



# St. George's Journal

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - HELLERTOWN, PA

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Just the other day a woman shared with me how she had been helped by coming to know someone she worked with. It just so happened that they were assigned to work together. So they began to talk about their lives and their struggles. This new friend shared a book with her that has been immensely helpful and a source of blessing and healing. She is convinced that it was God who arranged for them to meet. Sometimes, in retrospect, we clearly see how God was working in our lives, pursuing us in order to bless us.

God is always pursuing us to bless us. But, on the other hand, God is always offering us grace and blessing. All we have to do is put ourselves in the place where God offers it. That is what we are doing when we pray, when we gather for worship-----putting ourselves in the way of God's grace.

And that is what we do as we celebrate the days of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection together-----not just Easter Day but all of it. No one who keeps Holy Week fully, walking with Jesus on Palm Sunday, sitting at table with him on Maundy Thursday, watching at the cross on Good Friday, and only then greeting the Risen Lord at the Great Vigil of Easter-----no one who does that is ever the same. There is grace, there is a blessing, there is new life in it.

I invite you to do what you can to set aside the time to walk with our Lord on all the great days of Holy Week. God does indeed pursue us with blessings. He also waits for us to come to him that he might give them.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Ray

## HOLY WEEK AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION (Palm Sunday), MARCH 16**

**9:30 AM Liturgy of the Palms, procession and Holy Eucharist**

The palm procession commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem a few days before his crucifixion. As it ends and the Eucharist begins, the palms are laid aside and the mood turns somber. We all participate in the reading of the Passion According to St. Matthew.

**WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, MARCH 19 — 12 NOON Holy Eucharist**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 20**

**7:00 PM Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar**

On the night before our Lord was handed over to be killed, he gathered with the disciples in an upper room to share a last supper with them. During the meal he washed their feet, taking the part of the lowest household servant. Then, taking bread and the cup of wine, he said, "This is my Body....this is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me," giving us the Eucharist that he might always be present with us in this way. When the meal was over he and the disciples went to the garden of Gethsemane where he spent the night in prayer.

On this night we gather to wash feet and to be reminded of his call to humility and service to others. And we offer thanks for his giving himself to us in the Holy Eucharist. As the Eucharist ends the altar is stripped to prepare it for Good Friday. The service on this day is, in actuality, just the first part of our celebration of the Lord's death and resurrection that lasts for three days and ends with the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night.

*(Holy Week continued on page 2)*

(Holy Week continued)

**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21  
7:00 PM The Liturgy of Good Friday**

On Good Friday we gather before the cross. We read together the Passion according to St. John. A large cross is carried into the church and we are invited to come forward and worship our Lord who gave his life on the cross for our salvation. Holy Communion is administered and what remains is consumed; a reminder of how our Lord was taken away from the disciples until his resurrection.

**HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 22  
7:30 PM The Great Vigil of Easter**

The service begins outdoors in darkness. A fire is kindled and the Paschal Candle is lighted from that flame. (This large candle, a symbol of the Risen Christ, will burn near the altar during the services for the 50 days of Easter.) The people's candles are lighted from it and the Paschal Candle is carried into the darkened church, symbolizing the spread of the light of the Risen Christ. The Exsultet, the Easter song of praise, is sung after which a series of lessons, psalms, and prayers are read, tracing the history of our redemption. Next, we renew our baptismal vows. Then, as we hear the three-fold "Alleluia! Christ is risen!", the lights come on and the organ leads us into the first Eucharist of Easter with the joyful singing of the Gloria during which all are invited to ring hand bells. **(Don't forget to bring a bell.)**

The Great Vigil is the greatest service of the year, a celebration and an experience of the death and resurrection of our Lord. It begins in darkness and ends in light. It begins in emptiness and ends in a feast. A feast of food and fellowship will follow the service so **please bring a beverage or snack to share.**

**EASTER DAY, MARCH 23  
9:30 AM FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST**

Easter is the greatest feast of the year. There will be special music and the usual "Flowering of the Cross" for the children. Come and praise our risen Lord! **If you need a ride or can offer one to any of the Holy Week services**, please call the parish office and let us know.

