



The Wider Circle

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

Volume 10 Number 2

February 2012

One 9:00 Service and Annual Meeting Sunday, February 5

February Dates:

- January 29, 31; auditions for Players
- 5; Annual Meeting
- 5-12; Safe Haven
- 12; Lobby Training
- 12, 26; Sunday School
- 13; Equality Maryland lobby night
- 18, Mardi Gras
- 22; Ash Wednesday
- 26; Adult Education
- 29; Lenten Study

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On Sunday, February 5th there will be one service, held at 9:00 am. Immediately following the 9:00 service we will hold the St. George's Annual Meeting.

This is the parish's yearly business meeting, at which the rector gives the 'state of the parish' report, we elect new vestry members and say thank you to outgoing vestry mem-

bers, and do other business of the church.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. This is the Episcopal Church's democratic process at work – so come and participate!

Safe Haven Homeless Shelter February 5 to 12

It's not too late help with the homeless shelter, which is coming to St. George's February 5-12. The shelter serves fifteen men, who must register and abide by the Safe Haven rules. These men have been participating in the shelter since November.

The organizational meeting is Sunday, January 29 after the 10 am service in Miller Hall. We will go over the last minute details and make sure all the tasks and shifts are covered.

Daily schedule:

6 pm: Doors open, men check in at registration table

7 pm: Serve Dinner

8-9 pm: Shower run to Good Samaritan

10 pm: Lights out (volunteers take turns staying awake)

6 am : Serve breakfast

7 am : Men leave for the day

Please sign up on the bulletin board for the following tasks:

Set up: On Sunday, Feb 5th after the Annual Parish Meeting we will need volunteers to receive the cots or supplies from the previous host church. We will also need to rearrange Miller Hall to fit the cots and tables.

Registration: Arrive at 6 pm each evening to let the men into the church. Collect their registration slips and record their attendance in the log. This is a really fun role because you get to greet everyone.

Dinner: Each evening we will need 2-3 people to prepare/serve/clean up dinner. This year we will attempt to coordinate the menu, so as to achieve a varied menu and to avoid having to throw out food.

Overnight: Every night it is best to have 3-4 people (men or women) stay overnight. Each

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Treasurer
Carol Thomas,
Bookkeeper

Alix Volel-Stech,
Convention Delegate
Lee Rowe,
Alternate

The Revolutionary Nature of the Lord's Prayer

If that sentence makes you look twice, this year's Lenten Study is for you.

During Lent this year, we will be using the book *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer* by John Dominic

Crossan. He calls the Lord's prayer "a prayer for the conscience of the world," "a revolutionary manifesto," and "a hymn of hope to all humanity."

To learn more, come on Wednesday nights in Lent, starting February

29. We will meet Feb. 29, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, beginning at 7:00 and ending at 8:30.

If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please speak with Connie+.

Sunday 9:00 am Adult Ed in Lent – "And it was Good"

Adult Education for the season of Lent will focus on the Bible in creation using a program called "And it was Good."

This is a program of the Anglican Communion, meant to be used by Anglicans around the world

during Lent 2012. Its themes include the place of humanity in the created order; Jesus the heart of creation; creation blessing God... if you are intrigued, come learn more!

Each Sunday we will look at one of these themes

and the related Bible passages. We will begin this study on February 26 and go through March 25. We meet at 9:00 am in Miller Hall and finish in time for the 10:00 service.

Come, participate, learn!

Putting a Face on Martha's Closet – A Lenten Offering

For many in St. George's the face of Martha's Closet may be this bearded person who gets up at announcements during the 10:00 Sunday liturgy, asking for food donations or volunteers. And others who have volunteered on site at Martha's Closet, have seen the faces of our clients at the ministry.

This year, St. George's will give special attention to Martha's Closet as a Lenten outreach project.

We hope to expand our view so we can see more of the faces of Martha's Closet. The further aim

is to provide monetary donations to Martha's Closet as a form of personal almsgiving during Lent—much as we made donations for past Lenten outreach efforts such as the "Goat Project."

Yes, I will still be getting up on Sundays to ask for donations, but along with me, I will be joined by others who can provide you with a bigger picture.

We know not everyone can make the trip to visit Martha's Closet. We plan to bring stories of Martha's Closet to you, so you can see the face of Mar-

tha's Closet more clearly.

There will be special envelopes available by Ash Wednesday (Feb 22) and special bank tins for young people for the Lenten Outreach for Martha's Closet. Take an envelope or a bank and fill it during Lent - \$.50 a day during the season, for \$20.

