

**Uniting in Worship.  
Welcoming in Grace.**



# ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

September 2020

Volume 27, No. 9

This is a free publication  
for members and friends.

[www.stgeorgesonline.org](http://www.stgeorgesonline.org)

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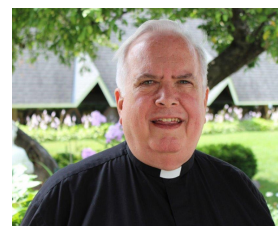
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1:30pm

Monday - Thursday

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## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

*by Rev. Tom Gehlsen*



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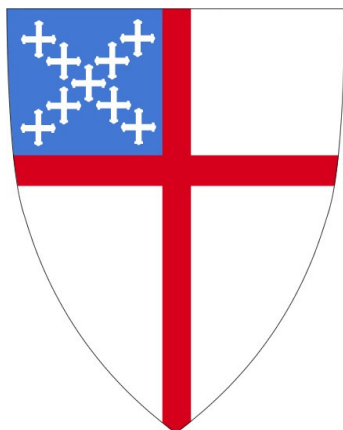
There are times when, in discussion, I hear from others using the words "Religion" and "Spirituality" interchangeably. While they are not diametric opposites, neither are they the same. For thousands of years, humanity has passionately pursued the Truth with a capital "T," the ultimate answers to life and the universe. This perennial knowledge constitutes the answers to what are often called the soul questions:

- Ø Who am I?
- Ø What do I want?
- Ø What is my purpose?
- Ø What is the meaning of life?

Historically, from the perspective of the soul, there have been two foundational routes to discover these truths: religion and spirituality. Although they have many similarities and there is a relationship between the two, there are differences between religion and spirituality.

**RELIGION:** At its core, religion is about faith. That is to say, belief in something based upon unconditional acceptance of the religion's teachings. Unlike the scientific worldview, religions do not require evidence to validate their claims. Through religion, you are taught to have faith in God or the scriptures as being the infallible and ultimate truth of reality. Acceptance and surrender to the divine are taught as the path that leads to ultimate salvation.

**SPIRITUALITY:** Spirituality doesn't dismiss faith, however, it often leans more heavily on direct experience of the soul or divinity. Spiritual practices such as meditation, yoga, silence, and contemplation allows one to make conscious contact with more expanded states of consciousness, thus helping to experientially validate the teachings rather than accepting them on faith alone. You know something because you have tasted the experience yourself and have allowed it to resonate, as opposed to taking the word of another.





## September Birthdays

- 5 Fr. Tom Gehlsen
- 8 Owen Monroe
- 11 Camille Schroeder
- 13 Harold Morgan
- 16 Kathie Brown
- 17 Rachel Holbach  
Brianna Rousselow  
Sarah Rash
- 19 Nancy Taylor
- 21 Gloria Monroe Johnson  
Claire Holbach
- 23 Devin Snyders
- 25 Julian Mejia
- 27 Jill Burns



## EDUCATION UPDATE

*by Heather Whitesell Education Coordinator*

Well, a new school year is upon us. Some are going back in person while others will begin with online learning. Teachers, parents and kids are all adapting to this changing educational road. Here at St. George's we continue on our virtual path. One advantage to having small numbers is that we can meet safely in person and I hope to do that with our youth. Please keep our young people, their families and teachers in your prayers as they begin a new year of learning. Below is a prayer for the start of the school year:

God of wisdom and might  
We praise you for the wonders of our being,  
for body, mind, and spirit.  
Be with our children as they begin  
a new school year.  
Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give them strength and grace  
as their bodies grow,  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds  
as they search for understanding,  
And peace and zeal to their spirits.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ  
our Lord, Amen.

## PARISHIONER PROFILE



Our parishioner profile for the month focuses on one of the ladies of our church family. Our Woman of the Month is Nancy Taylor! Nancy has been a member of St. George's since the mid 60s and is a native Minnesotan. She has a daughter and a son and some exceptionally beautiful and intelligent grandchildren. Nancy also is known for her artistic spirit. She crafts original jewelry and is a painter. Included among her subjects has been the beloved pets of friends and family. We asked Nancy a few fun questions to get a further peek into her personality. Here are her answers!

