



# The Dragon's Tale

## May 2011

St. George's Episcopal  
Church

912 Route 146  
Clifton Park, NY

### Rector's Remarks

Last April, I preached a sermon in which I asked the question, "Do you have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ?" After the 9:30 liturgy, one man came up to me and said that he had never heard a sermon about that before. Other people came to me telling their own stories of personal encounters with Jesus Christ. Others said that the reality of God's presence was strengthened for them. I had been thinking about how we can help others to answer that question with a yes. The program for Evangelist training began in September and has continued through the fall, winter and spring. The E-100 program and free Bible Giveaway came out of the training. Seven Evangelists will be commissioned this year as part of our focus on evangelism and congregational development. The celebrations in the months of May and June help answer the question about a relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Think about it....

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> we will be celebrating the Baptism of three new members of the Body of Christ.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> we celebrate First Holy Communion, admitting children to the Eucharistic fellowship of the larger church. They will come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, participating in the Meal of Presence as Christians have done for almost 2000 years.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Rogation Sunday, we will join in the Rogation procession and the blessing of the Parish Garden. The food grown there will be given away to a local food pantry. It is a thanksgiving for God's presence in creation and the gifts of God from the land.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> the feast of Pentecost, the Rite 13 class will celebrate their coming to maturity in life and in the faith, confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and moving to the next step on the deeper journey of faith.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Trinity Sunday, the church gathers to celebrate the fullness of the revelation of God in the Holy Trinity. Baptized, confirmed, received, fed in the Eucharist, rejoicing in the presence of God in the entire creation, we gather to affirm the mystery of the One Who creates time itself and Who yet lives in our midst. The parish evangelists will be commissioned to continue the work of the Gospel among us, and to begin some new initiatives.

All of the above point to the initiation and continuation of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It began at our baptism, is strengthened in the Eucharist and is confirmed by the profession of faith which is not ashamed to say "I don't have all the answers, but I know Who to go to with the questions." Far from making people feel uneasy, the question about a personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit should be an occasion of reflective rejoicing. This May and June at St. George's, we aim to do just that.

Remember to say your prayers.

*Fr. Henry*

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## **How did I end up on a Medical Mission?**

*By Vicki Jimenez, PA*

Well to be honest, it wasn't such a far-fetched idea. I love every aspect of the patient-provider encounter, from the greeting to the good-bye. Whether it is a new patient or a very familiar one, knowing I am in that situation to provide a service fills me with a sense of purpose and responsibility. There is a healing power in touch, and I think treatment plans for my patients begin during my examination of the individual. Finally, when it is time to send a patient on their way, I am filled with a desire to educate and empower them. I love every aspect of the interaction. Even the "difficult patient" offers an opportunity for me to further develop my compassion, understanding, humility and patience. So, whether it is practicing medicine in NY, Idaho or abroad, the interest has always been there. Nothing had made it easy to practice abroad though, until I came across a handwritten note at a PA conference. It simply said "Medical Mission to DR in February". It was about three months later when I finally emailed Kevin Bolan, PA, inquiring about the mission. Over the following 2 weeks and several emails later, the decision was made that, not only I would be attending the St Eustace **Medical Mission to the Dominican Republic**, but my mom as well, as a translator. Off we went to JFK to meet the rest of the team and then on to DR! Being terribly nice must have been on a memo of requirements I missed, because everyone was very welcoming and thoughtful.



*P.A. Vicki examines little one's ears*

Monday morning brought what I had been waiting for: PATIENTS. Now I have interviewed patients in Spanish, worked in under-served communities. I never, however, had to use a church pew as an exam table or a church bathroom as a private exam room. Without running water, mind you. There were definitely some things to get used to. The notion, however, was the same: the patients were there for me to help them. For some that meant they needed basic vitamins or anti-parasite medicine. For others it meant educating them on their dangerously uncontrolled hypertension or asthma.

