

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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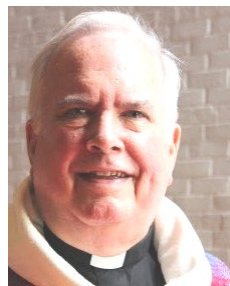
952-926-1646

June 2022

Volume 29, No. 6

MOVING UPWARD

By The Rev. Tom Gehlsen



In the first half of life, we are naturally and rightly preoccupied with establishing our identity – climbing, achieving, and performing. These concerns will not serve us as we grow older and begin to embark on a further journey, one that involves challenges, mistakes, loss of control, broader horizons, and necessary suffering that actually shocks us out of our prior comfort zone.

Eventually, we need to see ourselves in a different and more life-giving way. This message of “falling down” that we all face is in fact moving upward. This, in my experience, is the most resisted and counterintuitive of messages in the world's religions, including and most especially Christianity.

I would encourage all to contemplate a new paradigm for understanding one of the most profound of life's mysteries: how our failings and falling down can be and should be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth. I believe that those who recognize the “falls” in life are truly the ones who understand “up.” We grow spiritually more by doing it wrong than by doing it right. Always keep St. Peter in your sights!



gg63574035 www.gograph.com

WHO TURNS 75 YEARS OLD IN 2022?

**IT'S ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!
LET'S PARTY!**

By Carole Leonard & Camille Schroeder

In June of 1947, Saint George's Parish in the Village of St. Louis Park, Hennepin County, State of Minnesota, became a corporation. The Vestrymen and the Wardens signed the Articles of Incorporation on that date.

SO, LET'S PARTY! – We plan to have a Birthday Party Celebration on a Sunday in September (date to be determined), so watch for further news on this subject.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

April 2022

Submitted by Connie Kotula, Treasurer



The Wardens have approved the following financial information to be put in the parish weekly email. This information is from April. When May information is approved by the Vestry, we will post that as soon as possible in the weekly email and the monthly newsletter.

Pledges Received in April	\$16,620
Percent of the Monthly Budget	167%
Total Pledges Received YTD*	\$51,475
Percent of the Annual Budget	36%

Total Net Income (Loss) April	\$11,857
Total Net Income (Loss) YTD*	\$ 7,331
Total Budget Income (Loss) YTD*	\$ 35
YTD* Actual to Budget Benefit (Deficit)	\$ 7,296

* Year-To-Date

Questions? Email Connie Kotula: connie.kotula@gmail.com



Happy Birthday!

June 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
21	Michael Sandsmark
23	Bill Altmeyer
26	Kristine Kelley
29	Lilly Schulte

Education Update

*Submitted by Heather Whitesell
Children & Youth Coordinator*

In our weekly lessons, the kids have been reveling in Easter Joy. We think about faith, God's love and how we can profess those things to others. We are also grateful to those who have shown love to us!

Youth met in May to celebrate the arrival of spring. They created May baskets to deliver and we created our own version of a maypole in the courtyard. Positive vibes for a warm and sunny future!



Nolyn Snyders, Sarah Rash and Lilly Schulte made May baskets to deliver for May Day.



Nolyn Snyders, Heather Whitesell, Sarah Rash, and Lilly Schulte created their version of a May pole in St George's garden court for May Day.

Minnetonka Boulevard Reconstruction County Road 5 in St. Louis Park

Hennepin County will reconstruct Minnetonka Boulevard (County Road 5) between Highway 100 and France Avenue in St. Louis Park.

Work is expected to begin in 2024.

Hennepin County continues its work evaluating the current use and design of Minnetonka Boulevard (County Road 5) between highway 100 and France Ave. The county and its partners, including the City of St. Louis Park, are developing a plan for the corridor to better serve current and future users.

In 2021, the county began an engagement process that led to the creation of potential roadway layouts based on the public feedback received. Visit www.hennepin.us/Minnetonka-boulevard to view the layouts, vote for your favorites, and provide any comments. Construction for this project is scheduled for 2024.

