

Dragon Tales

Serving the Southern Maine Seacoast Region

From the Rector: Give It 4 Good!

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Economic stimulus checks?

We've been "hearing" about an economic downturn fueled by our habits of overconsumption in the U.S. Too much debt and high fuel prices leading to a bottoming-out of our economy—and this month, many of us who filed our taxes will receive "economic stimulus checks." We are told they are supposed to jump-start our give it 4 good logo lagging economy by encouraging us to consume even more.

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation (EGR) is the grassroots movement in the Episcopal Church helping to inform and resource the church (i.e., give the church the resources) for fighting extreme poverty by working toward the Millennium Development Goals. A number of our members at St. George's have been involved with EGR over the last two years, and the U2charist movement has found its larger church "home base" with EGR.

EGR is encouraging us to take the opportunity to pray carefully about how we spend these economic stimulus checks, the role of money in our lives, how our relationship with money and addiction to consumption impacts our spiritual well-being, through a campaign entitled Give It 4 Good. (See EGR article in this issue)

I hope you will consider participating in the Give It 4 Good campaign in some way. One way you can address the Millennium Development Goals locally is by supporting our local AIDS service organization, AIDS Response Seacoast (ARS)—perhaps by sponsoring the St. George's Team in the Seacoast AIDS Walk on May 4. You can make your pledge online or you can pledge in person at St. George's. You can even register to walk, or register your favorite canine for the dog walk.

Give It 4 Good in this way will have a significant impact in the Seacoast and beyond. This year ARS has partnered with the Maine AIDS service organizations, and any money raised for the walk in Maine will be matched by the National AIDS Foundation for use in Maine!

The need is critical. The AIDS crisis is not over. There is still no cure, and there are still new infections all the time. ARS needs our support in caring for existing clients, and expanding prevention and education, so that we can reduce the number of new clients in the future.

This is just one way you might Give It 4 Good. I hope you will pray about it, and let me know where your prayer has led you.

In Christ,
Paige+

Welcome To St. George's!

by the Rev. Steve Godfrey

One of my favorite duties is welcoming and following up with individuals and families who are new to St. George's. I love this work because this is perhaps the most important thing we do as a church—and it takes a whole community to invite and welcome others into fellowship. That's why the vestry set up the Newcomer Integration Task Force last summer—to coordinate our efforts and to support the work of greeters, coffee hour coordination, and making newcomer packets. Pauline Cashman, Pat Kriensky, Eve Ray, Marcia Williams, Peter Blanchard and I form the task force.

When a new person, couple or family visits St. George's, the first person they are likely to encounter, hopefully, is the greeter. Every Sunday for each of the three services we try to schedule greeters—parishioners who stand near the doors to greet everyone, with a special welcome to people they do not recognize as members. The greeters also take care of giving a newcomer packet (with all sorts of information about St. George's and the Episcopal Church) and a loaf of banana bread to the visitor either before or after the service. Greeters stand near the doors after the service so Paige+ and I can refer newcomers to them to have some conversation. They perform one of the most important ministries in our church and we need more greeters! Often we have no one scheduled, especially at the 9:00 and 11:00 services. If you would like to be on the greeters rota, please contact Frank Jillson 384-5272 for the 7:45

service, Mark Ford 363-3454 for the 9:00 service or Pat Linscott 363-6021 for the 11:00 service.

Paige+ and I are intent on welcoming newcomers at the peace and after the service, and I encourage everyone to do the same. If you see someone near you in church whom you don't know, introduce yourself with your name and a smile. After the service, say, "I don't believe we've met." They might be on vacation or visiting family in the area, or they might be shopping for a church and interested in your experience and love of St. George's. (With that introduction line you won't offend anyone who is already a member, and you might make a new friend.) We also encourage visitors to sign our guestbook with their name, address and phone number (next to the stairs in the parish hall). During the week I call and welcome them again and invite them to join me for coffee or offer to visit to talk more about St. George's and what they are looking for. Feel free to encourage visitors to sign the book.

Another very important way that we welcome and integrate newcomers is through coffee hours. It's always great when we can say, "Please join us for coffee." It's a critical opportunity for seekers to interact with us and get a sense of what an interesting, gracious and fun community we are. For coffee hour to work we need people to sign up to host, using the sign-up sheets on the kitchen doors. Individuals and families (or teams partnering up) bring treats and coordinate the weekly coffee hour after the 11:00 service and the monthly coffee hour after the 7:45 service on the first Sunday of each month. Please consider hosting a coffee hour from time to time.

