

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



## From Your Rector

I want to reach out to you when you have needs.

Please remember that funeral homes and hospitals no longer call the local Episcopal priest when a congregation member enters the hospital or a relative dies. Even if I know you are in the hospital, I can't visit unless I know what hospital because the switchboard is no longer allowed to tell me whether you are a patient or not. Also, we no longer all live in the same small community where news travels. Our members are spread out over more extensive geography.

Please know that announcing the news on Facebook doesn't guarantee that I will receive it. Safe Church guidelines do not allow the priest to send friend requests to congregation members. The rationale is that the member may not want to friend you but would be shy in saying so. Also, we are not allowed to friend those under age 18. I like seeing photos and announcements about people's lives on Facebook. So, if you are willing for me to share these memories and are over 18, please ask to friend me.

The pandemic has been a time of great need. During the past two years, I have done funerals for more than 25 people, many of whom I loved deeply and grieved for. One relative and one friend died. Another friend had both his legs amputated above the knee. Someone under my care has had COVID just about every week -- some of them seriously. Members of the church community and the community at large have had significant financial needs. Your leadership team has had to negotiate a lot of changes. Praise God, we've also had some happy occasions. We've had three baptisms and one wedding during the past two years.

*continued on page 2*

**Join Us Sundays**

**10:45**

**In-Person or on Zoom**

**Sunday School at 10:30**

**StAndrewsBurt.com**

***A Letter From Your Vestry***

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***Stewardship 2023***

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



*From Your Rector, continued from page 1*

I try as hard as possible to reach out to people when they need me. However, I occasionally miss something because I don't know about it. Learning about these needs has been particularly difficult during the pandemic when we weren't able to be together or were afraid to be together. Also, the bishop told the clergy not to make visits, except to deathbeds, for the first year of the pandemic, and after that, only in cases where both parties were vaccinated. Even after the first year, given that science tells us we are contagious two days before we test positive, I've been reluctant to visit at-risk people without an invitation. Several of our parishioners have gotten very ill with COVID, and some have even been hospitalized despite being fully vaccinated. I don't want to give someone COVID, especially someone who may be largely isolated.

I am now beginning to make routine visits, and more of us are returning to church. As we gather again, I realize I missed needs I didn't know about. Please forgive me.

Finally, please tell a vestry member, the office, or the priest when a need occurs. Members of the congregation, please also let the priest know if you hear something about a member of our community. Don't assume I already know. We care about all our members and hate not acknowledging their pain.

Randi+



# Business



## Warden's View

Dear St. Andrew's Family,

I can't believe this is my last newsletter to you as warden. Time flies!!! I am so grateful to have been a part of this vestry and to be a part of all the wonderful things we have accomplished this past year. We have successfully pulled off another take out fish fry, drive thru chicken dinner, tailgate party, raising money for adopted families, Easter egg hunt, and many more that I'm sure I am missing.

I would like to take this time to thank you for trusting and believing in me to guide our church over the past year. I have total faith that Sarah and her Jr. Warden will continue to guide you into the future with greatness.

In God's love,  
Jamie



## September Vestry Highlights

The Bills tailgate Concert had a profit of \$661

Discussed the difficulty of in-house Fish Fry  
due to our volunteer level

Approved replacement of the metal  
Episcopal Church sign at the corner of 78  
and Wilson-Burt Rd

