



# By George!

Growing with You in God's Love and Service

MAY 2014

## 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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**Carmichael, CA 95608**  
**(916) 487-5600**

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# **Thoughts From Our PIC**

*(Priest in Charge)*

## **LIVING THE 50 DAYS**

By the time you read this, most Easter decorations will be all gone, stored away for next year. The bunnies and eggs have left for another year! Easter does not receive anything like the build-up for Christmas, but it does have the feeling of a general holiday. Lots of people celebrate Easter who have little understanding or belief about the meaning of the day. There is nothing wrong about this, but it does mean that Easter tends to disappear quickly after Easter Sunday.

For us who are part of the Episcopal tradition, Easter is not just a day but a fifty day season that begins Easter Sunday and lasts through the feast of Pentecost. Fifty days is a long time to try to celebrate anything; what are we to do with this long season?

The Easter Season is a time to focus on the resurrection, to consider what Jesus' resurrection has to do with our lives today. What difference does his resurrection make for us now? How can we live in the power of Jesus' resurrection? What kind of power is this?

Several years ago during the Easter Season, my spiritual director challenged me to look for signs of the resurrection in my life and in the world around me. This challenge has stayed with me, and I try to notice signs of the resurrection each Easter Season. Where do I see the risen Jesus in May of 2014?

One way the risen Lord can appear to us is through Christian community. In our shared life at St. George's, we can see the resurrection. Our community received a shock and blow in Holy Week with the sudden death of Rob Olsen, the son of deacon Bob and Sandy Olsen. Bob, Sandy, and their family have been grieving for Rob, and all of us at St. George's have grieved with them. This is a difficult and challenging experience for all of us, but I also sense our Risen Lord in the midst of this, supporting the Olsens and our church community. Jesus does not take away the pain or make everything easy, but he is with us through this.

Of course, Jesus is always the Risen Lord, and he is with us all year. The fifty days of Easter is an opportunity to have a special focus on the resurrection. I hope to be surprised during the season with Jesus' presence in new and unexpected ways. I pray that we all may be touched by Jesus and his risen presence during this season.

 **Father Ray Hess**

## Our Senior Warden

This is a continuation of my history of St. George's Church. Fr. John Mangels became our rector in 1994, and there were many changes in the next few years. For a while we had enough families for a youth group. In 2008/2009, we had several deaths/moving away of long term members, and began to really struggle financially.

In 2009-2010, we had a vestry retreat with Canon Britt Olsen, and working on an exercise with her the vestry realized, for the most part, that we were a small, but very healthy congregation, and our only issue was money: we did not have financial resources to employ a fulltime priest. We realized that we liked who we were: members of a small church, with a very friendly congregation that wanted to stay together. We had added our 9:00 family service, and hoped that it would add new members, but also realized this was not a solution.

With the guidance of Fr. John, we explored our options and decided to pursue Total Ministry. Many duties that a fulltime priest would traditionally assume were taken over by small groups of members working together. We were approved to become a Total Ministry congregation by the Bishop after several training sessions in 2010-2012. Fr. John retired at the end of May, 2012, and Fr. Ray became our "Priest in Charge" in February 2013.

It is noteworthy that St. George's congregation is not static, and never has been. We are adding new members on a regular basis, and engaging new members in activities as they desire. However, we have people who move away or leave in other ways, yet we retain our sense of community. What I find most significant about belonging to this congregation is the fact that we adapt: we accept change, and adopt new outreach projects. We accept new members, say good-bye to those who must leave, and continue to embrace and include many who can no longer attend services, but continue to be members. An example is an older couple who needed to move into assisted living. Attending church was no longer a viable option, but the wife had belonged to the knitting group (that isn't ever mentioned as group in this newsletter, but does exist), so that group's weekly gathering moved to the assisted living facility.

