

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



# ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 2021

Volume 28, No. 3

This is a free publication  
for members and friends.

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

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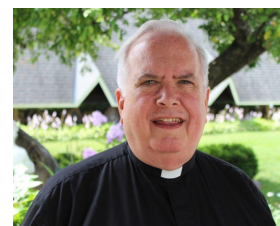
Office Hours: 8:30am -  
1:30pm

Monday - Thursday

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

## A LENTEN REFLECTION

*by Rev. Tom Gehlsen*



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How often has God put us to the test? What has been our response? This season of Lent offers us the opportunity to reflect on our interactions with God and the tests that come our way. Throughout history and the Bible, tests have played an important role in people growing in their relationship with God.

Take Abraham and his test. No matter what, the idea of God testing us can be jarring. It jumps out at you a little --- what kind of loving God is that? Yet, all of us have turned to God at some point and asked, Why? Why is this happening to me? Why is this happening to someone I love? What do you want from me right now? What are you trying to tell me?

God's ask of Abraham is unthinkable. God asks for Abraham's only child, Isaac. Isaac, the only son of a long barren couple. Isaac, child of laughter and God's promise. Isaac, the child whose ancestry is destined to become a great nation. Why would God go back on that promise in such a heartbreaking way? The horror it brings to us and must have brought Abraham is enough for anyone to question their commitment to God. If this is the cost of God's covenant, is it worth it?

The odd truth that peaks out from the corners of this traumatic story is that God wants all of us, everything! That which we love dearly, the wounds we hide, the struggles we hold. There is nothing in us or of us that God does not desire. God withholds nothing from us. It is all there for us. In this covenant, we are invited to share the same kind of love that God pours out onto us. We must love with hands open to giving all that we have.

How's our Lent coming along?

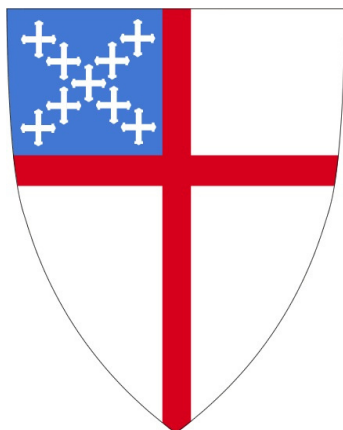
## Ask the Rector!

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!





# EDUCATION UPDATE

by Heather Whitesell Education Coordinator

## Education Update

During the season of Lent, in Chapel we will focus on the Seven Sacraments and their importance to the Church. We will reflect on ways to not only make sacrifices, but to go the extra mile for others. I also hope to work with the youth on the continuation of a Lenten project begun last year before the pandemic. Look for more to come on that! I offer below a prayer for patience during hardship taken from "Daily Reflections on Divine Mercy":

Lord, I surrender to You those things that are most difficult for me. I thank You for them and believe that they are what will help me grow in holiness more than anything. I especially offer to You (mention any personal difficulty). Receive it Lord as my offering to You and give me the grace to transform it into love and Mercy. Jesus, I trust in You.

## PARISHIONER PROFILE

Parishioner Profile of the Month: Mark Schulte



I grew up in the Twin Cities and attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN where I met my wife Sarah. We've lived in Golden Valley for nearly 20 years and enjoy expanding our garden every year. Our two daughters keep us busy, along with our dog and four chickens. In my free time I enjoy cross country skiing, crossfit, travelling with my family, and doing outside chores. In non-pandemic times, I really appreciate seeing movies in a theater and going to the occasional concert at First Ave. or the Turf Club (especially if it's a good country band).

**1. What book is on your nightstand right now?** Piranesi by Susanna Clarke. It's one of the best books I've read in many years; lots of good words and an intricate plot.

**2. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be and why?** Children of Men: It has a great message of there always being a bit of hope even in the dark times caused by humans being our own worst enemies.

**3. If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Fried herring plate with salad, rice, and fish fritters from the Angry Trout in Grand Marais.

**4. What is your favorite item you've bought this year?** Outdoor pool for the kids: that thing got a ton of use by all of us last summer.

**5. What is your favorite tradition or holiday?** Thanksgiving: all the family fun of Christmas but without the distraction of gifts.

*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..*

## March Birthdays

2	Bill Stromberg
3	Molly Jacobson Henry
5	Anjela Swartwood
9	Sarah Schulte
	Deb Rash
10	Loretta Herbers
13	Gage Monroe
14	Mark Kraabel
15	Cami Gysland
20	Darlynn Benjamin
22	Reid Gysland
27	Cherie Bodene
	Emma Rousselow

## Change of Address

Michael and Jane Sandsmark  
1915 Juneau Lane N.  
Plymouth, MN 55447



## 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 BIT OF ST. GEORGE'S HISTORY

by Camille Schroeder

A bit of history.

