



November 2025



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

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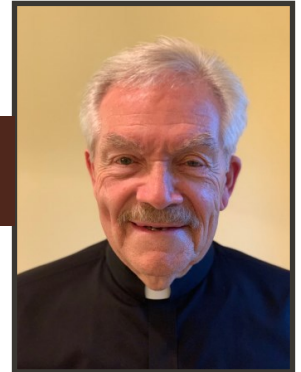
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St John's Episcopal Church  
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PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Harold Schneider



November, 2025

Dear People of St. John's,

Finally a little rain and color appear. The colors don't seem to be as vivid, but it is beautiful to see God's paint brush at work in the lands and forests of our wonderful state. Thank you God!

"Don't judge people by their appearance" is a version of "Don't judge a book by its cover." Stereotypes are judgements about people based on insufficient knowledge. It takes effort to get to know people and their stories.

Popular DNA tests promise to reveal the story of who you are through your genetic history. These mail-in tests claim you can trace where your ancestors orig-

inated, chart a family tree, discover biological relatives, and even learn about your health risks. What could this reveal about who we are as followers of Jesus?

Without stressing it, the Gospels often compare two types of people, those who live a life of self-importance, often at the expense of others, and those who live a life of righteousness, putting others before themselves. It is living out the choice Moses gave to ancient Israel: "The word is very near you, in your heart and in your mind...choose then; life and good or death and evil."

Near the end of the celebration of Holy Eucharist, we go out into the world, *Continued on page 2*



**Editor: Beth Ann  
Tesluk**

St. John's Journey is published monthly. We're looking for your photos and articles. Please email them to "stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com" with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline for December is November 28.



**November  
Anniversaries**

**Myron & Sherry-  
Petrie**

committing ourselves to the kind of service explicitly expected of us by Jesus Christ. (BCP,

365,366)

In God's Love, Rev. Harold

## Vestry Notes

BUSINESS NAME

Dear Friends,

How blessed we are to live in this area! When I look at the incredible colors of the leaves in my yard, I feel sorry for folks who don't have trees that have these vibrant hues. This is the time of year to give thanks and I have so much to be thankful for. How about you?

We had a fun October. Starting out with our Canadian Thanksgiving, then on to our music concert and giving away candy on Halloween night for the grand finale. Oh, and the Diocesan Convention as well. We may need some time to rest and recover before our American Thanksgiving!

November is the month for our annual pledge drive. You will receive a letter and pledge card in the first week of November. Please read the letter and return the card. The information you provide is critical to the annual budget planning process. The information you provide is completely confidential – only Roxanne sees the individual cards. No one, not even me, knows who pledged what amount. The higher the number of cards submitted, the more realistic our plan for expected income to cover monthly expenses. Imagine that Social Security didn't tell us what

amount they would be sending in the coming year – to just wait and see when checks show up and guess at the amount of the check. That would make financial planning difficult, right? Same with those pledge cards. Thank you for your help.



Just in case you wonder where the money goes, I plan to hold a budget planning overview during November. It will be a preliminary look at what we think our expenses will be for 2026. The date and time TBA in early November, after I determine what's best for the majority of possible attendees.

Finally, I am thankful for Fr. Harold and all he does for us and the larger community. I am thankful for all the people who support us in our worship and our outreach. I am thankful for the folks who pitch in to do the work, sometimes really hard work, to make our church a place of welcome and peace. I am thankful for being part of a community that cares and that cooks. In short, I am thankful for all of you.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Becky

*Photo: Nancy with great-granddaughter Madi*

May Light Perpetual Shine Upon Her – Nancy Wagner

Mark Wagner's mom, Nancy passed away on October 17, 2025. Although she didn't come to St. John's very often, Fr. Harold has visited her several times this year and had the privilege of administering last rites before she passed. She was a graduate of Dryden High School (seems lots of special people went there) - Class of 1950. She married her beloved husband John C. Wagner on June 6, 1953 at the Dryden United Methodist Church. Nancy served as a Librarian at the Dryden Library for thirty years. She enjoyed gardening but, most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and will be missed by many.

May she find peace and joy in Heaven. May her family find comfort in their faith and in their memories.



## BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

We have another terrific gift basket raffle going on for November!

This basket is filled with festive autumn treats and can be yours - if you have the lucky entry!



## *This and That from Here & There*

**Photos from our Canadian Thanksgiving Celebration & Happy Birthday to November "Twins", Russ & Sherry!**





## St. John's Dryden Annual

# Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday, December 13th**

**9 A.M. - 2 P.M.**

Drop off decor and baked goods on  
Friday, December 12th between 12 -2 p.m.

Please price your items in advance!

Let Ina Dockham know if you have questions!



