



By George!

Growing with You in God's Love and Service

JUNE 2015

Rule of Life for St George's

Based on our spiritual values and practices, this is our commitment to each other.

We:

- *Nurture ourselves with the Bible and spiritual books*
- *Care deeply about each other, including in prayer.*
- *Fellowship together and have fun.*
- *Are grateful, glad and giving stewards of God's creation.*
- *Reach out to the world, living and spreading the Word.*

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Thoughts from Our PIC

(Priest in Charge)

Milestones

Summer can be a time to mark special dates in our lives. As we take vacation trips and sometimes visit with family and friends, we have the opportunity to remember important events. This June, Deborah and I will be taking two trips back east for this kind of milestone. We will go the first weekend in June to the Philadelphia area for my 50th prep school reunion. For my high school years, I attended The Hill School, a traditional boarding prep school in Pottstown, about thirty miles west of Philadelphia. I have not been back since I graduated, and Deb has never seen the school. This is a part of my life that I want to share with her, as well as being with classmates whom I have not seen for fifty years.

The last weekend of June, Deb and I will take another trip east to Cleveland for my sister Debbie's 70th birthday celebration. Originally, we were going to visit Debbie after my prep school reunion, but we found out that my nephew is having a birthday party for my sister at the end of June. Debbie's 70th birthday is a very important milestone for her, and I don't want to miss it. I'm really looking forward to being with her and other family for this special birthday.

We each have our personal histories with our own milestones. A central part of our faith is the experience of God's presence and guidance as we go through our lives. We thank God for God's love and care in the past in good times and difficult times, and we offer our future to God and pray for guidance. This was a crucial part of the faith of the people of Israel, as they remembered God's great actions on their behalf in the past and looked in hope to the future.

At St. George's, we also have milestones. Our vestry will meet with me and Kay Rohde from the Office of the Bishop for our annual Mutual Ministry Review on Wednesday evening June 10th. The purpose of the review is to look back at the previous twelve months to see how we have done in achieving our goals as a parish. What went well? What could have gone better or was left undone? Then we will set goals for the next twelve months. Around the same time next year, we will repeat this process. By doing this review each year, we have a method to move forward with purpose. As they say, if you aim for nothing, you will probably achieve it! On the contrary, if we set goals and check to see how we are doing, we will make good progress.

I wish everyone a great summer and God's blessing in any travels and special personal or family milestones!

*In Christ,
†Father Ray*

Our Senior Warden

The only constant in life is change. Time marches on, unimpeded, relentlessly. To survive, one must manage change, embrace change, be empowered by change. For St. George's, the physical changes have been dramatic. And inspiring.

I am truly overwhelmed by the changes in our Sanctuary. The space is bright and well lit, beautiful and spacious. But what I have found to be even more dramatic and heart warming is how well our Congregation is handling this change. In fact, harnessing this change. There seems to be a vibrancy and energy flowing through our Parish that fills me with pride. We may be small, but we are mighty.

But it isn't the physical nature of our church that makes us mighty. It is our hearts. And those have gone unchanged. Our kindness and generosity continues to permeate well beyond the physical confines of St. George's of Carmichael at 5600 Winding Way. We are touching lives throughout our community in innumerable ways.

One particular outreach that comes to mind recently is the Sherrill Scholarship. As we are all aware, the cost of most everything these days is well outpacing wages. Our ability to provide scholarship funding to young people in our community is indescribable. We are truly making a positive impact on the lives of the next generation.

John Karsten and Dave and Joy Allmuth stewarded the process of selecting the scholarship recipients admirably, choosing two young women highly deserving of the award. The presentation of the award was highly emotional, with hardly a dry eye in the Congregation. I happened to be serving as the Eucharistic Minister for the Sherrill Scholarship presentation service. Not only was it a challenge to navigate the new Sanctuary configuration as the EM, but the emotion of the presentation completely overwhelmed me to the point that I forgot what I was supposed to be doing when it was time to prepare the Altar. I found myself frozen, thinking of my own daughters as they grow and change, and how before I know it they will be in search of college scholarships. Thankfully, Deacon Bob was there to guide me back to where I was supposed to be. But the tears lingered.

No one is immune to change, including myself. The key is to gather up that change and use it to do good things. I think we are handling change at St. George's quite well.

