



~ **St. John's Church** ~
Weekly News
January 10, 2024

The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell , Officiant

Readings for Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62: 6-14
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Loose Plate Offering
Food Shelves

A Message from Diane

Dear Friends,

At the last possible moment last Saturday Scottie & Bill and I decided that because I still had a rotten cold that included NO VOICE at all, we would punt and figure out a service without a priest – AGAIN!

I immediately called Darcey Hale and we started playing with ideas about how that might work. It became clear that, the most straightforward thing to do was use the bulletin and service outline that we already had and simply bring it to just before Communion and the Prayer of Consecration which is called “Ante Communion”. Many of our churches did this service by Zoom during COVID because it was the most familiar and loved by our parishioners. Darcey in her inimitable way offered to be the officiant, I accepted enthusiastically.

Sunday morning close to 10am, people gathered in person and by Zoom; the community of St. John’s was eager to worship. The service began without a hitch; almost! The Zoom scene faltered and sputtered and gave up. But not our parishioners. They re-convened by another way (i.e. Scottie’s Zoom account) and held their own service of prayer and reflection with Lawson giving a thoughtful and meaningful reflection that spoke to the hearts and minds of all 11 present. The grace of God joining with the eager and willing hearts of the parishioners of this remarkable parish.

As glorious a cause for celebration that this sign of vibrant life in Christ is, I also want to add a cautionary note. In your search for your next Rector you need to be met by a person of equal gifts and you will also need to have room in your hearts and minds to be led by that person. You are a highly competent and faithful parish in every way and that can lead to thinking that there is little someone can bring to grow and challenge you. So, I urge you to begin thinking of ways that you, each one of you, can make space in your own hearts and minds for the unknown, the unthought of, the grace and promise a new person in your midst can bring you and prepare for unexpected graces from the God we all love and search for.

With Epiphany love,

Diane

An Important Reminder

Sunday, Jan. 28 Bishop-Elect Jeremiah Williamson will be the officiant at Holy Eucharist. This is a huge honor for St. John's! We hope that many of you will be with us for this momentous occasion!

Prayer for the Bishop-Elect

Prayer for the Bishop-Elect. Eternal God, our Shepherd and Guide, we bless and thank you for your servant, Jeremiah, Bishop-Elect of your Episcopal Diocese of Albany.

By the working of your Holy Spirit grant him grace and every spiritual gift as he prepares to take up his role as our chief pastor and teacher. Make him a shepherd after your own heart, who will walk in your ways and watch over your people with loving care. Strengthen and guide him to lead in vision. Fill him with courage to teach your truth.

Prepare our hearts to welcome Father Jeremiah, Jennifer, Oscar, and Isaiah joyfully into our Diocesan community. Continue to purify our intentions, and lead us into holiness, that we may bear witness to your Son without shame or fear, in unity, humility, and mutual charity, devoted to your will for the good of the world.

BRUNCH WITH THE BISHOP ELECT We Need Your Help!

Plans are being made for the brunch which will follow the service on January 28th when bishop elect Jeremiah Williamson will lead our worship. If everyone who is able will contribute something it will be greatly appreciated! Items needed include: quiches, breakfast strata casseroles, link sausages, fruit bowls, sweet rolls, Danish, croissants, deviled eggs, cookies, brownies, juice.

We want to be sure that we have a balanced menu so please call or email Carole Harsh 518-637-2622 to tell her what you will be bringing from the above list. Also, there will be a sign-up sheet at Persell Hall on Sunday, January 21, where you may indicate what you will bring to contribute to the meal from the above list.

On Saturday the 27th we will need help setting up chairs, and putting linens and cutlery as well as decorations on them, as well as organizing the counters to receive the food items that will be brought in prior to the service. If you can help with this please contact Carole Harsh or note this on the sign-up sheet in Percell Hall.

Prayers For Those in Need or Any Kind of Distress

Geoffrey, Lois, Art, Joyce, Abra, Mike, Beverly, Noa, Lillian, Chris, Rae, Olivia, Cheryl, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Sally, Chris, Lynne, Eve, Ella, Louis, Dick, Jim, Carolyn, Lee and Diane.

Our special thoughts and prayers go to Kathy Schoolcraft whose sister Geraldine died on Jan. 10th.

Update on Lee Maxey

Lee is currently in rehab at Fanny Allen. He has had many visitors and received many cards which have brightened his life. His spirits are excellent. He is filled with determination to recover fully and he is even working from his bed. Heather has converted the ground floor of their barn into a rehab center for Lee where he will continue rehabilitation for his injured legs. He is hoping to come home later this week. Please keep your prayers going because they have obviously made a very positive difference.



PERFECT STORM, NO PROBLEM!

As I prepare this edition of the Weekly News this was the picture of the North Country in all of its beauty today.

Photo by Jennifer Moore

Search Prayer

Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark upon our

search process. Help us to numbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John's. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us, but we pray that it will strengthen our faith and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

History Tidbits Part 10

April 1, 1880

**At a Forum of the County Court of Essex County, held at the office of Hon. Francis A. Smith in Elizabethtown in said County
Present Hon. Francis A. Smith, Essex County Judge.**

In the matter of the Petition of “the Rector, Churchwardens & Vestrymen of St. John’s Church, Essex”, for leave to sell Real Estate etc.

