. cloves
½ tsp. nutmeg

Bazaar Meetings
October 2nd & October 23
at 5pm

Dinner will be provided!

Baskets and gift cards are needed
for the basket raffle,
candy/monetary donations for
the "candy ladies",
and people to make pumpkin
cake for the luncheon.

Diocese

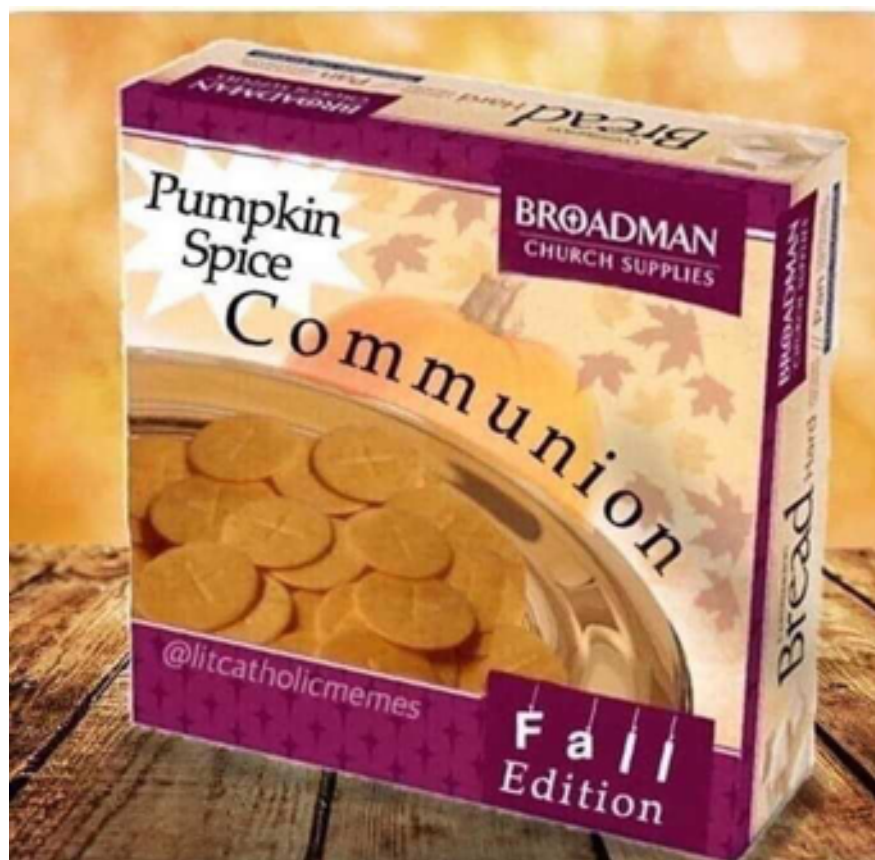
2023 Diocesan Conventions

The 2023 Diocesan Conventions of the Dioceses of Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania will be held at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie on October 20 and 21.

Two pre-convention meetings will be held on Zoom: October 4 at 7 p.m. and October 5 at 4 p.m. Both meetings will review the same material. Registration is required.

Bishop's Visit

Bishop Sean will be visiting on Sunday, October 29th, and Congregations from across the Partnership are invited to bring candidates for confirmation and reception to this service. St Andrew's will have a number of candidates, and a reception will follow the service.



Helping Neighbors



St. Andrew's Pet Food Pantry

Next Distribution Day: October, 28th

After October, Mobile Food Truck Saturdays pause for the winter, and therefore so will we. Stay tuned for when we will begin again after the new year.

Are you interested in helping out? Here are some things you can do:

1. Donate pet food. We really need cat food, but will happily take any wet or dry dog or cat food, toys, dishes, beds, collars, etc. We will continue to collect during the winter.
2. Donate money. Dollars donated go a long way because of our partnership with Clyde's. Please include "Pet Pantry" in the notes of any digital payments, or send a check made out to "St. Andrew's" with "Pet Pantry" on the memo line.
3. Volunteer on Mobile Food Truck Saturdays. Many hands make light work, and it's a very direct way to help our neighbors. Contact Lynn at lsbewley@gmail.com for more information.



