



# ***The Dragon's Tale***

APRIL 2021

***"St. George's is a community of disciples joyfully reaching out in love to nurture, teach, and heal in Jesus' name"***

***St. George's Episcopal Church  
912 Route 146 · Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(518) 371 - 6351      [www.stgeorgescp.org](http://www.stgeorgescp.org)***

## **Holy Week In-Person Services**

**Palm Sunday March 27th and 28th**

4:30pm Saturday Holy Eucharist

9:00am Sunday Holy Eucharist



**Maundy Thursday April 1st**

6:30pm Holy Eucharist

**Good Friday April 2nd**

12:15pm Good Friday

3:00pm Stations of the Cross



**Holy Saturday April 3rd**

9:00am Holy Saturday Service

## **St. George's Wishes You a Holy and Blessed Easter!**

**In-Person Holy Eucharist**

4:30 pm Saturday April 3rd

9:00 am Sunday April 4th

**Online Holy Eucharist**

9:00 am Sunday April 4th



For online services and all things Lent, please go to our website at <https://stgeorgescp.org/>

## From Your Rector



+Spring is here at last as the remaining mounds of snow melt and give way to all the signs of new growth and blossoms of the season. Mother Elizabeth and I have received our two vaccine shots for protection against the COVID virus. I know many of you have also now received your vaccine or are looking forward to being vaccinated sometime soon. I felt a profound sense of relief and joy as we drove off from the vaccination site. I know life's challenges will continue; however, trusting that all things are in God's time and in God's way, I could not help but feel a certain sense of re-birth as the time has come to begin emerging into the post-COVID vaccine world I now see myself entering.

I am also looking forward to new birth at St. George's in the days and months ahead. Overall, this parish has faced numerous 'adaptive' challenges during this past year with resilience, creativity, and perseverance. I give God thanks for the way St. George's has weathered the storm of what I pray has been the worst of this pandemic. As we look forward to fully re-opening St. George's in the months ahead, we will



find our way to a new normal for the years ahead. To begin the process of this transition, we recently had a very successful retreat of the Executive Committee. A part of our work was to prepare for our upcoming Vestry retreat in late April. This year we will build on the work of adaptive leadership, adding something called "tempered resilience" into the conversation as we continue working to hear, and live out faithfully, God's call on this parish to be disciples "joyfully reaching out in love to nurture, teach and heal in Jesus' name."

The Bible is filled with examples of leaders who have faced adaptive challenges, seeking to serve and follow God's will as individuals and in community. In a way,

## Rector, cont'd

this only makes sense. If we were God, we could know the heart and mind of God, so we would have the answer to every challenge, and nothing would need to be adaptive. Since we are not God and are not capable of creating or thinking like God, we live a life that is in constant change either moving closer to or further from God. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century a monk named Brother Lawrence wrote about such struggles, with a compilation of his thoughts and writings being published in a small book titled "*The Practice of the Presence of God*." One of his reflections seems like very good advice for facing the adaptive challenges God is placing before us. Brother Lawrence suggests that we ask God to free us from anxious thoughts and to remind us of all that is commendable and good so that we may keep our hearts fixed on Jesus. My prayer for the year(s) ahead is that we keep our hearts fixed on Jesus, so that we may indeed live as a community of disciples who joyfully reach out in love to nurture, teach and heal in Jesus' name. Through that prayer I can picture a St. George's where that is what comes to mind when people think about what is happening in that welcoming looking little church that sits at 912 Route 146 in Clifton Park. I hope you will join Mtr. Elizabeth, Deacon Maureen, our Wardens and Vestry in living out that vision as a bold statement of who we are as a faith community.

In God's Peace,

*Fr. Tom*

## Jonesville Helping Hands Food Pantry So Others May Eat (S.O.M.E.)



The church standard shopping carts are bare! This is the way to remember our neighbors in need all year.

Bring your donations of shelf-stable food and non-food items to the church and place in one of the shopping carts. The carts are located in the Narthex (worship space entry area) and Hatlee Hall (our parish hall) with S.O.M.E. signage. The Food Pantry each month gives a list of items most in demand. The current request is for: crackers, cookies, salad dressing, baby wipes, diapers (size 5 & 6), hand soap, hand sanitizer, body wash, body lotion, and shampoo.

## **Mother's Musings**



The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Colossae with three things in mind: (1) there was a heresy being taught in the community and Paul wanted the people of the Church to know that only Christ was supreme; (2) he wanted the people of the Church to be spiritually mature; and (3) he wanted them to know of his imprisonment in order that they might pray for him. Paul wrote, "It is he (Christ) whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ."

