February Highlights and More

February 5 – Youth Sunday
Souper Bowl of Caring
February 19 – Chamber Orchestra Concert
February 21 – Mardi Gras Celebration
February 22 – Ash Wednesday Liturgy
February 25-26 – Lenten Week-end
Kate Braestrup
February 29 – Noon Micah Lenten Service
March 3 – Rock Creek Singers

The St. Georgian

“Growing into Christ + Reaching out in Love”

Volume 12/Issue 2
St. George’s Episcopal Church
February 2012

The Ash Wednesday Liturgy

from the Book of Common Prayer

with

Litany of Penitence
Imposition of Ashes
Holy Communion

February 22 at Noon and 7:00 pm

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance: by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word."

from the Book of Common Prayer, page 265

Ministries of the Week for February

Join us in Sydnor Hall each Sunday in February to learn more about each of these ministries
February 5th – Youth
February 12th – Children
February 19th – Outreach
February 26th – Adult Christian Education

Kate Braestrup – February 25-26

Lenten Teaching with
Kate Braestrup

Saturday
Workshop –9:00 am-12:00 Noon
$8.00

Sunday morning
Adult Forum at 9:55 am,
Preacher at 9:00 and 11:00

(see more info on page 5)
Not knowing when the dawn will come, I open every door.  

Emily Dickinson

Sometimes I dread the season of Lent, sometimes I love it. I haven't been able to make up my mind about what I am feeling this year! That is until I read the quote from E. Dickinson today. (I'm writing this article on Monday, January 21) You see, I subscribe to a wonderful site, www.gratefulness.org in which they send a word or thought each day and not knowing how I was feeling about Lent this 'word for the day' was exactly what I needed.

What a wonderful way to approach Lent...to open every door. Opening every door may sound a bit overwhelming or just one more thing when some of us are already feeling over extended; but I wonder if being willing to open every door means to pause throughout the day and to listen? To "try on something new"? To open a door to the possibility of saying no? or yes? To listen and be open to look for God in all of life, the busy times and the quiet times? Perhaps by living this season of Lent, by opening every door, Lent will be a season of grace, of recovering a balance in my spirituality, of believing and hoping in my God-given goodness on the one hand and being wise and alert to sinful leanings on the other. Of gradually being transformed into my true self.

I invite you to join me and open every door and perhaps together we will more fully discover that the world is God's dwelling place, and that God's heartbeat can be heard in the whole of life and at the heart of our own lives, if we will only open every door and listen.

With Affection,
Gay

General Endowment Fund

General Endowment Fund (GEF) to Disburse $35,975 to St. George’s in 2012:

The purpose of the GEF is to ensure a firm financial foundation for St. George’s and to provide additional funds for outreach ministries, programs of the Church, capital additions/improvements, and residential loans to St. George’s clergy and full time professional staff. The GEF does not supplement the Church’s annual operating budget for administrative or other operational expenses.

Most of the GEF corpus is managed by the Diocesan Trustees of the Fund which performed well during 2011, with a return of $36,156. The GEF Board recommended and the Vestry approved a 2011 annual distribution of $35,975 for disbursement in 2012, holding the balance in the GEF corpus to help fund an accounting review.

Here's what the GEF will provide to St George’s in 2012:

a) $14,000.00 (RFM Campaign);

b) $6,300.00 (Pre-School Scholarships);

c) $2,000.00 (Mission Support to Larry Duffee in Sudan); and

d) $13,675.00 (St. George’s Church Bus Fund).

You may find additional information about the GEF on the church’s website at:

http://www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net/about_us/support_st_georges/trustees_trusts_and_endowments/

- Tom Meredith
The Vestry met on January 18th. In keeping with its desire to offer updates on at least two commissions each month, the Vestry heard presentations from Adult Education and from Communications and Evangelism. Russ Carter highlighted numerous forums and events planned by our Adult Education Commission that range from presentations on key religious figures from the book, “The Dangerous Dozen” to discussions of Bible stories that have had significant impact on our lives. The schedule for the year is rich with opportunities for learning and engagement and also draws upon outside speakers as well. Kate Braestrup, a bestselling author will speak in February about how we deal with the “evil” we perceive in our world and later in the year there will be a trio of forums about St. George’s Civil war history during this Sesquicentennial year.