If you have additional questions or comments, contact Madeline Lunzer, public engagement lead, at madeline.lunzer@bolton-menk.com, or Jason Staebell, project manager, at Jason.staebell@hennepin.us.



Spring Cleanup Day Volunteers!

By Carole Leonard

Many thanks to the volunteers who showed up for the Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 20. The volunteers washed "lots" of windows, planted the gardens on Minnetonka Boulevard, spread bags of mulch, cleaned the kitchen, Narthex, and the coat hall, wiped down the pews, pulled weeds, trimmed rusted branches from evergreens and various other jobs.

Jane Jacobson	Bruce Wachutka
Gregg Jacobson	Bill Stromberg
Harry Kelly	David Sell
Kris Kelley	Jane sandsmark
Kitty Reese	Mike Sandsmark
Iris Alexander	Carole Leonard

A BLESSING OF NEW & NEW-ISH MEMBERS

**Pentecost Sunday,
June 5**



Are you new to St. George's? Are you new-*ish* to St. George's? Have you started attending this great church within the past seven years?! Between transition of priests and the pandemic, welcoming new members got lost in the shuffle.

We haven't officially welcomed anyone to St. George's in years but would like to remedy that now. On **Pentecost Sunday, June 5**, we will have a blessing of new(ish) members. This will be similar to the way Deacon Diane gives blessings for birthdays, anniversaries, and travelers. As the Welcome Committee looked over the lengthy list of parishioners who have joined the church in recent years, it was a lovely reminder that we continue to grow as a faith community.

If you would like to be recognized in this blessing, please contact Parish Administrator Marion Hunner at 952-926-1646 or office@stgeorgesonline.org and we will make sure you're on the list of new members in the booklet that Sunday.

HATS OFF TO THESE LADIES!



St. George's parishioners Amanda Turgeant and Mary Kuhfeld were seen wearing their very fashionable hats in St. George's parish hall while enjoying coffee and conversation together on Sunday, May 15.



A VISIT TO BRANSON, MO

By Mary Kuhfeld

The theater was big, bigger than the movie theaters in St. Louis Park, luxuriously furnished, with heavy deep-wine curtains across a big stage, and the seats very comfortable. We were in Branson to see some live music, and The Duttons came highly recommended. When the curtains parted, we saw five or six young people – some barely more than children – playing violins and guitars and a mandolin with a young woman at a keyboard up in back on one side and a white-haired male drummer on the other. The stage was lit dramatically. Flashing lights and lasers and smoke; and the music, country-style, was just under deafening. In the next few minutes more people came on stage and burst into familiar songs, western and rock and in the brief blackouts between, they kept going off and back on stage, changing costume and instruments. I'm sure it was carefully choreographed, but it seemed as if they just got together to entertain themselves and we were permitted to watch.

They were all members of the Dutton family, a father and mother, seven grown children, their spouses and now grandchildren. I think there were even great-grandchildren, all prodigiously gifted at song and dance. The sixteen-year-old boy did a great job tearing up "Great Balls of Fire" on an old upright piano, and five or six of them joined to show off by playing old rock hits as if they'd been composed in the era of baroque music. They sang a few familiar hymns, and they offered a mix of military anthems, asking veterans in the audience to stand as each anthem came to their branch: Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard, and varied members of the family came out with the flag of the branch during its song. It was a great show; it seemed to get more exciting the further they got into it. They wound up with a furiously exciting "Boil 'Em Cabbage Down," and five minutes after they finished, you could buy a video of the show you'd just seen.

Branson, Missouri is a curious place, possibly unique. It is located in the Ozarks and so its streets are steep and pin-back curved with the sharp-edged sandstone bedrock sticking out everywhere. The scenery in the countryside is stunningly gorgeous. We bought a couple

of Subway sandwiches and went out to Table Top State Park to sit beside a big lake and enjoy the birds and sunshine, and watch an old-fashioned paddle-wheeler move across.

