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St. George's Episcopal Church

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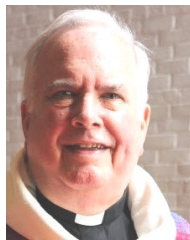
January 2025

This is a free publication for members and friends

Volume 32, No. 1

New Year's Reflections

By Fr. Tom



Reflecting on the past year and planning for the new year can be a valuable way to learn from



experiences and make the most of the year ahead. I would like to offer some tips for reflecting on the new year:

Consider your highs and lows:

Think about what went well and what didn't, and what you learned.

Identify what you want to improve:

Consider what you want to change about yourself, what you want to let go, and what you want to begin.

Set goals:

Think about what you want to accomplish, what skills you want to learn, and how you want your life to change.

Consider your relationships:

Think about who you want to spend more time with, and what you want to give yourself as a gift.

Make plans:

Consider how you want to spend your free time, what creative projects you want to work on, and what preventative health measures you want to take.

Enjoy!



Annual Meeting

NEW DATE

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 23, 2025. The Annual Meeting will take place in the Parish Hall following the regular Sunday service.

From the Office

By *Marion Hunner*,
Parish Administrator



Links in the Newsletter - To follow links in the electronic copy of the newsletter, hold down the Ctrl key and click on the link. If you are reading a paper copy, look at the bottom of page 8 for instructions on how to find the links.

Office Hours - The office is closed from December 24 - January 1. Marion will be back on Thursday, January 2nd.

Annual Report - All Annual Report items (reports, bios, pics, etc) are due Tuesday, January 7th.

Giving Statements - Giving statements for 2024 will be emailed the week of January 5th. If you requested a paper copy, those will be mailed.

2024 Pledges - Did you accidentally leave your 2024 pledge incomplete? No worries! We can still take those payments in January. Please note on the check or envelope that it is for 2024.

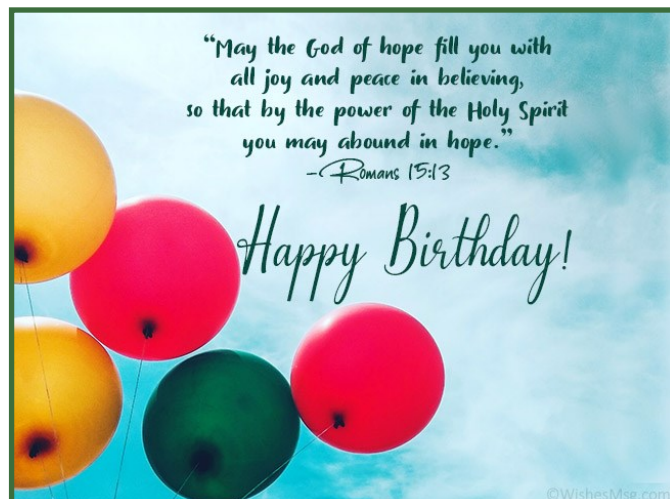


Need help? Call 988

Feeling overwhelmed? Stressed? Can't cope? Suicidal? Anxious? Pick up the phone, call 988. When you connect to the 988 Lifeline, a trained crisis specialist will answer, listen to you, and provide support and share resources if needed.

Crisis Specialists are trained to focus on de-escalation, safety planning, and coping skills. Call if you or someone you care about is hurting.

For more information,
Google 988 Lifeline Minnesota.



January Birthdays

9 - Carole Leonard	22 - Diane McGowan
18 - Charlie Hample	26 - Tom Zaun
19 - Fran Bly	



Adult Forum Opportunity

By *Jane Jacobson*



To quote Bishop Loya, "This year at convention, we will be focused on how we are answering this question in our own day. Who do we say Jesus is by our lives as individuals, as congregations, and as a diocese? In every generation, in every context, the church of Jesus thrives when it looks and acts like Jesus. How can we most faithfully confess, follow and bear witness to this Messiah in our own unique moment?" Fran Bly and Jane Jacobson invite you to join them for an Adult Forum on January 12 to watch and hear Bishop Loya's full address to the convention; it is a thought-provoking message, one that can initiate a rewarding discussion.

Financial Updates

By Kathie Brown, Treasurer



The following financial information is through November. When December information is approved at the January Vestry meeting, we will post it in the February monthly newsletter.

