



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

St. John's Episcopal Church

The congregations of St. Andrew's, Burt and St. John's, Wilson are seeking a full time priest to support our spiritual strengths and aid in our continued growth in the greater body of Christ. We are seeking a priest who can celebrate with us during times of joy, and support us during times of need. Our churches are unique in the fact that we are connected by a covenant agreement. We are looking for a priest who can balance the individual and unique needs of both parishes. We want to move forward, but also be mindful of the traditions that are unique to both St. Andrew's and St. John's.

Both parishes hold their own Rite II Eucharist every Sunday, St. John's at 9 AM and St. Andrew's at 10:45 AM. Additional services are held on major liturgical observances throughout the year and alternate between the two churches. The priest would be supported by a full lay ministry team of acolytes and Eucharistic ministers.

We are thriving and vibrant congregations that love to celebrate, give to our community, worship in interfaith gatherings, support individuals for mission work, and help those who are struggling when times are difficult.



We are a diverse community of faith called by God to love, worship, pray, support, and serve.

2239 West Creek Road
Burt, NY 14028
www.standrewsburt.com



Ever growing in Spirit... our doors are always open.

431 Lake Street
Wilson, NY 14172
www.stjohnswilson.org

Covenant Agreement

For many years, the parishes of St. Andrew's and St. John's have entered into a mutually beneficial covenant agreement. This agreement, ratified by both vestries, allows each parish to have its own ministries and personality while supporting each other spiritually and sharing the cost of a full-time priest. On the fifth Sunday of the month, one joint service is held on a rotational basis.



**St. Andrew's
and St. John's
offer families
many
opportunities
for fellowship.**



Our Histories

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was founded in 1949 by two seminarians surveying the need for an Episcopal church in Niagara County. Six months after the first service at Newfane Town Hall, the fledgling congregation purchased a small brick school house along the bank of Eighteen Mile Creek. The new little church was admitted to the Diocese of Western New York as a mission at the 1950 Diocesan Convention.

After this admission, the growth of the congregation required an expansion of the building. In 1956, this work was done and dedicated. In 1959, St. Andrew's began our longest running community partnership, our Community Store on Main Street in Newfane. The all-volunteer store provides thrift priced clothing and housewares to the people of Newfane, including a large migrant population.

In 1985, two pieces of property were acquired by the parish, filling out the grounds as they are today. After this acquisition, St. Andrew's applied for, and was granted, parish status in 1987.

Since then, the ministries of the parish have grown to include our major annual fundraisers: the Lenten Fish Fry and the Fall Bazaar. Our spiritual growth programs have also flourished, notably our education programs. Since building separate spaces for the Sunday School program in 1994, our classes have outgrown those facilities and now meet in the undercroft.

St. John's Episcopal Church was organized as a mission in 1929. In the fall of 1930, Grace Church in Lockport supplied priests and lay readers to a small group of worshipers in Wilson under the direction of Dr. Henry F. Zwicker. The new mission was dedicated on November 30, 1930. The church building, with its beautiful stained windows, was purchased from the local Roman Catholic congregation.

In 1953, the Vicar of St. Andrew's Newfane, the Rev. Edward Kryder, became rector-in-charge of St. John's. From 1953-1981, St. Andrews and St. John's were yoked together and shared a priest.

The Reverend Patricia A. Bird, one of the first woman priests in the Diocese, served as the first Priest of St. John's, 1978-1982. Under her leadership, St. John's applied for, and was granted, parish status in 1981.

During our 86 years of existence, a parish hall was constructed in 1953, and a clergy office and small storage area was added in 1973. On June 16, 1974 the parish hall was officially named the "Margaret Josephine Attfield Hall," honoring her many years as Sunday School Superintendent. In 2000 St. John's became handicap-accessible with the addition of a ramp on the side of the church. In the early part of 2002 under the leadership of Fr. Abuid Sam, St. John's "broke" ground under the existing church to expand the space in the basement to allow us to add more room for Sunday School & other activities.

Throughout the past decade, St. John's has continued to be a warm, welcoming, and family oriented church community with our doors open "24/7" for everyone who desires a quiet place for prayer.