## Diocesan News

The Bishop Search Committee for the first Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes recently announced a series of listening sessions to help inform their discernment work in preparing a profile for their search. There are both open sessions and audience-specific sessions. For more information, and to find additional locations, please visit the Diocesan website <https://greatlakesepiscopal.org/mark-your-calendars-bishop-search-listening-sessions/>



### Convention Snapshot

The 2nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Great Lakes was held on October 24th & 25th in Saginaw. St. John's was represented by Fr. Harold, and diocesan delegates Russ Underwood and Mary Cameron. While there will surely be more information about how the convention inspired our folks, Fr. Harold gave a brief update as part of the service on Sunday, October 26th (you can watch the video for his full remarks!)

Highlights included learning more about the timeline for the Bishop Search committee. It is their fervent hope - and actual plan - that the new Bishop will be selected by next year's convention and ready to start in January of 2027. Do keep an eye on the diocesan website - <https://greatlakesepiscopal.org>.

Fr Harold was impressed with the emphasis on the needs of small churches - parishes whose weekly attendance is twenty or fewer. St. John's falls in this category, so there was much to hear about that pertained directly to us. Perhaps the biggest news is that there are changes coming to apportionment, and the percentage that St. John's and other small churches would owe will be 8%, instead of 10%. Large churches will pick up the difference, paying 12%.



## An Update from the Building Committee

*Submitted by Ida Lynn Dodd, edited for length and context by Beth Ann Tesluk*

Maybe you've noticed that the grounds around St. John's have had a bit of a makeover! It was time for our landscaping to be cleaned up. Here are just some of the ways the Building Committee has worked to tidy the spaces surrounding the church.

The shrubs & bushes close to the building created a gateway to the inside of the church, which then caused even bigger problems with rodents and bugs (remember our friend Rocky who was snacking on the bell rope?)

Last year's outside repair and paint projects became critical because bushes had actually grown under the wood siding, allowing animals and Mother Nature into the building. It's taken two years, but finally Jack and I have gotten that brush eliminated!

The crab apple tree was removed because it was overgrown. Year after year, Jack would trim the tree but all the crab apples continued to be an invitation for mice, squirrels, raccoons, and other critters. Another reason for its removal was the amount of time it took to pick up the crab apples, which could also be a safety hazard.

Two of the viburnums on Union Street were eliminated because they too had become overgrown. Safety is always a big concern plus unfortunate-

ly, these shrubs create a place for garbage to gather. Sadly, folks think it's OK to leave their cigarettes, vapes, and worse along the edges of our parking lot. When Jack trimmed the bushes, he would have to squeeze between the bushes which was nearly impossible because of the overgrowth, and the risk of falling increases each year. While this work is being completed by members currently, in the back of my mind, I think of the day, not sure when, when members can no longer perform these tasks. The church's costs will go up significantly if we have to pay a landscaper to do all the things the Building Committee currently handles.

Another blessing is that currently, Dryden Village graciously removes all the yard waste at no charge for St. John's, which is A BIG saving for our church in terms of time and money.

The plexiglass covering some of the windows has been installed and not only does it look beautiful, it will save money on the heating bill. Our heating bills are a big concern for St. John's, and creative solutions to reduce the costs will need to be investigated and actions taken.

The night of the fall concert, as I sat in our church, I felt proud. The work we've done shows. I reflected on the blessing it is to be a member of our precious worship family. I also reflected on how the surrounding community was using God's house as their personal trash can, and my heart sank. God deserves much better than that, and so does our St. John's.



# September 2025 Financial Report

This is the most recent month for review

September 2025	This Month	The Year So Far
Income from Pledges	\$5,852	\$52,265
Income from CD	\$1,040	\$1,040
Total	\$6,892	\$53,305
Expenses	\$4,675	\$48,961
Cash Flow Balance	\$2,216	\$4,345

**Overview:** Donations were right on budget this month. Adding the interest earned from the Oxford CD has helped bring our checking account balance back in line with our Investment Policy. Expenses were low this month which is typical for summer. But the heat is back on so we can expect to see expenses increase soon which will reduce our surplus over the last quarter.



