



The Wider Circle

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

Volume 15 Number 11

November 2017

Letter from the Rector

November Dates:

- 1-5: Warm Nights
- 1: Remembrance Day Service
- 5, 19: Sunday School
- 12: One 9am service and ingathering brunch

Upcoming Dates:

- Dec 2: St. Nicholas Party
- Dec 3: Advent Wreath Making

Dear Friends,

One of the benefits of having a four year old is that you might get to have really interesting conversations about God. We read a lot of bible stories in our house – every night our

routine is to read two “regular books” and one “God book.” So by now our daughter has a repertoire of scripture stories she has some familiarity with.

The story of Zacchaeus is a current favorite,

and she also very much likes the Easter story, though she is still figuring out “why did the people hurt Jesus?” She recently said to me, “After he did all that work, Jesus got to have

(continued on page 2)

Journey to Generosity—Stewardship 2017

Over the past several weeks we have explored the theme “Journey to Generosity” and reflected on the practice of giving. We have shared stories of generosity we have experienced or offered, and how the practice of giving deepens our relationship with Christ and supports life-giving ministries to our community and beyond.

As we move towards the “finish line” of our fall Stewardship drive, we ask that each of you consider how this community of faith inspires you, the ministries that have touched your life or the lives of others,

and your own practice of giving.

We invite you to prayerfully fill out your pledge card and bring it to church any Sunday, or mail it or email it. Pledge cards are gratefully accepted any time, and we also encourage you to turn it in on or before Sunday, November 12, our Ingathering Celebration Sunday.

On November 12, we celebrate the culmination of the journey, when make our offering to God in gratitude for what we have been given, remembering that all of what we have comes from God, and

we simply return of a portion of what God has so generously shared with us.

The service November 12 is at 9:00 am and is immediately followed by a festive brunch. In other words, we get to do two things after worship that St. Georgians love to do – have fellowship and eat together!

We pray that your giving will come from a deep abiding sense of gratitude for the gift of the special community of St. George's and the gift we have in Jesus, the one who does not leave our side on our journey.

Inside this issue:

Letter from the Rector	1
Journey to Generosity	1
One Service Nov 12	2
Vestry Reflections	3
Remembrance Service	4
An Invitation to Balance	4
Sunday School	5
St. Nicholas Party	6
Pageant Director	7
Advent Wreath Making	7
Pledge Card	8

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)

office@
stgeo.comcastbiz.net

Website:
stgeorgesglennedale.org

The Rt. Rev.
Mariann Budde,
Bishop of Washington

The Rev.
Connie Reinhardt,
Rector

Send submissions to:

The Rector,
rector@
stgeo.comcastbiz.net

Jennifer Bevan-Dangel,
editor
jbevandangel@yahoo.com

Glenn Dale Parish Vestry

Roy Peterson,
Senior Warden
Dan Ryan,
Junior Warden

Ingrid Charlton
Diane Clark
Charlotte Colvin
Tim Dangel
Mark Fehling
Michael Mangiapane
Jay Tobias

Lee Rowe,
Clerk
Mary Frances Bruce,
Treasurer
Ed Neuschler,
Bookkeeper
Mary Rogers,
Convention Delegate
Karen Horrocks,
Alternate

Letter from the Rector (cont.)

(continued from page 1)
chocolate eggs.” We’re still working on how the biblical story of Easter fits in with getting an Easter basket with candy in it. . .

Having this experience as a parent makes me wish I had had more opportunity to learn the Bible as a kid. Though I grew up a church-going Episcopalian, I was as biblically literate as the next Episcopal kid, which was to say, not much at all. That didn’t really change until I was in seminary, when I started really reading, learning about, and attempting to understand the Bible.

A grace of my adult life is getting more acquainted with the Bible, and the good news is, it is never too late. I feel like even after nineteen years of being a priest, I continue to grow in my understanding of the Bible.

And one of the things I love about being a priest is to help people get more acquainted with our holy scriptures.

