

## News from Saint Andrew's - Burt

September 2009

---

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

### *Your Vicar's View †*

When Dale and I go hiking in Colorado, each trail takes us through several different mini-environments. Typically, we begin in a dense forest, walking on damp earth and finding our way among wildflowers beside a creek that will lead us to a waterfall that we cannot see, but whose soft roar fills the air. As the trail becomes more steep, we find ourselves on a more narrow and rocky path, gradually able to see over the trees. Eventually, we are above the tree line looking down on the waterfall whose sound had guided us through the forest, seeing other lakes in the distance; the light is brighter, the land is more barren, and the views more grand. As we wind around the mountain each view is breathtaking, but it is only when we get to the top of the mountain that we realize that we had only seen parts of a vista; from there, we can see 360 degrees, and all the views that we had enjoyed along the way were just parts of a larger vision.

I thought about Jeff Edmister's internship with us as we hiked this summer, knowing that his path toward serving the church as a deacon also twists and turns, bringing breath-taking revelations and humbling second chances. A deacon embodies our call to be a servant church: serving those who are not part of our worshipping community, those who gather to worship together, and those who are on the margins within our community. With Jeff, we will reflect on our own calling to serve as the Body of Christ in this place, at this time.

I also thought about General Convention. When we travel together in faith, what loomed large seems smaller; the "waterfall" – whatever our deepest hope may be – suddenly

looms before us in all its grandeur, and in the light of God's grace we see more accurately the true proportion of our world's different "scenes." At the same time, at any given moment our view is only partial; at best, we see only 180 degrees, and around the bend there will be a scene we cannot yet imagine.

The Episcopal Church is called to be the Body of Christ in this time and in this place. Those who attended and voted at General Convention in July were profoundly faithful to this vocation. The many different decisions made by our delegates consistently reflect our call to serve with a vision larger than any single individual or group can comprehend. Even in acknowledging our limited size and resources, we re-affirmed our commitment to address domestic and global poverty, to be both more rigorous and more pastoral in our canonical discipline, and to honor more persons in our calendar of saints. In agreeing that we will not presume to exclude anyone categorically from a call to ordained ministry or to intimate relationships, we also acknowledged our humility in relation to the infinite mystery of God. To be the Body of Christ, to embody the gospel, is to grow into the profound truth that no one of us is excluded from God's embrace, and that our path will continue to change and our vision to expand until we reach a place where we can see what currently lies hidden around the bend.

*Judith*

# A Group of Hard Workers

## A View from Your Warden

*“Work can be used, as can anything we do, to communicate our love for self and other. For the rare person who is religiously or spiritually inclined, work even becomes a vehicle for devotion, a way of utilizing one’s gifts and talents to serve others, a way to truthful expression.”*

Marsha Sinetar - Mindfulness and Meaningful Work

---

We are nothing at St. Andrew's, if not hard workers. I can't tell you the number of times I have asked for help and received it with no questions asked. Or consider the number of times something got done behind the scenes that was needed but we didn't even think of asking for help with it. We at St. Andrew's have devotion to our Church family and to God that is rare in this day and age.

We need to take the time to remind ourselves that **all** our hard work, whether it is physical (weeding, grilling, working at the Church Store) or emotional (checking on our shut-ins, lending an ear to a friend, sending a note of thanksgiving or support), is a gift from God. Whatever our talents may be, our hard work is a gift from God to let us serve our family here at St. Andrew's and beyond. I, for one, will celebrate that!!!

Peace in Christ,  
- Stacy Lampman

---

## Who Are We?

### Sunday School News

Today's youth are faced with challenges. Whether a youth's challenge is to learn to read, pass a test, make a choice, manage a disease, or develop a spiritual life, there is a sequence of steps involved in solving or mastering the obstacle. These challenges are met individually and with support from parents and community. Success, failure and constant striving are part of this sequence and each contains essential elements of development. Your child's participation in Sunday school offers development of Christianity at a level tailored to their stage of growth and is the beginning of a life long development of faith.

