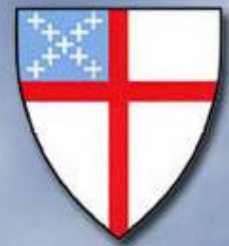


St. George's Episcopal Church

Uniting in Worship.

Welcoming in Grace.



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▪

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St. George's Episcopal Church

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January 2023

This is a free publication for members and friends

Volume 30, No. 1

Designing a New Year

By Fr. Tom Gehlsen



The New Year can stir up feelings of hope, wonder, and pride, but also guilt, regret, and disappointment. This cocktail of emotions is normal. How do you learn from those feelings so you can prepare for a new and improved New Year? To set yourself up for the best possible year to come, your goal, like most of us, is probably to create more feelings of excitement and joy, and fewer feelings of sadness and regret. To create that for yourself, you must hone in on the highs and lows so you can direct your year, rather than letting it direct you.

All this means it is a wonderful time of year to reflect and contemplate what we have begun in our discernment process.

SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

As the community of St. George's, we have spent the four weeks of Advent embarking on a discernment process that enables us to approach the new year as a journey we need to walk as a community – where do we go from here, are we on the right path?

Discernment, as we have discussed, takes time, contemplation, discussion, prayer, and an ability to recognize that a new opportunity is at hand. What might that be? Right now, we don't know. We have begun

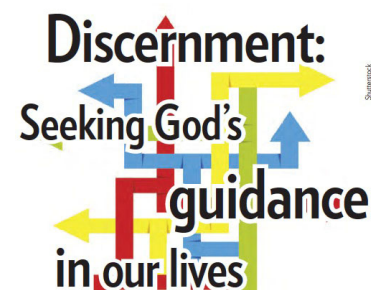
praying, discussing, and opening our hearts to listening to the Spirit for guidance.

These conversations have been deep in prayer and scripture. Many ideas have emerged about the future. Discernment now calls us to take time to pray, reflect, and consult scripture as individuals. So, for January, we are asking that everyone do some soul searching for the direction we need to go. January will be the month of silent, individual discernment regarding our community.

Our annual meeting and the Season of Lent will again allow our community to come together and take further steps, sharing what we have been hearing the Spirit say to us.

On Saturday, January 28th, the Vestry will meet with Kelsey Schuster, Chief of Staff for ECMN, to discuss the discernment process from a Diocesan perspective.

Let each of us, as we enter a new year, continue to pray, contemplate, seek scripture, and offer our thoughts in the vitally important process.



From the Office

By Marion Hunner,
Parish Administrator



End of Year Statements: End of year giving statements will be available in the Narthex for 3 weeks beginning Sunday, January 15. Please save us a stamp by either picking up your statement or requesting that I email it to you.



Poinsettia giveaway

Sunday, January 1, 2023

By Carole Leonard

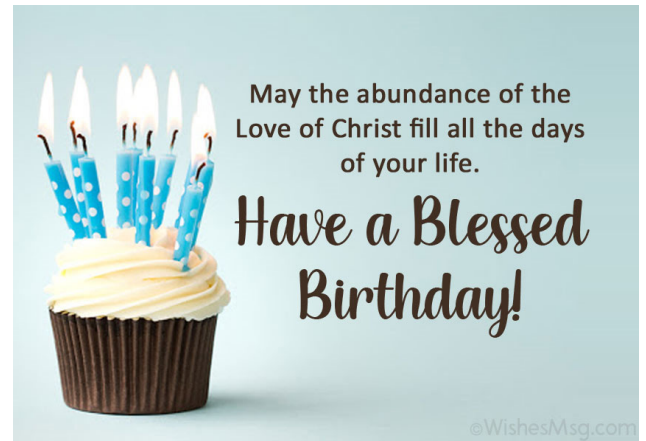


The beautiful poinsettias that are currently decorating the church for the Christmas Eve service and on Sunday, January 1st, will be given away to parishioners following the service on January 1st.



Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 19, 2023. The Annual Meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall following the regular Sunday Service.



