

Website and Newsletter Volunteers Needed

Serena Wyckoff

St. George's seeks volunteers to manage the church website and edit *The Wider Circle*. As you may have heard, I am planning to move out of the area in the fall. This means that I must turn over these responsibilities some time in the next several months. Training will be provided, but some experience is recommended. Please contact me if you would like more information.

Martha's Closet

Marsha Bray

Have you ever wondered about Martha's Closet and where all the food and clothing is going that you donate? Martha's Closet is:

- An ecumenical and interfaith children's clothing exchange and emergency food pantry for Prince George's County residents.
- A non-profit organization sponsored by 15 area churches including St. George's.
- A ministry of love and support to those whom Jesus called all to serve.

In operation since 1980, Martha's Closet receives food donations from member churches, local organizations and businesses. Martha's Closet also helps families in need of children's clothing. Any Prince George's County family can use this service every two months. Martha's Closet also makes referrals to meet other needs of the clients.

Donations of money, canned and non-perishable foods, children's clothing, toys, linens, and small housewares in good condition are always welcome.

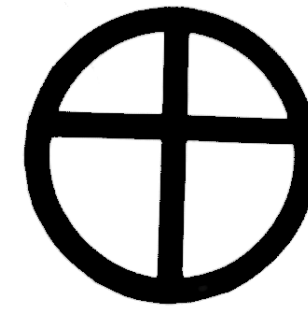
Volunteers from member churches work in teams for one-month periods. Each month a different church volunteers. *Tuesdays in May and November are St. George's days.*

Martha's Closet is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:15 am to 12 noon. It is located in the basement of the Eastminister Presbyterian Church at 5601 Randolph Street (between 202 and 450 and close to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway), Hyattsville, MD 20784. Phone number: (301) 699-8001.

If any you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Martha's Closet or me.

Address correction requested

The Wider Circle
St. George's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 188
Glenn Dale, MD 20769



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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Vestry Election Results

Libbie Griffin, Senior Warden

Our fourth Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, May 1, 2005 and the following people were elected to the Vestry:

Marie Holmes (1 year term), Herb Josey (2 year term), Carie Palmer (2 year term), Lee Rowe (2 year term) and Anne Marie Willis (2 year term). They will join Sue Geiger, Audrey Proffit-Henry, Rowland Hoke and Linda Sanches as members the Vestry effective June 1.

Both the current and the new Vestry will attend a weekend Retreat later in May and the new officers (Wardens, Treasurer and Parish Clerk) will be selected at that time.

Treasurer's Report

Alix Volel-Stech, Treasurer

From 2000 to 2004 St. George's experienced tremendous growth as we moved from Mission to Parish status. We nearly doubled our pledge and envelope income. The number of families with children in the Parish grew at the greatest rate. This may explain why pledges are at 58% of average Sunday attendance.

Through 2003, our income was heavily supplemented by investment income and withdrawals, significantly depleting our investment fund. Although we ended 2003 with a net surplus of \$11,000, we also withdrew \$15,000 from savings. Despite a record pledge/envelope income of \$131,546, we ended 2004 with a net deficit of \$5,378. Our investment income for the year was at its lowest (\$1,712).

Despite lower average attendance, we're starting 2005 with our highest number of pledges (57) but the average pledge is lower than in 2004 (\$2,364 v. \$2,066). When taking into account unpaid bills, expenses exceeded revenue by nearly \$3,300 for 1Q05. However, based on first quarter results, our annualized pledge/envelope income would be \$130,764, nearly on

pace with 2004. Our Special Offerings and Designated Income are strong beyond expectations, due in large part to our Easter appeal, but building use donations are lagging. Turnover and market conditions are especially challenging this year.

As we look to the future, we will need to redouble our growth, fundraising and stewardship efforts so that we may build a sound financial foundation to sustain our vision as stated by the Vestry. We will need to develop and maintain a replacement fund for much needed repairs and capital improvements to both the chapel and the church. St. George's has distinguished itself in the past by rising to the challenge and we're looking forward to a new beginning.

Search Update

Joann Prosser, Search Committee

Results from the "Next Rector" Survey were a success. We received feedback from 73 members, and the profile that emerged will provide the Search Committee with guidance as we enter the next phases of the search process.

The major themes that ran throughout the results were a commitment to diversity, children/youth, and advocacy. As one would have expected, the top reasons that people were attracted to and stay at St. George's has to do with our inclusive, diverse, and safe/accepting community. Members felt very strongly that sermons were an important aspect of the worship service and should be relevant to our lives and challenging. Members expressed a strong desire (a) to expand our children and youth ministries; (b) attend to community service and outreach; and (c) strengthen our parish infrastructure, fellowship activities, and membership. Members felt the most essential qualities/tasks of our next rector would be the ability to preach, valuing of diversity, and strong communication skills.

Clearly this is only a snapshot of the valuable information the Search Committee gained through the focus groups and survey process. A more detailed report was presented at the Annual Parish Meeting; additional copies are available. We are thankful to all who shared their thoughts, and we welcome your continued input and prayers as we move forward in the process.