We will open Sunday school this year with a fun challenge: *“Who is Jesus and who are we?”* Learning at any age involves the five senses: touch, taste, smell, see, and hear. Each student is asked to bring in 3 or 4 objects or pictures that tell *who you are* for a “getting to know you” activity. Before placing the items in

a bag, please label the back or underside of them with initials so that they are returned to the correct owner (please, no names on the bags). The Sunday School registration packet will include an information form and photo permission slip. Please update all information for each child and turn it in on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

All students are asked to bring a thank you offering for the Community Food pantry along with their weekly Sunday School offering. These offerings help us remember others, fund our church school mission, and defer the cost of curriculum.

Thank you for your support, parents and grandparents.

Kids, we will see you September 13<sup>th</sup>!

- Cindy Harrington &  
The Sunday School Staff

### Book Club Invitation

**To:** All ladies who are interested in attending a fellowship event after work hours

**Where:** Stacy Lampman's house

**What:** To review the book entitled: *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew--Three Women Search for Understanding* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner (New York: Free Press, 2006)

**When:** Thursday, September 3, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

# Please Give Your Undivided Attention

## Thoughts on Hospitality

*Hospitality is essential to spiritual practice. It reminds you that you are part of a greater whole... Putting others first puts you in the midst of life without the illusion of being the center of life.*

Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro - in Minyan

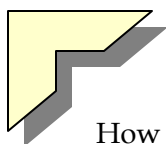
How many times have you been in a conversation when you are "listening" to someone, but all you are really doing is planning on what **you** will say or do next? I do this at work all the time. It is not always intentional but I often do not give people my undivided attention. I am too caught up in what I am doing to focus on them.

I have to admit that sometimes I even do this on purpose if I know the person in my office has a tendency to go on and on. I look at my emails while they are talking to me until they get the "hint" that I don't have time for them at that moment. I am not considering where that person is coming from or what might be going

on in their day that they might need a little extra attention.

Hospitality and welcoming people is a part of daily life. We have to make time for people and we need to practice listening. Consider how you feel when you think you have not been heard. So the next time you feel yourself drifting away from a conversation and making yourself the center of attention....Stop! Be a welcoming presence by giving someone else a moment to shine! It may be the best part of their day.

- Stacy Lampman



## The Office Corner

Greetings from the Office

How can summer be over already? We certainly did get our share of rain this year, but I guess that is better than snow. Homecoming Sunday is September 13<sup>th</sup> with Sunday school registration, so don't miss it. You may have noticed that we have been including a small "blurb" in the weekly bulletin showing our financial status (year to date income, expenses, etc.). This is just to keep everyone informed on how we are doing. Let me know what you think of it.

With school back in session please remember that we like to acknowledge accomplishments worthy of "Congratulations" by our church family. Let Pastor Judith+ or me know the details or simply fill out a *Congratulations Notice* slip on the board in the office.

### Items currently in the Lost & Found are:

- ❖ A Ladies Black hooded coat with a tan lining size 26/28 and an "IZ SPORT" label in it.
- ❖ A Gray pill case
- ❖ A light blue Cub Scout Neckerchief
- ❖ A pair of ladies black knit Isotoner gloves
- ❖ A Black coat size M/M with a "Private Member" label in it.
- ❖ A small pair of brown sunglasses
- ❖ A Girl's Black & Gold Headband
- ❖ A Black & Grey zipper sweatshirt w/ skulls on it (size XS)

It's good to get things "cranked up" again with the fall season almost at hand.

- Mike Depew

## Community Lunch

Community Lunch for September will be on **Sunday, Sep. 27<sup>th</sup>**. It will be "Skyline Chili". Watch in the Narthex for sign-up for donations that will be needed. As always, if you would like to take a more active part in this great ministry, please contact Stacy.

# View from our Youth

## Niagara Deanery Youth Group



### ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN 6<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

The first meeting of your Niagara Deanery Youth Group is Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 - 6:30 pm @ St. Paul's in Lewiston.