But the town is about entertainment, big time. There are numerous theaters – professional live acts, exciting, high quality, most with lasers and flashing lights and smoke and a comic who walks on now and again and makes your face hurt from laughter, and each offered a couple of fundamentalist-type hymns and an invitation at one point for every veteran to stand and be cheered.

The underlying theme of Branson is country/western, with a strong mix of rock, comfortable music and well-done, without sex or violence. And no politics; we didn't see an FJB or Let's Go Brandon shirt or sign anywhere, nor did the comics mention the president or taxes or war. Well, one comic pretended in one skit to be a thoroughly ignorant candidate for President, and when asked if he really thought he'd be good at the job, drawled with a significant smirk, "You could do worse."

There are also several amusement parks, and odd museums, such as the one offering the world's largest collection of toys, and another featuring the history of fishing. They have a friendly little zoo called Promised Land that has Bible quotes tacked up all over the place. There's a craft mall I want to re-visit and several zip-lines I don't think I care to try. There are lots of restaurants and the food is really good, hearty rather than fancy.

Branson is frankly patriotic and overtly Christian, and it caters to the law-abiding middle class. It is also booming, new construction everywhere, lots of new hotels, condos and resorts. And there are these establishments that want to talk to you, sell you a time-share or get you out of your time-share and in its place get you a deal where you can travel anywhere in the world and stay in a high-class resort for a remarkably low price if you pay them a large chunk of money to set it up for you. You give them ninety minutes or two hours they will tell you all about it, plus give you vouchers for low-price tickets to the shows and restaurants and museums in Branson as a reward. You don't have to go to a presentation, but they sure would like it if you'd make an appointment.

We are going back in November to see what they're doing by way of Christmas shows, and to see that show that pretends it's World War II and they are here to entertain the troops with Big Band music. Branson is a warm and friendly place and they're working hard to give you a great time.



ECMN night at the Twins

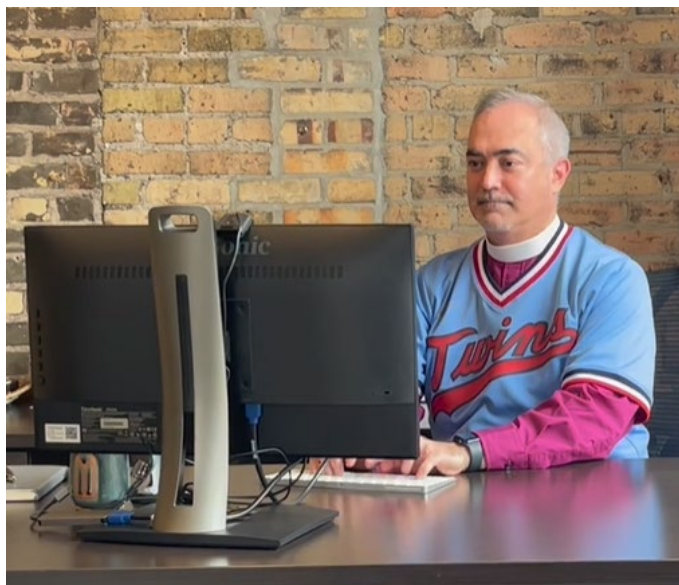
Submitted by Marion Hunner, Parish Administrator

All Minnesota Episcopalians are enthusiastically invited to come to Target Field for a Twins game on Tuesday, June 21. The game, against the Cleveland Guardians, begins at 6:40 p.m. Seats have been reserved in two sections:

Cub Family Section - \$20/ticket, free hotdog & soda included, no alcohol permitted. (I will be here with my St. Christopher's folks.)

Field Box Section 126 - \$37/ticket, located down the 3rd-base line near the Gray Duck Deck.

For more information and to order tickets, click [here](#). Be sure to scroll down and watch the fun video of Bishop Loya!



Bishop Craig Loya
10th Bishop of the Episcopal Church in MN



The Angel List

By Connie Kotula, Treasurer

A few years ago, a list of projects that could not be covered by the operating budget was created. It was envisioned that an "Angel" within St. George's would see this list of projects and hear the call to support the cost of a project.