Our Facilities



St. Andrew's is located on a 2+ acre lot with a large, well-lit paved parking lot to the north and east of the building. An illuminated sign on the southwest side of the property identifies us to our community. An outside storage building is available for grounds equipment. An Eagle-scout made prayer garden fringes on the border of Eighteen Mile Creek.

St. Andrew's Church is a spacious facility which can hold up to 300 attendees. A smaller adjoining chapel (the original worship space) provides additional space when needed. A choir loft is situated on an upper level at the back of the sanctuary.

Large laminated wooden arches support a cathedral ceiling. Windows of rippled colored glass adjoin each leg of the arches.

A priest's office, narthex, office administrator space, coatroom, unisex bathroom, and meeting room complete the remaining space on the main floor. Air conditioning was recently installed in the sanctuary, while the Office Administrator and Priest's offices have portable air conditioning units.

A large undercroft is located on a lower level, along with two worship center rooms for youth, a nursery, large modern kitchen, ladies and men's bathrooms, furnace room, and a storage space. The building is fully ADA compliant. A foyer on the east side of the building greets all with a beautiful stained glass mural.

St. John's boasts an intimate sanctuary where our doors are always open to our members and the community. The beautiful stained glass windows create a welcoming atmosphere. We have two large spaces in our complex that allow us to hold many community activities, as well as church sponsored events. The beautification of our grounds have been made possible by donations and in memory of beloved members. On the grounds, a memorial garden was created. It takes a multigenerational effort to keep our grounds beautiful, and various gardens were created and are maintained as a part of an Eagle Scout project. We also use our grounds for the benefit of the community. Nick's Community Memorial Garden was created in memory of Nick Failla. The produce that grows in the garden is available to church members and anyone in the community.





The young people of both churches stay engaged through vibrant youth programs.



Sunday School

Our Sunday School programs are cheerful, fun, and successful with many active students. St. Andrew's has 3 classes that use a collection of lectionary based lessons suited to the needs of the students.

The children of St. John's benefit from a multi-age educational approach. We use a "one-room schoolhouse" model to foster our children's love of God. This has created a close relationship between our children from elementary to high school. We also do a First Communion class presented with the middle school students each year. Every other year we do a joint confirmation class.

The Sunday Schools are also involved in worship services throughout the year. St. Andrew's participates in the Christmas pageant, often with returning graduates writing and directing pageants. The youth prepare and present the Passion during Palm Sunday. At the end of the school year, the youth celebrate the entire service. Graduating seniors are honored and deliver the sermon.



Our youth enjoyed an afternoon at a recreational park.



Scout Sunday at St. John's

Youth Group

The Youth Group has been revitalized and continues to grow. Since the spring of 2015, the Youth Group met several times to have fun and begin to focus on how they can partner with our community. The first event was held at a skating rink in nearby Lockport, NY. At this event, families had fun skating and our older youth came back to the church for team building activities. Over the summer, families participated in an overnight campout on the church grounds, enjoying family-friendly lawn games, an outdoor picnic, and a late night movie. All campers were treated to a home-cooked breakfast in the morning. Our goal is to have fun and begin to build relationships between our youth and the congregation.

Food Pantry Ministries

St. Andrew's and St. John's faithfully support the mission of our local ecumenical community food pantries. Our Sunday School students have focused their giving as a body of Christ to this ministry. We have established themes for our monthly collections and the congregations support this outreach with great enthusiasm. The Vestry approves yearly donations of numerous tickets to St. Andrew's Lenten Fish Fry for families that visit the food pantry.



The all-volunteer staff of the St. Andrew's Community Store brave the cold for a photo!

St. Andrew's Community Store

St. Andrew's Community Store has served the Newfane and surrounding areas for over 55 years. The store is a "next to new" store that provides a variety of clothing, household items, small appliances, books, music, and movies for sale, which have largely been donated by parishioners. The store is staffed completely by church and community volunteers. Proceeds from the store have been donated back to St. Andrew's. In addition, the store has donated clothing, linens, and household items to the Salvation Army, Goodwill, and veterans' organizations.