Most years we have at least one year-long Bible study going at St. George’s; this year it is an exploration of the Psalms. But since a long-term commitment doesn’t work for everyone, we also offer shorter encounters with scripture. In the past couple of years we have used materials from Forward Movement (who bring us the Forward Day by Day booklets) to spend fifty days reading the gospels of Luke, Matthew and Mark.

Upcoming studies will include *Fifty Days with John*, and an offering called *The Social Justice Bible Challenge*, which invite us to encounter scripture readings on social justice with reflections from different writ-

ers on the topic. The great thing about these is that you don’t have to a) read the Bible on your own or b) do a study with others.

That is, you can choose to reflect with a group if that is something that appeals to you, or you can also read it on your own if you prefer. One of the things we are planning when we do the next of these is to offer a Facebook group or some other social media forum, as another way to engage with each other and the scriptures.

So stay tuned. My dream is to have a critical mass of St. Georgians reading the Bible, whether that is together in some way, or on our own. What I know is that our relationships with God are challenged, supported, and deepened when we do.

Blessings,
Connie+

One 9:00 am Service Sunday, November 12

Please note that on Sunday, November 12, we gather for one service at 9:00 am as we celebrate the generosity of the St. George’s community at our Ingathering Sunday.

On this day we invite anyone who has not yet turned in a pledge card to do so, as we worship together as one community, give God our thanks and praise for all of our blessings, and gather for fes-

tive brunch immediately following the service.

Mark your calendars for 9:00 am and plan to stay for a wonderful time of food and fellowship afterwards!

Vestry Reflections: Halloween, Reformation, and All Saints' Day

As a child growing up Lutheran in the 1950' in central Pennsylvania, Halloween was as magical as it is today. We went from house to house unaccompanied by adults, never suspicious of the treats we received, and wearing unpurchased costumes usually cobbled together from discarded clothes and sheets – hobos, clowns, and ghosts were popular.

As I got older, I began to realize that October 31 was also an important Lutheran Church date—the Reformation; it was celebrated the Sunday before October 31.

Reformation commemorates the day in 1517 that Catholic monk Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. These were 95 statements he was encouraging the church to discuss, such as the selling of indulgences -- money paid to the church for the release of the souls of the deceased from Purgatory to Heaven. He initially never intended to separate from the Catholic church.

John Tetzel, a Dominican friar and the papal commissioner for indulgences, was sent to Germany to

raise money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Luther objected to a saying attributed to Tetzel that, "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs." Luther insisted that, since forgiveness was God's alone to grant, those who claimed that indulgences absolved buyers from all punishments and granted them salvation were in error.

Luther asked, "Why does the pope, whose wealth today is greater than the wealth of the richest Crassus, build the basilica of St. Peter with the money of poor believers rather than with his own money?"

The printing press had been invented, and Luther's 95 theses were translated into German from Latin and spread throughout Germany in two weeks and throughout Europe in two months; the Reformation had begun.

October 31, 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and Lutheran churches will hold special celebrations. Many parishioners will wear red, which represents the Holy Spirit and the Martyrs of the Christian Church and will sing Lu-

ther's Hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is our God* (a paraphrase of Psalm 46).

All Saints' Day was first likely celebrated in the west in the 8th century on November 1 to replace a Celtic festival of the dead held in the British Isles as it became Christianized (in the Eastern Orthodox Church it is celebrated the Sunday after Pentecost).

There is a tie between Reformation Day and All Saints Day. It has been proposed, but not proven, that Martin Luther would have been aware that the following day was All Saints' Day and that many of the citizens of Wittenberg would be attending the services at the church and would see the list of topics he was proposing for discussion.

As I grew older I became more aware of All Saints' Day and it became a special church celebration for me, especially after I experienced the loss of grandparents, aunts and uncles, neighbors, and friends. While the day was originally celebrated in the Catholic Church to commemorate all those who had attained beautification in Heaven through martyrdom or

(continued on page X)

October 31, 2017 is more than just Halloween—it is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



Remembrance Service November 1 in the Chapel



with our annual Service of Remembrance at 7:00

On All Saints Day, Wednesday November 1, we celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us

pm in the Chapel.