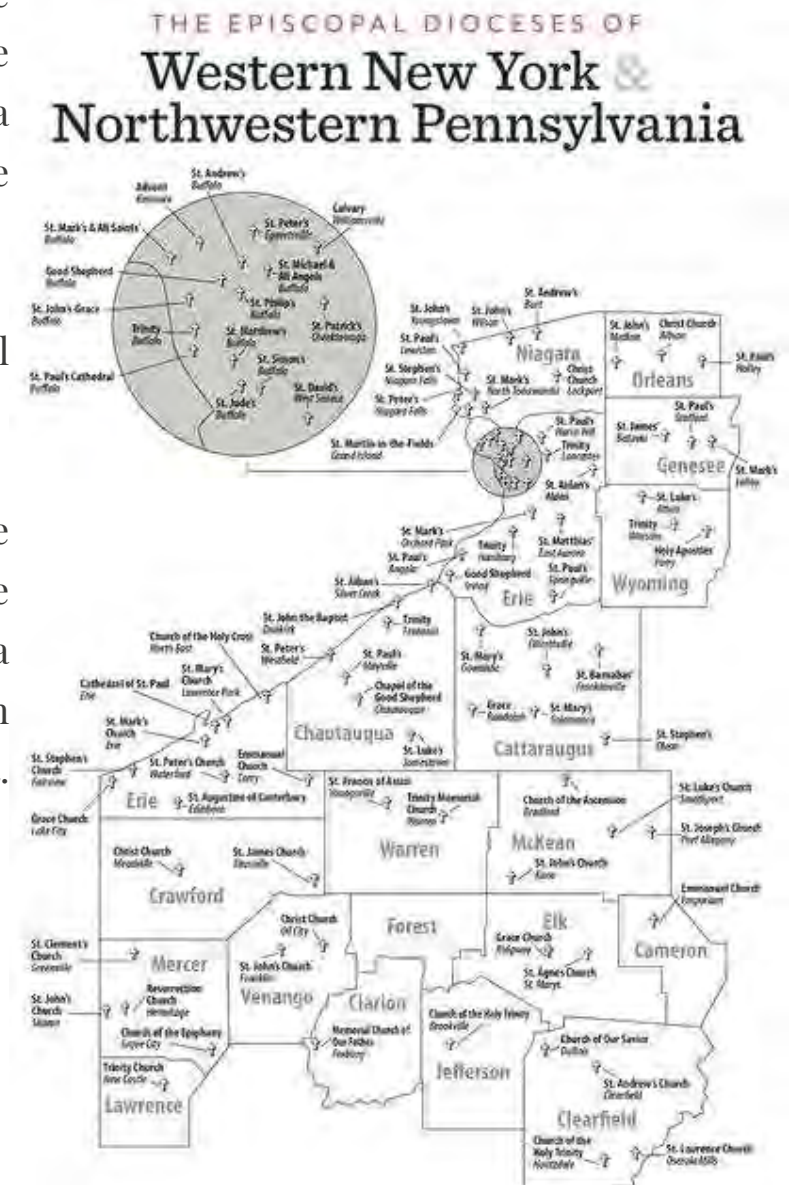
Discussed options for better inclusion of  
Zoom and in-person Sunday attendees



# Diocesan Convention is October 28-29

## *Registration Now Open*

The delegates for St. Andrew's are Janelle Dengate, Cindy Harrington, & Sue Villeneuve, along with Deacon Martha and Pastor Randi. Please keep them in your prayers as they represent St. Andrew's.





*Sharing God's Unconditional Love*

### **Coming in 2023!**

#### **Mission**

Helping our neighbors provide for their pets.

#### **When and Where**

Distribution of pet food will take place at the Newfane Town Hall on the 4th Saturday of each month during the mobile food truck delivery, in cooperation with the Newfane Food Pantry *(details are still being worked out)*

#### **Eligibility**

Any pet owner receiving assistance from the Newfane Food Pantry is eligible.

### **In the Works**

We are attempting to connect with local businesses and pet food banks in the region, hoping to build a sustainable model so we can serve every neighbor who needs help.

### **How You Can Help**

#### **Donations**

We gladly accept donations of unopened and unexpired pet food which can be dropped off at St. Andrew's church. We can also arrange to pick up any donations. Cash donations are also gratefully accepted, and all monies will go entirely to the purchase of food for distribution. *(details are still being worked out, including multiple drop off locations)*

#### **Volunteers**

We will be setting up a schedule for the monthly Saturdays at Town Hall. Youth are encouraged to take part. This will be a great opportunity to directly make a difference in our community.

#### **Join Our Team!**

Do you love animals? Would you like to make a positive impact in our community? Then please consider joining our Pet Pantry Team!

#### **Contact**

Lynn Schauer-Bewley

716.998.0338

lsbewley@gmail.com



# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 9.11.22

When I was 13, I took a field trip to Paris with about 10 other 13-year-olds and two adults. Of course, the flight over was overnight, and, as you'd expect, none of us slept. So, we arrived in Paris exhausted.

It was Palm Sunday, and our first stop was Notre Dame Cathedral, crowded with churchgoers and tourists. A French woman called out to me and wanted to give me a palm. I reached out to take the palm and then looked around for the rest of my group. They were gone. There I was, 13 years old, in a foreign country for the first time, standing amid thousands of people and lost.

For the last several weeks, we've been discussing our responsibilities as disciples of Jesus. Another way to say that is we've been talking about the duties we take on in our Baptismal Covenant.