# St. George's Journal

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**St. George's Episcopal Church**  
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*A Parish of the Diocese of Bethlehem*  
The Rt. Rev. Paul Marshall, Bishop  
The Rev. Raymond Harbort, Priest

*Vestry*

Jane Boden, Senior Warden  
Bruce Browne, Junior Warden  
Tim Miller, Tom Kriebel, David Vandergast, Margie George, Joan Goodwin, Polly Roberts  
Tim Miller, Treasurer  
Karen Urbanowicz, Financial Secretary

*St. George's Vision*

To see the world  
through Christ's eyes.

*Service Schedule for Fall starting*

*September 16th*

Sunday 9:30 A.M.

Holy Eucharist

Christian Education 9:15 A.M.

Adult Forum 10:45 A.M.

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## WHY ARE WE PRAYING FOR THEM?

You will notice that we pray especially for particular members of the parish in the Prayers of the People each Sunday. This is not because they are sick or have some special need! We are just praying our way through the parish list. Please see "For Those in our Parish" in your worship bulletin. We suggest you take it home and pray for our brothers and sisters on the dates noted.

## A Prayer of Mother Theresa

May today there be peace within.  
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.  
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.  
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.  
May you be confident knowing you are a child of God. Let his presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.

## ST. GEORGE'S IS GOING GREEN

As you know, the Vestry voted in January to start using ceramic mugs instead of Styrofoam cups at coffee hour in an effort to be better stewards of God's creation. But it seems that some folks would prefer to use paper cups. Well, paper is better than Styrofoam so we'll make both available. Maybe we need to "transition" into this change. We also **need volunteers** for a **Green Team** who will be responsible for loading the mugs into the dishwasher each Sunday, a task that should take just a few moments. A "Green Team" of 5-6 people who have a passion for the stewardship of creation might also pitch in together to wash dishes at parish affairs like the annual "Soup, Salad, and Dessert Night". Please sign up.



### THIS MONTH'S GREEN STEWARDSHIP TIP



*Try to avoid products with lots of packaging. You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide a year if you cut down your garbage by 10%.*

### CAPITAL FUND UPDATE

Gifts to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Fund now total \$40,400. Thus far we have spent \$36,556.95 to cover the cost of installing air-conditioning and new windows in the church and parish hall. We hope that we might receive more gifts in 2008 and to seek grants so that we may renovate the kitchen and install new windows in the rest of the building. Again, we would like to thank all those who have contributed so generously thus far.

### Funnies

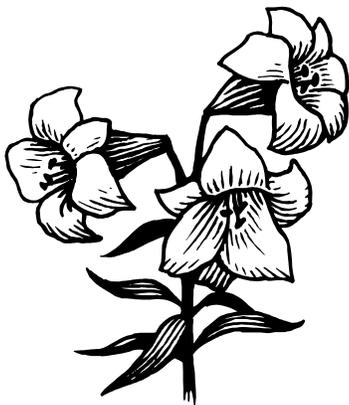
A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know—Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."

*The bulletin bloopers continue...*

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.



### 2008 Altar Flower Schedule

The **2008 Altar Flower Schedule** is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you desire a certain date for flowers, please fill in the appropriate date. Please indicate for whom they should be "in honor of" or "in memory of" and for "silk arrangement" (cost is \$10.00) or "live flowers" (cost is \$35.00). Please give first and last names. All monies should be paid to St. George's. **Upcoming Available Dates include: 3/30, 5/4 and 6/1.** Reminder: No flowers during Lent.

As a reminder: if you are having live flowers on the altar, it is YOUR responsibility to take them or have someone remove them. A letter is submitted quarterly showing the dates on which live flowers are requested. If you have any questions please contact me (Carol Sandrock: 610-838-8114). The most dates are still open. It would be appreciated if you would send your offering for the flowers prior to the Sunday you have requested.

