

I want all St. Georgians to know of my personal sorrow at this discovery. Father Erich and his wife, Patricia, were friends. Both of them have been guests at our home (and in some of yours) and in this parish. I do believe that initially his intentions were good and honorable, but that, over time, he was overcome by his own desire for a Western lifestyle. One piece of good news is that Bishop Christopher Senyonjo, another Ugandan with whom St. George's has connection, was completely uninvolved in this wrongdoing, and, in fact, assisted in our uncovering it.

Please know that I am endeavoring to re-connect with the Sanyu Orphanage directly and the Advent/Christmas 2003/2004 offering is being held until such time as a secure connection is made. The Vestry and I are committed both to seeing this connection through and maintaining it in the future under more secure and accountable procedures. We ask for your trust in continuing to meet a great need and be of significant help.

*Michael+*

John Clinton Bradley &  
Michael Warren Hopkins

invite you to participate in the blessing  
of their relationship

Saturday, 12 June 2004, 4:00 p.m.  
St. George's Episcopal Church

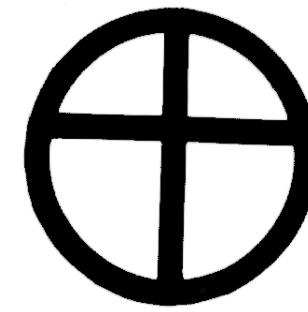
The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane,  
Bishop of Washington, will preside.

A reception will follow  
in Miller Hall.

In lieu of gifts, thanksgiving offerings may be  
contributed to St. George's or Integrity  
(P.O. Box 1246, Bayonne, NJ 07002-6246).

Kindly RSVP by 23 May using the sign-up sheet  
in the narthex.

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



# 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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May 2004

Volume 3, Number 5

## New Vestry Members Elected

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 2, the following persons were elected to terms on the Glenn Dale Parish Vestry: Susan Geiger, Rowland Hoke, Martha Horn, Audrey Proffitt-Henry (all for two-year terms) and Stephen Pigott (for a one-year term). The elections brought to nine the total number of members of the Vestry, up from eight. This change to the parish bylaws had also been authorized by the Annual Meeting. The Rector gave thanks for the three outgoing members of the Vestry: Libbie Griffin, Thyra Packett, and Lee Rowe; he was joined with great acclamation from those assembled. He pointed out that one of these three persons had served as Warden or Senior Warden of the congregation for 11 of the past 12 years, during a time of enormous transition.

The new Vestry takes office June 1, and will organize itself—including the electing of officers—at a meeting on Sunday, May 16. Our parish bylaws provide for the election of Senior and Junior Warden by the Vestry from among those elected to the Vestry.

## Introducing Our New Office Assistant

Ms. Sandra Ingram began as our new Office Assistant on April 27. Sandra is a recently retired DC schoolteacher, and—with her husband Tony Johnson—a member of Our Saviour, Brookland, in DC. They live in Largo. Sandra can be reached via e-mail at [office@stgeo.org](mailto:office@stgeo.org).



## Thank You From Joan Dickson

What a wonderful tribute you gave me at our Annual Meeting—thank you all for your generous gift toward my next trip and thank you to the Vestry for the tea basket which will get much use this month when Mother Connie Jenson (a former St. Georgian) will be staying with me while recovering from ankle reconstruction.



I volunteered as the office assistant eight years ago when I saw an entry in the proposed budget to hire an office assistant, and I really didn't think the chapel could afford one. That proved to be true! While in my Department of Defense job, I had often thought I could out-perform some of my office assistants and decided to test that opinion.

The acknowledgment I received from all of you said I did not fail! In fact, it was a wonderful eight years. I learned so much about the workings of our diocese and the many things unique to St. George's. Most important, I had the opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful people. A special thanks to so many of you who have pitched in during extra busy times in the office—your time has been greatly appreciated. Keep it up with Sandra, our new Office Assistant!

I worked with all the wardens Michael mentioned at the annual meeting—Thyra, Lee, and Libbie. What great people to work with! And Michael has been a great teacher (technically, organizationally, and spiritually). We have been through many challenging times together.

