

St. George's Episcopal Church

3 Emerson Street, Sanford, Maine 04073

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CROSSROADS



What a blessing to see so many members, loved ones and newcomers at the church this Christmas. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and pray for a great new year.

Inside this CROSSROADS

Letter From The Rev. Tim • Lenten Offerings
Successful Fall Events • Community Meals • And More!

More people each Sunday!

It's been a few months since our last quarterly newsletter—perhaps because we've been so busy! Since The Rev. Tim joined our church, he has been moving full speed ahead. We are grateful for the new energy that has motivated us to accomplish so much at St. George's. From a new partnership to help those in need, to the growth of Baby Blessings, to welcoming many newcomers, there's plenty to celebrate. This edition of Crossroads serves as a reminder of all that excites us as we look forward to the winter and early spring. Enjoy!

Liturgy And Lunch

One of The Rev. Tim's first initiatives was to launch Liturgy and Lunch, held every Wednesday at noon. It's been going very well with a good turnout each week! This gathering is for anyone seeking a smaller worship setting and an opportunity to connect with others in the church. The group currently meets in the chapel/library area and lasts about an hour. Bring a little to eat if you'd like to join us for lunch afterward!



From The Desk Of Rev. Tim

Dear Members of St. George's Church,

As I pause to reflect on this past quarter—October, November, December, and January—I am grateful to God for many “firsts” I’ve had the privilege to be part of. God has blessed us over the past few months with a new ministry and outreach for the unhoused, made possible by our new relationship with *It Takes a Village 207* and *Sweetser*. Several of you have signed up to volunteer weekly, and I am so grateful for your commitment and love. Make no mistake, friends—this is God’s work, and God has clearly called us to it.



I celebrated my first baptism at St. George's as we welcomed Ruby and Vaeda into our church family on All Saints' Day and December 29th, respectively. It is a true joy to celebrate the naming of new Christians in our community.

My first Advent at St. George's was wonderful, as we welcomed seven new households and saw a few familiar faces return to regular worship. God is so good! And, of course, Advent led us to Christmas, which was nothing short of amazing. Most of my family was able to join us as we embraced the newborn Jesus in a church filled with worshippers. Awesome!

Happy New Year, friends! As we move into 2025, I pray it will bring good health, new possibilities, and spiritual growth. May God bless you, **Rev. Tim**



(Not pictured: Lynne Lowell)

Our new Vestry is eager to work together in service of the church. We're excited to see what they will do. Be sure to talk to anyone on the vestry should you want to get more involved, if you have questions, comments or concerns!

Annual Meeting

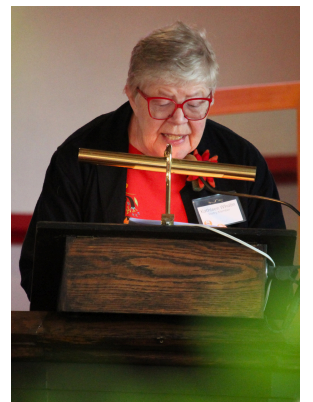
In January, we held our annual meeting at the church. This time we did things a little differently than in the past in order to have the most folks come together at once while also respecting everyone's time. Therefore, we held just one meeting instead of splitting it into two parts.

Among the notable changes, we approved the slate of the new vestry members, a balanced budget was passed and we voted to continue holding just one service at 9 a.m. for now. The meeting minutes will be available and posted on the bulletin board!

If you couldn't make it to the meeting, please take a look at the annual report booklet that has been put together, as well as the PowerPoint from Rev. Tim. Contact the church at stgeorgesanford@gmail.com or ask Mal for a copy.

Celebration Of New Ministry

In October, church leaders from across Maine came to Sanford to celebrate our new ministry as The Rev. Tim formally joined the church. It was great to gather together as we mark a new chapter as one.



Lenten Offerings

We're excited to have our programming for Lent finalized. More details to come!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper March 4 | 4 – 6 PM

Ash Wednesday (March 5)

- Noon Service
- Ashes to Go in the church parking lot | 3 – 5 PM
- Evening Service | 6 PM

Faith-Sharing Groups: Spirit Chats

- Mondays (In-Person in church office) | 6:45 PM | Rev. Sue Murphy (Begins March 10)
- Tuesdays (Zoom) | 6:45 PM | Rev. Tim Higgins (Begins March 11)
- Wednesdays (Zoom) | Rachel Driscoll & Lynne Boston (Begins March 12)

Lenten Suppers: Conversations w/ the Clergy Thursdays, March 13 – April 10 | 6 PM | Potluck

EC 101: Prep for Confirmation/Reaffirmation Sundays, March 9 – April 13 | After brief coffee hour

Holy Week Services

- April 17 – Maundy Thursday | 6 PM
- April 18 – Good Friday
 - Noon – Veneration
 - 3 PM – Stations of the Cross
 - 6 PM – Veneration



Learning about Laos

The Rev. Cn. Michael Ambler came to the church in January to talk about Restoration Laos, an organization he founded that is devoted to funding bomb-clearing teams in Laos. He told us about a secondary, secret war that happened during the Vietnam War. The attacks by the U.S. left over 80 million undetonated bombs littering the landscape. Thanks to all for welcoming him to the church and listening to his message! More information has been left in the Parish Hall or go to restorationlaos.org.

