

St. George's Episcopal Church

Uniting in Worship.
Welcoming in Grace.



5224 Minnetonka Boulevard

St. George's Episcopal Church

This is a free publication for members and friends

Saint Louis Park, MN 55416

connect@stgeorgesonline.org

952-926-1646

June 2021

Volume 28, No. 6

REVISING AN OLD ORDER

by The Rev. Tom Gehlsen



If you are familiar with the back of the Book of Common Prayer, it reminds us that "the ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons." The primary call to ministry for all of us is the one given to us at baptism, and ordination as a deacon, priest, or bishop is simply a matter of being marked for a particular ministry of this part of our theology that de-emphasized the ministry of the laity.

With this in mind, ECMN has been selected to be part of an initial cohort of six dioceses to pilot a lay preaching training program, which is being developed by the Episcopal Preaching Foundation. Through this program, a small group of leaders from our diocese will be trained to offer lay preaching training for others around Minnesota,

As more information becomes available, I will share it with the community. I ask that each of us begin a discernment process to determine if the gift of preaching is something that the Holy Spirit is calling you to share with the community at large. Just think, if we have a few of our members participate and share their gift of preaching, you won't have to continue to listen to the same "old" preacher week after week.

OUR THANKS TO JOHN HOFFACKER



A special shoutout to John Hoffacker for creating and presenting "Hymn of the Day" to carry us through the time when we were unable to gather together in person. Each Sunday we learned about a hymn, its composer and the interesting stories behind the scenes of our most beloved songs. It felt good to sing along and was a nice way to start off a Sunday. Thanks John, for giving us the opportunity to come together and share in the joy and knowledge of music!

Change of Address!

Please update your
church directory!



Leslie & Ed O'Donnell

1253 Sparrow Road
Waconia, MN 55387
952-938-7849 (home)
612-803-6293 (Leslie's cell)
952-454-8858 (Ed's cell)
edodo1@yahoo.com (Ed)
lesodo@ymail.com (Leslie)

Ellen Doering & Dan Manion

2200 Troy Lane North
Plymouth, MN 55447
612-865-6412
edoering8@gmail.com (Ellen)

PARISHIONER PROFILE

Parishioner Profile
of the month: Ron Ottsen



Our Parishioner Profile this month is Ron Ottsen. Ron joined St. George's about four years ago after moving to Minneapolis in 2016 to be closer to his sister and brother-in-law. He also has a brother in Michigan who is a retired priest, and his father was a priest as well.

Ron moved to Minnesota from Whitefish, Montana which was his chosen retirement home. He enjoyed the small town environment, arts, theater, music, and friendly people of Whitefish which is at the base of the mountains and close to Glacier National Park, Ron's favorite park. He lived there for 18 years.

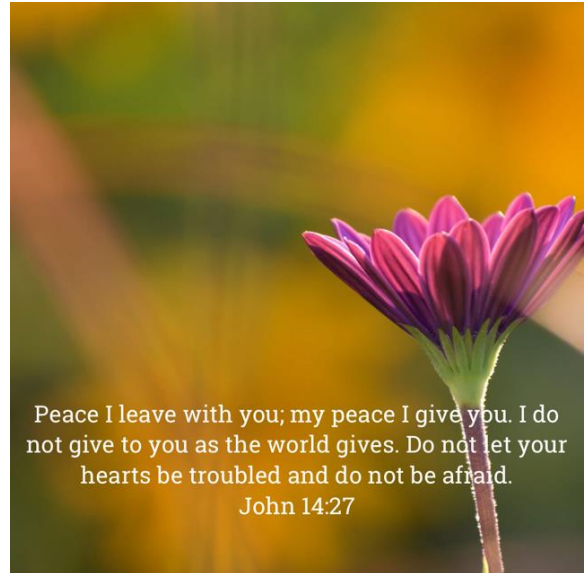
Ron was born and raised in Iowa and has lived many places since. He joined the Navy after high school and served for three years before attending college in Nebraska and also in Southern California, Orange County where he graduated. He also attended one year of seminary. Ron received his Masters degree from the University of Southern California in Camarillo, northwest of Los Angeles. He worked as a social worker in a state hospital with children until he retired in 1998.

Ron does his own shopping and enjoys dining out for lunch. He sometimes does his shopping and lunches at Jerry's, and also highly recommends Good Day Café in Golden Valley. Ron is a giant movie buff and, pre-COVID, he went to the movies every Saturday. He has a collection of almost 300 movies at home and has been watching those and movies on his TV throughout the pandemic. He enjoys a wide range: westerns, sci-fi, drama, and adventure, but adamantly says that "Lord of the Rings #3 is the best movie ever made!"

