



The Dragon's Tale

March 2011

St. George's
Episcopal Church
912 Route 146
Clifton Park, NY 12065

Rector's Remarks

Ash Wednesday is March 9th, and with that a whirlwind of new activity starts at St. George's! I remember that in seminary we were encouraged not only to give up something for Lent, but to take something on as well. We were so smart, some of us said we would give up class and take on an extra meal. Not quite the intention, although seminarians are always hungry! The intention was for us to experience a new way of doing things and to encounter the presence of God in all that unfolded. Your reflection on "God in my life this week" is a good place to start and one way to initiate something new as a Lenten discipline.

As we enter the season, you will be seeing, hearing and even experiencing some new things. Our seven vergers have been trained and commissioned and will be serving at all liturgies, beginning this season. So if you see a new face serving at the altar with a verger's scapular under it (a verger's scapular is a long panel garment that has a dragon shield on it, worn over the alb), introduce yourself and say hello.

The E-100 initiative will be launched on the First Sunday of Lent as a way to practically address the process of drawing closer to God and building community. More on this in church and in the bulletin.

This Lent I will be preaching a series of sermons designed to address the practicalities of the faith as we really live it, need it, use it, and celebrate it in the everyday world.

Our Palm Sunday liturgy will be different, in that the Passion will be highlighted, and the parts for the Passion will be important to us in its telling. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex later in the season. The Stations of the Cross will be offered Wednesdays at 11:45 am and Fridays at 7:00 pm. More on the Lenten schedule of worship is on another page in this issue.

Sign-up sheets for the Vigil in the chapel from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday morning will also be up in the narthex later in the season.

The Chapel Cross has been repainted by Cathy Fare, and is now bright and alive, drawing us to it in remembrance of the sacrifice made there for us which won our salvation.

Our focus for the remainder of the year will center on Evangelism and Congregational Development. What are we doing right and how can we be more effective for the sake of the Gospel. Pray for the wardens and vestry as we begin this new work, and pray for the evangelism team as they help us discern God's call to us in this place.

What will you take on for Lent? Maybe something as simple as saying your prayers with a deeper devotion. I will join you in that, as always.



March Readings

Last Epiphany

March 6th

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday

March 9th

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 103
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent

March 13th

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Second Sunday in Lent

March 20th

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Third Sunday in Lent

March 27th

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Fourth Sunday in Lent

April 3rd

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Flower Delivery

Lil Gallagher March 6

Announcing

A Cabaret

St. George's Hatlee Hall Saturday May 14, 2011

**Do you sing in the shower?
Do you play an instrument?
Are you a good story teller?**

**Do you have a great act which has never
been performed before an audience?**

This spring you have an opportunity to do so. Everybody at any age is invited to prepare An Act for the Cabaret, now in preparation for May 14th. We expect to see a variety of Acts from the whole spectrum of our congregation. This is expressly not a choir show. This is an invitation for you to participate in an evening that is meant to provide fun and hilarity for our whole congregation.

You can find a form in the Narthex which you can use to register your Act. Simply complete the form and get it to Herb Fowler. You can use the offering plates for this purpose.

So start putting your act together TODAY!



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT.....

*By the waters of Babylon we sat down
and wept when we remembered you, O
Zion.*

*As for our harps, we hung them up
on the trees in the midst of that land.
How shall we sing the Lord's song
upon an alien soul?*

Lent for Christians feels a lot like the Babylon captivity for the Hebrew people, as quoted above in Psalm 137. It is a time when we put away our rituals of joy, when we contemplate the captivity of our sinful lives.

Our Lenten practices are strongly reflected in the style of our liturgies. We could say we fast liturgically in the following ways:

We neither sing nor say the resurrection word: Alleluia!

Our Liturgical procession is in silence, and it leads directly to a recitation of the Decalogue [The 10 Commandments.]

We say rather than sing the psalms.

The *Sursum Corda* is said, rather than sung. [The dialogue between priest and congregation that begins the Great Thanksgiving at our eucharistic liturgy]

Music for choirs, as well as hymns is restrained; it focuses on the saving acts of God Almighty upon the cross; It focuses upon our own salvation.

The organ is silenced. That means that the mixtures and chorus reeds - all which provide brilliance - are withheld from all organ music. Postludes are withheld, and we are dismissed simply with a short organ 'Amen'

[German organ builders recognized the need for this Lenten practice by providing large 'doors' on the organ case which could be closed over the organ pipes.