Come and enjoy fun, food, and friendship! We have an exciting year ahead of us that you won't want to miss! Bring a friend or two!

More information about events we have planned for the year will be coming soon. Feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail if you have any questions. See you soon!

- Sarah Harrington, Niagara Deanery Youth Missioner  
[dancinsarah83@yahoo.com](mailto:dancinsarah83@yahoo.com)

---

## Vestry Highlights

### August 12, 2009

We opened with the service of Holy Eucharist, with reflection on our calling to be "servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries" (2 Corinthians 4:1). We identified some of the mysteries of St. Andrew's community: our sense of being an extended family, the trust we find here, our encouragement of each other, the delight of the Christmas pageant, our faithfulness to each other and our shared mission through the years.

#### Resolved:

- ✓ to contribute \$1000 of monies received from the Community Store to the Newfane Food Pantry
- ✓ to contribute \$1500 to the Diocesan Disaster Relief Fund to support churches that were damaged by recent flooding in the Southern tier
- ✓ to transfer our Memorials Fund and Building Reserve Fund into CDs that will earn us more interest while remaining partially fluid.
- ✓ to revise the language of **Articles 3.2 & 5.1.a in our By-Laws** so that our election of wardens will comply with New York Religious Corporation Law, which mandates that only 1 warden be elected each year for a 2-year term.

#### Discussion:

- ✓ Reviewed the calendar through January 2010, with notes on changes for this year:
- ✓ Special envelopes throughout the year will be designated for the Leyland Scholarship Fund.
- ✓ The Memorials Design Team has initiated this project; the first part of the memorial will be blessed at our Annual Meeting in January. Designs will be presented at the October Vestry meeting.
- ✓ Our 2009 Stewardship Campaign, *Counting our Blessings*, will be October 4-25.

Lynn Schauer Bewley has begun working with us on revising our website design and creating more coherence between the design of our website, newsletter, letterhead, bulletin, and a Welcome Card.



---

## News and Notes



**Homecoming Sunday** will be **September 13<sup>th</sup>**. We will begin the year with registration for Sunday School and special events for our children.

**Welcome to Jeff Edmister** who will be with us every other Sunday until January 31<sup>st</sup>, serving an internship as part of his discernment of a call to the diaconate. Jeff will serve as a Eucharistic Minister, work with our Sunday School and Adult Bible Study, assist at the monthly Community Service at Newfane Rehabilitation Center, and work on an outreach project.

**St. Andrew's Community Store** – will be open on Thursday evenings beginning on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more details.

**Welcome to the Venerable Bruce Gilles, Archdeacon**, who will be our guest preacher on **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. Because Deacon Bruce will also be preaching at St. John's, our service will begin at **10:45**. He will meet with Jeff's Discernment Group after the service.

**Porch Swing Raffle** – Linda Miller, a member of St. John's has built a porch swing to be raffled to help pay for the major building repairs that St. John's faces. The bench itself will be at St. Andrew's during the month of September before being returned to St. John's for the drawing at Applefest on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more information.

**Church Tee-Shirts and Sweatshirts** – We may put in another order for the "famous" St. Andrew's tee and sweatshirts. We need to have a minimum order of 12 shirts and the cost will depend upon the total number ordered. A sign-up sheet is on the board in the Narthex if you wish to place an order or, contact Prudy Waters directly.

**GriefShare**, a 13-session program for grief recovery, will be held at **Warrens Corners United Methodist Church**, co-sponsored by Exley Methodist Church, beginning on **September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** Each session includes a video seminar and group discussion; and each participant (adults only) is given a notebook for note-taking and journaling. You can join the program at any session, and you do not need to follow a particular sequence. For more information call Warrens Corners United Methodist Church (434-7385).