For one pregnant patient, it meant accompanying her to the ER to ensure she received the care she needed. She was 26 years old, on her fourth pregnancy and showing signs of pre-eclampsia (uncontrolled high blood pressure that risks both the baby and the mother's life). What made the situation scarier was that her last pregnancy ended with an emergency C-section because of pre-eclampsia. The premature child only survived three days. The woman explained she only had one living child because her second daughter passed away at the age of 3 from an untreated pneumonia. With this medical history, her emotional burden and the patient's lack of resources we went to the local hospital looking for help and direction. The attention she

received, or rather, the lack there of, was despicable. Another perplexing fact was that this mistreatment was by other women. It was as if the patient was a plague of bad luck they couldn't wait to have out of their midst. It appeared as though the medical staff was being inconvenienced. Multiple comments were made about the patient in regard to her visiting the ER often. As if a patient is only allotted 1 or 2 ER visits, no more. As if having lost a child, because of the very same complication she was feared to currently have, didn't warrant a higher degree of vigilance.

There were several more patient and personal interaction that were memorable, thought-provoking and inspiring. An elderly gentleman whom I 'referred' to our PT was able to walk with assistance for the first time since a stroke disabled him three months earlier. He became visibly overwhelmed as a result of accomplishing this feat. There was a 10 year old Haitian girl

with a great big smile, whose aunt has been raising her since she was orphaned in the 2010 earthquake. I had to confirm to a 14 year old girl, she was indeed pregnant. She took it well, all things considered.



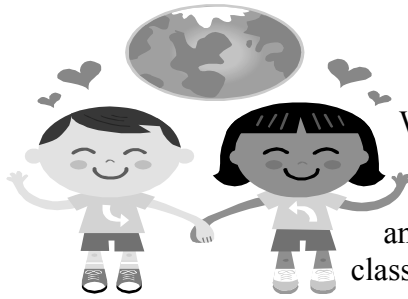
*Chicken inside house provides eggs*

Then there was Kendry, a bright-eyed, neatly-dressed 10 year boy craving attention, but not demanding it. He claims to be a 'star student' who wishes to be an industrial engineer, and I believe it. In the short time I had the pleasure of talking to him, I saw he has a drive that many people twice his age, lack. I was filled with joy and fear for this boy. In this poor town, where people struggle to put food on the table and they only take vitamins when they are free, I wondered if Kendry's drive and interest in school could be enough to get him to reach his goal, his potential. Will the weight of poverty be so much that it will snuff out the flame he carries? Only time will tell. In the meantime I can only hope for the best and make plans to return so I can see him again next year.



*Dr. Liz examines very lethargic boy*

My career is to provide a service and I love doing it. For one week I volunteered that service. I never imagined I would have experienced so many, varied emotions and felt such personal and professional growth. I've brought that awareness back with me and I plan to carry a little bit of that in my heart each time I encounter a patient. This Mission allowed me to recall that emotion and passion.



What does technology look like in our Kindergarten and first grade classrooms?

Doris Armstrong recently asked an important question about what the children are learning in the school: "Do computers and IPADS distract children from using their own brains?" "Can students develop any critical thinking skills and creativity if they rely on technology?"

Educators around the world have been researching similar questions. In 2009, an *Atlantic Monthly* feature summed up the dilemma in its title "Is Google making us stoopid?"

Our teachers are keenly sensitive to both the pitfalls and benefits of technology for learning. They realize that their students need to become nimble users of technology because it is powerful tool for

## SCHOOL NEWS

learning. However, they also are wary of the mind-numbing potential of overuse and the importance of nurturing each child's own creative thinking. They limit computer use to 15-20 minutes /day for math or vocabulary practice, science research or reading and writing stories. In writers' workshop, a student might write a paragraph, email it to the teacher for corrections, illustrate their writing with their original artwork, and finally "publish" the finished version on the bulletin board.

One daily goal is to teach the children to be critical consumers of information they find on the internet as well as from written sources or hearsay. So if one "Google" search describes creatures in the rainforest, they might check another source to look for verification or contradictions in the information.