January Birthdays

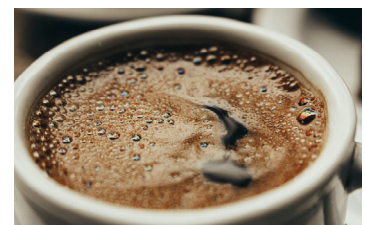
January 5 Tom Boe	January 22 Diane McGowan
January 6 Jillian Zaun	January 24 Bruce Wachutka
January 9 Carole Leonard	January 25 Tom Zaun
January 18 Charlie Hample	January 31 Dan Manion
January 19 Fran Bly	



Coffee and Conversations

By Bruce Wachutka and Sarah Schulte

Thank you to everyone for your participation at our discernment coffee and conversation sessions. The progress has been impressive, and the interactions have been very meaningful, productive, and respectful. The sharing of your thoughts and feelings reflects your sincere desire to engage in an open and honest discernment process. We do not know the end result, but we're off to a wonderful start. Thank you and peace to you all.



Second Offering

By Sarah Schulte



We are resurrecting our monthly 2nd offering. In the past, St. George's has collected a special offering the 2nd Sunday of each month with funds collected going to the

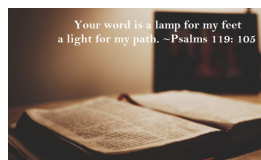
Outreach Fund, now renamed Community Engagement. You may remember the noisy buckets going up and down the aisles as people drop money into them. Thank you in advance for giving generously to this 2nd Sunday 2nd Offering that will impact lives in our community.



Gospel-Based Discipleship Returns In-Person in January

By Marion Hunner

Fr. Tom will be bringing back in-person Gospel-Based Discipleship beginning Wednesday, January 11th. The group will meet in the conference room in Education Building at 10am each week. Fr. Tom looks forward to the in-person return of this weekly gathering. There will no longer be Zoom GBD.



Education Update

By Heather Whitesell

Youth news

The youth group of St David's Episcopal Church has invited us to join their journey towards Confirmation. This is a great way for our kids to get to know other Episcopal youth and learn about our faith while having fun! Last month we learned about the Seven Sacraments and the structure of the Episcopal service. We'll meet two more times and hope to connect in other ways as well.

Blessing of the Home on Epiphany

The feast of Epiphany is traditionally celebrated the 12th day of Christmas, January 6. A fun family activity is to bless your home with chalk.

Read the following prayer:

Bless, O Lord God Almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.



After the prayer, the initials of the Three Kings (C,M,B - also interpreted as the Latin phrase for Christ Bless the House) are written upon the doors with chalk, sandwiched inside the numbers of the year.

Example: 20+C+M+B+22

What Do the Numbers and Letters Mean?

The first and last numbers simply refer to the current year. The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Some also suggest "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means, "May Christ bless this dwelling!"

Click [here](#) for more information on this tradition.

Parish Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Holy Eucharist 10:30 Choir	2	3	4	5 6:30pm AA	6 Epiphany	7
8 9:30 Holy Eucharist 2nd Offering 10:30 Choir	9 7pm Finance	10 Noon Staff Meeting	11 10am In person Gospel Based Discipleship	12 6:30pm AA	13	14
15 9:30 Holy Eucharist 10:30 Choir	16 7pm Vestry	17	18 10am In person Gospel Based Discipleship	19 10:30am Welcoming Committee 6:30pm AA	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 9:30 Holy Eucharist 10:30 Choir	23	24	25 10am In person Gospel Based Discipleship	26 6:30pm AA	27	28 9am Vestry Work Meeting
29 9:30 Holy Eucharist 10:30 Choir	30 Noon Women of St. George's	31				