The Diocese has discarded any idea of what total ministry is supposed to be; it is an individual concept for each congregation that is approved to pursue it. St. George's view, as we pursue total ministry, is that we have a sense of community, significant outreach projects, and a large community presence. We welcome new ideas for outreach, and new members are always welcome, but growth in and of itself is not pursued. Sustainance is pursued, and we believe that we have what it takes to continue to be a community for ourselves, and to be relevant and giving to a larger community that surrounds us. Thanks be to God.

*Becky Freie, Senior Warden*

## WOMAN'S GUILD

Another busy, eventful season has passed [with some additional special days still to come]. It was nice to have so many attending Easter Sunday services. I wish to thank those who provided goodies for our successful Bake Sale **and** thank those who purchased said goodies. The contribution of the handmade Panoramic Easter Eggs by our talented JoAnn Cookman is especially appreciated. She created some beautiful eggs. The proceeds of the sale are fine addition to the Guild treasury.

The Guild is planning a luncheon in May or June. We hope all ladies (gentlemen are also welcome) will attend. Time and place will be announced soon. Watch for announcement notices.

Our next meeting will be on May 21, the third Wednesday of the month. Following our busy but brief meetings, we take time to eat our Brown Bag lunches and visit with one another. Dessert and coffee or tea will be available. If you have not attended one of our meetings, do try to come and visit with us.

*Carol Adkins, President Elect*



Young at Heart

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Aaron Downing
- 5—Mel Rose
- 7—Bill Keye
- 16—Carol Adkins
- 16—Rose Clark
- 17—Genie Schavey
- 18—Carolyn Caye
- 20—Diana Turner
- 24—Bill Owens
- 28—Audrey Mochon
- 30—Natalie Saunders
- 31—Nathan Benbow
- 31—Father John
- 31—Timothy Breen
- ??Robin George

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

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## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 8—Peter & Diana Perparos ('69)



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 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*



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

Happy Mothers Day



# May/June

**MAY 4<sup>th</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Acts 2:14a,36-41*                      *Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17*  
*1 Peter 1:17-23*                      *Luke 24:13-35*

CELEBRANT: Gini Hummel  
PREACHER: Deacon Bob  
EUCARISTIC MINISTER: Marilyn Ditzen  
LECTORS: Becky Freie & Aaron Adkins  
ALTAR GUILD: Cruz Siaz & Joy Allmuth  
USHER: Carol Adkins & friend

**MAY 11<sup>th</sup>**

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Acts 2:42-47*                                      *Psalm 23*  
*1 Peter 2:19-25*                                      *John 10: 1-10*

CELEBRANT: Fr. Ray Hess  
EUCARISTIC MINISTER: Diana Perparos  
LECTORS: JoAnn Cookman & Joan Tennis  
ALTAR GUILD: Angela Saunders & JoAnn Cookman  
USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

**MAY 18<sup>th</sup>**

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Acts 7:55-60*                                      *Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16*  
*1 Peter 2: 2-10*                                      *John 14: 1-14*

CELEBRANT: Fr. Ray Hess  
EUCARISTIC MINISTER: Aaron Adkins  
LECTORS: Annelise Connell & Carol Adkins  
ALTAR GUILD: Joy Allmuth & Vicki Karsten  
USHER: Cathy Crosby & friend

**MAY 25<sup>th</sup>**

**6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Acts 17:22-31*                                      *Psalm 66:7-18*  
*1 Peter 3:13-22*                                      *John 14:15-21*

CELEBRANT: Susan Plucker  
EUCARISTIC MINISTER: Dave Allmuth  
LECTORS: Anne Mangels & Joan Tennis  
ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Cooper & Cruz Siaz  
USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

**JUNE 1<sup>th</sup>**

**7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Acts 1:6-14*                                      *Psalm 68: 1-10, 33-66*  
*1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11*                                      *John 17: 1-11*

CELEBRANT: Gini Hummel  
EUCARISTIC MINISTER: Marilyn Ditzen  
LECTORS: Becky Freie & Aaron Adkins  
ALTAR GUILD: TBA  
USHER: Carol Adkins & friend

**JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>**

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

*Acts 2:1-21*                                      *Psalm 104: 25-35, 37*  
*1 Corinthians 12:3b-13*                                      *John 20:19-23*

CELEBRANT: Fr. Ray Hess  
EUCARISTIC MINISTER: Ryan Saunders  
LECTORS: †Bob Gould & JoAnn Cookman  
ALTAR GUILD: TBA  
USHER: Conrad Cookman & friend

## Words of Comfort



Having worked with others as they've gone through the grieving process at the loss of a loved one, I've come to realize I have no comfortable words to offer that will take the pain away, none of us do. But what I have learned with the death of my son, is that while others don't have the words to take the pain away, I am reminded that we are not alone in my sorrow and grief.

Over the past weeks Sandy and I've had many express their sadness for our loss, their love for us, that they are praying for us and their willingness to do anything they can, they are just a phone call away. Rather than platitudes, we've been shown love and while the pain is still there we have been comforted.

The opening of the burial service reads: I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me in faith, shall not die for ever...For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord. So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession. These are words of relationship, relationship with God.

We each express that relationship differently, for me it is in service through the church. For my son Robert, it was how he dealt with those around him. I remember several years ago I accompanied him to San Francisco when he was making the rounds of the art galleries. When the homeless on the street would ask for change he would reach in his pocket and give them something. We talked about this, with me asking him what he thought they would do with the money, possibly buy liquor or drugs. His response was that it wasn't for him to be concerned about what they did, rather what he did in response to their need. Every three years when we hear the Gospel of Matthew and come to Matthew 25:31-46, "I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..." I am reminded of Rob's action that day. That memory is comforting to me, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father..." (Matt 25:34) because I know he is with Christ this day.

As we go through the Easter Season, celebrating our saviors triumph over death for each of us. I would ask each of you to remember those in need as Christ did in dying for us. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Amen,*  
**†Deacon Bob**





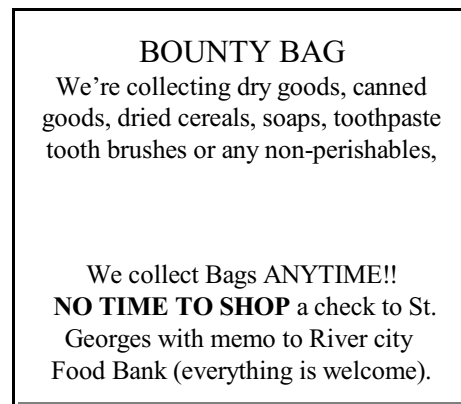
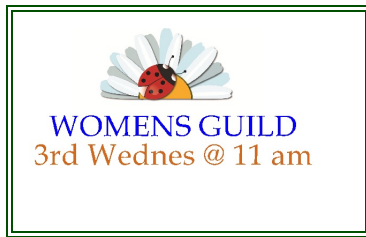
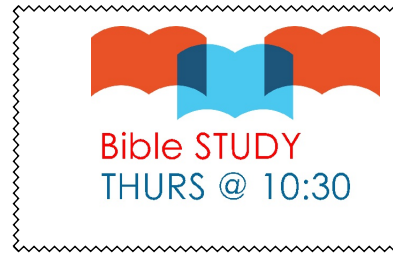
## **St George's Community Garden**

Like to garden, but don't have a nice sunny spot? There are still plots available in the Community Garden. There is an annual fee of \$50 which covers water and buying items for general use by all gardeners, such as hoses, rakes and hose. If you are interested see Deacon Bob or pick a registration form in the office.

Don't want to take on a garden, but would like to spend some time in the sunshine? We have two plots in the garden for growing produce for the St Matthew's Food Closet. This year we will be doing straw bale gardening, the plants will be grown in the bales, meaning no bending over and no weeding. If you'd like to help with this, see Deacon Bob.







Articles are always welcome...**BUT KEEP it short!** The best way to submit an article is via my new e-mail [sandyolsen@surewest.net](mailto:sandyolsen@surewest.net)