



# *The Dragon's Tale*

**November 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  
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## *Rejoicing in God's Abundance!*

On Sunday, October 24th, we gathered together to ***Rejoice in God's Abundance*** as we celebrated our annual pledge campaign. We had almost 50 people join us in Hatlee Hall for the dinner that was provided by Homestyle Caterers. This was our first inside event since the Pandemic and it was wonderful to be able to connect with friends and enjoy a delicious dinner! Thank you to all of you who assisted with the organization, set up, and clean-up of the event. We also really appreciated those that donated desserts and cider!



## From Your Rector

### Stewardship

This past month of October, we focused our attention on our individual and community commitment to stewardship. On Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup> many from this parish turned in their pledge commitment cards by carrying them up and placing them on the altar as we ended each of our weekend worship services. We enjoyed a very nice celebration dinner on the evening of the 24th to *Rejoicing in God's Abundance* at St. George's. Moving forward we now gather in thanksgiving to acknowledge the many ways God is blessing St. George's through our worship, ministries, and mission. We do this out of our love for God and our love for one another, in the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure.

In their book *Uncommon Gratitude*, by Joan Chittister (author of the commentary on the Rule of Benedict that we use in our Community of Hope training) and ++Rowan Williams, retired Archbishop of Canterbury, Joan Chittister says,

Some are things we naturally feel grateful for: God, peace, wealth, life, faith, and unity. But when these are set alongside other things we would never think to sing alleluia about 'death, divisions, sufferings, and even sinners.'

And yet...

Life itself is an exercise in learning to sing 'alleluia' here in order to recognize the face of God hidden in the recesses of time. To deal with the meaning of 'alleluia' in life means to deal with moments that do not feel like 'alleluia moments' at all.

The Clergy and Vestry of St. George's thank all of you who have stepped up in support of this parish, in many cases sacrificially, over these past 18 months. Your support has been invaluable in helping to bring St. George's through these particularly challenging times. The pledge response so far has been very encouraging as parishioners are stepping up with strong financial commitments in support of what God is doing at and through St. George's.



## Cont'd From Your Rector

St. George's celebrates over 100 years of ministry as we look with great anticipation toward the wonderful future for which God is calling and equipping us. I am pleased to say that we have continuously offered worship services and Christian formation programming since early 2020 and throughout this Covid-19 period. We have also grown in our mission and outreach ministries as we have supported, and in some cases even increased, our support and participation in programs like Capital City Rescue Mission, HAWS, St. Francis Mission, Captain, and the Jonesville Food Pantry as we continue to reach out to nurture, teach, and heal in Jesus' name.

Please join us in offering gratitude to God for all the gifts and talents God is and has been giving through the members of St. George's. It is these gifts and talents that allow St. George's to be the parish it is called to be and to give back to the service of the Lord, as we are being called.

In God's Peace, Fr. Tom



## Capital City Rescue Mission Banquet

*From Carol MacNaughton*

St. George's had a 10 person table at the Capital City Rescue Mission banquet on October 21st. It was an opportunity to hear more about the work of the Mission, the opening of the new women's building, and to hear testimonies from people whose lives were changed at the Capital City Rescue Mission.



Members of our Mission and Outreach group at the banquet: Heidi Bonacquist, Kathryn Pellett and Jo Anne Robbins



## **Mother's Musings**



This is the time of year that many people ponder generosity and thanksgiving as we begin to see the visual signs that the national holiday of Thanksgiving Day is coming soon. Some do not need a reminder as they are naturally generous people who are always looking for ways to give to others.

Throughout our community and our parish of St. George's there are those who give generously of their time, talent, and treasure to the betterment of humankind and this parish. We recently celebrated "Rejoicing in God's Abundance" which was our annual pledge campaign. In addition to financial support for this parish there are numerous people who give generously of their time to assist to beautify the grounds, make repairs in the buildings, serve on altar guild, sing in the choir, sing or play in the praise band, serve as lectors, ushers, clickers, volunteer in the office, arrange parish events and recruit volunteers, visit those who are sick and shut in, teach or take classes, work on technology, meet vendors to get bids and get work done, order supplies for the church, help others in their homes and need rides, and the list goes on and on.

Generosity is one of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. When one exhibits what the Apostle Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit it indicates that the person is filled with the Holy Spirit and the resulting fruit is evident in their lives in these nine ways.

