



November/December 2019



St. John's Church—The Eagle

Ogdensburg, New York

A Message From Rev'd Carolyn Bartkus

Thanks for the warm welcome, St. John's Community! For those of you that I haven't met yet, I'm Rev. Carolyn Bartkus – and I'm so pleased to join the community in the role of priest-in-charge. In a simple phrase – I'm all about people. I'm energized by being with people and pastoral ministry is in my DNA. My formal education includes a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas and a master's from Nashotah House Theological Seminary. My ministry journey has included 20 years as a children and youth director and five years in hospital and hospice chaplaincy. I truly value raising up and supporting people in all stages and seasons of life. I look forward to meeting you, learning about you, and sharing in our faith journey to know Christ and to make Him known.

The season of Advent starts December 1st and is the beginning of the new church year. It is a time of expectation and joy as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord. Here at St. John's, we're also in a new beginning with anticipation as we plan our new season of ministry together. We'll have a Celebration of New Ministry Service officiated by Bishop William Love on Sunday, December 8th, 2019 at 4:00pm here at St. John's.

I am available in the church during office hours Monday – Thursday mornings. Please feel free to make an appointment or stop by. If a visit is preferable (pastoral care, hospital visits, home visits), please let me know. Contact me at: 315-393-5470 or stjohnsc@cnyemail.com.

In the meantime, let me share some Rev. Carolyn Factoids:

Born in Port Jefferson, New York. Also lived in Kansas, Missouri, Arizona, Virginia, Texas, and England.

Family - John and I have been married 34 years and have 3 adult children, 3 grand-children and 2 beagles.

Quality time over idle time.

Cooking over Cleaning.

Sun over Snow.

Books – so many books, so little time. Once I start, I can't put it down.

Movies – I enjoy movies that lift people up (fun, light, joyful, moving). (Horror flicks are out.)

Games - Pictionary, Yahtzee, Canasta. Monopoly has been banned by the family.

Travel – I grew up in an airline family - finding adventure and charm in each new place.

Cooking - I enjoy how cooking & food bring us together for quality time.

Favorite outdoor activities: Camping, skiing, and swimming.

Unique Hobby - Ukrainian dyed Easter eggs. You're invited to join me in creating these beautiful symbolic expressions of our Christian faith during Lent.