**Covenant Team Meeting** on Monday, **September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's**. We will discuss renewing our Covenant with St. John's for the coming year. If you have suggestions, concerns, or questions about our Covenant, please speak with Judith+, your Wardens, or a Vestry member before the Vestry meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Sundays Live at St. Andrew's – October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** *Lake Effect* men's chorus will perform. This will be a concert not to miss!

**October 4<sup>th</sup> – Blessing of the Animals** will be different this year. Instead of an afternoon service, we will include thanksgiving and blessings of our pets in our morning worship, asking everyone to bring a photo of their pets; and remembering those pets who are no longer with us.

**Drifting Meadows Farm's Dancing Horses** will present a show to benefit St. John's on **Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.** featuring the Lyon family and guest riders (including Judith+). Mark your calendars to attend this special event to support St. John's and to experience a spectacular show!

**Adult Christmas Party – Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** Mark you calendars! If you would be interested in hosting the party please contact Prudy Waters.

**Natalie Goodman** has begun basic training at Fort Jackson, North Carolina. Please contact Mike Depew if you would like her address.

**Memorials** – The Memorials Committee has begun design and development of our *Wall of Honor* to memorialize those who have been active members of St. Andrew's community. We will bless the memorial at our Annual Meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with the research involved with this project please speak with Judith+, Cindy Harrington, or Cheryl Knapp.

**Worship Team** – We will begin a new practice of meeting quarterly with representatives from the Altar Guild, Sunday School, Vestry, Acolytes, and Choir to review plans for special Sunday services and coordinate preparations. The first meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** Not only will this bring more voices to the planning of our liturgy and improve communications, it will also prevent confusion on Sunday mornings when Judith+ arrives from St. John's just before our service begins.

**St. Andrew's Brass Ensemble** was formed last year under the leadership of Lisa Roeseler for youth who play a brass instrument and are interested in playing in a group at selected services during the year. These young people added much to the "beauty of holiness" in our liturgy. New participants are welcome this year. The only requirements are:

- ✓ you are ready to play at the level that the music requires;
- ✓ you are willing to practice at home; and
- ✓ you are able to participate in scheduled practices at church (held after the service on designated Sundays).

We will have sign-up for the Brass Ensemble at Sunday School registration on September 13th. Please talk with Judith+ if you have any concerns or questions.

**Pastoral Care Team** – Judith+ and Judi Naylor would like to form a group who will meet regularly to attend to the needs of people who are homebound or have particular needs. Please speak with Judith+ or Judi if you would be interested in exploring this ministry.

---

---

## ***Riches Greater Than Money***

### **Thoughts on Stewardship**

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. – 1 Timothy 6:17-18*

---

These words are surely hitting home for many people these days. We have watched as Wall Street and the banking system crumbled around us due to arrogance and questionable ways to make more and more money. We are living with the uncertainty of a nation who put their hope in wealth and in getting something better or bigger right around the corner. We always want more, “need” more, and must *have* more. It is so easy to get caught up in this cycle of need and greed.

Paul’s letter reminds Timothy *and us* that God will provide everything we need if we put our hope in Him. However, this takes discipline and practice. We have to be ready to be generous and willing to share.

Stewardship season is upon us and we will all be called upon to make difficult choices about money at home and at Church. The Stewardship committee will be sharing a guide to important spiritual practices of a faithful steward in these hard times. We need to be responsible for our personal choices regarding money, but also keep in the forefront of our minds those who are struggling just like us, but who do not have the hope that *our lives in Christ* gives us.

We are children of God and there can be no greater blessing. No amount of money can change that.

Peace,  
- Stacy Lampman

---

---



## ***H1N1 (Swine Flu) and Ways to Stay Healthy***

### **Parish Nurse**

Stay informed regularly as information becomes available, (news, television, radio, online & ask your parish nurse\*).

Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.

Take everyday actions to stay healthy:

1. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
4. Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
5. Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other safety measures.
6. Find healthy ways to deal with stress and anxiety. People who are often stressed are known to be more susceptible to illnesses.

