



St. George's Episcopal Church

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CROSSROADS

Spring 2024



Another year has come and gone. 2023 brought a lot of joy but also sadness, adversity and triumph. Through it all, we have found love and support in one another.

As we enter 2024, there is a lot to look forward to— special events, time to spend together with loved ones and of course, warmer weather.

In the coming months, there are a several big events planned for St. George's. Of course, there's Lent, which brings a number of ways to grow deeper and more reflective of our shared faith. Then, we have new things we're trying like bingo and a brunch for the ladies of the church. Plus, don't forget about the bi-annual \$.50 clothing sale— who could pass up a bargain like that?

There will, certainly, be things we haven't planned for but we can't wait to see what God has in store for us and the church. In the meantime, please enjoy this latest version of *Crossroads*.

Inside this *Crossroads*

A Letter From Fr. Steve • Lent • Recent Past Events
An Update About Our Rector Search • Grateful for Your Generosity

Congrats, Lester!

During our Annual Meeting Part II, we recognized Lester Cail for all the work that he does in and around the church. This is a tradition that Father Steve wanted to bring to St. George's from his previous parish. The Vestry decided overwhelmingly that it should go to Lester for going above and beyond what is asked of him. Over the summer if you drove by St. George's, Lester could be found tending to the garden or painting or otherwise fixing up the church. He continues to put time, effort and energy into so much around here and has done so for many years. Thank you to him and all who help in any way they can. Your efforts do not go unnoticed! We appreciate it more than you know.



From the desk of Fr. Steve

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. Book of Common Prayer, page 265



Friends in Christ,

It seems as though we only said farewell to Christmas yesterday and now in crashes Lent! This year Easter will be celebrated at the very end of March. Easter is a moveable feast. The date changes each year and is based on the cycle of the moon.

Here is the formula for determining the date of Easter each year. The Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus occurs on the Sunday following the first full moon which occurs after the vernal equinox. With that fact committed to memory you can impress your friends and relatives at St. Patrick's Day gatherings! Based on this formula you can see that Easter must occur sometime between March 22 and April 22.

Before we experience the joy of Easter, Lent beckons us to undergo some spiritual soul searching. We are called to take stock of our lives as disciples of Jesus. We must honestly acknowledge our shortcomings, our sin. We must repent and seek God's forgiveness. We are called to prepare our hearts and minds to truly revel in the grace and love of God apparent in the Resurrection.

As a sign of personal sacrifice and the desire to transform one's life in faith, many people "give up" something for Lent. Usually it is something simple such as chocolate, or wine, or eating meat on Friday. I have always approached making a Lenten sacrifice a bit differently. Instead of giving up something, I have added something to my already busy schedule. It might be volunteering a few hours a week at the local food pantry, or spending an extra 15 minutes a day in prayer, or promising to lead a new adult education offering at church. The sacrifice is not material, it is really a sacrifice of time and energy.

How do you personally make Lent a meaningful and special time? If adding something to your routine seems more positive than giving something up, consider joining us for Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings during Lent. We join with members of St. David's in Kennebunk every week at 5:30 for this brief, quiet liturgy. The location alternates between St. George's and St. David's. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the upcoming location.



I hope you have a meaningful and spiritually uplifting Lent!
Fr. Steve

Lent is here!

Pancake Supper for Shrove Tuesday *Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.*



St. Mary's Guild is organizing a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper for the congregation! The church has celebrated this in the past in various ways, but it's been a while.

What is Shrove Tuesday? This is a celebration before Ash Wednesday. It's also the last day before Lent begins, hence some indulgence ahead of this period. That is why we will enjoy some rich goodies such as pancakes, sausage, oranges and juice, coffee, tea. Please come hungry! This will be held in the parish hall.

If you can, please bring a few non-perishable food items for our little free pantry for the community.

Two Ash Wednesday Services *Wednesday, Feb. 14 at noon & 6 p.m.*

There will be two services on Ash Wednesday this year. The Eucharist will be celebrated at noon and 6 p.m. The Imposition of Ashes will be offered at both. Each of these liturgies will be 45 minutes in length with no music. Join us for a quiet and contemplative start to Lent.