That resulted in a 'muffled' or hushed organ sound.] In other words, all

exuberance in music was stifled.

The result is a simplification of our liturgical style that allows us to focus upon the the central 'things' of our liturgy, the speaking of the Word to us, and the Holy meal that follows.

Last year I had a conversation with a faithful member who remarked that the current style of our Lenten music was not nearly as dark as has been in other years. It is always easy is to make a mistake between the music of Lent and the days between Palm/Passion Sunday and the Easter Vigil.

Lenten music should not ever be confused with Passion music, that music that expresses our pain in the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Lenten music is not music for Jesus' funeral. Lenten music expresses two things:

our sorrow and regret of our sin in our lives

Our marvel and speechlessness over the miracle of our salvation - simply God's gift of grace in our lives.

This year's readings [year A] provides us a particular expression of joy - the lessons from St. John related to our baptism. They are: the healing of the blind man at the pool called 'sent'; the Samaritan woman at the well; and the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Herbert O. Fowler
Organist Choir Master





March Birthdays Cont'd

- 19 Corey Gray
Nancy Snow
- 20 Karlee Rockstroh
- 21 Ken Bee
Barry McCabe
Brooke Riley
- 22 Rebecca Feeny
Kelly Moen
Donald Weyand
- 23 Herman Sabourin
Kimberly Watson
- 26 Dee Ann Erno
- 27 Erin Gray
Linda Miller
- 28 Adam Payne
- 30 Jean Nightingale
- 31 Andrew Syvertsen

March Anniversaries

- 13 Timothy & Blaine Kaercher
- 15 Tom & Jessica McCarthy
- 28 George & Melissa Ehler



March Birthdays

- 1 Emma Andrus
- 2 Michael Danz
Maureen Gennett
J. J. Gulyas
Alex Kinley
Amanda Underhill
- 3 Jacob Evans
- 5 Rosemarie Casale
Brian Harding
- 7 George Ehler
Mary Golden
Carol List
Tyler McFarland
Scott Underhill
- 8 Alec Dowd
Lorelei Landau
Joely Morrison
- 9 Bette Sovik
- 10 Matthew Alheim
Nancy Henches
- 11 Howard Gates
Hannah Leone
Jack Underhill
- 12 Jennifer Andrus
- 14 Sam Aldrich
Mark Cozzens
- 15 John Burgess
- 16 Cynthia DiDonna-Drake
Kenneth Syvertsen
- 17 Nicole Adams
Zachary Cozzens
Colin McCabe
August Quail
Sarah Watson

**Mother Karen,
Order of St Luke,
invites you to:**

“A Healing Quiet Day”

Saturday, March 19, 2011

8:45 a.m. – noon

**St. George's Episcopal Church
912 Route 146, Clifton Park, NY**

**Teachings and Meditations
Time for Reflection and Prayer
Healing Teams Available**

**For more information call:
399-9827, or email mdemler@nycap.rr.com.**



Property Points To Consider

Just one single complaint.....Our main issue with this huge property is that **NOBODY CAN FIND THE OWNER'S MANUAL**. No one said when the faucets would wear out or how often to shovel sidewalks or that roof must be shoveled when it snows 40 inches in two months. Nobody said expect little creatures can find their way into the framing or that grass must be fed then mowed repeatedly. Consequently we react and work and work and repair and clean and work and ask God for strength to repeat as necessary. We ask God to send volunteers to set-up or financial support or participants for all our activities. Anyhow, if you see your fellow parishioner with broom, wrench, Bible, mop, lawn mower, dust cloth or shovel, computer, or chalk.... smile and understand that's God's team working to keep his house running without an owner's manual.

SERIOUSLY.....The tasks at hand are not optional, the very health of our buildings' occupants, often your children and friends, numbering hundreds per week depends on clean halls, restrooms, and kitchens with all equipment in working order. In my many years here at St George's, I never knew the Town runs an annual inspection to renew our occupancy permit. To the town it's a safety issue and should be to all of us. Outside, the exterior must be swept, plowed, salted and cleared continually to allow access to the facilities. Repairs are constantly undertaken as floor, equipment, appliances, sidewalks and equipment "ages" to the point of replacement. It all adds up to a constant busy-ness.