If everyone from St. George's participates, we could make our goal of over \$1,000 by Easter. Look for the envelopes and listen for the stories that put a face on Martha's Closet.

Terry Doyle

Work, Work, Work... Fun

As an adviser to students at the University of Maryland I like to tell them that there is much work to be done. They have the job of being a student and their projects, papers, and studies are the most important thing. However, there comes a time when they finish the term papers and the exams and they get to relax or have some fun. I live by this philosophy. There is much work to be done, followed by rewarding moments and fun times.

On January 15 we held a special meeting to consider the idea of "Ensuring the Future" of St. George's though a fund-raising campaign. We voiced many things that we would like to accomplish, things that we might dream to be possible through support from a successful campaign.

Embarking down this path will require effort as we reflect on our future activities and building infrastructure needs. St. Georgians don't usually

shy away from the effort it takes to reach a goal. I expect there will be great rewards in our future from this undertaking.

Looking ahead, on February 5th we will hold our annual meeting. At this time we vote for new vestry members to join those of us who will continue our work from last year. We look forward to new friends joining the rewarding work and fun. We need leaders to help continue our success as a church family. I can honestly say that it has been a great job to be on vestry (snacks included).

Also starting on the 5th of February and extending for a week we will offer food, beds, and warmth to homeless men in the program called Safe Haven. This will be a week of volunteers who will cook, serve food, clean up, and spend the night with about 15 guests.

The volunteers will come from St. George's, the Girl Scouts, and other groups who want to help those

less fortunate than we are. This will be the second year that we have held the shelter in Miller Hall. I look forward to helping our guests and spending time with them.

Sharing our voices in Annapolis on Lobby Day, February 13 will be a vocal effort! We will join our colleagues from Equality Maryland and ask our legislators to vote in favor of marriage equality. We seem to be very close to this being passed in Maryland. We do this for our families and friends.

So, after all this work, work, work what shall we do? Celebrate! Mardi Gras! As I tell the students, after working very hard on great things we deserve to have some fun. Mardi Gras on February 18 in Miller Hall will be a grand party to celebrate all our hard work. I hope to see you there in fashionable attire. (Of course, I'll be doing the dishes afterward as I bask in the glow of revelry.)

Gene Ferrick

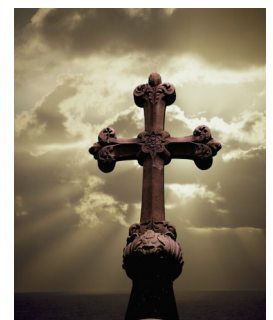
February will see many critical ministries with a special focus on Martha's Closet, hosting Safe Haven, and the Equality Maryland lobby night. We will celebrate our hard work with Mardi Gras!

Ash Wednesday Services February 22

Ash Wednesday services will be held at 7:00 am, 12 noon and 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 22.

The 7:00 am and noon service will be held in the Chapel and the evening service is in the Main

Church. Come begin the season of Lent with Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes.



Vestry Candidate: Alix Volel-Stech



I have been a St George's member for over 20 years. I graduated from Education for Ministry and Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) Training and attended several seminars put on by the Diocese on Diversity and stewardship, including organizational change and church building.

Previously I have served on the Chapel committee and Vestry; Acted as Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Counter, Sunday School Teacher, Capital Campaign Co-chair, Mardi Gras Coordinator, and Stained Glass Committee Chair. I have also served as a member of the Choir, Flower Guild, and Board, and as past Treasurer of Mar-

tha's closet. I am a Board Member of the Episcopal Senior Ministries, Secretary of the Collington foundation, and Chair of Collington Episcopal Lifecare Community and Collington Care services.

I currently represent St Georges as Delegate, Provincial Synod Alternate, Board Member and Compliance committee Chair at Collington Episcopal Life Care Community. I am a board member of the Collington Foundation, Marthas's Closet, and the Charis Center for the Arts. I am now serving as Assistant Treasurer, bread maker, Reading ministry leader, and member of the capital campaign committee.

I also serve on the Board

of UMUC alumni association as Secretary/Treasurer. My civilian occupation includes various positions in sales, marketing and finance (Controller). After 30 years at a telecommunications company, I joined an IT company early last year as Operations Manager. My primary focus is on process improvements as part of the Professional services Engineering team.

I received six sigma and other quality training (I am an ISO 9001 certified internal auditor). I spent over twenty years in the Army and USAR, mostly as Intelligence Analyst and Interrogator. I am also fluent in French and Creole.

We will vote for new vestry members to join our current members at the annual meeting on February 5.

