

PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, AND THANKGIVINGS

The sanctuary candle burns to the Glory of God and to remind us of the Lord's abiding presence in our midst in the form of the blessed sacrament, and is given in memory of Fred J. Huebner.

LET US PRAY for the special needs and concerns of:

Jeanne	Art	Jim	Debbi	Janet	Lee	Marie
John	Theresa	Zeb	Ben	Jane	Fran	Alice
Bob	Billy	Larry	Lisa	Amy	Haley	Cody
Brandon	Betty	Tom	Fred	Holly	Helen	Mickey
Richard	Julianne	Norma	Chelsea	Jeff	Robert	Cecilia
Melinda	Jack	Cal	Matt	Paul	Susan	Ed
Don	Nicole	Sandra	Jason	Phil	Meaghan	Alison
LindaLee	Joan	Rupert	Gail	Bonnie	Todd	Maria
Carrie	Kelsey	Eileen	Ted	Jacque	Carolyn	Doug
Jessica- Nicole	Norm	Amy, Liam & Miles				

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, 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 Observance of a devout Advent and for The Rev'd Bradley Jones and The Rev'd Congreve Quinby on their birthday.

IN THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER we pray for Wellington (New Zealand) and The Rt Rev'd Dr. Thomas John Brown.

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 First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 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.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Opening Hymn: 61
Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18 (Choir & Congregation reads together)
Before the Gospel Hymn: 68 vv. 1-2
After the Gospel Hymn: 68 vv. 3
Choir Offertory: Bach: Dearest Lord Jesus
Choir Communion: trad.: I Want to Be Ready
Congregation Communion Hymn: 64
Closing Hymn: 53

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

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: Sue Brooks

Mon: Daphne Jordan

Tues: Michael Blinstrub, Timothy Burgess, Mike Leonard

Thurs: Ted Chrimes, Lori Sautter-Danz

Fri: Livia Annese

Let Us Pray for those celebrating anniversaries:

Tues: Katherine & Ed Rockstroh

Let us pray for the repose of the soul of Christopher Gleason, who died on November 20th.

Please give us an update on the people listed on the back page as currently serving with the military. Please call 371-6351 or email stgeorgeofc@gmail.com to update. Let us know if and where they are overseas or if they are serving stateside.

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. 3rd: 9 to noon, Advent Quiet Day

Dec. 10th 10 to 12 Altar Guild Work Day

Dec. 12th 6pm St. George's School concert (19th is snow date)

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

Christmas Wreaths are ready for pickup today, Sunday, November 27th. So if you ordered a wreath, please check in Hatlee Hall for the box with your name on it.

Empty Stocking Project The gifts are due today, November 27th so they can be delivered to a central location to be sorted and wrapped and made ready for distribution to the children. Please leave them in the hall by the tree or in the office. Thank you to everyone who has so generously purchased these gifts to help the children in our area.

From the Youth Thank you to everyone who supported their bake sale. And thank you to those who purchased Entertainment books. All of the proceeds are helping to build the fund for the next mission trip.

Episcopal Counseling Center now has a satellite office right here at St George's! The Counseling Service has been helping people find hope, help, and healing with personal clinical counseling, therapeutic and pastoral support programs for more than eighty years. This service is available to all our parishioners and to the greater community outside our church doors. There are brochures on the Narthex table for more info or to pass along to someone you think might be interested in learning more about it. 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.

Christmas Gift Ideas

If you are trying to figure out what to buy for a family member or a friend who already has enough stuff, check out this website: <http://www.er-d.org/GiftsForLife/>. Gifts For Life can help a communities living in extreme poverty not only survive but also thrive. Buy a goat, or some drought resistant seedlings, help a child.

Heifer International Give a *Gift of Hope* from Heifer International. Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant. Some choices of animals are heifers, chicks, geese, llamas, sheep, goats, and water buffaloes. for self-reliance and hope. See: <http://www.heifer.org/>

Consider a donation to one of our deacons for their mission outreach (Haiti)

Or find a local place to help....

Regional Food Bank, Overflow Homeless Shelter in Albany, Shelters of Saratoga, etc.

Welcome to St. George's Episcopal Church. The season of Advent begins today. The name of the season means "coming," and it celebrates God's coming to us in the birth of Jesus and looks toward Christ's return at the end of history as Savior and Judge.

The first reading, from Isaiah, reflects the intensity of the prophet's hope for the Messiah. In a period of Israel's history when confidence in the people's own efforts to build God's kingdom had collapsed, Isaiah expresses that hope in a passage which has been a part of the Advent liturgy since the earliest days of the church, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down. . . ."

