



# The Wider Circle

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

Volume 10 Number 1

January 2012

## Letter From the Rector

### January Dates:

- 8, 22; Sunday School
- 8; Confirmation meeting
- 10; Cosmic Walk
- 15; Parish Meeting
- 22, Pizza Night
- 29, Chili Cookoff
- 31; Auditions for Players

### February Dates:

- 5; Annual Meeting
- 5-12; Safe Haven
- 12, 26; Sunday School
- 18, Mardi Gras

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Dear Friends,

As I write this I am still basking in the glow of a lovely Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at St. George's - and yes, I am finally listening to Christmas music!

I enjoy the season of Christmas because it always feels like the new beginning it is meant to be - Christ has come into the world,

and the air feels crisper and the light seems brighter.

During Christmastide, we celebrate the Incarnation, the God with us that we have been longing for, and as we move into Epiphany, we celebrate the light that Christ brings to us.

Epiphany is an often overlooked season, but it is worth enjoying for

being a season of light that we definitely need in the months of January and February when that Christmas glow wears off.

Meanwhile, there are a number of things to look forward to at St. George's this January.

On the 15th we will meet as a parish as we look into Ensuring St. *(continued on page 2)*

## Parish Meeting January 15 to Ensure St. George's Future

Your presence and participation: those are the things that make church 'work.' Without people engaging in our parish life, we wouldn't be a vibrant and lively community.

As we enjoy the present and look to the future, we also must consider the needs of our building and what we are passing on to the current and future generations.

To that end, the parish

is beginning a time of assessment about establishing a building fund. This is where you engagement and participation come in.

On Sunday, January 15, from 11:45-1:30, there will be a parish meeting to talk about ensuring St. George's future. A representative from the Episcopal Church Foundation will be with us, and take us through what the process of raising money for such a fund would look

like and require of us.

You will be able to ask questions, learn about the process, and dream about St. George's future. This will be a time for St. George's to try on the idea of a building fund and see what it feels like.

Every single parishioner is encouraged and invited to attend and participate. Child care will be offered and there will be snacks! Come learn more on January 15.

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David Warn  
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Helen Rowe,  
Clerk  
Pat Hulme,  
Treasurer  
Carol Thomas,  
Bookkeeper

Alix Volel-Stech,  
Convention Delegate  
Lee Rowe,  
Alternate

## Letter from the Rector

*(continued from page 1)*  
George's Future (Curious about what that is? Read more inside).

On the 22nd we will enjoy a parish dinner together, led by Michael Mangiapane and Rose Exum, a night which will no doubt be a lot of fun.

On the last Sunday of the month, you are invited to enter your own chili or

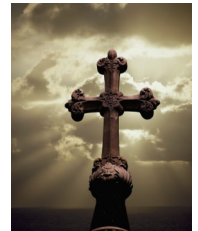
cornbread recipe in a St. George's Chile/Cornbread Cookoff following the 10:00 service, hosted by our own Joey Hoke.

Details on all of these events can be found elsewhere in the newsletter, but I hope you will be participating as we enjoy fellowship together.

During this season of Epiphany, I hope you will

take a moment to think about and be grateful for the people who bring light into your lives, who represent for us the greater light of Jesus, the Christ. This community is one of those lights for me.

Blessings,  
Connie+



## Safe Haven—February 5 to 12

This will be the second year that St. George's will be hosting Save Haven. Our week is Feb 5-12, 2012.

Background: Safe Haven is a homeless shelter for men in Prince George's County. Run by Help by Phone, Ltd., a 40 yr. old non-profit that helps the needy in our county, Safe Haven has been in existence for 20 years. Each winter, local churches vol-

unteer to host the shelter for one to two weeks.

The same 15 men participate in the shelter. They must register and agree to abide by certain rules designed to keep the shelter a "safe haven" for all.

Churches provide a hot dinner, place to sleep, hearty breakfast, laundry and showers. Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, on Rte. 193, has offered their van for us to

transport the men to their church to shower and do laundry. Each church provides sheets, towels, blankets and a first aid kit. Cots, pillows and a registration book are provided by the program.

How can you help?: Last year we took a leap of faith when we agreed to host Safe Haven. The parish response was amazing! Well over 25 St.