Celebration of a New Ministry and Installation of

The Rev'd Carolyn J. Bartkus

as

Priest - in - Charge

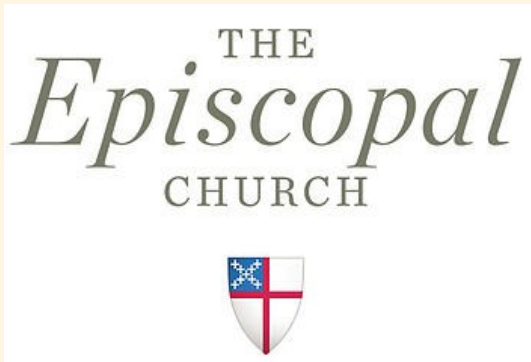
St. John's Episcopal Church

December 8, 2019

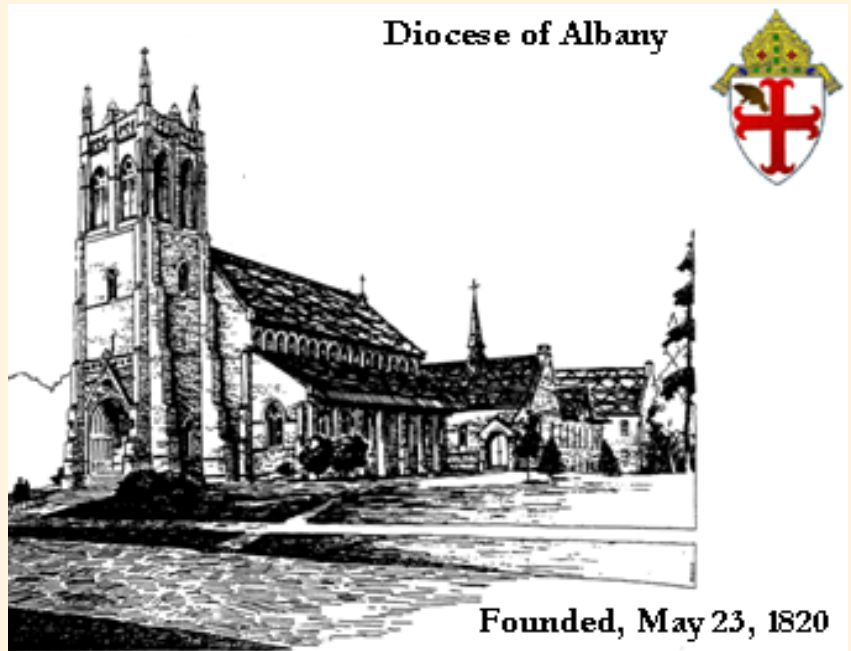
@ 4:00 PM

Reception following

Please join us!



of St. John's



WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday:	9:00 am	Holy Eucharist—Main Church
	9:00 am	Children's Chapel and Nursery (during the school year)
Thursday:	9:30 am	Healing Mass—Parish Hall
	10:30 am	Bible Study & Refreshments to follow



In Loving Memory

Weekly

Altar Flowers/Broadcast

If you would like to donate towards weekly Sunday flowers, the broadcast or a candle contact the church office.

Flowers -\$15.00

Broadcast - \$25.00

Available Dates:

Flowers - Oct 6, 20 & 27

Nov 3 & 17

Dec 1,15,22 & 29

Broadcast - Dec 15,22 & 29

November

- 11/7 Brice Brugel
- 11/10 Manny Palao
- 11/16 Darrian Storey
- 11/23 Penny Murphy
- 11/24 Ayden Sovie
- 11/27 Fred Perrin
- 11/28 John Woodard

December

- 12/1 Rose Sovie
- 12/3 Nancy Alzo
- 12/5 Haileigh Bowser
- 12/5 Nancy Gemmill
- 12/17 Steve Chambers
Candace Storey
Christina Martin
- 12/25 Beau Friot
- 12/29 Hannah Gardner
Karen Hampson
- 12/30 Jeffrey Hampson
Ryan Woodard

Christmas Flower Offering

If you would like to remember a loved one and give a donation in their memory, please fill out the form below and submit it to the parish office no later than **December 16th.**

Checks should be made out to St. John's Church.

In Memory of:

Given By:

November Anniversaries

- 11/14 John & Carolyn Bartkus
- 11/28 Manuel & Sally Palao





St. John's Church History Corner

St. John's Church Bicentennial History – Nancy Alzo

The Rectories of St. John's

In preparation for the arrival of Rev. Carolyn, we recently worked on preparing the Rectory. Spending time in that impressive space prompted this history column focusing on the rectories of St. John's.

In 1804, land speculator and owner, Samuel Ogden, sent a letter to his land agent, Nathan Ford, requesting that he set aside a lot for an Episcopal church, a rectory and a farm that could be leased to provide an income for the clergyman. Ford instead suggested that all subscriptions collected in support of a minister be pooled for a single non-denominational church until the settlement became larger.

Fifteen years later, St. John's Church was incorporated as an Episcopal church in the Diocese of New York and within the next two years the first building was erected. Efforts then turned to building a rectory behind the church. Work began in 1825 but the cost proved challenging for the new church and it took ten years to fully finish the building.

During the first two decades at St. John's, there was a frequent turn-over in clergy and even many months when there was no minister at all. Stability in leadership arrived with the call to the Rev. Dr. Hewlett Peters who came in 1840 and remained until 1871, still ranking as the longest serving Rector at St. John's. He continued to live in Ogdensburg as Rector Emeritus until his death in 1882

This original rectory was demolished along with the first St. John's Church in 1870 as the building of our current church began. Based on the parochial report that the Rev. Dr. Peters presented to convention in September that year, it seems that the decision to include the rectory in the demolition was made with short notice. He wrote:

In the spring the old rectory was torn away to give additional space for the foundations of the new church edifice. The confusion scattered everything, papers and records, so that, for want of materials, a full report is not possible.¹

For the next 15 years, the clergy of St. John's were accommodated in various rented houses.

