



By George!

Growing with You in God's Love and Service

February 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)

Light for All

The light shines in the darkness! The light for all the nations! This is the theme for the Epiphany Season. God's light shines through Jesus for all people. There is no restriction or limit on how far this light can shine. It reaches all people of all cultures, backgrounds, and races.

If we follow this light of Christ as a congregation, we must be open to all people. We have to be a pluralistic church for all sorts and conditions of people. I have the radical idea that this applies politically, as well. The light of Christ shines for Republicans and Democrats, too!

We already are a congregation with a mix of people across the political spectrum. We don't have to try to create this mix; it already exists. The challenge is how to live together in love and let the light of Christ shine through all of us. This is not easy! In all my years, I have never seen our nation as divided as we are right now. If we are not thoughtful about this, the divisions of our nation can also create divisions among us in the church. What can we do about this? First of all, we can pray for our nation, our leaders, and for our parish, that God will guide all of us. It is crucial for all of us to be sensitive and respectful toward those in our parish who see things differently than we do. Listening without judgment can go a long way. It really helps to "agree to disagree" and then affirm God's love which binds us together at a deeper level.

We also are called by God to hold our leaders to account and to make a prophetic witness if needed. God is definitely not a Democrat or a Republican, but God calls all political leaders to care for the poor and the vulnerable. The Hebrew scriptures and the teaching of Jesus are very clear that God has a special heart for "the orphan, the widow, and the stranger" – for those who are downtrodden and marginalized. As followers of Jesus, we must demand that our elected leaders work to care for the poor and disadvantaged.

We have an opportunity at this time to make a powerful witness to the people of the Sacramento area and beyond. If we can be honest about our disagreements, listen to one another with respect, and love one another, we will show that the light of Jesus really is for all people!

*In Jesus' love,
Father Ray*

Senior Warden

This is my last “By George” article, both as a member of the Vestry as well as your Senior Warden. I am very grateful for the trust you all put in me to serve as your Senior Warden the past two years. And, I am very proud of all of the accomplishments and progress our Vestry and Congregation has made.

Looking back to when my term began with the Vestry in 2014, we had just recently asked Father Ray to be our Priest in Charge. If I recall, we had a new music director, Tim Mascarenas, and Deacon Bob had yet to “retire”. Notice I put that in quotation marks. Oh, yeah, and the pews in the Sanctuary faced the West wall. Minor details.

During 2014, much of the groundwork was laid for the reorientation of our Sanctuary. And during the 2015 annual meeting, the Vestry facilitated a workshop in which the entire congregation was afforded the opportunity to provide input on the plan. The workshop was well received, and we were off at the races.

At that same annual meeting, I assumed the role of Senior Warden. I think it is safe to say we have accomplished much during that time. By the end of 2015, we had a completely renovated sanctuary, with a new audio/visual system, and spectacular stained glass windows. Truly a team effort from our congregation and a wonderful end result.

As a coach of youth sports, I often preach that “defense creates offense.” In other words, in order to do great things, and make positive changes, you must execute on the fundamentals and the basics well. I believe this holds true at St. George’s. While we were in the midst of planning and executing on these big, positive changes, we were also continuing to be a vital part of our community and provide all of the outreach and activities that we have consistently provided over the years. Some of the items that come to mind are the Sherrill Scholarship, the Community Garden, the AA Groups, the Blessing of the Animals service, the Mardi Gras party, the Music Program along with our Choir, Sunday School, two diverse services every Sunday, a successful stewardship campaign, a generous congregation, and, as Aaron likes to say, “the lights are on and the priest is paid.” As I mentioned, defense creates offense. And in this case, I think we have put up a lot of points in a high scoring game.

I would like to give thanks to all of those that served with me on the Vestry, and are currently serving on the Vestry, for their support and encouragement throughout my time as Senior Warden. I would like to give thanks to our congregation for putting your trust in my leadership. And, I would like to give thanks to Father Ray and Deacon Bob for their advice and counsel along the way. It has been a joyful and memorable experience and I could not be more appreciative and honored.

Thank you, St. George’s.

Ryan Saunders, Senior Warden

WOMENS GUILD

No official Guild meeting was held in January. The calendars of the regular attendees were at odds this time around. Three of us 'regulars met briefly to look at the church calendar for any upcoming events that Guild member's assistance would be needed.

Lent starts later than usual this year and the traditional Mardi Gras Brunch will be held the last Sunday of February, the 26th. There will be more information coming soon. A sign-up sheet and tickets will also soon be available.

Kitchen supplies continue to be available for coffee hours and social functions thanks to contributions placed in the coffee hour jar and submitted in the envelopes placed in the church bulletins once a month. Thank you.

If you enjoy some nibbles along with your coffee or tea and conversations following church services, please sign-up to take a turn providing those nibbles (homemade or store bought).

The next scheduled Guild meeting is Wednesday, February 15 at 11:00 AM. Mark your calendars and plan on attending.