At this service, we remember and pray for all those who are buried in our cemetery, as well as anyone who has died that you would like prayers for.

Names of the departed can be sent to

Anne in the office at office@stgeo.comcast-biz.net; please submit them by Tuesday, October 31.



An Invitation to Balance

About twenty years ago, I felt particularly dissatisfied and out of balance. I seemed to work too hard at just about everything. Life in general was a struggle. Then I discovered the grace of letting go. Francis of Assisi has been my guide along that path.

Francis came from an aspiring and wealthy merchant family in the Italy of about 1200. He was a charismatic raconteur enamored with the courtly traditions of medieval society. He hoped to lead his family into greater glory, possibly into the nobility, by serving as a valiant knight in battle. But very quickly he was captured as a prisoner of war and held in terrible conditions for a year.

During this time, Francis began to have spiritual nudges that drastically changed the course of his life.

After Francis was released, a critical moment arose when he encountered a leper. Rather than feel utter repulsion, God led Francis instead to show mercy. "What had seemed bitter to me was turned into sweetness of soul and body," Francis later wrote in his Testament. After this, it did not take Francis long to "leave the world," or give up attachment to worldly status, possessions and power while learning to actively treasure all of God's creation.

Some of you may know that Terry and I are

members of the Franciscan Third Order (TSSF.org). Francis himself established the three orders that bear his name. Members of the Third Order live ordinary lives in society, while members of the first and second orders live in community under vows of literal poverty, chastity and obedience (you know, the folks typically seen in brown robes). In the Third Order, we dedicate our lives under a "definite discipline and vows," in the same spirit as the first two orders.

What are the benefits of living under a "definite discipline and vows"? Terry and I feel it gives purpose, direction, structure and accountability to
(continued on page 5)

The Franciscan Third Order seeks to build a community of those who wish to dedicate their lives to God through humility, love, and joy.

Sunday School

Upcoming dates for Sunday School are November 5, November 19, December 3 and December 17.

Sunday School begins at 9:00 am and there are classes for ages 3 through high school.



*Sunday School will
be held November
5 and 19!*

Invitation to Balance (cont.)

(continued from page 4)
our lives.

The purpose of the Third Order is to build a community of those who wish to dedicate their lives to God. We take seriously the Gospel image of a grain of wheat that must fall to the earth and die before it yields fruit. This purpose is countercultural enough that we recognize our need for support of like-minded companions.

The direction our lives as tertiaries take can vary widely, but we all organize ourselves around Principles that contain three aims, three ways of service, and three notes.

The aims are to make God known and loved; to spread the spirit of love and harmony; and to live simply. Our ways of service are prayer, cultivating a constant awareness of God's presence and freeing power; study that informs us of God's history in creation and knowledge of other people and cultures so that we

can share God's story effectively; and work that serves others. The notes of the Order—which are God-given graces that we strive to remain open to receive—are humility, love and joy.

Tertiaries go through a formation process centered on a rule of life that provides the structure needed to live out our Principles. After a formation period of several years, those who feel called pledge to live their lives according to that rule. The rule addresses nine elements, including regular attendance at Eucharist, daily prayer and examination of conscience, annual retreat, annual rite of reconciliation, obedience to the Order, and practices of self-denial, study, work and simplicity that each tertiary determines for their own life context.

Finally, making life vows to walk together with brothers and sisters gives us accountability. We make both daily and long-

term decisions in the context of that commitment. We meet monthly with our local fellowship and attend larger regional gatherings every year or two. We report every year to a chaplain about how we are living our Franciscan vocation.

Walking towards deeper communion with God, with Francis by our side, has been wonderfully enriching for Terry and me. If you would like to know more about the Franciscan Third Order, Terry and I would be most happy to share!

- John Rebstock, TSSF



St. Nicholas Party Saturday December 2

The St. Nicholas Party will be held Saturday, December 2., from 4—7 pm. It is always a good time for the young—and the young at heart!

