



~ **St. John's Church** ~
Weekly News
January 31, 2024

Rev. Glen Michaels, Officiant

Readings for Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147: 1-12, 21c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Loose Plate Offering
ReNew

Mark the Date

Tuesday, Feb. 13th at 6pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, Feb. 14th at 5pm Ash Wednesday (By Zoom)

St. John's Church, 1110 G Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309 | Phone: 404.525.1111 | Website: www.stjohnsatl.com

Saturday, Feb. 24 at 11am Consecration of Jeremiah Williamson (remote access available)



A Message from Diane

Dears,

What an important and uplifting experience we had worshipping with Bishop-Elect Jeremiah and welcoming him and his charming family to St John's. It was a profound experience of the power of God's renewing grace. Thanks to Carole Harsh and Darcey Hale and all those who helped put on such a welcoming & delicious brunch. Because of our worship, music and hospitality Fr Jeremiah got a full experience of who we are at St John's. I am confident that will help with the search process.

Shrove Tuesday is fast approaching as is Lent.

Thomlin and Chris, Steve, Jonathan & Mike have agreed to head up our annual Shrove Tuesday supper. Let them know how you are able to help out.

Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year! We will have a Zoom only service at 5pm. More about that next week.

We will also be doing a Lenten Study together on Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:15. I invite you to join me in reading and discussing “A Season for the Spirit” Readings for the days of Lent by Martin S Smith. You can purchase it from Amazon. My plan is to have it Zoom only, we will open with short prayer, review of the week’s reading and then break out into groups of 4 for discussion; come back into full group for conclusion and closing prayers. I do hope we can have a fulsome time. If you have questions or comments don’t hesitate to text 1-802-989-5363 or email me dianelnan@gmail.com.

Love and blessings to you all,

Diane





A Memorable Sunday

The St. John's community had the rare opportunity and honor to be the very first church in the Albany Diocese at which soon-to-be bishop, Jeremiah, officiated. As we think back over that day we are all flooded with memories, reflections, impressions - each of them positive. We saw our bishop-elect, not only as a clergyman, but also as a human being - an intensely genuine person who is filled with love, compassion, sincerity and guided by the Holy Spirit. Our beautiful experience was further enriched by the presence of his young family. We will have much to share with one another in the weeks to come. In the meantime, every one of us - in person and on Zoom - demonstrated the beauty and strength that is St. John's.





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.

**Hot off the Press
Check your Email at the Link Below**

**Episcopal Diocese of
Albany <meaghan@episcopaldioceseofalbany.ccsend.com>**

Jeremiah's visit to St. John's is the lead article on the front page of the Diocesan Update, Weekly eNewsletter.

"The Williamsons begin parish visits"

"The Williamsons traveled to St. John's in Essex this past Sunday. Our bishop-elect Jeremiah, Jennifer, Oscar and Isaiah enjoyed their first of many visits to parishes around the diocese. This Sunday, February 4th, they will travel to Zion Church in Morris."

Beneath is a wonderful picture of Jeremiah, his wife Jennifer and their two children, Isaiah and Oscar, and another of him as the presider at our Sunday service.

Many, Many Thank-Yous

Thank you everyone who participated in making our visit by Jeremiah such a memorable occasion! A team of elves emptied the church and the office closet of all of the silver and brass and with vigor polished it until it was gleaming. It was such fun to have Jonathan join right in with the ladies group where he managed to clean off layers of accumulated polish from days gone by on the brass music stand that we use for the visitor's book. What a team!

Many of the same group and as well as others came forward and set up Persell Hall for the reception and made sure that everything in the church was in readiness for this special occasion. Thanks to members of the congregation, on Sunday morning the food came rolling in, filling the air with a delicious aroma. A loyal band stepped forward to help with serving and tackled the daunting number of plates, cutlery and everything else. Well done!

I cannot close without expressing our gratitude to the leader supreme of this multiple faceted production. Her organization skills went into high gear as she got the team together and saw that every detail was attended to. Thank you Carole!

Hats off the Jennifer and her magic with music. It made this rare occasion come alive through music as well as words. The musicians were a wonderful complement to the piano and organ and Michael and Elisha's duet accompanied by Jennifer on the piano was the perfect ending to this memorable service.

The heart and essence of St John's was present on this memorable Sunday.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

After a hiatus during the pandemic this custom is being revived. Many thanks to Mike Smiles, Tomlin Coggeshall and Christopher Rice who have stepped forward to head this event. They have been joined by Steve Rucker and Jonathan Gillespie. Please mark your calendars for this festive and tasty gathering on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 6 PM.

Prayers For Those in Need or Any Kind of Distress

Geoffrey, Ella, Lois, Art, Joyce, Abra, Beverly, Noa, Chris, Olivia, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Sally, Lynne, Eve, Matt, Thomas, Frederick, Carolyn, Jim, Lee, Betsy, Darcey and Ron.

Welcome to a New Vestry Member

At its Dec. 18th meeting the vestry passed a resolution in appreciation of Julie Wever's dedication and contributions to the vestry during her tenure. (Please see the Vestry Highlights below.)

We are happy to announce that Anne Zilch was unanimously elected by the vestry to fill the position that was formerly held by Julie Wever. Anne will serve in this capacity until the Annual Meeting and will then have the opportunity to stand for election to fill the remaining 1 year of Julie's term.