Do you need a gift for a baptism or confirmation? Well, it was some years ago but you could purchase an appropriate gift at the St. George's Bookstore. You could buy the gift on site or you could have the Bookstore ladies order just what you want and have it for you in a short amount of time. I think the original counter may still be in the church although with the updating of the bathrooms it may have disappeared. You may remember the glass enclosed counter being in the "table closet." That was the bookstore.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

by Camille Schroeder

OUTREACH COMMITTEE The Outreach committee was recently re-established. The committee is responsible for pursuing outreach projects for the church, presenting them to the Vestry and then seeing that their goals are accomplished. Presently, St. George's supports two main projects.

One is Perspectives and the other is the St. Louis Park Emergency Program. Perspectives provides an opportunity for our church members to work with and support children who take part in the activities of Perspectives. St. Georgites have worked with the organization's Kid's café and their summer basketball program. These programs are not functioning during Covid but we look forward to participating with them when they start up again.

The second program is STEP. While the food shelf is the most visible of STEP's programs, they also have social workers who work closely with clients to help them with housing and transportation needs. STEP also has a clothes closet (closed during Covid) where anyone from St. Louis Park can visit and choose clothes that they might need. STEP also has seasonal programs which include school supplies and holiday gifts. STEP has been in operation since 1975 and provides greatly needed services for the people of St. Louis Park.

The committee is also charged with evaluating any project that a church member might want the church to support.

Outreach will also determine which projects should be supported monetarily by the church. The committee's recommendations will be submitted to the Vestry for approval.

Committee members are Deacon Diane McGowan, Gregg Jacobson and Camille Schroeder.

## The Prayer Chain

*Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.*  
Jer 29:12

St. George is blessed to have an active prayer chain! 15 dedicated members work to keep those who request it surrounded by prayer. If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, do not hesitate to reach out to either Deacon Diane, Fr. Tom or Leslie O'Donnell and your prayer request will be passed on to the team. All requests are kept confidential. People are usually kept on the prayer list for 30 days, but can absolutely be prayed for longer as requested. Also, if you are interested in helping out with this important ministry, new people are always welcome and appreciated! Contact Leslie if you would like to learn more.





# Check out the events in March!

## ALL EVENTS ARE ONLINE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 11am – GBD (Zoom) 7pm – Adult Forum (Zoom) 7:45pm – Compline (Zoom)	4	5	6
7 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – Morning Prayer (Zoom)	8 7 pm – Finance (ZOOM)	9	10 11am – GBD (Zoom) 7pm – Peer Support 7pm – Adult Forum (Zoom) 7:45pm – Compline (Zoom)	11	12	13
14 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – HE, Rite II (Zoom)	15 12pm – Women of St. George (ZOOM) 7 pm – Vestry (ZOOM)	16	17 11am – GBD (Zoom) 7pm – Adult Forum (Zoom) 7:45pm – Compline (Zoom)	18 10:30am – Welcome Committee Mtg (Zoom)	19	20
21 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – Morning Prayer (Zoom)	22	23	24 11am – GBD (Zoom) 7pm – Peer Support 7pm – Adult Forum (Zoom) 7:45pm – Compline (Zoom)	25	26	27
28 9 am - Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30am – Palm Sunday (Zoom)	29	30	31 11am – GBD (Zoom) 7pm – Adult Forum (Zoom) 7:45pm – Compline (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>March 7</b> <b>Third Sunday</b> <b>in Lent</b>	<b>March 14</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>Fourth Sunday</b> <b>in Lent</b>	<b>March 21</b> <b>Fifth Sunday in</b> <b>Lent</b>	<b>March 28</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
<b>Readings</b>	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-13 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Isaiah 50:4-9 Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47
<b>Lectors</b>	Carole Leonard	John Rash	Leslie O'Donnell	Ron Ottsen



## 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!

## A BOOK SHARE

by Rachel Santos

**The Way of a Pilgrim**

Translated by Olga Savin

In looking for a devotional read for the Lenten season, I happen to come across this small book that I had read several years back, and remember it making a strong impression on me about the power of prayer. It was first published in Russia in 1884 and has since been translated into many languages. Published anonymously, it is uncertain whether it is a work of fiction or is autobiographical. In any case, it has been a classic in the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition for many years. Our protagonist is an unnamed beggar/seeker who one day is struck by the Bible verse that calls us to "pray without ceasing". How can one possibly do this? And what does it really mean to pray without ceasing? Is it even possible? He begins his search for a teacher who can instruct him about what this means and even more important, how to do it. Carrying only a knapsack of dried bread, some salt and a Bible, he begins his walk through the Russian steppe, parts of Ukraine and Siberia asking God to lead him to the one who will show him the answers. Over the course of his journey through rural countryside and villages he meets peasants, monks, abbots, teachers and soldiers. Each encounter aids his journey one step at a time. His primary teacher is an orthodox monk who instructs him in the mystical and physical powers of the Jesus prayer "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me!" and introduces him to Philokalia, a collection of texts written between the 4th and 15th centuries by spiritual masters of the Eastern Orthodox Church mystical contemplative tradition. The reader is shown how God uses many personalities to help an individual on their journey of spiritual growth. Seekers of any denomination can appreciate the desire for the deeper connection to God this book illustrates, and consider how transformative to both the spirit and the body a life devoted to a simple prayer can be.