Call 1-800-CDC-INFO for more information or go to <http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1FLU/>

\*For questions regarding swine flu or any other health-related issues, please contact your parish nurse, Judith Naylor, R.N.

## Bazaar Preparation

The craft meetings for the Bazaar will be **Mondays at 10:00 a.m.**  
**on September 14<sup>th</sup> & September 28<sup>th</sup>** at the church.

Please check the church bulletin board for more information.

Remember to keep your calendars open on **Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>** for the Bazaar!

Even though it's early, please be thinking about your donations for the Bazaar. Below are some suggested items:

### Country Store

Jams / Jellies / Pickles

Produce, Chili Sauce, Salsa, etc.

Dried Herbs / Spices / Flowers

### Remember the Bake Sale

Breads / Pies / Cookies / etc.

### Candy Booth

Sugar

Nuts

Chocolate Bits / Chips

Butter

Brown Sugar

### Basket Auction

Think about donating a basket.

Sign up sheet at Church.

*Thank you,  
Darcy Buchanan*

## Community Service at Newfane Health Facility

As many of you know, for many years Betty Walch and Betty Stein led a service of prayers and hymns on the third Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Newfane Health Facility. For the past few years, Margaret Moran has led this service, with the assistance of Dorothy Cheasty. This service will have some new energy in September with Jeff Edmister (our intern) assisting.

It is important that more of us become involved in this community service. Many members of our parish family have been cared for at Newfane, and one way for us to say thank you is by praying and singing with neighbors who cannot be with us on Sunday morning. Everyone who takes part acknowledges that this is a holy time.

We are **all** qualified to be a part of this. It only entails singing some familiar hymns and helping residents follow the service (turning pages, etc.)

In an effort to get more people at St. Andrew's involved, we are starting a sign-up sheet for the year. We are looking for a minimum of 2 or 3 volunteers each month to take part in this 45-minute service. If we can get twelve volunteer groups, this would be a minimal commitment for each group of volunteers (of 1 hour a year) for a very worthwhile effort.

Please consider signing up your family or extended family, a group of two or three friends, or even sign up as a couple. Groups might also consider volunteering for a Sunday (for instance, choir, Sunday school children, or youth group).

Please look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. This is another great way to be good stewards of our time and talents.

*- Stacy Lampman*



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES for September

### Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Ann Wruck  
5<sup>th</sup> Olivia Mazanka  
7<sup>th</sup> James Liebring &  
Reannon Rohring  
9<sup>th</sup> Thomas Olsen  
17<sup>th</sup> Jenna Phipps  
20<sup>th</sup> Duane Wruck &  
Matthew Pestinger

21<sup>st</sup> Jackson Condes &  
Jim Bewley  
23<sup>rd</sup> Martin Gregg  
25<sup>th</sup> Katherine Harrington  
26<sup>th</sup> Judi Naylor  
27<sup>th</sup> Laurine Winkley  
28<sup>th</sup> Hollianne Balk  
29<sup>th</sup> Timothy Balk

### Anniversaries



7<sup>th</sup> Ronald & Laurine Winkley  
8<sup>th</sup> Dale & Kathy Duhow  
23<sup>rd</sup> Jerry & Kim Mazanka  
25<sup>th</sup> Richard & Stephanie Gooding  
29<sup>th</sup> Duane & Ann Wruck

## Schedules for September 2009

### *Acolytes - 10:00 a.m. arrival time*

6<sup>th</sup> - Sue Villeneuve, Zachary Roeseler

### 13<sup>th</sup> Full Procession – All Acolytes Are Requested to be in Attendance

- Michael Vogt, Crucifer
- Jake Knott, Torch
- Jacob Roeseler, Torch

20<sup>th</sup> - Michael Vogt, Chad Gilson, Matthew Vogt

27<sup>th</sup> - Melissa Pestinger, Jacob Roeseler, Jarrett Gilson



**A Note from your Acolyte Director:** This is an open invitation to ALL those interested in becoming an acolyte. Anyone from the age of 7 through adult is welcome to join our team. If you are 7 you would be the 4th acolyte on your assigned weekend and you would process, recess and observe and help with some easy tasks. Anyone 8 and older will be in training as an acolyte; you will sit at the altar watching for the first few times; then as you feel more comfortable you will be given a job to do.

