



By George!

Growing with You in God's Love and Service

December 2017

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)

The “Peace” of Advent

I wish everyone a peaceful, reflective Advent Season. Good luck with that! Advent is supposed to be a time of quiet reflection and meditation as we prepare for the feast of Christmas. The world around us pays no attention to this, with the Christmas Season starting around Halloween. Deb and I have been watching Christmas movies on T.V. for weeks now!

My best sense of how to deal with this is that we run our lives on two tracks during the Advent Season. One track is keeping up with the Christmas Season going on all around us – with the buying of gifts, decoration our homes, going to Christmas parties, etc. There is nothing wrong with all of this, and it can be fun. The other track is the quiet reflective one of the church Advent Season. If we are purposeful about it, we can squeeze this in among all the other activities of the season. Our Sunday worship in Advent has this quiet, meditative quality.

I encourage us all to carve out times for reflection during the Advent Season. You might do this by taking a walk, or listening to music, or spending quality time with friends and family. Our reflection can be about the incarnation, the mystery of God’s coming among us through the life and ministry of Jesus. This is an amazing, wonderful reality – that God has chosen to live with us in a human life.

I hope that all of us will have good times in our shopping and celebrating the season, and that we will find ways to be thoughtful and reflective about the incarnation of God’s love for us through the birth and ministry of Jesus.

*In Jesus’ love,
Father Ray*



Senior Warden

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I cannot believe that we are already entering the season of Advent. It seems like summer just ended and here we are getting ready for Christmas. In fact, as I am writing this I already feel the pressure to decorate for Christmas and I haven't even bought our Thanksgiving turkey yet.

The four weeks leading up to Christmas can indeed be a time of anxiety, pressure, and stress for many of us. We need to decorate, shop, bake, gift wrap, entertain, while worrying about staying within our budgets or figure out how to pay the bills when January and February arrive. How can we do it all and still maintain a cheerful holiday spirit?

As I was contemplating how to reduce my stress and live more in the "reason for the season," I thought it would be nice to participate in the Morning Prayers led by Mel Rose throughout the holidays. Unfortunately, I'm not retired yet and must be at work instead. But thank you, Mel, for offering this wonderful gift to our parishioners. On All Saint's Sunday, Reverend Anne McKeever handed out the, *Living Well Through Advent 2017*, a Living Compass seasonal publication which I intend on reading daily through Advent. She left a few on the counter in the back of the church if you haven't picked one up yet. Lastly, as I was researching more Advent resources, I came across a wonderful website

<https://www.ignatioanspirituality.com> which focuses on St. Ignatius of Loyola's spiritual practices. St. Ignatius of Loyola is best known as the person who founded the Jesuits and whose spiritual insights gave birth to Ignation spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises. Lesser known is the fact that a cannonball wound he received while in the military is actually what led to his conversion experience. Without his conversion there would be no Jesuits or Ignation spirituality. The website has an Arts and Faith: Advent program where you can enjoy a video commentary about works of art inspired by the Sunday Scriptures of Advent. These videos are intended to help us take a new look at this season of preparation through the lens of sacred art. Many of you artists in our congregation might really enjoy this. Accompanying the videos are reflections on using the art as a means of Ignation prayer. I already feel calmer knowing these resources are available to keep me grounded during Advent. I hope you enjoy them too.

Having said all the above, I would like to extend an invitation to all parishioners to the Crenshaw's Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 16th anytime after 5:30. Our address is 3813 Plymouth Drive, North Highlands. I hope you can join us for some Holiday Cheer!

One last, but important announcement: We would like to have a Christmas Pageant at our Christmas Eve Service and are in need of volunteers. If you plan on bringing your grandchildren to this Service, please ask them if they would be interested in participating. If so, please contact Lani Hahn.

*Yours in Christ,
Sandra Crenshaw
Sr. Warden*

WOMENS GUILD

There was not much business to discuss at our November meeting. As a follow-up to the thought of doing a day trip to San Francisco, initial inquiries brought up pricey options which have resulted in that plan being put on hold. We will look at that idea again in the new year.

Guild members in attendance at the meeting were in agreement that it would be nice if other ladies would step forward to be in charge of some church events such as one of the occasional pot-luck meals, a luncheon or a reception - such as the upcoming Bishop's visit in January. Being in charge of one event is not that difficult (and I know that others will step forward to lend a hand at the function). It is just that presently the 3-4 of us that have been doing it are getting a bit weary and will appreciate others (even if they cannot attend a monthly meeting) letting us know they would like to take a turn. Anyone ready to speak up and help? Let me know in person, by phone or by email.

We have had one lady say she is willing to help keep track of things in the church kitchen in cooperation with Deacon Bob and Sandy Olsen. Thank you Merle. Anyone else?

*Carol Adkins
President, Women's Guild*



Young at Heart

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3—Sandy Olsen
- 3—Hunter Danielson
- 14—Peter Perparos
- 17—Nancy Landers
- 18—Tanner Danielson
- 20—Kylie Koolzer
- 25—Mary Ann Benbow
- 28—Rachel Perparos
- 31—Junette Avey
- 31—James Breen

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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 20—Conrad & JoAnn Conrad
- 27—Song & Lani Hahn
- 30—John & Patty Borgman ('51)





HOSPITALITY
Sunday

Women's Guild

Hospitality Sunday will be the 1st Sunday of each month, special offering envelopes are included in the bulletin. These are used by the Women's Guild to provide weekly coffee hours, special receptions and other events for parish members. Please make checks payable to St. George's Church with a memo note in the left corner for HOSPITALITY.