Ministry groups (e.g. pastoral care, Eucharistic visitors, youth groups, Church School) coordinate the monthly All Parish Coffee Hour the first Sunday of each month at 10:00 and everyone is invited to bring treats to share. This is an especially powerful opportunity for new and continuing parishioners to connect and to learn about a ministry they might like to become involved with, which is important for integrating into the parish.

If you meet someone new to the parish, please be generous with your time and share your enthusiasm for the faith and St. George's, and your phone number if you want. Invite newcomers to join you for coffee or lunch or play time for the kids. When we all reach out to welcome people, our congregation grows and grows and that is truly exciting to see.

In Christ,
Steve+

Reaching For Understanding

by the Rev. Sudie Blanchard

Over the past decade or so, it's become my practice to use the five promises in the Baptismal Covenant (BCP p. 304-5) as a kind of "examen of conscience"—a measure of how I am doing in my attempt to follow Jesus faithfully. For me, the final two commitments of the five we make at baptism—and renew every time we welcome another person into the Christian family—are the hardest to follow. Here they are:

- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Note the words "all persons"... "all people"... "every human being." There's absolutely no wiggle room there. In the current climate of fear in this post-September 11 nation, it is all too easy to refuse to engage with those who seem different from us in looks, lifestyle and/or belief, but Christ calls us to respond in hope and expectation, rather than with fear.

If we look at ourselves with unflinching honesty, I suspect most of us will detect some prejudice lurking under the surface. I'm not proud of my own gut reaction when I first saw Muslim women working at Maine Medical Center in their burqas. I knew next to nothing about Islam, the faith that unites about 20 percent of the world's population. I just knew that those women were different...and that I didn't want to get to know them.

There is an organization here in York whose mission is to lessen this kind of reaction and celebrate the diversity in our community by increasing understanding and acceptance of people of different races, cultures, sexual orientation, religions, ages, and abilities.

This May at the York Public Library, the York Diversity Forum and the York High School Civil Rights Team will offer *Understanding Islam*, a five-part series designed to explore the rich cultural heritage offered by this faith tradition, and to make us conscious of the challenges our Muslim brothers and sisters face in this country and beyond. Be sure to save these dates:

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. What is Islam? Bates anthropologist Heather Lindkvist will give a presentation on the basic tenants of Islam and the Koran. Since 2001, she has conducted ethnographic

fieldwork among the Muslim community in Lewiston. She is also a member of an interdisciplinary research group conducting a comparative study of Islam in the United States. Discussion will follow.

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Islam, Al Qaeda and the West. A showing of the PBS film Jihad: The Men and Ideas behind Al Qaeda. This documentary explores the ideas and beliefs that are driving modern, radical Islamic groups, and examines the challenges they pose for the Middle East and for the West. The film tells the inside story of Al Qaeda's leaders and their evolving ideology. Panel discussion will follow.

Thursday, May 15, 12 to 1:30 p.m. Global Islam: Promoting Dialogue. A filmed interview with anthropologist, writer, and film maker Prof. Akbar Ahmed, currently Chairman of Islamic Studies at American University in Washington, D.C., discussing global Islam and its impact on contemporary society. Discussion will follow.

Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Muslim Experience in America. The film Muslims in America addresses some of the common stereotypes about Islam and reveals the great diversity that is the Islamic faith. The film will be followed by a talk given by Yasmin Alani, an Iraqi Muslim who lives in New England.

Thursday, May 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Islam in Literature. York writer Sandell Morse will lead a discussion of Leila Ahmed's memoir, *A Border Passage: from Cairo to America – a Woman's Journey*. Attendance at this final program will be limited to 30 people. Register for the program and purchase the book for \$12 at the Office of the Superintendent of York Schools on Rte 1.

Samples of foods from Islamic culture and tradition will be available at all programs. All five sessions in the series will be held at the York Public Library and admission is free. See you there!

Congratulations, Tristan Haugh!

St. George's acolyte Tristan Haugh has been chosen to be an acolyte at the May 3 consecration of Bishop Elect Stephen Lane as the Ninth Bishop of Maine. Tristan's parents, Nancy & Bud Haugh, will be able to attend.