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY



	Sunday January 1 First Sunday after Christmas	Sunday January 8 First Sunday after Epiphany	Sunday January 15 First Sunday after Epiphany	Sunday January 22 First Sunday after Epiphany	Sunday January 29 First Sunday after Epiphany
Readings	Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 5-13 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12
Lectors	Ron Holbach Leslie O'Donnell	Sarah Schulte Mark Schulte	Mary Kuhfeld Tom Harmon	Kathie Brown Sonja Kilberg	Claudia Hoffacker Mary Weekes
Chalice Bearers	Laura Harmon Kris Kelley	Ron Holbach Kitty Reese	Bill Stromberg Leslie O'Donnell	Cyprian Troyer Kathie Brown	Kris Kelley Ron Holbach
Acolyte	Sarah Rash		Nolyn Snyders	Lilly Schulte	Sarah Rash
Ushers	Bill Stromberg Bruce Becker	Tom Zaun Lou Michelich	Bob Jones Bruce Wachutka	Tom Harmon Tom Zaun	Bill Stromberg Bruce Becker
Altar Guild	Jane and Gregg Jacobson	Kitty Reese Bill Stromberg	Kris Kelley Rachel Santos	Nancy and Bruce Becker Kathie Brown	Jane and Gregg Jacobson
Coffee Servers	Ron Holbach	Bob Jones	John and Jane Carlson	Carole Leonard Geri Alberg Mary Kuhfeld	John and Jane Carlson

An Epiphany Blessing of the Waters

*Modified from A Canadian Prayer Book: Northern Light by
Les Miller*

Bless our waters, frozen and flowing.

May the Holy Spirit come down, up, around
and through them, bringing divine power and
sacred love. May the Minnesota, St. Croix and
Mississippi rivers be our Jordan.

May these waters cleanse us from arrogance
and avarice, selfishness and domination, fear
and apathy.

May these waters nourish this land to make it
bountiful and beautiful. May these waters re-
flect your divine light to draw us ever closer to
you.

May these waters be springs of blessing,
coursing through mountain, forest and field;
rising to the heavens; and becoming a holy
blessing of snow and rain.

May these waters course through our lives,
sanctifying our homes, worship places and
workspaces. May these Epiphany waters al-
ways be sign and substance of Life.



Financial Update

By Connie Kotula, Treasurer



The following financial information
has been approved by Vestry. This
information is from November. When December
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 October	\$ 11,206
Percent of the Monthly Budget	99%
Total Pledges Received YTD*	\$137,888
Percent of the Annual Budget	97%

Total Net Income (Loss) October	(\$5,095)
Total Net Income (Loss) YTD*	(\$7,463)
Total Budget Income (Loss) YTD*	(\$6,436)
YTD* Actual to Budget Benefit (Deficit)	(\$1,027)

* Year To Date

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

Adult Education

By Sarah Schulte

We are ready to think about Adult Education for the
new year. Please send in ideas to the office of what
topics you'd like to discuss. We are still figuring out
how often and when we'll meet, but we look forward
to bringing back this important time together.

Welcoming our new neighbors

By Sarah Schulte

St. George's is currently partnering with St. Christopher's in Roseville to assist with driving a family of new Afghan neighbors to and from their ESL classes. The family arrived in September of this year and is a lovely group of women: Zainab (60), Aziza (28), Razia (28), Farzana (20), Roqia (19), and Zakira (17).

St. Christopher's is one of the churches in the diocese that has chosen to sponsor an Afghan family, but the family has an apartment in St. Louis Park, which is a significant drive from Roseville. We are thrilled that Marion Hunner thought to connect us with her home church so that we can assist with driving three days a week. We have a group of seven volunteer drivers who take turns either picking up the women from their home and transporting them to class or driving them from class back home. Even in that short time that we're with the family, we have felt their warmth and graciousness. Some of us have been taught a few words in Persian or have had the chance to listen to Afghan music while in the car. They have invited us into their home for tea and for lunch. It has been a beautiful experience to help in welcoming some of our newest neighbors to St. Louis Park. We look forward to hosting the drivers from St. Christopher's as well as our new Afghan friends at coffee hour on February 12.



"They are all such lovely, pleasant and gracious ladies. It's been an honor getting to know them." – **Carole Leonard**



"I think it is so nice how they invited me in the first week. They are all so friendly and grateful. It will be easier when they progress in their English so we can get to know them better." – **Kathie Brown**



"It has been a pleasure to be able to drive the Afghani women to their ESL classes. They are so happy to see me and always thank me (in English) and include smiles and waves." – **Connie Kotula**



About St. George's

5224 Minnetonka Boulevard

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

952-926-1646

www.stgeorgesonline.org

Office hours Tuesday-Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 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, 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 Manion, 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 printed copy of the church newsletter, please contact Marion in the office.