Carol Adkins, President



Young at Heart

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5—JoAnn Cookman
- 7—Merle Crawford
- 17—Dave Allmuth, Sr.
- 17—Helen Hui
- 19—James Mahon
- 28—John Karsten

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



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 27—Ray Hess—Ordination



March 1 @ 7 p.m.



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

What is Your Gift?

A little over a year ago my Dad, Fr. Bob
Gould, was nearing his own death. He was
spiritually ready to transition and he had
everything "in place" for me and for our
family. All the details, large and small, had
been covered. We didn't have to think of "Does
Dad want hospice?", "What kind of church
service does Dad want?" or "Does Dad want to
be cremated?"

Dad gave me and our family a great gift
in being prepared and letting us know what he
wanted leading up to his death and after his
death. Dad's gift of preparation and having
those hard yet good conversations prior to his
death, helped me emotionally, spiritually and
physically in his passing.

So in true Dad fashion, I want to help
you in being prepared for your own death and
allow you to give your family this great gift.
On Saturday March 18, from 9 to noon, Fr Ray
and I will lead a workshop at St. George's in
preparing for your own death. We will begin
the conversation that is often hard to start on
what are your wishes and how do you share
them with your family. We will talk about
those large and small details around dying and
we will also have forms that you can fill out for
your own church service, Advanced Care
Directives, Check-off to-do list, etc. Please
join us on 3/18 to help you prepare your gift for
your family.

Verity Gould



February/March

FEBRUARY 5th

5th SUNDAY AFTER the EPIPHANY

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]

Psalm 112: 1-9, [10]

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]

Matthew 5:13-20

CELEBRANT: † Anne McKeever

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Aaron Adkins

LECTORS: JoAnn Cookman & Becky Freie

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Cooper & JoAnn Cookman

USHER: Cathy Crosby & friend

FEBRUARY 12th

6th SUNDAY AFTER the EPIPHANY

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119: 1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

CELEBRANT: † Susan Plucker

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Ryan Saunders

LECTORS: JoAnn Cookman & Sophia Saunders

ALTAR GUILD: Joy Allmuth & JoAnn Cookman

USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

FEBRUARY 19th

7th SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18

Psalm 119: 33-40

1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5: 36-48

CELEBRANT: † Fr. Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Dave Allmuth LECTORS: Anne Mangels & Carol Adkins

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Cooper & Joy Allmuth

USHER: Carol Adkins & friend

FEBRUARY 26th

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

ONE SERVICE—MARDI GRAS BRUNCH

Exodus 24: 12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1: 16-21

Matthew 17: 1-9

CELEBRANT: † Fr. Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Julie Vice

LECTORS: Karen Lolmaugh & Becky Freie

ALTAR GUILD: Joy Allmuth & Angela Saunders

USHER: Cathy Crosby & friend

MARCH 5th

1st SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 2:15-17, 3: 1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

CELEBRANT: † Ray Hess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Karen Lolmaugh LECTORS:

Anne Mangels & Joan Tennis

ALTAR GUILD: Vicki Karsten & Barbara Cooper

USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

MARCH 12th

2nd SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

CELEBRANT: † Anne McKeever

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Diana Perparos

LECTORS: Aaron Adkins & Carol Adkins

ALTAR GUILD: Joy Allmuth & ??

USHER: Carol Adkins & friend

Lessons can be found on our website

www.stgeorgeca.org

I'm writing my February article early in January, with thanks to Rev Anne McKeever and her sermon on the First Sunday after the Epiphany. She talked about a graduation speech by Harvard Dean James Ryan to the Graduate School of Education. He suggested the graduates would do well if they remembered five essential questions: Wait, what?; I wonder?; Couldn't we at least?; How can I help?; and What really matters?. But the question that really struck me was the "bonus" question – "And did you get what you wanted out of life, even so. For me "even so" being the key portion of that question. Even so taking into account all of the ups and downs of life – did you still get what you wanted.

Several years ago I began writing my biography as a future gift to my son's. After my father's passing I realized there were so many questions I'd wished I'd asked him about himself, my mom and my grandparents. While I'm sure I won't answer all their question, I am just hoping I would answer some that they hadn't thought to ask but wish they had. For example did my grandfather's brothers when coming through Ellis Island end up with the same spelling of our last name, having learned that the bureaucrats processing immigrants paperwork had as much to do with spelling of names as the immigrants themselves.

As I began the project it seemed easy to get down on paper my memories from my childhood and early adulthood. It was only when I began working on my more recent history, things that happened within the last 10 years, that I ran into problems. Not that I didn't have anything to write about, it was just difficult to determine what was important and what was just so much clutter. Once this fact dawned on me I began re-reading those earlier chapters and came to realize that there were things that seemed so monumental at the time, but as I wrote they hadn't merited more than a sentence or two, if that. I also realized that things I probably took for granted at the time were the things I wrote paragraphs if not pages.

The events I included seemed to have the common thread of relationships – relationships with family, friends, teachers, co-workers – people. Those people who helped me to become the person I am, a person I can feel comfortable about looking at in the mirror each morning, even if he is some old guy, rather than the 30 some year old I like to imagine.

