

# Reflecting on the State of St. John's

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Rector's Report  
January 31, 2021

# The Early Days

- Founded in 1840, the original church building was dedicated in 1842. The campus consisted of the church, the land immediately to the right of the church, and Episcopal Avenue. It was known as “The Church in the Trees.”
- The Carriage House was built soon after as a barn for church goers to store their buggies
- A long series of clergy through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, none serving more than 5 years,.
- The rectory was deeded to St. John’s in 1876.
- The original square church was significantly remodeled and a half-round apse was added in the late 1870’s. This was to reflect liturgical change going on in England.
- The Parish House was built in the backyard of the rectory in the 1930’s.
- Two additional parcels were added in the early 1960’s, and the houses were razed to create the parking lot.



St. John's  
VBS 1925



# The Late 1940's


- St. John's is in a bit of decline.
- Helen Cooney (former historian of St. John's) writes that upon her arrival:
  - The congregation consisted of 3 people
  - The only service offered was Evening Prayer on Sunday nights
  - Including the sermon, the service lasted a mere half hour.
  - The rector, a Fr. Dennis, had given the rectory to friends to occupy
  - He had turned the Carriage House into a bit of “night club” and liked to have card parties in there.

# Recovery and Expansion

- The parish recovered, and by the last 70's was on the forefront of changes in the church
  - Women began to serve on the Vestry
  - The parish called its first woman priest in 1982.
    - The Episcopal Church officially approved the ordination of women in 1977.



# Confirmation ~ 1983

A group photograph of the 1983 Confirmation class. In the center is Rev. Miriam Owens, wearing a dark suit and a pink tie. To her left (viewer's right) is John Rider, a young man in a grey suit and dark tie. To her right (viewer's left) is Stephen Gillespie, a young woman in a dark sweater and a light-colored skirt. They are surrounded by other young people, some in formal attire and others in more casual clothing. The background is a dark, textured wall.

Maggie Ingle (Gibbons), Rev. Miriam Owens, Bishop Spears, John Rider, Stephen Gillespie, Jim Rider, Kathy Converse, Kaia Hansen, Mathew Flinders, Will Ingle, John Ingle, Andrew Flinders, Rob Lang.

# A Few of the Previous Clergy



Rev. Miriam Owens and Ray Owens



Rt. Rev. Jack McKelvey and Rev. Michael McCue





# 1984 Seder

- Dede Meader, Helen Cooney, Ruth Young, Eunice Frank, and Margaret Baker



*Bishop Burrill and  
Ethiopian Family  
adopted by the  
parish, 1985*

- Tesfariogis Haile, Lemlem, Haile, and daughters Asmara and Yordanos with Rev. Miriam Owens and Bishop Burrill



Connie White and Glora Ulrop



Christopher Sequeira, Jr.



Eunice Akin

Through  
the  
years



Bev Smith





*Always a  
project to do!*

Julie Clough, Connie White, Paul Auburn, Karen Briggs,  
Gora Ulrop



Jean Simmonds and Carol Bowman



Chicken BBQ!

Lots of food &  
Conversations  
!