By the time you read this we will know whether or not the congregation at St Georges Episcopal Church - Clifton Park location was able to rally around the idea that volunteerism is a cost effective measure. We mean by that **NOT** volunteering to help with building and grounds can be a very expensive proposition., ie Hiring outside help. Have you tried to get help from an electrician, plumber, yardman, or perhaps house-work help? Then you understand every hour saved is money not turned away from Outreach or Mission or Worship or Fellowship, etc.

**** **Bulletin---** Latest update on Sexton-Substitute Signups. As of the end of week one I am happy to report the congregation has rallied to support the endeavor. It is not easy work, from personal experience, I have found a new respect for the way Tim has smoothly handled it. The janitor closet in Hatlee reveals much about Tim's work ethic. One finds, in addition to the expected sundries, an emergency repair kit for plumbing or lights or repairs to doors or restroom hardware. You'll also find a drill being charged; quietly waiting for the next call-to-duty. We can all learn a lot looking over Tim's broad shoulders day-to day. Thanks Tim!

I am sorry I am not able to personally thank each and every person who has contributed time, prayer or money to the cause of keeping our worship place running. Know you are appreciated by all of us. If you see an Owners Manual, let me know.

Best regards,
Dave Blanchet

Milestones: Let us pray for

Baptisms

Alana Judith Shepard, the daughter of Stacey and Dan Shepard,

And also

Sydney Ryann LoPresti and Samuel Glenn LoPresti, the children of Gina and Michael LoPresti, ...*who were baptized in February, that the Lord's loving kindness be upon them.*

...for the repose of the soul of Frank E. Demler, the father of Randy Demler, who died January 13th ... *that he may have a place in God's eternal kingdom. Pray also for his family that God's healing grace may soothe and comfort them.*

Our Mission Statement:

St. George's is a family of disciples joyfully reaching out in love to nurture, teach and heal in Jesus' Name.



The Epiphany Auction:

Adult Auction, Saturday, April 2nd - 5:30 PM, Hatlee Hall

Children's Auction, Sunday, April 3rd - 10:30 AM, Hatlee Hall

Epiphany Auction Baskets

The Epiphany Fund Auction has been the major fund-raiser for St. George's outreach for many years. Two years ago, the auction planning team decided that one of the major components of the silent auction would be themed auction baskets. Themes such as a gourmet candy basket, a coffee theme basket, a live pet basket, a golf basket, a wellness basket, a bathe in luxury basket, a family night basket and a gardening basket have been created by the auction team and suggestions for basket ingredients listed on decorative basket tags.

For example, items that follow the theme of gardening could include garden gloves, a small shovel, a spray attachment for the hose, seed packets, a seed catalog, a kneeling pad and sun visor. The basket could be a large planter. The live pet basket could include a hamster hutch, hamster food and a certificate to a pet store for a live hamster. The suggestions on the tag are simply that – SUGGESTIONS. If you have another idea for the basket theme you select, terrific! Be creative and have fun!

Baskets and silent auctions were made for each other! Not only are these gift baskets colorful and make stunning presentations, but collecting items for a basket can be a challenging and rewarding experience for a family or a group of friends and the end results are worth the effort. Last year, we had 26 unique baskets created for the adult auction and 23 baskets for the children's auction. In addition, each Sunday School class created unbelievably creative baskets.

Following all services, a basket tag display will be available in the narthex (4:30 service) and in Hatlee Hall following both Sunday services.

This is your opportunity to commit to the creation of a basket for the auction scheduled for Saturday, April 2nd (Adult Auction following the 4:30 service) and Sunday, April 3rd (Children's Auction following the 9:30 service).

As you probably already know, at the silent auction, a minimum bid for each basket is written at the top of each bid sheet. This year when you put a basket together, please keep track of your expenses and note on the back of your completed basket tag the value of your basket so the committee can come up with a realistic minimum bid. Also, don't forget to put your name on the basket list when you take a tag so we know who is creating each basket.

Other Auction Donations

In addition to the gift baskets, we are also looking for donations for our three auctions.:

The **live auction** will be reserved for unique offerings of vacation homes, dining extravaganzas, designer jewelry and very special events or services.

Our **silent auction** will include gifts of time, talent or treasure from parishioners and donations of products and services from local businesses.

Finally, our **Chinese auction** will include food items, gift certificates, books, CDs, games and hand-made gifts valued under \$20.00. For ideas regarding these items, last year's auction booklets may be viewed or down-loaded from our web site <http://www.stgeorgescp.org>.



Epiphany Auction Continued

Here are some suggestions for possible auction donations:

Knit a scarf
Frame a piece of art that you or your child has created
Offer to cook for a dinner party
Provide musical entertainment for a birthday party
Paint a room in someone's home
Offer a sailing excursion on your boat
Go in with a few other St. George's families and

Provide a few hours of graphic design consulting
Offer a round of golf at your club or the local golf course
Offer music or voice lessons
Offer tutoring sessions in your area of expertise
Donate a bottle of wine
Donate theater tickets or baseball or football tickets
Give a gift certificate
Create a quilt
Donate food for the event
Donate cash to help defray auction expenses

Toward the Future in the Parish School's Move Toward the Future: Neuroscience and the Globe

Looking inwards: We continue to explore how we should be educating our students? In the next few years as the digital world expands its influence, we need to look both within and beyond. New research from neuroscience about learning has important implications for how teaching and parenting could be more effective. We are thrilled to announce that an international specialist in the application of neuroscience to raising children has agreed to offer a free presentation on Friday, April 8 at St. George's. All are welcome to attend. Stay tuned for details.

Looking to the world: *Kid's Plaza Magazine* is now available for free in local Price Chopper stores and features the global mission of our school and the hopes of Head Teacher, Sheray Tario, and Melanie Sonongo, to teach global awareness in their differing Kindergartens-- Clifton Park, NY and Bamako, Mali.

Enrollment is growing well with 7 new families registered for next year for a total of 13 to date.

Thank you to all who have picked a flower petal from our flower display in the Narthex. Every item donated helps us to buy classroom materials. We hope also to begin the next year with funds to set aside for financial aid. One source of these funds will come from **Sin-A-Bun** sales on March 5 & 6 after worship. Come early and treat friends and family to a splurge before Lent.

Bookcase donations warmly welcomed!-- short and tall. We could arrange pick up.

Peace,

Phyllis Aldrich



Financial Independence. It is Women's Work

Did you know that women make approximately 83% of household buying decisions?¹ And, according to the latest estimates, women outlive men by an average of seven years. That means many women who retire at age 65 may need more retirement savings than they think.

For these and other reasons, it's important for women to have a good understanding of their finances, including budgeting, net worth and investment principles, along with family and financial considerations.

Join us for a free workshop

"Financial Independence. It is Women's Work" is an educational workshop developed with the financial needs of both single and married women in mind. The workshop gives participants a basic understanding of how to:

- Reduce financial worries by defining their goals.
- Avoid potential financial challenges.
- Develop a sound savings and investment strategy.

The one-hour workshop will be presented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative Paula-Christy Heighton and is sponsored by St. George's Rector.

When: Tuesday, March 15 (snow date March 29), 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Where: St. George's Library
Refreshments will be served afterward.

Sign up for this free workshop today! Contact Kate Ferris at 893-0558 or email kferis2@nycap.rr.com by March 6 to reserve your seat.

¹ Delia Passi, *Winning the toughest customer; Selling financial services to women*, Kaplan Publishing, 2006.

The workshop "Financial Independence. It is Women's Work," is intended only to educate you about financial decisions. It is broad in scope and does not consider your individual personal financial situation, which is unique. The information and advice may not be appropriate in all cases. No products will be offered for sale.

Thank You Notes:

St. George's Church,
Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers you sent us in honor of our new grandson, Peter Sievers. We were very touched by your thoughtfulness.
Doug and Kathy Wood

Thank you to the Community of St. George's for your ongoing support of the Medical Mission to the Dominican Republic. We have collected enough supplies for 250 personal care bags, medicines, as well as many supplies for the school. This is the 9th

year that members of St. George's Church have participated in this mission trip, and the 13th year that the Diocese of Albany has had a medical mission team visiting the DR. Your ongoing support means so much to so many who come to our clinics for their yearly (and only) medical follow up. Please keep the entire team in your prayers during our travels from February 25th- March 6th, that our hands may do God's work.

Susan Olszewski, Anne Bena, Peggy Schrom
LaBarr



Date/Time		Acolyte	Chalice	Readers	Ushers	Joyful Journey	Altar Guild
3/5	4:30		J. Evans	Jacob Evans	Tom Kuebler, Ed Kramek		L. Wilson
3/6	8:00	T. Chrimes	J. Snyder	Bob Smith	Mark & Lorraine Simpkins		J. Harrington
3/6	9:30	J. Ehler (1) D. Harding (2) M. Danz (3)	B. Turner	Cheryl and Scott Barbour	J O'Brien, B Wilcox, M Andrus, K Bee	H Brewer	T. Riley B. Gregory
3/9 Ash Wed	7:00 9:00 12:30		J. Snyder Deacon	Randy Demler Linda Wilson Colette Odell	Steve Pryor		D. Halvorsen Linda Wilson TBD
3/9	7:30pm	L. Barbour (1) R. Pollard (2) S. Enriquez (3)	J. Evans	Cheryl and Scott Barbour	Gene Gordon Ken Bee		Judy Drake
3/12	4:30		L. Wilson	Heidi Bonacquist	Bruce Bonacquist & Alfie Sarnacki		D. Erno
3/13	8:00	N. Johnston	B. Turner	Jacob Evans	Gail Heim, Bev Ross		C. Nickerson
3/13	9:30	E. Underhill (1) C. Onley (2) M. Enriquez (3)	M. Andrus	Lynne & Tyler Olney	Scott Barbour, Tom Bena, Charla Brych, Joe Guylas	M Chaplin	M. Ehler L. O'Brien
3/19	4:30		J. Snyder	Lil Gallagher	Jean & Michael Blinstrub		A. Bee
3/20	8:00	R. Smith	J. Evans	Matt Andrus	Bob Wright, Matt Andrus		R. Day
3/20	9:30	P. Bee (1) J. Colvin (2) K. Bee (3)	P. Olszewski	Peter Olszewski JoAnne Robbins	Jack McHale, John O'Brien, Bob Wilcox, Ken Bee	D Glaser	R. Kuhne C. Barbour
3/26	4:30		L. Wilson	Linda Wilson	Ed Kramek, Tom Kuebler		L. Wilson
3/27	8:00	T. Chrimes	M. Andrus	Gail Heim	Barbara Hartman, Linda Miller		D. Halvorsen
3/27	9:30	N. Olszewski (1) J. Ehler (2) D. Harding (3)	B. Turner	Russ Wise Bob Wilcox	Chris Crocker Sr, Chris Crocker Jr, Scott Barbour, Tom Bena	E Malinowski	J. Drake T. Riley
4/2	4:30		L. Wilson	Alfie Sarnacki	Steve Pryor, Bob Wright		A. Bee
4/3	8:00	N. Johnston	J. Snyder	Randy Demler	Randy Demler, Matt Andrus		B. Sovik
4/3	9:30	M. Danz (1) L. Barbour (2) R. Pollard (3)	J. Evans	Phyllis and Sam Aldrich	Charla Brych, Melissa Ehler, Sean Feeny, Gene Gordon	H Friedman	B. Gregory



Date/Time		Altar Bread	Coffee Hour	Counters	Nursery	Kitchen Crew	Sunday Bakers
3/5	4:30	Lynne Underhill		M. Andrus, J. O'Brien			
3/6	8:00		G Heim B Ross		Heidi Brewer A Underhill		S Keyes D Giannantonio S Brooks
3/6	9:30		J Granger N Manning				
3/9	7:00 9:00 12:30	Sue Brooks					
3/9	7:30 pm						
3/12	4:30	Kathy Wood		R. Wise, A. Bee		L Gallagher C Wilcox	
3/13	8:00		B Sovik		Tonya Manning Becca Pollard		J Bailey D Glaser K Lyden
3/13	9:30		G Ehler P Olszewski				
3/19	4:30	Jean Blinstrub					
3/20	8:00		N Manning	K & A Quail, K. Bee	Cindy Drake Justin Dowd		B Knight J Andrus N Kruse
3/20	9:30		N Henches C VanderVeer				
3/26	4:30	Phyllis Aldrich				S & D Spitzer	
3/27	8:00		J Granger	C. Evans, J. Olney	Megan Collins		K Quail L Landau B Burns
3/27	9:30		Youth Group				
4/2	4:30	Linda Wilson					
4/3	8:00		G Heim B Ross				Beacon Pointe R Casale J Blanchet
4/3	9:30		J Granger N Manning				