

GOOD NEWS

Demolition and Rebuilding

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Isaiah 58:12

This is currently how I spend my days at church, literally and figuratively. Decisions about cabinetry, window casings, doorways, electrical wiring, sound systems and flooring materials fill my brain and my time. The smell of sawdust fills my nose and I am waiting with trepidation and excitement for the arrival of the stonemasons who will create a new doorway and widen an existing one.

But in the midst of this excitement and busy-ness, I need to ask myself: am I doing the same work on my own soul that we are so preoccupied by in our church? Am I cleaning out, preparing, tearing down the things that need to be destroyed—my impatience, my anxiety, my fears—in order to become something new in my faith life?

There's a wonderful little book called "My Heart, Christ's Home" that talks about the way we so rarely attend to our spiritual selves the way we work with structures and rooms. And the author realizes, in fact, that he even completely walls off places in himself that he wants to hide from God, and those places are often filled with the clutter of anger, fear, and guilt. In fact, the *last* thing we want to do is open the door to that room, much less start to show God what's in there.

Just as we have our architect and contractor who are guiding us through the often difficult work of demolition and rebuilding, God never, ever leaves us alone to do the work of the soul. He is both our champion and the One who will be most honest with us. He will look at the mess and clutter we create and work with us to straighten things out. He will inspire us, over and over again, with His word in the scriptures—if we are willing; if we can pay the price of being completely honest and vulnerable, if we take on the hard work of demolition and the even harder work of rebuilding something different, something better, something more beautiful.

Lent is fast approaching, and it is the season in which we typically do this work of the soul. We strip down, evaluate, assess and hopefully repair what is broken before arriving at the beauty and blessing of our Easter celebrations, culminating most powerfully in the Easter Vigil the night before Easter Day. The Vigil is the service where we break through darkness and arrive into light and new life.

We are so blessed to be doing work in our church that will allow others access, that will provide greater benefit and possibility for celebration, study and fellowship. But we are even more blessed to be given that opportunity to do that work in our own hearts, to rebuild, redesign and recreate something far more beautiful than we can even imagine. In the following verse, put your own name in place of Abraham's—is *your* foundation firmly built in the kingdom, or do you have some work to do?



For [Abraham] was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. *Hebrews 11:10*

Blessings--ML+

Let the Construction Begin!

Work has officially begun in the church to install a handicapped-accessible bathroom, an official Sacristy, a robe room, a custodian's room and a designated space for our Coffee Hour time (with storage!)

While we may occasionally be inconvenienced by the work, the goal of accessibility is such an important one.

Worship space, as well as hospitality space, needs to be available to everyone who wishes to attend church. And we are also completing a project that was begun decades ago. Isn't it great to see it completed?

Special thanks to our architect, Dave D'Amore, and our in-house engineer, John Rizzo as well as to our Planning Committee and Vestry for researching, presenting and supporting the project.

Follow our updates on the church website or on our facebook page. We'll post pictures and other information as we continue to move forward.



Let's continue to say our prayer for mission as we move forward, asking God to help us determine the ministries He would have us do:

Lord, we lift up our St. John's family and our entire community to you. Give us ears to hear what Your Spirit is saying to your church. Give us eyes to see the things you need us to see in order to make changes. Give us compassionate hearts and willing hands to do the work you would have us do. Make us partners in your mission of spreading the gospel of your Son, a gospel of love, of joy, of peace, of healing and of reconciliation. Help us open ourselves to your Word so that the teachings of Jesus will encourage new life, new meaning and new possibilities for mission in our lives and in our church. Amen.

Update on 21 N. Market Street

The pool is officially drained, thanks to Mike Lawlor, and CT Male has come in to do their survey of potentially hazardous materials. (Let's offer up prayers that there are none present!) We have also had to replace a recovery tank down in the boiler room, which Adirondack Mechanical installed.



So what does the timetable look like for our work in the new building? We hope to have offices relocated by the fall of 2014, and we estimate that it may take up to two years to complete the moving of NOAH and the Food Pantry. We hope to raise additional funds for those moves from grant applications and community resources, which will take some time.

However, we also know that our plans are ambitious, and that they won't happen without the work of volunteers, the advice of experts and the support of our community.

Our children are having a delightful time in J Time!

So far this year we have explored the Bible stories of King David and we have just completed an exploration of the story of Noah.

The children have had a wonderful time watching a cartoon that tells the story of Noah in a fun, delightful way and made rainbows. We are now exploring the stories of Abraham. The stories of King David, Noah and Abraham are all stories from the Old Testament and share the theme of "promise" because in each of these stories, God makes a promise and history shows us that each of those promises were fulfilled in one way or another. God keeps His promises! We

also keep our promise to you to welcome

all children to our program. All children are welcome to join us during the 10:00 Sunday service. (The children return to their families before communion).