- 1. What is your favorite guilty pleasure?** Dark chocolate, cakes and cookies in any form!
- 2. Are you a sunrise, daylight, twilight, or nighttime person and why?** I like daylight because it is bright and you can see everything in detail - even better if it is sunny.
- 3. What is your favorite sound?** Silence, birds in the trees, and waves.
- 4. What is the best piece of advice given to you?** "Don't spend all your money" and, from dad, "keep your own counsel!"
- 5. What fictional family would you be a member of?** "The Darling Buds of May," a 1950s English comedy drama. I love to read books that have substance. Biographies and other true stories about people.

*Do you have someone you would like to see covered in a parishioner profile? Or would you yourself like to give it a go? Contact either Sarah Schulte, Rachel Santos, or Jill Burns..*



## OFFICE HOURS AT ST. GEORGE'S

From Memorial Day to Labor Day ----

Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

From Labor Day to Memorial Day

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Heather Grieger's Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Tuesday 6 pm - 8 pm



## Ask the Rector!

This is your opportunity to ask all those questions you may have about the church, faith, religion or whatever is on your mind. Questions and their answers will be posted in the next newsletter.

Send questions to Sarah Schulte [schultemsb@yahoo.com](mailto:schultemsb@yahoo.com)

and indicate if you would like your name included with the question. Don't be shy, all questions are welcome!

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

*by Kathie Brown, Campaign Chair*

We have reached the end of the three years which was the time period for people to pay their pledge to the Renew the Dragon Campaign. I am very happy to report that we had total commitments and other receipts of \$237,120 and \$235,957 has been collected. This is fabulous! Thank you all! All major projects have been completed, and we have \$7500 remaining to use for one of the secondary projects identified during the campaign. The Project Task Force will be meeting soon to identify this last project(s).

## A PRAYER

*submitted by Sarah Schulte*

It's not yet the first day of school, but as schools convey plans about the start of the school year, many are feeling uncertainty of what is to come. However the children (of any age!) in your family will be learning this year, know that we are here with you.

A Prayer for a School Year Like No Other

Holy One

We have grown accustomed to a year with a certain rhythm.

Summer comes, summer ends. New Shoes, New Clothes, New School Supplies

New School Year.

But today, on this first day of school, everything is different.

For months, we have been searching for the right rhythm, the right rhyme, and nothing has seemed to work.

We've distanced, sheltered, masked, prayed, cried, prayed some more, and cried through our prayers.

We've said goodbye to some, and been unable to say goodbye to others.

We've yelled happy birthday across public parks, honked our horns to celebrate retirements, turned every restaurant into a drive-in,

We've binged sitcoms on Netflix, finished every puzzle in the house, dusted off unread books and read them all.

And we've worried.

About our parents.

About our kids.

About our teachers.

About our communities.

About each other.

In the midst of uncertainty, help us find the rhythms that keep us strong:

Of Hope and Heart,

Love and Wisdom,

Community and Care.

Help us make impossible decisions

and inspire the impossible dreams

we want to come true for all of our students.

We call out to you in our time of confusion,

Gracious God,

be our guide, our hope, our light.

This we pray, in the name of the one who came as a child and became a teacher to us all, the one we call the Christ: Amen.