St. John's took out a mortgage to purchase a "red brick" house on Caroline St. in 1886 as a Rectory for the Rev. Dr. J.D. Morrison. The total cost of the house was reported as \$9850². In order to raise the money to help pay off the loan, the St. Agnes Society held teas (25 cents) and entertainments (35 cents) at the Rectory³ and eventually contributed \$5098.44 towards the mortgage⁴.

In the spring of 1909, the church purchased the Merriam house at the current rectory location at Franklin and Knox Streets for \$6000.000 and began to renovate it to serve as the new rectory⁵. In August of that year, the house on Caroline St. was sold to the Elk's Club for \$8000.00⁶ and the rector, the Rev. Edgar Sanford moved into the Franklin St. house.

¹ Journal of the Proceedings of the Third Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Albany, 1870. P. 341.

² St. John's Church Annual Report, 1920. P. 43.

³ Examples of advertisements appear in The Ogdensburg Journal, October 7, 1886 and February 10, 1888. P.4

⁴ St. John's Church Annual Report, 1920. P. 43.

⁵ The Ogdensburg Journal, June 8, 1909. P. 4.

⁶ The Ogdensburg Journal, August 27, 1909. P. 5.

The Vestry at St. John's met on January 11, 1928 to discuss a proposal from John C. Howard of a gift of \$10,000.00 to build a new "fine and modern" rectory to replace the old frame rectory on the condition that the congregation raise a corresponding amount. An architectural plan that promised "a magnificent structure" was included in the proposal.⁷ By March, the congregation was within reach of meeting their \$10,000.00 goal, the architect had completed full plans and Joseph Fex was named as contractor. The new rectory was completed just one year later at a cost of about \$35,000.00.

The architect, Samuel Williams, was one of the best known in the North Country. In Ogdensburg, he also designed buildings at Claxton Hospital and home that most recently served as the VFW Hall on Caroline St. Of note, when the new rectory was being built, he lived across the road at 500 Franklin St.

The building was constructed in style and material to blend harmoniously with the other church buildings and the entire church complex was "considered to be the finest in the Diocese of Albany".⁸ A full-page ad in the local papers celebrated the contractors and businesses involved in constructing and furnishing this "modern and convenient new home" that boasted full electrification, a heated garage and included laundry and vegetable rooms in the basement⁹.

⁷ The Ogdensburg Advance and St. Lawrence Sunday Democrat, January 8, 1928. P.4.

⁸ The Ogdensburg Advance and St. Lawrence Sunday Democrat. March 17, 1929. P.13.

⁹ The Ogdensburg Republican-Journal, March 30, 1929. P.7.

Upcoming Events for November and December

(some information may be subject to change – for up-to-date information, please check our web site www.stjohnsogdensburg.org)

November 26th 9 am - 11:30 am– Food Pantry Distribution

December 2nd @ 6 PM - Bicentennial Committee Meeting

December 4th @ 10 AM - Prayerful Knitting

December 7th @ 9 AM - Polishing silver & brass for Christmas

December 8th - Food Pantry Sunday

A visit from St. Nicholas @ coffee hour following the service.

4 PM - A Celebration of New Ministry with a silver tea luncheon.

December 9th @ 6 PM - Vestry Meeting

December 12th @ 10 AM Parish Life Meeting

December 17th Food Pantry

December 22nd Decorate the church after the service.

December 24th @ 7 PM - Choral Eucharist with reception following

December 25th @ 9 AM Said Service



Food Pantry Sundays

We are grateful for everyone who donates food and money to support our food pantry. We are able to help a significant number of families every month on our distribution day – the last Tuesday each month. Our goal is to provide a box of food that supports the preparation of several complete meals.

In order to help keep a variety of foods available, we have started “Food Pantry Sundays” to coincide with distribution days. Two weeks before, Rose and Donna will identify specific needs and we’ll put their wish list in the Sunday bulletin. On the next Sunday, you may bring a list item to church and place it in the bin at the entrance. The gifts will be presented at offertory.

