



The Dragon's Tale

JULY 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***

Changes are coming soon!!!! Stay tuned!!!!

Dear St. George’s Community,

Based on the State of New York’s announcement and the most recent communique from the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Albany, I am thankful to say that we are now able to make the following accommodations as we move toward our new “post Covid-19” normal. It’s still not possible to know exactly what our new normal will look like; however, this represents a significant move in that direction.

Mtr. Elizabeth and I are very thankful for all of the hours of prayer, thoughtful conversation, commitment, resiliency, and flexibility of everyone especially our clergy, the Executive Committee, Vestry, Community of Hope, staff, and office volunteers who have allowed St. George’s to remain open and in a position to offer consistent worship through these challenging times. Thank you as we have learned to mask, social distance, and sanitize in ways that were unimaginable a little over a year ago. It is now time to begin letting go of some practices that were necessary and have fulfilled their intended purposes.

Because we are still in relatively uncharted territory and we recognize that circumstances of the pandemic are fluid, there may still be some unexpected detours or challenges along the way. Should some unforeseen situations arise, we will remain vigilant and adjust our plans accordingly.

The good news is we are on the journey. As things are beginning to open up, our commitment is to be a community that joyfully reaches out in love to nurture, teach and heal in Jesus’ name. This is a sacred responsibility that we covenant as a community to uphold and one which we strive to fulfill to the best of our God-given ability in moving forward at St. George’s.

In order to do this, there will no doubt be many opinions about what we should and should not do over these next few months. We anticipate that some will want everything to return to normal as quickly as possible while others will want to take a slow and more cautious pace; some may want the boundaries to be very clear on practices governing what we have come to know as CDC protocols while others will want them relaxed to the maximum extent possible. We will continue to relax the CDC protocols as quickly and safely as we are able for our weekend services (in accordance with NY State and Diocese of Albany directives). For the care of our more vulnerable folks and those who are ready to return to in-person worship but desire to maintain the CDC protocols, our current plan is to maintain those practices for our Wednesday 12:15 pm healing service for the foreseeable future.

So what changes are we making?

1. As of June 17, 2021, masks will no longer be required of anyone who has received a Covid-19 vaccine and the appropriate waiting period has passed. We will continue to encourage anyone who has not been vaccinated to wear a mask when in the building and maintain safe social distancing when gathering with others.

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Letter, cont'd from p.1

2. All pews in the nave will be available so that you may have more options for seating during services.
3. We will maintain the current one-way circulation patterns with communion being distributed standing in front of the altar rail.
4. The chalice (common cup) will be available for those who *choose* to receive the bread and wine at this time. As a first step toward returning to the distribution of the wine, we will initially have the chalice bearer 'intinct' (dip the tip of the host) in the wine and hand it back for consumption.
5. We will begin phasing back a modest hospitality after some Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning services for what we will be calling, "Welcome and Fellowship." Weather permitting, hospitality will be available in the front courtyard immediately following the services. Please contact Heidi Bonacquist if you would like to help with this ministry.
6. The altar party will resume processing and recessing from the narthex at the beginning and end of services. We would like to add back a crucifer to carry the processional cross and two torch bearers to the altar party for the weekend services. If you have served as an acolyte or are over the age of 9 and would like to serve as an acolyte, please contact Mtr. Elizabeth and let her know of your interest.
7. Prayer books and hymnals have been placed back in the pews. We will continue to use Power Point at all services for the foreseeable future and will remain normative for the 4:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon service with contemporary music. Thank you to Tom and Kathy Harding for helping to "re-stock" the pews.
8. Our hope is that the choir will be ready to return to help lead worship by early September. If you have an interest in singing with the choir for the 9 a.m. Sunday morning service please contact our organist, Janie Prim.
9. Our current practice of not passing the collection plate or physical exchange of the peace will continue through the summer. We will monitor this decision looking to relax it at the appropriate time. In response to the pandemic, we have learned new practices that include the "live-streaming" of our 9 a.m. Sunday service and our 7:30 a.m. "Zoom" Morning Prayer services on Monday – Friday and on Sunday mornings which will all continue as regular part of our worship offerings.