AIDS Walk 2008 *by Abbie Duquette*

Please join us on Sunday, May 4, for the 12th

Annual Seacoast AIDS Walk. The walk will start and end at City Hall, 1 Junkins Ave, Portsmouth. Registration will start at 1:00 and the walk will start at 2:00. The 5K walk will go on through rain or shine. Bring comfortable shoes and attire. Refreshments will follow the walk. Dogs are encouraged to come, and even have a separate pledge form. Every dog participating will receive a free doggie gift bag. There will be T-shirts available—free if you raise \$100 or more.

This year the fundraising goal is \$50,000. Groups from different organizations will be competing to raise the most money. The winner will receive an ice cream social. You can also compete against other individuals.

Even if you are unable to walk, you can still take a pledge sheet and collect donations from family and friends. Donations of any amount are appreciated; everything will help get us to our goal. We will be entering as a St. George's team, and would love to have as many people as possible. Encourage others to come, walk and fight AIDS!

If you have any questions or would like to register, contact Abbie Duquette at 363-2556 or Lauren Segalla at 363-8642. Abbie will be at church the next couple of Sundays to answer any question or concerns you might have related to the walk. You can also go online and fill in the needed information.

Hope to see you there!

Mother's Day Roses: Honor Thy Mother!

by Cindy Perkins

This year we are again giving everyone the opportunity to "remember Mom" on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11. You can purchase a rose in memory of or in thanksgiving for your Mom, Grandmother, or a special someone who has been like a Mom in your life.

Please fill out the form that is available in the Sunday bulletin or in this issue of *Dragon Tales*. Return the form to the church office, or place in the Sunday offering plate, with a donation of \$5 for each rose you would like to dedicate. Requests need to be in by Sunday, May 4. On Sunday, May 11, we will have special bouquets of roses in the sanctuary honoring all the "Moms" in our lives. After the 11:00 service on Mother's Day, you are welcome to take the rose(s) that you dedicated to enjoy. Your dedications will appear in *Dragon News* on May 11. Happy Mother's Day!

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation Launches Give It 4 Good Campaign

Initiative encourages 'choosing compassion over consumption'

April 15, 2008 [Episcopal News Service] Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation (EGR) is suggesting that Americans who will receive economic stimulus checks from the U.S. government beginning in May should give all or part of the money to organizations working to alleviate global poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The checks are being given in the hope that people will spend the money to bolster a stagnant U.S. economy. "With a \$9 trillion national debt, and a record and growing trade deficit undergirding a society that consumes goods far beyond its need, the call to consume more isn't just indefensible economically, but also environmentally and morally indefensible," EGR said in a news release.

The group's Give It 4 Good Campaign is not primarily a fund-raising campaign, the group's release said, though raising money for ministries and organizations working to end extreme poverty is an intended consequence. The purpose of Give It 4 Good is to foster a conversation about how to follow Christ in a culture of over-consumption—"and to give people a chance to put their treasure where their heart is," the EGR release said.

"We have an economy that is based on over-consumption, one that puts our consumer desires above all other values," says the Rev. Mike Kinman, EGR executive director. "It has caused us to cripple the creation with which God has entrusted us. It has led us into war. It has led us to look at our sisters and brothers around the world not as children of God but as objects in supply chains. "And every step of the way, it is eating away at our nation's soul." Kinman said the campaign suggests "choosing compassion over consumption."

"It's recognizing the link between our everyday consumer decisions and the economic systems that produce and sustain extreme poverty," he said in the release. "Like everything else, it's about wrestling with the question, 'What would Jesus do?'"

EGR is encouraging people to make a Give It 4 Good pledge which takes about two minutes to make online.

People whose income is either too high or too low to receive checks are asked to determine what their check would be if they qualified (based on marital status and number of dependent children) and give all or part of that amount.

Several levels of giving are offered—from 100% to 10% (a tithe) to as little as 0.7%.

The campaign's website has a running tally of who has given, how much has been pledged and the organizations that are benefitting. There are also related advocacy actions as well as materials for personal and congregational study. Sunday bulletin inserts linking the campaign to lectionary readings are also available.

As of late April 14, 161 people had taken the pledge, donating nearly \$43,000 to MDG-related causes. The most common destination for gifts was Episcopal Relief and Development and the MDG Inspiration Fund, but people are also using their gifts to support diocesan MDG projects and the work of Episcopal missionaries in Africa, the release said.

Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Southern Maine Chapter

An exploratory meeting of the new southern branch of Maine EPF Chapter will take place on Saturday, May 17, at St. Davids, Kennebunk, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Please come, and invite others who may be interested. A map and directions may be found [here](#).