We are now in the 3rd month and appreciate your generosity.

Please continue to give to the Food Pantry as you always have. This special Sunday gives the opportunity for us to address gaps in supplies and to regularly acknowledge the good work that is done.

In December, we will collect on Sunday, December 8th as we celebrate St. Nicholas, the giver of gifts.

Words From the Wardens

The Wardens and Vestry are very pleased to have called the Rev. Carolyn Bartkus to be our Priest-in-Charge. The Diocese of Albany has two types of covenant agreements – for Rector or for Priest-in-Charge. A Rector’s covenant establishes an ongoing relationship between Priest and congregation; a Priest-in-Charge covenant establishes a time frame that supports developing; a relationship based on mutual goals and ongoing assessment. The covenant with a Priest-in-Charge can grow into a Rector’s covenant.

On behalf of the congregation, the Wardens sign the covenant agreement with Rev. Carolyn that includes this commitment on the part of everyone at St. John’s:

The congregation shall encourage and support the Priest-in-Charge as one called through God’s appointment to this position of leadership. This should include daily intentional prayer for the Priest-in-Charge and his/her family, regular attendance at worship and other parish functions, and the cheerful exercise of gifts for

ministry as the people of God. The congregation is the local embodiment of Christ and, as such, functions as His arms and legs both inside and outside the parish. As the people of God, the parish is an aggregate of Disciples of Christ rather than merely church members.

In whatever ways one participates as a member of St. John's, together we are in covenant agreement with Rev. Carolyn and this agreement is a mutual one – we will all contribute to our success as a parish as we grow together.

Nancy Alzo and Eric Warner



Grief & Faith by Eric Warner

Do you feel overwhelmed with grief and sorrow? Our church family has lost numerous members over the past few years. No matter how deep your pain, God can help you find comfort and hope.

Understanding the nature of grief can help us better cope with loss. Grief is a natural, healthy process that enables us to recover from terrible emotional wounds. William Cowper, the English hymn writer, said "Grief is itself medicine." People may say, "Don't cry; your loved one is in heaven." That may be true, but it's important to deal with the very real pain of loss. We should not feel guilty for grieving because it is a necessary part of God's pathway to healing.

The grief process is like sailing across a stormy sea. When we first experience a great loss, we are launched into a tempest of emotions. We feel surrounded by darkness and heavy waves of anguish. Comforting words are drowned out by howling winds of sorrow. We feel lonely and out of control as we are swept toward a new destination in life.

This journey through grief has four phases: Shock – In the days and weeks immediately following a devastating loss, common feelings include numbness and unreality, like being trapped in a bad dream. Reality – As the fact of the loss takes hold, deep sorrow sets in, accompanied by weeping and other forms of emotional release. Loneliness and depression may occur. Reaction – Anger, brought on by feelings of abandonment and helplessness, may be directed toward family, friends, and the one you lost or even God. Recovery – Finally, there is a gradual, almost imperceptible return to normalcy. This is a time of adjustment to the new circumstances in life.

These phases vary in duration for each person, so we should not impose a timetable upon anyone. Some people need a year or more, while others may take less time. Holidays, anniversaries and birthdays can trigger intense grief, especially the first year.

Healing a broken heart is similar to healing a broken leg. Rushing the process can actually hinder our long-term recovery, like removing a cast before the bone is strong enough to bear weight. Unresolved grief may trigger depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, or other serious problems.

There are numerous scripture lessons that talk about grief. Ecclesiastes 3: 1,4 says "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heave; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance." Jesus is the best role model for combining faith and grief, as he revealed in John 11: 1-45. When he saw Mary and Martha in anguish over the death of their brother Lazarus, he wept and groaned. Although Jesus knew he was about to raise Lazarus from the dead, he still allowed himself to feel and express the depths of human sorrow.

We can take comfort in knowing that Jesus has experienced all of our pain, including loss, rejection, betrayal, and dying. As our Savior and Redeemer, he took all our sins to the cross and forgives us when we ask. As our Good Shepherd, he leads us safely through "the valley of the shadow of death" (Psalm 23: 4). Please remember, a shadow indicates that there is a light on the other side!

