

# 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

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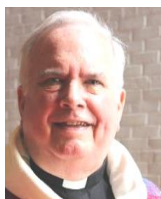
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## STEWARDSHIP 2022

by *The Rev. Tom Gehlsen*



One of my favorite definitions of stewardship is “Everything we do after we say, ‘I believe.’” For me, stewardship is a whole-life concept, calling for right use of all the resources that God has given us. Healthy stewardship formation, then, obliges congregations to expand their definition to touch on every aspect of faithful living.

Gratitude knows no season. Generosity is a year-round practice for Christians. Yet we're inclined to define “stewardship” as an annual campaign, and to confine it to a few weeks’ “beg-a-thon,” designed to fund a congregation’s operating budget. When we approach stewardship in this way, we’re also putting God in a very tiny box, perhaps the better to limit God’s call on our lives.

The Christian vocation of proclaiming and responding to God’s prodigious generosity is a year-round calling. Forming good stewards – whole-life stewards-is an essential job of our congregations, equipping members to live in right relationship with the many resources available to them. Making stewardship a year-round endeavor is a two-pronged undertaking for leaders in congregations, requiring efforts both in formation and in administration and summoning many different gifts from the congregation as a whole.

As we enter our time of stewardship, I have asked Laura Harmon to lead our yearly approach to this event and she has accepted. I will be communicating each week now to placing some reflections in the parish e-mail for consideration. The focus will be: Formation, Preaching, Teaching, and Modeling.

## EDUCATION CORNER

Submitted by  
Heather Whitesell



I am pleased to share that I now have a new job title. As Director of Education I will continue to provide guidance for our youngest members as well as help to coordinate and facilitate adult education. I am excited to be a part of the religious education for St. George’s from birth and beyond. If you have ideas for adult learning, please let me know via email ([heatherw@stgeorgesonline.org](mailto:heatherw@stgeorgesonline.org)).

### Children’s Chapel

With Zoom services still in place, Chapel activities are provided remotely and I have enjoyed receiving photos of the finished products! Chapel activities are provided for children ages 4-15. I am happy to send to all families, so please let me know if you are interested in participating.

### Youth News

The teens are back in person at school and we are on the road to meeting in person as well. We plan to meet once a month on Sunday afternoons. Our goals this year include learning the ins and outs of the Episcopal Church and implementing a youth-directed outreach project.



## PARISH PROFILE: JANE SANDSMARK

Jane (Heuer) Sandsmark, the eldest of four children, grew up on a farm in the Red River Valley near Fargo, ND. Life was simple but not necessarily easy. We took care of our land, we took care of our family and we took care of our neighbors. Jane and her siblings own and manage their farm which was inherited from their parents.



Jane has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the U of North Dakota, Grand Forks and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with an emphasis in Nursing Education from the U of Mary, Bismarck, ND. She spent over 30 years as a nurse and educator in a healthcare system and college sponsored by the Presentation Sisters of Aberdeen, SD. She was mentored and influenced by the Presentation Sisters whose mission is to alleviate oppression and promote human dignity. Jane is a Lay Associate of the Presentation Sisters.

Jane joined the Episcopal Church in Valdosta, Georgia almost 50 years ago. She and husband Mike were invited to attend church with Jane's colleague in the College of Nursing at Valdosta State University. Growing up, Jane attended the Moravian Church with her family. It has now come full circle as the Moravian Church is in full communion with the Episcopal Church.

In 2011, following retirement, Jane moved to the Minneapolis Metro area to be near daughters Alison and Mary and their families. Jane and Mike cherish being part of their day to day lives. Having lived on the prairie most of her life, Jane enjoys the change to a more urban lifestyle. She and Mike enjoy concerts by the Minnesota Orchestra and cheering on the Minnesota Twins.

Jane is a current member of the Vestry. She serves as an usher and coffee server (when that is possible due to COVID restrictions). Jane is a member of the Welcome Committee and the Reopening Team. She also swings a mean paint brush as a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

**Questions:** You spend a lot of quality time with your grandchildren. What is something you hope to pass on to them? Patience is a virtue. When the situation requires, Jane says, "patience, patience. We're working on our patience."