Vacation Bible School *by Lynn Dube*

Vacation Bible School Sunday is coming up on May 11 and will replace our normal church school hour, from 9:45-10:45. This event will give parents and children the opportunity to get a "sneak peak" of what this summer's VBS Bible Blast will be all about!

The parishioners of St. Christopher's Catholic Church in York have graciously invited the children, VBS leaders and clergy of St. George's to join their Vacation Bible School Program for this summer. This is a wonderful opportunity for us, and I am very excited to be a part of the planning.

VBS Bible Blast will take place at St. Christopher's the week of July 21-25, Monday-Friday, and runs from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. All children who will be age four by July 21 through those going into the fourth grade are welcome to attend this year's VBS.

During our "sneak peak" on May 11, the children will make a craft to take home, listen to some of the music that will be part of this year's Bible Blast curriculum, have a special "theme" snack, and maybe play a game or two. Registration forms for VBS will be available as well. The sign-up fee is \$25 per child, \$10 for children of adult volunteers, and free for junior counselors (children grades five and up).

St. Christopher's has a few more adult and junior counselor positions to fill in order to make this event successful. I would love it if we at St. George's could fill in these spots, as a thank you for inviting us to join them! Please contact Lynn Dube, 384-4741, if you are willing to help out in any way.

Let's Clean Up the Church!

by Lorrie Whittaker

It's spring again and that means it's time to spring-clean our church. On Saturday, May 17, 9:00-12:00, we will gather to clean our church of its winter grime and grit. There will be many jobs to do, both indoors and outdoors. Adults and kids are all welcome—and needed. John Cashman, 363-5619, our Building and Grounds chair, will coordinate, but we need lots of volunteers to really make this happen.

If you have a safe, sturdy ladder, please bring it. Brooms, dustpans, mops, cleaning rags, cleaning formulas, glass cleaner, etc., are all very welcome. Check with John if you have an idea of something to bring but aren't sure. Please put this on your calendar—hope to see you there!

Calling All Graduate! *by Susan Yorston*

Please join us in congratulating and sending off our high school, college, and graduate school graduates on Sunday, June 1, at the 11:00 service. A brunch will follow, so stay for the food and social hour, too! Many of these young people have been part of our church community since they were babes, so let's show them how proud we are of their accomplishments before they step off into the big, wide world. We also want them to remember that their faith family will always be here to support them. Please look for the sign-up sheet to contribute to the festivities or contact Susan Yorston at 363-7609 or susanyorston@yahoo.com for more info or to help with this wonderful celebration.

Also please get in touch with me 363-7609 or

Lorrie in the parish office 363-7376 to make sure that we are aware of all graduates associated with St. George's, so they are contacted and recognized on this, their special day.

What's Happening With Habitat

by Liz Reisz, Habitat Covenant Representative

Since 1993 St. George's has been in a Covenant Church relationship with the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, Habitat for Humanity York County. As a Covenant Church, we are committed to providing support through prayer, through financial resources and, most especially, by giving of our time and talent.

Since 1985 Habitat for Humanity York County has completed 22 homes and housed more than 100 people with the help of volunteers. Two years ago our local affiliate participated in Blitz Build 2006, building the Peverill family home in Shapleigh in just one week. It went so well the first time HfHYC has decided to do it again!

Blitz Build 2008 will take place May 31-June 7 on the Gebung Road in Alfred. The Family Selection Committee is currently interviewing families who submitted applications for consideration. Douston Construction is leading the coordination on this project and they have teamed up with skilled local subcontractors to produce a top-quality home. Habitat for Humanity York County is very excited to team up with Douston to produce its 23rd home. FMI about Blitz Build 2008 and our local project visit <http://www.habitatyorkcounty.org/>.

There are many ways to be involved in Habitat for Humanity, from serving on committees, to volunteering on work sites, or helping to raise funds to cover the cost of building homes for families who have no other way to become homeowners in York County, Maine. FMI about how you can support this important ministry contact HfHYC at P.O. Box 267, Kennebunk, ME 04043 or call (207) 985-4850.

Kit Wang To Be Ordained

Our own Kit Wang will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on Saturday, June 14, 11:00 a.m. at St. George's. You are cordially invited to attend! Parish picnic to follow at 1:00 p.m.—see the article below.

