

Kitchen News

*Thelma Smullen+ and
Karen Blaylock, Office Manager*

Beginning this month we have entered into an agreement with Lee Darrow, a long term Glenn Dale resident, doing business as *Sweeties' The Catering Co.* Lee and her daughter-in-law and partner, Kerry, will use our kitchen on weekday mornings to prepare food for their catering business. We are delighted to be able to rent this space for such a use. It will bring much needed income as well as serve the community.

Lee and Kerry spent many hours preparing the kitchen for inspection by the Health Department. It sparkles! We are sure *Sweeties* will leave the kitchen that way after they use it and we must leave it that way as well. Please make sure dishes are washed and put away, and that counters are clean.

Our renters also need refrigerator and freezer space during the week. We have

promised them the top two shelves of each. That means we cannot store leftovers in hope that "someone will eat them." If you wish to store any food in either the refrigerator or freezer please mark it with your name and the date.

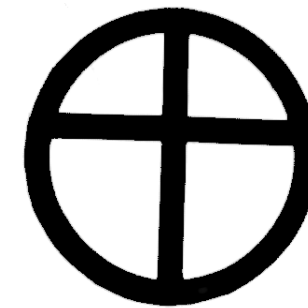
Finally, we had some problems with the dishwasher a few weeks ago. A new instruction sheet is in the kitchen. Please read and follow.

Thanks so much and let's do our part in making the kitchen sparkle!

Grocery Scrip/Cards Available

We are again selling Giant cards and will soon sell Shoppers Food Warehouse scrip. You can purchase these after either service from the counter on duty. With each purchase, 4% goes to St. George's. Don't forget the other opportunities with Safeway and Amazon (via St. George's web site).

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The Wider Circle

St. George's Episcopal Church
 Glenn Dale Parish, Maryland

"Shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free."

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Search Committee Completes First Parish Focus Group

Debbie Taylor Moore, Search Committee Member

It is said that one must understand one's past in order to create a vision for the future. The St. George's Search Committee deeply appreciated the participation of fellow parishioners who braved the elements on Sunday, January 30 for its first focus group on "The History of St. George's."

The purpose of the focus group was to revisit St. George's colorful history and to share reflections on how the parish became what it is today. Of particular note was the consistent theme of how St. George's had been faced with many past challenges, yet was able to overcome them through the strong will and faith of its people. Stories of love, determination, humor and inspiration were recounted by those who convened at round tables, sharing lunch and fellowship. Members answered the question "What brought you to St. George's?" Many parishioners posted pictures, notes and memories to complete the visual timeline of St. George's evolution. Speakers and topics were facilitated by search committee member Patrick Hardy, and included:

- Jeffrey Williams, Anne Package and Joann Prosser: Search Committee Introduction
- John Rebstock: *The Founding of St. George's*
- Hilda Nichol: *Reflections from Eleanor Niebel* and *The Calling of Father Michael*
- Lois Rapp: *Pillars of the Church: Addie and Ben Miller*

- Anne Package: *Reflections from Jeanette Greaney*
- Debbie Moore: *Reflections from Father Tom Andrews*
- Donna Haselton: *The Early Days of Father Michael*
- Libbie Griffin: *Becoming a Parish*
- Lee Rowe: *Building a New Sanctuary*
- Rick Boda: *What St. George's Means to Us*

Parishioners who were unable to participate may still provide input for that session as well as at upcoming focus groups. The next two focus group luncheons will be:

February 13 (after the 10 am service) St. George's: Moving Forward

A discussion about the questions "What is your vision for St. George's future?" and "What qualities are important in a Rector?"

March 13 (after the 10 am service) St. George's: Who We Are

A working session to document individual ideas, thoughts and feelings through completion of the St. George's parish survey. This data will be compiled and used to complete the parish profile.

The Search Committee represents and works for all parishioners in its search for new spiritual leadership. Full parish input and participation is welcome, appreciated and necessary to accurately profile the congregation for future Rector candidates at St. George's.

A Holy Lent

Thelma Smullen+

Lent, a season of forty days leading up to Passiontide, provides a special opportunity for renewing our faith and commitment to Christ. It is a subdued season as we spend more concentrated time in prayer and self-examination. We seek forgiveness from God as we get in touch with the many ways we fall short of a committed relationship with our Lord. The season is best summed up in the Ash Wednesday liturgy beginning on page 264 of the Book of Common Prayer. The Invitation to a holy Lent on page 265 reads:

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer. Amen.

Spend time with the Ash Wednesday liturgy during Lent, first by attending one of the Ash Wednesday services on February 9, and then by using it for personal meditation throughout the season.

