St. John's Episcopal Church

"KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN"

200th Anniversary

1819 - 2019

- Donation of personal care items for the food pantry at St. Paul's Church in Bloomville. These items are not covered by SNAP benefits.
- Food for the Poor- monthly donation of $100. Previously St. John's donated funds for the building of a house in Haiti.
- We had regularly supported the Oaks of Righteousness, both through monetary donations and volunteers for work projects. This was a ministry primarily to children, but also some adults who lived in a depressed and somewhat violent drug-ridden neighborhood in Troy, New York. This ministry is no longer in operation but we are now contributing to a fund established at a local school that provides clothing to students in need.
- The proceeds from St. John's annual Chicken Barbecue are used to help fund the church's ongoing outreach efforts.
- Building use by outside groups include the following:
  - AA and NA- 10 meetings each week
  - Quilters- 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month
  - Girl Scouts- 1st Sunday of each month; Brownies- 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month
  - WIC program- 2nd Wednesday of each month
  - St. John's space is used for supervised visits by parents who are attempting to regain custody of their children

St. John's Episcopal Church, Delhi New York: 1819-2019

Greetings to members and friends of St. John's Church:

It is so wonderful to be celebrating 200 years of Episcopal-style worship in this community. The history tells us that we are the oldest church in Delhi and the second oldest Episcopal Church in Delaware County—the oldest being our companion church, St. Peter's in Hobart. The age of this institution would not be that important if it were not for the faithful people who have worshipped here as the body of Christ over those 200 years. Our worship space is beautiful, our Episcopal liturgy is life giving, and our Sunday gatherings are full of joy. But being a church is about more than that. It is about answering Jesus' call on our lives when he said "as the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21) We are sent out every Sunday in the name of Christ to love and serve the Lord. Loving and serving the Lord looks different at different times in our lives together, but it basically means caring for the less fortunate, visiting the sick, supporting those who need help, and making Jesus known in a hurting world. This is what has made St. John's a church in this community for the past 200 years. May we continue to do God's will and be a witness for Jesus' love in what hopefully will be a long future.

In Christ,

Nancy

Deacon Nancy

A History of St. John's Episcopal Church, Delhi, New York

St. John's Episcopal Church was established on September 13, 1819, at a meeting held at the Court House and chaired by the Rev. David Huntington, Rector of St. Peter's, Hobart. It is the oldest church in Delhi and the second oldest Episcopal Church in Delaware County. On September 20, 1820, the Rev. J.P.F. Clarke came to Delhi. He became Rector of St. John's and provided supply to St. Peter's, Hobart, a tradition that continues today.

In 1830 the original land sale for $210 took place between Edward B. Paine and his wife Sally Ann and the Wardens and Vestry of St. John's Church. In addition, there is a recorded land sale for $1 from Samuel Sherwood to the Wardens and Vestry of St. John's Church. A wood frame church was completed in 1831 at the existing location at 134½ Main Street. In 1831 the Rev. Orange Clark, an educator and minister, arrived to serve as the first resident Rector of St. John's after the erection of the church edifice. Rev. Clark taught at Delaware Academy during his time as Rector and was influential in the founding of Christ Episcopal Church in Walton.

In 1871 repair work was completed, which included the addition of a recess chancel. Of significance was the baptism of Daniel Sylvester Tucker at St. John's in 1867. He later became the first Missionary Bishop of Montana, Idaho and Utah, and the 4th Bishop of Missouri.

During the summer of 1872 a rectory was purchased from attorney C.M. Bell. This was located south of and adjacent to the Bell property on Main Street.

In 1875 significant improvements were made to the church building, including a new porch and vestibule, new tower supports, re-flooring, and new pews. These were designed by prominent New York Architect Richard M. Upjohn. The General Contractor for these renovations was Robert Murray of Hamden,

- Maintenance- Most building and yard maintenance is performed by St. John's church members.
- Fellowship- There are ongoing opportunities for fellowship, including organized Sunday coffee hours with refreshments supplied by church members, and intermittent parish suppers planned throughout the year.
- Recovery Ministry- St. John's outreach to people in recovery from addiction includes a 12 Step Worship with Eucharist, meeting space, and a used clothing attic in conjunction with the Delaware County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council. There are hopes of expanding outreach efforts in the future.

