



~ **St. John's Church** ~
Weekly News
December 27, 2023

Readings for Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023

The Feast of the Holy Name

**A Celebration of Christmas
in Word and Music**

The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell , Officiant

Isaiah 61: 10-62:3

Psalm 147

Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7

John:1-18

Loose Plate Offering
General Fund

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, Jan. 28 Bishop-Elect Jeremiah Williamson will be the officiant at Holy Eucharist. This is a huge honor for St. Johns's!



Christmas Eve Service

The traditional Christmas Eve service was a memorable experience for the 44 parishioners who were able to attend in person and the 12 joining us by Zoom. We are so grateful that we have this communications medium which allows us to feel as one for our Sunday service.

The church was at its most radiant with candle lights in the windows, candle lit sconces on the side and back walls, an array of poinsettias in the church and, especially around the altar, the garlands that hung from the rood screen and, of course, the advent wreath which was fully lit by all of the candles. Outside we had a lovely Christmas tree that was brilliantly lit with a myriad of multi-colored lights.

We are grateful that the Rev. Lyn Burns was officiant once again. She led us through the service with such grace and her sermon, thoughtfully prepared, brought us still further together as she focused on this very, very special time in the church calendar. Lyn was welcomed by everyone and, due to a change in plans, she was even able to remain for the supper that followed the service.

We also want to extend a special thank you to the musicians who are sharing their talents with us to make this service so very special. Our appreciation

their talents with us to make this service so very special. Our appreciation goes to Michael Bergman, cantor, who miraculously recovered from covid just in time to be with us; Robin Cameron-Philips, flute; and of course our own Jennifer Moore, organist and music director. Sadly, Janice Kyle, Oboe; Janine Scherline, clarinet could not be with us as planned because of covid.

Thank you to the many parishioners who made this all possible.



Christmas Eve Supper

Those who were able to stay for supper following the beautiful Christmas Eve service enjoyed a lovely dinner contributed by members of the congregation and a time of sharing and fellowship.

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, Anne

Olivia, Cheryl, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Sally, Chris, Lynne, Eve, Anne and Ella.

We are happy to report that Etta Moredock's daughter-in-law is responding very well to a stem cell transplant.

News of Lynne Goepper

Lynne fell and fractured her pelvis some weeks ago and was in the Elizabethtown Hospital for a time. When she was able to be moved from the hospital, Claudia Caveney came north and took her an assisted living residence near her new home in North Carolina. Sadly Lynne took another fall and is currently in a rehab facility.

For many years Lynne was a vital member of our church community. She was always ready and willing to give of her time and talent wherever needed. She served on almost every committee and ministry and led the vestry as its warden. We all miss seeing her in her favorite pew where she always sat when her husband, Carl, was alive. We are so grateful that she is now near her very closest and dearest friend, Claudia.

Thank you Claudia. We know that you will keep us in touch with Lynne and, in the meantime we encourage everyone who knows her to send Lynne cards c/o Claudia Caveney, 67 Still Water Lane, Fletcher, NC 28732. Our cards will mean the world to Lynne as she makes her recovery.

The Heifer Project

Bobbi Perez wishes to thank everyone who donated to Heifer Project! The project will continue until the Advent of Epiphany celebration. So far enough funds have been received to send 2 flocks of chickens to 2 families.

Lauren Pero headed up the project to make red stress balls for those who have given to the project. These homemade fun gifts will be in the donation basket this coming Sunday so please take one as a thank you.

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

Change in Time for Meditation

Please note that Meditation is now from 4 to 5 PM.

History Tidbit Part 7

Essex, Jan. 30th. 1871

At a meeting of the Vestry the accounts committee reported the accounts of the measures were correct.

A. J. Tucker was empowered to raise a subscription to meet the deficit in the [priest's] salary of the previous year. [Funding a rector was a persistent problem.)

The wardens consulted with the Bishop regarding procuring a clergyman. The church [in Essex] was to be held open for "day reading" every Sunday morning. [One assumes that this meant holding Morning Prayer in the absence of a rector.]

The Senior & Junior Wardens of the church intended to apply to the County Court of Essex County for an order permitting the sale to Wesley J. Hoskins of the Brick building and the land thereon known as the rectory belonging to St. John's Church, Essex. The purchase price of the home and lot was \$1,500.00 with \$250 down, with \$150.00 & interest to be paid on May 1, 1872 \$150.00 & interest May 1st 1872, \$1100.00 on May 1st 1876 and to continue payment annually until the entire sum was paid. [Does this mean that there was another rectory and, if so, where was it located? This will take a little deed searching.)

Essex, April 10th. 1871

Owing to the indebtedness of the church it was necessary to reduce the expenses of the Parish as much as proper & at present the vestry was directed to take care of the Chapel instead of procuring a Sexton. Members of the vestry each took a month to act as Sexton.

May 18, 1871

Rev. J. H. Hopkins [note that he had returned to the church after resigning

the year before] read a communication from the Bishop in regard to a suggested Clergyman, & also in regard to an associate mission starting with a Clergyman and a Deacon. [Perhaps this "associate mission" was what eventually became Church of the Good Shepherd in Elizabethtown. The Treasurer was asked to circulate a subscription & ascertain if the money can be raised sufficient to support a Clergyman.