Parish Picnic

On June 14, at 1:00 p.m. (basically right after Kit's ordination service), we will celebrate Kit, spring, and St. George's in general with a parish picnic. Come enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers (supplied by the church) along with the delicious potluck salads, breads and desserts supplied by all of us! Bring outdoor games and anything that will make the day even more fun. Please send in your reservation form (look in your Sunday bulletin) so we know how much meat, beverages and supplies to buy.

Spring Yard Sale

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 21, to clean out your closets! The Spring Yard Sale is NOT about clothing, shoes, linens, jewelry or accessories—but it is about almost everything else (no computers, please, and electronics/appliances only if they work. Please call the event chair first if you wish to donate furniture) Volunteers to help sort, price, set up, work the sale and clean up will be needed and welcome. Please contact Gordon & Cindie Thompson 363-0620.

Bess Makris' Estate Sale

William Makris and Philip Makris, Bess' nephews, donated \$1,500 from the March estate sale of Bess Makris' property here in York. The Vestry will ponder how best to use this lovely gift. Thank you, Will and Phil! Extra thanks also go to our own Nancy Haugh, who volunteered as a greeter at the estate sale.

All Parish Coffee Hour by Pat Kriensky

We are inviting ministries to host the All Parish Coffee Hour (APCH), which takes place at 10:00 the first Sunday of the month (except in summer)! This is a great way for your ministry to become visible to the parish and for the parish to meet those who are involved in what you do. Any group can host—how about Building and Grounds, one of the Youth Groups, or Meals on Wheels? These are just a few of the many wonderful ministries going on at St. George's. If your group would like to host the APCH one month, please sign up on the upstairs kitchen door.

Trinity Centennial Special Events

Friday, May 23, 8:00 p.m. Sacred Music from Trinity's First Years. The York Singers present a collec-

tion of English and American sacred works published in the late Victorian era (1845-1905) and very possibly performed during Trinity's first seasons.

Saturday, June 7, 8:00 p.m. Four Voices in Concert. Four outstanding area singers (Morgan McCurdy, mezzo-soprano; Robin Shaw, soprano; Harry Moon, tenor; Bill Wieting, bass) present Brahms' beloved Liebeslieder Waltzer (love song waltzes). The piano four-hands accompaniment will be performed by the very accomplished Audrey Adams and Geoffrey Wieting.

Friday, June 13, 8:00 p.m. Two for One: An Evening of Song. The Fourth Street Jazz, a community jazz choir directed by Kathy Fink, is joined by the Joyful Belles, an inspirational women's chorus directed by Tami Burns. Ain't Misbehavin', Over the Rainbow, Route 66 and more.

Saturday, June 21, 8:00 p.m. European Tour Send Off Concert. The Seacoast Community Chorus offers this performance of Americana Classics just prior to their performances throughout central Europe. Enjoy the talents of this group from throughout the Seacoast region under the direction of maestro Wendell Purrington.

Friday, June 27, at 8:00 p.m. Amazing Voices & Timbres of the Wicks Organ. Listen to renowned organist Geoffrey Wieting plumb the capabilities of this wonderful 12-rank, 947 pipe instrument. Geoff will present a variety of classics, with attention to the organ's role in leading congregational singing and setting the tone for worship.

Friday, July 18, 8:00 p.m. Murder in the Cathedral. Explore the depths of human motivation with this presentation of T.S. Eliot's Nobel Prize-winning play. The ever-active actor, director and producer Tim Robinson delivers this program with an ensemble cast drawn from throughout New England and performed in the perfect setting.

Saturday, July 19, at 8:00 p.m. Murder in the Cathedral. Second performance.

Wednesday, July 23, 8:00 p.m. Dueling A Cappellas. This is a one-of-a-kind performance by two truly outstanding a cappella groups—The Bow Tie Guys under the direction of Wendell Purrington and Women of Note, Southern Maine's premier female a cappella group. They will offer spiritual, secular and patriotic classics from contrasting ranges and styles.

Friday, July 25, at 8:00 p.m. Murder in the Cathedral. Third performance.

Saturday, July 26, 8:00 p.m. Murder in the Cathedral. Fourth and final performance.

Friday, August 8, 12:00 p.m. PMAC Junior Jazz Ensemble. Kids aged 10-13 from the Portsmouth Music & Arts Center will present a 15 minute free-form jazz program. This will be a perfect program for families with children who love music.