While studying for my first Masters degree, I was introduced to the work of a psychiatrist named Murray Bowen. He worked in the post WWII era, and he believed that rather than Freud's theory about human behavior, there must be an explanation in nature to explain human behavior. He was curious how some people could thrive in life while others did not. He developed a theory of human behavior based on his observations. He surmised that those who have a high level of emotional maturity which he named, differentiation, did better in life than those with a lower level. His clinical observations led him to discover twelve capacities that persons with high levels of emotional maturity, differentiation, possess.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians, identified nine fruit of the Spirit that indicate a person who is living in the Spirit as opposed to the flesh. The fruit of the Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

In my project and thesis for my Doctor of Ministry degree, I "married" Bowen's capacities identified with a high level of emotional maturity with Paul's nine fruit of the Spirit with the idea that an increase in either emotional or spiritual maturity could facilitate maturity in the other. I developed a nine-week study with the desired result to facilitate emotional and spiritual maturity.

As of this date, I have run the class four times in the parish and twenty-three parishioners have availed themselves of this class which I have named, "Presenting Everyone Mature in Christ." Two parishioners have taken the class twice as they realized the benefit and wanted to refresh the knowledge and the opportunity to practice the capacities and the fruit of the Spirit in more depth. I

## **Musings, cont'd**

am currently running the class for a group of clergy.

One participant remarked that he wished that he had taken this class forty years ago. Another participant remarked that the class has helped to enhance her relationships with others. Another commented that all parishioners should take the class.

I am planning to offer the class again at St. George's. If you are interested, let me know. The class meets for nine consecutive weeks for two and a half hours each week. If you would like to speak to some of the participants who have taken the class let me know and I will make the connection.

May God bless each of us as we strive to be spiritually mature in order to present everyone mature in Christ. Remember, you can't give away what you don't have.

*Mtr. Elizabeth*

## **Bishop Love's Final Eucharist at St. George's**

St. George's had the privilege of hosting Bishop Love's final Eucharist as the 9<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. The service was live streamed and recorded. As of Monday, March 1, over 1,000 people had viewed the service through the diocesan YouTube channel. Many from all around the diocese have commented about how wonderful the service was and what a nice job St. George's did.



**Bishop Love laying down his crozier**



## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

*From Cindy Hoetzer*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is set to resume monthly meetings in the church library. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00-3:00 PM. Prayer shawls are blessed at the altar during the Wednesday Healing Service and then prepared for distribution. Thank you to all who have continued knitting and crocheting. These shawls continue to bring comfort to all who receive them. If you plan to join us on the 13th, please enter through the red door at the top of the ramp in back of the church. Also, please let Arlene or Cindy know if you plan to attend so we can be sure to have enough space to social distance.



## **April Birthdays**

Barbara Knight,  
Marguerite Quintrell,  
Doris Giannantonio, Tad Knight,  
Riley Prendergast, Vance Bryant,  
Steve Hickey, Andrew Moore, Samantha Hook,  
Lynne Olney, Tom Lessard, Lawson Abramo,  
Brandi Carson, Jesse Eyer, Pat Mussnug,  
Judy Nelson, Julie Pizziketti, Dino Wagle,  
Jean Blinstrub, Elizabeth Cannistraci



## **April Anniversaries**

Marc & Misty Quail  
Tom & Kathy Harding  
Paul & Betty Gregg  
Art & Dee Erno  
Kevin & Nicole Cain



## **Capital City Rescue Mission**

St. George's is still collecting new and used clothing for the Capital City Rescue Mission. The Mission also takes new, slightly used, and beat up shoes. They accept bed linens and towels. Anything donated that is not truly usable is baled and sold. So, bring those old paint clothes, sweaters the moths got into, and shoes that "have to go!" Donations may be left in the red box inside the front entrance of the church.



### **Please note:**

**Deadline** for weekly announcements is **Wednesday morning at 9 AM**. Send to [announcements@stgeorgescp.org](mailto:announcements@stgeorgescp.org)

## **Mission and Outreach** **Lenten Simple Suppers**

*From Jo Anne Robbins*

## **Simple Supper**



Be a Blessing to a Neighbor in Need

Each week during Lent, St. George's Mission and Outreach shared two recipes for a special Friday Lenten simple supper. The recipes (we have tried to include a recipe that would be appealing to children's tastes) have been sent out by email on Tuesday and posted on our website at [Simple Supper - Helping a Neighbor in Need](#). Each recipe includes the ingredients and directions for preparing a meal – a simple soup or pasta dish. Our outreach during Lent has focused on sharing our recipes and the needed ingredients with families in the area through the Jonesville Helping Hands Food Pantry. When shopping for the ingredients for a recipe, our parishioners purchased another bag of ingredients to share with a family in our community. Most participants have purchased a gift card for ingredients in the recipe that are not packaged or canned or to purchase bread or other accompaniments.

