

Evangelism Adult Classes

A new session of 9 am adult classes entitled "Groundwork" will begin April 3 and continue through the month. Regina Lanning and Terry Doyle will lead a discussion centered on the day's readings and how they relate to the ministry of Evangelism.

Evangelism is not a high pressure sales approach. We at St. George's have been touched by God's love and it has made all the difference in our lives. We reach out to others to encourage this transformation in our desire that all people who come through our doors are accepted as Christ. And there is more. In our Baptismal Promises and in our Vision Statement we proclaim our works to be the avenue where others will come to the realization of God's all accepting love.

Together we will have the opportunity to examine our efforts, dig deep into the inspirations that move us and clarify our calling to the People of God. Please join us to

study and pray over this calling in the four Sunday sessions on April 3, 10, 17, and 24. God has called us to be attuned to and focused on our mission in Evangelism. For questions on this program please contact Terry Doyle or Regina Lanning.

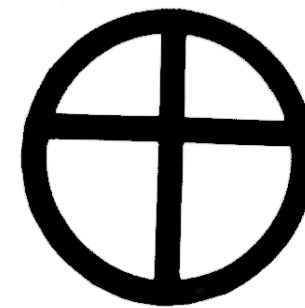
The Wider Circle On Stgeo.org

Serena Wyckoff, Editor

Would you like to help St. George's save printing and mailing costs for this newsletter by downloading it as a PDF file from our web site? If yes, please send an email to me at editor@stgeo.org. When each edition is published, I'll send an email to the parish with a link to the online version. (Not on the parish email list? Let me know!) We won't print a copy for you, so please don't take one for yourself. It's fine if you wish to continue to receive printed copies — you don't need to do anything. However, it helps if regular attendees pick up their copies at church so that we don't have to mail them. Thanks!

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."

ISSN: 1539-0632

March 2005

Volume 4, Number 3

Vestry Elections

Rick Boda, Vestry Nominations Committee

It is time to seek out talented, inspired, and visionary St. Georgians to serve our congregation on the Vestry. At the annual meeting on May 1, the congregation will elect four vestry members with two two-year terms and one vestry member to a one-year term. To inform the congregation of the candidates, we need interested people to submit their names with a short biography to the Nominations Committee. Candidates will be announced in the April edition of *The Wider Circle*. Additional names can be accepted at the annual meeting.

Vestry candidate requirements:

- The candidate must be a member in good standing of the St. George's Parish for at least 6 months. In good standing is defined as a baptized member of the Parish who contributes regularly.
- Due to issues of confidentiality and process transparency, the candidate cannot be on the St. George's Search Committee, or share the same household with a member of the Search Committee.
- Due to issues of confidentiality and process transparency, the candidate cannot share the same household with anyone who might be considering applying for the position as the new Rector at St George's.

The next vestry will choose our new Rector. If you have a passion — a vision of where St. George's needs to go — submit your name. If you want to have a strong

voice in determining who will shepherd us on our journey, submit your name. If you see a ministry — a mission that needs a voice — submit your name. St. George's is calling. If you can and want to help her, answer that call.

Please contact a Nominations Committee member for more information:

Rick Boda

301-220-0371, busybodas3@yahoo.com

Rosa Soliz

301-270-9490, solizzukie@aol.com

Libbie Griffin

301-495-2324, libbiegriffin@comcast.net

Search Committee Holds Second Parish Focus Group

Debbie Taylor Moore

On Sunday February 13, St. George's search committee held its second focus group for parishioners. The purpose of this meeting was to gather input for both the parish profile and the survey to be used in the search for our new Rector.

Parishioners shared lunch and fellowship over roundtable discussions facilitated by search committee members. They invited parishioners to share their thoughts and ideas about three central themes:

1. What is your vision for St. George's?
2. What new traditions and/or ministries should we begin, which current ones should we keep, and which others should be left behind?
3. What important qualities should the new Rector possess?

Church members shared lively, and sometimes intense conversation on these topics. The search committee, with the Vestry's assistance, has maintained a confidential record of these discussions and is using it to develop a written survey for all parishioners to complete. The surveys will be provided during a third focus group planned for Sunday, March 13.

The completed surveys will provide the search committee with confidential polling data to assist in prioritizing the needs and desires of the congregation, as it relates to the selection of the new Rector. Much of this data will also be used to shape the hard-copy parish profile which will be distributed to interested candidates for Rector. The parish profile will contain information about St. George's membership, history, demographics, community outreach, ministries, etc.

The Search Committee is dedicated to its continued service to St. George's and looks forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on **Sunday, March 13, immediately following the 10 am service.** The search committee appreciates the congregation's enthusiastic participation thus far, and welcomes thoughts, ideas or suggestions that would further enhance the search process.