Update on Camp Noel Porter donation drive: We are almost to our goal of \$500, with the last count coming in at around \$400 in fundraising for Camp Noel Porter. We are raising funds to help renovate the dormitory in that facility. On June 14th, we will be receiving a presentation on Camp Noel Porter and hope to have met our goal by then to present a check to that organization. It isn't too late to donate! Thank you!

Update on Capital Improvement Projects at St. George's:

The cleaning and waxing of the floors in Sanctuary and Parish Hall is complete. We are considering cleaning the duct work for the HVAC system, but it is quite costly. The Vestry will be reviewing our Capital Improvement budget at the next Vestry meeting to see what more we can and should do. The next largest expenditure on the horizon will be the stained glass windows Mel is working on. Those pieces will be the final touches on the transformation of the Sanctuary, scheduled to be completed and installed sometime in December.

Ryan Saunders, Senior Warden

WOMAN'S GUILD

Our church is looking amazing! The Women's Guild has been able to help with the ongoing revamping of the interior by having the drapes cleaned. We look forward to worshipping in the revitalized, cheerful space.

We hope all members of the congregation [men included] will attend the Spring/Summer Luncheon on Saturday, June 13, at 11:30 AM. Location: **Lido Café, 7907 Fair Oaks Blvd.** in Carmichael. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet at church so we will know how many to make reservations for.

We will take a break from meetings this summer. The next Guild meeting will be, Wednesday, September 16 at 11:00AM. Mark the date on your calendar and plan on attending to participate in planning of Fall activities.

I wish everyone a wonderful and safe summer.

Carol Adkins, President



Young at Heart

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4—Lani Hahn
15—Dolores O'Brien
15—Ryan Jeske
24—Gail Peterson
27—Robert Freie

(If your name was not included, please let Sandy know so she can add your name.)



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

15 Dennis & Jan Fazekas (70)



BOOK SALE

The women's Guild is happy to provide the book corner for your enjoyment.

We appreciate the books you all donate. However, I would like to remind you to bring fiction, non-fiction, historical or humorous books. Please NO self-help or study books. Thanks for your attention to this matter.
CDs...\$1
BOOKS...\$1
PAPERBACKS...50¢

Happy reading!
Janet Jenkins

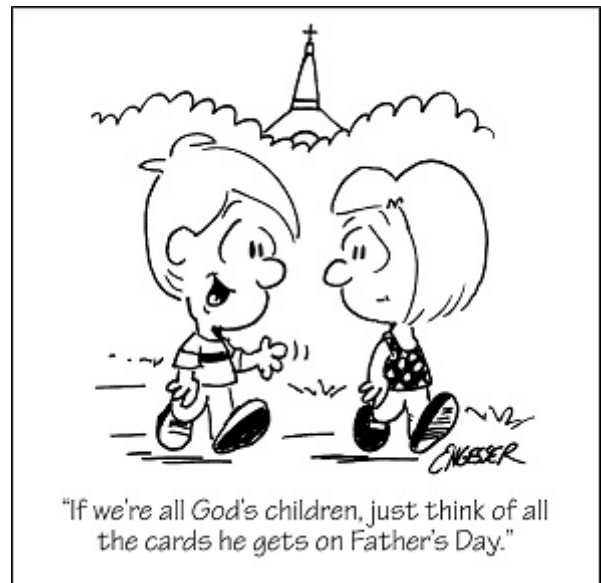


June 14th @ 4 p.m.

at the Allmuths: Hot Dogs & Hamburgers with all the fixings, plus soft drinks and Iced Tea will be provided...just bring your favorite side!!
AND Don't forget your swimsuit so you can keep cool in the pool!!!



June 21 is Father's Day, and we will have special prayers for dads at both services.