In the second reading, we hear Paul's greeting in his first letter to Corinth. Recognizing the many spiritual gifts of the Corinthian church—sources of their strength, but also sources of controversy which caused him to write—he says that those spiritual gifts are given to prepare us to greet the return of Christ.

Jesus' message to his followers is an assurance that he will return and that our lives should be lived in preparation for that return. This theme of watching for his return is always central on the First Sunday of Advent. Today's reading from Mark is the parable of the door-keeper. It reminds us that we are always to be on the watch for Jesus' return.

The liturgy is the way the church lives in the time between Jesus' first coming and his second coming. In Word and Sacrament he comes to us again and again, veiled, but present to eyes of faith. In the Eucharist and in ministry to others we are continually being prepared to greet him when he comes again in glory.

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.

There will not be a class on November 27th.

On Dec. 4th & 11th the topic will be Missions and it will be presented by Deacon Scott Underhill on Haiti and Deacon Maureen Demler on the DR.

Bottle donations If you have empty bottles or cans that you have paid a deposit on, they can be taken to the Bottle Redemption Center at the corner of Route 146 & 146A - The Northern Lights plaza. Be sure to tell them the money goes to St. George's Youth. The youth will put this money towards their next mission trip.

Calling all singers and actors! This Christmas Eve we will be performing "Sleepover at the Stable: A Christmas Musical". Rehearsals will usually be held after Sunday School and will continue until the performance on Christmas Eve. On November 27th, there is no Sunday School so rehearsal will start right after the service. Dress Rehearsal with pizza after will be at 5pm on Wednesday, December 21st.

African Team Ministries has asked us to display and sell crafts made in Africa. We will have the crafts available for sale today, November 27th. All the money from the sale is sent back to this group and they use it to help orphans go to school, train elders in East Africa in the AIDS prevention ministry, and help provide people who have been displaced due to political unrest, with food, blankets, shelter and support to return home. **Please plan to make your purchases by check made out to African Team Ministries! Thank you!**

News from St. George's K-2 School November 26 & 27
Wetus anyone?? Check out the display in the narthex!

Thank you all for putting up with discombobulation in Hatlee Hall last week around the school Holiday sale. We were pleased at the many items that were donated, and the generosity of all the browsers! The grand total raised for the scholarship fund came to \$450. The school is donating 50 of the children's books to the Schenectady food pantry for distribution to children during the holidays.

Channel 13 TV News is coming to visit the kindergarten and grade one students next week. They are doing a series on technology in education, and heard about some of challenging learning the students were doing with the IPADS. So stay tuned next Wednesday night.

Shoebboxes are on their way! We have an update! An additional 35 boxes were delivered bringing our grand total to 165 shoebboxes to Samaritans Purse for delivery to children around the world. Thanks to each and every one who took the time to fill a shoebox.

Organic, Fairly Traded Coffee and Tea Available – Be sure to purchase or special order organic fairly traded coffee and tea next Sunday in the parish hall. Buy high quality organic products and support fair treatment of small farmers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The organic products purchased through the EQUAL EXCHANGE Inter-faith Program at St. George's will save you money compared to prices of similar products in local supermarkets. Support St. George's, help small farmers, and enjoy your coffee and tea.

Advent Quiet Day On December 3rd, we will have an Advent Quiet Morning to enter into the spirit of expectancy for the Messiah Who comes. We will begin at 9:00 am in the Chapel with worship, have two addresses and time for quiet and prayer during the morning, and close with a simple Eucharist at 11:30 am, ending by 12:00 noon. Take some time from the busyness to rest in the presence of God with us. Hope to see you there!

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.

Contribution statements have been mailed to everyone. If you have made a pledge for next year, it should be on the statement, but it looks like it did not get printed. If you have any questions, or have a different total for donations, please call Sue in the office. We will send a statement for the entire 2011 year in January that you can use for income tax purposes.

Membership Forms Are you wondering why your names are not include on the birthday or anniversary list? Or why do other people have envelopes for the collection plate and you don't? Would you like to be included in our parish directory? Well the office needs a membership form from you in order to have this information. There are some forms on the table in the Narthex or you can call the office 371-6351 or email stgeorgeofc@gmail.com to request one.

Now we also have a **parish email list** which we use to send quick messages from time to time. If you are not on this list and would like to be, send an email to stgeorgeofc@gmail.com and we will be glad to add you to our list.

Are you wondering why you do not get the **Dragon's Tale newsletter** delivered to your house? We no longer mail them out in bulk. This saves us paper and a lot of time. We now publish the newsletter online at our website which is <http://www.stgeorgescp.org>

For Next Sunday, and each first Sunday of the month **Loose Plate Offering** will be set aside for the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Fr. Henry will use this to quietly help those in need.