



FROM THE VESTRY

We are pleased to announce that the Rev. Ruth Ferguson has been selected as our next priest. She will arrive in November and will celebrate her first masses on November 17. All members should have received letters from the search committee and from Rev. Ruth in mid-August. You can read Rev. Ruth's introductory letter at the end of this newsletter.

We are grateful to Larry Roberson and the search committee for the enormous amount of time and thoughtfulness that they devoted to this process during the past year. We also thank Deacon Alex, Father Kevin Lowe, Father Kevin Barron, and other supply priests for maintaining continuity of our worship services during that period.

Do you have any concerns or suggestions for change, either for worship or other activities? If so, please contact any vestry member (see list at the end of this newsletter).

THE DEACON'S PERCH



My dear friends in Christ,

In the past few weeks we have heard readings from the gospel of John concerning bread and wine. "I am the bread of life,"

Jesus says, but what does it mean? His apostles sure had questions. In *Holy Moments*, Matthew Kelly describes a holy moment as one *in which we open ourselves to*

God. When does that happen for you? Is it when you receive communion and go back to your pew and talk to God? Or do you engage in some holy listening and just open yourself to God? It doesn't always happen to me, but when it does, I truly feel the divine presence.

I think that God's presence has been visible at St. John's this summer in several important ways.

First, Kevin Lowe was ordained to the priesthood in July at St. Andrews. What a service it was! Fr. Kevin had his jazz band there and they performed religious music fantastically. He was called to St. Andrews-Lewisburg, and so we should pray for his new ministry and give thanks for his three years of serving St. John's.

Second, St. John's has called a new priest, the Rev. Ruth Ferguson. I am so grateful to the vestry and especially to the search committee who have done the hard work of discerning the right person for us. While we have been without a priest in the past year, who has kept things running? Please thank Larry Roberson for his attention to the nuts and bolts of a lively parish, not just broadcasting our Sunday services but also lining up supply preachers.

I know that we'll all be excited to meet our new priest, but what is most important is that we help her strengthen the mission and

ministry of our parish. What is God calling us to be? What are our greatest strengths and opportunities? This will be a time of renewal for St. John's, a new beginning.

Third, we have been busy! Thanks to the leadership of Jeff Wilson and lots of volunteers, we have completed the improvements in the parish house. Our new priest will be delighted with her new home on Lamb Street.

We have completed our discussion of C.S. Lewis's classic book, *Mere Christianity*, and the Men's Bible Study resumes on September 9th at 7 p.m. The group has met for almost 25 years. Do you know someone who needs an invitation?

With your generosity I continue to get meals for Out of the Cold, support our food bank, and help the women's resource center and the strangers who approach our church needing gas money or bus money.

Finally, our annual fall church picnic is coming up September 15th here at our home, 337 East Curtin Street following the 10:30 service. There will be a signup sheet for a potluck meal. You can be sure that Jesus loved potluck dinners, and so should we.

-Deacon Alex

NOTICE: We will continue holding one Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. through September 15. We return to 2 services beginning September 22: 8:30 and 10:00 (note time changes).

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



Several times during the summer months we opened our parish doors to welcome the children from the Bellefonte Youth Center for lunch and a craft activity. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this project successful. During this school year we will continue to support the Youth Center by providing craft club activities and bimonthly dinners. Your help is needed!!! If you would



like to help by providing a dinner for the Youth Group, please let Ellen Dyakiw know. Dinners need only to be delivered to the youth center. The youth staff will serve the meals to the children. A sign-up sheet will be available starting this September.

Sunday school resumes on **September 8 at 9:30**. Please note that the time will shift to **10:00 a.m. beginning on September 22**. Our lessons follow the readings of the week with activities that reinforce faith-based learning. To provide the best program for our children, we ask that new families meet with Miss Ellen and register their children. We welcome newcomers to our program. As always, I enjoy volunteering as your Sunday School Director and teacher.