Our efforts to reach out to parishioners and others in community are exceptionally enhanced by our newest website. Nancy Schwartz reviewed this impressive website with Vestry and apprised the Vestry of upcoming efforts to create a pictorial directory for the church.

Much of the meeting was focused upon finalizing a budget for this year with an effort to maximize our use of funds that supports all of our ministries and at the same time recognizes our responsibility to be good stewards of a budget that is within our means. The Vestry liaisons to the commissions will be working with their respective commissions to refine requests and identify the most essential needs. The Vestry will revisit the budget with this information at its meeting in February.

Respectfully submitted by

Dori Eglevsky
Senior Warden

“A complete copy of the Vestry Minutes is available from Ben Hicks, Vestry Registrar. Archives of past Vestry Minutes are available at The Heritage Center.”

It is a pleasure to welcome Shelley Chick-Gravel as the newest member of St. George’s Altar Guild. Thank you for volunteering your time. We always need folks to sign up for Altar Guild. If there is anyone that is interested in becoming a member, please e-mail vharrison2@verizon.net or call 898-0856.

Vicki Harrison, Chair

Would you like to help decorate the church this Easter by offering an Easter lily in honor or in memory of loved ones for $12.50? Or perhaps give a gift that keeps on giving long after the flowers are gone with a donation to the Memorial Trust Fund or the General Endowment Fund? If so, please fill out the form in this newsletter or fill it out on our website at www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net before April 1st.

Order your homemade, beautifully decorated, chocolate coated peanut butter Easter eggs by March 25th for only $7.00 per egg. The 8-ounce eggs may be personalized at no additional cost. Proceeds will go to The Table, St. George’s food pantry. All orders must be PREPAID. Make checks payable to St. George’s Episcopal Church with Easter Eggs in the memo section. Please contact Carey Chirico for additional information at carey.chirico@stgeorgesepiscopal.net. See insert for order form or order online at www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net.
Adult Education on Sundays

“Building Community and Living Together”
Begin 2012 with a series of adult forums on discovering everything from your own personality type to the lasting legacy of a 12th-century nun. Learning more about ourselves and about inspiring leaders in church history will bring us one step closer to “Building Community and Living Together”—our theme for 2011-12.

Library @ 9:00 am
The Early Bird Class
Continues discussions of the work of Richard Rohrer, Falling Upward.

Sydnor Hall @ 9:55 am
Outreach meets Mission
What is it like to be poor in Fredericksburg today?
How is St. George’s responding? What can we learn from others who work to feed those in need? Join us at the adult forums in early February to join in the conversation.

Poverty
Led by Carey Chirico February 5
The conversation will be about poverty and need in our own community.

The Table @ St. George’s February 12
Led by Carey Chirico
We will update the congregation on our feeding ministries—The Table, our new market-style food pantry which is putting a ton of food into our community weekly and the St. George’s Community Dinners which puts out about 400 plates of food a month.

Good Earth Farms February 19
Led by Kelly Lattimore
Our speaker will be Kelly Lattimore from Good Earth Farms in Athens, Ohio. Kelly has been farming and living with the Common Friars of the Good Earth Farm in Athens, Ohio for over 2 years. The Common Friars are a collective of people understanding and seeking out what it means to be a Christian disciple today.

Besides the adventures of farming and living with 3 other people, he regularly enjoys sharing music and lyric, painting icons, and making bread.

"Lessons from Abu Ghraib" February 26
Led by Kate Braestrup
Kate will discuss the issue of collective wrongdoing—the topic she is exploring for a new book. Prisoner abuse at the Iraqi jail in Abu Ghraib will be one example she’ll use in her presentation.

Faulkner Hall @ 9:55 am
In Faulkner Hall, we will be continuing our discussions of Bible stories that have had a significant impact on our lives.

Bible Stories
The Wisdom of Solomon
Led by Russ Carter February 5
The Early Christian Church
Led by Rene Rodriguez February 12
Elisha
Led by Russ Carter February 19

On February 26 there will be only one adult forum offered. Come hear Kate Braestrup in Sydnor Hall.
Kate Braestrup Comes to St. George’s

Lenten Workshop with Best-Selling Author Kate Braestrup
"Lessons from Abu Ghraib"
Saturday February 25, 9 a.m. to noon
Sunday February 26 - Preaching at 9 a.m and 11 a.m. Services
Adult Forum Speaker at 9:55 a.m.