Recently, Angels have come forward to provide the funds to cover a project on that list. (See the bolded print in this article.)

The Angel List Project which will receive the recently provided funds is to provide handicap door access. This project initially identified three doors:

- 1) the handicap bathroom door;
- 2) the interior door between the Parish Hall and the hallway from the Narthex; and
- 3) the exterior door between the Garden and the hallway (which is next to door #2 - the interior door leading to the Parish Hall).

The newest Angels have agreed to cover the cost of the electrician to install electricity to all three doors. They have also agreed to cover the cost of the installation of the access button for door #1 - the handicap bathroom door. An occupancy indicator deadbolt will also be installed for this door.

St. George's is so grateful to these Angels for their generosity.

Note that although electricity will be installed for all three doors to have a handicap access button installed, only the cost of the handicap bathroom door access button is covered with this gift. If a number of people wish to donate towards the other two access button installation costs, the entire project could be finished at the same time.

If you have an interest in helping out to finish this Angel List project, please contact Father Tom or Carole Leonard.

Thank you again to our Angels in St. George's who are making handicap access a reality in our church building.



MINISTERS OF THE EUCCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

	Sunday June 5	Sunday June 12	Sunday June 19	Sunday June 26
Readings	Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:25-32, 37 Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17, 25-27	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15	Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:15-27 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62
Lectors	Cyprian Troyer Carole Leonard	Sarah Schulte Leslie O'Donnell	Ron Holbach Claudia Hoffacker	Mary Weekes Tom Harmon
Chalice Bearers	Cyprian Troyer Kitty Reese	Kathie Brown Leslie O'Donnell	Ron Holbach Kris Kelly	Laura Harmon Kathleen Boe
Ushers	Bill Stromberg Bruce Becker	Tom Zaun Lou Michelich	Bob Jones Bruce Wachutka	Tom Harmon Tom Zaun
Altar Guild	Kitty Reese Bill Stromberg	Kathleen Boe Katy Campbell Rachel Santos	Nancy Becker Bruce Becker Kathie Brown	Jane Jacobson Gregg Jacobson
Coffee Servers	Ron Holbach	Bob Jones	John & Jane Carlson	Carole Leonard Geri Alberg





CHECK OUT THE EVENTS IN JUNE. SOME EVENTS ARE ONLINE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11 a.m. GBD(Zoom)	2 6 p.m. AA	3	4
5 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 11 a.m. GBD(Zoom) 7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	9 6 p.m. AA	10	11
12 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	13 11 a.m. Staff meeting 7 p.m. Finance Committee (Zoom))	14	15 11 a.m. GBD(Zoom)	16 10:30 a.m. Welcoming Committee (Zoom) 6 p.m. AA	17	18
19 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	20 Newsletter deadline 7 p.m. Vestry (Zoom)	21	22 11 a.m. GBD(Zoom) 7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	23 6 p.m. AA	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	27 12 p.m. Women of St. George's (Parish Hall)	28	29 11 a.m. GBD(Zoom)	30 6 p.m. AA		

**GBD: 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**

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

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

Deacon: The Rev. Diane McGowan

smarl@aol.com

Parish Administrator, Marion Hunner

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:

Cristina Czaia, soprano

Alexis Winters, mezzo-soprano

Vanessa Vaughn, Bass

VESTRY:

Bruce Wachutka, Rector's Warden; Sarah Schulte,

Parish Warden; Bruce Becker, Jill Burns, Ellen

Doering, Suzy Garland, Charles Hample, Gregg

Jacobson, Rachel Santos, and Roxy Zaun.

Clerk of the Vestry:

Laura Harmon

Parish Treasurer:

Connie Kotula

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Sunday Services
are now in person
and available on St. George's
You Tube Channel

**NOTE: If you would like to receive
a print copy of the church newsletter,
please contact Marion in the office.**