Vestry Candidate: Helen Rowe

The Rowe family became a part of the St. George's family about 14 years ago. We were then members of St. Barnabas Mission of the Deaf. I am hard of hearing and I rely on the loop system in the sanctuary.

I have been a clerk for the Vestry this past year. I have also been a part of the Flower Guild, Lay Eucharist Minister, a

counter for the plate income, a knitter for the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and I come in and help whenever I can and when Connie comes calling. This past week I picked up another task of scheduling the Lay Eucharist Ministers. This is who I am at church.

At home I am a Mother of two girls; Anne, 15, and Rebekah, 10. Both girls

are homeschooled and have been from the beginning of their schooling career. We plan to go all the way through high school.

I am an artist, a potter, a photographer, a knitter, and I also work with beads.

I hope to serve this community with my knowledge from 14 years

Vestry Candidate: Helen Rowe (continued)

at St. George. We all have our own dragons to fight and we all fight

them with our strength of a dragon. With saying so, I pray that my faith may

be of service and strength when it is needed.

Vestry Candidate: Mary Koster

Mary (Rogers) Koster was raised in the Roman Catholic Church and attended nine years of parochial school on Long Island, NY.

While the experience of catholic school provided a solid religious education for which she is grateful, Mary struggled with the RC Church's stance on many social and theological issues, prompting her to stop attending RC mass around college.

After the death of her father in 2004, Mary began attending RC mass searching for solace but didn't find the community she was searching for. Mary found that she could not see herself being friends with the peo-

ple at church.

In 2004, Mary met Rich Koster, the man she would eventually marry. Rich was also a former Roman Catholic who was received as an Episcopalian in 1990 and he introduced her to the Episcopal Church he attended in Laurel, MD—St. John's Episcopal in Beltsville.

Having finally found a church whose teachings reflected her own feelings on Christ's lessons, in May 2006 Mary was received into the Anglican Communion at the National Cathedral.

In 2008, when the pastor of St. John's retired, Mary and Rich decided to join St. George's Episcopal

Church, Glenn Dale where their friends Roy and Billy had been attending for years.

Mary has been the Acolyte Coordinator since 2009 and has co-lead the Spring Yard Sale effort with Gene Ferrick for the past few years. Mary is also a reader and LEM for St. George's.

Mary is so thankful to God for leading her to St. George's—a place where she is truly involved in caring out God's will; a place where she meets, not only her fellow Christians, but her friends (and shares a drink and some sushi too); a place where all of God's children are respected.

Our vestry leaders help ensure our success as a church family.

Vestry Candidate: Michael Mangiapane

Michael Mangiapane has been with St. Georges since 2006 and served on the Vestry since 2010. He is running for his second term.

He has served as a member of the Anthem Choir

and as one of the St. Georges players as well as serving as a webmaster for the website and creator of the parish's Twitter account.

Michael also serves as the coordinator of the parish's

participation in the Capitol Pride and Greenbelt Labor Day Parades, and Equality Maryland's Lobby Day. If elected he will gladly continue to serve the people of St. Georges.



Legislative Call to Action



Over the past couple of years Saint George's has joyously celebrated the weddings of many same-gender couples, couples who are an important part of what makes our church the vibrant faith community it is. However, the civil aspect of those marriages occurred in Washington, DC because our home state does not yet legally recognize same-gender marriage and its legal protections as a civil right.

This is "two-tracked citizenship" – one set of rights for straight individuals and their families and a lesser set of rights for lesbian and gay individuals and their families. How long can this disparity go on? And how can you make a difference for a safer, healthier, more stable future for all of Maryland's families?

And speaking of civil rights, are you aware that 53% of transgender Marylanders report harassment, mistreatment or violence in public accommodations like buses, restaurants and stores? And even though having a roof over our heads is a given for most of us, 20% of transgender Marylanders have been or are homeless, with no relief found

in shelters that refuse them because of their gender identity. Also at 20% is the proportion of transgender Marylanders who have been fired from a job because of gender identity. Surely our State can do better than that!

Since we Saint Georgians are well-known for speaking our minds, what better event for us to attend as a group than Lobby Day in Annapolis? Come join the many government, religious and civil rights leaders who are urging Maryland, "the Free State," to make history by moving ahead toward marriage equality and transgender equality. (Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, our new bishop, has been invited to join us, but as of this writing it is unknown if her schedule will permit her attendance that day.)

Lobby Day will begin with a rally at Lawyers Mall in front of the State House at 6:00 on Monday, February 13. (Please plan to assemble around 5:00.) Immediately thereafter, we will meet individually with members of the General Assembly who represent parishioners in their various legislative districts. Then, in Saint George's style of

mixing work and fun, let's make the most of visiting our state capital. After enjoying supper together in a local eatery, anyone who would like to see government in action can attend the 8:00 session of the legislature. Come let your voice be heard for justice!