Ron is a lector at St. George's and looks forward to celebrating the Eucharist together in church. While he's enjoyed living in Minnesota for several years, his heart is still in Montana. He looks forward to traveling back for a visit this summer as he has every summer for years.

Rent Assistance is Coming

The state of Minnesota is providing rent and utility bill relief to Minnesotans struggling because of the pandemic. Please [see here to learn more](#), and share widely with folks who may need it!



St. Louis Park Emergency Program

By Camille Schroeder



STEP continues to have the need for food, laundry products, diapers, feminine products, toilet paper and almost every other non-perishable food item. Dollars are also needed. STEP buys food from Second Harvest to supplement the donated foods and also helps clients with rides for medical appointments and housing assistance. The need continues.

A couple of STEP events you should attend: On Thursday, July 22nd there will be a fund-raising event at the Steel Toe Brewery. It will be held outside under a tent so probably no COVID worries especially if you've been vaccinated. The annual STEP breakfast will be held on Friday, Sept. 17. It, too, is a fund-raiser. It will be an in person event as well as held virtually. More information on each of these events can be found on STEP's website and will also appear in this newsletter as the time approaches. Plan to attend and bring some family and friends.

RE-OPENING OF ST. GEORGE'S

Re-opening for Worship June 6

This coming Sunday, June 6, we will be gathering again for worship at St. George's. For the time being, we will have one service at 9:30 am. We hope to see many of you there.

As we develop our re-opening plans, we continue to follow the Diocese's guidance. Their latest statement includes the following:

Despite the absence of a state mandate, it seems important that we all continue to mask at any church event to continue to protect unvaccinated members of our communities, including children who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. This recommendation particularly applies to any indoor gathering.

Therefore, we will continue to have some restrictions in place for worship.

Things you need to know:

1. Masks will be required for everyone while inside the church buildings. If you do not have a mask, one will be available when you enter the building.
2. We will continue to maintain social distancing. As a result, we will have limited capacity in the sanctuary as over half of the pews will be unavailable for use.
3. You will need to sign up, in advance, to attend worship. When you arrive at church, you will be asked to affirm that you do not currently have the symptoms of Covid-19 and sign in. This information will be used for contact tracing, if needed.
4. The narthex, sanctuary and bathrooms are open for use. All other parts of the building, including the parish hall, are closed. You are welcome to gather outside in the garden area after church.
5. We will continue to offer the services via Zoom, if you prefer to attend church from home.
6. We will have communion. It will be bread only. Fr. Tom will distribute it.

More information on signing in and arriving at church:

We are using a sign-up tool called "Signup Genius." You will need to register in advance **each week** that you plan to attend church. Registration for Sunday, June 6 is [here](#).

If you are unable to access the link on the internet, please call Sarah Schulte at 612-201-5731 (call or text) and she will register you for the service.

Parishioners will be seated by family, but because of social distancing, we'll be seating in groups of two and three. If you are attending in a family group of 2-3, please register once as one family and indicate the number attending. If you are attending in a family group of 4-6, please register twice and indicate how many of your family are in each group. This will help to ensure that we have space for all that are registered.

Please plan to arrive early for church to allow adequate time to sign in.

If someone arrives for church that has not signed up, they will be asked to stand to the side until all registered people have had a chance to arrive.

Moving Forward

The guidance from the state and from the CDC has been changing rapidly. We will continue to monitor updates from these organizations and from the Diocese. We will use the weekly email and the newsletter to provide updates. The website (<https://stgeorgesonline.org>) will also have updates.

Thank you, in advance, for your help with these changes.

Any questions – please contact one of the members of our re-opening team: Gregg Jacobson, Jane Sandsmark, Sarah Schulte, Bill Stromberg or Kathleen Boe.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Boe and Sarah Schulte, Wardens



Father's Day Memories Submitted by St. George's Parishioners

Ed Altmeyer:

My dad was a keyboard solo instrumentalist and played the organ. He taught keyboard lessons at the house and would have students over for lessons on Saturday mornings. In 1989, he was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in New Ulm for solo instrumentalism. He played organ for both the Minneapolis Millers baseball team and the North Stars hockey team.