What's your favorite place of all the places you've traveled? Malta. It's a blend of East and West and a blend of ancient and modern. St Paul's Bay, Malta is where St Paul was shipwrecked while spreading the Gospel. Jane must also list England as a favorite. Daughter Alison was born in England while Mike was serving in the USAF at RAF Alconbury, Cambridgeshire, England. When she and Mike travel there, it is really traveling home. They fulfilled Alison's wish, and the family spent Alison's 40th birthday in England.

What's the best advice you've ever received? Take time to think. Take time to wait. It's alright to sleep on something before deciding. If it's a problem you're trying to solve, by waiting, it may resolve by itself. If not, take time to think and if necessary, sleep on it, to come up with the best solution.

What's your favorite tradition or holiday? At 9 a.m. on Christmas Eve morning, Jane tunes in to Public Radio for the live broadcast of the Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge, England. While listening, Jane is preparing special family favorite foods for Christmas Eve and Day.



## FALL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, October 16

9 a.m. to 12 noon.

by Carole Leonard



## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Please plan to join us on Saturday, October 16, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, for our Fall Cleanup Day. We plan to cut back and clean up the gardens, wash a lot of windows, do a little painting, cut back some of the bushes, etc. Coffee and sweet rolls will be waiting for you.

**Please contact Carole Leonard if you are able to join us: 952-544-4394 or [carole2hike@gmail.com](mailto:carole2hike@gmail.com).**

"Many hands make light work."



## From Bishop Loya

Beloved in Christ,

One question it's often suggested congregations ask themselves when assessing their mission, vision, and unique identity is, "If this congregation ceased to exist, what would the community miss about it?" That's a good question to ponder for sure, but it seems to me a more important and foundational question is: "when the community sees our congregation, do they see Jesus?"

Our core work as faith communities is to so deeply root ourselves in the person of Jesus that our life together re-presents Jesus and his gospel of love to the world around us. When people see what happens in our buildings, does it look like the Jesus who welcomes the outcast and the forgotten? When people see how we show up at community meetings, or school gatherings, or non-profit committees, or even soccer practice on a Wednesday night, do they see the Jesus who signals God's intent to reconcile and heal all that has been broken down and wounded? When people join us in person or online for worship, are they invited to tether their lives to the living God, whose love alone has the power to pierce the darkness that so often surrounds us? When ethnic, racial, or religious groups are targeted by small or large acts of violence and hate, do we join Jesus in declaring "no more of this"? When despair and death feel like they will crush us and our neighborhoods, do we join Jesus in shouting the defiant alleluia of resurrection? When all appears lost, do we show up as a people who simply won't count God out, and always hold onto the hope of new life?

The most important question we can ask ourselves as individuals and communities is, when people see us, do they see Jesus? I see Jesus in the communities that make up our diocese each and every day. I'm grateful for the life we share, and the ways we are always encouraging and challenging one another to be more fully conformed to Jesus' image and likeness, that we might

use whatever we have, for as long as we have it, to join God's project of healing a dark and painful world with the light and balm of perfect love.

**The Right Reverend Craig Loya**

X Bishop

Episcopal Church in Minnesota



## WINTER COAT DRIVE

*By Camille Schroeder*



The annual winter coat drive for STEP is in full swing. I'm hoping that each of you has something to donate. To that end, I will be happy to pick up any coats, hats, scarves, snow pants, mittens, gloves or any other winter gear that you wish to donate. Children's items are particularly needed.

You can also drop off your donations at STEP any morning except Tuesday. On Tuesday, you can drop off items from noon to 6:00 pm.

If you want your items picked up, call Camille at 952-470-5730 or email her at [camillelesschroeder1@gmail.com](mailto:camillelesschroeder1@gmail.com). Items need to be at STEP no later than Oct. 9th. Many thanks.



Fr. Tom takes a well deserved break and shows off the results!!