—Carol Sandrock

## THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptismal Anniversaries: Marjorie George 3/1, William Frey 3/2, Thomas Goodwin 3/3, Charlotte Gross 3/5, Andrew Gallagher 3/12, Conner Houck 3/14, Gloria Carnes 3/21, and Donna McGlinchey 3/29.

We celebrate the lives of those who were laid to rest, Harriet "Kip" Barton 1/19, Betty Anne Delong, 1/16, Lorraine L. Granlund 2/5, and Dawn M. Cannon 2/13.

We welcome Jacob Robert Kelly, son of Robert and Donna Kelly, who was baptized on FebruaryJanuary 20, 2008.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our parish Annual Meeting took place on January 27 with 32 adult members in attendance. Elected to two-year terms as members of the Vestry were; Jane Boden, Bruce Browne, Tim Miller, Treasurer; Joan Goodwin, Tom Kreichel, David Vandergast, and Polly Roberts. Margie George was elected last year and her term will expire next year. (The Rector is delighted that Jane Boden has consented to once again serve as Senior Warden.) Joan Goodwin and Anna May Miller were elected Alternate Delegates to diocesan convention.

## WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We rejoice to welcome the newest members of our staff; Phyllis Cragin, our new Organist and Dana H. Whedon, Administrative Assistant. We are doubly blessed.

Phyllis Cragin's career as a performer and teacher has spanned over 30 years. She earned her Bachelor of Music Degree at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where she studied piano and clarinet. (Phyllis also plays saxophone!) She was organist and choir director at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Phyllis also composes and arranges instrumental and choral music and teaches private piano, clarinet and saxophone lessons. She and her family live in Stockertown.

Dana Whedon, our Administrative Assistant, majored in Arts Management at Mount Holyoke College and has a deep experience in organizational management and information technology. She has served as Hall Coordinator at the Allentown Symphony Hall and as Assistant to the Director of a dance troupe in Decatur, GA. She is a member of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity where she developed the parish profile documentation in the recent search for a Dean and has demonstrated her considerable talent in layout design and publishing. She and her family have recently returned to the Lehigh Valley from Atlanta.

Welcome, Phyllis and Dana!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Susan McGee and Wanda Gad 3/1, Deborah Rinker 3/3, Cynthia Hasz and Marcus Iorio 3/6, David Cannon 3/7, William Reccek 3/9, Jason Rinker 3/16, Marie Mauro 3/26, Maynard Pepper 3/27, Timothy Miller and Christine Hogan 3/28, and Donna McGlinchey 3/29!

## OFFICE

## REMINDERS!

Newsletter articles are due NO LATER than the 15th.

## OUR NEW OFFICE HOURS ARE:

**Tuesday\***

**8 am-1 pm**

**Wednesday**

**9am -11 am**

**Thursday\***

**8 am -1 pm**

*\*On occasion Tuesdays and Thursdays may be 10-3 as needed.*

PLEASE make sure to call the office if you are hospitalized. Hospitals won't always let the church office know under the new privacy laws. If you would like Fr. Ray to visit, the best thing is to call or have a family member call so we don't miss you.

If you want something added to the calendar, please call or email ([stgeorges@rcn.com](mailto:stgeorges@rcn.com)) the office with ALL the details and we will be glad to put it on the Master Calendar in the office. This avoids having calendars in many places and also avoids scheduling conflicts.

## Outreach News and Notes

At the Annual Meeting the congregation voted to send the Mission Endowment Fund for 2007 to the H.A.M. Gulf Coast Transportation Fund and to Heifer International. The Hellertown Area Ministerium has been raising money to pay the transportation costs for volunteers from our area to go to the Gulf Coast to continue the clean-up and reconstruction in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Heifer International provides livestock to people in need all over the world and then these people pass on the gift by donating the first born to another person in need.