*(continued on page 5)*

## Confirmation Class Starting; Informational Meeting January 8

It is the time of year when we begin Confirmation Class in preparation for the spring Confirmation service at the National Cathedral. Confirmation is how one for-

mally becomes an Episcopalian if coming from another tradition, and how one makes an adult commitment to the faith. Anyone in 9th grade and above who is interested

Confirmation 2012, please speak with Connie+; we will meet following the 10:00 service on January 8th for planning purposes moving forward.

## A Grown-Up Parish

Recently during a vestry meeting, someone commented that we are becoming a “grown-up” parish. Indeed, we have experienced events recently that indicate growth and maturity.

### Enhancing our sanctuary

The new stained-glass windows give our worship space color and beauty on the inside, and from the outside give the building a more church-like appearance.

*Next step:* New, perma-

nent signage would make our building more recognizable and easy to find, an aspect of hospitality in the community. Early planning for this is in the works.

### Sharing our space with other faith groups

We now lease the chapel to three congregations, one on Saturdays and two on Sundays. This helps those groups, as well as adding a steady stream of income for us, amounting to about seven percent of our total income.

*Next step:* Work on ways to continue to share our building with others, both as a low- or no-cost offering for community groups, and as an income-generator to help cover our building maintenance and operation costs.

### Complying with financial responsibilities

For a number of years, St. George’s made a pledge to the diocese, but had trouble keeping the pledge.

Last year, the vestry decided to lower our pledge

*(continued on page 6)*



*Don't miss the Parish Meeting on January 15th and the Annual Meeting on February 5th.*

## Save the Date—Annual Meeting February 5

The St. George’s Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, February 5th.

There will be one service at 9:00 am on February 5 immediately followed by

the Annual Meeting and then hospitality. The Annual Meeting is our church’s democratic governance in action – the parish elects vestry mem-

bers, gets a ‘state of the parish’ report, and reviews the previous year’s financials.

Please save the date and plan to attend.





## Join the Cosmic Walk—January 10, 7:00 pm

We will hold our next seasonal liturgy on Tuesday evening, January 10 in our Sanctuary as we participate in an Epiphany-focused, Cosmic Walk.

As the Season of Epiphany commences, the Church proclaims: “Your light has come, O Jerusalem; and the glory of God has dawned upon you; and the nations will

stream to your light.”

The Cosmic Walk is a ritual designed to create a space for meditation on the experience of the time, space, and wonder of whole history of the Cosmos that is entered into by walking through some fifteen billion years of the cosmos in the presence of the Cosmic Christ, the light of the world

throughout eternity.

It also conveys a sense of sequence in the sacred story of the universe, including the earth’s unfolding process and the uniqueness of each life event. Each of us is a part of the cosmic story told in the unfolding of the whole. Come and join the walk of light!

*Whether  
learning, acting,  
volunteering, or  
supporting...*

## Sunday School in January and February

Sunday School will meet the following dates:

January 8

January 22

February 12

February 26

Sunday School classes for ages five through high school meet two Sundays a month.

Classes begin at 9:00 am and finish at approximately 9:50. All children

and youth are invited to participate.



## Running for St George’s

On February 19th, Jennifer Bevan-Dangel will be running a marathon. A marathon is 26.2 miles long, and her goal is to raise at least \$40 a mile as a fundraiser for St George’s.

Legend has it that the name ‘marathon’ comes from the legend of Pheidippides, a Greek messenger. He ran from

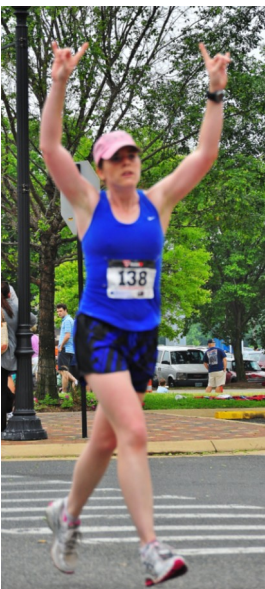
the battlefield of Marathon to Athens to announce that the Persians had been defeated.

He ran the entire distance without stopping and burst into the assembly, exclaiming “We have won,” before collapsing and dying.

While marathons today are far less deadly, they are still just as exciting!

Please consider supporting Jennifer’s run by pledging per mile. To pledge, contact Jennifer.

If your New Year’s resolutions include starting running or increasing your mileage feel free to ask Jennifer for tips. She loves to talk about running and would love to help you reach your fitness goals!



