



St. John's Honeoye Falls News

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE

IN THIS ISSUE

Wrestling with New Years

By Virginia Tyler Smith, Rector

Happy New Year! Do you remember the anxiety held by so many around the turning from 1999 to 2000? It seems like a lifetime ago, and we can smile now to think about how much our worries came to nothing. But, oh the worry!

At the time, I was working for the trade association of hospitals in New York State, and we were deeply concerned about what might happen at the stroke of midnight if the computers all failed. Would hospital operations falter if electrical, heating, or water systems failed? What would happen to patient monitoring, to patient records, even to communication channels with emergency providers? Everyone was on edge.

Now in reality, my little corner of the firm was not of concern. I was working on a project to improve and standardize approaches to treating breast cancer. No one was worried about that faltering on New Year's Day.

Even so, all staff were on deck to respond in the event of a crisis. I re-

member senior leadership discussing the underground command center (literally under the ground) that would be set up, including chief leaders of the state government, banking, public safety, healthcare and other key personnel. Our CEO, director of IT and chief legal folks were to be in that center at midnight, just in case. There were great banks of telephones and walky-talkies. It sounded like something from an apocalyptic motion picture, but it was very real. The threat of the unknown, and the potential for our negative forecasts were limitless.

And then the 31st came.

Being low on the corporate ladder, I was gathered with friends at a cabin on a lake about 90 minutes outside of Albany. It was a brilliantly clear, freezing night. We ate a terrific dinner and drank good wine. As midnight came closer, some of the braver ones crept out on the frozen-over lake to look at the perfectly clear sky. They went as far as they dared until the ice started to moan and creak, and then those of us on shore laughed to watch them race and slide

(continued on page 2)

- Silver SpoonsPage 3
- Elebration Sunday.....Page 2
- Can & Bottle DrivePage 3
- BirthdaysPage 4
- AnniversariesPage 4
- Sunday ServersPage 4
- January CalendarPage 5
- Please Pray ForPage 5
- Annual MeetingPage 6
- Book GroupPage 6
- St. John's at the Movies.....Page 6
- Tai-ChiPage 7
- Teen Lock-InPage 8
- Vestry Update..... Page 8

their way back to safety. Our joy at this simple fun was so complete that it eclipsed our anxieties about the potential end of the world at midnight.

And then midnight came.

Andnothing. Safely back in the cabin with the tv on, we watched the ball drop in Times Square. We toasted each other with champagne and went back outside with sparklers and a few firecrackers. Then to bed, and a very relaxed sleep. Nothing had happened. We were safe.

I have thought back on that momentous night each New Year's Eve since. The question I always ask myself is: when we were all wringing our hands about the possible tragedy, where had we put God? Why is it that we were so focused on the machinations of what could happen that we lost sight of the ways in which God already was acting?

I know in retrospect that many folks were gathered in prayer that night, wanting to have God close in case the unthinkable occurred. I'll freely admit that I wasn't one of them, and I wonder about that. I guess, at the time, I didn't think this was an issue for God. And yet, was it my own hubris to think that those "in the know" had it under control? Was it my own selfishness to think that as long as the computers switched over to the year 2000, my world would be ok?

I have to imagine that God looked on all of this and thought, "Silly humans." (Perhaps he thinks that more often than we think.) There we were, some of us hunkered underground, and some of us walking out on the ice, both groups losing sight of the fact that God was, and is, and will ever be the thing that will keep us most safe.

Now understand: I know we had real reason to be concerned about Y2K. But it amazes me how quickly we forgot all that anxiety and moved on with our lives. Until the next anxiety came: 9/11. And the anxiety after that: War in

Afghanistan. Then the great recession. And the anxieties now: impeachment. Nationalism. The environment. Race relations. Brexit. Data security. Funny how we went from worrying in 1999 that the systems would fail, to worrying in 2019 that they know too much about us.

And still the question: where do we put God in all of that? An old college friend recently asked me: "As a priest, where do you find hope in all the mess of this world?"