To date, we have donated 24+ bags of ingredients with the recipe attached to the bag. Each bag feeds a family of four – that's 96+ people who have enjoyed one of our simple suppers during Lent.

We conclude this outreach on Wednesday, April 7th, the last day of delivery of our bags of food to the Jonesville food pantry. Thank you to St. George's families who have been a blessing to a family in our Clifton Park community. Your donations of food, cash or Hannaford gift cards have been a rich blessing.



**March Donations are blessed before sending to Capital City Rescue Mission**

**Loaves and Fishes**  
**at St. Francis Mission**  
**Church**



**Saturday, March 27th 9:00AM**

St. George's serves at the Loaves and Fishes Outreach Ministry on the 4th Saturday of each month. This ministry continues through COVID-19 with modifications for personal safety of all involved. The need for volunteers continues to be great. With the added protection of vaccination, we hope you will consider volunteering for this important ministry. Volunteers will wear masks, gloves and maintain appropriate social distancing during meal preparation. The meal will be prepared, packed and provided in "To Go" containers. Questions? Email Kathryn Pellet at [Kathrynpellett@yahoo.com](mailto:Kathrynpellett@yahoo.com) or phone or text her at (518) 429-9334.



**Preparing the lunch to go at Loaves and Fishes feeding ministry**



**Serving at Loaves and Fishes**

**Finding The Way of the Cross in Nature**

You can connect with The Way of the Cross prayers and meditations even if you do not want to gather inside or leave the vicinity of home. Practice with speaking about heavy topics like death and sorrow with children may be more important this year.

Here are 2 guides to help you discover the story of Good Friday and the cross written into the natural world. They can be found at [The Way of the Cross](#) and at [The Way of the Cross for Kids](#). They may also be found on St. George's website at <https://stgeorgescp.org/> and in the wooden box at the entrance to the prayer path. The photographs were taken on the St. George Prayer Path located behind the church. The guides allow the experience of the stations to be self-directed and done at one's own pace. Each station includes a scripture passage, a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, and a reflection question. In the children's guide, each station has a summary of the story, a sentence from scripture, a simple prayer, a wondering question, and a simple activity.

Please be aware, if traveling in the woods, that ticks are starting their activity. Please dress appropriately and check for ticks when your wandering is done.





## Online Morning Prayer



Morning Prayer is offered Monday through Friday mornings during Lent and on Holy Saturday, April 3, at 6:45 am.

Lenten Online Morning Prayer can be accessed from your computer, tablet or smartphone via the web at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82340422187> or via the Zoom app at Meeting ID 823 4042 2187.

## Prayer in a Time of Transition

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for this, your diocese of Albany. Inspire and sustain us in this time of transition. Incline our hearts to do your will, and so direct us in your ways that the leader you are raising up to be our Bishop will find here joyful disciples, making disciples, united in faith, unflagging in hope, and steeped in mutual charity. In your mercy, accept our repentance, and grant us peace; look with patience on our enthusiasms; and pour rich gifts and grace upon all who are entrusted with the ongoing work of your church; so that, with diligence and charity, we may discern correctly and walk righteously in your ways. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



From Sunday Morning Prayer online

## Stations of the Cross



As a spiritual exercise especially appropriate during Lent, we invite you to view our online version of the stations of the cross. You can access this here at [Stations of the Cross](#).

## Maundy Thursday Watch

*So, could you not stay awake with me for one hour?*



Maundy Thursday will be April 1st this year. In 2020 we held our watch virtually and are planning to reuse that format in 2021. We invite you to stay awake with Jesus on this night by joining us in prayer.

You may sign up to cover a time slot via the link [Maundy Thursday Watch](#).

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### **A reminder from Mission and Outreach:**

Anyone doing outreach work through St. George's must sign and return the Outreach Covenant.

Need a copy? Have questions, concerns? Contact Kathryn Pellett at [Kathrynpellett@yahoo.com](mailto:Kathrynpellett@yahoo.com) or by phone or text at (518) 429-9334. You may also contact [Jo Anne Robbins](#).

## **Evangelism**

From Tom Golden



In Christianity, evangelism is the act of preaching the gospel with the intention of sharing the message and teachings of Jesus Christ. This can be a challenging endeavor for those who only see themselves as a half empty glass of scriptural knowledge. A podcast devotional titled *Evangelism is for New Christians, Too!* by Dustin Messer, Pastor for Faith Formation at All Saints Dallas (AMiA) in Downtown Dallas, TX, raises interesting ideas about how Christians can share the teachings of Jesus. Pastor Messer uses John, Chapter 1, to illustrate how simple it is to share the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. In verse 43, Philip becomes a follower of Jesus, and in verse 45, Philip shares the gospel with Nathanael. Pastor Messer points out that Nathanael was skeptical because Jesus was from Nazareth. He continues by comparing Nathanael's response to our own experience of sharing the Word.