Mike Lieber and Elaine Locke



Judy Reinhard, Lucinda Sequeira



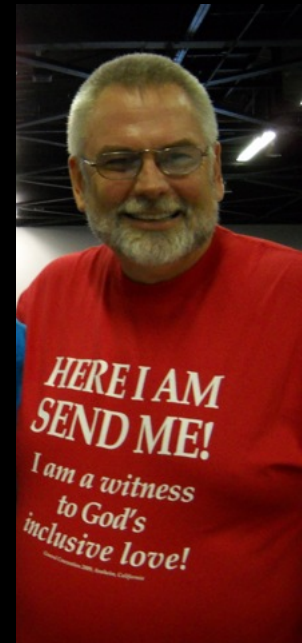
# General Convention 2009



Rev. Dahn Gandell



House of Deputies Session



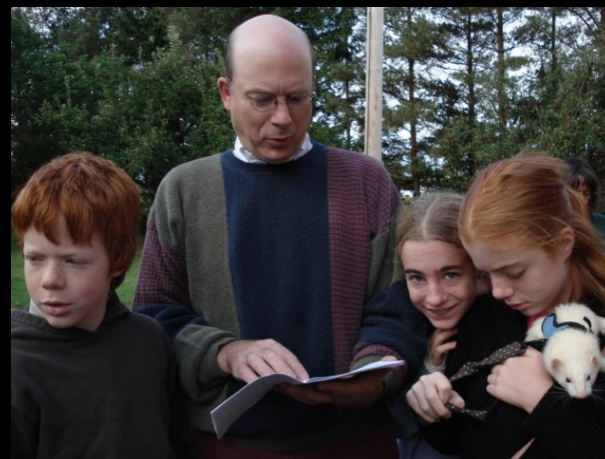
Neil Houghton



Mary Jo and Danielle  
Young



Jean Delfs



Brandon, Allan, Emily  
and Sarah Shafer

# Blessing of the Animals 2009

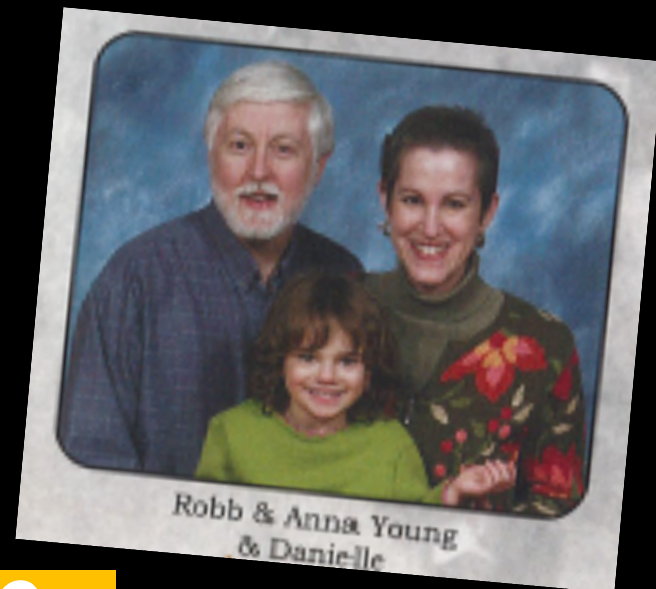


# Christmas Pageant, 2009

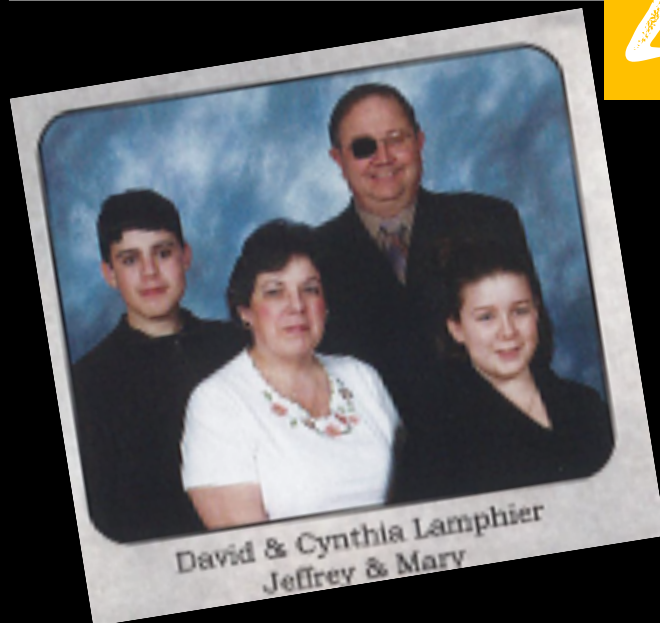




# 2010 Directory



2010





# At the Lamberton Conservatory 2012



Judy Haravitch, Deb Shafer, Jane Jobe, Bev Smith, Jean Delfs



# Episcopal Senior Life Golf Tourney 2015



Don Terry, Allan Shafer, and Alice Wells (who got closest to the pin!)

# Virginia's Ordination 2015

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# *Singing Together. circa 2017*

