

PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, AND THANKGIVINGS

LET US PRAY for the special needs and concerns of:

Jim	Art	Zeb	Debbi	Janet	Carolyn	Marie
John	Theresa	Cal	Ben	Jane	Fran	Alice
Bob	Billy	Larry	Lisa	Amy	Haley	Cody
Brandon	Damon	Tom	Fred	Holly	Helen	Mickey
Richard	Julianne	Norma	Chelsea	Jeff	Louis	Melanie
Melinda	Jack	Eileen	Bryce	Paul	Susan	Ed
Don	Nicole	Rupert	Jason	Phil	Meaghan	Alison
LindaLee	Kelsey	Rebecca	Norm	Bonnie	Todd	Maria
Carrie	AnnMarie					

LET US PRAY for peace to prevail on earth. We pray for an end to the violence in the Middle East and for safety and protection for our military, especially Richard Bailey and Rachel Bailey, Robert Piddock, Dillon Spencer, Miles Steele, Kyle Wagoner (All serving in Afghanistan), George, (4th tour in Iraq), and Randall Hill (Iraq), Morgan Brooks, Kurt Cheeseman, James DiDonna, Damian & Devin Felton, Jenna Ferlacan, Brian Frasier Jr., Joshua Gagliastri, Mario Guadron, James Lessard, David McCoughlin, Arthur McCoy, Heather McCrea, Mark Mehringer, Jimmy Monahan, Richard Rogers, Timothy Sasina, and Matt Watson. Pray also for the families and friends who are waiting for the safe return of their loved ones.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Rev'd Alan Tatlock on his birthday..
In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for Wyoming and The Rt Rev'd John Sheridan Smylie.

Let Us Pray for guidance for our Stephen Ministers and for healing for their care receivers.

St. George's Episcopal Church
Clifton Park, New York
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2011

Welcome to St. George's! We are delighted that you have come. If you are visiting, please sign our guest book. If you would like to join the parish or have a question, please fill out a Voice From The Pew and leave it in the Offertory plate or with an usher. We hope that all will feel welcomed and come regularly to our church and invite you to join us at coffee hour in Hatlee Hall after the 8:00 & 9:30 services.

Disciples Making Disciples

Our Mission Statement:

St. George's is a family of disciples joyfully reaching out in love to nurture, teach and heal in Jesus' Name.

**On this Fourth Sunday of Advent,
we will have an Advent Festival of Lessons and Music
at the 9:30 service.
Please go to page 3 of this bulletin
to find the order of the service for today.**

Services of Holy Eucharist are at 4:30pm Saturdays, 8 & 9:30am Sundays
Healing & Holy Eucharist Service 9:30am Wednesdays

December 24th 4:30pm Children's Pageant and Holy Eucharist
7:30pm Holy Eucharist
10pm Choral Music, 10:30PM Holy Eucharist
December 25th 10am Holy Eucharist

INFORMATION THAT IS HELPFUL TO KNOW. . .

Nursery Care - 9:30 a.m. service - The nursery is next to the chapel.

Sunday School - Children leave for classes after communion. All classes (pre-school through high school) meet in the Randles Wing and are over at 11:30.

Joyful Journey is for children pre-school thru 3rd grade during the service –follow the banner to Hatlee Hall!

Receiving Communion - We invite all baptized persons, regardless of age or denomination, to share in Holy Communion.

You may receive the consecrated wine by taking a sip from the common cup or by holding the host in the palm of your hand for the chalice bearer to dip in the cup and then place on your tongue. If you have not been baptized, we invite you to come forward with the community for a blessing. Indicate that you seek this blessing to the ministers of communion by crossing your arms across your chest.

After the service, we invite you to speak to the clergy about the new work of faith begun in you and about the process of being baptized into the community of Christ's disciples and living out your faith.

Prayers For Healing - Individual prayers of healing and anointing are offered during Communion at all services at the Healing Stations (on either side of the sanctuary next to the columns with the crosses on them)

Prayers of the People - It is appropriate to add names for prayers (just quietly say the name) at the short silence after each section is read.

Visually Impaired/Hearing Impaired - Large-print copies of the Eucharist and equipment to assist the hearing impaired are available from the ushers.

Bathrooms - are located off the narthex, in Hatlee Hall, and at the end of the hall in the Randles Wing.