Generosity is a matter of the heart. Recently, Chase Pellett turned 10 years old. He has been with his mother Kathryn and his brother Cooper to serve at the Loaves and Fishes feeding program at St. Francis Mission in Albany. As his birthday approached he told his mother that he wanted the guests who would be invited to his birthday party to bring a gift to be given away to children who receive meals through the Loaves and Fishes ministry.



The donations Chase received for his birthday.

## **Cont'd Mother's Musing**

The Prophet Isaiah writes (chapter 11) about the righteous kingdom that will be set up by the Messiah. The curse will be lifted, peace and harmony will be present, and wild animals will again be tame and harmless to domesticated animals and humans. The wolf ... leopard ... lion, and bear are mentioned as examples of wild animals that will dwell safely with farm animals (the lamb ... goat ... calf... cow, and ox). A little child will be safe with lions, bears, cobras, and vipers And on the temple mount, God's holy mountain, tranquility will prevail. Isaiah writes, "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them (Isaiah 11:6 NRSV)."

May each one of us allow ourselves to be led by a little child. May we practice generosity, not only in the giving of time, talent, and treasure but also in charity with regard to our words and opinions.

*Mr. Elizabeth*



## **Women's Bible Study**

*From Cindy Hoetzer*

This fall we have been studying the first 11 chapters of Genesis. Though this scripture is very familiar to us, we are all in agreement that we are seeing it with new eyes. Through examination of the first few chapters, we have witnessed God bring order out of chaos and light and out of darkness all through the power of His Word. With the guidance of Jen Wilkin, the author of this series, we are discovering that no matter how much we think we know about Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, or Noah and the Ark, there is always more to ponder, more to learn, and more to understand about God's Word and purpose. Stay tuned for an announcement about the next study and please give prayerful consideration to joining us in the future.



## UPDATE ON THE 2021 DIOCESAN CONVENTION:

*From Fr. Tom*

This past weekend on Saturday October 23, 2021, the Diocese of Albany held its The 153rd Diocesan Convention. Due to continuing concerns about large group gatherings, the convention was held virtually. Our clergy and lay deputation gathered in the library at St. George's and spent the day together with the business of the convention. Our clergy were Fr. Tom, Rector, Mtr. Elizabeth, Associate Rector, and Deacon Maureen Demler. Our lay deputies were Abby Bee, Randy Demler and Tom Lessard. Fran Gordon served as alternate deputy.

Several controversial resolutions were brought before the convention that were postponed until our next in-person convention which is scheduled for June 3, 4, and 5th. This was done to allow opportunity for proper debate and discussion of these complex matters such as marriage rites in the Diocese of Albany. Our anticipation and hope is that there will be meaningful dialogue on these matters during the convening months as part of the profile and search process for the Tenth Bishop of Albany.

St. George's continues to provide an invaluable leadership role in the wider diocese and to do its part in supporting the common mission of the Diocese of Albany. I am pleased to say that for the past several years, we have been consistent in paying our diocesan assessment in full as an important part of our support for the ministry and work of the wider diocese.

Our Sr. Warden, Jean Lauria continues to serve on the Standing Committee for the diocese and serves on the Episcopal Search and Oversight Committee; Carol MacNaughton, a member of the vestry at St. George's, served as an assistant teller for the convention and was re-appointed to serve on the CTK Advisory Commission; Arlene Josef, another vestry member, was elected to serve on the DDF (Diocesan Development Fund); Randy Demler serves on the Commission on Ministry and was re-appointed to serve on the CTK Advisory Commission; Abby Bee, our Jr Warden was appointed to the workshop committee for our next Diocesan Convention, which God willing will once again be able to meet in-person for our next convention. Fr. Darius Mojalalli, our Praise Band Leader, serves as spiritual chaplain to the Profile and Search Committee.

## Cont'd Diocesan Convention



Mtr Elizabeth termed off of the Standing Committee and was elected to serve on the Diocesan Disciplinary Board, she was also re-appointed to serve on the salary and benefits committee for the diocese. Mtr Elizabeth continues in her third year of serving as Transition Minister for the Diocese of Albany. In this position she is responsible for the recruitment and placement of clergy to serve in the 100 parishes of this diocese. Fr. Tom was elected to serve a second term on Trustees for the diocese, re-appointed to the CTK Advisory Commission, and the Diocesan Art & Architecture Committee. He continues to serve on the Profile and Search Committee for our next bishop and as Director of the Diocesan Deacon Formation Program.