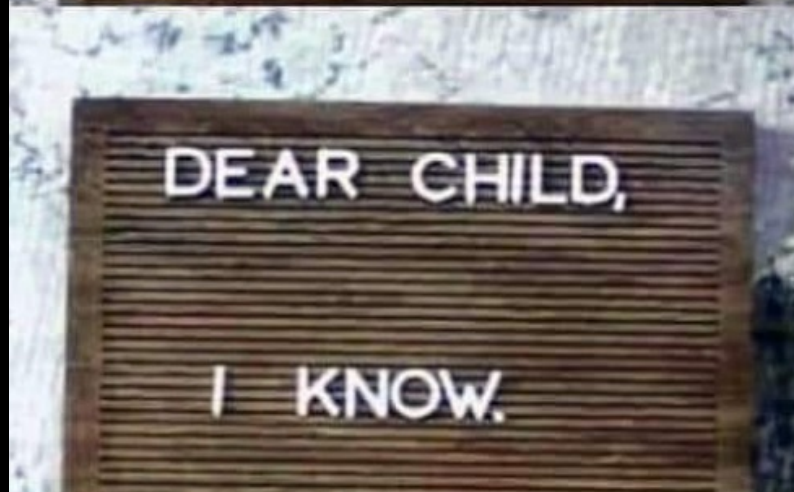


Mardi Gras  
Pancakes, Cinco  
de Mayo &  
Ginger Bread  
Creches make  
for fun

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And then,  
2020  
happened

# Virginia and Brad Smith



Best 2020 discovery



With our friendly  
neighborhood moose in Maine

# Deb and Erin Donahoe on Zoom





# Adventures of Josie & Shelly

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On the hunt for Mountain Lions





# Rileigh Laraby, Equestrian, Extraordinaire.

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First day at St. John's Nursery  
School. Check out that tote  
bag from back in the day, circa  
2005





# Kaelin and Phil

Mary in her church pageant in 2000, Married on August 15 2020, parents to puppy Charlie by Fall





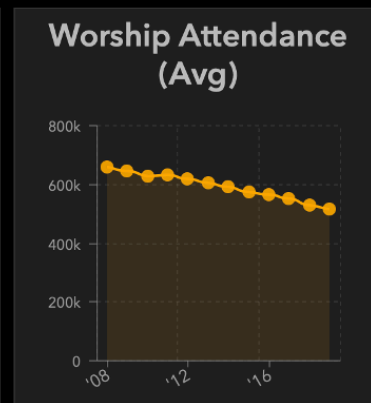
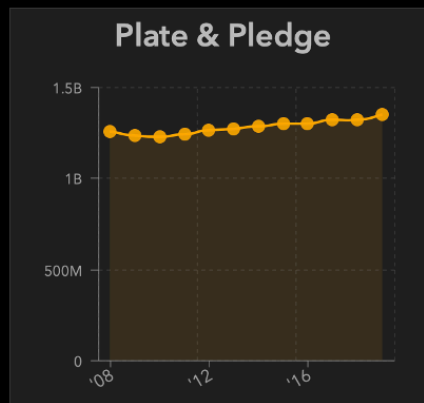
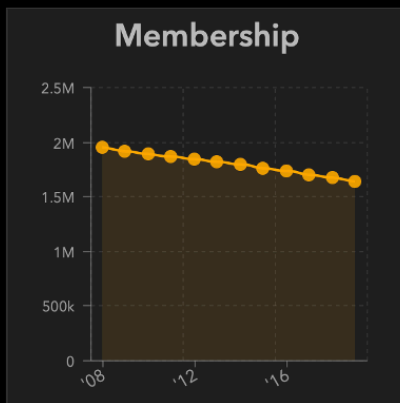
*Texas represents!  
Jonathan and Cathy Motherwell  
and new granddaughter, Harriet*

Maisie the Dog wore no  
masks, and took on every  
adventure.

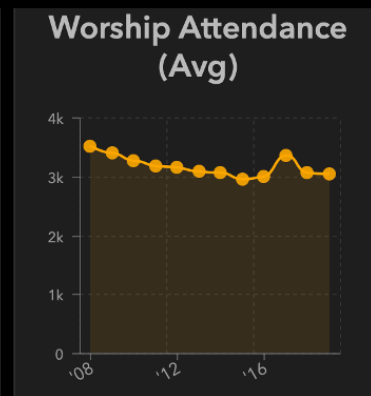
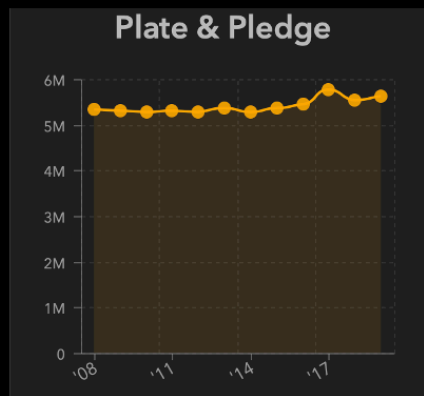
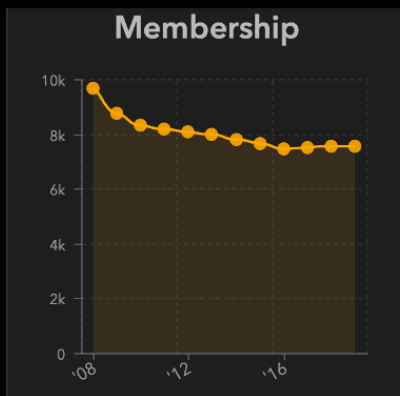