Ministers: The Congregation

Rector: The Rev. John W. Henry II, email rector@stgeorgescp.org

Fr. Henry's Cell Phone: 265-1960

Priest Associate: The Rev. Karen E. J. Henry

Deacons: The Rev. Maureen Demler, The Rev. Robert Roach,

The Rev. Scott Underhill, The Rev. Al Harding (ret)

Bro. Paul McCue C.A.H., Pastoral Assistant

Organist/Choirmaster: Dr. Tim Olsen

Parish Office: 371-6351 email stgeorgeofc@gmail.com

Visit us at: <http://www.stgeorgescp.org>

Phyllis Aldrich, Head of St. George's School stgschoolcp@gmail.com

Carly Dowd, Director of St. George's Pre School stgpreschool@gmail.com

Let Us Pray for those celebrating birthdays:

Sun: Mary Ann Gulyas

Mon: Rose Marie Day, Beryl Schmid

Tues: Laura Hickey, Zachary Nightingale, Jane Williams

Wed: Betsy D'Annibale, Alexi Glaser, Alyssa Glaser

Thurs: Allison Gier

Let Us Pray for those celebrating anniversaries:

Mon: Beryl & Chris Schmid

Let us pray for the repose of the soul of Carolina Deater, sister of Dante Degni, who died December 5th.

Christmas Flowers If you would like to contribute to the Christmas flowers and greens, please use one of the envelopes on the name tag table in the Narthex. You may donate an amount you feel is appropriate. It's a nice way to remember those who are no longer with us or to give thanks for those who are still here. Please have all requests turned in by December 19th in order to be included in the Christmas bulletin.

Dates to remember

Dec. 18th 9:30am Lessons & Carols, followed by Greening of the church

Dec. 18th Senior Lunch

December 24th 4:30pm Children's Pageant and Holy Eucharist

7:30pm Holy Eucharist

10pm Choral Music, 10:30PM Holy Eucharist

December 25th 10am Holy Eucharist

December 31st 4:30pm Holy Eucharist

January 1st 8:00AM & 9:30AM Holy Eucharist

January 8th after the 9:30 service, the ungreening of the church

Bishop's Appeal As we approach Christmas, there is still time to give to the needy through the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Please fill out the card you received from Bishop Love two weeks ago and enclose a check. Your gift will help him help those in need as well as helping the Cathedral and Christ the King help others in the name of our Savior, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

There are blank pledge cards and blue envelopes on the table in the Narthex if you forgot yours and would like to submit your pledge. You may leave them in the offering plate or on Sue's desk in the office.

Episcopal Counseling Center now has a satellite office right here at St George's! This service is available to all our parishioners and to the greater community outside our church doors. Most insurance plans are accepted and a sliding fee scale, based on household income, ensures that services remain affordable. You can leave a message for Jenny Frank by calling the church office number, 371-6351 and leaving a message on her extension #302.

News from St. George's K-2 School Spiders on the Christmas tree?

What? The Skidmore College Tang Teaching Museum sent us an artist this week to design special decorations for our Christmas trees. All Tuesday morning in Hatlee Hall, absorbed children made elaborate spider webs from pipe cleaners and sparkly thread. Then they created their own spiders with bead feet that swung from their silken threads. and learned about the story of spiders who long ago helped to decorate the Christmas tree of a very poor family who had nothing. Take a look at some of these helpful spiders climbing on a Bulletin Board in Hatlee Hall.

The Christmas Concert on Monday night was a jolly time for about 80 guests and their children. After traditional Carols, the students regaled the audience with a spirited rendition of their favorite Carol, "Dominic, the Donkey". Sue Brooks and Carol List presided over some tasty hot cocoa and cold Cranberry punch refreshments, and cleaned all the mess afterwards. Thank you to team Hospitality!

On the Sunday, December 18 service of Lessons and Carols, the students will provide a reprise of some of their Carols, so do join us there. During their last days of classes before Christmas break, the students will learn from Fr Henry about the mysteries of the Creche during the Children's Chapel service and see how the Advent season progresses. During Mandarin Chinese class, they will learn, in Chinese, how to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. They will bake cookies and Swedish braided bread before their Christmas party next Tuesday. Then the corridors of Randles Hall will be very quiet for two weeks.

Finally, the whole school extends a huge thank you to Fr. Henry, Tim Schlacter, and the hard-working Vestry and parish members who worked so hard to solve many furnace problems so that the schools were able to have cozy and warm temporary learning spaces while plans for a new furnace were swiftly made. We thank you all. Once again, we are reminded that 'it does take a village' to raise a child, and we are so privileged to belong to this St. George's village.