Our sympathy goes out to St. George's Music Director John Hoffacker and his family after the loss of John's mother who died Friday, September 17.

John wrote about his mom, "When she saw you, her eyes lit up, her arms reached out, and she made you believe you were wonderful. Every room she was in was brighter. Every day with her had love love love in it."

*So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. –*

***John 16:22***

## LUNCH UNDER THE CANOPY

*Submitted by Carole Leonard*

On the Thursdays in September, some of our parishioners gathered in the garden court under the new canopy for lunch in the shade. We brought our own lunch and beverage. If the weather holds, we look forward to continued lunches in the garden this fall.



Bruce Wachutka and Bill Stromberg assembled the new canopy. The first week it took 20 minutes.



Okay, now we think we've got it figured out. The second week it took only 12 minutes.



Friends gathered for lunch under the canopy.



LISTEN! THE WIND IS RISING, AND THE AIR IS WILD WITH LEAVES, WE HAD OUR SUMMER EVENINGS, NOW FOR OCTOBER EVES!

# FINANCIAL UPDATE



Here is a quick re-cap of financials through July 2021 as presented to the Vestry in September.

## Income:

YTD Gross Income: \$132,408, over budget \$5,370  
 YTD Pledge Income: \$80,106, over budget \$3,293  
 YTD Other Offerings: \$4,982, under budget (\$3,293)  
 YTD Endowment withdrawals: \$12,750 (on budget)

## Expenses:

YTD Gross Expenses: \$121,629, under budget by (\$5,195)  
 YTD Salaries and Benefits: \$61,038, over budget by \$370  
 YTD Buildings and Grounds: \$10,068, under budget by (\$2,547)  
 YTD Utilities: \$17,315, over budget by \$1,276

In addition to the income number highlighted above, rental income is above budget because of pre-payment of rent for August. Special gifts are also over budget.

The EIDL Loan, which we applied for and received late last year, has been returned. We applied for this loan as a hedge against unknown expenses arising out of the pandemic. Based on our current financial situation, the Finance Committee recommended that we return the loan and the Vestry agreed.

Our cash position is strong at this time at 167.92%.

## THANK YOU TO THESE BUILDINGS & GROUNDS TEAM MEMBERS



- **Bill Stromberg** replaced several light bulbs around the property and also purchased soil to fill in some sinking areas in the front garden areas.
- **Tom Zaun** replaced the ballasts in three of the light fixtures in the Education Building.
- **Bruce Wachutka** trimmed tree branches around the property, and also sprayed the weeds in the blacktopped parking lot. If weeds are left to grow there, they eventually break up the asphalt.
- **Jane Sandsmark** purchased soil and filled in a sink hole behind the Little Flowers Montessori sign on the southeast corner of the Education Building.



Each year, lay and clergy delegates, as well as other participants, meet for our annual diocesan Convention. Part family reunion, part worship service, and part business meeting, Convention is our annual opportunity to celebrate the year that has past and listen for the Spirit's call to what comes next. We affirm that call by hearing the Bishop's Address, elected new members to governing bodies, considering resolutions, passing the financial statement of mission, and praying and playing together.

**The 2021 diocesan convention will take place November 5-6 at the Sanford Center in Bemidji.** Those who will represent us as delegates are Fr. Tom, Deacon Diane, Suzy Garland, Cyprian Troyer, and Tom Boe. All of our delegates have chosen to participate with Live Stream of the Convention

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- 4 Gwen Gysland
- 5 Sydney Holbach
- 7 John Hagerman  
Evan Troyer
- 8 Ellen Doering
- 14 Mary Poulsen
- 15 Mary Kuhfeld  
Heather Whitesell
- 17 Roxy Zaun  
Katherine Owens
- 20 Yosef Hunter
- 21 Alan Poulsen  
Barbara Behrens
- 25 Amanda Salami
- 27 Bruce Alexander