I am not going away—St. George's is my home. I will continue to volunteer as our bookkeeper—which will require much less of my

## Acolytes (And Others) Go To The Birds—Again!

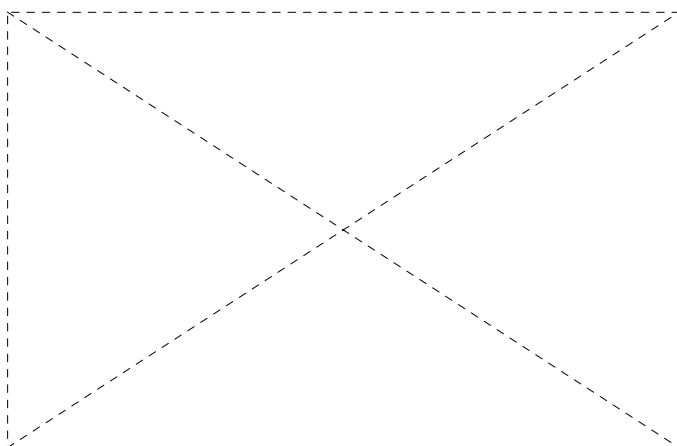
Due to the rousing success of last year's trip to Camden Yards, the diocese has once again purchased tickets to see the Orioles take on the New York Yankees at 7:35 PM on Friday, September 10. St. George's has ordered thirty tickets. The Rector will once again treat our acolytes, but others may sign up as well, and we will probably be able to get more tickets if there is a need. Tickets are \$15/each for non-acolytes. The deadline for signing up (on the narthex bulletin board, where else?) is June 27.

## Youth Happenings

*by Erin Iverson, Area Youth Minister*

### *Skits & Stuff is a Night of Laughs*

The Area Youth Ministry of St. Andrew's, St. Christopher's, St. George's, and Holy Trinity Episcopal churches met in late March for a night of improvisation. More than 30 youth and 10 adults from the four churches gathered to explore their prowess at comedy and drama along the lines of the TV show "Whose Line Is It, Anyway?" We broke into four small groups, each led by a high school student who helped plan the evening. In their small groups, they did ice breakers and warm up exercises to prepare themselves for the main events. Each group was given two Bible stories that would be the basis for their skits that they then rehearsed. Gathering back as one group, the fun began. The groups did their skits in two ways. The first was done using a bag of props. The group had 30 seconds to figure out how to incorporate their bag of props into their skit. Their next skit was



Gabrielle Moskey (far left) participating in a skit.

done while changing genres. As they acted out their Bible story, someone in the audience would yell a different genre (like western, horror, or soap opera) and the group would switch into that genre while continuing with their story. It added up to loads of fun for the audience and the budding actors. Look for more "Whose Line Is It, Anyway?" fun at the lock-in at the end of the year!

### *End of Year Celebration*

On May 28, the Area Youth will gather to celebrate the end of the school year and help launch us into the summer season. We will be together from 7:00 PM Friday night until 8:00 AM Saturday morning. During that time, we will be busy with activities—including movies, more comedy skits, games, and worship to celebrate the upcoming season of Pentecost. Our planners have worked hard to bring together an evening of fun and fellowship for the entire group. We look forward to seeing everyone on May 28<sup>th</sup>!

### *CAMP JOY Update*

The Area Youth Ministry is continuing to prepare for their summer mission trip to West Virginia, July 25-31. At CAMP JOY (Christian Appalachian Mission Project—Joining Other Youth) our youth will be helping to make home repairs for families in the West Virginia community of Berkeley Springs who could otherwise not afford to fix their homes. By the end of May we will know what our projects for the week will be, and what supplies and skills we'll need. All in our congregations are welcome to support our efforts in a number of ways. First, please pray for all the youth and adults who will be participating for the week. We will need to work hard, be safe, and have fun for the week to be a true success. Secondly, if you would like to make a donation of money or supplies, we will gladly accept it. Please get in touch with Erin Iverson or any of the youth leaders at your church to find out how easy it is to make a donation. Finally, we will need help getting all our supplies and participants to West Virginia and establishing our campsite. If you would like to help drive us there or back or both, please talk with Erin Iverson or a youth leader from your church. We are all looking forward to a week filled with hard work, fun, and the spirit of love and giving.

## Maintain Your Mental Health During Mental Health Awareness Month

by Anne Package

Most of us know how to keep ourselves physically fit: eat right, exercise, and get regular checkups. But did you know that maintaining your mental health takes the same amount of attention?

May is **Mental Health Awareness Month**, a perfect time to take stock of what you're doing to protect your mental health. As anyone knows whose family has been affected by any mental health problem—from stress to serious mental illness—your mental health is every bit as important as your physical and spiritual health. Yet many of us don't give much thought to mental health—which always affects the way we get along with family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

Below are some ways to get started caring for your mental health.