Due to a shortage of extra acolytes this year, I am looking for **anyone** interested in either helping out once in a while or in the event of illness. Please contact me if you are interested.

- Sue Villeneuve

---

### *Lay Readers*

6<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Cheasty & Margaret Moran

13<sup>th</sup> Matt Pestinger & Shirley Litz

20<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Cheasty & Judi Naylor

27<sup>th</sup> Stacy Lampman & Margaret Moran

### *Altar Guild*

Cindy Harrington & Kathy Gregg

### *Collection Counters*

Gary Few & Mike Depew

### *Greeters*

*Please Sign Up for any Sunday in September*

---

## *In Thanksgiving . . .*

**Thank you** to **Joe Breczka, Jr.** and to the choir for glorious music at our Choir Recognition Sunday on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The service marked the end of a remarkable year of personal and community spiritual growth.

**Thank you** to **Dorothy Cheasty, Cindy Harrington, Stacy Lampman, Matt Pestinger** and **Marty Gregg** for officiating at Morning Prayer in July & August. It is both a great privilege and a profound responsibility to lead the liturgy, and they have helped us to live into our vision of deepening our individual relationships with God, together.

**Thank you** to **Lois Carter & Katie Harrington** for being our organists during July & August. **Thank you** to **Doug Wintersteen & Seth Gregg** for leading our music for our Picnic Eucharist on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Congratulations** to **Cheryl Cheasty**, who graduated summa cum laude from Medaille College in May.

**Congratulations** to **Katie Harrington**, who graduated from SUNY-Oneonta in June, after spending her final semester at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. In September, Katie will begin working for AmeriCorps in Geneseo.

**Congratulations** to **Melissa Pestinger** and **Hayden Gooding**, who participated in the Barker Middle School Band, which won 1<sup>st</sup> place among 60 bands at a Darien Lake competition in May.

## Dates to Remember



- September 2** 7 p.m. Deanery Council Meeting at St. John's-Wilson
- September 3** 7 p.m. Book Club at Stacy Lampman's: *The Faith Club*
- September 7** **Labor Day:** Office Closed
- September 13** **Homecoming Sunday: Registration for Sunday School Full Acolyte Procession**  
4 – 6:30 p.m. Deanery Youth Group Meeting
- September 14** 10 a.m. Bazaar Craft Meeting
- September 16** 5:30 p.m. Worship Team meeting  
7 p.m. Vestry Meeting
- September 19** 1 p.m. Drifting Meadows Farm Horse Show - Benefit for St. John's
- September 20** **The service will begin at 10:45** The Venerable Bruce Gilles, Guest Preacher  
12:30 p.m. Discernment Group Meeting with Jeff Edmister  
2 p.m. Community Service at Newfane Rehabilitation Center  
7 p.m. Deanery Reflection Group led by Dr. Dan Anger at St. John's -Wilson
- September 21** 7 p.m. Covenant Team Meeting at St. Andrew's
- September 24-27** Cursillo Weekend
- September 27** noon Community Lunch  
12:30 Sunday School Teachers meeting  
3 p.m. Cursillo Closing Ceremony
- September 28** 10 a.m. Bazaar Craft Meeting

## Looking Ahead



- October 3** Deadline for *Happening* applications
- October 4** Memorials and Prayers of Thanksgiving for our pets during the service  
6 p.m. *Sundays Live at St. Andrew's: Lake Effect Men's Chorus*
- October 9-11** Acolyte Trip to National Cathedral in Washington, D. C.
- October 18** Applefest: Judith+ will stay at St. John's  
2 p.m. Community Service at Newfane Health Facility
- October 21** 7 p.m. Vestry Meeting
- October 30-31** Diocesan Convention
- November 1** **All Saints' Sunday: Full Acolyte Procession**  
4 p.m. Second Annual Niagara Ecumenical Choral Festival at  
First English Lutheran Church, Lockport

### *Sunday Night Live at St. Andrew's*

Come and join us for an evening of musical entertainment on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.