Outreach

- Participation in Delhi Clergy Association Backpack Ministry by donating school supplies for students in need who attend local schools.
- Provide needed supplies and volunteers for the Delhi Community Thanksgiving Dinner and host event when scheduled.
- Christmas and Easter Food Baskets- a week's supply of groceries provided for 10-14 families in need from the local community.

ministry, support for the Children's Christmas Fund, and Hospice donations.

- Bible Studies- St. John's continues to have ongoing opportunities for Christian formation through the many Bible Study groups that take place weekly. These are sessions by which people come together to learn and reflect on the Scriptures and discuss how they apply to their own lives and ministries. Currently there are three continuously running Bible studies that take place on Tuesdays at 10am, Wednesdays at 6pm and Thursdays at 7pm.
- J-Walkers (J is for Jesus)- This group is open to all youth of St. John's above the age of 10. Members selected the name J-Walkers because they believe that they walk with Jesus and learn how to let Him lead every area of their lives. They spend time together praying, studying the Bible and discussing how it applies to their lives. They also watch videos, play games and do other fun activities.
- Sunday School Program- This program is for children age 9 and younger. The program uses a curriculum that corresponds to the lectionary used in church services so children and adults are hearing the same messages each Sunday and can more easily build upon these lessons at home. Games, crafts and other activities are used to enable memorable experiences of God's Word.
- Living Well- This is a spiritually based program of healthy cooking, eating and physical exercise to keep the body, which is a temple of the Holy Spirit, in good shape. Living Well offers programs, movement opportunities and social events with the goal of creating a space where everyone, with God's help, will live transformed lives so they can serve Him to the best of their abilities.

New York. In 1888, a Memorial Chapel constructed adjacent to the church was dedicated in memory of Crawford Bernon Sheldon and his wife, Abigail Maxon. It was a gift of their children. Shortly thereafter, the Sheldon family made a gift of additional church property – extending from Main Street to High Street – and a Rectory was constructed at 13 High Street in 1891. In 1927 a Parish Hall was built behind the original church edifice.

In 1935 fire destroyed the original wood frame church. The chapel began to be used as the church, and still is today. In 1936 the chapel was extended 14 feet rearward and a link built to connect to the Parish Hall. This link includes the main entrance, choir room (now the parlor), Sacristy, and Parish Hall entrance. The large stained-glass window that was originally over the altar in the old church was placed in the new wall. **The Teaching Tiles** from the back wall of the chapel were removed and placed in the addition part of the church nave.

The Memorial Chapel (now the main church) is architecturally significant as one of the finest and earliest remaining examples of the Romanesque Style in Delaware County. It is faced with local rusticated bluestone and topped by red Vermont roof slate with a conic roof facing Main Street. The raised altar is constructed of pink carved marble with terra cotta cherubim at the sides. The attached entrance hall and bell tower is constructed of ashlar veneered stone. The interior walls are clad with terra-cotta "**Teaching Tiles**" of medieval design. These were intended to teach the major elements of the faith to those parishioners unable to read.

A cornerstone was laid engraved with three dates: 1819 – the founding date of the church, 1831 – when the first cornerstone was laid, and 1936 – when the second cornerstone was laid.

On February 28, 1994, St. John's initiated an application for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This was subsequently granted.

Teaching Tiles

The terra cotta tiles that line the nave of St. John's were purchased in Italy where artisans created similar representations to the ones present in early cathedrals. Picture tiles served as reminders of moral and spiritual truths that were represented in written form but were unavailable to most, except members of the nobility and monks. The messages of the tiles are set forth through rich symbolism used to remind worshipers of the stories of the saints and their devotion to God. Various flora and fauna are depicted throughout the tiles and these served as reminders to the believer of God's creation as they went about their daily lives. The tiles remain today to be a rich visual message of God's plan for man's redemption and for eternal life.

Ministries and Outreach

St. John's is a church that truly tries to follow Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves. To that end, we participate in giving to others out of love. There are many opportunities at St. John's by which people can deepen their faith and engage in serving. Some are "in house" and some reach out to the wider community. These include but are not limited to:

Ministries

- Altar Guild- The St. John's Altar Guild is a volunteer group of parish members whose ministry is to care for the altar, liturgical vestments, vessels, and altar linens used for parish worship. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services and frequently supervise the decoration of the sanctuary with flowers for various celebrations.
- Altar Servers- These include Acolytes, Lay Eucharist Ministers, Lectors, and Crucifers, as well as Torch Bearers.
- Daughters of the King- The Martha and Mary Chapter of Daughters of the King is a group of women members of St. John's Church who have undertaken the Rule of Life that is associated with the Order of the Daughters of the King, a lay religious order of the Episcopal Church. They are devoted to daily prayer, service and evangelism. Meetings focus on both prayer and study.
- Women of St. John's- all women of St. John's are members of this group. The group supports the church mission of "Knowing Christ and Making Him Known" by providing an opportunity for Christian fellowship among women, supporting St. John's outreach efforts, and providing support for vestry-identified church projects. Ministries have included support for Mary Sherwood's mission in Madagascar, a greeting card