In keeping with the more somber nature of the season, we will make changes in our Sunday liturgy will change. You will notice that the color changes from green, the color of growth, to purple, the color of penitence and royalty. There will be no flowers on our altar during this season, and "alleluias" will be omitted from the liturgy. We will begin the liturgy each Sunday with the Penitential words "Blessed be the God of our salvation: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins." Either the Ten Commandments or the Summary of the Law, and then the Confession, will follow this opening acclamation. In other words, we will begin our worship by laying our sins on the altar for God's forgiveness. This ordering is meant to help us get better in touch with the meaning of the season.

Some other changes include saying or singing the Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy...") instead of the Gloria in excelsis ("Glory to God in the highest"); saying or singing the Agnes dei ("O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world...") after the Breaking of the Bread; and offering a solemn prayer at the time of the Blessing. Finally, in keeping with St. George's tradition, we will change the worship space.

Suggestions for Lenten disciplines:

1. Pray the Ash Wednesday Liturgy and the Great Litany as an aid in self-examination.
2. Take a Parish Directory and pray for all the people on one page each day.

The Wider Circle

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- Rick Boda
- Jeanette Greaney
- Rowland Hoke
- Kim Newman
- Herb Josey
- Audrey Proffitt-Henry
- Alix Volel-Stech, Treasurer
- Linda Sanches, Assistant Treasurer
- Debbie Nebel, Clerk
- Karen Horrocks, Convention Delegate
- Jeffrey Williams, Alternate Convention Delegate

Mission Statement

The mission of St. George's is to build a Christian community of love and support that actively seeks and includes all people.

We commit ourselves to spiritual growth through worship and education that empowers us to follow Christ's example in the world.

3. Read and reflect on the Gospel of Matthew.
4. Develop a relationship with someone in need.
5. Give alms to the poor through ERD or some other group.
6. Participate in one of our special Lenten programs.
7. Fast one day a week.
8. Begin a regular spiritual discipline.

Staff Position Changes

Libbie Griffin, Senior Warden

It is always a difficult decision to decrease staff positions, but since there is simply not enough money in the budget, the Vestry has had to make some changes. The following will go into effect this month:

Music Director, full time will change to Organist, part time. The organist will play two Sundays a month and our musicians will play the other Sundays. Our present Music Director Brian Cocheron has accepted another position and his last Sunday will be February 6. Please join me in thanking him for his for his time with us and wish him God's speed.

Sign Interpreter will change to two Sundays a month. Dr. Carie Palmer will interpret at the 10 am service the first and third Sundays through June, when the Vestry will further evaluate this ministry. In addition, St. Barnabas Ministry for the Deaf holds a service at St. George's on the last Sunday of every month.

An update on two other staff positions:

Nurse Room Attendant: Abbie Bray, or "Miss Abbie" as so many of us call her, will continue in this position.

Area Youth Minister: Following Erin Iverson's resignation, we are working with the Diocese and the other three area churches to search for a new Area Youth Minister. We remain very committed to this ministry.

Financial Note

We are having a cash flow challenge due to the two snow Sundays in January. You can help by making sure your contributions are up-to-date.

Notes from Diocesan Convention

Karen Horrocks, Convention Delegate

On January 28 and 29, the Episcopal Diocese of Washington held its 110th Convention. Diocesan convention, the annual meeting of the diocese, conducts elections, hears reports, and votes on the budget, resolutions, and any other actions presented.

In his address to the convention, Bishop John Chane restated his three priorities for the diocese: congregational ministry, youth and academic ministries, and global ministry.

In the area of congregational ministry, the diocese is evaluating the health of all congregations and assisting those needing support. Support includes help with development, deployment (i.e. calling new clergy), communications, stewardship, and administration. Bishop Chane called growing healthy congregations the diocese's main priority.

In the area of youth and academic ministries, participation in diocesan youth events continues to grow. In 2004, 350 youth participated in at least one diocesan youth event. The diocese also supports eight campus ministries and recently won a grant to establish a ministry at Bowie State University.

In the area of global ministry, the diocese continues to work with the Diocese of Honduras through our companion relationship. Lloyd Allen, Bishop of Honduras, preached at the convention Eucharist. The diocese also continues to work with the Anglican Province of Southern Africa through our South African Partnership Committee.

Congregational giving is not enough to fully fund these priorities. Therefore, interest from the Soper Trust will be used to supplement the budget. The convention felt that this was necessary to become, as Bishop Chane challenged us, a missionary diocese.

Information about convention, including the bishop's address, election results, and resolutions, can be found on the diocese's website: www.edow.org. If anyone has any questions about convention, please feel free to speak to me at church or email me at khorrocks@earthlink.net.