Featuring ~ *"Lake Effect"*

an a'cappella singing group that is as much fun to watch as they are to listen to.

Watch for more information to come.

# *Believing God in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

## **Workshop and Support Group**

**Facilitated by Dr. Dan Anger**  
**Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m.**

**Introduction & Orientation – September 20, 2009 at St. John’s Wilson**  
**Session #1 – October 4 & 18, November 8 & 22, & December 6**  
**Session #2 – January & February**  
**Session #3 – April & May**

I am proposing a Niagara Deanery study group that would meet on Sunday evenings beginning in September, about twice a month. The first orientation meeting would be at St. John’s, but meetings could rotate among the churches at the preference of the group participants. Because we will be sharing what is sacred to each of us, there is an expectation of respect within the group and confidentiality outside the group. Each person will need to make the group participation a high priority, and regular attendance will be expected. No observers only, please. Our purpose is to build a community.

This will be a support group in which we encourage and support each other in our individual spiritual journeys, learning to walk with God in our daily lives. I don’t propose a formal curriculum or a specific

book at this point, although this could develop out of our conversation. To begin, each member will share how his or her personal faith is grounded in 3 Bible verses; in the subsequent weeks, we will have lots of group reflection on these verses. Then we’ll research what the Church Fathers and what contemporary writers say on the topics our discussion has raised. Together we will explore how our beliefs shape our daily lives. Our community will be based on the premise that if each of us can articulate our personal faith, maybe others can hear the Word of God more clearly.

I look forward to discussing this group experience with you. If you have questions please contact St. Andrew’s at 778-7633 or [standrewsburt@verizon.net](mailto:standrewsburt@verizon.net).

- Dan Anger

## *Youth Recognition Sunday Sermon*

*Here are excerpts from Emily Harrington’s sermon on June 14, 2009. The complete text is available at our website: [www.standrewsburt.com](http://www.standrewsburt.com)*

Here I am: I got home from prom five hours ago, my last day of high school will be Monday, and I will graduate in 13 days. . . . Sure, I am sad to leave family and friends, but I am not going away forever. Sure, I am being thrust into a totally foreign environment, but in that new place the doors of opportunity are 1,000 feet high and wide. Personally, I believe a reason why some people are afraid to leave high school is that they have a weak faith. Faith should have been established as the roots and base upon which to build their future. Faith I am sure glad I have. I have not always had this faith. No one person has always had faith in every point of their life.

Ever since I was born I have gone to church. Some of you have known me since I was in my mother’s belly. My first real memory of church, though, is Sunday school, with Mrs. Depew, Mrs. Cheasty, and my mom. I remember listening and watching stories that the teacher acted out with little wooden figures on felt cloths with felt lakes, bushes. Sunday school was fun: we got to sing songs and make crafts. . . . As a child I developed a sort of faith that every Sunday I would go to church school to a person who truly cared about me. I had faith that my grandma would be at church along with half of my other family, including my cousins. This faith developed without me even noticing. . . .

Sleep Away Camp was one of the best parts of my youth and one of my most prominent memories. At camp we learned many things--how to sleep away from home, how to work with other kids, how to sing cool songs. Plus there was some church thrown in--actually a lot of church. We learned many meaningful stories with morals and what not. Sleep Away Camp deepened my Christian roots. It made church fun and accessible, thus providing a base on which my faith would grow. . . .