We are only able to provide this level of support to the wider Diocese of Albany because of the invaluable support and teamwork of so many of our vestry leaders and parishioners here at St. George's. We have much for which to be thankful at St. George's as we seek to joyfully in love reach out to nurture, teach, and heal in Jesus' name.

### Altar Guild Gets New Leader

St. George's has a long history of very capable and dedicated leaders of the altar guild. Our most recent altar guild leader has been Abby Bee. She has served as head of the altar guild for the past 13 years and for a period of 3 years before that. As a postulant for Holy Orders, Abby will have to leave St. George's in the fall of 2022 to serve her diaconal internship. In preparation for Abby's departure, a new altar guild leader has been named. Lorraine Simpkins, who has served on the altar guild for 13 years, is the new leader. We welcome Lorraine in this new capacity and look forward to working with her. If anyone has an interest in serving on the altar guild, please reach out to Lorraine, Fr. Tom, or Mtr. Elizabeth.



## **November Anniversaries**

Neil & Tonya Manning,  
John & Joyce Miller,  
Herman & Pam Sabourin,  
Bryan & Jennifer Bee,  
Augie & Kathy Quail,  
Tom & Sue Lessard,  
John & Ellen Gilhooley,  
Allen & Jeanne Nuss,  
Alejandro & Mary Quintero



## **November Birthdays**

Hannum Benson,  
John Gilhooley, Kathy Harding,  
Fran Gordon, Alfie Sarnacki,  
Martha Underhill, Tim Kaercher, Jake Glaser,  
Colleen Kinley, John O'Brien, Mark Simpkins,  
Sue Brooks, Rob Golden, Michael Blinstrub,  
Steve Eyer



## **Capital City Rescue Mission Welcome Baskets Being Delivered**

*From Carol MacNaughton*

When Perry Jones preached at St. George's a year ago, he spoke of the new Women's Center that was being prepared. As an outreach project inspired by the Priscilla Shire's Bible Study Jonah, our Women's Bible Study group prepared "Welcome Baskets" for the women moving in. Unfortunately, like many construction projects during COVID shortages of materials and manpower affected the schedule.



## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Again this year, we will sponsor a Red Cross Blood drive on Thursday November 11th, 1:00 - 6:00pm. Volunteers are needed to man the registration table. Please contact Carol MacNaughton at [cmacnaughton11@gmail.com](mailto:cmacnaughton11@gmail.com). You may sign up to donate blood by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org> and use sponsor code STGEORGESCLIFTONPARK or [CLICK HERE!](#)



**American  
Red Cross**



## **Parish Life Update**

*From Heidi Bonacquist*

### **Mark your calendars - Scottish Sunday is November 14th**

St. George's Church in Clifton Park will offer its annual Scottish Service on Sunday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30am Service. Members of the Schenectady Pipe Band, and the St. Andrew's Society of Schenectady will be joining parishioners in celebrating the lives of St. Margaret of Scotland and St. Andrew, who is the patron saint of Scotland, as well as Samuel Seabury, first Bishop of the American Episcopal Church, who was ordained in Scotland. St. Andrew's Society members will be displaying colorful clan tartans in the church, a reminder of the importance of families in our lives. All are invited to attend the "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" at this colorful event!

Immediately following the service everyone is invited to join us in Hatlee Hall for Fellowship and Hospitality. Christian Fellowship will begin at 11:00am that morning.

If you are willing to bring a Scottish treat such as scones or shortbread cookies (or any other treat) please email me at [parishlife@stgeorgescp.org](mailto:parishlife@stgeorgescp.org).



## **St. George's Mission and Outreach**

### **Ongoing Ministries**

*From Jo Anne Robbins*

#### **Jonesville Helping Hands Food Pantry**

We are continuing to collect and deliver shelf stable food and non-food items to the Jonesville Helping Hands Food Pantry – So Others May Eat (S.O.M.E.).

#### **Updated Helping Hands Food Pantry Needs List**

We've received an updated "Items Needed List" from the Helping Hands Food Pantry that we partner with. The new updated list is:

- boxed potatoes (mashed, au gratin and scalloped)
- stuffing mix
- canned/ jar gravy
- cranberry sauce
- baking supplies
- snack packs: pudding, Jell-O, fruit packs, applesauce
- cookies
- coffee
- hearty / chunky soups and stews
- hand soap / bar soap
- size 1 diapers
- over-the-counter medicine such as pain relievers or multi-vitamins, and mouthwash.