The first Sunday of the month the children enjoy staying with their families for our Youth service.



*Our children
of St. John's gives us
so much.....*



Hope!



Oh, the places our Jesus doll has been and the stories he has to share. Numerous children and children at heart have taken our Jesus doll into their home to share their weekly activities. The stories are outstanding, touching, funny and should be made into a book!

If you want to read some, please let Pam or Lee know and we are sure you could borrow the journal – it will make your day to read how our children have shared their days with Jesus.

Hats – Mittens – Scarves

Still being collected!

They can be new or gently used and will be donated to Park Terrace and Warren Street Elementary schools along with NOAH participants. Just drop them in the collection box in church.



Caring for others....

....Our Church Family



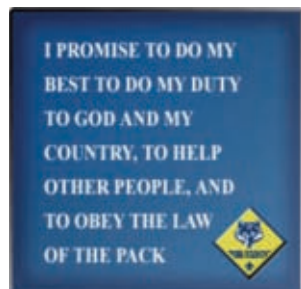
Prayers given for others.

Thank you Lord, for continuing to send your healing love and power to Dan Cameron... We are so thankful for the progress that Dan has made and for Barb's loving care.

Braving the cold to spread the warmth in giving to others by the ringing of the bell...thanks Carl, Jenna, Marissa and Stella.



The Cub Scout Promise



These are words that you may have heard before. It is the promise of every Cub Scout. Scouting was once a strong tradition at St. John's Church. I believe God has put it on our hearts to make it so again. Cub Scouting is a year round program designed to meet the needs of young boys and their parents. The program offers fun and challenging activities that promote character. Service projects, ceremonies, games and other activities guide boys through the core values and give them a sense of achievement. Family involvement is an essential part of Cub Scouting and parents are encouraged to play an active role in the program. Through interaction between parents, leaders and friends, boys learn citizenship, compassion, and courage. Cub Scouts is open to boys in First Grade through Fifth Grade. If you are interested in joining this effort or just learning more about what Cub Scouting has to offer, please join me on February 19 at 6:30 pm at St. John's Church. If you can't make the meeting or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at anytime. My email address is samcgrattan@icloud.com.

Thank you Steve McGrattan for wanting to give of your time to such a wonderful opportunity!

**Oh Lord, grant those who have died the joy of Your Presence,
and us who are living the happiness of knowing this.**

Our Christian sympathy to those in our church who have lost loved ones:

Nelson Sackett, husband of Virginia Sackett

Connie Barrett, daughter of Joyce Barrett, wife of Marc Weinert



St. John's Outreach Committee
Collecting items for a Senior
Center Collection.

Items wanted:

Pens Pencils Coloring books
Legal pads of paper Crayons –
Diabetic snacks and Handy wipes.
Just bring to church and we will
find a place to collect!

**It is always the right time to give
of your time and talent to your
church. Contact the church office
or any vestry member with your
interests.....**

Outreach Committee/Evangelism

___ Volunteer for NOAH

Pastoral Care

___ Prayer Ministry
___ Make home communion visits to home bound
___ Send out parish birthday greetings

Hospitality and Special Events

___ Assist with coffee hours/special events
___ Serve as an usher
___ Serve as greeter

Worship - Readers/Prayers of The People

___ Serve as an acolyte
___ Serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM)
___ Serve on the Altar Guild
___ Join the Adult or Bell Choir

Property and Grounds

___ Volunteer to work with our bldg/grounds
committee.
___ Help with St. John's gardens.

Stewardship

___ Serve on a Capital Campaign Committee
___ Help with fundraising events

Christian Education

___ Help with Sunday School & Children's Chapel
___ Teen Bible Study/Mission Trip

Begin to prepare for Lent –
Begin to spend some quiet time with God
Ash Wednesday - March 5th



THANK YOU!

Thank You!

Thank You!

Thank You!

To all

For your support of so many worthwhile fundraising effort!

Cookie Exchange – Chocolate Covered Cherries – **Souper-bowl**

Sunday – **Candles** – **Stain Glass Window book** – **Christmas in a**

Shoebox – **The Giving Tree** – **for your support – time – and talents!**

St. John's Vestry

Sandy Van Slyke, Sr. Warden

Roger Rhodes, Jr. Warden

Nancy Brown

Rosemary Brown

Dan Ehle

James Hannahs

Nancy Marucci

Gary Miller

Jack Valachovic



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Bless you and thank you
for your years of dedication
and service to St. John's
while serving on the vestry.

Leslie Buggeln-Boswrth

Jeff Fonda

Kelly Lawlor

Bonnie Valachovic

A note of thanks from Lindsay Hinkle

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. I have enjoyed my time here at St. John's. You welcomed me right away and took me into your family. That is something that I will never forget. Also, thank you for all the support and well wishes I have received as I move on to my next adventure. It means more than you know.

