



By George!

Growing with You in God's Love and Service

December 2016

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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St. George's Episcopal Church

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Thoughts From Our PIC

(Priest in Charge)

God's Silence

Here we are in Advent again! Since Deb and I were away in Australia and New Zealand for a month this fall, I feel that Advent has come early. How can it be Advent already?

Every year, I have the sense that Advent is a multiple personality season. One personality of Advent is the extroverted, busy, active season going on all around us. You don't have to look much to find this personality; it's in the stores, on the radio stations, on all the media. In this world, Christmas Season has already started and continues until Christmas Day, and then abruptly stops. There is nothing wrong with this personality of Advent. It can be energizing and fun.

But there is another personality in Advent. This is the quiet, reflective side of Advent. Our Church Year and liturgy focus on this more introverted personality of the season. This aspect of Advent is harder to see and challenging to observe. If you are a very extroverted person who hates being quiet, this personality of Advent can be very challenging! I think that there is great value in letting this aspect of Advent be part of our lives. It can be difficult to make some quiet time for reflection or prayer, but it is so helpful to let God speak to us in the silence.

I recently saw an excellent meditation about this reflective side of Advent by the Episcopal author Frederick Buechner, and I include it here.

In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart.

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment *Frederick Buechner.*

I pray that we all will find times to be still and open to the quiet presence of God this Advent, and I wish everyone the joy and peace of Christ this Christmas!

*In Jesus' love,
Father Ray*

Senior Warden

The wizard behind the curtain. Hopefully everyone understands this cultural reference to the “Wizard of Oz.” I like to think of it as the mysterious force behind the scenes that makes things happen. You’re not certain who they are or how they do it, but the work gets done and things happen like they are supposed to.

At St. George’s, we have many groups and individuals that are all wizards behind the curtain. Our Alter Guild, for example. Toiling tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure all of the pieces are in place for two Sunday services each week. Or Jan Mirrione in the office, quietly taking care of administrative tasks for our church so that everything runs smoothly and we don’t fall behind on any responsibilities or obligations. Or Sandy Olsen, coordinating the schedule for all of our Sunday services and publishing the By George each month.

I could go on and on identifying different wizards behind the curtain at St. George’s, and would probably name each and every one of you much like Deacon Bob has done with his medallions. What I would like to do is focus on a particular group that serves as wizards behind the curtain: the Vestry.

Our Vestry plays an important role at St. George’s and serves as the nominated, and elected, body to represent the congregation. Think of it as our City Council for the Church. They make policy decisions, approve an annual budget, participate in goal setting sessions, and take action on various items that face our Church throughout the year.

There are nine members on the Vestry, and they are broken up into 3-year cohorts that serve 3-year terms. We have a Sr. Warden that is sort of like the Mayor, and a Jr. Warden that is sort of like a Vice Mayor. We also have a Treasurer and a Secretary, but those two positions do not have to be Vestry members. Vestry meetings are held once a month, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 7pm at St. George’s. We also participate in a mid-Summer Mutual Ministry Review, which is basically a goal setting session facilitated by a designated individual from our Dioceses.

With our Annual Meeting coming up in January, it will be time to elect 3 new Vestry members. As I mentioned, this is a very important role in our Church. If you are interested, or would like to suggest someone that you believe would be a strong candidate, please reach out to either me, or Aaron Adkins, or any of our Vestry members and let us know.

As I step down from Vestry after our Annual Meeting, I am appreciative for all that our congregation has accomplished, and all of the support we have received from everyone. Also, I am looking forward to new faces on our Vestry and to the continued strong leadership they have demonstrated over the years.

Ryan Saunders, Senior Warden

WOMAN'S GUILD

As I write this (early Thanksgiving week), I am still thinking of all we have to be thankful for even though the stores and malls would have us believe it is already Christmas Season. Unless you are doing the ostrich thing of burying ones head in the sand, it is impossible to not hear the news reports of all that is happening around us. It is not easy to be thankful at the present. Our country and all parts of the world have made it through many bad times and I believe we will make it thru this time of unrest also. A portion of Fr. Ray's recent sermon was reminding us that Jesus directs us to walk in mercy with him. Listening to and working with others to work through this difficult time, something to strive toward.