*If you have read a book you would like to share, please contact Rachel Santos or Sarah Schulte. All topics welcome!*

## WORSHIP AT ST. GEORGE'S - THE NEXT STEPS

by Kathleen Boe, Rector's Warden

On February 23, 2021, the Vestry of St. George's met to discuss our current worship activity and steps to be taken to prepare to re-open the church building to worship.

All of the Vestry's decisions are guided by the ECMN Re-Gathering plan. We are also paying attention to the following concerns:

- Maintaining the health of our clergy, staff and parishioners. We recognize that many of these are in groups that are considered high risk for COVID.
- Ensuring that we provide worship and other experiences that are accessible to all. I.e., if in-person worship is offered, we need to be able to offer streaming services for those that are not ready or able to attend church in person.
- External factors such as vaccination levels and the impact of variants on effectivity of vaccines and the spread of the disease.

We also recognize that when we do gather again, things will be changed radically. The worship experience will be different. Depending on when we re-gather, practices that we have grown accustomed to, such as socializing over coffee hour, may not be possible.

As the Vestry considered options to re-gather, there was common agreement that we will not be able to gather in the near future. Too many variables with the disease are still in play.

One of the actions that we will move on immediately is the development of a re-gathering plan. The Diocese requires that this be submitted to the Diocese and approved before any re-gathering for worship can take place. The plan will include how we gather in worship, requirements for health screenings at entry, cleaning protocols, etc. This is no small undertaking. The Vestry agreed to work on a target date of May 1, 2021 to complete the plan.

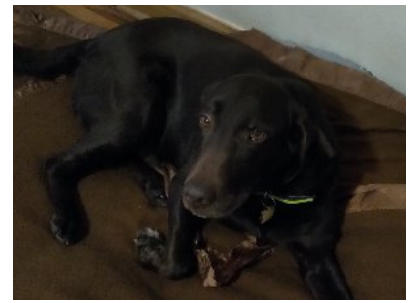
We are all anxious to gather and would like to see this happen sooner. But given the various uncertainties with COVID at this time, we are unable to set a specific date for re-opening.

## Cathedral Music Series

The Cathedral of St. Mark's is hosting an online music series. The concert series and the Organ Lecture series will be livestreamed on the Cathedral website <http://www.cathedral.org/concerts>, on the Cathedral Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral - Home | Facebook and on their Music Series (boxcast.tv) page.

Next: Saturday March 13, 7:30pm Organ recital by Brian Carson Director of Sacred Music, Church of St. John the Baptist, Jordan

## PETS OF ST. GEORGE'S

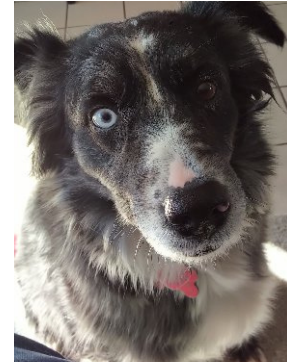


These are our two cats, MisterE (because it is a mystery where he was before we adopted him) and Archie (our newest addition). Kitty Reese and Bill Stromberg

Here are Fred (cat) and Augie. My son brought Fred home in the front pocket of his jeans with he was a tiny kitten. He is around 12-13 years old now. Augie was adopted from the Animal Humane Society in June, 2017. He was brought up to Minnesota from a shelter in Alabama. When I first brought Augie home he would take off running like he was on a race track leaning way down on his side as he rounded the corners of the neighbors' houses. He was really hard to catch in those days. He has since realized what a good thing he has going here so he stays close to home now. Julie Burns



Diane and elderly Trevor Mitch and lovely Lola



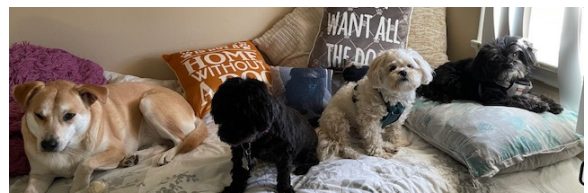
My mom asked me to send pictures of her dog: Tookie Burns. Tookie's real name is Anouck. She has one blue eye and one brown eye. She is an Australian Shepherd. My mom adopted her from Underdog Rescue in August, 2020. She is around 3-4 years old. Tookie is shy, a "good, good girlie" and my mom's best friend. Julie and Jill Burns



"Pixie is 14 and blind but still navigates quite well as long as we don't move furniture! She has trained her parents well!"



Jessica and Merlin



(L-R) "Lucy, Roxy, Lenny, and Merlin :) they're all my babies!"



## 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