*Lindsay was the parish's administrative assistant.
As we look for a new individual to fill this position –
we are appreciative of all who have stepped up to
volunteer their time in the office.*

Challenge your kids...challenge yourself!

Kids Bible Wordsearch

ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE?

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.



ANTELOPE
 APE
 BADGER
 CALF
 CHAMELEON
 CROCODILE
 DEER
 FOX
 FROG



J	M	W	P	Z	L	O	C	I	P	W	N	F
Z	Y	F	O	A	K	O	Y	L	K	S	O	Q
P	Y	U	R	K	X	K	I	Z	S	T	E	U
E	D	Q	C	E	W	L	A	E	C	A	L	F
C	Y	T	U	X	F	O	N	D	O	G	E	X
J	G	U	P	Y	P	I	T	Z	R	A	M	Z
R	U	I	I	C	X	M	E	N	P	W	A	Q
G	I	R	N	I	E	X	L	H	I	F	H	D
H	G	F	E	L	I	D	O	C	O	R	C	A
A	W	P	U	G	B	D	P	X	N	O	Q	D
T	A	M	H	E	D	G	E	H	O	G	V	I
D	V	T	M	W	H	A	L	E	M	X	L	W
E	H	C	R	M	O	Y	B	G	R	T	Y	O



HEDGEHOG
 HEIFER
 MULE
 PORCUPINE
 RAM
 SCORPION
 STAG
 WHALE



Open to all – All are welcomed!



Weekly Bible Studies

Wednesdays 10:30 AM
Thursdays 7:00 PM

Groups will continue to hold discussions and share what has been discovered while taking part in reading the Bible in One Year!

First Communion Classes

If you are interested in finding out more about this sacrament for you and or your child, please let Mother Laurie know by email at RevLMGR@gmail.com, contact the church office or sign up on a sign up sheet located in the Narthex and Hawkins Room. Classes will be held in March/April with First Communion administered on May 4, 2014 at the 10 AM service.



**St. John's Celebrates
Mardi Gras
Sunday March 2!**

Come Sing

One of the great blessings we have in our church is our Choir. Under the direction of "Dr. Bob" this group of dedicated people enhances and embellishes our worship services with songs of praise. We thank God for those who have been part of our choir in the past, and we invite other members of the congregation to come sing. Choir rehearsals are held in the church Hawkins room on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song" (Psalm 95:1-2).

HOLY EUCHARIST/HEALING SERVICE

12:05 PM to 12:30 PM

Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Wednesday with the opportunity to receive Healing Prayer after the service.

Prayer Meeting

Thursdays 6 PM



Diane L., Donald G., Tom M., Wyatt, Our NOAH Participants, Garth H., Ron, Frank, Dan C., Bishop Ball, Judy M., Rita, Mike, Bunny & John P., Kyle, Robert R. Deb W., Elinor B., Luis D., Jennifer P., Liz R., Jerome F., Chuck & Madeline, Missy M., Christine M., Oliver B., Owen M., Ruth K., Rebecca H. & Family, D. Miller, Barbara G., Betsy, Eleanor J., Dona D., Andres R., Carter B., Sue B., Jim H., Roger C.,

In the Military: Ryan R. Christopher J. Connor W. Matt B. Meg K. Ethan L. Andrea H. Guy H. Brian M. Ian S. Nicole B.

The Women of St. John's ask that you remember those who cannot attend our services with a card or note. They include:

Steven Datz
Valley Health Services
690 W. German St.
Room 107
Herkimer, NY 13350

Ruth Kline
Wells House
201 W. Madison Ave.
Johnstown NY 12095

Audrey Baird
Wells House
201 W. Madison Ave.
Johnstown, NY 12095

Contact the church office if you want to add or remove any individuals from our prayer list.



Don't forget to check out St. John's website at

www.stjohnsjohnstown.org

There is a wealth of information for members and visitors, and more is being added each week. You can find out about upcoming events at the church, check copies of Sunday's Bulletin, weekly readings, the St. John's Prayer List and see photos of recent events. Please send suggested changes, additions, etc., to Lindsay at the church office stjohnschurch@frontiernet.net

Church Office

Phone (518) 762-9210

Fax (518) 762-6745

e-mail: stjohnschurch@frontiernet.net

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday – Friday

www.stjohnsjohnstown.org

The Rt. Rev. William H. Love, Bishop

The Rev. Laurie Garramone, Rector

Robert C. Hallenbeck, Minister of Music

James L. D'Amore, Sexton

The Rev. Canon William D. Small, Rector Emeritus

St. John's Episcopal Church

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