Wednesday, August 20, 6:00 p.m. The Architecture & History of Trinity Church. Author Richard S. Jackson offers an on-site lecture exploring the intertwining of York Harbor history with the architecture of Trinity Church.

Program particulars are subject to change. As event dates near, you can confirm program particulars via a voice recording at 207-363-5095.

Wrestling Report

(Here is what your Vestry has been "wrestling" with)

After the opening prayer, Paige+ gave the rector's report, including an update on the discretionary fund over the last quarter and Jane and Bud Wagner's donation of a diamond ring to St. George's. It has been a very busy month for all the clergy (and laity!). Paige was responsible for coordinating our hosting of the Good Friday ecumenical service. That combined with Holy Week and Easter services, and extending pastoral care to some in the greater community made for an especially busy time.

Treasurer George Dow reports that March came in solid and we are right about on budget for the month, and thus YTD is running to budget too! The Vestry wishes to thank the entire congregation for their support financially. Expenses are in line with budget as well, we are under \$500 for the year so far. This positions us well to get through the tougher summer months. (See treasurer's report in this issue.)

Robert Palmer (finance officer) and George Dow (treasurer) are strengthening our financial procedures, including Robert doing account reconciliations. Robert and Linda Perkins (assistant treasurer) are also working on the cash deposit procedures.

As for Buildings and Grounds: Some "once in a 10-15 year period tree pruning maintenance" needs to be done. [Done on April 11]. The cost of this is about \$1500 and the funds are available in the Landscape Fund to cover this. There was a lengthy discussion about the steps necessary to repair the parking lot. Matt Reilly is

going to look into the options. B&G Vestry liaison Matt Reilly looked into an energy audit. Any new renovations would be done in a very "green" manner.

We discussed the Associate Rector Position, namely that Steve+ as an 80% employed Associate Rector is averaging 50 hours a week so far in 2008, and we need to relieve some of the pressure on his time. Steve+ will be working about every other week in the summer (as opposed to having the summer off) to keep programs moving forward. The weeks he will be preaching he will work part time, and then enjoy some well-earned comp time repayment during the other weeks.

The Long Range Planning Committee reported on the April 1 meeting, including a geographic analysis of the congregation and options for growth and facilities. The group expects to present the Vestry with a recommendation for our May meeting.

ANYONE who wishes to sing, dance or otherwise help create our 2009 Stewardship campaign should email Daryl McKay at daryl@spimages.com.

Spiritual Formation: May & Early June

Please browse through the following information. These are our spiritual formation and community building offerings as of right now. As always, this information will be updated in your Sunday bulletins and on our website.

May 4: All Parish Coffee Hour at 10:00 – bring something yummy to share

May 11: Vacation Bible School presentation for kids and parents at 9:45ish

May 18: Theological Education Sunday – program at 10:00 about how church leaders are educated

May 25: Doubt and Faith (i.e., Believing), Part 1 – conversation at 10:00 facilitated by Steve+ and perhaps others

June 1: All Parish Coffee Hour at 10:00 – bring something yummy to share. Graduating Seniors Brunch at noon – bring a good dish to help honor our graduates

June 8: Doubt and Faith (i.e., Believing), Part 2 – conversation at 10:00 facilitated by Steve+ and perhaps others. Last day of Church School and Adult Spiritual Formation before summer!

Music Notes *by Kathy Fink, Music Director*

Join us as we welcome spring with Sing Into Spring: An Evening of Music and Fellowship, on Sun-

day, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. at St George's. We are looking for singers, musicians, jugglers, comics or whatever your talent may be! Ballots will be in your Sunday bulletin to vote for your favorite Easter and spring-like hymns. At the event, we will all sing the winning hymns, interspersed with the live acts. Also, we invite people to bring refreshments to share after the performance. Sign-up sheets are in the parish hall. Donations will be accepted for the music program.

Our previous musical evenings have been a huge success, enjoyed by everyone who attended and participated—hope to see you there.

Staff Absences

Lorrie on vacation, May 1-7

Paige+ on vacation, May 19-23

Recipe Corner

I want your recipes! If you have a recipe you are willing to share, please email it to the parish administrator, office@stgeorges-yorkharbor.org.