We are confident that when used thoughtfully, technology tools can enhance critical thinking, in the context of a community of learning where the students daily practice consideration, courtesy and prayer.

## Save the Date for VBS



**Get Ready for Sun, Sand, Surf and Meeting Up with Jesus!**

VBS is at St. George's this Summer

August 22-26, 2011

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Open to all children preschool through 5th grade

Invite your friends & neighborhood kids

*Look for registration both online & at church in June*

Save the date for our VBS fundraiser:  
"Dunk the Dads" in our dunking booth  
June 19th after church



## News from the Property Committee

So you think things aren't boring around the property committee? Turns out we should not bother writing at all this month because nothing is going on. That is, nothing is happening because of you and the wonderful support, stepping up, participation, and being interested at the right time etc. So in a break with normal protocol, we'll try writing about the non-events.

We can not report the facility stayed dirty during Tim's recovery because a bunch of people signed their names to a list then showed up to keep the place clean. We defer to Tim's judgment as to whether the work was passable.

We can not report the education wing suffered extensive water damage because one Sunday a group of people took it upon themselves to clear the roof. Sure minor damage appeared but not to the extent possible should a small problem go unaddressed.

We can not report the "normal" floods which have plagued the connector wings every heavy rain or during the spring thaws because the church had addressed the issue last summer.

Are we missing damaged paneling in the Narthex? Now does anyone miss the cracks in the ceiling of the (church to Education wing) connector? Is that pretty or what.. For those getting into the bowels of the plant via the Bilco doors will note thanks to Ken, Peter, Brian we need not miss the broken steps. Bee inc. has replaced forty year old steps with something that will last fifty-five years. Ken also should be credited with door

windows in the Ed wing doors and the usual random light ballast repair.

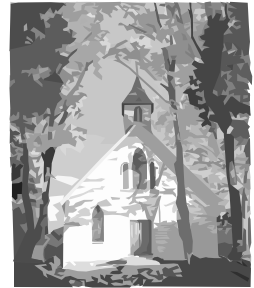
We could continue in this vein for quite awhile but you get the idea. The positive work our church has invested in lately has born fruit just as we hoped. Conversely, those projects in which we must become involved cannot benefit us until we take the initiative.

Our plan for the spring includes finally working on Hatlee but from the outside where we can bypass expensive plumbing and still inspect and repair potential damage. We hope to gather a gang to clean Hatlee's ceiling and walls about the same time we start our outdoor yard pickup. We will miss those cobwebs though, they add a certain something, most especially around late October.

We repeat our thanks to those who took care of our walkways and parking lots and innards. Tim continues his endeavor to keep us not seeing quite a bit of everyday wear, tear, grime and tracks. Jack Underhill should also take a bow for his dedication to keeping our machinery available and running smoothly and our not seeing large repair bills. Sue W, the voice, and beloved "town crier" keeps us accountable at the proper time (file it under not missing deadlines).

Happy spring! Hope to see you during one of our loosely organized cleanup events!

Dave Blanchet



## May Readings

### **Second Sunday of Easter**

**May 1**

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

### **Third Sunday of Easter**

**May 8**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**May 15**

Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 22**

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**May 29 Rogation Sunday**

Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:7-18  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day**

**June 5**

Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11



## **From the Choir Loft**

St. George's Choir sings from a choir loft that is very prominent in our Church's nave. Have you wondered who these people are, who vest and sing every week to lead the musical aspects of our 9:30 liturgy? Among these 25 volunteer singers are some very busy people: there is a large number of teachers, working with students of all ages, pre-school through college. One is the acting Superintendent of St. George's School. There are business men and administrators, working in our communities in government as well as in the private sector. There is an accountant, several office managers, and more than one who knows computer language well enough to work as an IT [Information Technician] in the business world. There is a bass who is a Management Consultant, and who travels all over the country in his work. There is at least one nurse, and a public health specialist. One singer is a physical therapist. The arts are served in our community through these people: we have an author, an artist, and an arts administrator who works at Proctors. We have had a writer who works as a critic in the local press. There is a lawyer, a legal secretary, and an engineer.