My answer is simple: in each other. In the ways in which we continually find ways to give love to each other, to hold each other up, to care (and to annoy), to console and to heal.

It may not be where we expect it. Examples: Every time someone tells me how their physical therapist is torturing them, I hear God saying, "the person is being healed." When the phone rings with someone needing help, I hear God saying, "be my presence there." When I find myself feeling stretched too thin and wanting a rest, I hear God saying, "let me walk this road with you through the help of others."

So as we enter 2020 with new anxieties and new concerns, let us also remember that each anxiety eventually becomes, "oh...that." Every morning we wake up, and it's a new day. Every day we wake up, and God is still there. Let our prayer and our resolution for 2020 be: more faith, less fear, more hope, less anxiety, more love, more God.

Peace to all of you, God's peace I give you.

Virginia+



CELEBRATION SUNDAY

January 10 after the worship service!

Celebrating God's gifts and
moving forward in 2020

Join us for a catered lunch and to discuss our Parish's finances and where we plan to go in 2020.

Please RSVP to Jill at 624-4074 or

info@stjohnshoneoyefalls.org so we know how many to expect.



Nickel & Dime Redemption Center has set up an account for St. John's! When you drop off returns to one of their centers, simply let the employee know that you are dropping off for St. John's Episcopal Church. They are located at 1336 Pittsford-Mendon Rd. and 4 Ontario St. Honeoye Falls!



Birthday's in January

1: Madgezin Smith

8: Danielle Young & Deborah Shafer

15: Eileen Locke

17: Peter O'Brien

19: Patrick Donahoe

26: Mary Jo Smith

Anniversaries

1: Robb & Anna Young

14: Tim Pullis & Julie Walker



Altar Guild: Judy Haravitch

	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Lector1/Chalice Bearer</u>	<u>Lector 2</u>	<u>Prayers of the People</u>
Jan 5th					
Jan 12th	Andy Smith	TBD	Ray Locke	Maggie Gibbons	John Rutkowski
Jan 19th	Mark Donahoe	TBD	Allene Baillargeon	Jan Metcalf	Catherine Faurot
Jan 26th	Gina Hurley	TBD	Cyndy Lamphier	Allan Shafer	Pat Culver

January 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7:00 pm EP/Communion	2	3	4
5 Christmas 2	6	7	8 7:00 pm EP/Communion	9 12:00 pm Silver Spoons	10	11
12 Epiphany Celebration Sunday	13	14 7:00 pm Vestry	15 10:00 am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting 7:00 pm EP/Communion	16	17 10:00 am Tai Chi	18
19 1st Sunday after Epiphany	20  Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22 10:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm EP/Communion	23	24 10:00 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Teen Lock-In @ Christ Church, Pittsford	25
26 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Annual Church Meeting	27	28	29 10:00 am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting 7:00 pm EP/Communion	30	31 10:00 am Tai Chi	



Please Pray For:

Theresa, Rich, Turi, John, Keith, Noah, Allen, Rosemary, Valerie, Jane, Ida, Karen, Joe, Michael, Pat, Kennedy, Renee, Mark, Hersey, Angela and Joe.

Is God calling you to Leadership?

At the Annual Meeting, we will elect:

- Three new members of the Vestry
- Delegates for Diocesan Convention
- The Audit Committee

Please see Wardens Allene Baillargeon at 794-0249 or John Richards at 582-6217 for more information.



Annual Meeting Sunday, January 26

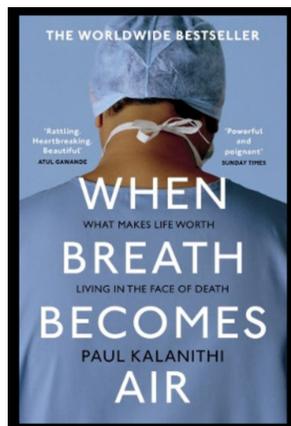
All Episcopal parishes hold an annual meeting in January to discuss the progress of the parish, recognize key folks, elect new leaders, and review the proposed budget for the coming year.