Never lobbied before? Uneasy about what to say? On Sunday morning, February 12, at 9:00, please drop by a pre-lobby day session that will cover both Governor O'Malley's marriage equality bill and the legislation proposed to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. Talking points will be provided. Current state environmental issues will also be covered within the time remaining after discussion of the civil rights legislation.

Sign-up sheets will be posted in the narthex. Since parking is at a premium in Annapolis, we will be coordinating rides. Stay tuned for further details as we get closer to February 13. Questions? Contact Joanne Prosser, District 23 Coordinator, or Margaret McHale, coordinator of Saint George's participation in Lobby Day.

The Equality Maryland lobby night will be February 13 at 6pm. There will also be a lobby training at St. George's at 9am on February 12.



It's Mardi Gras Time at St. George's — February 18

February 18th is almost here and St. George's needs you to participate in our annual Mardi Gras Party!

There are lots of things you can do to help with the party. The most important thing to do is to attend the party and silent auction from 6 pm – 10 pm on Saturday night.



The second most important thing, and something you can do in conjunction with attending the event, is to donate items for the auction or get others to donate items. Please consider making something (such as a craft item), donating a service or making something “to order” (such as lessons, baked goods, a portrait sitting or playing music for a party) or creating a gift basket of food and/or gift items.

If you work someplace or volunteer with an organization that would be willing to donate an item for the auction, please ask them on behalf of St. George's and thank them for their generosity! Pop-

ular items in years past have been tickets to sporting events and arts performances, films or the theatre.

Gift certificates to restaurants are always a top draw as are “weekend getaways” at nearby hotels or resort properties. Think of asking your hairstylist if they would be willing to donate a coupon for a haircut or other salon service. Massages, facials, fingernail treatments or even a daylong spa visit are things that

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Mardi Gras will be February 18. Support St. George's by coming and by donating for the silent auction.

Environmental Legislative Agenda

This coming legislative session will be a huge year for environmental issues. The environmental priorities include:

- Protect local waters and the Chesapeake Bay by raising funds to clean our existing neighborhoods and our sewage treatment plants, and limiting high-polluting growth
- on septic tanks in our rural lands;
- Create jobs and renewable energy through offshore wind generation;
- Reduce trash and save businesses money by creating a fee on plastic and paper bags; and
- Defend funding in the governor's budget that

would preserve open spaces, protect our air and water, and create jobs.

If you are interested in learning more about the environmental agenda come to the lobby training on February 12 at 9am. You can also sign up for regular updates by contacting Jennifer at jbevan-dangel@yahoo.com.



St George's Players: The Laramie Project



Auditions for the Laramie Project will be January 29 and 31. Performances will run the last weekend in April and the first weekend (or two) in May.

Open Auditions for *The Laramie Project* will be held Sunday, January 29 from 3:00pm-5:00pm and Tuesday, January 31 from 7:00pm-9:00pm. We need four men and four women.

Auditions include a prepared three minute monologue and a cold reading from the script.

Performance Dates: April 27,28,29, May 4,5,6 (and possibly May 11,12)

Rehearsals begin February 7 and will run every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday through April 22. Tech week will be April 22-26.

Those interested in working behind the scenes are also needed (props, sets, lighting, box office, publicity). Please contact emma at stgeoplayers@gmail.com.

About the play: Laramie, Wyoming, population 26,687. Laramie, often

referred to as the “gem city of the plains” was the site of the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a 21 year-old, gay, University of Wyoming student.

On October 6, 1998, he was found tied to a “buck” fence, beaten and unconscious. On October 8, 1998, Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney were arrested for the kidnapping, aggravated robbery and attempted first-degree murder of Matthew Shepard.

On October 12, 1998, Matthew Shepard died in Poudre Valley Health Center after 5 days in a coma. The charges against Henderson and McKinney were amended to include first-degree murder.

The Laramie Project is a play by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Project. “On November 14, 1998, members of Tectonic Theatre Project

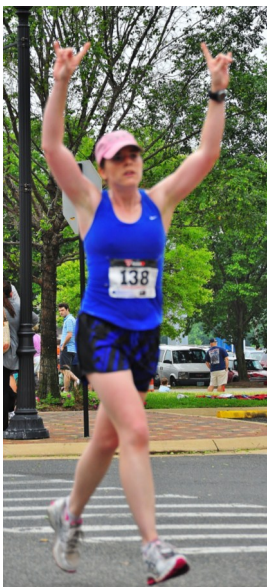
traveled to Laramie, Wyoming, and conducted interviews with the people of the town.”