It is our hope that the changes we are now able to implement will open the door for all to return to

worship as they are ready. Please, know that you are loved, you are missed, and you are prayed for every day. Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have questions or concerns that you would like to discuss with Mtr. Elizabeth or me.

In God's Peace,

Fr. Tom Papazoglakis, Rector Mtr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis, Associate Rector



Cheers to 50 Years!



Summer Mixer on the Green



More Summer Mixer on the Green

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

From Deacon Maureen

The capacity for wonder is natural in the young child, but wonder is also essential for our whole life. It is an important key to our ongoing growth and transformation, the lifelong adventure of always coming to know God better, enjoying God more, and participating more fully in the building of God's Kingdom. Mary Golden and I are catechists for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and our task is to cultivate the capacity for wonder in young children so that it might remain a strong element of their faith throughout their lives.



We help to cultivate wonder in young children, first, by preparing an environment which is simple, with child-sized furnishings, an environment that is attractive and peaceful.

Mary and I will be completing our training for Level II in Vermont this month and we're looking forward to furnishing the atrium for children 6 to 9 years old for September. This expansion means we're looking for more catechists. There will be a training for Level I beginning in September in Troy, one Saturday a month. Please talk with us if you're interested in participating in that.

We're also hoping for some assistance in preparing for the fall.

Our big introductory work for Level II is The Unity and Vastness of the Kingdom. For this work we will need:

4 plywood open-book shaped scripture tablets, 0.25" thick by 8 1/2" by 6 3/4," each painted a specific color.

3 plywood arrows, 0.25" thick by 1 7/8" by 9," each painted a specific color.

Grosgrain ribbon which can be purchased for \$45.95

Long blue paper which can be purchased for \$12.95

We will also be studying the Bible. We have purchased wooden blocks for the books of the Bible which will need to be sanded and painted. We would like some kind of case to store them in.

We will also be studying the Parables and Maxims of the Moral Life, and will need plywood dioramas and 2-dimensional painted figures for the following

Catechesis, cont'd

parables: The Found Coin, The Good Samaritan, The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, The Insistent Friend, and The 10 Bridesmaids. We have detailed instructions for making the needed materials.

We are also so grateful for our atrium assistants. If you would like to help us with the children, please let us know.

If you, or possibly a Boy or Girl Scout you know, feel called to assist us in any way, please let us know at deacon.maureen.demler@gmail.com or 518-369-3816.

And please keep us all in your prayers!



Blue Unity Strip and Books of the Bible in case



Evangelism

From Tom Golden

Morning Prayer: Rite II is held at 7:30 A.M.

Sunday through Friday each week on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82340422187>

Or in the Zoom app with meeting ID:

823 4042 2187

But why gather when we can just read it alone? We gather for mutual support and to invite God into our midst to fulfill his purposes.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom [BCP 102]
Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfil now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Reimagining Randles Hall

From Fran Gordon

In the summer of 2020, in the face of overwhelming pandemic challenges, a painful and difficult decision was made concerning St. George's School. We could no longer comply with CDC and State regulations and mandates for safe school operations during the COVID 19 pandemic. This was largely due to our limitations in facilities, size of staff and finances. It was decided that our school would close its doors and during this "pandemic pause" we would prayerfully consider the future of Randles Hall. With so many "unknowns" it was not clear whether we could reopen as a school again or whether this was an unexpected opportunity to reimagine and repurpose our work "in Jesus' name" here at St. George's.