Essex May 28th. 1871

The Treasurer reported the subscription had been filled to the required amount of \$300. Mr. Charles, the Clergyman recommended by Bishop Doane, was called to the parish.

Essex Sept. 24th. 1871

“To Mrs. J. N. Fairbanks, Brandon, Vermont”

Regarding the death of her husband, Rev. J. Newton Fairbanks

Dear & Respected Madam,

We can only bow in submission & sorrow to the “will of Him who doeth all things well.” And we will humbly trust and earnestly pray, that we may in some degree, at least, profit by his Godly example. How Christian his life; how beautiful his death; how glorious his reward; how blessed to go & meet Him. That GOD will have mercy upon us & help us, “so to follow after the good example of all those His servants, who are departed in the true faith of His holy name, that we may through Jesus Christ our Lord have our perfect consummation & bliss both of body & soul in His eternal and everlasting glory”, shall be the continued, earnest prayer of Your Humble & Obedient Servants.

Essex Jan 28th. 1872

At a meeting held this day in St. John’s Church Essex, E. D. Ferguson, S. D. Derby & A. J. Tucker were appointed a committee to erect a tablet in said Church, to the memory of Rev. J. Newton Fairbanks, former Rector of this Parish; & to make all arrangements pertaining to the same.

Essex Sept. 23rd. 1872

Rev. J. E. Hall, retiring missionary, reported as to amt. of offer [amount was deleted] & expenditures during his stay. On motion, a committee of three was voted to convey to Mr. Hall the request of this Parish for his departure, & their appreciation of his services. It was moved & carried that the Treasurer pay Rev. M. Hopkins the amt. due him for services rendered.

It was also moved & carried that the Wardens & Clerk of the Vestry be constituted a committee of three, to notify the Bishop of our diocese to call Mr. McIlwaine the Rectorship of this Parish.

Essex N. Y. Dec. 28th. 1872

Vestry met pursuant to notice given in Church, at St. John's Chapel, & called to order by S. D. Derby Sen. Warden, contents of letter from Bishop Doane, stated by James B. Ross in reference to Clergyman. On motion, he was authorized to write Mr. Pardu in reference to taking this Parish.

Essex Jan 7th. 1873

The committee reported that Mr. Pardu would not accept a call to this Parish.

It was moved that a committee of three be appointed, to look for a lot suitable for building a church on, or one with a Building on. S. D. Derby, Robert Fortune & A. J. Tucker appointed such committee.

Essex Jan. 18th. 1873

No agreement on the lot and church had been reached. Vestry met at office of James B. Ross pursuant to adjournment. Com. on lot & church reported, no agreement. Committee discharged. Adjourned.

Essex Feb. 1st. 1873

The Vestry met at office of E. D. Ferguson and it was moved and carried that this Vestry call Rev. M. McIlwaine, to the Rectorship of this Parish.

Essex Feb 27th. 1873

Vestry met at St. John's Church Essex.

On motion the following Resolution was unanimously carried "Resolved that we purchase from John Ross the East portion of the Lot, on which the Chapel, is now situated, said purchase to embrace all that part of the Lot, East of a line running North and South at a distance of twenty feet West of the Chapel that the conveyance shall be so drafted as to convey the Property to the Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of St. John's Church Essex, N. Y. and their successors in office. [This was the lot that the church currently sits on.

Resolved that the Vestry pay for the Property \$550 out of the fund known as the Rectory Fund and it shall be further agreed that should the Vestry wish to convert the property to any other use, the said John Ross or his heirs shall have the privilege of repurchasing the Property for the above mentioned purchase money. Within one year after notice of such wish on the part of the Vestry, has been served upon him or his heirs. And should the said John Ross

or his heirs fail to so redeem the property, it shall then be the absolute Property of the Rector, Churchwardens and Vestrymen of St. John's Church be by them converted to any use whatever. And in case the said John Ross or his heirs, shall so repurchase the Property, the Vestry shall have the privilege of removing any Church Building which shall be upon the Lot. [If the church decided not to use the original lot on which the church/former school was located the Ross family could buy it back.]

On motion, resolved that we proceed to repair the Chapel out of the funds now in the hands of the Vestry, and known as the Rectory Fund, and that the Senior Warden, appoint a committee of three of which he shall be one, to procure or draft plans for such repairs, and submit the same to the Vestry, two weeks from tonight. (The chapel/original school building would be repaired.)

Essex, N. Y. April 11th. 1873

Report of Com. on repairs & estimates read. Moved and carried that S. D. Derby, James B. Ross and E. D. Ferguson be authorized to go on and repair the church building to the extent of funds on hand.

Moved and carried that the Sen. Warden or his Jr. Warden be authorized to sell the mortgage on the Rectory.

Essex, N.Y. May 4th, 1873

The Rev. J. W. McIlwaine commenced services as Rector of St. John's Parish on the first Sunday in May (4) 1873. [He had been called in Feb. of that year.]

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

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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