There is no Guild meeting this month. I hope to see many of you at our Christmas luncheon (men are welcome to attend) to celebrate the season together on December 3 at the Red Lobster Restaurant on Sunrise Blvd near Greenback Lane.

Happy Christian New Year and Merry Christmas to everyone!

Carol Adkins, Women's Guild President



Young at Heart

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

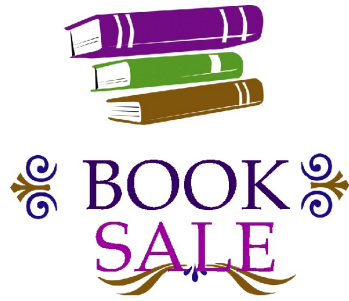
- 3—Sandy Olsen
- 3—Hunter Danielson
- 14—Peter Perparos
- 16—Cindy Lloyd
- 18—Tanner Danielson
- 20—Kylie Koolzer
- 21—Betsy Hack
- 25—Mary Ann Benbow
- 28—Rachel Perparos
- 31—Junette Avey
- 31—James Breen

(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)



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



December/January

DECEMBER 4th

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

CELEBRANT: † Anne McKeever

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Karen Lolmaugh

LECTORS: Aaron Adkins & Carol Adkins

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Cooper & Joy Allmuth

USHER: Cathy Crosby & friend

DECEMBER 11th

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146: 4-9

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

CELEBRANT: † Fr. Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Aaron Adkins

LECTORS: JoAnn Cookman & Becky Freie

ALTAR GUILD: Angela Saunders & Cruz Siaz

USHER: Carol Adkins & friend

DECEMBER 18th

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

CELEBRANT: † Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Ryan Saunders

LECTORS: Aaron Adkins & Sophia Saunders

ALTAR GUILD: Vicki Karsten & JoAnn Cookman

USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

DECEMBER 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]

CELEBRANT: † Fr. Ray Hess

WORSHIP LEADER: Team from
St. Mary's, Elk Grove

PREACHER: Julie Vice

ALTAR GUILD: Joy Allmuth

USHER: Cathy Crosby & friend

JANUARY 1st

LESSONS & CAROL

2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalms 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:15-21

WORSHIP LEADER: Becky, Bob or Mel

LECTORS: Many

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Cooper & JoAnn Cookman

USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

JANUARY 8th

1st SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

CELEBRANT: † Anne McKeever

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Dave Allmuth

LECTORS: Aaron Adkins & Carol Adkins

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Cooper & Joy Allmuth

USHER: Cathy Crosby & friend

Lessons can be found on our website

www.stgeorgeca.org



HOSPITALITY *Sunday*

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.





At coffee hour a month ago when this issue of the By George comes out, Lani Hahn was talking to me about how we might recognize folks at St George's for all they do to keep our little church going. Over the years Sandy and I have been members of small, medium and large churches, but regardless of size it seemed like 90% of the work was done by a couple dozen folks. St George's is and has been very different, here a 100% of the congregation do 100% of the work, something I discovered last year when I handed out the little St George's medals. And yes what each of us does varies, but everyone does something that contributes to St George's, whether they think of it as a ministry or not, service to the church and others is a ministry.

Thinking more about my conversation with Lani, it would take over 3 ½ years, if we were to monthly recognize one person off my St George's medal list. And I'm sure by then others should be added before we got to the 44th person on my list, we'd have gotten new members who would have also joined the ranks of those "doing" the work at St George's. Folks who are doing the work/ministries, on a week-in, week-out bases throughout the year, that get things done and make St George's, St George's.

If we were to do some kind of recognition program where would we start? Who would be the first person to be recognized? Now I have a few candidates, Bill Kaler, Jan Mirrione, Roger Jenkins and Mel Rose, but that's because they all did things recently that affected me personally. Bill not only dug the hole in the memorial seating area, but then got the sand and installed the pavers, something Mel and I have been talking about for a year or so. In addition to all the other things they do, at the end of October Jan and Roger organized and supervised the Garden Cleanup day – having taking over the administration and running of the Community Garden, a ministry that I gave up with my retirement. And a second nod to Roger for repainting the parking lot strips, giving me something to aim at on Sunday mornings. I mention Mel, as my partner in crime for various projects and usually the first person to get back to me saying he'll cover on Sunday's I'm gone. And no surprise to the others who write monthly articles for the By-George, Lani would be at the top of my list for giving me an idea for my article this month, no small gift indeed.