Stations of the Cross returns *Starting Feb. 16 at 5:30 p.m.*

For Lent, we will continue offering Stations of the Cross as we have done in the past each Friday. We are once again partnering with St. David's at 138 York Street in Kennebunk. On Feb. 16 at 5:30 p.m., St. David's will hold the first Stations of the Cross. Then, St. George's will hold a service at the same time on Feb. 23. It will continue on that way, back and forth, during Lent. Questions about this offering? Talk to Deacon Jean!



Bingo! With Father Steve *Saturday, Feb. 24 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.*

Father Steve is thrilled to be getting out the bingo scorecards! Join us for a few rounds or stay the whole time. We'll gather in the Parish Hall. Hope to see you there.

Ladies Leprechaun Luncheon *Sunday, March 17 from 11 to 1:30 p.m.*

St. Mary's Guild will hold a lunch for all the ladies of the congregation. Come for games and social time together. This will be held in the Parish Hall!

Resources for Lent

There are a number of resources to deepen your faith during Lent. Head over to www.episcopalchurch.org/lent-resources/ for more information and a variety of online options.

A huge thank you for your generosity

We are blown away by the congregation! St. George's collected 189 pairs of warm socks to share with our neighbors during our Christmas sock drive. Sue Cass from the York County Shelter Program accepted the socks and expressed her deep gratitude for the generosity of the church. She explained to Rachel, the vestry's clerk, that there is a great need for warm socks, especially at the new warming shelter in Sanford.



We have been able to help a lot of parents through Baby Blessings recently, but we know more people are in need. We are kindly asking for donations—monetary or packs of diapers if possible! The donation jar is at the front of the service hall. See Maria Lantagne if you have any questions. The church is pursuing a grant to gather supplies, though have not yet received any word about whether or not this will go through. Please pray that we may continue to lend a helping hand for those in need of this service.

The Mayaya family settling in

The Mayaya family continues to thrive and become a welcome addition to the Sanford community. They expressed their gratitude for St. George's generosity and support at Christmas. Josephina has begun English classes and Jules has been hired by a local business. Members of the congregation like Rachel, Karen, Linda and others will continue to touch base with them should any needs arise that we may be able to assist with. They will continue to update us about how they are settling in to the area.



Permanent rector search continues

The search committee has conducted two interviews by zoom so far. One of those candidates was called by a Church in Colorado and decided to accept that call. The second candidate will be invited to come to our Church soon to have an in-person interview. We have been told of one other candidate who is interested, but has not provided an application as yet. We were told that there would not be many candidates applying, but were surprised to have only two so far.

Hopper Scholarship Applications Due by March 25

The Hopper Scholarship is once again being offered through St. George's. There is a priority system, should multiple people apply. We put this out to the church first before opening it up to the greater community. Application packets can be found at the back of the church or by emailing stgeorgesanford@gmail.com. Completed scholarship applications or letters of request must be turned in to the church office by March 25th of the senior year. To be an applicant for the scholarship does not automatically ensure receiving a scholarship.

Sticking with a 9 a.m. service for now

Over the last few months, St. George's asked congregation members about how they feel continuing with just one service at 9 a.m. We have previously had two services each Sunday, but were not able to continue to do so without a permanent priest. Members of the congregation spoke overwhelmingly in favor of one service at 9 a.m., for now. On the last Sunday of the month, our services will not include music, as a way to switch things up a bit. Please continue to let the vestry know if this time does or does not work for you. We hope to bring back two services in the future.

Winter Festivities



St. Mary's Guild Returns!

The women of the church have revitalized our St. Mary's Guild—a group for ladies of all ages. We are so excited to see its return. So far, they've done quite a lot! They organized a sock drive for those experiencing homelessness, helped

gather items for the Mayaya family, and went out for brunch together. Now, they're putting together a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper for the congregation and a Ladies Luncheon with games in mid-March. For women looking to meet with other women while helping the community and congregation, this is the perfect group for you! Please see Karen Begin if you have any questions or want to get involved. Minutes from their meetings can be found posted on the bulletin board in the church hallway by the sanctuary.