A committee, diverse in age and experience, has been meeting since March to take on the daunting task of reimagining a future for this space. We are considering the needs and various populations within our parish, as well as in the wider community, that we might serve. The conversations go much deeper than what programs, events, or classes might occupy the physical space in Randles. We understand that, however this space is repurposed, it must be congruent with, and in alignment with, the mission statement of St. George's Church. Our mission statement represents the core values and beliefs of this parish. It represents our belief that everything we do is in Jesus' name and that we strive for a Christ-centered life where we can continue to deepen our relationship with God. We know how important it is for the parish as a whole to understand, and be deeply invested in, its mission in order to become the people God calls us to be.

As the committee moves forward, brainstorming processes and plans, we are reviewing foundational concepts like adaptive challenges and Simon Sinek's "Start With Why" to ground us in our purpose, vision and mission. We are confident that with a methodical approach, and with prayerful and thoughtful dialogue, we will create a sustainable, mission-directed purpose for Randles Hall consistent with the mission of the church. St. George's is blessed to have a space like this and our hope is that we can discern God's will for this parish and embrace it through this exciting reimagining process. Please feel free to contact Fran Gordon (committee chairperson) at frangordon6@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Please note:

Deadline for weekly announcements is **Wednesday morning at 9 AM**. Send to announcements@stgeorgescp.org

Supporting Our Wounded Veterans

From Carol MacNaughton



When we support the Welcome Home Initiative Healing Retreats by donating items for the "Welcome Bags," attending the closing ceremony, or donating financially, we are carrying out our St. George's mission statement "to reach out in love, to heal in Jesus' name". These retreats are provided free of charge to military veterans whose service has caused suffering in varying degrees from post-traumatic stress or moral injury, and who are in need of soul repair.

The "Welcome Bags" St. George's supplies are another way of physically saying "Thank You for your service." The vets go home with a physical reminder of being appreciated and of God's loving, healing touch.

St. George's is providing the bags again for the women's only Welcome Home Initiative retreat, July 8th - 10th, at Christ the King. Everyone is invited to support the veterans and this ministry by coming to the final ceremony honoring the veterans on Saturday, July 10th, at 10:00AM or by donating the requested items for the bags.

See our web page: https://www.stgeorgescp.org/veterans_retreats.



Welcome Home Initiative welcome bag gifts

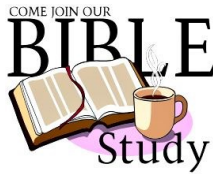


Women's Bible Study

From Cindy Hoetzer

In September, Monday Night Women's Bible Study will begin a ten-session study of Genesis, chapters 1-11, by Jen Wilkin called God of Creation. Please consider joining us for fellowship and some great conversation inspired by scripture.

Stay tuned for details and check out this link for a quick preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTcEX63guDc>



Cub Scout News

From Tom Lessard



The Shen Scouts Fun Day was just that, a lot of Fun. The water bottle rockets were a big hit. I want to thank Kevin Stickles for stepping up to be our Cub Scout leader and getting us through this strange year. His kids were a big help filling up and getting the rockets ready for launch. We will be launching them at the next church picnic.

Anyone interested in scouting can go to www.beascout.org and find Pack 4043. Another den of Cub Scouts will be making it to the rank of Eagle in August. St. George's can be so proud of playing a part in producing these awesome youth leaders who go on to be presidents, astronauts and other important leadership positions because they were rounded out and challenged by the Scouting program.



Shen Scouts Fun Day

June Anniversaries

Victor & Anita Knorowski
George & Karen Malcolm
Rob & Stacy Golden
Michael & Julie Pizziketti
Joseph & Anne Bogdan
Barry & Pam McCabe
Carl & Melinda Reed
Jack & Martha Underhill
Charles & Linda Jewett
Sarah & Tommy Keyes
Maryellen & Steve Eyer
Vance & Darelle Bryant
James & Ann Marie Clancy
Dan & Stacey Shepard



June Birthdays

Misty Quail, Alejandro Quintero,
Douglas Chapman, Charles Jewett,
Tyler Carson, Jennifer DeCuyper,
Barbara Bird, Ann Marie Clancy,
Karen Gazda, Doris Guadron, Ruth Kuhne,
Ed Morrison, Giusseppe Crannell, Sarah Keyes,
Amy Arnold, George Malcolm, Jo Anne Robbins,
James Clancy, Collins Shepard, Sydney Quintero,
Kate Bee, Caleb DeCuyper, David Eyer,
Linda Wilson, Keegan Stockton



Enjoying Summer Mixer
See more photos on page 2

Education for Ministry

From Deacon Maureen



In September, St. George's will begin its 30th consecutive year of the distance learning program from the [School of Theology at the University of the South \(Sewanee\)](#) called *Education for Ministry*, often referred to as EfM.