Reviewing these responsibilities, we've probably realized that we sometimes fall short. We don't always love our neighbor as Jesus loves us. We miss opportunities to proclaim the Gospel. We aren't always faithful in our prayers and church attendance. Sometimes we forget to stand up for the poor or the disenfranchised. We fail to give what we should to God's church. Indeed, if we use the metaphor of a journey to describe our Christian life, we sometimes become lost on our way to our destination.

Here's the Good News. When we lose our way, God finds us. We fall short of meeting our covenantal responsibilities, but God always keeps the covenant. In Baptism, we are sealed as Christ's own forever. Christ takes that seriously. He never lets us down. Like the Shepherd, he comes looking for us, the lost sheep. Like the woman, he comes looking for us, the lost coin. A God that comes searching for us is unique to the Judeo-Christian faith. No other religion believes that one of God's attributes is to search for us when we get lost. The image of Jesus finding a little lamb and bringing it home on His shoulder comforts us because it tells us that Jesus finds us and brings us home. No matter how lost we become, Jesus never stops looking for us until He finds us.

Those of us who are Anglophiles had an exciting week last week. For the first time in our lives or memory, a new sovereign has acceded to the throne in England. Charles III is now the head of state for the United Kingdom, the head of the Anglican and Scottish churches, and the defender of the faith.

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# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 9.11.22 *continued**continued from page 6*

The transition is interesting in the context of this week's lections. Elizabeth was a pious, grandmotherly woman who seemed almost saintly. Totally appropriate for a head of the church and defender of the faith. But Charles? If we consider Charles's life, we realize that for much of it, he was lost. He was married to a woman he didn't love while continuing to see his mistress. He was paired with one of the world's most glamorous jet setters while he preferred quiet walks in the garden. He was raised to fill the role of king, yet for 73 years, he waited. Lost.

But being lost for much of his life didn't prevent him from finally fulfilling the role he was born into. And all those times he missed the mark and failed to fulfill his marriage and Baptismal vows didn't prevent him from now being, not only part of the church again, but its leader and defender. When we are lost, God finds us and restores us. Sometimes God works through other people. Sometimes God works through events. But God searches for us, and when he finds us, God brings us back home.

When I was lost in Paris on the first day of my trip, I searched around the cathedral. I couldn't find my group anywhere. In the back of my mind, I remembered my Daddy's voice. My father had always told me when I was a little girl that if I were ever lost that I should go back to the place I last saw him and wait. So, I returned to the place I had been when the woman first gave me a palm. I had waited only a minute when one of the adults in the group found me and led me back to the group.

When we are lost, we just need to return to the place (physical or emotional) where we last experienced God. And there we wait. And God will find us and lead us home.





# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 9.18.22

Close your eyes.

Imagine yourself as having found a treasure. Perhaps you want to think of yourself as a pirate with an eye patch. AARGH! And, you've stolen jewels and gold from the high seas.

Or, more likely (since we are virtuous people), you imagine yourself having found a different sort of treasure, such as the cultured pearls your mom wore on her wedding day. Or maybe you've found the first gift your child made for you at school that maybe you'd put in a drawer and hadn't thought about for years.

After finding the treasure, you are pleased with it for a while. You spend a lot of time with it. If it's gold, you keep running your fingers through it because you like the shine. Or, you keep the pearls or the child's gift close to your chest with your fond memories.

Then, after a while, you go back to your regular routine. You have a schedule to keep. You have a job to do – whether volunteer or otherwise. You shuffle your kids or your grandkids around. Maybe your eye finds another treasure that makes you happy, such as a new car or a new living room suite. You don't want to lose the first treasure you found, but you want to get back to your routine. You want to go after other treasures, too.

So, now imagine yourself burying the treasure. Maybe you dig a hole in the ground and place your treasure chest of gold in the hole. Or you put your mom's pearls in a safety deposit box. Or you put the gift your child gave you back into the box at the top corner of the closet where you need a step stool to reach it.

Then you can protect your old treasure while pursuing something else. At least that's what you think.

Now, open your eyes. Keep the visualization in the back of your mind while we focus on today's Scriptures.

The parable and words of warning that Jesus told were aimed primarily at the Pharisees. The Pharisees were supposed to be helping to lead the Israelites in the way God wanted them to go. They were guardians of the treasure of being God's chosen people. But they let other things take their focus away from treating people fairly. They did what helped themselves, going after money and popularity among the wealthy people in society. They put the love of worldly things, especially money, ahead of a relationship with God.

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# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 9.18.22 *continued*

*continued from page 8*

The Israelites had gone that way previously. The Old Testament passage can be interpreted as God speaking and the prophet Jeremiah speaking. They lament how the people have strayed from the treasure of a relationship with God. The people have let self-interest blind them to the needs of others. They've made other things their God instead of the real God.