*-Rev. Brandon Gilvin, First Christian Church (DOC), Chattanooga, Tennessee*



# Check out the events in September!

**ALL EVENTS ARE ONLINE**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 11am – GBD (Zoom)	3 6:30 pm – AA (G)	4 Office Closed	5
6 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – Morning Prayer (Zoom)	7	8	9 11am – GBD (Zoom)  7pm – Peer Support	10 6:30 pm – AA (G)	11 Office Closed	12
13 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – HE, Rite II (Zoom)	14 7 pm – Finance (ZOOM)	15	16 11am – GBD (Zoom)	17 6:30 pm – AA (G)	18 Office Closed	19
20 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – Morning Prayer (Zoom)	21 7 pm – Vestry (ZOOM)	22	23 11am – GBD (Zoom)  7pm – Peer Support	24 6:30 pm – AA (G)	25 Office Closed	26
27 10 am – ECMN Worship	28	29	30 11am – GBD (Zoom)			

Click on this link to watch the service <https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalMN> on September 27, 2020

## GOSPEL BASED DISCIPLESHIP

**11:00 am Every WEDNESDAY**

<https://zoom.us/j/397934453>

**Meeting ID: 397 934 453**

**You may also join audio by phone: +1 312 626 6799**

*Key:*

GBD – Gospel Based Discipleship    HE – Holy Eucharist    CEB – Christian Education Building  
LL – Library Lounge    G – Garden



## Sunday Worship AND Hymn of the Day

Join Sunday worship service a bit early to participate in Hymn of the Day.

9:00am Hymn of the Day

9:30am Sunday Worship Zoom Meeting for both:

<https://zoom.us/j/141788041>

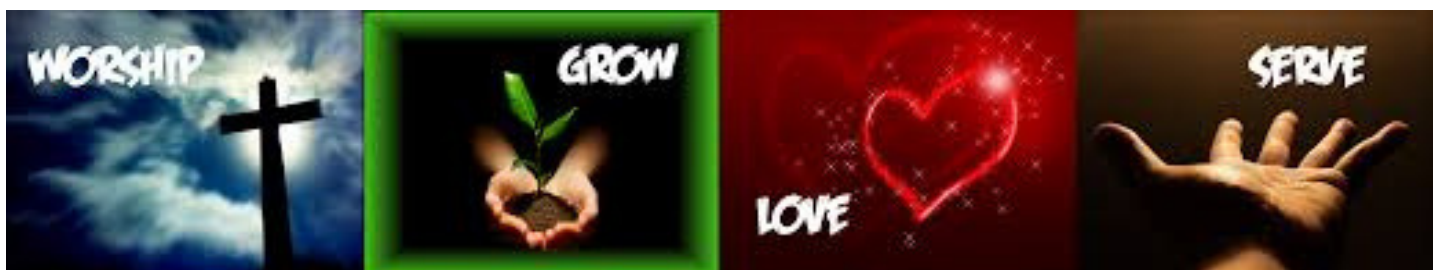
Meeting ID: 141-788-041

You may also join audio by phone: +1 312 626 6799

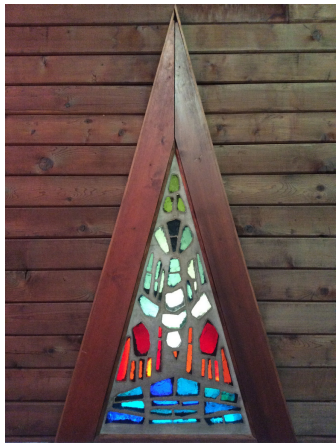


## MINISTERS OF THE EUCCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

	<b>September 6</b> Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>September 13</b> Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>September 20</b> Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>September 27</b> Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
<b>Readings</b>	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16	ECMN SERVICE
<b>Lectors</b>	Ron Ottsen	Mary Kuhfeld	Tom Harmon	ECMN SERVICE



# WINDOWS ON ST. GEORGE'S A Monthly Tour through the Stained Glass Windows of St. George's.



## Stained glass windows have special meaning

Continuing our tour of the stained windows of St George's, we approach the second window and find the theme of rebirth and renewal...