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

African Team Ministries

Items will be for sale following
the Services November 26th and
December 3rd

It's not too early to shop for

DECEMBER/JANUARY

DECEMBER 3rd

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 24-37

CELEBRANT: † Anne McKeever

PREACHER: Mel Rose

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Karen Lolmaugh

LECTORS: Carol Adkins & JoAnn Cookman

ALTAR GUILD: Vicki Karsten &

Wendy Nelson

USHER: Cathy Crosby & friend

DECEMBER 10th

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Mark 1: 1-8

CELEBRANT: † Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Aaron Adkins

LECTORS: Karen Lolmaugh & JoAnn Cookman

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Cooper & JoAnn Cookman

USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

DECEMBER 17th

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

1Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

CELEBRANT: † Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Ryan Saunders

LECTORS: Aaron Adkins & Carol Adkins

ALTAR GUILD: Angela Saunders & Wendy Nelson

USHER: Carol Adkins & friend

DECEMBER 24th

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Canticle 3

Romans 16: 25-27

Luke 1: 26-38

CELEBRANT: † Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Diane Perparos

LECTORS: Karen Lolmaugh & Becky Freie

ALTAR GUILD: Vicki Karsten & Joy Allmuth

USHER: Cathy Crosby & friend

DECEMBER 31st LESSONS & CAROLS 1st

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Genesis 3: 1-23, Isaiah 40: 1-11, Luke 1: 5-25, Luke 1:

39-46, Luke 1: 57-80, Luke 2: 1-20, Luke 2: 21-36,

Hebrews 1: 1-12 & John 1: 1-18

WORSHIP LEADER: TBA

LECTORS: Sign-up

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Cooper & JoAnn Cookman

USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

JANUARY 7th

1st SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Genesis 1: 1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19: 1-7

Mark 1: 4-11

CELEBRANT: † Anne McKeever

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Aaron Adkins

LECTORS: Karen Lolmaugh & Randall Abbott

ALTAR GUILD: Vicki Karsten & Barbara Cooper

USHER: Carol Adkins & friend

Lessons can be found on our website

www.stgeorgeca.org

Our Stories



Several years ago, I started writing my autobiography, after my dad passed away, I realized that there were many questions that I'd wished I'd asked him and decided to tell my story for my sons. If you are already wondering how this ties into Advent, it is a time of reflection and anticipation. The last 45-50 years of my story is as a working adult. As I reflected on my work life realized I learned a lot from the people I worked for and with. In some cases good examples and other not so good. But folks who would form me.

While most of the lessons in dealing with people came at work, they were applicable to all personal interactions. Probably the biggest one is that everyone has a back story, and knowing it would explain why people do and say the things they do. Doing things or saying things that you might find rude or obnoxious, by knowing the backstory you realize it isn't the individual's intention, and in most cases, they aren't even aware how their actions are perceived by other. I remember one fellow I worked with who didn't do small talk, not even saying or responding to good morning. I learned that shortly before I met him, he had gone through cancer treatment. He was at most in his mid-thirties, at a time when most of us think we will live forever, he learned it isn't necessarily so. As such he came to feel he didn't have time for small stuff. While he was in treatment he had also found himself, by default, answering "fine" when asked "how are you?" Realizing that was dumb, he just quite engaging in small talk or what most of us would consider polite conversation before getting down to business. I don't know if he ever went back to answering how are you or good morning (the day/week after chemo or radiation, is never a good morning). But knowing his history, made it easier for me to work with him and in turn I believe it was easier for him to work with me.

As I write this on a Sunday afternoon, I am remembering in Fr Ray's sermon, him telling us that the Gospels and lessons are becoming more anticipator as we move from late Pentecost and into Advent. We are not just anticipating Jesus birth, which we will celebrate on Christmas Eve, but his return at the end of the age. The question for each of us to reflect on during Advent is "will we be ready?" Part of being ready is living lives that reflect that the Kingdom is here and now. As you take time to reflect this Advent Season, I would ask you to think about your story – and those whose example has helped you along the way. Especially, those who you may have initially thought of as examples of what not to do, but with time, reflection and learning their stories you realize they were doing the best they could. As I've been working on my "story" I believe I've done my best each day. However, I have also come realize that on many days the bar for "my best" was set pretty low.

Amen, Deacon Bob

Wednesdays @
10:45



BIBLE
STUDY



Sunday
School
@ 9 a.m.

Vestry Meeting  2nd Wednesday
@ 6:45 pm



Round
Table

Last
Monday
@ 11



The choir will
now be
meeting
Saturdays @
noon

Choir Rehearsal

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Morning – Sunday December 24 –
Morning Prayer at 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve – Eucharist with pageant at 7 p.m

1st Sunday of Christmas – Sunday December 31st –
Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m.



Poinsettias for Christmas

Poinsettias for Christmas, \$15 — includes all Christmas Decorations—Altar arrangements—Christmas tree—Swags —Candles—Wreaths, etc.

All gifts are gratefully received by our Altar Guild.

The names of the honorees and donors will be listed in the bulletins on Christmas Eve and the Sunday following. To be listed, donations must be received by the 3rd Sunday of Advent (December 17th)

I would like to help provide the flowers for Christmas and the Sunday following.

Christmas Flowers

In Memory of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

Other _____

By _____

Please make checks out to: St. George's, memo: Altar Guild

Place in Alms basin at any service of worship .

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).



SUNDAY SERVICES

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Family Service | 9 a.m. |
| Sunday School | 9 a.m. |
| Traditional Service | 10:30 a.m. |

Articles are always welcome...**BUT KEEP it short!** The best way to submit an article is via my e-mail sandyolsen8070@gmail.com, December 27th will be the deadline for the January issue of the By George!