Baby Blessings Is Still Growing!

The need for emergency assistance for families and parents continues. St. George's provides free diapers and wipes—and occasionally other items—to anyone in need, regardless of income. Pickup takes place every fourth Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon, in the church office (the white house next to the main building). Recently, over 70 people came by to pick up baby items.

In December, the Diocese awarded us a \$600 New Initiative Fund Grant, which will help us purchase much-needed supplies and reduce the burden on those who have already given so much.

To try and meet the demand, church members Linda Samia and Maria Lantagne organized a diaper and wipe drive in January. We will continue to look for ways to get the community involved in this very popular offering so that it may continue to help others. If you want to help brainstorm, we're all ears!



JUMBLE Sale

This year's JUMBLE Sale featured a mix of indoor and outdoor items for browsing. As in past years, we encouraged visitors to pay what they thought was a fair price for items, which was a hit! We raised an incredible \$1,509.86. Thanks to everyone who donated items, helped during the event, and welcomed community members to the church. Until next time!

Fall 50¢ Clothing Sale

Once again, the clothing sale was a great success! The church raised \$381. Thank you to everyone who helped before and during this bi-annual event. Leftover clothes were donated to the area's Adult Ed program, which has its own clothing closet. A special thanks to Rachel for arranging that!



A Not-So-Little Free Food Pantry

After years of heavy use, our little free food pantry began falling apart due to the elements. Thankfully, Kevin Driscoll stepped up to build a new one! The upgraded pantry is larger and better suited to withstand the weather. Thank you to Kevin and everyone who helps replenish it.



Lots Of Donations To Match

Speaking of food– a big thank-you to everyone who donated pantry items this winter. Inspired by Robert Oelschlager’s idea for a reverse Advent calendar, many of you contributed shelf-stable necessities. These generous donations will support our ministry in the weeks ahead. We’ve seen so many stop by to check what’s inside. It is having a great impact on those facing food insecurity in our community.

One, Two, Three, FOUR Baptisms!

In recent months, we’ve celebrated FOUR baptisms! We were thrilled for Ruby from the Gomez family and Vaeda, whose family recently moved to the area. Julianna Greenwood and Angus Tidwell also celebrated their baptisms during smaller family gatherings. Thank you to everyone who joined us for these momentous occasions. It is wonderful to have even more kids connected to our church!



Episcopal Church Trivia

Maine was part of the Eastern Diocese until it became a separate state from Massachusetts in 1820. The diocese held its first convention, with delegates from the only two churches (Christ Church, Gardiner and St. Paul’s, Portland), two months later.

Reminder of New Initiatives

Kathleen Whalin has started two new initiatives! We encourage everyone to consider getting involved.

- **Prayer Chain** Join a group of church members committed to praying for others in need. By signing up, you'll occasionally receive confidential prayer requests to uplift in your prayers. Currently, we have nine active members in the chain and have received prayer requests for 16 people. If you'd like to participate, simply email your contact information to Kathleen at kwhalin@morssweb.com.
- **Community Caring Cards** Help celebrate and connect with fellow church members! If you'd like to receive a birthday or anniversary card, email Kathleen with your name and the important dates you'd like acknowledged.



Courtesy: *It Takes a Village 207* on Facebook

More Community Meals

This winter, the church voted to let *It Takes a Village 207* and its partner *Sweetser* use the parking lot to serve a weekly meal. Quickly this relationship has evolved into something truly powerful. With it being cold out, the group now has a meal indoors where the unhoused and others can warm up while gathering together. That meal happens every Wednesday from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall. And now, with the help of York County Shelter Programs, there will be to-go meals each Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 3 p.m. People in need can drop by St. George's parking lot to get some good food then. Check out the ITAV207 Facebook page to see how you can get involved or spread the word!

Presents for Caring Unlimited

St. George's partnered with our neighbor, *Caring Unlimited*, to support a family displaced due to domestic violence during the Christmas season. The family, which had just arrived in November, consisted of a mother and her three children. The organization provided a list of requested gifts, including toys and clothing for each family member. In just two weeks, our community came together to collect over 25 items, plus wrapping paper, offering this family a sense of care and warmth during a difficult time. We hope it provided them with relief and happiness this holiday.



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.

Leadership

Rev. Tim Higgins, **Rector** • Rev. Jean Cavanaugh, **Deacon** • Dr. Morton Gold, **Organist**
Jacob Zwain, **Sexton** • Malcolm Meyer DeBruyckere, **Office Administrator**

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

The Vestry

The Vestry has been elected to serve you and is available to listen and to act.
Gary Samia, **Sr. Warden** • Robert Oelschlager, **Jr. Warden** • Kathleen Whalin, **Clerk**
Conrad Grenier, **Assistant Treasurer** • Maria Lantagne, **Treasurer**
Lynne Boston • Lynne Lowell • Kevin Driscoll • Sue Coveney • Victoria Lynn

We have just one service at 9 a.m. each Sunday with a coffee hour to follow in the Parish Hall. Not able to join us in person? Watch our services live on Facebook and YouTube! All are welcome— no exceptions!



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