St. Andrew's Ladies Guild

The St. Andrew's Ladies Guild has been in existence since the 1950's and any woman in the congregation is welcome to participate. We aim to assist the church financially, prayerfully, and with a great deal of elbow grease! We meet regularly to work on crafts for the Annual Fall Bazaar and luncheon, which is our main fundraiser. In addition, we sponsor women's teas, funeral luncheons, fashion shows, and other receptions throughout the years. We enjoy social times together in the form of day trips and meal outings. We have purchased and financially maintain most of the kitchen equipment. Our Bazaars have been very successful and we donate the majority of our profits to local community organizations and to our church.



**Worship and
faith rests at
the very
heart of the
St. Andrew's
and St.
John's
family.**



Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes

We have fourteen Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Readers in our congregations who are trained to assist the priest in weekly services. Four of these Ministers are licensed Eucharistic Visitors who assist in taking communion to the ill and shut ins.

We have nineteen acolytes who have been trained by our veteran Director of Acolytes. The youth acolytes are very giving of their time in serving on the altar throughout the school year. The group of youth acolytes participate in the Diocesan Acolyte Festivals held at the Cathedral in Buffalo.

Ushers

We have numerous ushers in our congregations. These individuals are friendly faces who greet and hand out bulletins to everyone as they enter the sanctuary. They also present the elements and pass the alms basin during the service. Our ushers are responsible for directing newcomers, taking attendance, and tending to occasional emergencies as they arise. Several of our ushers are trained in using the AED located in St. Andrew's.

Altar Guild

We have many members who care for the altar, vestments, and sacristy of the churches. Our Altar Guild members are very dedicated to caring for the House of the Lord.

Our Little Roses Home for Girls

Our congregation has "adopted" a young girl at Our Little Roses in Honduras. Her name is Damaris and she is now 16 years old. We have provided her with gifts at her birthday and Christmas. We are proud and happy to support Damaris and Our Little Roses Ministry.

Adopted Families

Each year, our congregation "adopts" several families to care for in our local community. We provide for them throughout the year at Valentine's Day, Easter, summer vacation, "back-to-school," Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The support provided by our parishioners has been overwhelming.

St. Andrew's Buildings and Grounds Team

The **St. Andrew's** Buildings and Grounds Team takes great pride in our building and property and considers this ministry to be of great importance, ensuring that St. Andrew's is a welcoming place to come and worship. The team has supported the construction, and maintains the upkeep of our Prayer Garden (pictured below), which was built by several Boy Scouts in our congregation. This lovely and serene area is used by members of the community as well as parishioners. It is also used as an outdoor worship space for our shared picnic Eucharist.



Prayer Garden Ministry

Nick's Community Garden at **St. John's** (pictured below) is a vegetable garden constructed in memory of one of our young parishioners.



"All Are Welcome To Share God's Gifts"



Music is a vibrant part of our life at St. Andrew's. We are grateful for the numerous opportunities our parishioners have in sharing their musical talents for worship.



Choir

St. Andrew's has a thriving adult choir with over 20 members— and growing! The group is led by a talented organist/director who rehearses the choir each week and accompanies our Sunday services. We celebrate with traditional hymns as well as contemporary anthems to complement our Sunday services. We also have a small children's choir directed by a talented musician from the congregation.



A few choir members gather in the Narthex before a service

Gospel Groove Band

The Gospel Groove Band (pictured below) is in its 6th year at St. Andrew's, and is coached by one of our experienced musicians. The band consists of musicians of all ages and keeps major and special services at St. Andrew's moving with its rock and blues flair. The band plays at community partnership events, notably the Community Missions of Niagara Frontier Cabaret and a yearly concert for the patients of the Western NY Veterans Administration Hospital in Buffalo.



Adult Education

We provide numerous educational opportunities for our parishioners in order to deepen our faith, enhance our spiritual lives, and strengthen the bonds we have with each other. Our congregation participates in Diocesan book studies, along with offering a few of our own. We have also completed a six month Bible Reading Challenge which was a success within our congregation. Several online educational opportunities are also available through our parish website. We have five EFM graduates who assist in discussions and are valuable resources for continuing adult education opportunities. St. John's offers a midweek service with bible study.

