

Christmas Season Schedule

Christmas Eve, Dec 24

5 pm Holy Eucharist with Children's Focus
10 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Eucharist

Christmas Day, Dec 25

10 am Eucharist with Carols

First Sunday after Christmas, Dec 26

10 am Eucharist (no 8 am service)

Second Sunday after Christmas, January 2

Regular 8 and 10 am Eucharist
Epiphany pageant at the 10 am service

Rev. Michael W. Hopkins' Installation Announcement

With Thanks to God,
the Wardens & Vestry of

The Church of St. Luke & St. Cyrene
in the City and Diocese of Rochester

Request your prayers and presence as
we Celebrate our New Ministry
with our new rector

The Rev. Michael W. Hopkins

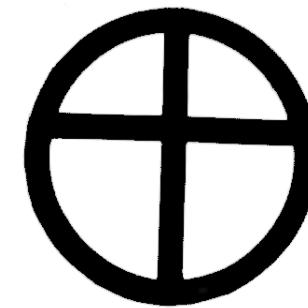
The Rev. Jack M. McKelvey,
Bishop of Rochester, presiding, and
The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris,
Bishop Suffragan of Massachusetts
(retired), preaching.

Saturday, December 11, 2004, 11 am
17 South Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY

Reception Following

Address correction requested

The Wider Circle
St. George's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 188
Glenn Dale, MD 20769



The Wider Circle

St. George's Episcopal Church
Glenn Dale Parish, Maryland

"Shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free."

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Volume 3, Number 11

Updates and Reflections

Thelma Smullen, Interim Rector

Transition in Senior Wardens

GOOD NEWS! Libbie Griffin has been unanimously elected by the Vestry to complete Martha Horn's remaining five months as Senior Warden. Libbie brings a wealth of experience, having served in this position several times before at St. George's. She will help us through these early months of transition, bringing her knowledge of St. George's history, her love for all of you, and her commitment to Christ and his Church. God has indeed blessed us.

The Search Process Begins

As I write this, our Search Committee prepares for their first meeting with their consultant where they will build their team and clarify the tasks at hand. They must get to know each other well enough that trust develops, making them better able to hear each other as they ponder and debate the future of St. George's. Their work is exciting!

However, they are not the only ones with work to do. Fairly early into the New Year, the Committee will ask the rest of you for input. Special meetings will be held and questionnaires sent out. Your participation is essential. There will also come a time when the best way to help is to sit back and wait, giving the Committee time to complete their many tasks. That may be the hardest part.

During all of this, we have another very important part in this process. We must hold the Search Committee in prayer, asking God to infuse them with the Holy Spirit — a spirit

of wisdom and understanding, a spirit who holds communities together, but who also challenges them to dream and take risks. With that in mind, I suggest we begin using a Prayer for Transition each Sunday. We will publish them in the bulletin so you can take them home and use them each day.

Advent Puts Us in a "Waiting Posture"

Advent is a season to prepare for the coming of Christ: the Second Coming of Christ when God's plan comes to fulfillment; the annual celebration of the First Coming of Christ when God gave us Jesus; and the present coming of Christ when he enters our lives anew, raising us to deeper levels of love and commitment.

To prepare, we can develop a "waiting posture" — find time in our busy lives for reflection, prayer, devotional reading, etc. Without that, we may *feel* good by enjoying the magic of the season or doing good works for others, but there will be no difference in our lives once the season is past. Reflection and prayer move us to a deeper level, creating an open space to welcome whatever gift God has for us. The gift may be a small insight about what it really means to have Christ in our lives, or what difference his coming has made for the world. The gift may also turn our lives upside down.

I am sure the early church did not create the season of Advent (the four weeks before the Feast of the Incarnation) to coincide with the way most of the world lives into those weeks today. They created Advent as a time to order our lives so God has more fertile ground for the gift to take hold.

The Evangelism Committee Needs YOU!

Jeanette Greaney

The Evangelism Committee is looking for four or five additional members who will help to develop and sustain this important ministry. This Committee is responsible for: Sunday morning hospitality and greeting; advertising; newcomers' table and orientation; sign interpreter and monthly signed services; and accessibility issues.

Our Parish Vision Statement speaks to Evangelism as follows: "We will spread the Good News to our surrounding community by welcoming and serving all of God's children, growing our parish community in both size and diversity, with a goal of average weekly attendance of 250-300." To work towards this vision, we must let people know we are here and make them feel welcome and loved once they get here. St. George's is a very welcoming and special place that is full of talented people. Please share your gifts to help us grow.