On reading & filing the Petition of the above named corporation bearing date April 1st, 1880, and duly verified, & praying that the order of February 19th, 1875 duly entered herein, may be so modified, that the Vestry or Trustees of said corporation may expend the funds or moneys, now in the hands of & belonging to said corporation known as “The Church Building fund”, and amounting to about \$1,925, in building a rectory for the use of said corporation, & in rebuilding or improving the Chapel or Church-building of said corporation, in Essex in said County. Except the sum of \$77, may be used by them in paying off the indebtedness of said corporation to W. G. Lyon & Co.

Vestry or Trustees are hereby authorized and empowered to expend said funds for the purpose and in the manner, prayed for and as above stated.

April 2, 1880

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. John’s Church Essex, N.Y. held at the Chapel in pursuance of notice.

On motion James B. Ross & Ezra Parkill were appointed a committee to move & improve the Chapel Building.

On motion Anthony J. B. Ross, S. D. Derby & Robert Fortune were appointed a committee to build a Rectory.

On motion, \$700. of the Church funds was appropriated and ordered to be paid to the Church Building Committee to be expended by them, in moving & repairing Chapel.

On motion the balance of Church Moneys on hand was appropriated & ordered to be paid to the Rectory Committee to be expended by them in building a Rectory.

Both Committees were instructed to proceed as speedily as possible.

An adjourned meeting of the Vestry of St. John's Church was held at the office of Ross & Ross in Essex Village.

Essex N.Y. Feb. 26, 1881.

Present, James B. Ross & S. D. Derby Wardens. John Ross, A. J. B. Ross, Ezra Parkill, Andrew J. Tucker, and Robert Fortune, Vestrymen.

Moved and carried, "that the number of vestrymen of "the Rector Churchwardens and vestrymen of St. John's Essex" be reduced to seven, under & in pursuance of the Statutes of the State of New York, permitting such change in the number of Vestrymen, and that after confirmation of this resolution at a Parish meeting duly called for that purpose, and the recording of the certificate.....thereof, as required by said Statutes, the number of Vestrymen of said corporation be and remain seven, until further resolution of this Vestry."

Moved and carried, that Rev. Eugene L. Toy, at present Missionary in Charge of this Parish be elected Rector thereof.

The committees heretofore appointed to repair the Chapel Building, and to erect a Rectory, respectively reported their action in reference to the same, and said reports were duly received, and their accounts, by motion duly carried, directed to be placed upon the Church books of this Parish.

[Sadly, these were not placed in the Church Books. I am still hopeful that we will find them somewhere else in the files.]

Moved and carried that the Treasurer be authorized to apply any sums received on the subscription for the year ending 1881, Feb. 9th, in excess of \$325, towards the contingent fund.

Easter Monday, April 18, 1881.

The Resolution of the Vestry to change the number of Vestrymen from eight to seven was presented by Mr. S. D. Derby, and on motion of Mr. A. J. Tucker seconded by Mr. John Ross the same was ratified by the unanimous vote of the elected present.

A quorum not being present, meeting adjourned to April 20- /81. 3. P.M. at office of Ross & Ross.

April 20, 1881

A quorum not being present, meeting was further adjourned to April 27th, '81, 3 P.M., same place.

April 27, 1881

a quorum not being present, meeting was further adjourned to April 29th, 3 P.M. at office of Ross & Ross.

April 29, 1881

On motion resolved that the necessary steps be taken to have the Church Consecrated by the Bishop.

[Persistence won and the third time was the charm.]

Treasurer reported subscription of last current year fully paid, \$7,500) & subscription signed in full for present year.

Nov. 23, 1881

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. John's Church Essex N.Y. held at the Study of the Rectory: present Rev. E. L. Toy, Rector, S. D. Derby, Warden. A. J. Tucker, Robert Fortune, Ezra Parkhill, C. W. Woodford & A. J. B. Ross, Vestrymen.

Moved & carried that the Rector be & is directed to convey thanks of the Vestry to the various persons who have contributed gifts to the Chapel in rebuilding & refilling the same.

Moved & carried that A. J. Tucker be appointed a committee to put in basement windows & have fastenings put on doors.

Moved & carried that C. W. Woodford & S. D. Derby be appointed a committee to put new floor & pins into Church.

[Just as we do today, it seems that vestrymen and others stepped in and performed smaller building tasks.]

Subscription for same reported by the Rector & sums raised as agreed to be paid thereupon by several persons stated.

A. J. B. Ross Clerk

St. John's Zoom Passcodes

St. John's Sunday Service

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/worshipmeet>

Morning Prayer

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/morning-prayer>

Vestry Meetings

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/vestrymeet>

Finance Committee

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/financecommit>

[nups://www.stjohnsessexny.org/jnancemeet](https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/jnancemeet)

Contemporary Bible Study

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/biblestudy>

Meditation

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/meditationmeet>

Sunday Service Zoom Recording

stjohnsessexnyzoom@gmail.com

Passcode: +W2t+Fwu

AA 12-Step Meeting

Zoom Meeting ID: 817 7797 4233

Passcode: 123456

Weekly Calendar

Tuesday Contemporary Bible Study (Zoom) 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Tuesday Community Potluck Supper 6 PM

Wednesday Meditation (Zoom/In Person) 4 PM

Thursday Morning Prayer (Zoom) 10 AM

Sunday Holy Eucharist 10 AM (Zoom/in person)

Sunday AA Meeting (Zoom/In Person) 7 PM

Your Vestry

Scottie Emery-Ginn and Bill Tribou (Wardens)
Louise Baietto, Bruce Hale, Diana Lawrence, Jon McBride
and Bruce Stephan (Members)
Darcey Hale (Clerk)
Antonia Bullard (Treasurer)

St. John's Episcopal Church | 4 Church Street, Essex, NY 12936



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