

International Pot-luck February 1

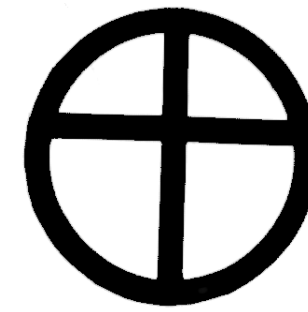
On Sunday, February 1, we will fight against the winter doldrums by celebrating our growing diversity as a community of faith. An "international pot-luck" will be held after the late service, to which folks are invited to bring a dish to pass from their cultural or ethnic heritage. Along with a celebration of diversity, we will give thanks for those who are new to the parish in the last few months, and receive a brief report from the Vestry about 2003 and 2004 finances.

Photo Album

Our "Three Queens" from the Epiphany pot-luck brunch on 4 January—Germaine, Joan, and Regina.



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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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Parishioner Deployed to Iraq

Prayers are asked for Lt. Lenore Moskey, daughter of Alix Volel-Stech, step-daughter of Frank Stech, and sister of Gabrielle Moskey, who has been deployed with her unit to Iraq. We will be organizing communication and other support for her and her unit as the days and weeks go by. We always keep our military service men and women in our prayers, but having one of our own in harm's way gives us a special obligation to support her and her comrades.

New Ambry Dedicated

A new ambry has been dedicated for St. George's Church. An ambry is a container for storing the reserved sacrament and/or the holy oils (chrism for baptism and the oil for anointing of the sick). An ambry for the reserved sacrament has been in the Chapel for several years and will remain there as well.



St. George's new ambry is unusual in that it is made of clear glass, so that the contents may be seen. The pyx containing the reserved sacrament is also clear glass. Also unusual is that the oils and sacrament are in the same

ambry. Thus the three sacraments most observed at St. George's are united in a single icon of God's renewing, sustaining, and healing presence with us.

The ambry is the creation of artist Howdy Emerson, who is affiliated with Adam Kochlin Designs of Stamford, Connecticut. Emerson is also the creator of the sanctuary light in the Church. The ambry is an offering of thanksgiving from Jill Joseph and JoAnne Natale.

Several Memorial/Thank Offerings Received; Discretionary Fund Replenished

Several other special offerings have been received, the fruits of which St. Georgians will see soon or are already seeing:

- ?? A new set of pottery communion vessels handmade by Helen Rowe has been given and will be dedicated on the First Sunday in Lent.
- ?? A gift in memory of John & Thelma Williams given by their son, Jeffrey Williams, will provide St. George's portion of the Area Youth Minister's salary and benefits in 2004 and provide for some needed renovation to the Chapel.
- ?? A gift in memory of Alice Pepper Gallagher, by her daughter and son-in-law, Susan & Bruce Astarita

will provide new vestments for our acolytes.

?? A gift from a friend of St. George's, Jay Merchant, was added to the Stained Glass Window Fund.

?? A total of \$19,661.50 was donated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund in 2003, most of it following his special appeal during Advent. 95% of donations to the Discretionary Fund are used to provide direct assistance to needy households, paying utility bills, filling prescriptions, and assisting with rent.

Via Media Pilot to Run at St. George's

A new introduction to Christian faith in the Anglican tradition is being developed by Every Voice Network in San Francisco, California. Called *Via Media*, it is an eight-week course, complete with videotapes, that covers the major themes of Christianity. Father Michael is one of the participants in the videotapes. Our diocese has become one of the underwriters of this ambitious project.



St. George's has signed up to be one of the pilot congregations that will test the course before final editing. The course will begin in mid- to late-February and will be open to anyone who desires to participate. Watch the February newsletter and weekly bulletins for more information.

For more information about *Via Media*, go to www.everyvoice.net.

2004 Pledge Update

As of January 1, 50 pledges of financial giving to St. George's for 2004 have been received, for a total of \$128,014. Thanks to those who have thus far pledged. The number of pledges is six below last year's number, so there are some outstanding pledges. There's still time to turn in your pledge, and you are encouraged to do so even if you are simply going to continue your current level of giving. The good news is that our weekly average so far for 2004 is \$46.74 per household pledging, up from \$39.96 in 2003. Twenty-nine households have thus far been able to increase their pledge for 2004. Six of the 50 pledges are new pledgers. Thanks to all of you!

The Wider Circle

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- ☞ Lee Rowe, Junior Warden
- ☞ Thyra Packett
- ☞ Martha Horn
- ☞ Rick Boda
- ☞ Jeanette Greaney
- ☞ Leigh Hollis
- ☞ Kim Newman
- ☞ Jeanette Davis, Treasurer
- ☞ Debbie Nebel, Clerk
- ☞ Karen Horrocks, Convention Delegate
- ☞ John Clinton Bradley, 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.

From the Rector

Dear People of God,

On Christmas we celebrate God's coming to us. On Epiphany we celebrate our going to God. After Epiphany we celebrate our going into the world with God.

The first two of the above observations are from Episcopal priest and author John Westerhoff. The third is my own addition. It will guide my preaching during the season after Epiphany, and, I hope, set the tone for a new period of mission discernment at St. George's. Having settled into our new building and begun our growth into it, it is time for us to turn more of our attention to the community around us.

The Social Action Committee will be leading an effort to discern the future shape of our ministry in the community. There are several key questions to contemplate. What are the needs of the communities that surround us? What resources are already present? What are needed? What are the particular gifts present at St. George's and the specific desires for service? Where do our gifts and desires and the community's needs meet?

I expect this to be an exciting process! The goal is for us to discover one or two new "hands-on" ministries to which we can commit ourselves. One of the first steps will be a survey of the congregation to help answer some of the above questions. I ask all of you to participate, to be a part of our going into the world.

Lift up your hearts!

Michael+

Directory Updates

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- ☞ Helen Rowe e-mail
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Parish Register

Marriage (12/20/03):

- ?? Margaret Van Vliet & Timothy Haywood

Next Dates for Baptism:

- ?? April 10, 2004 (Easter Vigil)
- ?? May 30, 2004 (Pentecost)

Next Date for Confirmation/ Reception:

- ?? June 27, 2004 (Bishop Chane at St. George's)