Best-selling author Kate Braestrup will visit St. George’s on February 25 to discuss the issue of collective wrongdoing—the topic she is exploring for a new book. Prisoner abuse at the Iraqi jail in Abu Ghraib will be one example she’ll use in her presentation.

The following day, the Rev. Dr. Braestrup will preach at two of the church’s Sunday-morning services, and also speak at Adult Forum.

A Unitarian minister who now serves as a chaplain for game and wildlife wardens in Maine, Braestrup has written books that reflect the trauma in her own life and the pastoral care she now offers others in times of need.

"A lot of the work I do is around death," says Braestrup, who often helps family and friends deal with tragedy. "I share with them the experience of losing a loved one, because my husband died in 1996. He was a state trooper who was killed in a car accident. I’ve been on the receiving end of the kind of care I am offering others.”

Braestrup’s husband, Drew, had planned a second career as a Unitarian Universalist minister. When his life was cut short, Braestrup found herself choosing the same path for herself. She is the author of The New York Times best-selling book, "Here If You Need Me," a memoir of her journey from grief to faith to happiness. Her other books include "Beginner’s Grace: Bringing Prayer to Life, Marriage and Other Acts of Charity" and the novel, "Onion."

Braestrup’s faith is practical. "I have neither the inclination nor the talent for systematic theology," she says. "In the arguments between and among competing theories, I find sport, intellectual interest, moments of satisfaction, but no grace."

"Eventually, I pop my claustrophobic head out of whatever spiritual cul-de-sac I’ve wandered into, and impatiently demand: But what should we do?"

Her answers to that question are insightful, humorous and always compassionate. Her books are filled with transcendent stories of human beings coping with ordinary and extraordinary lives.

In addition to the workshop on February 25, Braestrup will preach at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, February 26. She also will speak at Adult Forum that morning at 9:55 a.m.

Civil War Sesquicentennial Program

You’re invited to help greet visitors to St. George’s on Saturday, March 24, when our church will host a special program sponsored by the Churches Remember Committee of the area’s Civil War Sesquicentennial.

St. George’s is one of six downtown churches offering programs that day.

Our event will begin at 10:45 a.m. in the nave, with reflections by John Hennessy, chief historian for the National Park Service in this area. He will talk about the church revivals for the armies that were held at St. George’s during the war. Noted historian George Rable will then offer an address about religion in the Civil War armies.

St. George’s will also be hosting a lunch for participants in Sydnor Hall from noon to 1 p.m. that day. The program is free; there will be a small charge for the lunch.

If you’re willing to help greet visitors to St. George’s or otherwise help out, please contact Ed Jones at edjones@freelancestar.com or at 374-5401.
Drum Circle at St. George’s

A drum circle is a highly interactive activity of a gathering of people who come together to express themselves through the use of percussive instruments. No experience is necessary because the cooperative energy of the group will create a rhythm that lifts and carries all participants. Drumming helps to create a sacred space infused with healing—it is both experiential and therapeutic.

When people come together as a group to create rhythm, something intrinsic and inclusive happens. Picture a flock of birds flying together...one of the birds is leading the way, but all of the birds seem to know exactly where the lead bird is going. This same phenomenon begins to happen with a group of drummers that are listening to each other and playing together. One drummer plays and more and more drummers are able to join in and naturally play with the momentum of the rhythm.

Please join us on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning on March 7th. We will come together in Faulkner Hall from 7:00-8:00 p.m. to explore and create rhythm. Extra drums, rattles, etc. are limited, so please bring any percussive instruments you may have. Registration is not required; however, it would be helpful to indicate if you plan to attend. Please contact Cynthia Armbrister at lunachi1@yahoo.com or 540-621-2885.

"The Table"

We all come to this place hungry - hungry for something; hungry for knowledge, hungry to know God, hungry to know God’s presence in community with each other. Few of us come hungry for food.