Grief can affect our thinking, behavior, emotions, relationships and health. People may experience sleeplessness, exhaustion, lack of appetite or memory lapses. Recognizing that these are common reactions to grief can help us minimize them by reaching out to friends, joining a prayer group or asking a priest for assistance.

One of the most difficult tasks for a bereaved person is adjusting to the new environment without the loved one who has died. When is it appropriate to put away loved one things, make lifestyle changes or form new relationships? We will find answers as time passes and recovery progresses. God will show us his timing and his direction as we seek him.

Here are three steps to recovery; Grieve – Though grief is bitter, we must let sorrow run its natural course. Denying or repressing pain can lead to emotional problems. Believe – We need to put our faith in God's promises, trusting that our Heavenly Father knows best and that his understanding is perfect. Receive – God desires to give us comfort, but we must reach out to accept it. Through prayer and meditation on his word, we can find a place in God's presence where he will wrap his arms around us as a loving father would console a hurting child.

Everyone grieves differently – depending on personality, maturity, emotional stability and cultural traditions. We as a family can help our members through grief by encouraging the bereaved person to share their feelings, and then being a good listener and not judging what is said. Let the person feel sorrow without implying that they should "cheer up."

Do the little things without being asked, such as mowing the lawn or bringing a meal.

Although grief will visit our lives many times because we love others, the Lord promises to always be with us, even in the midst of our darkest hours.



A Note from ACT Children's Theater at St. John's

We would first like to extend a huge and very heartfelt "thank you" to the entire St. John's Church family for the overwhelming support we have received since changing our name and moving in the direction of a children's theater. After a series of unfortunate events over the summer, we have, by the grace of God, reformed into a new theater, with new leadership and new guiding principles. Our passion for providing the youth of the North Country a creative outlet has never been stronger and, through your help, we are gaining more interest every day.

That having been said, we are very excited to announce that our first stage production was a success! On Friday and Saturday, November 15th and 16th, ACT Children's Theater at St. John's presented "The Golden Age of Broadway: A Musical Cabaret." Our talented cast of 15 young men and women from schools across the North Country delighted the audience with 18 songs from Broadway in the Golden Age. This time period featured talented songwriters such as Rodgers and Hammerstein, Leonard Bernstein, Meredith Willson, and many more. The audience was very supportive and enjoyed the singing and tap dancing!

Now that this show is finished, our next steps will include Christmas caroling around our community this December, a talent show sometime in late winter, acting workshops for students of all ages, and a full musical production at OFA this June. More information on future projects will be coming soon.

Thank you all again for your loving support. It means so much to us to be able to continue to provide quality artistic experiences for our local youth. It is truly our passion and we are so blessed to belong to a church that also shares this passion! Blessings to you all,

Christopher and Angela Dwyer

St. John's Online

St. John's Episcopal Church

Ogdensburg, New York

Contact Information


St. John's Episcopal Church


500 Caroline St.

P.O. Box 658

Ogdensburg, New York 13669

 Map •  Directions

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 Fax (315) 393-5688

@ Email

@ Email Web Admin



@Email – contacts the office

@Email Web Admin – contacts
the webmaster

It's easy to contact us by
email directly from our web
site.

Your Name

Your Email Address

Subject

Message

Send me a copy.

send email

The form on our web site sends the message directly and copies your email account. No need to leave our site.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

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Web site: www.stjohnsogdensburg.org

Sunday radio broadcast at 9am on 92.7 FM

The Rt. Rev'd William H. Love, Bishop

Rev'd Carolyn Bartkus, Priest-in-Charge

Wardens: Nancy Alzo
Eric Warner

Vestry:

Art Hastings John Storey
Andy Wells Donna Burdick
Doug Rose

Staff: Michael Calton, Dir. Grounds and Maintenance

Steve Chambers, Assoc. Sexton
Jeannette Perrault, Parish Administrator
Eric Warner, Chief Financial Officer
Angela Dwyer, Choir Director
Eric Warner, Organist