Another Successful Book Club in the Books!

We have just wrapped up our book study on the, *Ladder to the Light, An Indigenous Elder's Meditation on Hope and Courage* by Steven Charleston.

This is a thought-provoking book, with a lot of interesting concepts about our religious belief system as well as glimpses at our political system. It asks questions that we seldom ask ourselves out loud. We may think about them in a safe and quiet place like home and then tuck them away for later. The author asked a group of people at a New England church who came to hear him speak, "Name one institution—one public system in our culture—in which you still have complete confidence in? Would that be our educational system? The room was silent. Our political system? Silence. Our judicial system? Silence. Our health care system? Silence. How about our religious institutions? Surely, we still have confidence there. More silence. As we looked at each other in the silence, we understood something profound: we are a generation that no longer believes things work..." This was a very in-depth study that led us to ask ourselves hard questions and we shared our answers, from our experiences in life and it forced us to look at where society is right now and where we thought the world is going. "It doesn't matter if we label ourselves conservative or progressive; the reality we share means we are losing confidence. We are worried. The ground seems to be shifting beneath our feet. We no longer rely on the institutions we once felt were our firm foundation. We are afraid, and we are looking for our way out of the darkness and into light.

We studied the rungs of the ladder that emerges from the kiva. The rungs are labeled faith, blessing, hope, community, action, truth, renewal, and transformation. Eight rungs that led us on the path to understand what is happening in the world today and what could happen if we take our part in this process seriously and honestly. We encourage you to pick up a copy of this book and read it. You will gain a lot of insight. -Deacon Jean



Annual Meeting Part II

We recently held the second part of our annual meeting. As a congregation, we went through some financial items, growth in our numbers, and more. For those who were not able to attend, you can watch our Feb. 4th service on Facebook. If you have any questions about what was discussed, please reach out to a member of the Vestry.



Bishop Brown visits St. George's

Bishop Thomas Brown came to our church on December 10 for a very special service. And, Betsy-Jane presented him with an exceptional hand-made gift! He was incredibly grateful for such an incredible gesture. Afterwards, Bishop Brown met with the congregation to talk about the diocese, the search for a permanent rector and answer any questions that we may have about the future of the faith. We are glad that he could be here and hope to welcome him back soon.

Happy birthday, Barbara Bean!

Our very own Barbara Bean has turned 105! We were delighted to celebrate recently with many members of her family— a son, grandkids, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. It was so special to see so many gather at St. George's ahead of her big day.



The Vestry

The Vestry has been elected to serve you and is always available to listen and to act.

Keren Gilpatrick, Senior Warden

Sara Gauthier, Junior Warden

Maria Lantagne, Treasurer

Rachel Driscoll, Clerk

Gary Samia

Robert Oelschlager

Kathleen Whalin

Cathy Larson

Victoria Lynn

Rev. Jean Cavanaugh, Deacon



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Who We Are

St. George's is a welcoming, loving community that strives to live into what it means to be the church in the world. In the heart of Sanford, we seek to be of service and support to the community around us. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here! All walks of life, all identities, all abilities, ALL are welcome here, no exceptions.

We recognize the Abenaki tribe of the Wabanaki Confederacy (People of the Dawnland), the indigenous peoples in whose territory our church home was built. As Episcopalians, we repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, repent of our colonizing history which resulted in generations of harm to the native people of this land, and seek to learn and understand how we may take part in the ongoing work of healing.

More information about this can be found on our website and in the church. We encourage others to take part in this journey with us.

Our Mission Statement:

We are a welcoming, accepting Christian Community that worships God through Jesus Christ fostering love, learning, and spiritual growth which enables us to reach out in service to others.

Fr. Steve Fales, Interim Priest

Rev. Jean Cavanaugh, Deacon

Dr. Morton Gold, Organist

Jacob Zwain, Sexton

Mal Meyer DeBruyckere,

Office Administrator

For pastoral care, please contact the office at (207) 324-8119 or email the church for a quicker response

We have just one service at 9 a.m. each Sunday with coffee hour to follow



All are welcome— no exceptions!