### Window 2

Because of the symbolism, this window is placed near the baptismal font. The gray and white bird at the top points downward from heaven to us and represents the Holy Spirit as a dove from Heaven to Jesus at His baptism. The twelve red objects represent fire and power recalling the tongues of fire which appeared above the heads of the twelve apostles at Pentecost. Fire suggests burning and cleansing, just as at Baptism we are made clean. At the top of the window are three stones showing that the dove comes from the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. At the bottom under the flames there are colors of green and blue. Green signifies life and earth. The blue signifies Heaven and water. The Holy Spirit comes to us uniting Heaven with earth, washing us with water and giving us life.

*Next month we'll look at sailing forth into our faith lives.*

## BOOK SHARE

by Bruce Becker

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins - 2020



This has been on the best seller list and is also an Oprah Book Club selection. It is what I would describe as "modern fiction" (as opposed to historical fiction). It is the story of a Mexican woman and her 8 year old son who get caught up in the violence of the Mexican cartels and attempt to flee across the border to the US. I found the tribulations they face provide some insight into the current issues of people trying to escape from the problems of their homeland and come to the U.S. Besides that, though, it is a great story that will keep you wanting to keep reading. I highly recommend it.

*Do you have a book, program, podcast or other you would like to share with your friends? Please contact Rachel Santos to have it included in an upcoming parish newsletter. All topics are welcome!*

## FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT ST GEORGE'S

by Camille Schroeder

Did you know that St. George's has a cornerstone? Do you know where it is? It was installed and blessed on November 8, 1959. A cross, a bible, and a prayer book were placed in it. Also, a record of the founders and historical records were added. Wouldn't it be interesting to see these things? Take a walk around the church someday and see if you can find it.

## ECMN CONVENTION 2020

The annual ECMN Convention 2020 will take place September 25th – 27th, and will be fully online. Below is a rough outline, so far, of the events that will make up this year's online convention.

**Friday, September 25 (evening)** The Business meeting is for voting delegates only. We'll be working hard to ensure that we can attend to the annual canonical requirements of passing a budget and electing people for the Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry and Trustees. We will be scheduling a practice session for clergy and lay delegates to become familiar with the online platform and practice voting ahead of the actual convention. We'll be sharing details as this date approaches.

**Saturday, September 26 (morning)** This session will be for absolutely all to attend, and will center on formation, learning and workshops. We have much to learn together, and the Holy Spirit is inviting us to process so much in the light of living in the midst of a global pandemic in a world marred by centuries of systemic racism and brutal injustice.

**Sunday, September 27 (morning)** An ECMN – wide virtual worship will be held with Bishop Loya and others from ECMN live – streamed. As the date approaches we will provide more information to assist you in navigating and engaging in ECMN Convention.

Click this link for the latest updates on [ECMN Conference](#) information.

ON SEPTEMBER 27TH ST. GEORGE'S WILL **NOT** HOST A SERVICE SO ALL CAN ATTEND THE SERVICE CELEBRATED BY OUR BISHOP, CRAIG LOYA. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

## Joys

Sometimes you just need a good vacation with the family - and the big fish to prove it! Enjoying the best parts of summer



## Big Joys & Little Joys

Wednesday Sept 2, 7pm

Oak Hill Park •

3201 Rhode Island Ave S, St Louis Park  
On the hillside behind the picnic shelter.

We'll gather safely for a few minutes to celebrate life's big joys and little joys, and we'll eat complementary ice cream! Come as you are. We'll stand around, separated from each other but close enough to hear. It will be a 10-15 minute celebration, then we'll grab some ice cream sandwiches and head home. We'll name things that bring us joy, like the smell of grass after rain and bossa nova. Bring your mask!

**HURRAY! HURRAY!** A BIG thanks to Kathie Brown and Leslie O'Donnell!!! After just over two years of dedication, effort and multiple phone calls over all parts of the country, on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, the electronic sign in front of the church has NEW LIFE!! Kathie and Leslie have spent hours and hours filled with frustration and anxiety that the sign donated in the names of their parents could be repaired. Kathie and Leslie are in charge of the programming the sign, so if you want anything to be on it, please contact them. What an undertaking — great success!!

