

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday - Tuesday, February 21: Evening Prayer at 6:00 pm followed by Pancake Supper at 6:30 pm.

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, February 22. Morning Prayer at 8:30 am, Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 12 Noon, Evening Prayer at 6:00 pm, and Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 7:30 pm.

Lenten Supper Series – Tuesday nights beginning on February 28: 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm Supper and 7:00 Lenten Series.

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR ST. JOHN'S

For the sick: Bob White, Julia Spach, Peg Conner, Phillip Wulfken, Norma Decesare, Anthony Frates, Tim Olsen, Arline Settle, Eunice Johnson, Bill Best, Sam Bish, Sondra, Dovie Parvin, Virginia Gibney, Irena Durham, Jessica M., Bill Hinton, James Nishimura, Isabel Vagell, Linda Sorrels, Denise Spencer, Charlene Seymour, Mark Bellissimo, Ann Mulrean, John Christie, James Byler, Katie Macaluso, Jamie Herbert, Nancy Albanese, Henry Albanese, Marion Kenney, Ann Herrington, Elizabeth Parlante, Maria Bellock, Sue Rosen, Audrey Factor, Cara Tobias, Lu Stack, Walter, William Slade, Karen Quinn, Cole Aasheim, Paul Griffin, Barbara Heckelmann, Mel Conner, Bryce, Robert Early, Louise Webster, Austin Buri, Lucille Packard.

For our 2012 Confirmation Candidates: Gabriel Agbim Jr., William Kropp, Neneyo Mate-Kole, Oyata Mate-Kole, Jessica Menditto, Adaora Onyrbeke, Lucas Vaccaro, Christian Wolf, Derek Wolf.

For our First Holy Communion Students: Chloe Busterna, Justin Grillo, Olivia Heyer, Luke Maffei, Alexander Servinskas, Carleigh Tracy.

For our Youth Group and Adult Chaperones: Chris & Kira Bergman, Sergei Brower, Liz Corrado, Matt Divers, Cole Ellenbogen, Sydney English, Jack & Samantha Glicker, Jimmy & Tori Keegan, Jason Kibirige, Maddy LoFaso, Ryan Nora, Dale Reid, Kristen Seaman, James Tonjes, Lucas Vaccaro, Greg West, Derek Wolf, Anne Bower, Kristen Divers, Dave Glicker, Stephanie West, Ford Spilsbury.

To have someone entered onto our Prayer List for 4 weeks, **please e-mail the church office with the person's name as well as the requester's name.** The e-mail address is: aroth@stjohnshuntington.org

Attendance last week was: 211

The Chalice The weekly Sunday Bulletin of St. John's Episcopal Church February 19, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR:

In my address at the Annual Meeting of the Parish, the spiritual vision of St. John's I proposed was that of a praying community. With Lent just around the corner it seems appropriate to reflect further upon this vision. This will be a two-part reflection on prayer and on the community that prays.

Most spiritual traditions have a method for some form of spiritual communication with the divine or the transcendent. It is commonly called meditation or contemplation or prayer. Such a spiritual practice has been valued and practiced by many people for centuries in all diverse traditions. In the Christian tradition and practice, prayer *is* the foundational spiritual discipline, and many different ways and forms of Christian prayer have been developed to suit various needs, situations and idiosyncrasies.

One common notion of prayer is that if we "pray hard and with faith," God will answer our prayers. While this sounds pious and nice, such a notion can be spiritually dangerous and damaging. It can turn prayer into sheer work by which we can control its outcome and even God. Also, if the prayer is not answered, we are made to feel guilty, for we must not have prayed hard enough or in the right way. We may pray because we feel guilty. But we should not be left feeling guilty and bad, having prayed to God. Just the opposite, prayer ought to make us feel good about ourselves and feel closer to God. Turning prayer into an outcome oriented exercise often misses the mark altogether.

I have had some of my prayers answered, but many have gone unanswered. Is that because I haven't prayed hard enough most of the time or my faith isn't strong enough? Perhaps and most likely. I will be the first to admit that there is a lot of room for improvement in both regards. But, I think it's a good thing that not all my prayers are answered, lest I become arrogant in my prayer, lest I become a praying control freak, lest I turn prayer into sheer work to control God to get what I want. It's good for my spiritual health that not all my prayers are answered. I certainly wouldn't want all of my enemy's prayers answered. So, what is really the point of praying?