It wouldn't take me more than a few minutes to come up with dozens of

more names of those who do so much for St George's – our office volunteers, Altar Guild, Choir, coffee host/hostess, Round Table, Sunday School students and teachers, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors (and those that visit without a license), By George editor, Vestry members, Scholarship chair, board and interview panel members, Stewardship committee, Congregational Commission on Ministry, Bible Study groups, and makers of Stained Glass Windows. And I am absolutely sure I've left off other groups or individual ministries being performed by the members of our congregation that should be recognized.

Within the Christian tradition, there has always been the understanding that we are each called to ministry. The Catechism in our Book of Common Prayer (page 855), tells us that the ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons. For those of us who have been around a while, we may have noticed that was a change from the 1928 BCP, which listed the ministers as bishops, priests and deacons. Recognizing the ministry of lay persons in our current Prayer Book was not some touchy-feely addition coming out of the 1960's. Rather, it got us back to the concept of the laity being one of the Orders of ministers that can be traced back to the earliest church writings (First Epistle of Clement A.D. 96). At St George's we are continuing to live out that tradition of the ministry of all Christians whether, laity, bishops, priests or deacons.

This month before the services begin or during coffee hour, I'd like you to thank each other for all you have done, are doing or will do to make St Georges such a vital and vibrant church. A place where each of us contributes to the success of St George's, making it "My church" to requote Natalie, from our Senor Warden's article last month.

Amen. Deacon Bob

FROM OUR P.I.T. (Priest in Training)

Happy New Year!!!

Church year that is..... hard to believe we are already to this time of year.

Can you believe that it is already December? I cannot believe it myself. The three months that I have spent with you so far have been a wonderful and exciting time, full of learning and laughs. I want to say that I am very grateful to each of you that have made me feel so welcome and encouraged me to participate in the life of the St. George community.

I have a few exciting things coming ahead this month that I would like to invite you all to participate in. St. Mary's Elk Grove/ So. Sac (my home parish) is doing a warm clothes drive and will be distributing the items collected on December 4th. We will be meeting in the parking lot of St. Mary's about 12:30pm.

I will also be helping St. Matthew's Sacramento on the evening of Dec 5th, starting at 6pm, with their community dinner and toy distribution. They also are looking for people to come over and have dinner with the folks (and possibly help out a little bit!). If anyone is interested in this outreach opportunity please let me know.

I am also going to continue to offer Bible Study on the First Wednesday at 7pm and Evening Prayer the Third Wednesday at 7pm at the church. Each time we gather is an independent study and prayer time so you are certainly welcome to join us for any or all of the offerings.

Lastly, I am very excited that I have been given the opportunity to bring the contemporary service, which is called CommUnity and I do on Saturday evenings at St. Mary's, to you on Christmas Morning. After the wonderful Christmas Eve celebration the night before, we will be having one service at 10am and it will be done "CommUnity- style" with Holy Eucharist. This will be a service full of Christmas joy with past traditions and new concepts. Please come and check it out. As it is with all worship, the more the merrier.

Thanks again for all the support that has been shown to me and I pray that each of you have a wonderful Advent Season and Christmas!! (Hard to be writing that already!)
God is good, all the time.

Julie



NOVEMBER 27 &
DECEMBER 4



Sunday
School
@ 9 a.m.

 **Vestry Meeting** **Second Wednesday @ 6:45 pm**

Last Monday @ 11 a.m.



Round Table



The choir will now be meeting Saturdays @ noon

Choir Rehearsal

Wishing you all Merry Christmas!





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 Day and the Sunday following. To be listed, donations must be received by the Last Sunday of Advent (December 18th)

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 .



Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Services at St. George's

Christmas Eve Saturday December 24 – 7 p.m., Christmas Eucharist with children's pageant, followed by "Happy Birthday Jesus" party in the parish hall. Father Ray will preside and preach.

Christmas Day Sunday December 25 – 10 a.m., Christmas Day Eucharist led by the Community worship team from St. Mary's, Elk Grove. Father Ray will preside, and our seminary field work student Julie Vice will preach.

Sunday after Christmas January 1 – 10 a.m., Festival of Lessons and Carols

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 new e-mail sandyolsen8070@gmail.com