

March 24, 2020

Dear St. George's Community:

It was heartwarming, for me, to sign on to our worship service last Sunday. I saw so many familiar faces on my computer screen. We had about 50 people join us for the service! I really appreciate Fr. Tom's work to adapt our service and Tom Boe's effort to get Zoom up and running for all of us.

We have formed a small COVID-19 Response Team. We meet weekly to consider how we stay connected as a community, continue our online worship and care for our property during this time. Fr. Tom, Carole Leonard, Sarah Schulte, Tom Boe, Barb Wilson and I are part of this group.

Some quick updates:

- We will have services again next Sunday at 9:30 am. We'll use a Liturgy of the Word format with lessons and a homily. I hope to see your faces on my computer screen. Father Tom is looking at options for Palm Sunday and Easter (also online).
- We'll start to offer Gospel Based Discipleship on Thursday evening at 7pm, via Zoom. Tom Boe will lead this week's session.
- We are exploring ways to make sure we can stay in communication with people in nursing homes and care facilities. Sarah Schulte will be working with Father Tom and Diane on that.
- Our buildings remain closed to the public. We are taking actions to keep our operating costs down during this period by reducing cleaning, turning down the heat and reducing outside maintenance.
- Lots of work has gone into upgrading our website in the last few weeks. You can find info there about services, our COVID-19 response, etc. It is a good spot to find the most current updates.

Finally, a nudge for all of you that rely on a collection plate to turn in your pledge and other contributions. You can send checks to St. George's using the US Mail (St. George's Episcopal Church, 5224 Minnetonka Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55416). The counters will be coming in on a bi-weekly basis to count and deposit checks. I appreciate your effort to stay timely with your pledge – it's critical as we go through this period.

I do feel like every day the sands are shifting. It can be hard to keep up. I was struck by a graphic that Sarah Schulte sent out the other day. It said:

With Church doors shutting across America, it is time for us to show that church has never been about the building.

So true. I have always felt that the community is what makes St. George's so special. I am praying for all of you.

Take care and stay healthy,
Kathleen Boe
Rector's Warden