~Miss Ellen

FOOD BANK DONATIONS



We have been asked to contribute the following items for the fall period. Please leave your donations at the back of the church by the St. Lawrence altar.

- ~ Personal hygiene products, such as deodorant, shampoo, bathing soap, toothpaste, tampons, and panty liners (**URGENT NEED**)
- ~ Strawberry jelly/jam or any other flavor except grape
- ~ Canned pasta
- ~ September: Hamburger Helper
- ~ October: Instant potatoes, Rice-a-Roni

PARISH PICNIC - SEPTEMBER 15



Deacon Alex and Ellen are hosting a parish-wide picnic at their home (337 E Curtin St.) on **September 15**. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage, rolls, condiments, and paper products. We ask that you contribute side dishes and/or drinks and bring lawn chairs.

CLOTHING DONATIONS FOR THE HOSPITAL



Mt. Nittany Hospital has requested donations of new, loose-fitting clothes such as sweatpants and T-shirts for men (larger sizes), teens, and young children. These are needed for the assault victims who come into the emergency department. Place donations in the basket next to the baptismal font. Thanks to Steve Dillon for taking the lead.

POLISH DINNER FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 26 | 4-6 p.m.



Save the date and spread the word for our final dinner fundraiser of the year. Charlotte Zmyslo and parish volunteers will be serving a traditional Polish dinner: stuffed

cabbage, kielbasa, pierogies, and noodles.

The dinners are take-out only. Stay tuned for more information, a donation list, and volunteer opportunities.

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. Mass



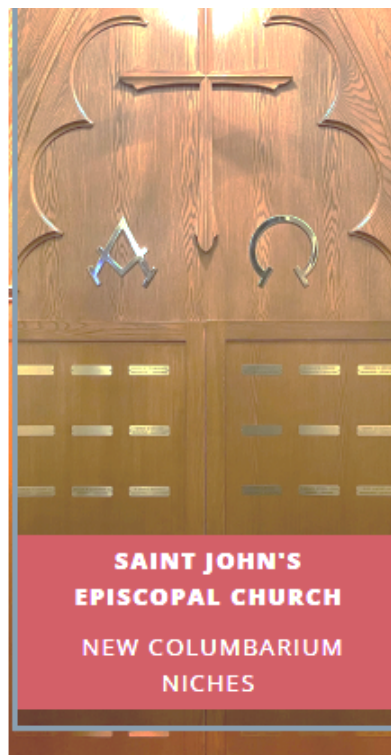
We are seeking coffee hour hosts. Our social and snack time following mass continues to be popular and well-attended. Coffee is provided by the church; you will need to provide cold drinks, milk/cream for the coffee, and *simple* snacks (cookies/crackers, etc.). No need to prepare special foods. Kudos to Christine Holt for her perfect

example of low-fuss yet tasty refreshments! To volunteer, please use the sign-up sheet on the lectern in the back of the church. Coffee hour will be held only on those Sundays on which someone signs up to host.

If you need help with the logistics, speak to Trish Weidemann. Many thanks to everyone who's helped with this vital ministry of fellowship and hospitality!

COLUMBARIUM REMINDER

More than 20 niches are still available in our columbarium. The purchase price through 2024 is \$1525. Based on 2023 information



from Wetzler Funeral Home, typical cremation cost is \$2800, with final costs of \$4200. This does not include an urn, niche, funeral service, or access to a reception hall. Traditional funeral/burial costs frequently exceed \$10,000, not including a church service or

use of reception facilities. A simple gravestone costs around \$7000.

If you are interested in purchasing one or more niches, please contact the church office and request the materials, including a brochure and reservation form.

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE

Our recently formed young adults and



families group held a barbecue picnic at the home of Erik and Rebecca Clayton. If you would like to join this social group for fun, food, and fellowship, please speak to Alex or Adela Germano.

Emily in Paris has nothing on 12-year-old



Elina in Paris – what a glorious week she had there in early July with her grandparents, *Kathryn Grossman* and *John Harwood!* They walked around many of the routes and sites recently

featured in the Olympics, making the Games even more special this year.