As I've worked on the biography project I have also realized that life hasn't always been as "sweet" as the bulk of my memoir might indicate. There have been many disappointments and losses, but it was those people closest to me that taught me to look with joy on God's creation and blessings, rather than focus on the difficulties. I can remember slogging through the snow (a very rare occasion in southern Georgia) during a weeklong exercise while in OCS. One of the other candidates asked if we were having fun yet and all of us laughed. I think now GI's would call it embracing the suck. Yes it sucked to be trudging through the snow, but we would be better for the experience. I think that may have been Dean Ryan's point in his bonus question. Did we get what we wanted, "even so"?

With all the ups and downs of life, for Christians there is one constant – we are God’s beloved. God is with us through the trials and tribulations of this life – the Good News which Jesus shared with his disciples and with us through the Gospels. It is my prayer that during this season of Epiphany, we can each find the answer to the question “And did you get what you wanted out of life, even so? And the answer is yes – because we know that we are loved.

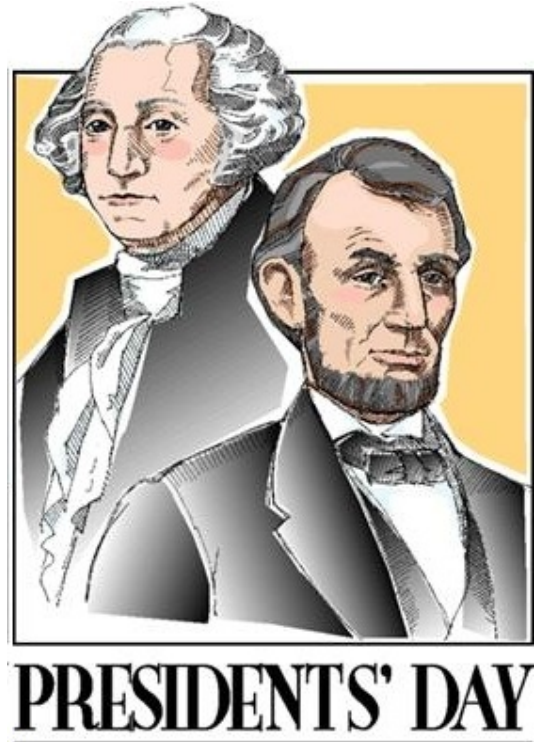
Deacon Bob



Mardi Gras Brunch
February 26th
Following service

Get your tickets NOW!

Adults: \$5 Under 12: \$3



Hello from our PIT

(Priest in Training)

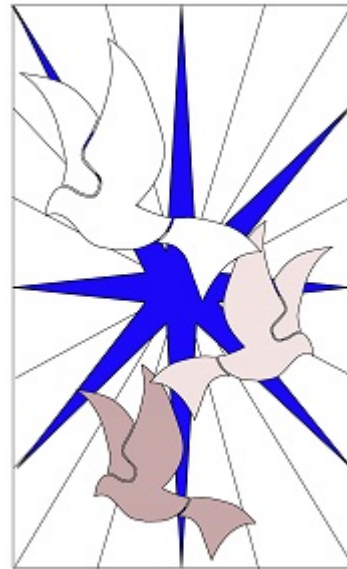
Hello Friends!!!

Just wanted to take a couple minutes of your time. I want to thank the many of you who came to worship with us on Christmas Morning. For those of you who were present, I appreciate your willingness to be open to a new way of worship that the CommUnity style provides. I thought however, that I should explain that when we designed this service (which is led every Saturday night at 6pm in Elk Grove) the intent was for it to be a service that would be held “outside the church walls” and designed for folks who are not interested in attending a “church”. This is a service that is compliant with the Book of Common Prayer following the outline on pages 400-401 and yet attempting to use some creative new approaches as well. I apologize that I had not provided this information prior to the service, as it may have helped some feel more comfortable with the service.

Going forward into this New Year, I look forward to spending the next few months with you. I will continue to be leading Bible Study every first Wednesday at 7pm and leading Evening Prayer on every third Wednesday. We will also be looking for ways that we might be able to engage some of the peripheral members of the church, including folks from the Community garden and the various groups that use this church as well. Hopefully we will create a time for fun and fellowship going forward.


Until next month, may God bless and keep each of you and the mission of the church.

Julie Vice




STAINED GLASS


The vestry has approved adding two more stained glass windows to the front of the church. The new stained glass will go in the windows on each end of the building, in the current windows, facing Winding Way. Mel presented the vestry design options and they selected one with doves and a blue star/cross. This will be installed in the window on the driveway side of the church. In order to fund the new stained glass, Mel has generously donated approximately \$1,600 of stained glass pieces, there are a number of crosses and other pieces that will go on sale after the annual meeting (Jan 29th) and following Sunday(s). The crosses vary in price from \$29.99 to 49.99 and the larger pieces up to \$150.00. Checks can be made to St George’s with “Stained Glass” in the memo.


Vestry Meeting 2nd Wednesday
 @ 6:45 pm


Round Table
Last Monday @ 11 a.m.


Sunday School
 @ 9 a.m.


BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays @ 10:45


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

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