



St. George Episcopal Church Crossroads Newsletter Advent 2015 - Epiphany 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I receive a daily meditation from the Society of St. John the Evangelist brothers. The thoughts on courage and compassion really struck me and have had an impact on my prayer and thoughts of us as a Christian Community. Along with our adult study using the book *Crazy Christians* by our new Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, I had been reflecting on our mission and ministry at St. George's and where courage and compassion have come into play. Both of these thoughts have led some of us in the book study to ask ourselves, "Are we making disciples to transform the world? Or are we going to let fear keep us in a holding pattern where spiritual growth becomes stagnant and ministry becomes ho-hum." Lots to think about as we gather and pray together each Sunday.

During November we mixed up our worship space by removing some of the pews and adding chairs in semi-circles while using more contemporary language in our services. The altar was in our midst of us as we prayed together. Time was included in the service for us to engage one another in conversation about what church means to us, our baptism into Christ, extravagant generosity, faith development and Risk Taking Mission and Service. We celebrated our connections to one another while building a web of yarn, renewing our baptismal vows, and looking at how we are generous in our own lives through service to others. And we had to address how a furniture change impacted how we see church and one another. Of course we expected reactions, suggestions and excitement and we got all of this and more. PS The pews will be back in place on December 6th.

Yes, Jesus and the Church are calling us to be courageous and compassionate Christians. We welcome all in God's name, we work together through prayer, our talents, time and treasure and we never give up. That is the "Jesus Movement" we have been called to and it is no easy road, but together we can and we will do the work before us with compassion and courage, so, "do help us dear God."

Love, Susan +



Parishioners weave a web of connections with yarn.



Sharing Eucharist together as we gather around the altar.



Fall Fair

So many people made this the best fair ever. Everyone who worked it had a good day and with so many helpers and excellent facilitation by Karen Begin, we “had a banner year.” Thank you.

Advent Begins on Sunday, November 29th

Special activity books for the younger children ages 3-10 will be made available on Sunday, November 29th. The activity books include an Advent calendar and leads up to the real story of Christmas. **Bible Study** on the texts for the Sundays in Advent will take place 9:10am-9:40am in St. Elizabeth’s Hall each Sunday in Advent. **Advent Generosity** - Again this year we will be helping a family with three children, 2 girls ages 1 and 4 and a boy age 2, with clothing, bedding and a few toys. A list will be posted for sign-ups at the entrance of the church. Please bring the gifts by Sunday, December 20th and put a sticky note re: age of child.

UTO Advent through Easter

The United Thanks Offering (UTO) is a wonderful way for us to respond to the needs of congregations and missions in the Episcopal Church. Do you ever stop and think how thankful you are for the blessings in your life? What if every day we each gave thanks to God for these blessings and as an act of giving, we were to drop some coins into a little blue box, as a sign of that gratitude. That is our challenge for the period of Advent through Easter. Boxes will be available for everyone and after the box is full, empty it out, count the change, write a check with memo line UTO and drop in the collection. We will keep a graph and watch our generosity to others grow.



Cooking Matters

Cooking Matters is a program we run in collaboration with The KIDS CLUB from the Sanford Schools started in October. Our Chef is MJ Grace and Caitlin Crane from the Good Shepherd Food Bank. This is an opportunity for parents and KIDS to learn about preparing healthy food and gaining some excellent cooking skills, while the kids enjoy some one-on-one time with their parents.

Pride in our Country and Prayers for Peace

All of us have been made aware of the great sacrifices so many of our service men and women make every day. When I was home visiting my Mom around Veteran's Day, the park in Pittsfield, Massachusetts paid tribute to our veterans with row upon row of flags, reminding me and so many others how blessed we are to live in this free country and how all of our immigrant relatives who came to this country helped to make it what it is today. Much is being batted around about immigration today, and some of this is fear based, and we should remember that we are just that, a country of immigrants, so many of whom fled their home countries for a brighter future for themselves and their children. On Thanksgiving we celebrate the story of the Pilgrims who came to the New World to escape religious persecution by fellow Christians. As we gather with our loved ones, let us remember those who are still looking for what we have and let us be grateful and willing to help others.



Questions?

*“When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon... she came to test him with hard questions... Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her.”
1 Kings 10:1-3*

Jeremy Mitchell may not necessarily have the wisdom of Solomon, but he certainly has spent a lifetime asking questions and searching for answers to them. As part of a new ministry at St. George's beginning this Advent, Jeremy will be serving as curator and advisor to provide an avenue for anyone who may wish to ask their own questions. Communication is so important in any community or organization. That is why we are offering this opportunity so that everyone will be able to ask their questions and be heard. Perhaps you have been seeking guidance for your own journey of faith. Maybe there is a bit of scripture you have been wrestling with. Even if you just want to know how a recent fundraiser went or what is going on at the church, here you will have an opportunity to ask those questions and hopefully receive the answers you are seeking. Jeremy will make every attempt to answer whatever questions you may have or otherwise direct you to someone who will be able to provide the answers you need. All questions can be sent directly to Jeremy by email or should you wish to be contacted another way, you will also find little cards available in the nave to fill out as well. Hopefully this ministry will be a blessing for us all as we continue to walk together in Christ. Jeremy can be contacted directly at jeremy@livritnow.com

Important Dates – Please See the Regular Calendar for All Other Events

- November 29** – One service at 9:00am – Annual Meeting Part I
- December 5** – Nerf Night begins at 5:00pm
- December 19** – Men's Breakfast at St. George's at 8:00am with Rev. Sue cooking
- December 24** – Christmas Eve service at 4:00pm at The Greenwood Center
6:00pm Family Service at St. George's
10:00pm Service with incense at St. George's
- December 27** – One service at 9:00am
- January 31** – One service at 9:00am – Annual Meeting Part II
- February 10** – Ash Wednesday – Lent is early this year
- February 12-14** – Women's Retreat - more details to follow