All pledging, baptized members are eligible to vote on the business of the meeting.

Please join us in the Parish House immediately after the service on January 26 for the annual meeting and potluck brunch!

St. John's Book Group

Book group will resume in February, so start reading now! Our next selection is **When Breath Becomes Air** by Paul Kalinithi.



Nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, this wonderful book about illness, identity, aspirations and faith has much to teach us in our own lives. Join us in February for a discussion of *When Breath Becomes Air*.

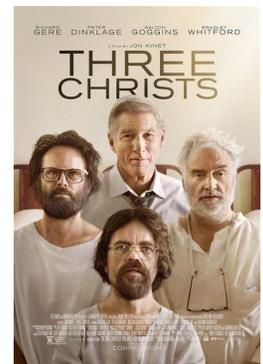
Date to be announced.

St. John's Goes to the Movies!

Richard Gere is starring in a new film entitled **"Three Christs."** The movie is based on a real story of a psychiatrist treating patients with schizophrenia in the late 1950's. Three patients each believe that they are Jesus Christ. How the psychiatrist approaches their treatment is new and untried, and has the potential to make us re-frame how we think about mental illness and religious

Because St. John's is blessed to have two psychiatrists in our midst, we thought it might be interesting to go see the film and then have them help facilitate discussion.

The movie is schedule to be released on January 10. Movie times for Rochester theaters have not been announced yet., but we will find out more and let you know.



Stay tuned!



Tai Chi for Wellness

FREE classes for caregivers of loved ones with memory loss.
 Come on your own or with your loved one!
 (Limited respite may be available - call to inquire.)
Others are welcome to enroll - space permitting.

Wednesdays & Fridays, 10-11am

January 15 - March 6, 2020

Host: St. John's Parish House
 11 Episcopal Ave., Honeoye Falls

For more information or to register:
 Call or email Wendy 585-244-8400 x130
wfambro@lifespanrochester.org



This program is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

What is tai chi?

Tai chi combines slow moving with deep breathing.

What are the benefits?

Increase strength, balance & posture.

Prevent falls.

Improve mind, body & spirit.

Reduce stress and increase relaxation.

To register go to: <https://www.lifespan-roch.org/new-events/2020/1/15/tai-chi-for-wellness>

4 Bullets from Vestry

- ◆ A big thank you to everyone who helped with our Advent and Christmas celebrations! From music, to flowers, to outreach, to decorating, to prayers...it was a very special season here at St. John's!
- ◆ We continue to move forward with the sale of Rand House and the small parcel of greenspace near the garage. Our proposed transactions are getting final review, and we hope to close in the near future!
- ◆ We are also in the process of demolishing and replacing the garage. The building is structurally unsound and needs to come down. Because of its proximity to the Church and the Carriage House, both of which are on the Historic Register, we need to have a period of public comment. We hope to receive zoning approval in February. Once the demolition is done, we will replace the garage with a smaller, pre-fabricated structure to complement the rest of the campus.
- ◆ With all that we have had going on, our wardens have amassed a great deal of knowledge about the parish and its operations. For continuity's sake, we would like to consider having them remain on as wardens for an additional year. That would require a one-time amendment to the bylaws, to be considered in the annual meeting. Please see Virginia for more information.

Youth (8th Grade & up) are invited to a:

Teen Lock-In

Jan 24 • 5:30 PM – Jan 25 • 8:00am
 Christ Church
 36 South Main St, Pittsford

This is **FREE** event includes:
 Off-site Activity, Dinner, Games,
 Discussion, Service, Movies, Breakfast

INTERESTED? PLEASE SEE VIRGINIA
 DRIVERS AND CHAPERONES NEEDED

St. John's Honeoye Falls News

11 Episcopal Avenue
 Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
www.stjohnshoneoyefalls.org
Info@stjohnshoneoyefalls.org
 585-624-4074