Scott Mauger and *Michael Kelley* will be united in marriage at St. John's in September. Our parish family wishes all the best for them.

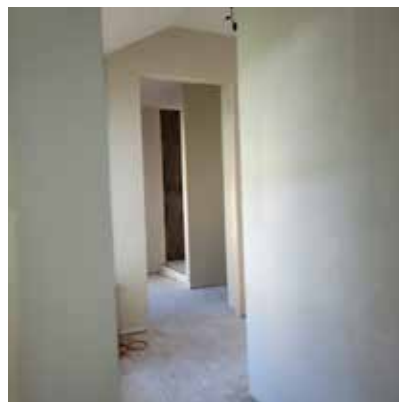
BIRTHDAYS

Sept.	1	Alex Germano
	7	James Jackson
	22	Susan Kurten
	26	Anna Christopher
	27	Jessica Bauman
	27	Audrey Brandt
Oct.	5	David Cree
	7	Charlotte Zmyslo
	12	Charlotte Saylor
	15	Barbara Roberson
	31	David Bliss
Nov.	1	Mark Eminhizer
	1	Ruth Germano
	7	Carol Fyfe
	16	Jeremy Bauman
	16	Harry Witmer
	23	Ted Christopher
	26	Leigh Meeker



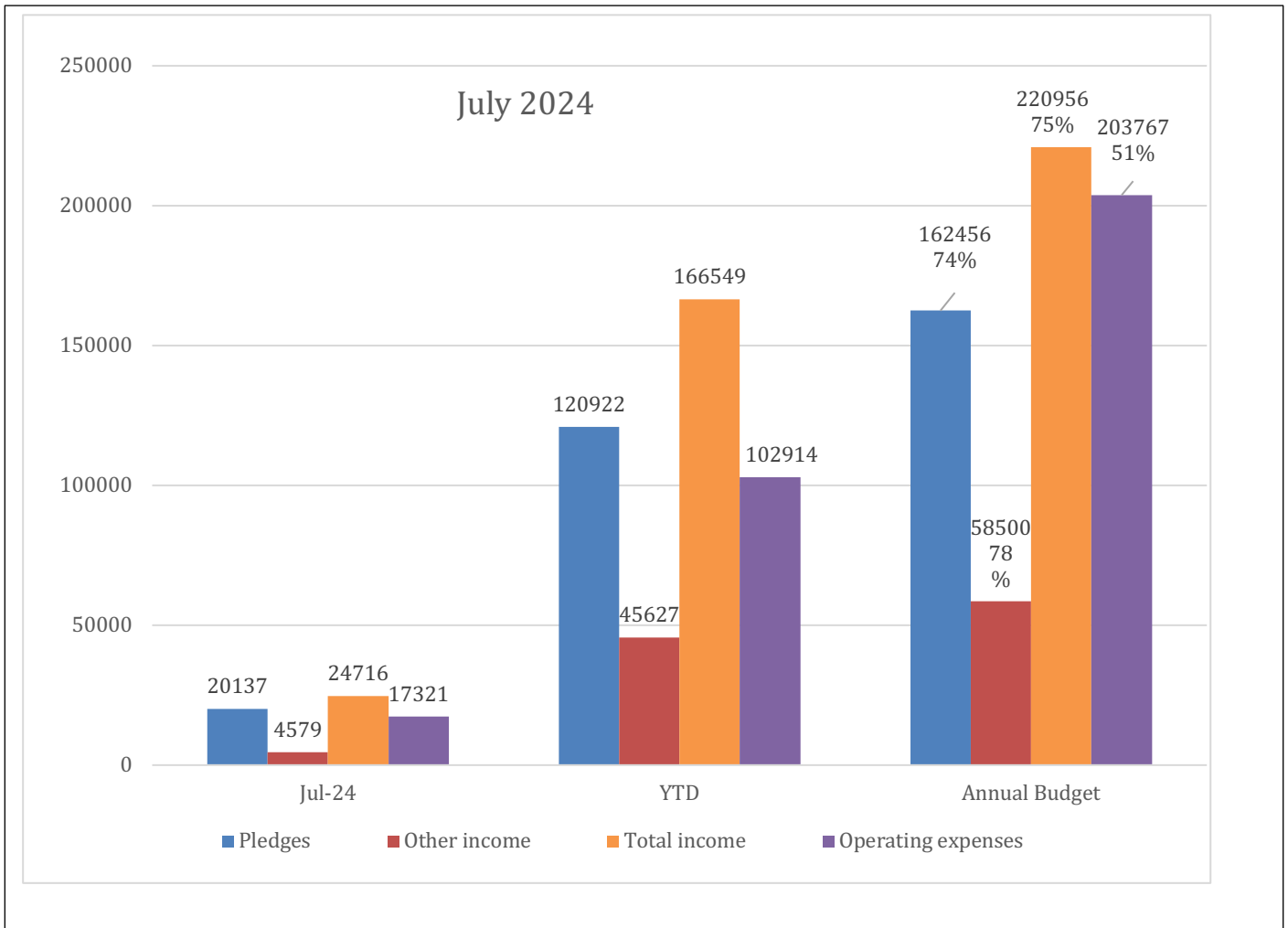
PROPERTY

Jeff Wilson, Larry Roberson, and other volunteers have been working all summer to renovate the rectory bathroom. This involved installing insulation, framing, new drywall, and a new sink and bathtub. A laundry room with new appliances is also being redone. They plan to be finished by the time Rev. Ruth arrives in November.



Financial:

	Jul-24	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	20137	120922	162456	74%
Other income	4579	45627	58500	78%
Total income	24716	166549	220956	75%
Operating expenses	17321	102914	203767	51%
Net	7395	63635		



Numbers do not include investments, savings, or checking account balance.

Vestry Members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Scott Mauger (Jr. Warden), Liz Helms, Steve Dillon, Debra Cree, Alex Germano, Peggy Jackson, Kathryn Grossman, Charlotte Zmyslo

Dear People of St. John's,

Greetings from Rochester, New York!

Although we won't meet one another until November, I've known about you since last October when I came upon your website and began following you on Facebook and reading your newsletters. Someday I'll tell you about the marvelous path that led me to you. Toward the end of that path, your search team and I found each other, and the work of discernment took on new dimensions. For