

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



# ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 2021

Volume 28, No. 1

This is a free publication  
for members and friends.

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

## CONTACT

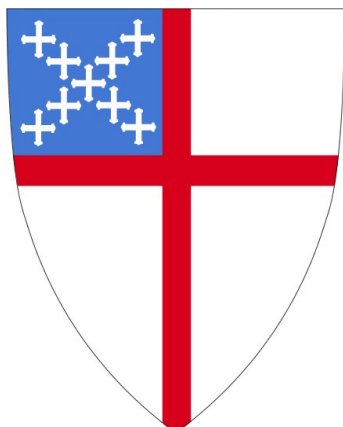
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1:30pm

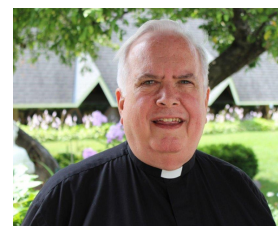
Monday - Thursday

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



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EPIPHANY

*by Rev. Tom Gehlsen*



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In our religious tradition, the Christmas Season is not over until the Feast of the Epiphany, generally celebrated on January 6th or on the closest Sunday to the feast day. In essence, the birthday of the Savior is not complete until the child receives his gifts. In storytelling this is a charming facet of accepted traditions, but in the matters of faith there is an essential component to this tradition: recognition!

The word "Epiphany" means manifestation or revelation. As sophisticated and educated as we may be in modern culture, are we taking the time in these days after Christmas to continue a journey which began with Advent to seek Christ? Are we setting aside prayerful time to pay him homage in these days that follow the feast of His birth? What gifts do we offer to Him?

The Feast of the Epiphany is an important reminder that the journey of faith continues. We continue to follow the light of Christ as we progress more deeply in our relationship with God. The time between Christmas and the Epiphany is an important time to cherish the journey. Let God manifest himself in our hearts; let us be still so that we may discover what God wishes to reveal to us during this season.

## 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!





January Birthdays

- 4 Tom Boe
6 Jillian Zaun
9 Carole Leonard
18 Pattie Wales
Charlie Hample
19 Fran Bly
21 Kathy Eckstrom
Diane McGowan
22 Jim Burns
24 Myrt Glynn
Bruce Wachutka
25 Tom Zaun
29 Katherine Cady
31 Dan Manion

Condolences:

We extend our sympathies to the families who have lost loved ones recently, and we pray for strength, healing, and peace for those in mourning. Ted Eckstrom died at home on December 12. He and Katherine are long-time members of St. George's. Ted's service was December 26th at Golden Valley Cemetery. Please keep Katherine and her family in your prayers.
'Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.'



EDUCATION UPDATE
by Heather Whitesell Education Coordinator

Education Update

The youth have been quite artistic in their creations as we follow the gospel lessons and learn about Peace, Hope, Joy and Love. We are hoping to have a virtual gathering or two coming soon! As we begin a new year, we look with hope and encouragement towards positive changes and growth. Here is a wonderful table prayer for the month of January:

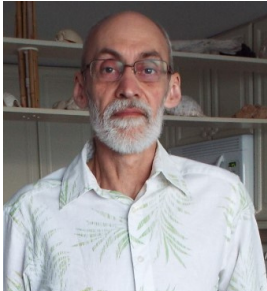
Gracious God, Spirit of the North and of all Seasons, your strength and power allows us to bear the sometimes bitter cold harshness and uncertainty of life with grace and hope .

This winter day, we feel gratitude for the warming energies of Earth and we in turn, are warmed by the love shared at this table.

With thankful hearts, we offer our prayers to you, our Caring, Just One.

PARISHIONER PROFILE

Parishioner Profile of the Month: Bill Stromberg!



We asked Bill to share a little about himself in response to some of our questions. Here's what he had to say!
I am 68 years old. I was born in Evanston IL and lived there for thirty-one years, except for a short time that I was in school in Minnesota. In 1983 I decided I needed a change in my life so I packed up and moved here. I am very happy I made this change and really like this state. I went to work for Park Nicollet Clinic on Halloween Day 1983 and retired from there this summer. It was at Park Nicollet that I met Kitty. Somehow I got her to like me and we married at St. George's on 7 May 2006. We have companion cats. I enjoy jazz and bluegrass music and read mysteries and science fiction. I am a vegetarian; I do eat eggs and dairy but at home I have only a small amount of fish and no chicken or meat. I love to tell jokes but sadly don't know any funny ones. My favorite and very best vacation was a trip to Hawaii Kitty and I took for our tenth anniversary. In my youth my faith background was Evangelical but that was not joyful for me. I did not attend church in my middle years. I found St. George's through Kitty and I really enjoy this community and Episcopal worship. I try to help out around the buildings with light maintenance work. I say Morning Prayer each day, using my own prayer book. Sometimes I go to the on-line prayers at missionstclare.com if I need some calm or grounding during the day. My favored Bible text is Psalm 37, which reminds me to aim for humility and to be grateful for what I have. I look forward to returning to the Sunday 8:00 worship service and doing Altar Guild. Peace to you all.