Chicken Enchiladas à la Crock Pot

[This chicken recipe is the one Heather & Greg Hesse-Stromberg brought to the January 19 U2charist potluck—and everyone was raving about it!] These recipes call for your input regarding how much to add of many ingredients. Please forgive the parentheses—they allow you to know where flexibility is fine. Play with these recipes to get them just how you like it. Enjoy!
Heather

1 boneless, skinless chicken breast for each person (can be frozen)

1 can of black beans (at least) drained and rinsed

1 can of kidney beans (at least) drained and rinsed

2 packets of taco seasoning or 1/3 cup (hotness of your choice)

1 tsp. seasoned salt

2 tsp. chili powder

1 tsp. lime juice (at least) (bottled is fine)

2 large jars of salsa (hotness of your choice)

shredded cheese (Mexican/taco/nachos – however your store describes it)

Optional: black olives (sliced), onions (diced), sour cream, guacamole (see recipe below)

Place chicken breasts at the bottom of the crockpot. Sprinkle with taco seasoning to cover chicken and bottom of crockpot. Sprinkle with seasoned salt and chili powder. Add lime juice. Cover with salsa (saving some for a later layer). Add drained and rinsed beans. Sprinkle with additional taco seasoning and/or chili powder if you wish. Cover with salsa. Cook on high for 3 hours or low for 6-7 hours.

Fifteen minutes before you want to eat, shred the chicken by pulling apart with two forks into bite-size pieces and add shredded cheese. Stir in the cheese and let cook for remaining 15 minutes on low.

Can be served in soft or hard taco shells, on tortillas or with tortilla chips. If desired, top with sour cream, sliced black olives, onion and guacamole.

Guacamole à la Heather

4 ripe avocados (just soft to the touch – not squishy)

Chopped tomato (as much or little as you like – not required)

Chopped red onion (as much or little as you like – not required)

1 tsp. lemon juice (bottled is fine)

Seasoned salt (as much or little as you like – start small and add more to taste)

Chili powder (as much or little as you like – start small and add more to taste)

Optional: 2 Tbsp. chopped cilantro

Mash avocados in medium-sized bowl. Add tomato, onion, lemon juice, seasoned salt and chili powder. Mix and sample. Add additional seasoned salt and chili powder if needed. Add cilantro.

Fun "Facts"

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden"...and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

Coca-Cola was originally green.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska

The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28% (now get this...)

The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%

The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$6,400

The average number of people airborne over the U.S. in any given hour: 61,000

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.

The San Francisco cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades - King David

Hearts - Charlemagne

Clubs - Alexander, the Great

Diamonds - Julius Caesar

111,111,111 X 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321

In the park, if a statue of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until five years later.

Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what? A. Their birthplace

Q. Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested? A. Obsession

Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter "A"?

A. One thousand

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers all have in common?

A. All were invented by women.

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A. Honey

Q. Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year? A. Father's Day

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase..... "goodnight, sleep tight."

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them "Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down." t's where we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's"

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by this practice.

Prayer List

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Ursula Apgar, Mary Baker, Jeff Bishop, Ruby Bishop, Pauline Breary, Scott Bridges, Gerry Burch, Roz Bush, Ken Capon, TenBroeck Cornell, Marion Dorr, Susan Duffy, Debbie Ehret, Anne Erwin, Marion Grecko, Mike Gizzi, Culver Godfrey, Heather Godfrey, Loren Gregory, Mary Hoffman, Jeff Johnson, Jennifer, Joshua Kelly, Cassandra Kirby, Mary Jane Kruger, Jack Lewis, Gerry Lipsett, Kathy Little, Rosie Littlefield, Rita Loew, Martine, Bob McMurtry, David Moore, Stephanie Morgan, John Parris, Rosemary Perrin, Bob Porter, Tony Ray, Stanley Raynes, Priscilla Ropke, Andrew Tennant, Thelma Thompson, Jane Wagner, Greg Wallace, Barbara Ward, Mark Williams, Marion Wyman, Susan Yorston

for those who have died: Ray DeMars

for Kit Wang as she prepares for her ordination to the transitional diaconate, June 14 at St. George's

for Habitat for Humanity
for ++Katharine Jefferts Schori, our Presiding Bishop, +Chilton Knudsen, our Bishop, and for Steven Lane+, our Bishop Coadjutor-Elect

for our President and the heads of state of all countries in the world, that they may make peace and justice for everyone

for everyone serving in the armed forces and security personnel at home and overseas, and their families, especially Jerry Babcock, Hal Brewster, Pattie & David Davis, Jackie West, Michael West

for church unity (Book of Common Prayer, p. 818)

for peace in Darfur

The world now has the means to end poverty; pray that we have the will to do it.