people of faith, there is no life decision that is not also the terrible and holy question, what is being asked of us in this moment? And how ever can we really know? What I did know was that I was incredibly moved by the spiritual depths of this search, and that I felt a great love for the people of St. John's well up in me in our very first conversation. I want you to know that.

There will be many ways and places we'll get to know each other— sharing stories in the rectory, lunch at Bonfatto's, coffee hour in the parish hall, walking the tree-lined streets of Bellefonte—and I look forward to all of them and more. Until then, I offer these ramblings as an introduction.

I have two daughters. Liza is 22 and studying early music in Basel, Switzerland, and Hannah is 20, studying art history and English at Columbia in NYC. Sean McGraw is my fiancé and is transitioning from his former work in the Centre County D.A.'s office to his own private law practice. Every one of us adores the rectory. Below are some pictures of us all. I can be a Nittany Lion fan unless they play the Georgia Bulldogs, but mostly I'd rather throw football than watch it. I love chocolate and I'm conflicted about Facebook. I promise not to come in like a bull in a China shop making all kinds of changes, but to open a circle for all kinds of conversations about our common life as a parish.

You and I are going to learn to grow community. On top of this being an election year, there is tumultuous change and uncertainty in the world, and so we are going to have to learn to be a very strong community, one that lives by Jesus' words, "let him who is without sin cast the first stone," one where every hurt the world over is felt like a wound on our own skin or heart, as if we ourselves were Christ's body on earth, because we are.

See you soon in church,
Ruth†