Net Income = Income minus expenses

YTD = Year to date

Numbers in parentheses are negative

Pledges Received in November	\$8,920
Percent of the Monthly Budget	75.7 %
Total Pledges Received YTD	\$128,129
Percent of the Annual Budget	90.6%

Net Income for November	\$5,589
Net Income YTD	\$ (11,159)
Budget Net Income YTD	\$ (40,570)
Actual Net Income compared to Budgeted Net Income YTD	\$ 29,411*

*Reflects \$25,000 taken from the General Investment Fund as income.



Change of Date for Annual Meeting

By Jane Jacobson

The date of our Annual Meeting has been moved to **Sunday, February 23rd** following the Sunday service.



We are sorry for any inconvenience, yet the move is needed in order to allow the vestry time to review and approve the 2025 budget.

Welcome to Our Future

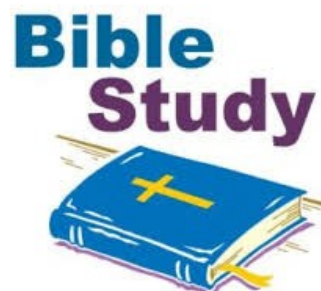
By Jane Jacobson

The Rev. Susan Moss, a retired priest with the Diocese of Minnesota, will be joining St. George's as a Ministry Companion. ECMN provides this important ministry to parishes undergoing change. Rev. Moss will work closely with our rector, wardens, and vestry by listening to our joys and concerns and gently guiding us into the future we choose for St. George's. She will be attending our worship service on Sunday, February 23, as well as staying for the Annual Meeting. We welcome this opportunity to explore new possibilities.



Suffering and Evil

Join the Bible Study group in January to explore suffering and evil. They meet in the conference room of the Christian Education Building on Wednesdays at 10 am. See Charlie Hample for more details.



JANUARY 1

Take a deep, cleansing breath, then inhale and exhale as you pray these words (silently or aloud) until they rest in your heart.

[INHALE]

Jesus makes,

[EXHALE]

all things new.

AMEN.

Parish Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Office Closed	6:30 pm AA		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10 am Holy Eucharist		ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE		6:30 pm AA		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 Adult Forum	7 pm Finance			6:30 pm AA		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10 am Holy Eucharist	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE			6:30 pm AA		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 am Vestry	11:30 am Women of St. George's			6:30 pm AA		

Sunday Ministries



	Sunday January 5 The Epiphany	Sunday January 12 First Sunday after the Epiphany Baptism of our Lord	Sunday January 19 Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Sunday January 26 Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Lectionary Readings	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4:14-21
Lectors	Tyler Williams Mary Weekes	Tom Harmon Kathie Brown	Carole Leonard Charlie Hample	Camille Schroeder Cyprian Troyer
Chalice Bearers	Leslie O'Donnell Adele Cormier	Laura Harmon Rachel Santos	Kathie Brown Cyprian Troyer	Kris Kelley Jane Jacobson
Acolytes	Jayden Odihiambo	Lily Schulte Elena Schulte	Jayden Odihiambo	Lily Schulte Elena Schulte
Ushers	Jane Jacobson	Tom Harmon	Tom Zaun	Bob Jones
Altar Guild	Jane Jacobson	Kris Kelley Rachel Santos	Laura Harmon Heather Whitesell	Jane and Gregg Jacobson
Coffee Servers	Bruce & Iris Alexander	Bob Jones	John & Jane Carlson	Betty Bauer Carole Leonard

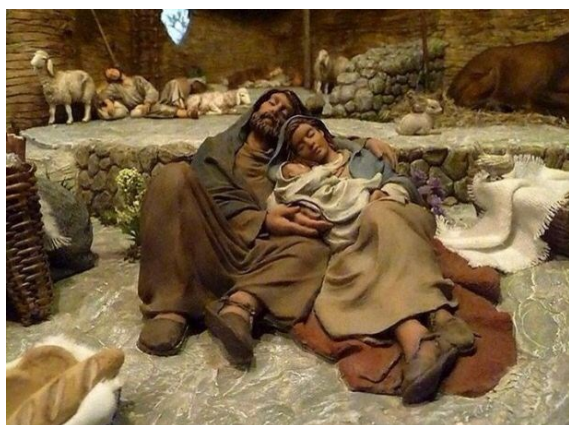
Invitation to Re-wild Christmas

Bishop Loya's message December 18, 2024

Luke's telling of the Christmas story begins with the world's power brokers flexing their muscle by sending the desperate poor scurrying to be registered in their hometowns. The irony of almighty God being born to one of those families on the run, with the birth announcement coming to the most disreputable folk in the ancient economy, marks the unmistakable arrival of God's revolution of love in a world ruled by fear, separation, and oppression. The God of heaven and earth always comes to and from the margins. The God of all creation always comes small and weak. The God of Abraham is always found in the forgotten and lonely places.