Starting this week, we hope that everyone who walks through our doors will know God’s presence and will walk away fed - with food, literal and figurative. On January 24th we began The Table - St. George’s new food pantry. Operating like a market, tables are spread out all over Sydnor Hall with food stuffs of all kinds. Our guests are welcomed, signed in and invited to take what they need and what they like. We particularly want to offer fresh produce so the wonderful supply includes potatoes, apples, oranges and squash some days and broccoli, pears and onions the next. All the food comes from donations from parishioners or the Food Bank. A wonderful group of St. Georgians orders, unloads, arranges and welcomes people to this new food pantry in the hope that at this Table, as at our altar table, all may come and find sustenance.

-Carey Chirico
Youth Formation

Took the Plunge!
Middle and High School Youth took the plunge at Virginia’s largest tubing park, Wintergreen Resort on January 15, 2012.

Youth Sunday!
Sunday, February 5th

St. George’s Youth will assume the roles often allotted to the adults of our parish at our 9 a.m. service. Greeters, ushers, LEMs and lector roles will be assumed by the Youth, and one of our youth will offer a homily. Join them for a very moving and meaningful worship experience.

Tackle Hunger with Us in 2012
Souper Bowl of Caring

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 5, 2012. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2011, $10 million was collected by Souper Bowl of Caring participants for local charities. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant - none of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than $71 million has gone to help people in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping your dollar in the soup pot on February 5th. Our donations will be given to The Table, our market-style food pantry.

Flowers at St. George’s

Flowers can be donated to St. George’s in memory or thanksgiving of a loved one. You may have these placed in the chancel any week of the year; however, we have no one signed up for March 11, September 23, and September 30, November 25, and next year, January 13, 2013! These flowers still cost $50; you may contact Susan Graves at 371-5656!

Lenten Worship & Lunch

Micah Ecumenical Ministries is sponsoring noonday services on Wednesdays during Lent. For each of the noonday services, a luncheon will follow, provided by the host church for that day. An offering will be collected for Micah Ministries at the end of each service. The schedule has not yet been published for this year, so look on the home page of our website, the Weekender, and the announcement page of the bulletins for this important information.
Epiphany

Epiphany is a season of wonder. A star in the sky leads us to the Christ child. How can this be? Our children are learning the stories Jesus told about the Kingdom of God. The kingdom is like a mustard seed, one of the smallest in the world that grows into a huge shrub, home to nesting birds. The kingdom is like a merchant who sells all he has to own that one most precious pearl—Wait! Could that be us? Could we be so precious to God that he would give all to have us? The children are mesmerized by these stories and hear them with their hearts. Small hands hold even tinier seeds and wonder about the energy that is packed inside. Pearls are marveled over.

Upper elementary is wondering too... wondering about what Jesus would have us do, as friends, as family, as children of God. After learning the maxims of Jesus, they are recreating them in needlepoint and pastels. Finally they will create videos to share with the rest of us, illustrating the words of Jesus.

St. George's Nursery

St. George's Nursery is home to our youngest loved ones on Sunday mornings. Amy Bogardus, our Nursery supervisor, has been with us since she was a teen aged assistant in the Nursery. Assisting her is Rachel Ott and Generose Mubangu. All three women have trained in the Episcopal Church’s Safe Child program and work to provide the best care possible for our little ones. Stop by and say ‘Hello’.

World Mission

Baptism of Georges Clerens Chery

We celebrate this month the baptism of Georges, son of Pere Jean Fils and Emile Chery. Jean Fils is the rector of Notre Dame in Port au Prince, Haiti (our partner parish in Haiti).

Outreach

Big Thanks to Troop 58

St. George’s is happy to have become the base for Girl Scout Troop # 58. Led by St. Georgian, Charlotte Moore, the Troop Leaders are looking to add interested fourth and fifth grade girls. Contact Charlotte at charlotte.moore@cox.net.

