

Helping Our Adopted School: Gaywood Elementary

This month there is an Epiphany Season Tree in the narthex, decorated with items that are needed for Gaywood Elementary School. We hope that you will take an ornament off the tree and bring back the item or items listed on the ornament. (Note: It is OK to look through the ornaments and find one that fits your budget.)

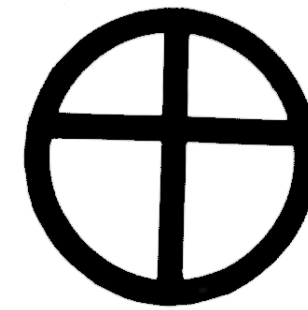
Last year, the Social Action Committee conducted a survey to determine how St. George's wants to do outreach ministry. Many of you said that you want St. George's to be more active in our local community, particularly in support of area students. In response we have created a relationship with Gaywood Elementary in Seabrook. Our conversations with the staff have revealed a lack of materials — many quite basic — to support their program. We hope to help them with this during this

Season after Epiphany, when the theme is spreading the Light of Christ.

Annual Mardi Gras Party and Silent Auction

Our annual Mardi Gras Party and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, February 5 from 6-9 pm. Cost of the dinner is \$16 per person, 9 and under free, with a household maximum of \$48. Please sign up to attend on the narthex bulletin board. Also on the board is a sheet to sign up for donations for the silent auction, which is a great fundraiser for our church. Be creative! Invite your friends to the party. What a great way to introduce someone to St. George's. If you have questions or if you can volunteer to help with this event, please contact Jeanette Greaney at 410-451-2523 or jnetix@comcast.net.

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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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2005 Budget, Dollars & Sense

Libbie Griffin, Senior Warden

This time in the Church's year is always a challenge for congregations like ours. And this year is no different as we face a considerable financial challenge where our Income is less than our Expenses.

Our Budget is \$191,800 and was based on Pledge/Envelope income of \$139,100. However, our 56 pledges come to \$116,860 and projected Envelope income is around \$4,000, for a total of \$120,860. This leaves us with a significant shortfall of \$18,240 in our operating income.

We have some fixed costs which have caused an increase in our Expenses.

- A. Utilities will increase due to a projected rise in gas prices;
- B. Cleaning/maintenance costs will increase now that we have a Night Manager;
- C. We are now fully responsible for our portion of the Youth Minister's salary; and
- D. Costs related to the Search for our next Rector.

The Vestry has already made considerable cuts across the budget but unless we see some significant increase in revenue, we will be faced with some very hard decisions, including deleting some staff positions.

We ask for your prayers and support at this time as we deal with these financial challenges. With God's help, we will make the correct decisions in order to continue to support the many Ministries at St George's. We are a vibrant faith community

experiencing in our Church life what many are experiencing in both their professional and personal lives.

Thank you to all for your continued support in your financial giving to St. George's.

Telling the History of St. George's

Thelma Smullen, Interim Rector

On January 30, we will gather in Miller Hall for one of the first steps in the search process. Interim ministry literature calls it "Coming to Terms with History." For me, it is an opportunity to understand how St. George's has come to be what it is today. What were the defining moments? How has this church met past challenges? What were the highs and lows in your history? What strengths have seen you through hard times? What visions kept you moving forward? What has been the focus of ministry during different periods in your history?

As you begin the self-study phase of the search process and begin to plan for your future, it is important to know your past. I think St. George's has reached a critical juncture in her life. And, like many of you, I don't really know how this relates to what has happened in the past. I look forward to this discovery.

So please mark your calendar for January 30. We will gather after the 10 am service for this fun and essential part of the transition process.

Search Committee Begins Work

Anne Package, Search Committee Co-Chair

On December 4, the Rector Search Committee held its initial meeting and retreat with Nancy Warren, the search consultant. The members spent time building their team rapport, engaging in Bible study, learning more about the search process, and dividing tasks among themselves, including planning for upcoming parish meetings and beginning work on the parish profile. The co-chairs of the Committee, Jeffrey Williams and Anne Package, also reported on their discussion with the Vestry, during which all parties shared their hopes and concerns about the search process and agreed to support each other as the process continues.