Collection carts may be found inside the entrance to the narthex and another inside the parking lot entrance.

#### **Loaves and Fishes**

'Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute . . .'

St George's is committed to cooking at St. Francis the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. Please consider volunteering to help! Teens are encouraged to participate accompanied by an adult.

To volunteer, please follow link to [Sign-Up Genius](#)

Any questions, please contact Kathryn Pellett at: [kathrynpellett@yahoo.com](mailto:kathrynpellett@yahoo.com) or 518-429-9334.

#### **Winter Coat Drive**

As you are cleaning out your closets this Fall, please consider donating gently used winter clothing that will be brought to the St. Francis Mission. Children's winter clothing is especially needed. There will be a collection box in the narthex.



#### **Capital City Rescue Mission**

[capitalcityrescuemission.org/restoring-hope/](http://capitalcityrescuemission.org/restoring-hope/)

Thank you to the many parishioners who have brought donations to our collection bin for the Capital City Rescue Mission "Blessingdales" give away shop located inside the front entrance. We are continuing to collect new and used clothing, shoes, jewelry and home furnishings. Donations are blessed monthly and delivered to the mission.

Paul Gregg bagging meals to-go.



Bruce Bonacquist helping with dishes.

Cooper Pellett, and a friend, rolling Silverware.



## Comfort for Those Who Mourn

*From Deacon Maureen*

A Non-Denominational,  
Christian Support Group for  
those who are Grieving the  
Death of a Loved One

SIX WEEKLY SESSIONS

*OFFERING SUPPORT &  
INFORMATION*



What to expect...Each session will include:

- Education and Information on the grief process.
- Time for fellowship, sharing and mutual support.
- Opportunity for prayer and reading of scripture.
- Suggestions for personal reading.
- Self-Help exercises for the following week in Reflection Journal that is provided.

At the end of the six weekly sessions, there will be monthly reunions offered.

If this is something you think may help you or someone you know, please contact Deacon Maureen. We'll be scheduling the sessions in the near future.

[Deacon.maureen.demler@gmail.com](mailto:Deacon.maureen.demler@gmail.com) or 518-369-3816



## All Saint's Sunday Flowers

*From Abby Bee*

Sunday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the feast of All Saint's here at St. George's! You have the opportunity to have the names of family, friends, and loved ones remembered and honored with a donation of flowers at the altar of St. George's. There is an online form available on the church website: [www.stgeorgescp.org](http://www.stgeorgescp.org) and forms are available outside the church office. Please place your donation in the envelopes provided in the narthex, and write the names of those you would like to be remembered on the form provided. Please submit the names, either to the office, or place in the offering plate by Sunday October 31st to be included in the All Saint's Sunday bulletins. If you have questions, please contact the office at 518 371-6351, or e mail to the office at: [stgeorgeofc@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeofc@gmail.com).



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

*From Cindy Hoetzer*

We continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month to knit, crochet and pray together.



The next gathering is Nov. 9th from 1-3 PM here at church.

Shawls are of particular comfort to those who might be shut in, facing surgery, coping with an illness, dealing with a loss, living with a stressful situation, or any number of other reasons.

If you knit or crochet or would like to learn, we would love to have you join us. Please contact Deacon Maureen if you know of someone who would benefit from the gift of a shawl.

## **In-Person Worship Services**

### **Sunday:**

**7:30 am Morning Prayer in library**

**8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II**

**9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II** with organ and choir

**10:45 am Christian Formation** for all ages

### **Wednesday:**

**12:15 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II** with anointing for healing, with COVID-19 precautions

### **Saturday:**

**4:30 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II**, with Praise Band



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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)

**9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II** virtually. Access via [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGV25ahrgM9i8RQEOBjJmo2Fro8yRj\\_x](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGV25ahrgM9i8RQEOBjJmo2Fro8yRj_x)

**10:45 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://stgeorgescp.org/st\\_georges\\_online](https://stgeorgescp.org/st_georges_online)

**Reflection on the Gospel** reading from the Daily Office lectionary via [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGV25ahrgM\\_wqA08d\\_LU4zBnF4SVc-fN](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?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