## Vanguard Funds:

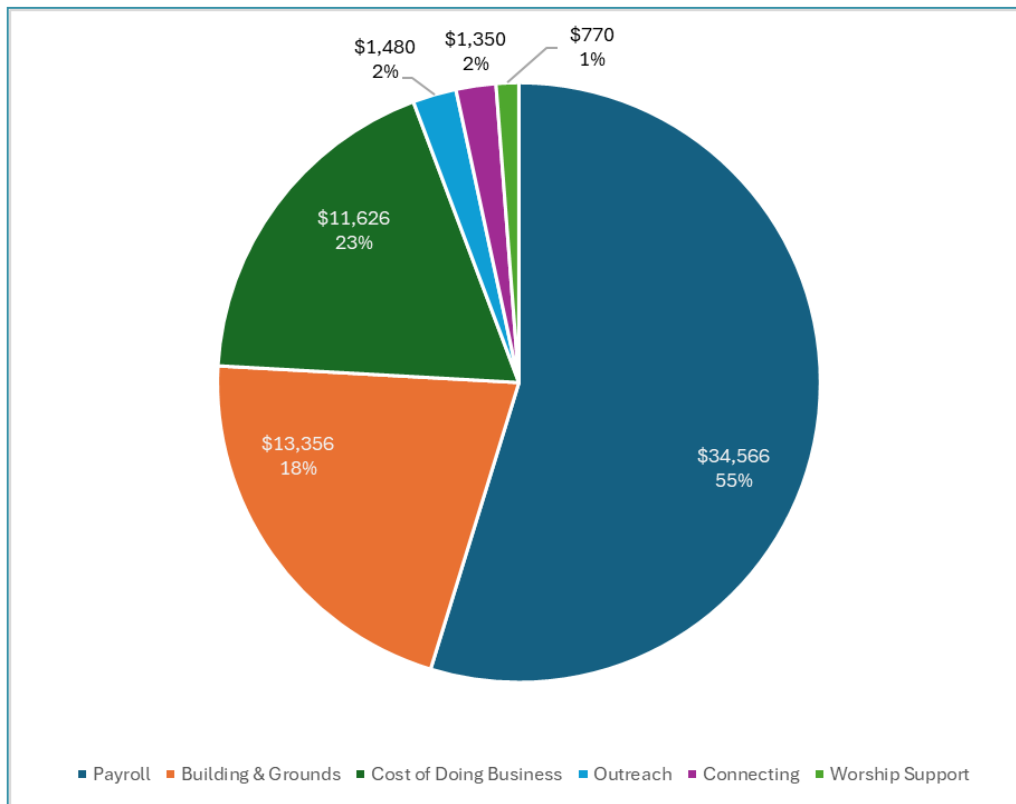
Vanguard Money Market: \$1,466

Total Stock Fund Balance as of September 30, 2025 is \$98,238 - up roughly \$2,985 from end of August. Our original investment was \$65,000

One CD of \$22,000 at 3.9% will mature in **April of 2026**.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Ministry Schedule</u> <u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Counting Member 1</u>	<u>Counting Member 2</u>
11/02/2025				Becky	Wes	Mary	Connie
11/09/2025	Wes	Jason	Jack	Fr. Schneider	Ida Lynn	Russ	Becky
11/16/2025				Neil	Sherry	Neil	Connie
11/23/2025	Ina	Neil	John	Fr. Schneider	Becky	Connie	Russ
11/30/2025				Kitty	Wes	Russ	Neil

# YOUR PLEDGE DONATIONS AT WORK



Where does pledge money go? To cover our monthly expenses. This chart depicts our expenses in 2024. Each category contains individual accounts aligned with the title.

**Payroll** – Salary for Fr. Harold, payments for Parish Admin and Music Director

**Building and Grounds** – Utilities, Lawn cutting and snow removal, annual maintenance items for furnace and other equipment, insurance costs (Biggie!)

**Cost of Doing Business** – Diocesan Tithe (another Biggie!),

office supplies, telephone and cable fees, fees for annual financial review and various village fees.

**Outreach** – funds for our music concerts

**Connecting** – Diocesan convention, adult education, kitchen supplies for coffee hour

**Worship** – Altar Guild, supply priest payments

These are just our “regular” expenses for 2024. It does NOT include funds used for bigger projects like painting and repairing the front of the church. We usually need to fund these from donations to that specific project. And sometimes, if there is a year-end surplus (we spent less than total donations), we add the surplus to a project account like Paint & Repair the Sanctuary.

Pledge donations keep Fr. Harold at the pulpit and in the community. They keep the heat and the lights on, provide weekly bulletins for worship, candles on the altar, internet access and more. The budget is based on what is needed for each of these categories balanced with expected pledge donations. Thank you for letting us know your pledge intentions. We will continue to use them wisely.



# *Ina's Cranberry Relish*

Much like Ina, this recipe is short and sweet! This relish was a delicious part of our Canadian Thanksgiving celebration.

- 1 pkg fresh cranberries
- 1 C sugar
- 2 Golden Delicious apples, chopped
- Green grapes, chopped

Chop cranberries in a food processor, then put to a medium bowl. Add the sugar and let sit overnight in the fridge. The next day, add the chopped golden delicious apples and chopped green grapes. Store in the fridge until ready to serve.



**What color would you like on these doors?**



Our new doors are primed and need a coat of paint to finish the job. We have two choices – one for the exterior and then the interior of the doors. Options are:

- Exterior:    White                      Red                      Gray
- Interior:    White                      Gray

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