Many thanks to them for packing the St. George’s Micah lunch bags each month – 150 bags are a lot of chips, cookies and applesauce!
If you aren’t familiar with the many hallways and stairwells in St. George’s sprawling buildings you might accidentally find yourself in the basement of McGuire Hall without realizing how you got there. Surprisingly, you may not even realize you are in a basement because unlike most basements which can be dark and damp this subterranean level is quite pleasant and bright. If you are fortunate enough to “fall down the rabbit hole” into this happy little hallway head towards the far Atrium, the Sunday morning gathering spot for 3, 4 and 5 year olds, and you will be greeted by a fluffy group of snow people grinning from the Atrium door. Quietly listen at the door and you will hear little ripples of laughter and the buzzing hum of busy children as they set about doing their “work”, singing their songs, and engaging in the merriment and wonder of just being.

The first thing that struck me when I made my way into the classroom at St. George’s Preschool was the calm and peaceful feeling of the room. The décor is soothing yet lively. Fresh flowers are scattered in vases throughout the room. The children are busy and engaged but eager to meet the new person who has entered their safe little domain. This is their space and they are proud to share it with me. The classroom is set up in a manner to be utilized and appreciated by a little person. There are low shelves filled with colorful tins and wooden shapes and woven baskets with soft felt pieces all waiting for small hands to come and touch them. There is a globe to be explored and an altar to be polished and tiny bottles of colored water to be poured and refilled. All the tools needed to carry out simple tasks with ambitious goals. I am struck by the thought that it is the mindful work of children which nourishes their young bodies and brains and helps them develop into purposeful learners.

In this cheery little classroom I, too, am a student as I learn the reasons behind the methods that are being practiced here. As an educator, I know the importance of meaningful experiences and teachable moments but I am unfamiliar with the rituals and routines I am observing. First you situate your mat, this is your personal working surface; then you choose your work, this is the lesson you would like to learn, then you follow the steps that your teacher patiently goes over with you- first guiding then allowing you to explore on your own. Over time these simple materials combined with modeling movements transform abstract ideas into concrete forms. Each child comes to their own “Aha!” moment when they master a new concept. This is the magic of Montessori. Really it is the magic that each of us has within ourselves- this ability to concentrate on a task or ritual, to be able to get lost in the process of doing something that seems rote and routine, and then suddenly realizes there is a purpose to this task that reaches beyond its familiar steps. We all have our own “Aha!” moments.

As the Director of St. George’s Episcopal Preschool, I invite you to come and learn more about one of our newest ministries at St. George’s. A quality early education can be one of the most positive influences on a young child’s life. Come and see how your church community is providing this wonderful gift.

www.sgpreschool.wordpress.com

Saturday Night Supper

All are welcome at our Saturday Night Supper
Saturday, February 4th, 7:00 pm
Home of Carolyn and Bryan Howell
790 Winterberry Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22405
RSVP 540-368-2777
Chowell123@cox.net

For directions and to respond, contact the Howells.
Please bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage(s).

Looking ahead to
March Saturday Night Supper

Saturday, March 3rd, 7:00 pm
Home of Marlys and John McGrath
16 Covington Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22406
Phone: 540-368-0010

Remember NO Saturday Night Supper in April.
Join us for Easter Vigil Service & Reception

www.sgpreschool.wordpress.com
I just spent my second Christmas in Juba. Last year there was much excitement here not only from the joy of celebrating the Christmas holiday, but also for the impending referendum which took place on the 9th of January. The overwhelming vote for secession set in motion the process which led to South Sudan’s independence on July 9th of last year. Even though South Sudan has been independent for more than half a year it is interesting to note how few mapmakers have delineated the country. Same too if I try and register myself on-line with businesses or organizations or even US government websites – none offer South Sudan as a country choice.

This year Christmas was more subdued with many more people making the traditional trek back to their home villages to celebrate in the embrace of their families. Several people told me how it would not be Christmas in the villages unless families gathered together to share a goat or chicken (cattle being reserved for more important occasions) and it made me a little nervous for the four chickens we keep at our house. Friends here jokingly asked if the reason I stayed in Juba was to keep watch over our chickens. But the reality is I was very tired from working hard all autumn. I really wasn’t interested in taking on the stress of travelling in Africa and I used the time to try and rest and recover.

There has been a lot of news lately about tribal fighting here in an area known as Jonglei. Juba, fortunately, is far away from where the fighting has occurred. Although we are located a safe distance from the problem, everyone here is still very concerned for the human tragedy that is occurring and we pray daily for peace and look for ways the Church can help.