I wanted to share a special moment that I remember my dad telling us about often. He was playing organ at the Millers baseball game, and two coaches were gathered with the umpire, arguing about a call. All of a sudden, my dad started playing "Three Blind Mice." The crowd got the joke right away and started applauding. My dad always had a sense of humor and a quick wit!

Kathie Brown:

My Dad passed away in Feb. 2009. These memories were read at his memorial service at St. George's:

A couple of special memories come to mind from time spent with my Dad as an adult. Until about ten years ago, we took a long weekend each summer to go camping together as a family. My Dad always liked to fish even though he didn't get to do it very often. My Mom hated to fish and my sister wasn't real big on it either. I would often go fishing with my Dad. Sometimes he couldn't get the motor started and often we didn't catch much, but we still had fun.

Ten to fifteen years ago, My Dad and I both decided that we wanted to learn to play golf. We took lessons together at Meadowbrook Golf Course. And for several years after that and until my Dad's legs didn't allow him to golf anymore, we golfed together. We enjoyed that.

The photo is on his 80th birthday in 2005.



Julie Burns:

I remember a lot of things about my dad. He was strong when he was younger and he always knew a little to a lot about everything. He read a lot of books and magazines which he had stacked high on his bedside table so he would always know what the best stuff to buy based on consumer reports or how to invest your money although my mom would say he was not as good with this as he thought he was. My dad could fix anything. We would spend the summers at our cabin and my dad would come up on the weekends and spend all his time fixing things. He had a lot of tools and his garage was always full of junk in their own special spots which he loved to spend weekends sorting through and rearranging.

He took us water skiing, tubing and pontooning. You knew to hold on tight to the pull rope because he did not always pay attention if he left one of us behind as he sped away. He would always come back for us and we all knew how to swim, so all was good.

My dad loved a good western movie and he loved to laugh. He would always say on his birthday when you would call to wish him a happy one that he was waiting for the truck to back into the driveway with his gifts.

He would ask my mom if there was any coffee all day long. He had a sweet tooth and sweets were always a gift you knew he would appreciate. He worked until he was 84 years old. My sister, when she was little, would tell people we were having burnt chicken for dinner when my dad was in charge of the grill.

My dad loved roses and he grew a lot of them when we were young. He would always bury them in the ground when fall came around and dig them up in the spring. I grow roses in memory of him. He loved dogs, even the one that ate the hot dog right out his hand as he was going for a bite of it, my mom, his kids, his many friends and he loved life. My dad died on July 11, 2017. He was a good man and we miss him.



In the picture is my dad, Jim Burns, and my sister, Robin Burns.

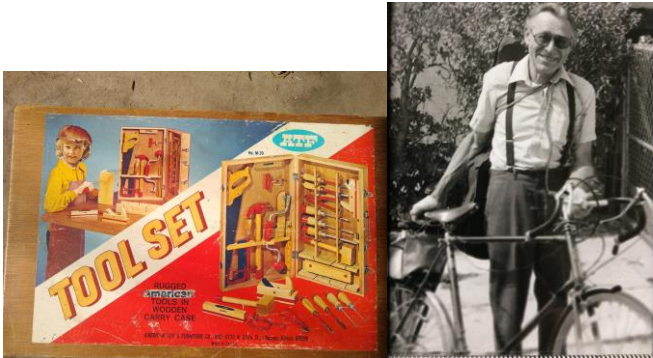


Additional Father's Day Memories Submitted by St. George's Parishioners

Jill Burns:

My father was a commercial artist and my mother was a beautiful knitter. My father designed a Christmas stocking pattern for my mother which she knit for their children and grandchildren. My father decided to sell the pattern to Better Homes & Gardens for \$25. The magazine STILL runs the stocking pattern in their holiday issue after all these years. Perhaps some of St. George's members have that very pattern on their Christmas stocking!

Rachel Santos:



Joseph Charles Plute was born in 1923 and raised by his Lithuanian immigrant grandparents on a farm in Wisconsin. After serving in WWII, he headed west, eventually landing in Northern CA where he met and married my mother. They eventually relocated to San Diego and he swore he was there to stay. Growing up on a farm during the depression he was a big believer in not wasting anything and using things to their ultimate end. He grew a garden in our backyard, canned fig jam, olives, pickles, and rainbow sauerkraut. He would take his 4 daughters fishing out on the Ocean Beach pier and investigating the tide pools and their odd inhabitants at Bird Rock. We lived very close to a canyon, and before it was converted into the home of Hwy 805 my dad would take us on hikes and peanut parties through the canyon where he'd read us the Cremation of Sam McGee. One year he built us a tree house which was really just a giant crate shoved up in the branches of the big pepper tree in our backyard. To fix it so we could communicate with our mom if necessary, he rigged an army field phone in the tree house and somehow connected it to an old rotary phone he dug out of the garage and set up