The 2nd Sunday Outreach collections from January and February totaling almost \$300 will go to the Hellertown Library Elevator Fund. This fund came in 3rd place in the voting at the Annual Meeting, only 1 vote behind Heifer International.

The 2nd Sunday Outreach collections for March and April will go to New Bethany's hunger relief programs – serving mid-day meals and distributing grocery baskets. The need for food increased by 50% last year and they expect a similar or even larger increase this year. Every \$5.00 we contribute will be matched by another \$1.50 by the Cathedral in Bethlehem.

Sunday, March 2 is **New Hope Rededication Sunday**. We'll be hearing a letter from our bishop and how our parish has responded thus far. And we'll be encouraged to participate even more fully than we have. If you've looked carefully at your Diocesan newspaper you have already seen that St. George's is in the top 10 in participation. If you haven't joined in this important effort pledge forms are available at St. George's. Through this campaign the Diocese is attempting to make a significant improvement in poverty in the Sudan and in Pennsylvania.

The Hellertown Food Bank has a need for cereal, jelly, and crackers. You can drop these off at St. George's and we will get them to the food bank.



## Adult Forums in March

### March 2nd: The Gospel of Matthew

An introduction in this year that we read through this Gospel at the Eucharist.

### March 9th: Holy Week

What we are about to do and why.

## Lessons

### 5th Lent March 9

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

### Palm Sunday March 16

Matthew 21:1-11  
Liturgy of the Palms  
Liturgy of the Passion  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14-27:66

### Maundy Thursday March 20

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14  
Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19  
I Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### Good Friday March 21

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25  
John 18:1-19:42

### Easter Vigil March 22

*The Story of Creation*  
Genesis 1:1-22, Psalm 33:1-11  
*Israel' Deliverance at the Red Sea*  
Exodus 14:10-15:1, Canticle 8  
*A new heart and a new spirit*  
Ezekiel 36:24-28, Psalm 42:1-7  
*The valley of dry bones*  
Ezekiel 37:1-4, Psalm 30  
*The gathering of God's people*  
Zephaniah 3:12-20, Psalm 126  
**Eucharist:** Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 28:1-10

### Easter Day March 23

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4  
John 20:1-18

### Easter 2 March 30

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
I Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31





# MARCH 2008

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<i>Things in italic are on Fr. Ray's</i>						1 U.C.G.
2 Church School 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Adult Forum	3 <i>Father Ray's Day Off</i> ECW 7:00 PM	4 <i>Father Ray's Day Off</i> Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	5 Quilters 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 12 noon	6	7	8 U.C.G.
9 <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> Church School 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Adult Forum	10	11 Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	12 Quilters 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 12 noon	13 Chrism Mass 11:00 AM	14	15 U.C.G. <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>
16 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Church School 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Adult Forum	17	18 Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	19 Quilters 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 12 noon	20 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00 PM Foot washing, Holy Eucharist Stripping of	21 <b>The Liturgy of Good Friday</b> 7:00 PM	22 U.C.G. <b>Holy Saturday</b> The Great Vigil of Easter
23 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:30 AM Festival Holy Eucharist	24	25 Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	26 Quilters 9:00 AM Vestry 7:00 PM	27	28	29 U.C.G.
30 Church School 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Adult Forum 10:45 AM	31					

St. George's Episcopal Church  
735 Delaware Ave.  
Hellertown, PA 18055

FIRST CLASS MAIL

## **Prayer for the New Hope Campaign**

Ignite our hearts, O Holy Spirit, with the love of Jesus. Let his compassion for the poor burn in us as we respond joyfully to his call to serve the least of his sisters and brothers.

Let our participation in the work of New Hope transform us as individuals and as a community. May our unity of purpose and love for your creatures witness to the world the truth you have revealed to us in Christ. Receive our work as praise for our creation, redemption, and the call you have given us; receive it as our response to your eternal love.

Amen.