Ideally, we will have monthly meetings, the first one tentatively scheduled for Dec. 12 after the 10 am service. If interested, please contact Jeanette Greaney at 410-451-2523.

2005 Pledge Ingathering

Lee Rowe, Stewardship Chair

Many thanks to those who have submitted their pledge cards. We have received 44 pledges so far for a total of \$97,140. We hope to receive 60 pledges for 2005. Your pledges will continue the work God has called us to do here. If you have not done so, please fill out a card and send it in or put it in the plate during the offertory. Cards are available on the Resource Table in the narthex.

Advent Retreat:

A Mystical View of the Incarnation

On Saturday, Dec. 18, 9 am to noon, Stephen Trever will lead an Advent Retreat. Stephen recently earned a Master of Theology from Yale Divinity School. We will explore an ancient vision of the incarnation as an invitation to dance with God. The event will include an introduction to centering prayer and a celebration of the Eucharist. Join us for a peaceful morning in preparation for our celebration of Christmas. For more information, please contact Stephen at 301-982-2474.

Work Day — Part II

The Property Committee needs your help to get our "house" in shape on Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 am to 1 pm. We'll work both inside and outside. Blowers and rakes are needed; check with Kim Newman or Rick Boda about other needed materials. Food and drinks will be provided.

The Wider Circle

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Assisting Bishop

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Glenn Dale Parish Vestry:

- Libbie Griffin, Senior Warden
- Susan Geiger, Junior Warden
- Rick Boda
- Jeanette Greaney
- Rowland Hoke
- Kim Newman
- Steven Pigott
- Audrey Profitt-Henry
- Alix Volel-Stech, Treasurer
- Linda Sanches, Assistant Treasurer
- Debbie Nebel, Clerk
- Karen Horrocks, Convention Delegate
- Jeffrey Williams, Alternate Convention Delegate

Mission Statement

The mission of St. George's is to build a Christian community of love and support that actively seeks and includes all people.

We commit ourselves to spiritual growth through worship and education that empowers us to follow Christ's example in the world.

Social Action Committee Update

Marcia Weeks, Social Action Committee

Nickels for Nicholas

Last year, St. George's youth raised more than \$800 for the Romanian Christian Enterprises. Sue Geiger and Thyra Packett are involved with this group. This year's donations will help children through the Community Ministry of PG County. Your donation is sure to make a difference in a child's life!

Gaywood Elementary School

The Committee is excited about St. George's new relationship with Gaywood Elementary School in Seabrook. We are reaching out to the school in response to the parish survey conducted earlier this year (tutoring and after-school programs were high on the list of priorities). Working with school staff, we have identified three areas of need:

1. Classroom supplies.

The unfortunate reality is that children are not provided with enough basic supplies for learning at this school. To help meet this need, we will hold a **Supply Drive** during January. An "Epiphany Tree" will be adorned with ornaments that indicate a needed item. Simply pick off the ornament (supply) that you wish to give and drop off your items at church by the end of the month. This is an excellent way to take your brilliant light into the world during the Epiphany season!

2. School event volunteers.

The school can use volunteer help at several important events. Specific dates will be selected closer to the events.

January 27 – Science Fair judges (morning)

February – MSA Night (state testing) – help administer the test

February – Black History Month speakers

April – Math Night – help run math games

April or May – Career Day speakers

Contact Gladys Leonard at the school (301-918-8730) to volunteer or for information.

3. Tutors/mentors for reading, math, and writing.

The tutoring program at the school runs from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Instruction will be provided. Contact Gladys Leonard at the school (301-918-8730) to volunteer or for information.

Please inform the Committee if you volunteer at a school event or as a tutor. We would like to keep track of participation.

Poinsettias for the Holidays

The Flower Guild is offering red, florist-quality poinsettias for purchase. Each plant is \$15 and comes in a six inch container wrapped in decorative foil. You may donate a plant to decorate St. George's, give as a gift, or keep for yourself. Orders are due Dec. 18. A sign-up sheet and payment envelopes are in the narthex. Plants will be available at the church on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 5 to 7 pm and Sunday, Dec. 26 after the 10 am service.

Food for the Poor Sunday

Thelma Smullen, Interim Rector

I received the following note from the Rev. John Moulton thanking us for our generosity:

Dear Thelma,

Thank you for having me at St. George's Church. It was truly delightful to be with you and the people of St. George's. There is an energetic spirit and warm affection among the people and I felt warmly welcome. I sent in \$2400 today so they are also very generous and caring. I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,
John Moulton+
Food for the Poor

I also offer special thanks to Stephen Scott and Patrick Hardy for providing overnight accommodations for John in their home. That is one of the many ways Food for the Poor keeps its administrative costs so low.