



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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Education for Ministry

Terry Doyle

We will be resuming EFM this year, beginning on Tuesday, September 13. EFM is the acronym for Education for Ministry, which is an adult education program for lay people. It is offered through the School of Religion from Sewanee. It is designed to equip ordinary Episcopalians to minister more effectively in the church and the world. It is not intended to be a path to ordained ministry. The curriculum covers...

Year 1: Old Testament

Year 2: New Testament

Year 3: Church History

Year 4: Modern and Contemporary Theology

EFM follows the principles of adult education. So, there are neither lectures nor tests. Rather, participants spend 2-4 hours a week in individual study, then share their insights and questions with other participants.

A typical class starts with a prayer. During the first hour, participants from each year meet in small groups to discuss the textbook readings. During the second hour the entire class meets for a common lesson, when participants share their faith stories, engage in theological reflections, explore spiritual disciplines, and discern their personal ministries. The evening ends with a brief worship service (such as Compline) led by one of the participants.

The class usually takes two field trips each year to learn first-hand about other faith traditions. In past years participants have visited a local synagogue, a Greek Orthodox church, mosque, Buddhist temple, Hindu temple, and Franciscan monastery.

At St. George's, a new EFM class starts each September and ends the following May. The class currently meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 10:00 pm (but the meeting time is decided each year by participants).

If you are interested in joining the group this year, please contact Terry Doyle, the mentor. He can be reached at 240-601-1396 or TerrenceDoyle@msn.com.

Vestry Members Step Up to the Challenge!

The Vestry, including officers and interim rector, have been talking about stewardship: what it means for each of us personally, and what it means for us as the elected leadership of St. George's. We want to share our conversation and invite you to join with us. As a way to begin, the wardens have written about their personal stewardship journeys.

From Lee Rowe, Senior Warden

Giving to the church had always been a matter of course for me, although I don't remember any specific teaching from my mother or the church when I was a child. My mother has always been active in the church either with youth group, altar guild, or serving on the Vestry, as well as giving regularly.

Unlike many kids, I saved my money whenever I received any for birthdays or Christmas and would give some of it to some worthy cause and the church. Like my mother I became active in the church serving as an acolyte, chairing the buildings and grounds committee, and serving on the Vestry.

I never thought of giving a percentage of my income until I involved myself with leadership positions at St. George's. Then we started calculating what we gave as a percentage of our income. Since then, we have striven to increase our giving each year. It is not easy being a one-earner household, but for what God has given us, we can do no less.

From Susan Geiger, Junior Warden

Over the years I have focused on stewardship as part of writing in my journal, as well as each fall when the annual pledge card is given. However, writing something to share with a group is frightening. I know what I should do and what my goal is to be, but I am not there yet. Actually I am quite far from my goal.

I've heard that giving in faith begins in childhood and continues to grow into our adult life. As I look back into my childhood, I remember thinking that giving to the church often felt like paying a bill. I was taught to put five cents and then ten cents into my children's envelope every Sunday, not because of what it meant, but

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because it was an obligation. That there was always someone else who could do more, give more, etc. to help those who couldn't always give.

This struggle about what to do and why continued into my adult years, during the time of questioning and once again finding my faith. I have heard many stewardship stories of what one *should* do, and I have participated as a Vestry member who called each member of the church to discuss stewardship. The tales of how the money should be spent seemed to be a major contingent of giving, rather than just the gift of giving.

I have come to terms with what I need to do, but it's still easy to find an excuse for not doing it. Going to school, making car payments, and other unexpected expenses can easily assume a greater priority. I know that I can freely give of my time and talent, but that is not the complete picture, and that I need to freely give of that one more piece in my life — my treasure.

Completing the phrases "I believe, I commit, and I invite..." have helped me to work towards writing the personal goal for my own growth in becoming a better steward. I pray that I will keep focused on my goal as I continue to grow in my relationship with God.