In both these cases, the people have buried their treasure. They've put their relationship with God on the high shelf where it's unreachable or buried in the sand.

We do the same thing sometimes. We let ourselves become too busy. We are overscheduled. We chase after more when we have enough. We are in too big of a hurry to see the person in need. We are in too big of a hurry to spend time with God.

God loves spending time with us. Being able to spend time with God is a priceless treasure. We start off in the right relationship with God but then let something else attract our attention away from that treasure. We bury our relationship with God.

Now, close your eyes again. You've buried your treasure, and you want to get it back. You look, and you look, but you can't find it.

How do you find it again? You need a map. You need something that reminds you where you buried it.

Here's the map.

- Come back to church. Be part of the worshiping community.
- Pray and read your Bible every day. You can pray the daily office, which is in your prayerbook. Or you can use Forward Day by Day. Or you can pray a psalm every day. Or you can meditate silently in communion with God using Scripture before or after your meditation. Use whichever route works best for you, but do it every day.
- Decide on one new thing that takes the focus away from yourself and, instead, focuses on others. Do that one thing regularly.
- To shake the hold of the world's imperfect treasures and focus more on the real treasure, give just half a percent more of your money to God's work through the church.

Now, imagine yourself, map in hand, going directly to that buried treasure. Find that buried treasure and make it the focus of your life again.

# Around Our Parish

## Adopted Families Update

As of the writing of this newsletter, we have supplied our families with countless gift cards to pay for groceries and every day living items, a stove, a battery for a van, fish fry & chicken dinners, help getting connected with Veteran services, a dresser, packing and moving into a new apartment, and obtaining/paying for a babysitter so parent can attend therapy sessions. I can't believe how generous St. Andrews is with giving toward this ministry. We are truly changing lives.

The following is a quote from one of our families: "At first, I thought this adopted family thing was going to be stupid, but if this is the only thing that comes out of it...I am so happy" He was referring to us obtaining/paying for the babysitter.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart and the hearts of our families. Your generosity leaves me speechless.

Jamie

## Community Store

Fall greetings from St. Andrew's Community Store!

Thank you to all our volunteers from our church family and community for making summer a great shopping experience at St. Andrew's Community Store. We have a unique and friendly store that all our customers enjoy browsing through. Thank you also to our generous donors, who without, we would have no merchandise. So, as we say hello to Fall and the holiday season here are some items we are looking for: Jewelry and gift items. We plan on featuring jewelry during the month of November. So please look in your jewelry boxes for babbles you have outgrown and donate them. Also, items that are new or gently used for gift giving are needed. It might be that gift soap set in the linen closet, the shirt with the tags on it you never wore, the set of bowls still in the box, or that silly mug. Jerry and I will collect them from church and take them to the store or you can drop them off during business hours. As always receipts for your donations are always available.

Come see what's new at the store:

**Wednesday 11 am – 4 pm**

**Thursday 10 -4 pm**

**Friday 12 – 3 pm**

**Saturday 10am – 2 pm**

Cindy and Jerry Harrington  
Directors





## From Your Vestry

Your vestry would like to address some concerns that people may have about certain things seen/heard in and around church.

First: Remote attendance at Sunday worship. On average we have 8 people in attendance. This means that we can reach folks who are incapable of making it to church, in person, due to health concerns, availability, transportation, or geography. Offering a remote Sunday worship is an asset to our community. We have had visitors join and people who normally do not attend during summer months join during that time. Yes, occasionally the sound is scratchy, or there is feedback, or the delay is longer than we like, but having grace is key to being a good Christian. We are asking for grace regarding remote broadcasting. While we do encourage in person attendance, we are offering people a chance to have a relationship with God remotely, and that chance is awesome.

Second: Offering plate. Some Sundays it seems as though our offering plate is quite light. It is possible parishioners didn't put in an envelope that week. It may also be that they decided to use one of our other methods of payment. We have a considerable amount of people who pledge using PayPal or bank checks that are sent electronically. These offerings are separate from our weekly counters count. So the perception looks as though pledges are down, when in fact people are giving their offerings through other ways.

Third: Investments. We have taken money out of our investments once in the last 5 years to accommodate the deficit. We tend to budget for a deficit, but we have seemed to be maintaining current deficits and we are trying to find financially smart ways to evolve in a world that can now not rely on significant pledge contributions

We, as vestry, have had countless discussions on how to fill our pews and how to raise money. We welcome any support and advice you may have. We will take into consideration ideas, complaints, suggestions, or opinions. Please share with us. We are a kind, fair, open-minded bunch who want nothing more than to see our church brimming at the seams and to be financially stable. Help us, help US.