I think one of the important things to remember is tribal fighting is not unique to Sudan. Brutal violence was experienced a century ago in cities like Boston and New York when Irish and Italians and other “tribes” fought over territory. Those conflicts only subsided in the face of strong police action and willingness of the “tribes” to learn to live together.

South Sudan is comprised of ten states. Jonglei (pronounced “Jong-lay”) is one of the larger states located to the north east of Juba. Jonglei is a huge area but incredibly underdeveloped. Jonglei is roughly equivalent in size to all of Northern Virginia but doesn’t have a single road or permanent structure. There is no stone or building materials, and agriculture is difficult because the area spends most of the year either under rainwater or hip-deep in mud. The only thing Jonglei has is cattle – lots and lots of cattle. Cattle serve as a source and symbol of wealth, like cash in the bank to Americans. Cattle raiding has always figured in the culture. In the past raiders were armed with spears and clubs but they are now armed with automatic weapons. Petty squabbles turn into massacres because of the weaponry.

The people of Jonglei are angry and frustrated at the lack of development and resources for their area and from a sense that the central government does not care about them. This is the root cause of the problems and why people are taking to arms. The people feel they have nothing to live for and nothing to lose and they are taking out their anger on each other.

The Church, and by the “Church” I mean the Episcopalian, Roman Catholic and Presbyterian churches - the traditional “big three” Christian churches here which have united their efforts through the Sudan Council of Churches - have tried to intervene to educate communities about the need for peaceful dialogue and coexistence. After a half-century of civil war the people of Sudan know only the vocabulary of violence and the Churches are trying to teach people a new language of peace. Unfortunately, such efforts are accomplished person by person, village by village: “shuwaya” as we say here, “slowly.” This kind of change takes time and there has not been sufficient time for attitudes to change, thus violence still reigns.

As I write this our Archbishop has traveled to the town of Bor to speak with tribal leaders as he has done so often over the past few months. He will urge them once again to put down their arms and to follow the greater path laid down by the Prince of Peace whose birth we just celebrated. I hope everyone at St. George’s will join me in praying for peace.

Wishing everyone in the St. George’s community a blessed 2012,

-Larry Duffee
Friends:
We have some great musical events coming up, so be sure to mark your calendars! First, on Sunday, February 19 at 3:00pm, come and listen to the St. George's Chamber Orchestra perform J.S. Bach's "Coffee Cantata" in the continuing Chamber Music Series. This is one of Bach's more famous secular cantatas - it's actually more of a mini-comic opera dealing with a pressing social problem of the early 18th century - coffee addiction. In addition to our Chamber Orchestra the performance will feature soloists Mark Moliterno, Dan Kerr and Emily Eisen. This will be a lot of fun, and a great opportunity to bring along friends and family. Admission is $10/person, students and children free.

You'll see more details on this elsewhere, but note that the St. George's Jazz Ensemble will be putting on a swinging show as part of our Mardi Gras celebration in Sydnor Hall on Tuesday, February 21!

We also have two great choral events coming up. On Saturday, March 3, the Rock Creek Singers (a select 26-voice chamber ensemble of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington) will perform in the Nave at 7:30pm. The group performs a repertoire of a cappella and accompanied classical and contemporary music; and their appearance follows up the performance of the Gay Men's Chorus at St. George's last year. Admission is free, with donations accepted.

Then on Saturday, March 10, the Schola Cantorum of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, will return to St. George's. Led by James Jordan, one of the nation's pre-eminent conductors, writers and innovators in choral music, the Schola is renowned for its artistry and vocal production. The performance will begin at 7:30pm; admission is $10/person; students free. As in the past, if you can provide housing for some of these remarkable performers on the night of March 10, please contact Todd Schwartz at concertinfo@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Fridays@The Last Resort - Fredericksburg's coolest Jazz club! - will be on hiatus in February (in preparation for the Mardi Gras event) and in March (marking Lent). Look for its return in April!