I think all kids go through a period when they do not accept others' differences and fall into peer pressure of doing the "cool" thing. The difference between those who stay in that period of life for a prolonged period of time and those who grow out of it, I believe, is connected with that person's faith and supporting environment. I was blessed to grow up in this church along with all my family. My grandmother always taught me to be a smart kid, not academically (though she did encourage that of course), but to be smart with the decisions I made. And the answers to these decisions are rooted in my Christian faith, even though I might not have realized it at first. My grandma brought all of my family up to be strong women, to stand up for ourselves, to do the right thing, not just what was cool. She would point out to me the actions that would lead to a bad future. My grandma was a person I trusted, loved, and admired. She was like what God should be to everyone: someone you trust, love, and admire, so that you can follow in their footsteps. This is a large part of my faith. I was lucky enough to be placed in the middle of church life, which leads to being surrounded by positive influences, helping me shape my own high morals. This that has led my life in the right direction ever since. . . .

My freshmen year [of high school], was half bad and half great. The bad part was that I had no classes with my old friends. This was a major upset. I was reluctant to make new friends because my self-confidence was not that strong. I felt all the cool people viewed me as too smart and annoying because I laughed all the time. . . .

Slowly I began to take control of my life in one way, and that was through food. I watched what I ate like I was obsessed. I thought I had too much fat on me, and I prided myself on being the skinniest girl in my class. It made me feel good about myself. I stuck out: wasn't just another normal girl; I was the skinniest girl. Of course that was not good enough for me. I always believed I could be skinnier and more perfect somehow.

What happened to my faith you ask. Well, I asked the same question. I went to Happening that year, one of the greatest experiences of my life. It opened God's doors to me: it showed me how to love myself, how to be closer to God, how to be a better Christian. It also showed me that there were people out in the world just like me, who wanted to be loved, and accepted, and truly cared for by their peers. Happening was another stepping stone in my path to stronger, more rooted faith in the church as a body and in God.

Throughout the rest of high school I have gone through my ups and downs in how strong my faith is. At times I felt more close to God for whatever reason, be it a blessing of a great boyfriend or the tragedy of my grandmother's death. Throughout these years, my faith has been rooted in what I have learned at church, camp, and Happening. It has been reinforced through all of you here who have supported me, complimented me, and looked up to me. Having such a wonderful and large family as this here in front of me has made me the person I am today: ready to move on to college, ready to conquer the abyss of homework and studying to come, and to work my hardest to make decisions with the knowledge of Christianity on my side.

Some of you may wonder how this all relates to the Gospel for today.....right? Well, Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, which when it grows it becomes a great tree. This tree extends its branches so that wild birds can perch on it and live in it. I began as a tiny mustard seed, deceptively small. But as the church's faith and love have nurtured, me I have grown and will continue to grow. My faith has been rooted deep in the ground and provides the essential nutrients I need to make choices in the future.

Another way to look at the parable is that all of my companions on my faith journey, all those who have helped me along the way and who have shown me what faith is, are the branches on which I will rest and on which I will rely for shelter. And with these branches I am able to survive, at which point my faith can start to grow into its own branches and become part of the great mustard tree. From the smallest of all seeds I have come prepared to make my next step into the future. I will always know I have my church family here at St. Andrew's. And anyway my faith is not done developing: we all know that never ends.

Thank you. - Emily Harrington

# Benefits for St. John's, Wilson

## *Drifting Meadows Farm's Dancing Horses*

~ Presents ~

### *An American Gala*

*Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.*

2771 Daniels Road, Wilson, NY 14172

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon.

Beautiful horses, exciting music and informational narrative combine to create a magical and memorable experience.

Basket Raffle and Concessions by St. John's Vestry

### ***All proceeds to benefit St. John's Episcopal Church of Wilson***

Tickets: \$10/person; \$30 for a family of 4

For tickets or information call 716-751-6683

---



**Wouldn't you like to  
swing on this?**

Handcrafted and just right for  
your porch or deck.

Roomy seat is 43" wide, total  
width is 64" & height is 36"

To benefit St. John's Episcopal Church of Wilson  
Drawing to be held on October 18, 2009 at the annual Applefest

Tickets: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

Contact Judith+ or Mike Depew for tickets & information