Do you have someone you would liked 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 - Thursday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Heather Grieger's Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Tuesday 6 pm - 8 pm



## A NOTE FROM KATHLEEN BOE

*by Kathleen Boe, Rector's Warden*

Dear St. George's Community,

As the year draws to a close, and as I look forward to celebrating Christmas in ways that I had never envisioned, I am thinking about this past year. The word that comes to mind is abundance.

I think of the many ways we have adapted and strengthened through the year.

- We quickly moved to Zoom worship and coffee hour. We are drawing community from beyond the Twin Cities with these services – some new faces and some former members that have moved away. We consistently see 35 – 40 families on our Sunday worship.
- Music continues to enrich our services – it is always so fun to hear what our choir develops under the leadership of John.
- We have re-introduced Adult Ed – the discussions are engaging and we are learning more about each other.
- We continue to gather through the week – through Gospel Based Discipleship, St. Mary's Circle, Compline, Carol Wednesdays, and even a book discussion group.
- While we are not “in” our building, the building and grounds crew has continued to spiff up the church with paint, tend the garden and deal with landscaping. We have a cross on the building. Our electronic sign is welcoming everyone that passes by once again.
- Our finances are fine. Pledges are down, but you have all been generous with unpledged contributions this year. Expenses are down also. Our building tenants have been steady throughout. A quick recap (through October):

Income:

YTD Gross Income: \$190,076 under budget (\$4,516)

YTD Pledge Income: \$104,807, under budget (\$13,568)

YTD Other Offerings: \$17,053, over budget (\$8, 363)

YTD Endowment withdrawals: \$26,000 (on budget)

Expenses:

YTD Gross Expenses: \$173,644, under budget by (\$19,319)

YTD Salaries and Benefits: under budget by (\$9,953)

YTD Buildings and Grounds: under budget by (\$4,681)

YTD Utilities: under budget by (\$2,431)

I am deeply grateful to Fr. Tom's leadership through all of this. He has served our community, “manned” the church office and adapted to the technology of these new services. I am also deeply grateful for our community and for all of the things that each of you contribute to our parish life. We are blessed.

I am thinking back to an image that Sarah Schulte shared early on in the pandemic. It said “with church doors shutting across America, it is time for us to show that church has never been about the building.” I think we are learning that.

It has obviously been a challenging year. And lonely for many.

I do so look forward to gathering again at the church in the new year. I am grateful for the blessings that we have received.

Kathleen Boe  
Rector's Warden



# Check out the events in January!

**ALL EVENTS ARE ONLINE**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – Morning Prayer (Zoom)	4	5	6 11am – GBD (Zoom)	7	8	9
10 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – HE, Rite II (Zoom)	11 7 pm – Finance (ZOOM)	12	13 11am – GBD (Zoom) 7pm – Peer Support	14	15	16
17 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – Morning Prayer (Zoom)	18 12pm – Women of St. George (ZOOM) 7 pm –Vestry (ZOOM)	19	20 11am – GBD (Zoom)	21	22	23
24 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – Morning Prayer (Zoom)	25	26	27 11am – GBD (Zoom) 7pm – Peer Support	28	29	30
31 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – Morning Prayer (Zoom)						

## 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:

[Link for Sunday Worship](#)