In addition to choir singing, these people have been active in other areas of our church's ministry. We have several past wardens of the vestry, and have both men and women currently serving on the vestry and taking on large responsibilities for the needs of the parish. Some have been ac-

tive in the altar guild. Choir members often volunteer as lectors. Choir members volunteer after the liturgy as counters, or see to it that the altar flowers are delivered to all the people who need our congregational care. Many of these singers have retired from their professions, while others are still active. They are both parents and grandparents, who are heavily committed to their families, both near and far away.



It takes all kinds of people to sing in this choir. Our singers have a full range of training. We have several who have music degrees and teach music. At the same time we have some who don't read music, and learn by ear as followers. The talent currently ranges between these two extremes. There are several singers who are also instrumentalists, including a lower brass

player, a cellist, a flutist, guitar players, and several who have keyboard skills. The talent range of our singers is commendable. These busy people make a very large commitment to their stewardship of our church. They rehearse every week for nearly 10 months of the year on Thursday evenings, and sing in every 9:30 liturgy on Sundays.

St. George's Choir is not a closed group, but on the other hand always welcomes new singers to its roster. If you are also a very busy person who likes to sing, then your presence is needed to become part of this singing fellowship. Let the choir master know of your interest in singing in the choir.



## Golf Tournament



The 12th Annual Bishop Ball Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 5, 2011 at the Western Turnpike Golf Course. The Cathedral of All Saints hosts this annual tournament to raise funds for their community outreach programs and ongoing restoration of their historic building. They are looking for corporate sponsors who would like to gain exposure for their business within the Albany community as well as participants who wish to join together for a common cause and renew friendships. Please see Neil Manning during coffee hour after the 9:30 service or stop by the parish office for a registration form.

## Altar Guild News:

\* The Altar Guild needs volunteers at all three services. Please contact Bonnie Gregory at [bonniegregory925@gmail.com](mailto:bonniegregory925@gmail.com) or talk to any Altar Guild member.

\* AG members, please advise Doris Halvorsen ([davhlv@aol.com](mailto:davhlv@aol.com)) before the 10th of the month if you plan to be on vacation the following month so she can schedule accordingly.



**ALTAR GUILD**

## Free Dinner

Empire Haiti Coalition – Free Dinner on May 4th at St. George's in Hatlee Hall. The newly formed Empire Haiti Coalition is a group of Episcopal Churches – including St. George's – and other organizations that have partnered with churches/schools in the Plateau Region of Haiti.

On May 4th, the coalition will be sponsoring a free soup and bread dinner beginning at 6:00 PM with a presentation of the work by Deacon Scott Underhill starting shortly afterwards. This is open to all, so bring the family. Other members of the coalition will be present also. Any questions, please see Deacons Scott or Maureen. Hope to see you on the 4th.



### **Empire Haiti Coalition**

#### **Partners:**

Cathedral of All Saints, Albany  
 St. Andrew's Church, Albany  
 St. George's Church, Clifton Park  
 St. John's Church, Troy  
 To Love a Child, Ballston Lake

#### **Contributors:**

Engineers for a Sustainable World  
 Engineers without Borders  
 General Electric  
 RPI, Troy  
 St. Andrew's Society



## Special Celebrations

### May Birthdays

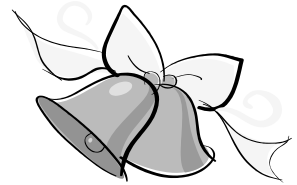
- 1 Noah Caney  
Ruth Kramek  
Donna Perry
- 2 Eileen Beach  
James Jordan  
Allison Underhill
- 3 Linda Jewett
- 4 Ani Crocker
- 5 Kate Ferris  
Sue Lessard
- 7 Tom Kuebler  
Jessica McCarthy
- 8 Raiden Westad
- 9 Brian Baird  
Bev Ross  
Karen Wolsey
- 10 Caitlin Doyle
- 11 Rylan Drake  
Peyton Riley
- 12 Madeline Andrus
- 13 Matthew Andrus  
Maureen Demler
- 15 Grace Krawiecki  
Jamie Weaver
- 14 John Anderson  
Doug Fare  
Chris McCabe  
Kirin Payne  
Melinda Reed  
Lorraine Simpkins
- 18 Karen Malcolm

