
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, Robert & Angela Fede, Mary Kinsella, Jean Giacomini, Annmarie, Robert Cimbalist, William Slade, Marilyn Lingen, Karen Quinn, Cole Aasheim, Eve, Christian and Nicole Cagna, Paul Griffin, Barbara Heckelmann, Mel Conner, Bryce.

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.

Recently departed: Violet Saracino and Eleanor Bosshardt.

The **Altar Flowers** are given this week **In Loving Memory of Eleanor Bosshardt**, the gift of Joanne & Walter Lott.

The **Perpetual Light** is given this week **In Loving Memory of Eleanor Bosshardt**, the gift of Joanne & Walter Lott.

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: 179

The Chalice The weekly Sunday Bulletin of St. John's Episcopal Church February 5, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR:

Today in our worship we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, whose actual feast day is February 2. It's an ancient feast dating back to the fourth century or earlier. In the Eastern Orthodox tradition, it is called *Hypapante*, which literally means "meeting," and signifies the meeting of the Lord and his mother with Simeon the Temple priest and Anna the prophetess. It has also been called *Candlemas* due to the ancient custom of blessing the new beeswax candles in conjunction with this feast on this day both for use at the altar and to be distributed to people for their use at home. So, today we are celebrating this ancient feast appropriately with candle lights and a procession.

In the service, we are presenting the candidates who are taking a very important journey of faith themselves, the children who are beginning their preparation for First Communion and the candidates who are preparing for Confirmation. This is a significant commitment of faith not only for all the candidates but also for all of us in this Christian community. The third-century Church Father, Tertullian, said, "Christians are formed, not born." The Christian formation does not happen in a vacuum or in total privacy but in a community of faith such as St. John's. It is the responsibility of the whole community to support and nurture these candidates in their journey of faith with prayer and encouragement. Please keep each candidate in your prayer.

After the worship services we will hold the Parish Annual Meeting. This is perhaps the most important liturgical act outside the liturgy of worship. I call the annual meeting a "liturgical act" because liturgy means work of the people. Just as Holy Communion requires the presence and participation of the laity, a meeting such as the annual meeting of the parish would not mean anything without the full participation of its lay members. This is the work of the people of the parish.

One important characteristic of the Episcopal Church is its democratic structure and polity. The national church is organized with a bicameral structure of the General Convention which makes decisions on policies and visions and the Presiding Bishop's Office which supports the church at large to implement the decisions of the General Convention. The General Convention gathers triennially and is comprised of the House of Bishops and the House of Representatives (both clergy and laity).

Similarly, each diocese is required to hold an annual convention, comprised of the clergy and the lay representatives of the parishes of the diocese. The parish, in turn, is overseen by its vestry, comprised of the priest who chairs the vestry

and the lay representatives elected by the members of the congregation. Each parish is required to hold an annual meeting in which all members of the congregation gather to elect their representative to the Vestry and receive the reports of various ministries of the parish. So, in the Episcopal Church not only is the lay participation and leadership encouraged but also crucially important in the life of the church.

St. John's has a long history of active lay leadership to the present day. Actually it goes back to the very beginning of its foundation. Samuel Seabury who evangelized in Huntington area 270 years ago and founded this congregation was a lay person at the time. The stewardship of this parish community for more centuries to come is a mission to which every member of this congregation is called.

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!

ANNUAL MEETING AND VESTRY ELECTIONS

TODAY - February 5 will be two services, 8:00 am and 9:30 am. Immediately following the 9:30 am service the **2012 Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections will commence.**

At the 2012 Vestry Elections the parish will be voting for one open Warden seat and four open Vestry seats.

KIDS' CLUB SALE ~ BENEFIT AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES

Last chance, today, Sunday February 5th before and after the 9:30 am service, the Kids' Club will be holding a sale of handmade African gifts and jewellery to benefit the African Team Ministries. To find out more about them please visit www.africanteamministries.org. Please come stop by and support this great charity.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Today is Souper Bowl Sunday. The Youth Group will be taking up a special collection for this national annual event (www.souperbowl.org). The monies raised this year will be going to Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative (HIHI).

CANTERBURY SHOP ~ SPECIAL BOOK SALE

The Canterbury Shop is open giving you time to purchase jewelry for Valentine's Day (Tuesday February 14th). Look over the heart jewelry on the breakfront. You will also find a new product carried home by Canterbury buyers this past Sunday. It is a gift bag containing honey bee naturals--sounds interesting. Stop in and see.

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 a keep up to date on the Calendar of Events going on here at St. John's! Visit: www.stjohnshuntington.org

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASS

The next Adult Christian Education class is Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00pm – when the topic will be the King James Bible.

ECW

On February 16th, the Youth Group will be travelling to Costa Rica for a week of adventure. The ECW would like to support the Youth Group by organizing 'Prayer Partners' having parishioners pray for an individual youth/adult member on the trip. There are 20 Youth Group members and 5 adults going to Costa Rica. The ECW is looking for 25 parishioners to volunteer to be a 'Prayer Partner', praying for these members on the trip. On Feb 12th, the prayer partner would meet their assigned Youth Group member at Sunday's breakfast 9:15 am. If you would like to be a 'Prayer Partner', please contact Fran Gorman at 754-2772 or Nancy Feustel at 721-6073...or the Church Office.

The next ECW meeting will be on Thursday, February 16 at 7:30 pm.