If we dare to go to the manger, let us commit to living from the manger.

Over the centuries, both the church and the culture have tamed the rough edges of Christmas. We have made it a cozy story rather than a promise to turn things upside down with a revolutionary flood of love. When the church longs to be large and relevant, at the center of power and influence, the God who comes exposed and vulnerable is a tough pill to swallow. When the church tries to maintain its position at the center, it must exchange the gospel of Jesus for the idols of nation, race, wealth, political



program, or something else, as it has done and in many places continues to do today.

This year, beloved, we are invited to re-wild Christmas in our hearts and our congregations. If we dare to go to the manger, let us commit to living from the manger.

Let us commit to being a church that stands with the immigrant, the refugee, and all those targeted by the flex from the centers of power.

Let us commit to being a church that lives a story of love across division instead of the story of a zero sum struggle between differing groups.

Let us commit to being a church that, small and humble, always bears witness to the small and humble God who is Lord of all.

In the dark beauty of Minnesota's winter, may your Christmas be wild.

May you feel the cold with the holy family.

May you feel the fear with the shepherds.

May you sit with the holy family and shepherds wherever they are today, that you may also, with them, see the heavens ablaze with the glory of God, and be set on fire to join God in God's longing to heal the whole world with love.



What Is Enough?

By Canon Karen Olson, Canon for Ministry

Originally published in July, 2024

Episcopal Church in Minnesota

This week's Gospel (John 6:1-21) focuses on the well-loved and oft-told story about the miracle of the loaves and fishes. As our staff dwelt in this passage at our weekly meeting, we wondered about this

"enough-ness." Our American paradigm tends to fixate on our ability to control everything we can possibly control all on our own, without expectation or assumption of God's grace, God's plans, God's love.



In this Gospel story, Jesus asked Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" Philip eyed up the crowd (we know it was estimated to be about 5,000) and did some quick math in his head and posited that even six months' wages wouldn't be enough to buy food! There's that word again, enough.

And Jesus did the unthinkable. A young boy offered up five loaves and two fish. And Jesus blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the people. And all were fed. All—complete with leftovers.

Why do we keep limiting what God can do? Why do we keep thinking that we can even imagine what God can do, above and beyond what we think we can do on our own?

As people of faith, as people who follow the way of Jesus, we have the opportunity to question this culture of the need to be in control. We get to say, God can do so much more than we can imagine—and believe it! Live as though we know it is true.

So, the next time you say to someone, "I don't have enough" or "I am not enough," re-wonder that assessment and say instead, "I can give what I have" and let God take all of those morsels, all of the leftover bread crumbs, and make it something new. Something glorious. Something miraculous. And more than enough.



Episcopal Church
In Minnesota

Godsend Gathering

Saturday, January 25

10 am—2:30 pm,

St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis

The Rev. Dr. Michael Moynagh, Anglican priest and theologian of the Fresh Expressions Movement, will be speaking at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis. Mike is the author of numerous books, including *Godsend: A Handbook for New Christian Communities*, *Being Church*, *Doing Life: Creating Gospel Community Where Life Happens*, and more recently, *Giving the Church: The Christian Community Through the Looking Glass of Generosity*. He will share how Anglican Christians in the U.K. have been learning how to join up with neighbors who don't go to church in life-giving ways. Participants will also experience and process "Soul Space," a worship experience designed for people outside the institutional church. After this gathering, Mike and Blair Pogue will travel around the state, meeting with anyone interested in learning more about what is involved in starting or sustaining a New Christian Community.

If you would like snacks, lunch, and handouts, please RSVP to Blair Pogue at

blair.p@episcopalmn.org by Monday, January 13.



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.

tong@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

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE:

Monica Murray, soprano

Alexis Winters, mezzo-soprano

Luke Slivinski, tenor

Vanessa Vaughn, bass

INTERIM WARDENS:

Jane Jacobson and Lou Michelich

VESTRY:

Members at Large: Iris Alexander, Suzy Garland,
Charles Hample, Camille Schroeder, and Roxy
Zaun

PARISH TREASURER:

Kathie Brown

**Sunday Worship at
St. George's 10:00 am**

**Sunday Services
are offered in person
and available on St. George's
YouTube Channel**

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