## Safe Haven

*(continued from page 2)*  
Georgians volunteered. Many asked their friends or other community groups (e.g., Girls Scouts, other congregations) to help out. We had volunteers of all ages, from our most junior to most senior members.

To accomplish this we will need a great deal of help; roles can be big or small:

*Donate time:* Each evening we will need at least 2-3 people to prepare/serve/clean up dinner, 3 people (men or women) to stay overnight, 2 people to serve/clean up breakfast, and others to come and engage with the men.

The dinner, overnight, and breakfast responsibilities can be done by the same individuals, but it's easier if these tasks are shared by five to seven people each night.

Additionally, we will need help setting up after the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb 5th and transporting the cots/supplies/men to the next church on Sunday, Feb 12th. Finally, we could use help with washing the blankets, sheets, and towels at the close of our week.

Donating money or supplies: Parish donations help defray the Safe Haven expenses. We are looking for monetary do-

nations to cover laundry expenses, groceries/meals, and other supplies. We also could use donations of blankets, towels, and twin size sheets.

*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.

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.



## Players' Schedule for the New Year

The St George's Players have an exciting schedule for 2012!

They will be holding auditions for "The Laramie Project" on January 31 from 7-9 . Performances

will be mid April.

Also look for upcoming information on the summer musical "Seussical". This intergenerational musical will held be in mid August. Auditions

will be held in early June.

Anyone interested in either production, or wishing to donate seed money, can contact Emma for more information.

*...there are plenty of opportunities to get involved at St. George's!*



## Mardi Gras—February 18

Saturday February 18th will be the annual St. George's Mardi Gras celebration. Put the date on your calendar now.

If you would like to help with the event, please speak with any vestry member. More to come about Mardi Gras soon!



*As a congregation, we are well-along in years, but as a self-supporting parish, we are still young.*

## A Grown-Up Parish

*(continued from page 2)*

percentage, but to commit to actually meeting it. It has been difficult to keep up this year, but we hope that with year-end offerings, we will be able to do so.

Similarly, the parish has sought to pay our rector in keeping with diocesan guidelines based on size of parish and years of experience. By these guidelines, we have underpaid Connie since she arrived here, although each year we have attempted to move closer to the goal.

*Next step:* Continue to improve our progress towards meeting our financial responsibilities. This will require continued increases in reliable income sources, such as pledging and contracted rental income.

### **Strengthening reliable streams of income**

Pledge income, the most

reliable source of income for a parish, has increased significantly in past years. For 2012, estimated pledge income remains stable, with little growth from 2011.

The 2012 budget includes a very modest increase in pledge income (with several anticipated pledges yet to be submitted). The 2012 budget depends on a large proportion of income that is hard to predict—\$27,000 for plate and special offerings, \$12,000 for one-time rental use, and more than \$25,000 in fundraising.

This means that more than a fourth of our total income comes from potentially sporadic sources, and parish leaders must try to plan ministries with less than 75% confidence.

*Next step:* On January 15, we will hold a parish meeting to begin exploring one way to create a

reliable funding source for our building and mission. This effort to ensure our future, and the ongoing efforts of parishioners to pledge to the parish, deserve our thoughtful consideration and participation.

We know that with age comes responsibility. As a congregation, we are well-along in years, but as a self-supporting parish, we are still young. We are showing wonderful signs of vitality and maturity.

One of the hallmarks of maturity is a self-awareness of one's strengths and challenges. I take joy in the vibrant strengths of our community and our readiness to meet our challenges.

John Rebstock,  
Vestry Member



## Papa John's, Eat Your Heart Out!



The holidays are over, but it doesn't mean that fun and fellowship ends at St. Georges. How about having an awesome dinner that will get your creativity flowing, but without all of the hard work?

Drop by Miller hall at 5pm on Sunday, January 22 for a make your own pizza party.

We'll provide the supplies, you put on what you like, and we'll bake up a hot and fresh pizza for you to enjoy with your friends and family.

Besides good food, there will be entertainment; bring your best American Idol impersonation as we will have karaoke.

If you would like more

information, can provide pizza pans for baking, or would like to help in any other way, please see Michael Mangiapane or Rose Exum.

We hope to see you there!



*The holidays are over, but the fun and fellowship never ends at St. George's!*



*The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde gets ready for the Window Blessing service with acolytes Norman Williams and Anne Rowe.*