Meeting ID: 141 788 041

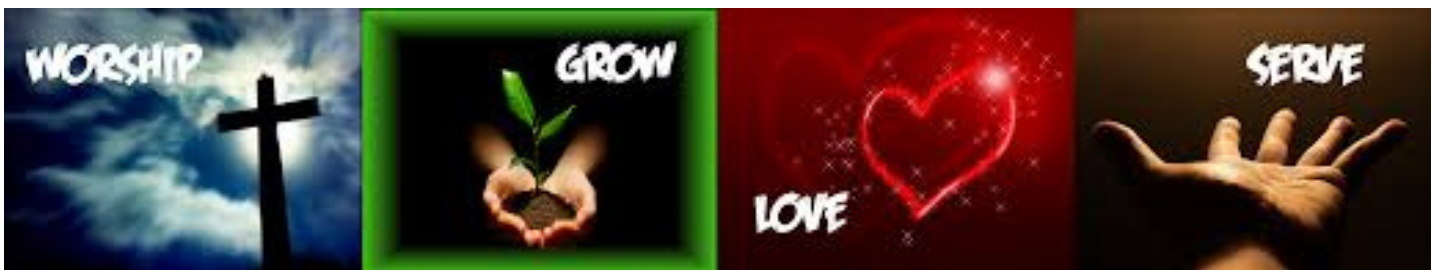
Passcode: 205714

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



## MINISTERS OF THE EUCCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

	<b>January 3</b> Second Sunday after Christmas	<b>January 10</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> First Sunday after the Epiphany	<b>January 17</b> Second Sunday after the Epiphany	<b>January 24</b> Third Sunday after the Epiphany	<b>January 31</b> Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
<b>Readings</b>	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	1 Samuel 3:1-10 Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:6-14 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28
<b>Lectors</b>	Claudia Hoffacker	Mary Weekes	Mary Kuhfeld	Devin Snyders	Cyprian Troyer



## Historical Trivia

Remember when???? Some current members of St. George's will recall way back when this church was bulging with parishioners. There just wasn't even enough room to seat everyone that came. Christmas Eve would find the ushers setting up chairs on all the aisles to accommodate the people. Well, times have changed in many ways. Back then, in the 60's, St. George's had 11, yes 11 circles for women. They were very active and provided a lot for the church in time, talent and treasure. One historical account, in 1987, estimates that the women had raised more than \$100,000 for the church over a period of many years. They made regular contributions to the altar guild, the rector's discretionary fund, as well as costs involving church kitchen activities. They were active, involved women. Fast forward to 2020 when we now have just one circle, St. Mary's. This circle has met continuously since at the 60's.

But change happens and so it is suggested that the circle drop the circle name and become simply The Women of St. George's. All women of the parish would be part of this group. We would continue to meet on the **third Monday of the month at noon** (by Zoom at this time). Hopefully you will join us at our next meeting which will be on **January 18, 2021, at noon**. Be sure to check the weekly email bulletin to find the Zoom link.

## Outreach Committee

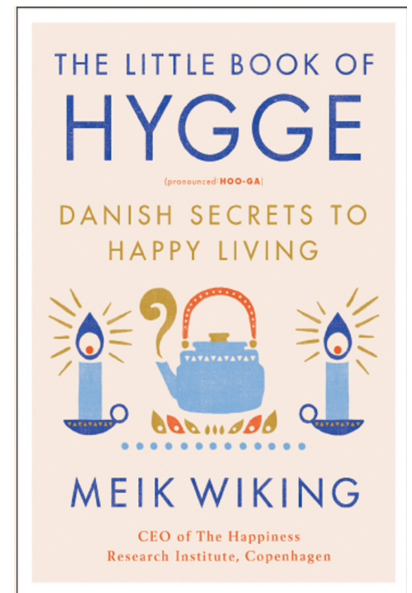
An Outreach committee has been re-established at St. George's. Its purpose will be to review any projects that would be appropriate for the church to support. Currently we support STEP and Perspectives. The committee will also recommend which projects they would like to see supported monetarily. If you have a project that you think St. George's should be involved with or supported, please submit your suggestion to one of the committee members for consideration. Committee members are Gregg Jacobson, Diane McGowan and Camille Schroeder.

## A BOOK SHARE FOR THE DEEP MIDWINTER ...

by Rachel Santos

**The Little Book of Hygge** by Meik Wiking 2016 The author is the CEO of the World Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen. Hygge is a Danish word/concept that, loosely translated, implies as a sense of comfort, togetherness and well-being.

Although this book has been around for a few years, I only got around to reading it this year, this 2020 (!) and am very glad I did. This is the perfect little book for chasing off the winter/Covid blues. It's an introduction to a Danish concept of living that embraces all things warm and comforting. Each chapter features an aspect of Hygge that people can use all to make the home, or the office more welcoming, and more comforting. With so many people restricted to their homes, and sad about the general state of the world, Hygge can give a new light on those small details that warm up an atmosphere and in turn, warm up your mood. It includes environment, the people nearest and dearest to you, the foods that bring joy, the loveliness of nature and... lighting! Interesting what an effect lighting can have on the general mood of an environment and the people who inhabit it. With Hygge, less is often more, as in, it's more Hyggelig to enjoy a small, informal gathering of close friends over a simple meal than to attend a glamorous event with 500 of your closest friends. This is an enjoyable, gentle read, with a cover that has pleasing color tones and illustrations that give this small book a feeling of quiet, well-being. For a nice Hyggelig read, try this book. It's perfect for the deep midwinter.



## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS PROJECT UPDATE

by Carole Leonard, Chair of Buildings & Grounds

Each spring, when the ground is still frozen, and the snow begins to melt, St. George's has the problem of water backing up in the garden court. The water comes down the downspouts from the Quonset building and spills over the sidewalk and onto the handicap parking spots, and freezes. The ground in that area tilts to the north, which adds to this problem.

Buildings & Grounds member Bill Stromberg came up with the idea this fall of placing tubes of sand along that edge of the sidewalk to prevent the water from spilling onto the sidewalk this coming spring. Hopefully this will solve the problem. The tubes of sand can be stored in the shed during the summer months.



## THANK YOU

A big thank you to Tom Boe for all of his behind-the-scenes work to get the church wired and ready in time to stream the Christmas service. We also appreciate Tom's weekly Zoom expertise, his willingness to be a Zoom host for numerous meetings, and his enthusiasm in working one-on-one with parishioners who need help figuring out the technology.

## VIRTUAL POTLUCK

The Annual Meeting will be held the last Sunday in February over Zoom, and there will obviously be some parts of the meeting that will be different. We will miss gathering over steaming egg bakes, scrumptious baked goods, tasty salads, and savory hotdishes, but we have a plan. This is the official call out for your favorite potluck recipe! Please email your recipe to Sarah Schulte at [schulteMSB@yahoo.com](mailto:schulteMSB@yahoo.com) or call her at 612-201-5731. We hope to gather a variety of recipes to post in the February newsletter so we can each cook up something new and special to enjoy in our own homes during the meeting. "Food, in the end, in our own tradition, is something holy. It's not about nutrients and calories. It's about sharing. It's about honesty. It's about identity." -Louise Fresco

## WELCOME COMMITTEE

As we continue to reach out to St. George parishioners, we want to make sure all information is up to date. If you have a change in your contact information, please send your updated phone number, address, and/or email to Sarah Schulte at [schulteMSB@yahoo.com](mailto:schulteMSB@yahoo.com) or 612-201-5731. Thanks!

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!

## WE ASKED THE PEOPLE OF ST GEORGE'S TO SHARE THEIR WISHES FOR 2021 AND HERE'S WHAT THEY SAID!

I wish for more joy in 2021 and the hope we can all be together again. - *Sonja Kilberg*

Better employment and more joy for my son Patrick. - *Kitty Reese*

Solid recovery for small business & healing the social divides. - *Bill Stromberg*

Less politics in our world and more love. - *Bob Jones*

Virus gone and everybody be healthy again. - *Betty Bauer*

Zoom is great, but real hugs and human contact is better. - *Deacon Diane*

A kinder, gentler approach and that 2021 will bring kindness and tolerance. - *Suzy Garland*

Prayers for 2021 and lots of hugs. Our homes are far apart, our hearts are next door neighbors. - *Geri Alberg*

I wish for all peoples with philosophical differences to use their skill of respectful listening and really listen to each other. - *Lou Michelich*

End of pandemic, progress in racial justice and national unity. - *Kathie Brown*

Healing and unity in our country so that we can move forward to care for and respect all people. - *Sarah Schulte*

The year 2020 has increased the "raw" and "angry" feelings of a large contingent of Americans. As we move out of this very strange time, my hope and aspiration for 2021 is one of a growing compassion, relationships, and an overall Christian attitude to all. - *Fr. Tom*

## ST. LOUIS PARK EMERGENCY PROGRAM (STEP)

*by Camille Schroeder*

STEP ended 2020 on a positive note. Consider the following: Give to the Max. STEP received \$218,347 in donations which is a 35% increase over 2019. St. George's donated \$2300 to that drive which consisted of \$1200 of Outreach funds and \$1100 which was half of last year's Easter offerings. STEP is currently delivering groceries to about 50 households. Other households pick up their groceries at STEP. About 450 children received a \$30.00 gift card for Christmas gifts. This gift card took the place of the toys that children normally get. STEP continues to help with housing needs and from August to November last year they supplied over \$300,000 in housing assistance. The city and the county donated some of the funds for that purpose. It is expected that more funds will be needed for emergency housing needs when the eviction ban is lifted. Another interesting thing is that STEP now has access to the Diaper Bank of Minnesota. This will enable STEP to have access to 12,000 diapers and wipes this year. STEP does it all.

As for the coming year, STEP always needs monetary donations. You can see that it takes a lot to support all the program needs. Please mark your calendars for the annual STEP UP breakfast to be held on May 21st at 7:30 am. Virtual or real has not yet been determined but do plan to attend. Empty Bowls will be in March sometime, date to be determined. And if you know of someone in need, please refer them to STEP. Help is available. Thanks for your personal donations.

## 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  
Sandmark, 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