- 20 Bonnie Conners  
Connor Olney  
Lynne Underhill
- 21 Cailan Drake  
Sue Mehringer
- 22 Joy Blanchet  
Colette Odell
- 23 Mtr. Karen Henry  
Sydney Leone
- 24 Susan Gray
- 25 Zachary Friedman
- 25 Jason Baird
- 26 Deb Wright
- 28 Tom Harding

- 14 Diane & Matt Baird
- 18 Jean & Michael Blinstrub
- 20 Barbara Bird &  
Alan Sternstein
- 22 Jen & Mike Leonard  
Monica Chaplin &  
Ed Morrison  
Judy & Don Nelson
- 24 Nancy & Don Jones
- 28 Louise & Bill Burns
- 31 Maureen & Randy Demler  
Diana & Dan Glaser

### Anniversaries

- 1 Fran & Gene Gordon
- 3 Denise & Bill Adams
- 4 Karen & John Croce
- 7 Peggy & Jim Patterson
- 8 Denise & John Anderson



### Milestones

*Let us pray for the children who will be Baptized in May...*

*Trevor William Leone, the son of Jason & Megan Miller Leone on May 14th,  
Gavin Robert Kennedy, the son of Todd & Venice Kennedy on May 15th,  
And Sophia Helen Vanko, the daughter of John & Erin Vanko on May 21st.*

*... that the Lord's loving kindness be upon them.*

*Let us pray for the repose of the soul of*

*Diane Peters, the mother of Jennifer Peters McCurry, who died on April 19th  
... that she may have a place in God's eternal kingdom. Pray also for her  
family that God's healing grace may soothe and comfort them.*



## **Letters**

*Dear St. George's Friends,*

Thank you for all of the cards, good wishes and delicious dishes delivered to our home during my recent 8 week recovery from my accident.

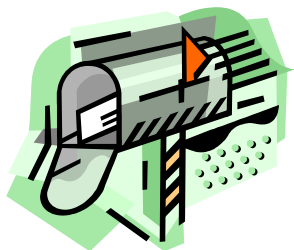
I learned how not being able to drive creates an extra burden in your life, especially since neither member of the Robbins household could

drive. A special thanks goes out to the many St. George's friends who helped us get to appointments and events and who checked on how we were managing. We are both very fortunate to have such wonderful, caring friends in our lives.

Finally, thanks to all who have kept us in their prayers for healing. It is truly a blessing to be a member of the St. George's family.

*Peace and Blessings,*

*Jo Anne and Zeb Robbins*



**Please read  
the very  
important  
notice  
below**

**And speaking of mail, for the June issue and the July/August issue of the Dragon's Tale, we are going to experiment with not sending it out as a bulk mailing. Those with computers can find the newsletter on our website so they can access their schedules and news there. If you don't have a computer, we offer 2 options. You can pick up your newsletter in the narthex or if you are unable to attend church services, we can mail your newsletter when you request it. Think of the paper we will save!!**

**<http://www.stgeorgescp.org/>**

## **Share Your Gifts!**

Stewardship is more than a church committee assigned to raise money for the budget. Christians are expected to act as responsible caretakers of everything we've been given by God. All have abilities to accomplish this work, and the apostle Paul reminds us that everyone, including children, must work together. Each of us holds an important role in Christ's mission.

With our abilities and talents, we can manage the earth. We can also manage our health, property, time and relationships. We do not grow spiritually without giving, not just monetary giving but giving of all of our gifts. We were made in the image of God and entrusted with the care of the earth and all that's in it, from the ozone to the starving child.