### ***Exercise your faith***

Research indicates that engaging in regular activities like going to church, meditating, praying, or participating in other spiritual pursuits alone or in groups dramatically lowers stress levels. In addition to regularly attending St. George's or praying on your own, if you are so inclined you might check out books or Web sites on meditating. All of these activities can free you from the "fight or flight response" that stress induces.

### ***Treat your body right***

The same things you do to protect your physical health will also help your mental health. Eat sensibly and healthfully. Cut down on alcohol and eliminate tobacco and other drugs, which can affect your ability to control your actions and emotions. Most important, be physically active. Exercising just 30 minutes a day will improve your energy level, sleep patterns, and even your self-esteem. At work, take periodic breaks—including getting out of your chair to stretch and walk a bit. You will avoid burnout and feel more refreshed.

### ***Talk it out***

When you're faced with a problem, talking with someone else (clergy or otherwise!) about it

will help you release pent-up emotions, see things more clearly, and feel a sense of companionship.

### ***Take one thing at a time***

When you're feeling overwhelmed, make a list of tasks that absolutely must be done. Rank them in order of importance and work on them, one at a time. Remember that you don't have to "feel like" doing something before you try! Often, just getting started will make you feel better.

### ***Use positive mental imagery***

Use pictures in your "mind's eye" to help you relax and feel rejuvenated in just a few minutes. Sit in a comfortable chair, close your eyes, and imagine a place where you have felt at peace—like church or the beach. If you like, imagine you are taking a walk with Jesus Christ through the woods by a pleasant stream. Whatever works for you. Try it for a few minutes each day.

### ***Be honest about your limitations***

It's essential that you learn to say "no." When you have the option, eliminate things that are not crucial for you to do to—or to do immediately.

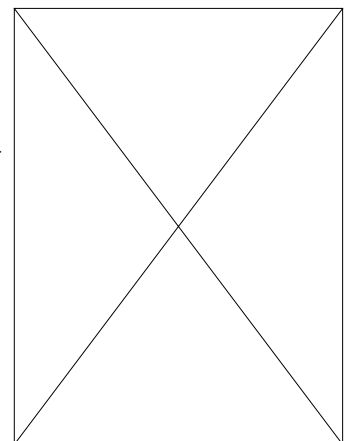
### ***Get help***

Asking for help is not a sign of weakness. Sometimes, we can get completely overwhelmed by feelings that do not go away or are so intense that they get in the way of our daily life. If this happens to you, seek help and referrals from Father Michael, other clergy, your Employee Assistance Program at work, or your regular doctor.

*For more information about mental health, contact the National Mental Health Association at 1-800-969-NMHA (6642) or visit [www.nmha.org](http://www.nmha.org).*

### **Photo Album**

During the Easter Sunday service, St. George's children flower the cross. Photo by Ian Richardson.



time and allow me to get more involved in the PG Community College Local History Program, get back to my genealogy work, and most important, spend more time with family and friends.

Sincerely,  
Joan Dickson

## Bishop Chane to Visit June 27

Bishop John Bryson Chane's first official visitation of St. George's will be Sunday, June 27. The visitation will include an adult forum, time with our children, and our Vestry. In addition, ten persons are preparing for confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation. By canon law, every diocesan bishop must visit every parish at least once every three years. When the Bishop is present, he presides at the Eucharist and any other sacramental acts, as our chief priest and pastor. Bishop Chane became Bishop of Washington in June 2002. The Rector was among those on the Search Committee who nominated him and four others to stand for election earlier that year. Please put this important day on your calendar. The Bishop will only be at the 10 AM service. There will be no 8 AM service on June 27.



## Supplies Needed for Lenore's Unit

In a recent communication from Baghdad, Lenore Moskey spoke of her MP unit's need of several items: books, crosswords, hard candy, bug spray, and anti-itch stuff (the latter two would, she said "rock"). If you bring in any of these things to St. George's, we'll see that her unit gets them. Look for a box beside the regular offering basket for Martha's Closet. And keep Lenore and her unit in your prayers, as well as the Rev. Beth Echols, a priest of the diocese on duty as a chaplain in Iraq.

## What EFM Means to Me

by Germaine Stodart

Education for Ministry (EFM) is a small group—sponsored by St. George's—the studies the Bible, church history, and theology.

EFM has been the best of fellowship for me. We get together once a week during the school year. I find myself looking forward to that night.