Who was Saint Nicholas? Nicholas was born during the third century A.D., and became Bishop of Myra (in what is now Turkey) at a young age.

There are many stories about his generosity, his love for children, and his care for those in need. Today he may be the patron saint of more causes than any other saint, in particular children, sailors, and prisoners.

St. Nicholas Day is observed on December 6 on the church calendar, and

that means...**it's time for a party!**

The annual St. Nicholas party will be held on Saturday, December 2, from 4:00.until 7:00. This is a long tradition at St George's, and is always a wonderful time of fun, food, and fellowship for all ages, **not just kids.**

We will make St. Nicholas themed crafts and decorate a Christmas tree, while munching cookies and sipping

hot chocolate. Pizza and salad will be provided for dinner.

Perhaps there will be a surprise visit by Bishop Nicholas himself!



Christmas Pageant Anyone? In Search of a Director

It is hard to believe but Christmas will be here before we know it! It is the tradition of St. George's to hold a Christmas Pageant at the 5 pm

Family Service on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24. In order to do this, we need a volunteer (or volunteers) to organize and direct the pag-

eant.

If you are willing to help or interested in learning more, please speak with Connie+.



Advent Wreath Making December 3

The Fall here at St. George's has been quite busy with programs, social activities and working for the community we all love. As Thanksgiving approaches we all stop and give thanks for our many blessings and look forward to Advent and Christmas.

The annual Advent Wreath Making event will

be held in Miller Hall on Sunday, December 3, after the 10 am service. We will be asking all of you to bring greens from your garden or yard to create a beautiful wreath for Advent.

Ring form and candles will be available for sale, and all of the tools required to make the wreath will be provided,

and of course there will be refreshments. Please join us for fun, food, and most importantly community.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact Diane Clark at 301-805-4638 or decht528@verizon.net.

We look forward to seeing you there!

- Diane Clark

Vestry Reflections (cont.)

(continued from page 2) miracles, in the Lutheran and Episcopal churches the celebration stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven and the living.

All Saints' Day (also known as All Hallows' Day and the Feast of All Saints) commemorates those saints in our lives who have died. I find it extremely meaningful to quietly remember and cherish those closest to me who have died – my wife, my parents, and my

grandparents. I remember the special moments we had together and how they influenced who I have become. Occasionally during an All Saints' Day service I can sense their presence, like a brief, special visit.

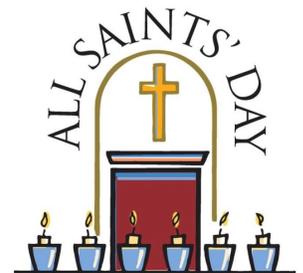
Other special moments from the service for me include hearing their names read, which brings memories of our special saints back and singing *For All Thy Saints Who from Their Labors Rest*, which celebrates their lives. Seeing the candles

in St. George's graveyard commemorates not only remembering those special lives with a concrete symbol, but that their lights still shine.

From the Collect for All Saint's Day from the Book of Common Prayer:

"...Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those ineffable joys which thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love thee..."

- Tim Dangel



St George's Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale Parish

7010 Glenn Dale Rd.
Glenn Dale, Md 20769

Phone: 301 262 3285
Fax: 301 262 0666
<http://stgeorgesglennedale.org/>

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.



"Give to the Most High as he has given you, and give with generosity from what you have."
Sirach 35:12

Pledge Commitment to St. George's for 2018

Individual or Household _____

Address _____

Accept this pledge as a symbol of my/our continuing the journey to generosity through the intentional practice of giving. In gratitude for God's generosity in our lives, I/we pledge to support the mission and ministries of St. George's Church. In faith and prayer, my/our total annual commitment for 2018 is _____

I/we plan to offer my pledge _____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Quarterly _____ Annually

I/we will offer my/our pledge via _____ Online/E-Giving _____ Automatic Check Payment _____ Offering Plate Giving

Signed: _____ Date: _____

If you need to amend your gift in any way, please speak to the rector. Thank you for your generosity.