		9:30 Service Lessons & Carols
(Service Book)	<i>Prelude</i>	
	<i>Hymn 56 verses 1-4</i>	
Page 1	Opening Preces	
	Collect for Purity	
	<i>Blessed be the God of Israel</i>	
Insert	The Collect of the Day	
	A Bidding Prayer	
	<i>Hymn 56 verses 5-8</i>	
	The First Lesson: Genesis 3:1-15	
	<i>St. George's School students sing</i>	
	<i>Hymn 61</i>	
(Children, age 3 through grade 3 will leave for Joyful Journey during hymn)		
	The Second Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11	
	<i>Hymn 65</i>	
	The Third Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-15	
	<i>Hymn 54</i>	
	The Fourth Lesson: Baruch 4:36-5:9	
Insert	<i>Canticle 15 The Song of Mary (Magnificat) (read together)</i>	
	The Fifth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4	
	<i>Hymn 76</i>	
Insert	The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38	
	<i>Hymn 66</i>	
	The Peace	
	The Holy Communion	
	The Offertory	
	Choral Anthem: <i>The Angel Gabriel</i>	
	The Presentation of Gifts	
Page 5	The Great Thanksgiving	
	<i>Sanctus and Benedictus Hymnal S-125</i>	
Page 6	The Lord's Prayer	
	The Breaking of the Bread	
	<i>Choir Communion Hymn 497</i>	
	<i>Congregation Communion Hymn 324</i>	
Page 7	The Postcommunion Prayer	
	The Advent Blessing	
	<i>Hymn 640</i>	
	The Dismissal	
	<i>Postlude</i>	

Welcome to St. George's Episcopal Church. The central figure in today's liturgy is the Blessed Virgin Mary and her vocation as the human instrument of the Incarnation.

Today's Gospel is the account of the Annunciation, when Gabriel announced to the Virgin that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Messiah. Mary's humble obedience, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word," is the model for Christian living.

The first reading today is the promise God made to David to establish his line as kings over God's people. The promise to raise up a new king of David's lineage was understood by Jews in the first century as a promise to send the Messiah.

In the second reading today, Paul concludes his letter to the church in Rome. He expresses the early Christian proclamation that in Christ the clouded meaning of the Old Testament prophecies has been revealed. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God's plan has been made clear, and the hints of that plan in the writings of the prophets have been fulfilled.

Christians gather in the liturgy to remember our story, a story which goes back through the ages. The central actor is always God, who acts in history to lead all the creation into the kingdom. God, who acted in the lives of people in the past such as David and the Blessed Virgin, continues to act today in our lives. The Eucharist is the moment of encounter with God in which, like Mary, we respond, "Yes."

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.
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Confirmation/ Inquirer' Class is at 10:45 in the side chapel of the sanctuary. All are welcome. You can find a class schedule on the Narthex bulletin board.
Dec. 18th Class will help with the Greening of the Church
January 8th Class will help with the Un-Greening of the church
January 22nd Class will attend the Annual Meeting
Classes in the side chapel will resume on January 29th

Planned Gifts That Plant the Seeds This is information about planned giving at St. George's and is available on the table in the Narthex. There will be ore complete information at the Annual Meeting on January 22nd.

Thank You!!! Fr. Henry wishes to thank all who have given so generously to the Rector's Discretionary Fund this month. The amount given is over \$1000.00 for the relief of needy families and persons in our congregation and community. No other time of the year presents us with such concentrated need. No other time of the year presents us with such generous giving. Thank you St. George's, and special thanks to Nancy Henches, Jean Stevens and Carole Van der Veer for their concerted and graceful efforts to bring joy to the world and relief to the needy! You all bless so many with so much! Merry Christmas!!

And now a word about our furnace

After over thirty years of faithful service, the furnace for Randles Hall died last Sunday after church. While several of our braver members tried to save it, with help from the Clifton Park Fire Department who arrived to turn off the gas supply, our efforts were to no avail. Thanks to our sexton Tim, who went out Monday morning to purchase safe heaters for the preschool and school classrooms so that they could continue classes this week. We shifted the classes to other areas of the building Monday morning and all were warm and doing fine. Monday afternoon and for the balance of the week the classes continued as normal in their own rooms with only one preschool class being moved to another space. Everyone cooperated fully and calmly. We are installing a new 95% efficient furnace this week, the money coming from funds prudently set aside by the Treasurer and Vestry for such an emergency. This is a great improvement over the old furnace which was operating at best at 50% efficiency. Several leaks in the plumbing, the result of age, have also been repaired. We should be back in full warmth by Friday (the 16th) with a minimum of disruption all around. Special Thanks to Sue Walthers for keeping us all on track with room assignments; Tim for monitoring the temperature and keeping us all warm; Ken Bee for all his work addressing the problem and hours of learning all about a furnace he'll never see again; John Wernig for responding so quickly to our needs and installing the new furnace; and the people of St. George's for helping to fund the long range repair line item so that this could be done in a timely manner. Remember them all in your prayers, as will I. JH+

Holiday Office Hours: The staff will be enjoying some time with family after Christmas, so the office will be open for limited hours during the week. Don't hesitate to email or leave a message on our voicemail so we can help you.

2011 Contributions We include all donations received in the offering plate or post-marked before the end of 2011 in your 2011 contribution statement for taxes.