St. George's Parish Vision Statement

Approved February 2005

Preamble

We commit ourselves to growing and strengthening our parish community. We seek to experience the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ and through this experience to impact our community in positive ways. Hospitality and generosity, as we experience both in the Eucharist, will be the heart of our life. We will strive for Total Ministry – the ministry of all our members in the church and in the world. To live into this vision, we set for the following objectives for our common life and witness.

Evangelism

Spread the Good News to our surrounding community by welcoming and serving all of God's children, growing our parish community in both size and diversity.

Formation

Foster the Christian formation of the people of St. George's by offering opportunities for biblical and spiritual enrichment, gift discernment and leadership development for children, youth, and adults.

Pastoral Care

Share responsibility for the pastoral care of individuals and families in times of joy, sorrow, suffering, or transition – identifying needs in appropriate ways, and facilitating a sense of community and connection.

Social Action

Follow Jesus' example of helping all members of society to live with personal pride and dignity, deliberately and purposefully identifying areas where we want to be an influence in our communities by developing plans of our intentions.

Stewardship

Create a culture of generosity to support and expand parish activities, yearlong stewardship education, increase fiscal responsibility, and full utilization of each member's God-given gifts.

Ministries Fair A Success

Thank you to the Vestry for supporting this year's ministry fair. For the food, the set up and the clean up, it was a job well done! The event was a great success.

The Wider Circle

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Interim Rector

Serena Wyckoff, Editor
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Glenn Dale Parish Vestry:

- Libbie Griffin, Senior Warden
- Susan Geiger, Junior Warden
- 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.

Spring Yard Sale

Serena Wyckoff

St. George's Spring Yard Sale – an important fundraiser – will be held on Saturday, June 4, 9 am–1 pm. Please donate your treasures that need new homes (no large furniture, please) during the evenings of the Thursday and Friday before the sale. Call the church office if you need to drop off during the day.

We need volunteers to help receive and price donations during those evenings, help with the sale on Saturday, and pack up and take unsold items to local donation centers (trucks and vans are most helpful for this). Just an hour or two is a great help. Please let me know if you can help or if you have any questions.

Earth Day Clean Up A Success

Marcia Weaks, Social Action Committee

We had a very successful Earth Day clean up around St. George's on Saturday, April 23. We



collected 18 or 19 very large bags of trash, 9 tires, and various other odd items like a mailbox, signs, etc. Many thanks to our clean up crew: Jeanette Patterson and Sarah, Marsha Bray, Anne and Rebekah Rowe, Deb

Boda, Kathleen O'Connor and Ciara, Linda Sanchez and I. Dan Moore and his grounds crew were out in full force as well that day.

New Office Assistant

Thelma Smullen+

We welcome Dorothea Clay, who is called Dodee, to St. George's as our new Office Assistant. She will begin Tuesday, May 17. Office hours will be Monday – Thursday, 10 am – 2 pm.

Dodee and her husband live in Gambrills, and are the proud parents of a daughter who just received a Masters Degree. Dodee retired from her position with the US Mint in 2003, where she worked just down the street from St. George's for many years. She says our neighborhood feels like home. Dodee told me that one of her co-workers was baptized in St. George's Chapel fifty years ago. By the way, she is an Episcopalian!

It will be wonderful having someone who is regular in the office. When you call, tell her who you are, and if you get a chance, drop by and introduce yourself. Putting faces with names will help her get to know the parish more quickly.

To My St. Georges Family

Rick Boda, Vestry

Thank you for the great gift you gave me two years ago when you elected me to the St. George's Vestry. I had never been on a Vestry before; Deb & I were "fresh" at St. George's and still somewhat unknown. I was surprised when Libbie asked me to run for the Vestry and even more so when I was elected. My heart is still warmed by the trust you placed in me.

The last two years have given me a bond with St. George's that few "newcomers" get. Being on the Vestry allowed me to see events with the background and the foreground at the same time. I have seen people of faith struggle mightily with deeply divisive issues and come to a consensus while maintaining their civility, integrity, passion and love for each other. I have seen setbacks rise up against our little church, like towering waves, and I've seen them dashed against the rock that is the character and will of our little church. Indeed we are small, but mighty.

The gift of this opportunity has helped this "newcomer" rush to embrace his new family. When my turn for troubles came, I was able to lean on my St. George's family for support. When I felt as if I were slipping under the waves, my family in Christ and faith rushed in and gave me the lifeline and support I needed to get back on my feet. I know you were there not because I was on the Vestry, but because of who you are and because of what you believe. And I was able to ask for and take the help from you because I knew you, because you were not strangers to me.

I'm rotating off the Vestry to give others the chance for the same gift you gave me. I know that the next Vestry will face divisive issues, they will have hard choices, and I know that they will solve them with the same honesty, compassion, cooperation and love that has been their hallmark. Thank you.



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