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique four-year certificate program in theological education based upon small group study and practice. Since its founding in 1975 this international program has assisted more than 100,000 participants in discovering and nurturing their call to Christian service. EfM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together.

TOP TEN REASONS TO JOIN EfM

10. When it comes to your faith, do you have more questions than answers?
9. Do you enjoy spirited discussion and sharing of yourself?
8. Do the stories of war, greed, failure, redemption, and love in the Old Testament excite you?
7. Do you like to be challenged?
6. Do you enjoy sharing fellowship on a regular basis?
5. When it comes to theologians, do you find yourself wondering what they were thinking and what planet they were from?
4. Do you ever read a passage in the Bible, scratch your head, and say, "Huh?"
3. Do you have a hunger for more in your spiritual life?
2. Does Paul confound, amaze, and frustrate you?
1. Do you sometimes wrestle with God, but have yet to win an argument? (God will still win the arguments, but you'll be a better wrestler!)

IF YOU ANSWERED "YES" TO ANY OF THESE, THEN EfM MAY BE FOR YOU!

In the Christian faith, all baptized people are called to be ministers to one another and to the wider world. Education for Ministry is a comprehensive program of study, prayer, and theological reflection to prepare laypersons for ministry in the world and in the church.

EfM meets weekly during the academic year (September through May) in small group seminars

Education for Ministry, cont'd

under the guidance of trained mentors. The four-year course of study encompasses Old and New Testament, Church History, and Theology. More information is available from mentors Deacon Maureen and Randy Demler, or current members: Brandi Carson, Tom Golden, Paul Gregg, Barbara and Tad Knight, Jean Lauria, Lorraine Simpkins, and Nancy Snow. Registration will take place online shortly.

Here's what current and former EfM participants have to say:

EfM has definitely increased my knowledge and understanding of the Bible but, more importantly, I now feel as though I have a day-to-day, conversational, personal relationship with Jesus. By reading and discussing scripture, and learning how to think theologically, I am better able to align my actions with what Jesus is calling me to be and to do. EfM has been challenging, but ultimately inspirational and very rewarding.

I look forward to the EfM class each week. It makes me more mindful of God and of how He is at work in our lives. I appreciate very much the sharing by classmates of experiences important in their lives, the learning of patterned ways to respond theologically to concerns, the communal prayers, and this year (it's year 3 for me) to see the incredibly diverse and often mysterious ways in which over the two millennia of Christian history in the world, God has been at work.

EfM was the most interesting and exciting Christian formation program I have ever experienced! It seals you as a trusted, engaged and motivated participant in the Christian life.

Like many Episcopalians, before taking EfM I had been listening to readings from the Bible for years, and always wanted to understand the history and context of those readings. EfM not only gave me that context, but provided an eager group of parishioners wanting to discuss and understand the same things. For me, it was so effective that I've taken it twice!

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Lamentations 3:22-24 (NRSV)

Praise Band

From Father Darius+



We members of Saint George's Praise Band are grateful to see our Saturday afternoon worshipers each week, and it is our privilege to lead the congregation in praise. God has been so good to us, and it is a relief to begin to let down our guard a little now that Covid seems to be receding. We are still being cautious, of course, but wearing the mask a little less often is a welcome change.