Finally, we're so pleased with the success of our recent concert events. On New Year's Eve, over 700 people came through our nave to hear our Organ, the St. George Voices, and the St. George Jazz Ensemble; the guitar performance of Zachary Johnson also drew a great crowd. These events are so much more than a chance to show off our building or the talents of our members - they represent an opportunity to share the spirit and heart of St. George's with our community. Your attendance at these events may give you the chance to tell someone who might never walk in our doors on a Sunday morning what St. George's means to you. We hope you'll consider attending regularly as part of our outreach and evangelism to Fredericksburg and beyond.

-Todd Schwartz

Upcoming Musical Events at St. George's

February 2 - Organ Mini Recital, 12:15 pm, Nave
February 19 - St. George's Chamber Orchestra, 3:00 pm, Nave
February 21 - St. George's Jazz Ensemble at Mardi Gras
March 3, Rock Creek Singers, 7:30 pm, Nave
March 10, Schola Cantorum, 7:30 pm, Nave
The Rock Creek Singers are a select, spirited 26 voice ensemble of the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington that perform a growing repertoire of a capella and accompanied contemporary music. St. George’s Integrity, along with Fredericksburg Pride and FAAHAS will present The Rock Creek Singers on March 3rd at 7:30 pm in the Nave at St. George’s Episcopal Church. Doors will open at 7:00 pm and the concert begins at 7:30 pm. Admission is free, however, donations will be appreciated. Proceeds from the concert will be shared between Integrity, Fredericksburg Pride and FAAHAS. Please plan to join us as we celebrate this wonderful gift of music. Reception to follow in Sydnor Hall.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Avis Harris Chapter ECW

The Avis Harris ECW meeting will be February 29th in Faulkner Hall at 7:00 pm. The speaker will be Linda Clevenger of Organizational Direct. Organization Direct works with clients to assist in the selling of their home. Their areas of expertise include basement, garage and office solutions. However, they are able to work within any area of the home to develop solutions that will assist with the selling of a home.

Mary Faulkner Chapter

The Mary Faulkner Chapter of ECW meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in Faulkner Hall. Some programs they have planned for the year are:

Tuesday, February 14 - Ben Hicks, St. George’s Business Manager, will speak to us about the Tiffany Windows in the church.

Tuesday, March 13 - Carey Chirico, St. George’s Director of Outreach, will speak to us on the many Outreach opportunities available at St. George’s. She will also share her experiences with our partner church in Haiti, Notre Dame d’Annonciation.

Tuesday, April 10 - Vicki Harrison, Altar Guild chair, will speak to us about preparing for Eucharist and give us a tour of the new Sacristy.

Tuesday, May 8 - Trip to Stratford Hall for a tour and lunch.
ECW Diocese of Virginia

Lenten Quiet Day

Thursday, March 29, 2012
9:30 am to 4:00 pm

The Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn
8727 River Road
Richmond, Virginia

“Blessed Are They Who See”

Led by The Rev. Canon Susan Goff
Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Virginia

A Lenten Quiet Day: The Women Followers of Jesus
Open to all adults.

Through scripture, music, meditations and silence, we will walk with the women who followed Jesus from Galilee, to the foot of the cross, to the empty tomb. Dress comfortably. Bring your Bible. Bring your journal, if you use one. Bring your friends! Come walk with the faithful who are seeking in Lent to follow the Way that leads from life through death to life again. Lunch, snacks, and Eucharist are included in our day together. The program is based on the female followers of Jesus. Men are welcome to attend.

ECW Lenten Quiet Day, March 29, 2012

Cost: $30 (includes coffee, snacks, and lunch). Make check payable to ECW Diocese of Virginia. Please use a separate form for each person. Lenten Quiet Day is open to men and women.

Mail to: Bryn Roth, 108 Sleepy Hollow Trail, Fredericksburg, VA 22405
For more information please contact Bryn at brynroth@cox.net or (540) 373-9126.
Please register by March 14.

For Susan Goff’s bio and for more info go to our website, www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net
Come play with us in the mountains! The Prayers and Squares, Chapter 898, Prayer Quilt Ministry at St. George’s Episcopal Church, Fredericksburg invites you to Shrine Mont for two days of quilting or knitting. The cost is $175 per person for two nights with shared room and includes seven meals, beginning with lunch on Tuesday through lunch on Thursday.