Thank you to Doug Wintersteen for organizing and performing for the Artistic Guitar Raffle on September 22nd at Schulze's Winery! Also, thank you to Schulze's for always supporting St. Andrew's! What a COOL way to connect with our community!



Sermon

Pastor Randi, 9.3.23

Jeremiah wasn't really a bullfrog but rather a prophet. However, the people truly never understood a single word he said – or if they did – they ignored him and kept doing their own thing.

Jeremiah lived in the 500s and 600s BCE. Biblical scholars sometimes dub him "The Weeping Prophet." He had the misfortune to be a prophet during times when Judah followed their human urges rather than doing what God had commanded them. Jeremiah prophesied that the defeat of Judah by foreign enemies and the subsequent exile of the people to Babylon came about because of their unfaithfulness. When other prophets were preaching that the exile would end soon so that the people would be happy, Jeremiah told them instead to settle in and be ready to stay away from their homes for a long time. He also prophesied that the Temple would be destroyed. The problem was that the people depended on the Temple for their sense of security. They had started worshiping the Temple building instead of worshiping God by being kind and just. So, God would punish them by destroying the Temple. Only when the Israelites returned to God would God redeem them. Needless to say, the Israelites didn't like this message. Of course, everything Jeremiah foretold came true because his words were a message from God.

So, saying Jeremiah went against the world's culture while doing what God wanted him to do would be an understatement. But Jeremiah did it anyway. Imagine Jeremiah's life. He didn't have any friends. He was thrown into a muddy cistern without food and left there. He was arrested and tried on a capital charge, although acquitted. Later, he was taken to Egypt. An extrabiblical source says his exasperated fellow citizens stoned him to death there.

Indeed, Jeremiah took up the cross when He followed God. He suffered for doing what was right. His suffering wasn't fair any more than Jesus's death was fair. Yet God ultimately delivered Jeremiah in the end.

Compared to what Jeremiah endured, living a godly life today is relatively easy. However, it is still difficult. Sometimes, we tend to seek security in things other than God. It could be money or our retirement accounts. Or our jobs. Or the church as an institution or the church building. While hoping that our retirement will last as long as we do is fine, trusting in it more than we trust in God is a sin. Likewise, while loving the church or its buildings is good, putting even these holy things before God is a sin. The institutional church, unfortunately, has not always been on the side of justice and right, for example. When we see that the church has departed from its mission, we are called to urge the church to change even if our urgings make us unpopular. If the buildings or grounds cease serving God's purpose, we must change how we view and use them.

continued on page 9

Sermon

Pastor Randi, 9.3.23, *continued*

continued from page 8

Jesus calls us to be countercultural, just like the weeping and unappreciated Jeremiah. The world would have us make decisions based on what's best for us as individuals. For most in the world, life is all about WIIFM – What's in it, for me? Those of us who take up our cross and follow Jesus make decisions based on what will best bring about the change God wants to see in the world. It may mean giving up much of what we value – our possessions, reputation, and security. The world would also encourage us to be quiet when we see wrongs occurring in society. After all, getting involved in events that happen to others can be physically or emotionally dangerous. God, however, asks us to speak up even if, in speaking up, we jeopardize a friendship, job, or personal safety or security.

The world also would have us seek revenge against those who've done wrong to us. After all, "they had it coming," the world would say. However, God calls us to be kind to everyone and to do everything we can to be at peace with our neighbors. We sometimes like to wallow in our self-pity and hatred when someone treats us poorly. Sometimes, we hold onto the hate so long that it becomes an old friend to us. We don't want to let it go. In this case, taking up our cross means being willing to give up that old friend, "resentment and self-pity," so that we can love that person who hurt us and move forward as a healed and whole person.