Our band members work hard as I lead us in fine-tuning the songs that are part of our repertoire as well as learning new songs on a regular basis. I try to keep us all on our toes as we always try to expand and improve the ways we praise God and lead his people in worship. Thanks, as always, to Tom Lessard, our drummer, Tom Bena on guitar, Tad Knight on keyboard, Nancy Johnston, Abby Bee and Stephanie Mojallali, our vocalists. We have had a couple of visiting musicians lately as well - Lisa Longe on keyboard and Steve Summers on guitar and vocals.

I also want to express my deep gratitude to Father Tom and Mother Elizabeth for their support of me as Praise Band Leader these last six months - and I look forward to many more.

Now I have a question for you: What songs would you like to hear — and sing — in our worship on Saturdays? We use a variety of styles, from traditional hymns to contemporary praise and worship songs, and we want to know what kind of worship music speaks to you. So send me a note at dmojo26@me.com and your requests will be welcome.

I wish you all a blessed and healthy summer filled with the praise of our wonderful God.

July Anniversaries

Steven & Colleen Kinley
Douglas & Cathy Fare
Mark & Lorraine Simpkins
Diane & Albert Betzwieser
Douglas & Kathy Chapman
Brian & Julie Bailey
Jeffrey Crannell & Courtney DiGrigoli-Crannell
Charles & Adrienne Day
Tom & Mary Golden



The Community Of Hope Is Calling You!

From Arlene Josef



St. Paul tells us in Colossians that Christians are to work together in community to grow in our faith that we might present everyone mature in Christ. The Community of Hope training, based on the Rule of Benedict spirituality provides a foundation to accomplish that goal. Four years ago, I felt led to take the course, and along with the clergy and lay leaders of St. George's, feel that it is an important building block in preparing our leaders of the church in this rapidly changing world. While not for everyone, this is a unique opportunity to grow in your faith as you learn to "listen with the ears of your heart" and learn "the skills and the practices of spiritual life that prepares each of us to be open to one another...to believe and trust that the hospitality of the Christian faith is to look for Christ in the other person..." - (Reverend Dr. Helen Appelberg, COHI Founder).

The Community of Hope's mission is to create and sustain Christian Communities of volunteer lay pastoral caregivers united in prayer, shaped by Benedictine spirituality and equipped for service in pastoral care ministries. Plans are underway to offer an opportunity to train a new class of lay pastoral caregivers at St. George's in September. The course includes modules in Benedictine spirituality, listening skills, spiritual gifts, pastoral visitation, coping with grief and loss, and understanding family systems. I hope you will consider joining us and being a part of this class.

Please call Arlene Josef at 518-383-3835 for more information.

July Birthdays



Lisa Bullock, Bruce Bonacquist,
Victor Knorowski, Bill Burns, Lydia Widenor,
Emily Bailey, Lucia Crannell, Jeanne Nuss,
Cole Quintero, Barbara Hartman, Allen Nuss,
Carole Van Der Veer, Charlie Bee,
Gabriela Manning, Livia Manning, Capri Abramo,
Avaleigh Glaser, Megan Keyes, James Mussnug,
Gene Gordon, Steven Kinley, Carolyn Martin,
Dan Glaser, Mtr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis,
Richard Perry, Hunter Golden, Isabella Minehardt,
Lisa O'Brien, Kimberly Roberson, Tonya Manning

*Rejoice in the LORD always; again I will say,
Rejoice.*

Philippians 4:4 (NRSV)

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

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 or
by phone or text at (518) 429-9334. You may also
contact [Jo Anne Robbins](#).

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:

7:30 am Morning Prayer weekdays. On Zoom at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82340422187>

Reflection on the Gospel reading from the Daily
Office lectionary via [https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=oFIHkzzOjA&list=PLqGV25ahrgM_wqA08d_LU4z
BnF4SVc-fN](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFIHkzzOjA&list=PLqGV25ahrgM_wqA08d_LU4zBnF4SVc-fN)

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

St. George's Episcopal Church

912 Route 146

Clifton Park, NY 12065