in the kitchen. One birthday, I wanted a carpenter's kit. I was given a tool kit that had a hammer, kid-sized saw, a level, pliers, the works! And real tools, just in miniature. No plastic here! I was so excited. The case the tools came in had a picture of a little girl on it hammering away at her work. It wasn't until years later when we were cleaning out the games closet in my mother's house that I realized the truth. Pulling out the kit and seeing it for the first time in years I felt all nostalgic. Then I noticed something. The face of the little girl on the case seemed strange. Looking closer I realized the face on the case was not original. It had been cut out from a magazine ad and pasted onto the body of a little boy. In that small but important way my dad was blocking a message that could have easily discouraged me away from woodworking as something meant for boys. I never did evolve into a woodworker, but I appreciate the fact that it never occurred to me that I couldn't.

Gerri Alberg:

My father's name was John S. Yerxa. He was always asked "How is your name pronounced and what country are you from?" The name is Dutch and anyone that has that last name is related. My father was very verbal. He had beautiful handwriting and always wore a hat and a suit to work. While we were living in Duluth he would take the family up to Lake Superior to picnic on the rocks and to the aerial lift bridge to watch the ships and barges come in. When he was a teenager, he worked on one of those big barges. He was very precise in everything he did, and was in AA for thirty years. The family wound up living in Duluth because of the war. He had to quit his job at Standard Oil in the Twin Cities and take a job in a shipyard in Duluth. That meant leaving behind many friends, families and social activities in the Twin Cities. Mom was pregnant at the time, so leaving was a difficult transition for her, too. The family was once contacted by a 99 year old woman from Canada who tracked us down because of our last name. There was going to be a big reunion of all the Yexas and we were invited! Many of the family attended and got to meet more of the Yerxa relatives.



COVID-19 Vaccination Information

From Missioner Rachel Babbitt

One way to live out our call to love our neighbor is by getting the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is the most effective way to protect ourselves, our neighbors, and the many industries and small businesses that have suffered due to the rampant spread of this deadly disease.

If you are interested in getting vaccinated and aren't sure how to find one, start with the [Minnesota Vaccine Connector](#). This confidential tool will alert you when and where there are vaccine appointments in your area. The vaccine is available to all regardless of employment, health insurance, or citizenship status. If you have limited access to the internet, you can also sign up by phone by calling the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Public Hotline at [1-833-431-2053](tel:1-833-431-2053).

There are several mass vaccination sites, including the MN State Fairgrounds, the Mall of America in Bloomington, the St. Cloud Convention Center, the Duluth Convention Center, the Mankato Mayo Event Center, and the Rochester Mayo Civic Center. To get more information on these sites, call [1-800-800-5698](tel:1-800-800-5698) or visit the [MDH Vaccination Site page](#).

Vaccines can also be scheduled through Walgreens, Walmart, CVS, Thrifty White, and other local pharmacies in your community. Call these sites to get more information and schedule your vaccine, or visit [MN Vaccine Spotter](#) for available appointments, updated every minute.

If you are hesitant about getting a vaccine, you can read about the vaccines and process through the [CDC vaccine information](#).

Minnesota is working hard to connect folks to vaccines. If you have questions about needing assistance for a specific population, please feel to reach out to your Missioner for Community Engagement, Rachel Babbitt, at rachel.b@episcopalmn.org, and she will help put you in contact with the best person for your area.

A Bit of History

By Camille Schroeder



"Way, way back many centuries ago, not long after the bible began....." Well, it wasn't quite that long ago but it was in the '70s in the last century. Singers from St. George's, St. Stephen's and St. Edward's along with others in the area got together under the direction of Mary Gears and prepared and performed two musicals. The first one was [Tell It Like It Is](#), a Folk Musical About God, composed by Ralph Carmichael and Kurt Kaiser. Instrumentalists, dancers and singers worked hard and long to get it to performance level. Audiences enjoyed it and we were invited to perform it at several Episcopal churches, at the Diocesan Convention in Rochester and also at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Lino Lakes, MN. More than 30 of us were involved.