June/July

JUNE 7th

2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15] 16-20, [11: 14-15]

Psalm 138

2 Corinthians 4: 13—5: 1

Mark 3:20-35

CELEBRANT: † Gini Hummel

PREACHER: † Bob Olsen

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Diana Perparos

LECTORS: Anne Mangels & Becky Freie

ALTAR GUILD: Vicki Karsten & Cruz Siaz

USHER: Cathy Crosbie & friend

June 14th

3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, [11-13], 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

CELEBRANT: † Fr. Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Ryan Saunders

LECTORS: Annelise Connell & Carol Adkins

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Cooper & Joy Allmuth

USHER: Carol Adkins & friend

JUNE 21st

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Samuel 17: [1a, 4-11, 19-23]32-49

Psalm 9: 9-20

2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

Mark 4: 35-41

CELEBRANT: † Fr. Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Aaron Adkins LECTORS:

Anne Mangels & †Bob Gould

ALTAR GUILD: JoAnne Cookman & Joy Allmuth

USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

JUNE 28th

5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 1:1,17, 21-27

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

CELEBRANT: † Susan Plucker

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Aaron Adkins

LECTORS: Becky Freie & Joan Tennis

ALTAR GUILD: Angela Saunders & Cruz Siaz

USHER: Cathy Crosbie & friend

JULY 5th

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10

Psalm 48

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

Mark 6:1-13

CELEBRANT: † Gini Hummel

PREACHER: Mel Rose

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Dave Allmuth

LECTORS: Aaron Adkins & Annelise Connell

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Cooper & JoAnn Cookman

USHER: Carol Adkins & friend

JULY 12th

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Mark 6: 14-29

CELEBRANT: † Fr. Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: RyanSaunders

LECTORS: JoAnn Cookman & Carol Adkins

ALTAR GUILD: Angela Saunders & Cruz Siaz

USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

CONNECTIONS OR SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION



I've occasionally mentioned in my sermons that we are all connected and I've recently had a couple of experiences that have confirmed for me just how interconnected we are, one to another and across time. The second part of the title of this month's article refers to the theory that everyone and everything is six or fewer steps away from any other person in the world. A chain of "a friend of a friend" makes up the six steps. Now you may have heard of "six degrees of Kevin Bacon" talking about how all actors are somehow linked with Kevin Bacon within six steps. But the theory actually came from a Hungarian author in 1929 who wrote a short story about how small the world had gotten after WWI and that within six steps everyone was connected to everyone else or an event.

First story – when Sandy and I mentioned at church we were going to Hawaii and as part of that trip visit the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, John Karsten told the story of his returning from Korea as a young Marine and their ship stopping in Hawaii. As they came into Pearl Harbor, he and his buddies were on deck and looking down the rail saw their Gunnery Sergeant with tears streaming down his face. Now John described Gunny Stovall as the meanest man he ever met, so they were completely surprised. Anyway John and his buddies asked the sergeant why he was crying and he replied that his dad had been a Marine on the Arizona when it was hit and sunk on December 7, 1941. Visiting the Arizona memorial is an emotional experience, but it was even more so seeing Marine PFC Stovall's name etched into the wall. Us-John-Gunny Stovall-PFC Stovall, depending on how you count the connections that is only two steps between us and PFC Stovall.

Story two – If you are my age or older then you can probably remember where you were and what you were doing when John F Kennedy was killed. I was a junior in high school on a CSF (Cal Scholarship Federation) field trip to UC Davis. As a new driver I'd somehow talked my dad into letting me take the car as the back-up driver, but ended up taking myself, another fellow from my class and 4 senior girls to Davis. I remember getting lost in downtown Sacramento and heading the wrong way down a one Way Street – but yes everyone still rode home with me. Ask me what I had for lunch yesterday and I probably couldn't tell you, but I'm guessing like me, most folks can remember a lot of details from that day in November over 50 years ago. If nothing else millions of us are connected by that event in US history and in our lives.

It is a small world if we take the time to talk with folks. As we go about our daily lives we may not even realize how many people we are connected to through friends of friends or mutual events. The fact that we are connected means there aren't as many strangers as we would think; we just haven't made the connections. I think this idea of our connectedness makes it easier to understand that everyone is our neighbor – the neighbor we are to love as Christ loves us.

† *Amen, Deacon Bob*

General Convention

The General Convention for our Episcopal Church will meet from June 24 through July 3 in Salt Lake City, Utah. General Convention meets every three years in different cities around the country. I was a deputy at the last Convention in Indianapolis in 2012, and it was an amazing experience. General Convention meets in two houses, the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. The House of Deputies consists of four clergy and four laity elected from each diocese of the Episcopal Church. It is a large gathering, one of the largest legislative bodies in the world, with about 1,600 members. The House of Bishops consists of all the bishops of the Church. Any legislation needs to be passed by both houses, similar to bills in Congress which need to be passed by both the Senate and the House. In addition to the legislative business (usually about 500 resolutions and other items), Convention has wonderful daily eucharists, other presentations and meetings, and a huge display area for all kinds of church-related things.