# Check out the events in October!

## SOME EVENTS ARE ONLINE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9 a.m. Hymn of the Day 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Zoom)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 11 a.m.- GBD (Zoom)	<b>7</b> 6 p.m. AA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9 a.m. Hymn of the Day 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Zoom)	<b>11</b> 7 p.m. Finance Committee	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11 a.m.- GBD (Zoom) 7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	<b>14</b> 6 p.m. AA	<b>15</b>	 9 am-12 noon Fall Cleanup Day
<b>17</b> 9 a.m. Hymn of the Day 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Zoom) 11:30 am. Youth Group	<b>18</b> 12 noon Women of St. George (Zoom) 7 p.m. Vestry	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11 a.m. – GBD (Zoom)	<b>21</b> 10:30 a.m. Welcoming Committee (Zoom) 6 p.m. AA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9 a.m. Hymn of the Day 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Zoom)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 11 a.m. – GBD (Zoom) 7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	<b>38</b> 6 p.m. AA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9 a.m. Hymn of the Day 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Zoom)						
<b>GOSPEL-BASED DISCIPLESHIP – 11 A.M. EVERY WEDNESDAY – <a href="https://zoom.us/j/397934453">https://zoom.us/j/397934453</a></b> <b>Meeting ID: 397 934 453 – You may also join audio by phone: +1 312 626 6799</b>						
<b>KEY:</b> GBD – Gospel-based Discipleship HE – Holy Eucharist CEB – Christian Education Building LL – Library Lounge G – Garden PH – Parish Hall						



## MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

	OCTOBER 3	OCTOBER 10	OCTOBER 17	OCTOBER 24	OCTOBER 31
<b>Readings</b>	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 Psalm 26 Mark 10:2-16	Hebrews 4:12-16 Psalm 22 1-15 Mark 10:17-31	Hebrews 5:1-10 Psalm 104 1-9, 25,37b Mark 10: 35-45	Hebrews 7:23-28 Psalm 34 1-8 (19- 22) Mark 10:46-52	Hebrews 9:11-14 Psalm 146 Mark 12:28-34
<b>Lectors</b>	Kathie Brown	Mark Schulte	Mary Kuhfeld	Cyprian Troyer	Jean Wayne
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kitty Reese Bill Stromberg	Kathleen Boe Katy Campbell Rachel Santos	Nancy Becker Bruce Becker Kathie Brown	Jane Jacobson Gregg Jacobson	Jane Jacobson Gregg Jacobson

## STEWARDSHIP

By Laura Harmon, Stewardship Chair

The past 18 months have brought a lot of change to every aspect of our lives, including our worship. We've gone from in person worship to online worship twice! And during all this time our clergy, staff and vestry have worked diligently to keep our church functioning and our community together.

Charles Bugg defines stewardship in the Holman Bible Dictionary as "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation." In my position as vestry clerk, I see on a monthly basis how much our vestry, clergy and staff are working to "manage our resources for the betterment of His creation."

- Father Tom and Deacon Diane work to make sure our pastoral needs are being met.
- John Hoffacker brings us wonderful music and liturgy every Sunday.
- Tom Boe and Cyprian Troyer have worked to ensure that we can stream online services.
- Jane Sandsmark and Sarah Schulte send birthday/get well/sympathy cards to our members.
- Rachel Santos has resurrected the monthly newsletter.
- Buildings & Grounds has worked to make sure the church buildings and grounds are maintained, and any needed repairs are done.
- From the results of the Strategic Development Task Force led by Bruce Becker, several people are working to increase our online/social media presence, build outreach in our community and create a more family friendly parish.

All this is made possible because of YOUR generous giving of time, talent and money. In the next couple of weeks, you will be receiving a pledge card for 2022. Please prayerfully consider the amount you pledge financially so that St. George's can continue sharing God's love and making a positive difference in the lives of everyone in our parish and our community.

## About St. George's

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

[www.stgeorgesonline.org](http://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](mailto:tomg@stgeorgesonline.org)

*(Fr. Tom's contact for emergencies when the office  
is closed – 651-319-3570)*

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)

### ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE:

Christina Christensen, Mezzo-soprano

William Vaughn, Bass

### VESTRY:

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

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