Weekly/Recurring Meetings

Monday	6:00-7:00 p.m.	AA upstairs
Wednesday	7:30-8:30 p.m.	AA upstairs
Thursday	4:45-7:15 p.m.	Weight Watchers
	7:00-9:00 p.m.	AA upstairs
	7:00 p.m.	Parish Choir (Sep-June)
Friday	7:00-9:00 p.m.	AA upstairs
Saturday	12:00-1:00 p.m.	AA downstairs

Current Worship Schedule

Program Year, September 9, 2007 - June 8, 2008

Sunday	7:45 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, spoken
	8:45 a.m.	Spiritual Formation
	9:00 a.m.	Family Eucharist, with music
	9:45 a.m.	Church School
	10:00 a.m.	Spiritual Formation
	11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, with music and choir
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Silent Prayer
	9:15 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist with optional healing

Vestry Members—Contact Info

(Below is a list of current Vestry members, their phone numbers, email addresses and the committees and/or ministries for which they are the Vestry liaison)

Brenda Ervin, 439-1205, rnb6263@comcast.net, Senior Warden; 11:00 Steering Committee

Ken Barrett, 439-2034, barret1719@aol.com, Junior Warden; 7:45 Steering Committee

George Dow, 439-7866, george.dow@tdbanknorth.com, Treasurer; Stewardship

Pauline Cashman, 363-5619, cside@maine.rr.com, Pastoral Care

Daryl McKay, 363-4256, daryl@spimages.com, Church School; 9:00 Steering Committee

Eve Ray, 363-7038, anthonymray@yahoo.com; Outreach

Pat Kriensky, 641-2246, pkriensky@verizon.net, Parish Events & Relations

Susan Wilson, 363-1669, wcfields@maine.rr.com, Youth

Kate Bishop, 363-1759, srkateb@maine.rr.com; 11:00 Steering Committee

Robert Palmer, 363-3292, rpalmer3@maine.rr.com; Finance;; 7:45 Steering Committee

Matt Reilly, 384-5701, mattmasonman@aol.com; Building and Grounds; 9:00 Steering Committee

Calendar

May 4	Sun, 10:00 am	All Parish Coffee hour
May 4	Sun, 2:00 pm	AIDS Walk (Portsmouth)
May 7	Wed, 7:00 pm	Vestry meeting
May 11	Sun, 10:00 am	Vacation Bible School Sunday
May 17	Sat, 9:00-12:00	Clean Up The Church
May 18	Sun, 10:00 am	Theological Sunday
May 18	Sun, 7:00 pm	Sing Into Spring Musical Evening
May 25	Sun, 10:00 am	Doubt & Faith, Part I
May 29	Thur, 5:45 pm	"Berwicks" Church gathering
Jun 1	Sun, 10:00 am	All Parish Coffee Hour
Jun 1	Sun, 11:00 svc	Honoring Our Graduates; luncheon follows
Jun 4	Wed, 7:00 pm	Vestry meeting
Jun 8	Sun, 10:00 am	Doubt & Faith, Part II
Jun 14	Sat, 11:00 am	Ordination of Kit Wang to the diaconate
Jun 14	Sat, 1:00 pm	Parish Picnic
Jun 15	Sunday	Summer schedule begins: 7:45 and 9:00 services only

Treasurer's Report

March 2008	Budgeted	Actual
Pledges	\$20,833.33	\$19,549.00
Pledges YTD	\$62,499.99	\$61,972.80
Total Contributions	\$23,635.00	\$24,773.58
Total Contributions YTD	\$70,905.00	\$82,315.68
Total Income	\$28,518.75	\$30,597.36
Total Income YTD	\$85,556.25	\$117,704.23
Expenses	\$28,833.76	\$28,000.16
Expenses YTD	\$86,501.28	\$86,032.40

March 2007	Budgeted	Actual
Pledges	\$20,201.00	\$16,654.00
Pledges YTD	\$60,603.00	\$55,465.15
Total Contributions	\$21,951.00	\$18,919.50
Total Contributions YTD	\$65,853.00	\$60,458.75
Total Income	\$25,868.51	\$23,133.04
Total Income YTD	\$77,605.53	\$75,786.57
Expenses	\$26,321.90	\$31,936.39
Expenses YTD	\$78,965.70	\$82,719.77*

*Reflects quarterly and late 2006 expenses.