No, being a Christian isn't easy. And the secular world may never understand a single word we say about our faith. But if we consistently live our faith, the world might at least notice that we're different. And those in the world might inquire about that difference. They might realize that Christianity is a kinder, gentler, and more loving way than the world's way. And when the world realizes that love is a better way to live, we begin to see Resurrection all around us.



Sermon

Pastor Randi, 9.17.23

I want to share a story told by Rabbi Harold Kushner.

He says, "A woman in my congregation comes to see me. She is a single mother, divorced, working to support herself and three young children. She says to me, "Since my husband walked out on us, every month is a struggle to pay our bills. I have to tell my kids we have no money to go to the movies while he's living it up with his new wife in another state. How can you tell me to forgive him?"

I answered her, "I'm not asking you to forgive him because what he did was acceptable. It wasn't; it was mean and selfish. I'm asking you to forgive because he doesn't deserve the power to live in your head and turn you into a bitter, angry woman. I'd like to see him out of your life emotionally as completely as he is out of it physically, but you keep holding on to him. You're not hurting him by holding on to that resentment, but you're hurting yourself."

Forgiveness is an essential spiritual practice. God has commanded that we forgive others, and medical science tells us that forgiveness improves our physical and mental health. Learning to forgive keeps us healthy and open to the life God intends. Many of us struggle to forgive and – like Peter – want to limit how often we'll forgive someone. Yet, our spiritual, mental, and physical health depends on continually forgiving others.

However, the exchange between Peter and Jesus is about more than just personal forgiveness. It's also about forgiveness and accountability in the context of a faith community. Peter is asking the question about how often he should forgive fellow church members. Peter asks that question just after Jesus has delivered his discourse about what to do when a member of the church sins against you. We read that passage last week. It said:

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.* But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

continued on page 11

Sermon

Pastor Randi, 9.17.23, *continued**continued from page 10*

We all know that we sometimes get our feelings hurt in church. Someone says or does something that offends us. We are on one side of a schism in the church, and someone on the other side says something mean to us. Sometimes, we even experience trauma in the church.

Jesus is setting out a system where both the victim and the sinner receive grace yet are also held accountable – or, as one of my ministry colleagues says, we are held "able." The victim is "held able" to go through the process Jesus speaks of when someone in the church has hurt them. They go first to the person who hurt them. If that doesn't help, they take others with them. If that still doesn't help, they bring their concern to the whole church. The victim also is "held able" to forgive the wrong.

On the other hand, the church community holds the offender as "able" to repent and turn their life around. The church community ensures the offender hears and responds to the victim's hurt. The community is also there to protect the victim from being repeatedly hurt by the same person over and over again. The church offers support and compassion to the victim because of their hurt. It also supports the offender in making amends and changing their life. Indeed, the church holds them "able" or accountable.

Sometimes, the tendency in churches is to avoid dealing with conflicts that occur between members. The tendency is fine as long as the members quickly resolve their disputes. However, schisms develop if the church community fails to intervene in long-term conflicts between individuals. These schisms significantly damage the church and its ministries. God calls us as community members to work together to heal any rifts quickly. If an offender is unwilling to change their ways, the church must act to convince them to do so for the benefit of the injured party and the whole church.

Forgiveness is a commandment from God. Forgiving each other within the church community is even more significant. Indeed, we are never to stop forgiving members of our congregation who hurt us, no matter how many times they mess up. However, the church community also has a responsibility. The community must do some binding and loosing. They must be sure to hear the voice of the injured. They also must hold the offender "able" to change and do whatever is necessary to urge this change.



Episcopal Relief & Development Campaign

“And don’t forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God” Hebrews 13:16

Hello Parish Family,

On behalf of St. Andrew’s, we are reaching out to you about our annual Episcopal Relief & Development Campaign.