The Hebrew word for "to pray" is *lehitpalel*. It is a reflexive verb, i.e., something that one does to oneself. The root of this word is *palal*, which means "to judge." So, the root meaning of prayer is "to judge oneself." *Tefilah*, the Hebrew noun for "prayer," then, literally means "self-judgment" or "self-evaluation."

So, prayer begins with taking stock of oneself, one's own heart, mind and soul. Genuine prayer begins with one's honest self-evaluation, leaving nothing turned for examination, leaving no secret hidden before God, no matter how painful the secret truth might be. It is then the real conversion can happen. It is then only

then the real and honest tears of conversion will fill the inner spiritual chalice of the soul. A lot of God's grace flows through such honest, uninhibited tears of self-examination.

This reminds me of the Gospel story about a Pharisee and a tax-collector praying in the temple. The Pharisee prays standing haughtily and thanking God that he is not a miserable sinner like this tax-collector, while the tax-collector far off in the corner prays, kneeling in tearful remorse and asking for God's pity and mercy.

The praying person comes before God with his or her heart, mind and soul open to God in honesty and vulnerability. Genuine prayer can help us offer and hand over everything to God and leave us in true peace, for truth before God shall set us free. The profound and foundational notion of prayer is that we are utterly dependent upon God's grace and mercy. The Vestry in its meeting last Monday agreed to take on the spiritual discipline of daily prayer during this Lent. I invite every member of this parish to join the Vestry in the discipline of daily prayer also.

Fr. Allen Shin

VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS WELCOME!

We welcome you to St. John's Episcopal Church. Established in 1745 this historic church opens its doors to all who seek to deepen their faith, and provides warm hospitality to all who would worship God at His Altar and take part in our common life. We are blessed by your presence this morning. We invite and encourage you to sign the Guest Register, or fill out a Visitor's card which can be found in the pew racks, and then **visit the Greeters' Kiosk in the rear of church, where Greeters are available to answer questions and provide you with a packet of additional information about church services and activities, and a gift in thanks for your visit to St. John's.** Again, welcome to St. John's!

WELCOME BROTHER DUNSTAN

Today we welcome Brother Dunstan of the Little Portion Friary back to St. John's as he leads us in worship while Fr. Shin is away.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School today, February 19. Classes return on February 26.

CANTERBURY SHOP

The Canterbury Shop has the look of an Easter Wonderland. Welcome--stop in today!

YOUTH GROUP TRIP TO COSTA RICA

Twenty Youth Group members and five adults left for their trip to Costa Rica this week, on Thursday. The Youth Group will be "blogging" (that's an electronic "online journal" if you aren't familiar with the term "blog") while they are away to keep all of us at St. John's informed about their travels. They return on February 25. You can read their blog by typing in the following URL in your address bar: <http://stjohns-huntington-youthgroup.blogspot.com>

ST. JOHN'S WEBSITE

Have you visited St. John's new website yet? There is an interactive Calendar on our website in which you can click and keep up to date on the Calendar of Events going on here at St. John's! Visit: www.stjohnshuntington.org

4TH QUARTER STATEMENTS

The 4th Quarter Statements are now available on the table in the back of church. Please be sure to pick up your statement and help us keep our postage costs down. Many thanks!

LENTEN MEDITATIONS, DAILY DEVOTION PRAYER CARDS AND LENT 2012 SCHEDULE

Please be sure to stop at the table in the back of church to pick up a copy of a 2012 Lenten Meditation distributed by the Episcopal Relief & Development, a Daily Devotion Prayer Card, and a Lent 2012 Schedule card which outlines all services from Ash Wednesday through Easter, as well as including information on the Lenten Supper Series and Lenten Quiet Day. Please take one and feel free to give one to a friend.

CAMP DeWOLFE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please see the table in the back of church for information and applications for job opportunities at Camp DeWolfe this summer, including a newly posted Camp Nurse position.