Messer claims that Nathanael's seemingly simple question is, in reality, complex. Philip could have answered with details such as Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but raised in Nazareth, and that he was the Messiah prophesied by Moses. We may encounter skepticism when proclaiming the Word in our own times. Messer says,

“All skeptics enter into theological discussions with myriad interests, backgrounds, and wounds. To truly address their question, one must truly hear their question. That is, one must listen with the goal of understanding, not just the goal of responding. This requires as much love as learning, as much empathy as answers.”

Non-believers may raise difficult questions concerning how Jesus can be both God and man, how the Bible originated, how could so-called Christians conduct the Crusades, and other equally difficult questions of religion and faith. But the simple answer is what Philip gave to Nathanael: “come and see!” This type of response offers the invitation to a relationship with Jesus, where one comes to know Jesus and to be known by Him. It's just as simple as that.

Let us pray:

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the

## **Evangelism, cont'd**

world, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

## **Upcoming Events at Christ the King**

### **Healing Services**

The Tuesday 10:00 am Healing Services resume meeting in person starting April 6th in St. Michael's Chapel! Please call ahead to let us know you're coming to make sure there is a seat available: 518-692-9550.

The Healing Service also airs on Tuesday through Sunday at 10:00 am, 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm. The Tuesday, 10 am service includes live, private, personal prayer with the Healing Prayer Team.

### **The Tree of Life**

This is a free 4-part spiritual formation virtual seminar exploring "The Place of the Heart," the door to God's Presence with the Rev. Dr. Ellen C. Neufeld. The teachings are the 4th Saturday of February, March, April, and May. If you missed the February, it is online so you can watch it and join for the remaining teachings. Learn more at: <https://ctkcenter.org/events/9-events/187-tree-of-life-seminar>

### **Welcome Home Initiative (WHI) Retreats**

Three WHI retreats are planned for 2021 beginning in June. If you are a vet or know a vet who may benefit from this ministry check out the plans at: <https://ctkcenter.org/events/2-uncategorised/185-2021-ghi-retreat-schedule>

## **Donating to St. George's**

As with many organizations, churches have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are a several options for donating financially to St. George's including cash, check, credit card, debit card, or directly from your checking account. Checks can be mailed to St. George's Church. You may go to our website at [www.stgeorgescp.org](http://www.stgeorgescp.org) and click on the Info Center, then Donating to St. George's. You will find 2 tabs, Multiple Ways to Donate and Online Giving, where you will find options with directions for use. If you are attending one of our live worship services, you are welcome to place your donation in the offering plate. See page 8 for listings of in-person and virtual worship services.

## **In-Person Worship Services**

### **Sunday:**

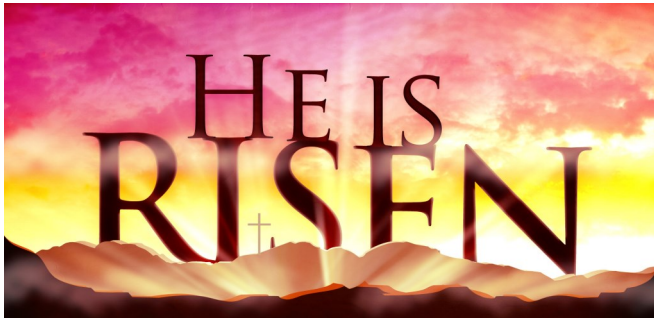
**9:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II** with Organ, with COVID-19 precautions

### **Wednesday:**

**12:15 pm Weekly Healing Service with Eucharist**, with COVID-19 precautions

### **Saturday:**

**4:30 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II**, with Praise Band and with COVID-19 precautions



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## **Weekly Virtual Worship Schedule**

### **Sunday:**

**7:30 am Morning Prayer Rite II** virtually through Zoom via St. George's Online web page at [https://stgeorgescp.org/st\\_georges\\_online](https://stgeorgescp.org/st_georges_online)

**9:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II** virtually. Access via [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGV25ahrgM9i8RQEoBjJmo2Fro8yRj\\_x](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGV25ahrgM9i8RQEoBjJmo2Fro8yRj_x)

**10:30 am Theological Reflection (TRs)** on the Gospel reading for that day virtually through Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87182104399?>

### **Weekdays:**

**6:45 am Morning Prayer** weekdays during Lent and on Holy Saturday. On Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82340422187>

**Reflection on the Gospel** reading from the Daily Office lectionary via <https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesCP/>

See the St. George's Online web page at [https://stgeorgescp.org/st\\_georges\\_online](https://stgeorgescp.org/st_georges_online) for up to date information for online worship services and classes