I get great strength and comfort from my EFM class to go out and do my daily work. It helps me with my Godly Play (Sunday School) stories and other ministries.

I love the two or three field trips we take year to different churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples. We discuss our experiences after each field trip.

Father Michael does a special worship for us once or twice a year—allowing us to experience early Eucharistic liturgies.

Continued on page 5

### The Wider Circle

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### Glenn Dale Parish Vestry:

- Michael Hopkins, Rector
- Libbie Griffin, Senior Warden
- Lee Rowe, Junior Warden
- Thyra Packett
- Martha Horn
- Rick Boda
- Jeanette Greaney
- Audrey Proffitt
- 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.

Continued from page 2

During the first hour of each class, the students in each year discuss the textbook readings for the week. Then we all get together for a "theological reflection." We take turns bringing a topic to discuss. We also take turns leading worship to close the evening.

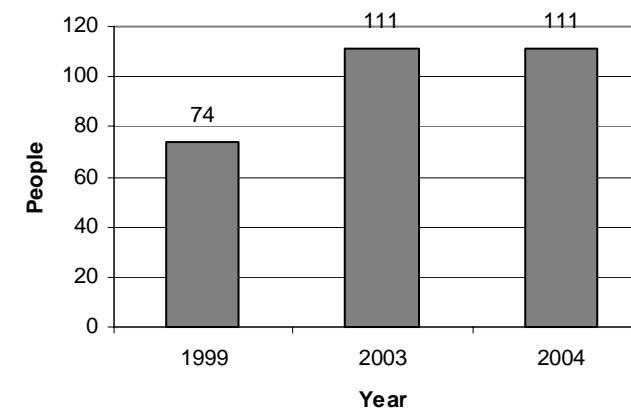
I love the members of my class and will miss them dearly, but they will still invite me on field trips.

I feel very blest that I was guided to take the four years of EFM. I am also grateful for the guidance and direction from the mentors—John Clinton Bradley, Terry Dolye, and John Rebstock. I am stronger in my faith and closer to God.

*Germaine Stodart and Jeffrey Williams will be graduating from EFM during the 10 AM service on Sunday, May 23. A new EFM class will be starting in September; if you are interested in participating, contact any of the mentors. More information can be found at [www.stgeo.org/EFM](http://www.stgeo.org/EFM).*

## From the Parish Register

### Average Sunday Attendance, January—April



### Baptisms:

- March 24, 2004—Jerome Bennett White, Jasmine Elizabeth White, and Dommanita Anne White
- March 31, 2004—Brett Ridgely Underwood
- April 10, 2004—Patrick Alan Hardy

### Next Dates for Holy Baptism:

- Day of Pentecost, May 30, 2004
- Bishop's Visitation, June 27, 2004
- All Saints' Sunday, November 7, 2004

## Various Good News Numbers!

As of April 30, with one-third of the year past, **pledge receipts are 34%** of total pledged, right on target. Thanks to those who are keeping up their pledge, and all regular givers!

As of Sunday, May 2, our annual offering for **Heifer Project International was \$1,009.**

Our annual Maundy Thursday/**Good Friday offering was \$613** for the Diocese of Jerusalem, more than double our previous high.

**Martha's Closet** has recognized us for providing **81 bags of food** in the first quarter of 2004. The Closet served 140 households in January and February.

At our annual **Ministry Fair** after the Annual Meeting on May 2nd, **58 individuals signed up for 144 separate ministries!** Thanks to all who did so! The ministry sign-up remain out through Sunday, May 16. New ministries begin June 1.

## From the Rector—Sad News Regarding Sanyu Orphanage Offering

As part of an investigation into accusations that the Rev. Erich Kasirye, a priest of the Church of Uganda, was involved in financial improprieties involving funds provided from a number of sources in the United States, Canada, Britain, and Australia for mission work in Uganda, it has been discovered that among the misdirected funds were the 2002 offering from St. George's designated for the Sanyu Orphanage outside of Kampala, Uganda. This money was raised in Advent/Christmas 2002/2003 through our Nickels for Nicholas offering, totaling \$1,000.

I and many others from the above named countries trusted Father Kasirye with being our agent for a number of projects in Uganda. This included the very significant work of Integrity Uganda and its partnership with Integrity USA. Clearly that trust was violated and, in retrospect, ill placed. There is no way, at this point, to recover the loss. Both church and civil authorities in Uganda, however, have been notified of the irregularities and evidence turned over.