Building Additions and Improvements

Being stewards of a uniquely beautiful, historic building implies that we need, to the best of our ability, to keep it in good repair, and at the same time, maintain its integrity. In addition, we are a church. Ministry requires certain space, and that space must be accessible to all. These are the criteria which have driven most of the building changes, repairs, and upgrades over the past 50 years. Here are some of the highlights:

Year	Project
Early 1980's	Church office established in the parish hall
1995	Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
2000	Sidewalk repair; handicap access to the church and parish hall put in
2008	Bell tower repointed; organ and sound system installed
2009	Sunday School addition built; roof of parish hall rebuilt as rafters were pushing out the walls; attic heavily insulated
2010	Handicap-accessible bathroom installed
2011	Rectory roof re-shingled
2013	Columbarium consecrated by Bishop William Love on July 28; attic of the parlor heavily insulated
2014	LED lightbulbs installed in much of the buildings
2013-2018	Seven stained-glass windows repaired
2019	New sidewalks installed in front entrance to the church and parish hall; plaque for National Register of Historic Places listing placed on the church

FOUNDERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Ebenezer Foote
Samuel Sherwood
Judge Amasa Parker
Judge Fitch Nathan Hathaway
Charles Marvad
Sir Hobbie

RECTORS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

David Huntington 1819-1820
J.P.F. Clarke 1821-1822
Hewlitt R. Peters 1828-1829
Orange Clark 1831-1834
T.S. Judd 1835-1841
George Waters 1842-1849
Samuel G. Appleton .. 1850-1854
William Walsh 1854-1856
A.D. Benedict 1856-1864
Byron J. Hall 1864-1867
Edward B. Allen 1867-1868
Joseph Richey 1869-1871
Edwin B. Russell 1871-1880
John Vaughn Lewis ... 1880-1881
James S. Kerr 1882-1883
Robert S. Gross 1884-1886
F.B. Reazor 1887-1891
Creighton Spencer 1892-1893
A.B. Livermore 1893-1898
Alfred H. Brown 1899-1901
G.H.P. Grout 1902-1912
H.M. Dumbell 1913-1919
Donald H. Morse 1920-1922
Horace C. Johnson 1924-1926
J.M. Hunter 1926-1932
Clarence W. Jones 1932-1936
Jackson Martin 1936-1949
Eric W. Veal 1950-1951
Charles B. Shaver 1951-1954
Charles W. Newman . 1955-1959
William O. Homer 1960-1972
David T. Elphee 1972-1981
Dale R. Craig 1983-1992
Roderick Whiting 1995-1997
Paul J. Hartt 1998-2004
David J. Collum 2005-2010
Darius Mojallali 2011-2019

St. John's Mission

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

Vestry Purpose

As leaders of St. John's and trustees of parish resources, vestry members have responsibility for the management of St. John's fiscal affairs and for the maintenance of church buildings. They are spiritual leaders committed to the Body of Christ so that St John's can be an effective instrument of mission and ministry in the world. Vestry members understand that giving is an essential dimension of the Gospel and as such are committed to the stewardship of God's resources and the responsibility for outreach to the community to meet the needs of God's people in the world.

St. John's Vestry

Sandra Whittaker, Senior Warden
Jay Clark, Junior Warden
Jason Coleman
Jill Coleman
Polly DellaCrosse
Robin Hultenius
Linda Iwanow
Wayne Metlicke
Pat Outhouse
Paul Roach

Treasurer: Brenda Gladstone

Administrative Support

Multiple church members render administrative support by producing the bulletins for Sundays, Holy Days, and other services; the monthly parish newsletter; and managing the St. John's Church website.

Services

- 9am Eucharist each Sunday
  Prayer for healing on first Sunday of month
- 5pm Eucharist each Wednesday
  Healing prayer available
- 9am Morning Prayer, Monday thru Friday
- 12 Step Worship, first Sunday of month at 5pm

Church Organist

Dr. Curt Sather