My stewardship statement:

I believe that all creation is a gift from God. Being a part of that creation, I feel that it is my duty to uphold, protect, and to continue in the ongoing growth of all that is created. Being blessed with God's unconditional love has been one of the greatest gifts. And in sharing that blessing with others, I am returning my life to God.

I commit myself to be a member of a faith community where all gifts of time, talent, and treasure are cherished; to continue with my own personal struggle of giving freely of my treasure, knowing that by faith there is always enough; and to work towards the goal where the tithe becomes my standard.

I invite others to share their journey, so that all may see their gifts as gifts from God, and that all continue as faithful stewards.

Search Committee Update

Jeanette Patterson

The search for our next "settled" rector continues through the summer. Here are a few of the latest developments:

Based on the parish survey and other groundwork that the Search Committee accomplished earlier this year, the committee has diligently put together a Parish Profile that accurately and eloquently describes St. George's. The profile presents the many facets of our church, including among other things the history of St. George's, our worship style, the demographics of our parish and our role in the community. We are happy to report that the Vestry approved the document and it will soon be available to potential applicants for rector.

Please keep the members of the Search Committee in your prayers as they continue to work towards our goal of finding our next rector.

A Call to Read

St. George's needs volunteers to read the scripture lessons during the 10 am service. If you feel called to this important ministry, or just have questions, please contact Linda Sanches at 301-924-1099.

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Rowland Hoke
Marie Holmes
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Carie Palmer
Audrey Profitt-Henry
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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.

Community Health Fair

Regina Lanning

This ministry needs your help to get the word out to every one you know, especially clubs, schools, PTA, civic groups, business contacts, senior communities, etc. We are progressing well with the plans for our second Community Health Fair, September 24, 10 am — 4 pm. We will have information regarding high cholesterol, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, nutrition, diabetes, child health, respiratory disease, hospice, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Doctors of general medicine, respiratory/allergies, chiropractic, acupuncture and other community health professions will be present to answer questions.

Please call Regina Lanning at 301-313-0886, RGL59smile@msn.com when you have made personal contact with a group or for any help that you can give.

Shop to Support St. George's

Please participate in one or more of the following programs that earn money for St. George's. It's easy to do and helps our church.

Giant Food and Shoppers Food Warehouse Gift Cards/Certificates

These are available for purchase each Sunday in the church office. Use them to pay for your groceries or give as gifts.

Safeway Card and eScrip

Safeway will contribute a percentage of your shopping bill to St. George's when you use your Safeway card. To find out how to register online, pick up an instruction sheet from the Resource Table.

Amazon.com

When you go to the Amazon.com website via the link on St. George's home page (www.stgeo.org), our church earns 4% of your purchase amount. If we increase the total number of purchases, the return rate could go up to 7%. For the first five months of this year, there were 96 purchases made, with a total donation of \$89.44.

Remember, Amazon.com sells more than just books. They also offer furniture, computers, gourmet food, office products, house wares, toys and games, beauty supplies, apparel and shoes, cameras, and more.

Please check with Joan Dickson if you have questions about any of these programs.

Important Dates

- Sun., Aug. 7 Tie-Dye after 10 am service
- Fri., Aug. 19 Game Night
- Fri., Sept. 9 The Washington Diocese goes to Washington National's game
- Sun., Sept. 11 Ice Cream Social after 10 am service (with mini-ministry fair)
- Sun., Sept. 18 Sunday School begins
- Sat. Sept. 24 Community Health Fair
- Sat., Oct. 1 Blessing of the Animals at 10 am
- Sat., Oct. 8 Acolyte Festival at the Cathedral
- Sat., Oct. 29 A visit to a Corn Maze
- Tue., Nov. 1 All Saints Cemetery Service
- Sun., Nov. 6 All Saints Sunday
- Sun., Nov. 13 Crafts/gift-making after 10 am service
- Sat., Nov. 19 Cookie exchange
- Sun., Nov. 27 Advent Wreath-making
- Sat., Dec. 3 St. Nicholas Party
- Sun., Dec. 11 Craft/gift-making after 10 am service
- Sat., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services
- Sat., Dec. 31 First Night at St. George's



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