## WELCOME COMMITTEE

If you have a request for "thinking of you" cards and notes, Jane Sandsmark is writing the cards of support to our parishioners. Please email, call, or text any request for cards of support to Jane. [Mjsandsmark@gmail.com](mailto:Mjsandsmark@gmail.com) 952-221-4004 Thank you!

## MEMORIAL GARDEN - AUGUST VIEW

by Carole Leonard, Chair of Buildings & Grounds

This photo of the memorial garden at St. George's was taken in mid August. It shows the three "Little Lime" hydrangeas now in full bloom along with the new addition of the Korean North Winds Maple tree. Stay tuned for a photo of this maple tree when it turns color this fall



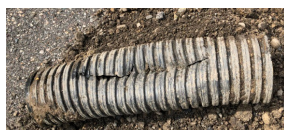
## REPAIR OF SINKHOLE IN ALLEY PARKING AREA

by Carole Leonard, Chair of Buildings & Grounds

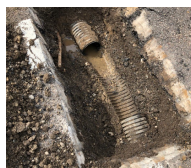
Recently St. George's hired a contractor to repair the sinkhole that appeared in the asphalt of the alley parking area. The following photos show the process taken.



Asphalt being jackhammered.



The crushed pipe that caused the problem.



The pipe with the crushed portion removed.



New pipe installed. Vinyl collars were placed over each end to close any gaps.



Cement was poured on top of the repaired pipe to keep the pipe from being crushed in the future.



Sand was packed down on top of the cement.



Hand-packed asphalt was installed on top as the final surface. Currently, this surface is still soft and will need to be tamped down once more and additional asphalt tamped down on top of that.

## GARDEN SHED REPAIR - THANKS TO DAVID SELL

by Carole Leonard, Chair of Buildings & Grounds

The bottom of the east wall of the garden shed had seriously rotted away. Thanks to David Sell who repaired and repainted that portion of the shed. Nice job, David!



## MANY THANKS TO BRUCE BECKER

Thank you to Bruce Becker for taking on the task of applying for a PPP Loan to help St. George's financial situation during COVID-19. The church's loan for \$25,510 has been received and will be used to cover payroll and utilities expenses over the following 24 weeks from receipt of the loan. After completing the spending, we can apply for forgiveness of the loan and it becomes a grant that we don't have to repay.

## BACK TO SCHOOL WITH STEP

Just a reminder that as children head back to school, through distance learning or in person, they need school supplies. Each year, STEP provides hundreds of St. Louis Park students with much-needed school supplies. Despite the uncertainty as we begin this school year, STEP is committed to providing students with the tools needed to learn. Monetary donations are always welcome and allow STEP to purchase items on an as-needed basis.

[STEP's Back to School Program is Still On! | STEP](#)

## PARISH STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Thomas J.  
Gehlsen, Ph.D.

[tomg@stgeorgesonline.org](mailto:tomg@stgeorgesonline.org)

Deacon: The Rev. Diane

McGowan [smarl@aol.com](mailto:smarl@aol.com)

Parish Administrator: Heather  
Grieger

[office@stgeorgesonline.org](mailto:office@stgeorgesonline.org)

Music Director: John Hoffacker,  
D.M.A

[johnh@stgeorgesonline.org](mailto:johnh@stgeorgesonline.org)

Children and Youth Coordinator:  
Heather Whitesell

[heatherw@stgeorgesonline.org](mailto:heatherw@stgeorgesonline.org)

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Christina Christensen, mezzo  
Soprano

William Vaughn, Bass

## VESTRY

Kathleen Boe, Rector's

Warden; TBD, Parish Warden; :

Lindsay Benjamin, Jane

Sandsmark, Sarah Schulte,

Cyprian Troyer, Jill Burns, Gregg

Jacobson, Bruce Becker and

Rachel Santos

## CLERK OF THE VESTRY

Laura Harmon

## PARISH TREASURER

Connie Kotula

## SUNDAY SERVICES ARE NOW ONLINE WITH ZOOM