On Sunday, January 9, the Committee will hold its next meeting. Among other things, the Committee will review the charge given them by the Vestry, which sets forth the Vestry's instructions for the Committee and its work. As we move forward, don't hesitate to ask any Committee member about the search. We are committed to providing the congregation with as much timely information as possible about the search process, within the bounds of confidentiality. Watch for this newsletter, the parish website (www.stgeo.org) Sunday morning announcements, and a timeline that will be posted in the church to keep everyone abreast of the status of the Search Committee's work. And don't forget to add the parish and the Search Committee to your prayers!

Adult Education

Our next Adult Education class begins January 23 at 9 am. We will use the Kerygma curriculum titled "Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life." It examines the Old Testament roots and context of the Beatitudes and explores the contemporary implications of these powerful words. Participants discover fresh understanding and insights to enrich faith. Jeffrey Williams will facilitate the 6 sessions. Please sign up by January 16 so we can order your book.

Parish Directory Changes

Sandra James is resuming her former name and is now Sandra Powell.

We've heard that Nelson Reginald got married on October 30 and moved to Southern Maryland. We've put a wedding picture on the bulletin board. Nelson, who is from Sri Lanka, also reports that his family lives in the interior of Sri Lanka so they escaped the devastation.

The Wider Circle

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- Rick Boda
- Jeanette Greaney
- Rowland Hoke
- Kim Newman
- Herb Josey
- Audrey Profitt-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.

Vestry has a new member!

Libbie Griffin, Senior Warden

Please join me in welcoming Herb Josey to the Vestry! Herb is active as a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) and is a member of the Social Action Committee. He was nominated at the Vestry meeting on December 18 to fill the term vacated by Steve Pigott. Steve resigned because he needs to travel out of town frequently to care for his elderly parents. We thank both him and Tom for all their contributions to the ministries of St. George's.

Father Michael's Institution Service

Libbie Griffin, Senior Warden

In early December, I went to Rochester, NY, for the service of institution for Father Michael as the new Rector at St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene (AKA the 2 Saints!). In true Michael style, the service was liturgically rich! There were bells (Sanctus) and smells (incense), great music and many participants! The church is the oldest building in continuous use in the city and is located in the downtown business district. It is surrounded by other buildings so has no churchyard/cemetery or dedicated parking!

The congregation is about the same size as St George's and somewhat similar in its ethnic diversity. The challenge will be to grow the congregation as most of the members are middle aged or retired, so there are few families with young children.

Michael and John are well settled in an older home with a yard. The pewter plate given by St. George's was on prominent display in their dining room! John is taking a sabbatical from church ministries as he builds his consulting business. He's more settled than he thought he'd be, though he said to check back in January when they are in the midst of winter weather! He'll probably start an EFM program at the church next year.

Both Michael and John send greetings and many warm wishes to the community of St. George's!

Area Youth Ministry Activities

Erin Iverson, Area Youth Minister

High School Coffee Break — Our high school members are going out to their favorite coffee house on Friday, January 14, from 7-10 pm. We'll gather for fellowship and fun as we start another year together. Meet at St George's at 7.

Middle School Gathering — For our middle school students (6-8 grade), we're gathering together on Friday, January 21, from 7-9 pm, at St George's for more fellowship and fun. We'll engage in our favorite games and activities as well as a few new ones. Come on out and join the fun!

Diocesan Young People's Vocation Conference — Bishop Chane is sponsoring an afternoon for young people in high school who have questions about what it means to work in the church or to be called to ministry. Youth are invited to the Cathedral College at the National Cathedral on Sunday, February 6, at 2 pm. If you know of any young person who might find this afternoon interesting, please pass this on to them.

Information on Summer 2005 mission trip opportunities is coming! Be on the look-out at the end of January for information about the upcoming mission trip opportunities for the summer of 2005. Our mission trip discernment group has faithfully met monthly to look at participation opportunities for our Area Youth Ministry. Our final plans will be revealed in the coming weeks!

If you have questions about any of these activities, please contact Erin Iverson, 301-351-2280, or Karen Horrocks.

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)

To support families devastated by the tsunamis, donate to ERD's South Asia Relief Fund. Gifts can be mailed to PO Box 12043, Newark, NJ 07101; or made online at www.er-d.org/. If you have questions call 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129.