Holy Week — Easter

Triumphal Entry — Passion and Death — Resurrection

Thelma Smullen+

We invite you to prepare for the celebration of the Christ's Resurrection by entering into the events of his last week on earth.

Sunday of the Passion – Palm Sunday

We begin with the Liturgy of the Palms in remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the Sunday before his Passion. Weather permitting, we will gather outside and process into the church carrying the newly blessed palms. Once inside the mood of the liturgy quickly changes as the congregation participates in the reading of the Passion Narrative - this year from the Gospel of Matthew. The gathering together of these great events — the Triumphal Entry, the Passion and Crucifixion — helps us encounter the great emotional swings of the disciples and the temptation that constantly confronts us: to follow the way of the world rather than the way of Christ.

Wednesday of Holy Week

We will have our regular service of Holy Eucharist with Healing at 7 pm in the Chapel.

The Wider Circle

Published monthly by

St. George's Episcopal Church
Glenn Dale Parish
P.O. Box 188
7010 Glenn Dale Road
Glenn Dale, Maryland 20769

301-262-3285 (voice/TTY)
302-262-0666 (fax)
301-498-5659 (Interim Rector's home)
rector@stgeo.org (e-mail)
www.stgeo.org (Web site)

The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane,
Bishop of Washington

The Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris,
Assisting Bishop

The Rev. Thelma A. Smullen,
Interim Rector

Serena Wyckoff, Editor
newsletter@stgeo.org

Glenn Dale Parish Vestry:

- Libbie Griffin, Senior Warden
- Susan Geiger, Junior Warden
- Rick Boda
- Jeanette Greaney
- Rowland Hoke
- Kim Newman
- Herb Josey
- 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.

Maundy Thursday

On Thursday evening at 6:30 pm we will gather in Miller Hall to remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Jill Joseph has once again volunteered to prepare a simple supper and Seder to help us understand the context of this important liturgy. At 7:30 pm we move into the church for the Maundy Thursday liturgy, which includes foot-washing and Holy Eucharist. All will have an opportunity to have their feet washed and to wash another person's feet. Please dress appropriately if you wish to participate in this symbolic act of our Lord's call to servant-hood, i.e. wear shoes and socks that are easy to remove.

After the Eucharist we will strip the altar and sanctuary of all ornamentation in preparation for Good Friday, the year's most solemn day of remembrance. This is a moving symbolic act done in silence. A prayer vigil will begin as the liturgy ends and will continue until midnight. The vigil will resume at 7 am and continue until the 7 pm service on Good Friday. A sign-up sheet is available for people willing to take an hour or two of the vigil.

Good Friday

On Friday at noon we will do the Good Friday liturgy from the Prayer Book. We will be joined by Holy Trinity, Bowie, and St. James', Bowie. This service includes the traditional reading of the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of John, with its focus on Jesus reigning from the cross, followed by a series of intercessory prayers for the church and the world. We will offer the Sacrament reserved from the Maundy Thursday liturgy.

In the evening, at 7 pm, we will do the Good Friday liturgy again so that everyone will have an opportunity to participate in this solemn but hopeful prayer service.

Great Vigil of Easter

This liturgy begins outside at 6:30 pm (weather permitting) with the kindling of the new fire. We carry the newly lit Paschal Candle into the church, after which the Exultet is sung. This is followed by stories from Hebrew scripture telling about the saving acts of God. At this point it has been customary for the church to administer Holy Baptism. If no baptisms are scheduled, we will renew our Baptismal Covenant. At that moment the lights come on, bells are rung, and we shout our Alleluias for the first time since the ending of the Epiphany season. It is a truly wonderful liturgy, the highlight of the Christian Year, and a great first celebration of Easter. A reception follows.

Finally...**Easter Day!!!** Our Easter celebration continues with services at 8 and 10 am on Sunday morning. We will gather with family and friends to praise God for the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our children will have the fun of an Easter Egg Hunt out on the lawn at 11:30 am.

Annual Mardi Gras Dinner and Silent Auction a Success

Jeanette Greaney

This year's Mardi Gras Dinner and Silent Auction was a great success! In addition to this being a very effective fundraiser, we all enjoyed an evening filled with good food, fellowship, cajun music and beads, beads, beads! Thanks to those of you who attended and bid on the many wonderful items available. We brought in a total of \$3,945. Laissez les bon temps roulez!

I extend my heartfelt appreciation and thanks to the generous and talented people who donated auction items, prepared for the evening, ran the auction, and helped with clean up.

PS: And many, many thanks to Jeanette and David for making it happen!