Tuesday Evening Community Potluck

Kathy Reinhardt announced that this be be discontinued until spring because the snowbirds have flown south and west, and life has gotten too busy for us-stay-at-homes. Thus attendance at Tuesday Night potluck has withered away, sadly. If only 2 or 3 of us show up, it's not enough for a good meal.

She proposed that they re-group in the spring when some of the snowbird regulars have returned, and other seasonal friends and neighbors can join us. Let's keep in touch in other ways!

Heifer Project

Heifer International was founded by Church of the Brethren educator, Dan

West in 1944. Its mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the earth. For almost 80 years, it has provided livestock, as well as environmentally sound agricultural training, that will improve the lives of those who struggle daily for reliable sources of food and income.

Thank you everyone who made possible for our “Jesus in Our Hearts” kid, Lauren Pero, to decide what to do with all of your donations. She has decided that a goat and a flock of chickens will be sent to families who promise to raise the animals and then to give any offspring to another family in their village. Lauren, thank you so much for spearheading this endeavor.

AFRI On Parade

Bob Harsh and other AFRI members working on painting, decorating and showing off masks which will be worn in the Saranac Lake parade on Sat. Feb. 10.

AFRI member Marietta Brady with her mom and daughter working on masks. Marietta and her mom are from Peru.



AFRI goes all out at the Social Center in Elizabethtown to provide a variety of materials for our costumes.

Search Prayer

Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark upon our search process. Help us to humbly 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 12

There is a marked paucity in the records as you have probably noted. Hopefully we will find other resources among the various other archives.

April 9th, 1888

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. John's Church, held at the Rectory, Treasurer reported for last year, & report received & adopted, showing bal: on hand \$74.04 Outstanding debts, - \$23.45

Moved & carried that the Clerk correspond with the committee on Bishops Salary, & adjust the assessment for this Parish. *[Even back then this went on.]*

Essex March 1889

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. John's Church of Essex N.Y. held at the Rectory, pursuant to notice a resolution was duly adopted & signed endorsing the character of George M. Irish, and recommending his advancement to the Priesthood. *[In the previous History Tidbit, he was referred to as Dr. William N. Irish and he was appointed as missionary to this Parish. It would be interesting to know whether he attended seminary or what his qualifications were.]*

April 25th 1889

Andrew J. Tucker was duly elected Treasurer & Anthony J. B. Ross Clerk for the ensuing year.

A. J. Tucker Treasurer presented his report for last year showing bal: in treasury. \$66.68. Rev. Wm. Irish appointed a committee to have chimneys on Rectory fixed. *[So soon after the rectory was built.]*

Essex N.Y. April 10 – 1891

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. John's Church of Essex N.Y. held at the Chapel on motion, the Treasurer was directed on the 1st of July next, to remove the deposit owned by this Church from the Merchants Bank, to the Burlington Savings Bank.

Note: A/C transferred as directed July 1, '91 to Burlington Savings Bank, & book no: 25.294. issued to "Rector, Warden & Vestrymen St. John's Church, Essex.

A. J. Tucker Treasurer." Amt: \$573.07

Essex N.Y. Nov: 11 – 1892

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. John's Church, Essex N.Y. held at the rectory on motion Ervin G. Lyon was appointed a committee with instructions to

build the walk from the gate to the Church door, and to draw on the Treasurer transfer. *[Can we imagine where that gate might have been? Old pictures show a fence but no gate.]*

On motion Resolved: that the thanks of the Vestry be and hereby tendered to Mrs. Dickerson of New York, for the brass cross presented to the Church: and also, to Mrs. W. B. Noble for the convenient tablet for Hymns presented by her. *[An exciting piece of information. Now we know who gave the cross that we carry each Sunday and when it was given. I wonder if the brass music stand that we use for the visitor's book was the one described here? A good question.]*

April 10 1893

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. John's Church of Essex N.Y. held at the Rectory April 10, 1893, resolved: that a committee of three be appointed to lay the plank walk from the Church to the gate, and also a drive-way from the street, with a stepping block, at a cost of not to exceed \$25.00

Vestry Highlights from Dec. 18, 2023 Meeting

The Vestry wishes to extend to Julie Wever its appreciation for the contributions that she made to the vestry and search committees throughout her tenure. Her skills as a researcher and writer, as well as her keen observations, insights and questions contributed greatly to the decision-making of the vestry and the search committee. Her contributions toward preparing and presenting policies for vestry review are especially noteworthy. We shall miss her in her official capacities but are very grateful that Julie and her husband and son, Kevin and Edward O'Neill, are such active members of our spiritual community.

Diane will be away for the months of February and March as planned. In her absence we will have supply priests for three Sundays each of those months and we will hold Morning Prayer once a month. She will continue with her regular work while she is away and will be available by Zoom and by email and phone as always.

There are a variety of things that need to be done to upgrade the rectory and these will be taken care of while we are without a rector. In the meantime, it will be used by Diane and as a meeting place, as needed.

Jon McBride reported that the 2023 pledge goal of \$144,160 has been met. Many thanks to the leadership team of Jon, Dick Walker and Mike Smiles who made this happen.

Plans for the Bishop-Elect Jeremiah Williamson's serving as the officiant on Jan. 28th are well underway. We are very, very fortunate that he will be with

us even before his consecration. It is an honor for St. John's.

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/financemeet>

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

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

Dennis Stanbury and Anna Zilch (Members)

Bruce Stepan and Anne Zich (members)
Darcey Hale (Clerk)
Antonia Bullard (Treasurer)

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



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