Blessings,  
Your St. Andrew's Vestry



On All Saints' Sunday, November 6th, 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:

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Submitted by -----



# Stewardship 2023

*“For nothing will be impossible with God.”*

*Luke 1:37*



**St. Andrew's**  
**STRONG**  
*Honoring Traditions*  
*Imagining Possibilities*

Dear Friends,

As we kick off our Stewardship season here at St. Andrew's, we felt called to focus on recognizing our time, talent, and treasure that we bring to our parish family through the theme, *St. Andrew's Strong; Honoring Traditions, Imagining Possibilities*. As a parish community we have many strengths that are shown in both small and large ways; music, caring for each other, taking care of our physical church and grounds, and serving those in our larger communities, to name just a few. We support each other during difficult times, celebrate the joys of life, and seek to bring the love of God to all.

On two Sunday's this October we will focus on our Stewardship theme with activities and reflections to help us gather our thoughts and express our dreams for our St. Andrew's community. These activities will involve those both in person and joining us via Zoom!

**October 16th: Honoring Traditions**

**October 23rd: Imagining Possibilities (also our Pumpkin Painting Sunday!)**

We invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to contribute your talents, time, and treasure to turn our hopes into reality. Using our collective strengths we will honor our traditions and imagine an exciting future for all in the St. Andrew's community!

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 (no later than Monday October 31, 2022).

Peace in Christ,

The Stewardship Committee

Sarah, Lynn & Pam



*“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

*Joshua 1:9*



# Schedules

## October

### Lay Readers

2: Dorothy Cheasty

9: Liz Depew

16: Steve Clark

23: Jamie Gailie & Jerry Harrington

30: Dorothy Cheasty

### Zoom

2: Doug Wintersteen

9: Lynn Schauer-Bewley

16: Jamie Gailie

23: Jerry Harrington

30: Pam Leibring

### Altar

Cindy Harrington & Darcy Buchanan

### 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

6: Dorothy Cheasty

13: Liz Depew

20: Steve Clark

27: Dorothy Cheasty

### Zoom

TBA

### Altar

TBA

### Collection Counters

Paul & Kay Mayer

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Saturday, December 10, 2022**  
**Christmas Party at**  
**Jackie & Chris Jordan's Home**



# Calendar

## October

- 2: Pet Blessing
- 6, 13, 20, 27: Bazaar Prep Days
- 10: Columbus Day, Office Closed
- 12: Vestry Meeting 7pm
- 16: Rehab Service
- 28 & 29: Diocesan Convention in Niagara Falls
- 28: Office Closed

## November

- 5: Bazaar and Luncheon
- 6: Children's Day & Santa Shopping
- 9: Vestry Meeting 7pm
- 11: Veteran's Day, Office Closed
- 13 & 20: Children's Study Session after the service
- 20: Rehab Service
- 22: Staff Meeting 530pm
- 24: Thanksgiving, Office Closed
- 25: Office Closed



**St. Andrew's**  
**bazaar**

Attic Treasures  
Homemade Candy  
Holiday Decorations & Gifts  
Bake Sale  
Basket Auction

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, 2022**  
**10:00-2:00**  
**Chicken & Biscuit Luncheon**  
**11:00-1:30**

Wilson-Burt & West Creek Roads, Burt  
Luncheon - Adults: \$10.00, Children 12 & Under: \$5.00  
**WE NOW ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS!**  
Handicapped Accessible

Each Thursday in October, starting at 5:30 pm, there will be a meeting for preparing for the Bazaar. Dinner will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Jacki Jordan 716-553-9748 or [jack.bartoszek@gmail.com](mailto:jack.bartoszek@gmail.com)

## St. Andrew's Newsletter

Office Manager: Shawn Slother

Music Director & Organist: Joe Brezka, Jr.

Music Associate: Evan Bleiler

Treasurer: Doug Wintersteen

Sexton: Jeryllyn 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 2022

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

Rector: The Very Reverend Randi Hicks Rowe

Deacon: Martha Farone

Wardens:

Jamie Gailie

Sarah Harrington

Vestry:

Nancy Pestinger

Lynn Schauer-Bewley

Sue Villeneuve

Steve Clark

Pam Leibring

Dorothy Cheasty

## 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: