



# The Dragon's Tale

## September 2011

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

### Rector's Remarks

#### **Confirmation, Reception, or Renewal of Baptismal Vows; which is right for me?**

When you hear the words "Confirmation Class", do you groan? Are you unsure of the difference between Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows? Ever wonder what it takes to be a member of St. George's?

Well, we were wondering too. So this year we're going to offer something different. The bullet points are below for easy reference. Please know you're invited to attend the sessions and see where this takes you.

- We want to realize what it is to be part of a larger church family and what it means to be an integral member of St. George's faith community.
- We need to claim the faith as young adult and adult members of St. George's.
- We need to make progress in our own faith journeys.
- We need to offer the opportunity to make and claim basic faith statements.
- We will discuss the basics of the faith/worship/tradition/experience to understand the faith from the beginning with no frills.
- We need to know what it's like to be an active member of a faith community.
- We expect the sessions will give the tools to craft a basic profession of faith.
- This will not be a classroom with facts to memorize.
- This is about discovering a community with a faith life to share.
- We'll learn the difference between Confirmation, Reception, and Renewal of Baptismal vows.
- We will meet Sundays from 10:45 to 11:30 am.
- We will meet in the side chapel in the main sanctuary.
- Our first meeting is Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- We will meet from September to May when Sunday School is in session.
- We will be intergenerational, teenagers and adults.
- Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows will be sometime in the Spring, details to follow when we receive them.
- The sessions will be led by the clergy and people of St. George's.
- All sessions call us to seriously consider the impact of God on us in this faith community.

Please plan to attend. **Inquirers are always welcome.**

You can communicate with us at [office@stgeorgescp.org](mailto:office@stgeorgescp.org).  
We look forward to seeing you with us.

Fr. Henry and Abby Bee

#### **Our Mission Statement:**

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



## Notes on the Crucifix in the Chapel

### Saint John the Baptist

St. John bows in intercession, asking Christ for mercy to mankind. John is depicted with wings, as the Greek word for messenger is "angelos" or angel. He holds a chalice bearing Christ. His Scroll reads: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

The decorative border separates the sacred images from the outside world.

### Mysteries of Christ and His Mother

Events in the life of Christ and Mary are shown in six medallions (clockwise from lower left) depict the Annunciation, the Circumcision, Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and Baptism of Christ. Larger medallions (bottom) depict Mary's Assumption and (upper) her coronation.

### Descent Into Hell and Resurrection

Christ's triumph over death through his descent into Hell and his redemption of many by his act of raising Adam and Ever are depicted in this icon. Abel, the first to encounter death, stands behind his mother Eve, on the right; St. John the Baptist witnesses Adam's redemption.

### Center Crucifix

The cross depicts from top to bottom: God the Father, the Holy Spirit as a dove, adoring angels. Christ Crucified with sun and moon at the extremities of his arms, lance and sponge at his side, the city of Jerusalem on the lower cross-bar and Adam's skull below, as Christ, the new Adam, was said to be buried where Adam was.

### Christ and Saints

Christ as Judge is shown with Mary at his left and St. John the Baptist at his far right. The saints include Michael, Gabriel, Peter, Paul, John the Evangelist, John Chrysostom, Nicholas and others.

### Madonna of the Intercession

Mary bows in intercession and points her hand to a tablet which reads: "Most merciful Master, hear your mother's prayers." She asks Christ to be merciful to mankind. The decorative border separates the sacred image from the outside world.

### Christ Pantocrator

Christ is portrayed as Pantocrator. His open book reads: "Come to me all of you who labor and are burdened and I will refresh you." The Decorative border separates the sacred image from the outside world.

### Resurrection and Ascension

The Resurrection is portrayed on the lower portion with Jesus raising the dead to life and bringing them to the company of the saints on the right side. In the Ascension scene above, we see on the left side and angel avenging evil with a sword and God the Father awaiting Christ's return to heaven, with a six-winged angel on the right side.

### Michael - The Archangel

St. Michael dressed as a Byzantine Prince carries a scepter and a seal bearing the name of Jesus. Saints hold swords, as a symbol of their power to resist evil.



## Haiti Update

### **Deacon Scott Underhill**

In August 2010, St. George's entered into a partnership with St. Philippe and St. Jacques of Corosse, Haiti. Over the past year, over \$6,000 has been raised to purchase school supplies for the children, pay for the five teacher's salary for each month (\$75/month/teacher), provide water disinfection tables and water filtration systems and visit the village in February 2011.

After the visit in February, the need for a clean water supply became apparent as several of the villagers died from cholera, which has taken the lives of over 4,000 Haitians. The goal for 2011 is to install a water treatment system in the village. The water treatment system will consist of a concrete groundwater collection box (to reduce the potential for contamination) at a seep on the mountainside above the village, piping the water to church, treating the water through a sand filter (at flow of 2 gpm to remove bacteria), and providing a distribution point for all villagers to access the potable water. The design, purchase and installation of the water system is being coordinated with my company AECOM, where a team of 15 engineers, geologist and scientist are working on the project. The cost of the water project is estimated at \$12,000-\$15,000.

While water is currently at the forefront of the partnership, the need to continue to provide support of the school still exists. To help with this endeavor, several mechanisms will be available for St. George's member to contribute.

These include:

1. Pray – our brothers and sisters in Christ live in a much different world than we do, but our goal is the same: to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray that we can provide them some hope on this earth.
2. Pennies of Philippe – this is a continuation of last year's successful program with children brought in spare change and deposited in cans located in classrooms or in the jar in the Narthex. This raised over \$400 last year!
3. Dollar a Day for Haiti – this is a new program for adults/families to commit to donating \$1 per day (\$365/year) to the school partnership. Donations can be made in the jar in the Narthex or checks can be made out to St. George's with Haiti Partnership in the subject line.
4. Random donations – all donations (checks can be made out to St. Georges with Haiti Partnership in subject line) go directly to the church/school in Corosse.

The next trip to Corosse is being planned for January 2012 for the installation of the water system. Future trips will focus on other issues in the community including health/medical, agriculture, education, and solar. If interested in being involved in the partnership, please see either Deacon Maureen or myself.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- 3 Ed Brych
- 4 Clark Davis  
Allison Leonard  
Kathleen Quail
- 5 Wayne Diesel  
Linda Sagendorf
- 6 Brian Caney
- 7 Abigail Bee  
Edward Nalwasky
- 8 Karen Croce
- 9 Nancy Jones
- 10 Patricia Ashline
- 12 Pam McCabe  
Katharine Rockstroh
- 13 Tom Bena  
Cindy Hoetzer  
Tim Schlachter
- 14 Vickye Eckert  
Al Harding  
Chris Schmid
- 17 Marge Bates
- 19 Donna Shost
- 20 Diane Betzwieser  
Jacquie Gallo  
Morgan Syvertsen
- 21 Ed Johnston
- 22 Bob Wright
- 25 Bonnie Gregory  
Margaret Newman
- 27 Logan Drake  
Caitlin O'Brien  
Lula Polezoes
- 28 Monica Chaplin
- 29 John Snyder

### Birthdays Cont'd

- 30 Logan Barbour  
Betty DeRusso  
Gail Heim  
Jim Robert  
Amy Vargo

### September Anniversaries

- 3 Anne & Dino Wagle
- 4 Susan & Randy Gray
- 9 Elizabeth & Joe Cannistraci
- 12 Kim & Dave Watson
- 13 Bonnie & Don Conners
- 14 Kate Ferris & Tim  
Schlachter
- 21 Peggy Schrom-LaBarr &  
Edward LaBarr
- 21 Jamie & Daniel Weaver
- 23 Norma & Ted Chrimes  
Collette & Kenneth Syvertsen
- 24 Abby & Ken Bee  
Laura & Ryan Davis
- 27 Kathy & Doug Wood
- 29 Carlene & Jacob Evans

### Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

- September 11th Parish Picnic
- September 14th 10:30 Women's  
Bible Study  
(All women are welcome to join)  
Having a Mary Heart in a Martha  
World
- September 18th Sunday School  
begins

### St. George's Staff

The Rev. John Henry, Rector  
rectorstgeorge@cstdsl.net  
The Rev. Karen E.J. Henry,  
Priest Associate  
Our Deacons:  
The Rev. Maureen Demler  
The Rev. Robert Roach  
The Rev. Scott Underhill  
Carly Dowd, Youth Ministry  
Leader

Parish Administrator, Sue  
Walthers

Sexton, Tim Schlachter

Sunday School Coordinators,

Kelly Moen & Lynne Olney

Treasurer, Jack Underhill

Asst. Treasurer, Ted Chrimes

St. George's School, Phyllis Al-  
drich

St. George's Pre-school, Carly  
Dowd

### Contact Information

Parish Office  
Phone: 518.371.6351  
Email: stgeorgeofc@gmail.com

### Our Website:

www.stgeorgescp.org

### Other Ministries

Acolytes, John Snyder

Altar Bread, Matt Andrus

Altar Guild, Bonnie Gregory

Flower Delivery, Carol Van-  
derVeer

Nursery, Jen Andrus

Prayer Requests, Alfie Sarnacki,  
Sue Walthers

Readers & Ushers, Matt Andrus

Leaders of Stephen Ministers,

Fran Gordon, Gail Heim and Bev  
Ross

Dragon's Tale Editor



## **And Now An Update from our Youth Leader:**

As I reflect back on the summer and how quickly it passed, I can't help but smile and feel blessed as I think about the time I spent with the youth of our church.

Beginning in early July, Deacon Scott and I began to meet with several members of our Youth Group every Friday afternoon. We would gather at St. George's for an hour long Bible study and then head out to a fellow parishioner's house to lend a hand. We had the great pleasure to visit four homes and weed, plant, and do just about any other task that we were assigned.

It was such a great feeling to be a part of and watch the young men and women of our parish reach out and help others in our church community. They quickly realized that many hands made very light work and saw first hand how their simple acts brought such joy to those who they served. We ended each week with some sort of meal or snack and even found the time to play some frisbee and swim.

Many thanks go out to the adults who helped to transport us to and from these events and also to all the teens who gave their time to do this.

The first week of August I had the privilege to once again travel with our youth to Washington DC for a Mission Trip. In all, 16 of us ventured out and had life-changing experiences throughout the week. We lived with and served the DC community alongside two other church groups from Wisconsin and North Carolina and an amazing staff from Youthworks.

Some of the sites we visited were a homeless shelter, a daycare, a rehab center, a food bank, a community park and an day program for Alzheimer's patients. The time we spent at these places helps to remind us to see the love and joy that life has to offer all of us as well as to be grateful for the blessings that we have been given.

Be on the lookout for a recharged and fired-up Youth Group here at St. George's in the weeks and months to come! As always, ALL youth grades 6 and up are invited, and encouraged, to attend any of our activities. We want you to grow with us!

Blessings to you all and many thanks for your continued prayers for our youth,  
~Carly

## **News from the St. George's Preschool**

With the end of Summer upon us, we eagerly await the arrival of our new and returning preschoolers. We are pleased to welcome back Miss Carol, Miss Anna, Miss Kristyn, Miss Honey and Miss Trish to our staff.

If you haven't noticed yet, there have been some changes in Randles Hall beyond the hallway! In August the Preschool staff spent three days giving the bathrooms and Preschool room fresh coats of paint. Over the course of those three days several school families were in and out and commented on how great it all looked and how bright and inviting it was. Thank you to the parish angels for their hard work on the hallway and to the Preschool teachers for giving their time to make this happen.

Soon little voices and lots of laughter will once again fill our hallways. I know I speak for the entire staff when I say that we are looking forward to a successful tenth year and continuing to provide the children of our community a great preschool experience. Please feel free to stop by and check out our new classroom or just to say hello!

~Carly

Thank you notes

To the wonderful folks who provide the Sunday Senior Lunches,

Thank you and God Bless you all for taking your time to serve us dinner on such a beautiful day.  
Love you all,  
The Shen Village gang

St. George's Youth Group,  
Thank you all so much for helping Ted & Norma Chrimes with their garden. It meant so much to then to know you all cared about them. There just aren't words to express how much it meant to them.

Dad and Mom have always helped out with many things at church. Mom working on dinner, coffee hour and many other projects. Dad was the treasurer, acolyte, you name it—they were there. I grew up as a part of St. George's family, singing in choir, teaching Sunday School and I even met my husband at youth group. Youth group was an important part of our growing up and really learning to love Jesus. We also learned a lot about how to live a Christ centered life and taking time to help all kinds of people. I am so very proud of all of you.

God Bless you all!  
Diane (Chrimes) Payne

*We wish to thank our Church family for all your thoughts and prayers at our time of loss. The flowers remind us daily how blessed we are to have such caring friends.*

*Love*

*Donna and. Richard Perry*

Dear Fr. Henry & friends at St. George's,  
Thank you so much for your partnership with the Rescue Mission. You are making a difference to hungry & discouraged souls—you are offering practical help & hope.  
Thank you for sharing your blessings!

Capital City Rescue Mission, Albany



Don't forget!  
Everyone is invited to  
Our Annual church Picnic  
On September 11th after the  
9:30 service.

Bring a dish to share and we  
will supply hotdogs and  
hamburgers!

**Milestones:**

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

Louise Fletcher, the sister of Cathy Fare, who died on June 23rd.

Elizabeth Ohlson, the mother of Janet Knight, who died on July 16th.

And Raymond Styczynski, the brother of Donna Perry, who died on August 11th.

*... that they may have a place in God's eternal kingdom. Pray also for their families that God's healing grace may soothe and comfort them.*

*Let us pray for the Baptisms of:*

Eli Jacob Williams, the son of Craig Williams and Melana Maracchion, on July 9th,

And Jackson Christopher Hicks, the son of Bryce & Emily Hicks, on August 14th,

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

<b>Sept. 4, 2011</b>	Labor Day Weekend Services here at St. George's	<b>Feb. 26</b>	Lent I
11	Parish Picnic, Sunday School Registration, Friendship Sunday	<b>March 4</b>	Lent II
18	Sunday School resumes, Choir resumes Begin Confirmation/Inquirer's Class 10:45 am	11	Lent III Senior Luncheon DST Begins Girl Scout Sunday, Centennial Celebration
25	Inquirer's Class continues 10:45-11:30 am to May	18	Lent IV Epiphany Auction
		25	Lent V

<b>Oct. 2</b>	Blessing of the Animals, St. Francis Day (trans)	<b>April 1</b>	Palm Sunday
9	Senior Luncheon / No Sunday School	8	Easter Day * No Sunday School
16	Fall Stewardship Campaign begins	15	Easter II
23		22	Easter III

30		29	Easter IV
<b>Nov. 6</b>	All Saints Sunday * DST ends	<b>May 6</b>	Easter V Mother's Day
13	Scottish Liturgy,	13	Easter VI Rogation Sunday ,Mother's Day Senior Luncheon
20	Christ the King, Senior Luncheon	20	Easter VII 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion,

27	Advent I-Begin Year B No Sunday School	27	Pentecost* Memorial Day Weekend No Sunday School
<b>Dec. 4</b>	Advent II	<b>Jun. 3</b>	Trinity Sunday* Rite 13 Celebration
11	Advent III	10	2 Pentecost Proper 5 B Senior Luncheon
18	Advent IV Greening of the Church 10:45 am. Senior Luncheon	17	3 Pentecost Last day of Sunday School, Last day of Choir, Father's Day
25	Christmas Day 10:00 am service only, No Sunday School	24	4 Pentecost

<b>Jan.1, 2012</b>	1 Christmas, Regular Service schedule resumes, No Sunday School	<b>July 1</b>	Regular Service Schedule at St. George's
8	I Epiphany * Un-greening of the church 10:45 am	8	Senior Luncheon
15	II Epiphany, Senior Luncheon, No Sunday School	15	
22	III Epiphany Annual Parish Meeting	22	

\*There are no baptisms currently scheduled. These are simply the most appropriate days for baptisms.

Calendar subject to change, updates in the weekly bulletin and Dragon's Tale.  
Updated: August 23, 2011 JH+

August 5  
August 12 Senior Lunch  
August 19  
August 26



## News from the K-2 School

After a triumphant finish to our first year, our parents' exit surveys were unanimous in reporting on their child's extraordinary growth in academic, social and emotional strength, and in spiritual awareness. Now after a brief vacation, the staff is busily preparing to welcome seven returning and six new students to Convocation on Wednesday afternoon, September 7 at 5:30. Fr. Henry will lead the program with an overview of the unique Religious education program that he has designed for our school. Following the service, the Trustees and families will adjourn to the classrooms for a Pot-luck Dessert Social and tour of the learning centers. Please join us if you can.

Classes begin on Monday, September 12, led by our spirited Head Teacher, Mrs. Sheray Tario and her new assistant teacher, Mrs. Sandy Graves. We are fortunate that Sandy has agreed to bring her wide education expertise to our school. She has lived in Clifton Park for the last 10 years with her husband and four children. She earned her BA in Psychology from Trinity College in Hartford, CT and her MA in Educational Psychology from The College of St. Rose in Albany, NY where she serves as an Adjunct Professor in the field of Early Childhood education. While raising her children she has remained active as a volunteer in the Shen schools. In her spare time she enjoys running, cycling, and reading as well as volunteering with Peppertree Rescue, Inc. and *Nick's Fight to be Healed* Foundation. Welcome to Sandy!

As part of the School's continuing mission to the wider community, the Trustees are planning a series of evening programs for families about current research in a variety of topics including new findings from neuro-science about optimal learning conditions for children and career planning. The first program in the series focuses on Career Planning for Busy Mothers and is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The leader is Elizabeth Atcheson, a well-known career coach from Seattle, Washington who will help moms think about balancing personal boundaries and setting clear professional goals. This workshop will be open to the Clifton Park community for a \$25 fee, while St. George's parishioners and school parents will pay a discounted rate of \$10. Registration forms will be in the Narthex starting on Sunday, September 11. Space will be limited so if you are interested, please register early.

The deteriorating national/world economy has taken a toll on our school families this summer. Several new families had to withdraw their applications due to financial constraints. The reduced enrollment has led us to adopt a very tight budget that has resulted in limited purchase of curriculum materials, elimination of all field trips and slight reduction of salaries. Trustee volunteers will continue to carry out the day-to-day supervision and administrative tasks, with Sue Walther's cheer-leading and helping hands. We are very grateful to those parishioners who have contributed to our financial aid fund over the summer. Thanks to their generous gifts, we will be able to cover enough of the tuition to allow one needy student to attend. There are two other qualified students who would be able to attend if we could offer tuition assistance so any additional gifts would be gratefully received.

We are blessed to be able to invite children to learn in our amazing Church family.

Thank you all for your prayers and encouragement.



Date/Time		Acolyte	Chalice	Readers	Ushers	Joyful J	Altar Guild
9/3	4:30		L. Wilson	R Demler	R Demler J Bucher		A Bee, Capt D King
9/4	8:00	R. Smith	J Evans	M Andrus	T & N Chrimes		B Sovik
	9:30	M. Danz E. Underhill L. Barbour	J Evans	L Olney T Olney	J McHale, S Feeny	S Keyes	B. Gregory
9/10	4:30		J Evans	L Wilson	J & M Blinstrub		D. Erno, Capt
9/11	8:00	T. Chrimes	Deacon	B Smith	L Miller, B. Hartman		C. Nickerson
	9:30	K Bee C. Olney P Bee	B Turner	P & S Aldrich	S Barbour, K Bee T Bena, C Brych	M Chaplin	T Riley
9/17	4:30		M. Andrus	A Sarnacki	T Kuebler, E Kramek		L. Wilson, Capt
9/18	8:00	R Smith	J. Evans	J Evans	M Andrus R Demler		D. Halvorsen
	9:30	J Ehler N Olszewski D. Harding	J Evans	C & S Barbour	C Crocker C Crocker J McHale J Gulyas	D Glaser	L. O'Brien
9/24	4:30		L Wilson	J Bucher	J Bucher, B Wright		B. Conners
9/25	8:00	N Johnston	J. Snyder	G Heim	G Heim B Ross		L Simpkins
	9:30	E. Underhill L Barbour M Danz	J. Snyder	C Brych K Ferris	M Ehler S Feeny K Bee T Bena	E Malinowski	J Drake, Capt
10/1	4:30		J. Evans	L Gallagher	A Sarnacki T Kuebler		A Bee, Capt D King
10/2	8:00	R Smith	M Andrus	M Andrus	M Andrus B Wright		B. Sovik
	9:30	C Olney P Bee K Bee	B Turner	M Newman P Olszewski	J Gulyas J McHale S Barbour	H Brewer	C. Barbour



Date/ Time	Altar Bread	Coffee Hour	Flower Delivery	Nursery	Kitchen Crew	Sunday Bakers
9/3	4:30					
9/4	8:00	D&H Gates				
	9:30	N. Manning	C Van derVeer	S Westad		Beacon Pointe J. Blanchet C Fare
9/10	4:30					
9/11	8:00	B Sovik				
	9:30	Parish Picnic	L Gallagher	J Andrus		Parish Picnic
9/17	4:30					
9/18	8:00	G Heim B Ross				
	9:30	S. Brooks J Granger	B Hartman	C Drake		T Granger J Bailey J. Gallo
9/24	4:30					
9/25	8:00	T & N Chrimes				
	9:30	L Underhill	B Ross	M Collins	L. Gallagher	N. Kruse S. Keyes S Westad
10/1	4:30					
10/2	8:00	H & D Gates				
	9:30	G. Ehler B Caney	J Harrington			Beacon Pointe L. Landau D Glaser

Thanks to the generous donations of parishioners, we should have our new AED installed either right before or right after Labor Day. We are hoping we never really need it, but if it is ever needed we will all be most thankful that we have it. It will have both adult and pediatric pads.