How are you managing your gifts? Have you considered joining the volunteers that will be working at cleaning up the ground outside and sprucing up the inside? Could you share your time and talent by serving on the Vestry? Would you volunteer to serve as a Dragon's Tale editor? Could you invite a friend to attend church with you and introduce that friend to your St. George's family? Have you kept your pledge up-to-date? Are you filling your United Thank Offering box, saying a prayer of Thanksgiving each time you deposit a coin? Would you give a special gift to Fr. Henry's discretionary fund to help provide a meal to a needy family? Are you attending and supporting our youth activities? Did you fill a shoebox and provide a very special Christmas gift to a special child in need? Would you be willing to chair an event like our Epiphany Auction or serve on an auction committee? Our choir needs singers, adult and youth. If you love to sing, would you join? Are you doing your part to support our mission efforts in Haiti?

**If you attend St. George's regularly, you can see Stewardship in action. What are *you* doing to share your gifts of time, talent and treasure?**



Date/ Time	Readers	Ushers	Altar Guild	Acolytes	Verger/Chalice	Counters
4/30 4:30	L. Gallagher	J. & M. Blinstrub	C. Barbour, <u>Captain</u> B. Conners		L. Wilson	
5/1 8:00	J. Evans	T. & N. Chrimes	J. Harrington	N. Johnston	J. Evans	
9:30	J. & A. Vargo	J. Gulyas J. McHale J. O'Brien M. Ehler	C. Barbour	E. Underhill J. Colvin S. Enriquez	P. Olszewski	M. Andrus J. O'Brien
5/7 4:30	H. Bonacquist	B. Bonacquist A. Sarnacki	B. Gregory, <u>Captain</u> L. Wilson		M. Andrus	
5/8 8:00	G. Heim	M. & L. Simpkins	C. Nickerson	T. Chrimes	J. Snyder	
9:30	P. & S. Aldrich	M. Andrus S. Barbour K. Bee T. Bena	B. Gregory R. Kuhne	C. Olney L. Barbour K. Bee	B. Turner	R. Wise A. Bee
5/14 4:30	J. Bucher	E. Kramek B. Wright	D. Erno, <u>Captain</u> D. Erno		J. Evans	
5/15 8:00	R. Demler	M. Andrus R. Demler	R. Day	R. Smith	P. Olszewski	
9:30	S. & C. Barbour	B. Wilcox C. Brych C. Crocker, Sr. C. Crocker, Jr.	M. Ehler	D. Harding M. Enriquez J. Ehler	M. Andrus	K. & A. Quail K. Bee
5/21 4:30	A. Sarnacki	S. Pryor J. Bucher	L. Wilson, <u>Captain</u> L. Wilson		J. Snyder	
5/22 8:00	M. Andrus	L. Miller B. Hartman	D. Halvorsen	N. Johnston	M. Andrus	
9:30	L. Gallagher C. Brych	S. Feeny G. Gordon J. Gulyas J. O'Brien	L. O'Brien	L. Barbour N. Olszewski R. Pollard	J. Evans	C. Evans J. Olney
5/28 4:30	C. Odell	M. & J. Blinstrub	A. Bee, <u>Captain</u> A. Bee		L. Wilson	
5/29 8:00	B. Smith	T. & N. Chrimes	B. Sovik	T. Chrimes	J. Evans	
9:30	K. Ferris M. Newman	B. Wilcox M. Andrus K. Bee T. Bena	T. Riley	J. Colvin M. Danz E. Underhill	B. Turner	S. Pryor A. Bee
6/4 4:30	H. Bonacquist	B. Bonacquist A. Sarnacki	J. Drake, <u>Captain</u> B. Conners		M. Andrus	
6/5 8:00	J. Evans	G. Heim B. Ross	L. Simpkins	R. Smith	J. Snyder	
9:30	D. & P. Jordan	C. Brych M. Ehler S. Feeny G. Gordon	J. Drake	K. Bee S. Enriquez C. Olney	P. Olszewski	