# How Did we Do?

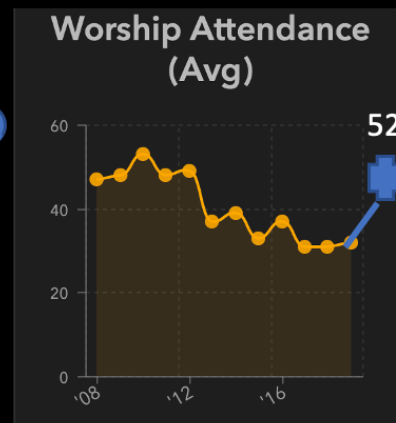
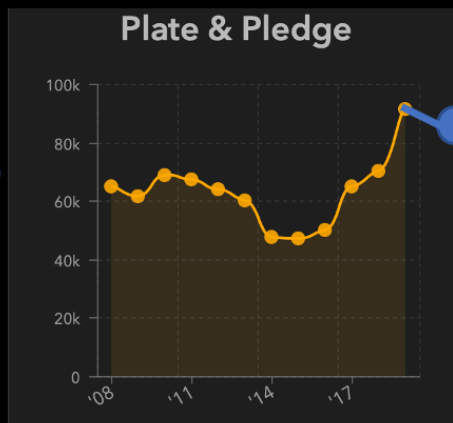
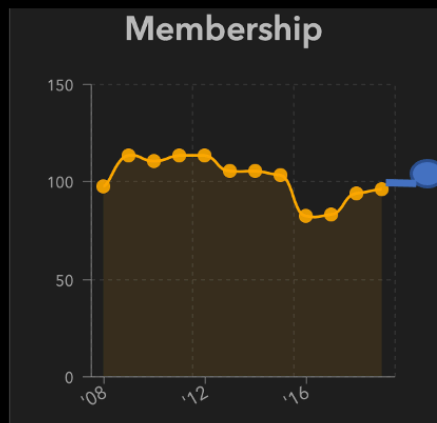
Episcopal Church USA



Episcopal Diocese of Rochester



St. John's  
Honeoye Falls



# What Are The Take-always?

- Resiliency that keeps us safe
- Responding to God's call and stewarding our gifts
- Resourcefulness that allows us to grow
- Relationships that keep us grounded and help us to fly

# *Resiliency That Keeps Us Safe*

- Continued weekly Sunday worship and Wednesday Evening prayer
- Mask making
- Food, clothing, furniture and financial donations to individuals and organizations
- Meals to folks who are on the mend
- Hand sanitizer, masks, fans, social distancing and new ways of doing worship

# Responding to God's Call and Stewarding Our Gifts

- Property sales to right-size the property
- Updating gas, electrical and water lines as needed
- Removal of the garage and installation of a new shed
- Maintaining and improving the gardens
- Starting a flower ministry and transitioning Altar Guild
- Payroll Protection Program
- Reinvesting the property proceeds into the endowment
- Inviting new readers and musicians to add to our worship




# Resourcefulness That Allows Us to Grow

- Zoom and Facebook for worship and Bible Study
- WiFi in the church
- Virtual Choir
- iPad cameras and screens to bridge in-person and virtual worship
- Music licenses for streaming
- Additional instruments added to enhance our music
- New and remote readers from all over the world
- Fall Flea and Fun
- Election Nite Spaghetti Supper
- Participating in Racial Reconciliation events in the Diocese and the Community
- Moving the memorial altar to bring Eucharist closer to the people
- Revamped wedding approaches

# Relationships That Keep Us Grounded and Help Us to Fly

- Bible Study
- The Care Team
- Phone Tree
- Weekly check-ins
- Donations to FISH, Veterans Outreach Center, A Meal and More and others
- Mailings and deliveries to homes
- Pastoral calls
- Bi-weekly Diocesan calls
- Parade at Pinehurst
- Sharing jigsaw puzzles, game recommendations, coffee hours, and happy hours
- Book group conversations
- Caroling at Christmas
- Learning about each other through video conversations
- Engaging with neighbors through care of our feline friends

The glue that holds it  
all together is GOD  
and YOU

A red, heart-shaped sponge is positioned behind the text, partially obscured by the words "GOD" and "YOU".