Hospitality

The people of St. Andrew's and St. John's are a friendly group who enjoy fellowship and socializing! Our weekly coffee hours offer a venue for our members to not only chat with each other, but welcome newcomers and visitors. The Hospitality Team also provides beautiful "welcome folders" for any newcomers in our congregation.

Health Ministry/Parish Nurse

The Health Ministry Team provides beneficial health information to our church family members throughout the year. They provide blood pressure checks for parishioners, discussions regarding medications, and assistance with physical and emotional concerns. The committee members enjoy presenting occasional coffee hour forums where they are able to provide information to assist in making the right choices for a healthy lifestyle.

Nursing Home Service

On the third Sunday of each month, St. Andrew's provides an afternoon service at the Newfane Health Facility. Currently, a deacon and lay reader conduct the services, providing familiar music and hymns, along with Holy Communion for those who desire it. The residents and their families look forward to this

Communication

Our Communication Team's purpose is to oversee all communication within the congregation and community. We are proud of our team's continued growth and accomplishments. We are responsible for all printed and digital communication; including our monthly newsletters, Google calendar, Facebook account, narthex monitor, and website. Our website has been actively maintained for years and we take pride in the timeliness of pertinent information.

In addition, we take care of various projects as needed, such as our stewardship campaign logos, welcome cards, and placemats for the Lenten Fish Fry.



St.
Andrew's
and St.
John's have
formed a
lifelong
bond.



St. Andrew's Lenten Fish Fry

Where's the best fish fry in town during Lent? Well, just ask our patrons and they will be quick to say— St. Andrew's! This long-standing annual event has run under the direction of a blend of vintage and new leaders for many years. The fish fries offer us the opportunity to not only host a major community event, but to enable us to spread the good news of God and our parish. Our congregation members roll up their sleeves, don their hats and gloves, and work for the Lord, who has blessed us with the skills to host this successful fundraiser.



St. Andrew's chefs serving up a fish fry

St. John's Events

St. John's hosts many community dinners and events every year. Our biggest fundraiser is Applefest, which is held every October. We have a fresh fruit and vegetable stand, craft table, basket auction, and baked goods available for sale. The kitchen serves up soup, apple pie, and beef on weck, a Buffalo specialty. Our Election Day Chicken and Biscuit dinner is also popular; as is the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, where a free will offering is collected to support outreach.



One of the many tables available at the annual Applefest.

The Vestries

The men and women of the St. Andrew's and St. John's vestries diligently attend the financial needs of the parish and the maintenance of the surrounding grounds. They have taken part in Diocesan training and maintain relationships with other parishes. Through our community partnership programs, we contribute to a variety of non-profit organizations.

Our Statistics at a Glance

Category	St. Andrew's	St. John's
Active Members	214	61
Avg. Sunday Attendance	69	28
Total Pledges (2016)	\$105,318	\$46,842
Sunday School Students (Enrolled)	49	9

The Diocese of Western New York

Today the Diocese of Western New York is comprised of the seven most western counties in the state: Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming. This area of roughly 5423 square miles is bounded on the north by Lake Ontario, on the west by Lake Erie, on the south by Pennsylvania, and on the east by the Diocese of Rochester.

Within our boundaries, approximately 16,000 adult communicants worship in 59 different congregations. Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin and the diocesan staff work out of offices located at 1064 Brighton Rd. in Tonawanda, NY. St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, graces the heart of downtown Buffalo at 128 Pearl Street. As members of the Diocese of Western New York, we are part of The Episcopal Church USA and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Community Highlights

- Located on the shores of Lake Ontario
- Served by the Wilson and Newfane School Districts
- Multitude of local higher education institutions (University at Buffalo, Buffalo State College, Niagara University, Niagara County Community College)
- On the Niagara Wine Trail
- 45 minutes from Buffalo, 75 minutes from Rochester, 2 hours from Toronto
- Buffalo Medical Campus hosts Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo General Hospital, Gates Vascular Institute, new Children's Hospital (opening in early 2017), and UB Medical Schools (opening in Fall 2016)
- Close proximity to Niagara Falls and the newly Redeveloped Buffalo Waterfront