This retreat is “non-structured” to allow you time to quilt, knit, read, hike, chat with a friend, or to just commune with nature. No classes although time for sharing will be available. The Rev. Amy Turner will offer prayer sessions and Eucharist with Blessing of the Quilts and Shawls.

For more information or questions, please contact Bryn Roth at (540) 373-9126 or brynroth@cox.net.

Registration Form: Fiber Arts Retreat 2012

Name _____________________________________________________________________________

Complete mailing address _____________________________________________________________________________

Phone number __________________________ Email __________________________________________

Roommate _____________________________________________________________________________

Please make check out to St. George’s Episcopal Church for $175; put “Prayers & Squares” on the memo line. Mail form and check to St. George’s Church, 905 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg, VA 22401, by March 31.
“Follow the Star” Epiphany Event

What a wonderful time 125 St. Georgians and others from the community had at our Epiphany Event. Salsa was the dance of the evening (just ask Benjamin Friesner). Lewis Graves (along with Susan and Winston) provided wonderful barbecue for all of us. Thanks to all three of you for your contributions of food, time, and culinary skills. Also, thanks to the many volunteers who made this First Annual Epiphany Event possible!
Sewing Ministries

Prayers and Squares

The February meeting of the Prayers & Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry will be Friday, February 24, from 1 to 5 PM at the home of Sarah Hassinger, 19 Tally-Ho Drive. Please contact Sarah at scpd_1@msn.com or (540) 419-1293 if you would like to attend. For information about Prayers & Squares please contact Bryn Roth at brynoth@cox.net or (540) 373-9126.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This is our ninth year of Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry. Where does the time go? We have given away over two hundred shawls. This could not have been done without the help of our many knitters. They are so faithful and committed to this ministry; knitting all year long, even in the hot summer. I am so grateful to each of them. The thank you notes we have received from the recipients of these shawls have been so rewarding. This has been such a joy and blessing for me.

Dot Morris

February Birthdays

February 1 – George Beddoe, Rebecca Harrington, Mary Gray Johnson, Ciara Graves
February 2 – Bill Reed, Sharon Sampsell, Dale Pcsolyar, Cathy Stewart
February 3 – Sharon Davis, Ray Babbie
February 4 – Lyle Haas, Brian Seals, Aaron Eshelman
February 5 – Tommy Thompson, Taylor Bailey, Corinne Graves
February 6 – Paul Vaughan, Lorry Manetz, Scarlet Midkiff
February 7 – Doug Quarles, Nancy Heyward, Iris Cheatham, John Coker, Ethan Roeske, Stella Kramer
February 8 – Armando Matos, Ethan Eshelman
February 9 – Alison Heartwell, Taylor Neal, Madison Stroud
February 10 – Gay Rahn, Amie Steele, Madeline Huddle, Mark Brunson, Drew Brunson
February 11 – Bev King, Chip Massey, Barbara Deal, Ann Krannitz
February 12 – Gene Nordgren, Ashley Roberson, Erik Haugen

February 13 – Sarah Bass, Ian Valentine, Gordon Willis, Catherine Q. Hicks
February 14 – Tom Digges, Connie Spears
February 15 – Chuck Schwartzman, Marcia Kole, Kathleen Blandford, Tracy Riley, Turner White, Alexis Rose, Dash Egan
February 16 – Frances Pratt
February 17 – Kelly Johnson, Nicole Eshelman, Danielle Moriarty, Katherine Neal
February 18 – Richard Williams, Triston Palmer
February 19 – Harry Jones, Claire Simpson, David Self, Rachel Whitley
February 20 – Barbara Douglas, Grace Schwartz
February 21 – Peter Carey, John Hazel
February 22 – John Zinno, Charlotte Snead
February 23 – Carol Sweaney, Richard Hazel, Peter Stoffel, Mechack Ndikubunty
February 24 – Bob Dean, Philip King
February 25 – Howard Burns, Noah Holmes Foster
February 26 – Judy Barton, Bob Thompson
February 27 – Pam Thompson, David Bronston, Debby Girvan, Star Baggett, Alexandra Tepaske, Tyler Glascock
February 28 – Fitz Johnson, Hunter Blake
February 29 – Cathryn Hazel, Amanda Lloyd
St. George's Episcopal Church
905 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

This newsletter was prepared especially for