This year, Convention will elect a new Presiding Bishop (voted by the House of Bishops and ratified by the House of Deputies) and consider ways to restructure how the Episcopal Church is organized. Please keep our deputies from the Diocese of Northern California in your prayers, as well as the whole Convention. You can find information and links to General Convention through our diocesan website, www.norcalepiscopal.org.

--Fr. Ray

United Thank Offering

The mission of the United Thank Offering is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission, daily prayers, offerings, and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings is encouraged. Coins placed in one of the Blue Boxes become the outward, visible sign of our thanks to God. Our coins, combined with others collected nationwide, can accomplish many good things.

Locally, a grant was awarded in 2014 to the Diocese of Northern California for \$17,160.00 to enable the Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa to do a Homeless Seniors Needs Study. They will develop a well-informed understanding of the problems of elderly homeless individuals, especially concerning housing issues. The study will help to determine the proper way to best serve the elderly homeless in their region. The hope is that this project can be adopted or adapted by other Episcopal churches.

Sunday, June 21, has been designated for the ingathering of the coins from your Blue Boxes.

Please plan on placing your offerings in the collection plate that day. You can place the Blue Box with coins in the plate or (to make it easier for the offering counters) count your coins and substitute with cash or write a check (note UTO on the memo line) for that amount to place in the plate.

Don't have a Blue Box in your home? You can pick one up from the side table at the back of the church. You will also find literature that provides more information about the UTO program which has been in existence since 1889.





Time smushes together as you get older, especially if you are a busy person, but sometime within the last couple of years a group of us were at a Diocesan workshop in the Cathedral parish hall eating lunch, and Mel Rose put forth an idea he had for reconfiguring our sanctuary, based on his recent visit to another church. So we all listened, and realized

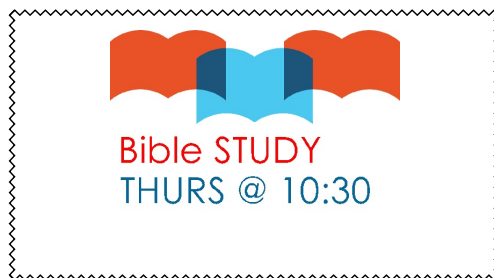
that this was something to consider. It came before the vestry several times, and at our annual meeting a few months ago we talked about it in small groups, and the general consensus was that we should move forward.

At our April vestry meeting, we decided to light the fuse. We would move forward with painting the sanctuary and replacing our light fixtures, and rearranging our pews (which are simply movable furniture) and suddenly it was done. When people came to church on May 3, their eyes got big, and mouths dropped open. It was as if we had a new church. Yet only cosmetic changes were done. (Think about painting a room, replacing ceiling light fixtures, and moving furniture; think about redecorating a room on HGTV.)

If you have not been to church since the change, please come. It is absolutely amazing and gorgeous. Our Junior Warden, Bill Kaler, was instrumental in arranging for professional painters and having an electrician evaluate our old lighting and determining that all we needed to do was replace the light fixtures; we did not need rewiring. Mel Rose, Bob Olsen, and Bill Kaler did a huge amount of manual labor. Many others also contributed.

I used to write these articles because I was Senior Warden, but Ryan Saunders has now taken on that position (and I cannot thank him enough!!!!). However, sometimes something happens that makes me so grateful to have St. George's Church in my life, I just want to share that gratitude, as I did last month.

Becky Freie





The major portion of our reconfiguration is complete, the realization of our discussions last fall and at the Annual Meeting in January. We are still “living” into the new arrangement, which has us gathered around the altar throughout the service. There will be a rededication of the sanctuary on June 21st at the 10:30 service.



Deacon Bob



SUNDAY SERVICES

Family Service 9 a.m.
Traditional Service 10:30 a.m.

BOUNTY BAG

We're collecting dry goods, canned goods, dried cereals, soaps, toothpaste tooth brushes or any non-perishables,

We collect Bags ANYTIME!!
NO TIME TO SHOP a check to St. Georges with memo to River city Food Bank (everything is welcome).

Articles are ways welcome...**BUT KEEP it short!** The best way to submit an article is via my new e-mail sandyolsen8070@gmail.com