The Play is “edited from those interviews, as well as from journal entries by members of the company.” (*The Laramie Project*, "Introduction")

The Play is about the town of Laramie, its citizens, and their reaction to Matthew Shepard's murder.

The Laramie Project delivers much of the promise - and power - of Moises Kaufman's work. The script brings the room to hush more than once - and the biggest moments brim with an emotion that almost makes you afraid to breathe.

There's the nagging suspicion that less would have been (much) more in many spots, but the message slices through. It's hard not to leave this play moved in some way.



Running for a Mission

Jennifer Bevan-Dangel is running a marathon on February 19 as a fundraiser for St. George's.

Her goal is to raise \$40 a mile, and she is half-way to her goal. Please con-

sider supporting her effort!

You can make a pledge by signing the form in the Narthex or emailing her directly at jbevandangel@yahoo.com. Or you

can just make a donation to the church and write “marathon” in the memo.

For more information on the race, visit www.dcroadrunners.org/races/gw-marathon.

Safe Haven Homeless Shelter

(continued from page 1) will take turns staying awake in the office, while the others sleep on blow up mattresses in the Cry Room and Connie's office. If you don't want to sleep at St. George's you can sign up for a specific shift and come to the church for that shift (e.g., from 10 to 12pm, or 4 to 6am).

Breakfast: You can drop off a breakfast casserole, and/or help serve and clean up breakfast.

Laundry: We may need volunteers to help with laundry – more to follow.

Metro run: On Sunday, Feb 5th at about 5 pm we will need someone to pick up some of the men from the Greenbelt Metro (this is because the buses do not run on the weekend).

Transporting men to shower & to do laundry: Each evening we will drive the men down the road to Good Samaritan to use their shower. On Tue & Thu we make a trip to the Laundromat; the men are responsible

for their own clothes.

Break down & transportation to next church: On Sunday, Feb 12th after the 10 am service we will need volunteers to help drive the cots/supplies to Good Samaritan Lutheran Church.

If you wish to donate something, please consider bringing:

- nonperishable food that comes in individual servings that the men can take with them for lunch (e.g., small hotdogs in can with pop-top, crackers and cheese, peanut butter & jelly and bread & plastic bags, beef jerky, granola bars, juice boxes). The reason this is needed is b/c the men are not permitted to remain in the church during the day and thus they would need some food to sustain them during the day)
- paper plates/bowls/cups and plastic utensils; paper bags and

sandwich bags to pack lunches; napkins

- toiletries (travel size works best)
- quarters – for the laundry

Get others to volunteer: Ask others to come assist with this important ministry. We can only manage this if we expand our "circle ever wider" and ask others for assistance.

Even if you are not signed up for a task, you are welcome to join us in the evening for dinner and to engage with the men (please let us know you will be coming so we have enough food). Let's make them feel welcome and part of our community.

For more details speak to Joann Prosser (jprosser@umd.edu) or Gene Ferrick (gene@umd.edu). Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. And thank you in advance for your help with this important, rewarding ministry.



St. George's needs you to make this ministry possible! Support Safe Haven with your time or donations, and ask others to help volunteer.

Sunday School in February

The Sunday School dates in February are February 12 and February 26.

Class begins at 9:00 am and all children and young people in kindergarten through high

school are encouraged and welcome to participate.



St George's Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale Parish

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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.

Mardi Gras!

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people are always interested in.

The only way to find out if they will donate is to ask them...don't be shy! All items you or others donate are tax deductible to the value of the item. Any auction items can be dropped off with me at the church on Friday evening, the 17, from 7 pm – 9 pm or Saturday before the event starting from 12 noon on.

Besides the exciting things to bid on at the silent auction, there will be a wonderful dinner pro-

vided by the talented chefs at Main Street Catering. Their food is always delicious and will have that New Orleans/Cajun focus to really make it seem like we are transported to Louisiana for the evening.

There will be live music and dancing to lively music which will get the staunchest wallflower out on the floor. This is also a perfect time to make a personal statement by dressing in a favorite costume to show your Mardi Gras spirit. Last year's costumes were truly a site

to behold...be wild, crazy and bold.

There will be babysitting services so you really have no excuse not to come! Think of inviting your friends and treating them to the friendliness that is such a wonderful part of St. George's.

Advance tickets are \$25.00; ticket prices are \$30.00 at the door. Children 10 years and under are free. I look forward to seeing you all at this year's biggest fundraising event and a really wonderful party!