We had such a good time and were encouraged by many and so we chose to prepare another offering. It was [Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat](#) by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Again, we had singers, dancers, instrumentalists and soloists. Lots of preparation and rehearsals, but so worth it. We performed again at the Diocesan Convention and at many of the Episcopal churches in the west metro.

While the cast brought great entertainment to the audiences, they gained many new friends with Episcopalians from other churches within the Diocese. So many good memories for all.

(The quote "Way, way back....." is from the first song in [Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat](#).)

Welcome Committee



As we continue to reach out to St. George's 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 or 612-201-5731.

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: mjandsmark@gmail.com 952-221-4004. Thank you!



Check out the events in June!

SOME EVENTS ARE ONLINE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 11 am – GBD (Zoom)	3	4	5
6 9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist	7	8	9 11 am- GBD (Zoom) 7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	10	11	12
13 9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist	14 10 a.m. COVID Response Team (Zoom) 7 pm Finance (Zoom)	15	16 11 am- GBD (Zoom)	17 10:30 am Welcoming Committee (Zoom)	18	19
20 9:30 a.m.- Holy Eucharist	21 12 pm – Women of St. George (Zoom) 7 pm – Vestry (Zoom)	22	23 7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	24	25	26
27 9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist	28 10 a.m. COVID Response Team (Zoom)	29	30			

**GOSPEL-BASED DISCIPLESHIP – 11 A.M. 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 PH – Parish Hall



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

	June 6 Second Sunday in Pentecost	June 13 Third Sunday in Pentecost	June 20 Fourth Sunday in Pentecost	June 27 Fifth Sunday in Pentecost
Readings	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Psalm 138 Mark 3:20-35	2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17 Psalm 20 Mark 4:26-34	2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Psalm 133 Mark 4:35-41	2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Psalm 130 Mark 5:21-43
Lectors	Ron Ottsen	Tom Harmon	Leslie O'Donnell	Cyprian Troyer

June BIRTHDAYS

4 Cyprian Troyer
8 Carol Peterson
9 David Sell
10 Nancy Justus
11 Jade Carlson
16 Claire Kuku
17 Ariana Monroe

21 Marion Dwyer Miller
Mike Sandsmark
23 Bill Altmeyer
26 Kris Kelley
27 Kathleen Boe
29 Lilly Schulte



EDUCATION UPDATE

*by Heather Whitesell
Education
Coordinator*

We finished up the church school year with reflection on what gifts we have to offer to the community and how we can care for others. The kids have done some very impressive posters and art work in the past several months. I have missed seeing their faces and look forward to being together in person.

As we ease into summer, I include this prayer of thanks to Christ, who knew what it was like to be a child (by Chloe Reynolds)

Thank you Jesus that you have lived here as one of us, you know what it's like to be a child, to feel everything that children feel. Thank you that we as adults have everything we need to encourage, nurture and provide for those in need.

I pray for children around the world that you would be in their lives and they would grow up knowing they are loved by you. As you bless them with opportunities in their local projects. I pray they would be able to change lives for others in their communities too. Amen

About St. George's

5224 Minnetonka Boulevard
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-926-1646

www.stgeorgesonline.org

Office hours Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

PARISH STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Thomas J. Gehlsen,
Ph.D. tomg@stgeorgesonline.org

Deacon: The Rev. Diane McGowan
smarl@aol.com

Parish Administrator, Heather Grieger
office@stgeorgesonline.org

Music Director, John Hoffacker, D.M.A.
johnh@stgeorgesonline.org

Children and Youth Coordinator,
Heather Whitesell
heatherw@stgeorgesonline.org

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE:

Christina Christensen, Mezzo-soprano
William Vaughn, Bass

VESTRY:

Kathleen Boe, Rector's Warden; Sarah
Schulte, Parish Warden; Jane
Sandmark, Cyprian Troyer, Jill Burns,
Gregg Jacobson, Bruce Becker, Rachel
Santos, and Bruce Wachutka.

Clerk of the Vestry:

Laura Harmon

Parish Treasurer:

Connie Kotula

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE NOW IN PERSON AND ONLINE WITH ZOOM

Sunday Worship at St. George's
9:30 a.m.

Services to be held in the church. Please
register in advance. Arrive early to be seated
with social distancing in mind.

Register at StGeorgesOnline.org

If you are unable to access the link on the
internet, please call Sarah Schulte at
612-201-5731 (call or text) and she will register
you for the service.

Sunday Worship Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/141788041>

You may also join audio by phone:
+1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 141-788-041