This year, we will be working alongside St. Paul’s, Lewiston for the “One Thousand Days of Love” package. This package is \$1,000 and includes:

- Care for five (5) moms and their newborns
- Nurture & nourishment for twelve (12) children
- Clean water for a family
- Mosquito nets and training for ten (10) families
- Four (4) savings & loan group memberships

We’ll be collecting from now until the ERD Ingathering on Sunday October 15th.

If contributing by check, please make the check payable to St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church with “ERD” in the Memo line. If contributing with cash, please put your donation in an envelope marked clearly with your name and “ERD” on the envelope.

As always, your donation to the ERD campaign is an opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of those who receive these gifts. Thank you for your generosity!

Gratefully,
Cindy Harrington
& St Paul’s Mission Committee



Pet Blessing Sunday 2023



Kidventures in Faith

A Christian After School Program
3:30 to 5:00 p.m. the following Thursdays



© Can Stock Photo / Jernm

Thursdays, September 28, October 5, 12, 19 at
Newfane United Methodist
2699 Main St., Newfane NY

Thursdays, October 26, November 2, 9, 16 at
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
2239 W Creek Rd, Burt, NY 14028

- Grades 1 through 5
- Bible stories, crafts, music, games, and food
- No pre-registration required

Kidventures Simple Supper

Open to families of those attending Kidventures - Starting at 5:00p.m.
Eat as a family before heading into your evening commitments.
No prep, No charge, No clean up

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus photograph of autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. A white rectangular box with a dashed border is centered on the page, containing the text and form. At the bottom of the page, a wooden surface is visible, covered with a layer of fallen autumn leaves.

ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE

On **All Saints' Sunday, November 5th**, we will be offering up the Eucharist in celebration for those Saints who have gone before us. Please place this form in the collection plate or on the office desk, listing the names of anyone you would like to be remembered during the service.

Please print names of those to be honored at the Eucharist:

Submitted by _____

Schedules

October

Lay Readers

- 1 - Dorothy Cheasty & Jerry Harrington
- 8 - Jamie Gailie & Sharon Rhodes
- 15 - Sue Villeneuve
- 22 - Liz Depew
- 29 - Jerry Harrington

Video Producers

- 1 - Doug Wintersteen
- 8 - Pam Leibring
- 15 - Jamie Gailie
- 22 - Doug Wintersteen
- 29 - Natalie Bielein

Altar

Darcy Buchanan & Cindy Harrington

Collection Counters

Sharon & Keith Rhodes

Community Store

Wednesday 11 am - 4 pm

Thursday 10 pm - 4 pm

Friday 12 pm - 3 pm

Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

November

Lay Readers

- 5 - Dorothy Cheasty & Jerry Harrington
- 12 - Liz Depew
- 19 - Jamie Gailie & Sharon Rhodes
- 26 - Jerry Harrington

Video Producers

TBA

Altar

Janelle Dengate & Sue Villeneuve

Collection Counters

Paul & Kay Mayer

Office Hours: 5-8 pm
Tuesday and Thursday

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



Calendar

October

- 1 - B&G Meeting 9 am
1 - Pet Blessing
11 - Vestry 7 pm
15 - Morning Prayer
20-21 - Diocesan Convention
22 - Ingathering for Stewardship
22 - Staff Meeting at Noon
28 - Pet Pantry 8:30-10 am
29 - Bishop Visit & Confirmations

November

- 5 - Daylight Savings Ends
5 - B&G Meeting 9 am
5 - All Saints Sunday
8 - Vestry 7 pm
11 - Bazaar
19 - Staff Meeting at Noon
20-24 - Office Closed

Altar Flower Donations

If you would like to donate flowers for the Sunday Altar, please reserve your date on the Flower Chart (Narthex Bulletin Board) and submit a check to Jackie Jordan for \$50, payable to "Cindy Davis".



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

October/November 2023

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: