

**St. George's Episcopal Church**  
**105 East D Street**  
**Belleville, Illinois 62220**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Mon. through Fri.

Office Phone: (618) **233-6320**

*For pastoral care after office hours, contact*

*Fr. Dale Coleman at 213-6071*

Office E-mail: [stgeorgeoffice@stcglb.net](mailto:stgeorgeoffice@stcglb.net)

Website: <http://stgeorges.wordpress.com>

**Church Officers**

**Priest-in-Charge**—The Rev. Dale D. Coleman, Jr.

**Rector's Warden**—Tom Boschert

**Parish Warden**—Brian Maves

**Treasurer**—Ruth Weber

**Clerk of the Vestry**—Kim Christ

**Rector Emeritus**—The Rev. Canon Elliot H. Blackburn

**Vestry Members**

**Class of 2008**      **Class of 2009**

Tom Boschert      Ellen Blackburn

Dan Duncan      Maryann Fernandez

Jim Gillispie      Brian Maves

**Class of 2010**

Robert Hall

Edd Parsons

George Schneider

## Nomination for Vestry, Synod, or Deanery

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination for (choose one): Vestry \_\_\_\_\_ Synod \_\_\_\_\_ Deanery \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the nominee should be considered for this position?

Please list offices, organizations, or projects in which the nominee has been active:

Does the nominee know you are nominating him/her? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Deadline for nominations is December 19<sup>th</sup>.*

## MILITARY CARE PACKAGE ENROLLMENT

The Evangelism Committee sends care packages to deployed military. Military don't have to be parish members or Episcopalian. To enroll someone, fill out this form & put in collection basket.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Deployed to \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Branch of Military: \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Dislikes: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

# OPPORTUNITY

## Red Cross Blood Drive

St. George's will again host a Blood Drive by the American Red Cross on Sunday, December 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

A frequent reason for deferral has been a low iron level in prospective donor's blood. If you are borderline and would like to boost your iron level, try the following suggestions from the American Red Cross:

- Seek out daily physical activity such as brisk walking. Regular, steady activity encourages the marrow to produce more blood cells.*
- Minimize smoking; smoking binds up the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood.*
- Eat meat, seafood, or poultry along with foods containing Vitamin C at the same meal. Search out and consume iron-rich foods.*

Donors can be as young as 16, but will need a signed parental consent form if under 18.

December is always a critical time for the blood supply as donors are often busy with holiday shopping, Christmas parties, and so forth. The St. Louis area has a demand of about 1000 units of blood per month. This demand varies little throughout the year. Blood products are needed by accident victims, cancer patients, and surgical patients. From my experience as a blood donor, it means something special when I hear of someone being helped by a donation or being thanked by someone who has received a blood or platelet transfusion.

Sunday morning is an ideal time to donate.

**There is usually a line after the 10:30 service so you may want to consider donating before the service. Donating takes 45 minutes to an hour.** It is a simple way to give a great Christmas gift to someone in need because of an accident or sick with cancer.

If you have questions about the drive, please call Frank Rogers at 277-1406. We hope to see you there.

--F.R.

## Ever Green

Memorial envelopes for Christmas greenery are in the pews and must be turned in by December 17th for names to be included in the Christmas bulletins.

### **Green Needed to Banish Red**

As the end of the 2008 year approaches, our parish is projecting a \$16,000 operating deficit. Every income area for St. George's is down compared to budgeted income. Pledge and plate offerings are down about \$20,000. Interest earned on our trust fund is down. Even donations to cover the expense of coffee hour are down.

While some of the current deficit is expected to be recouped during November and December, treasurer Ruth Ann Weber said historic trends and the current economic conditions make a \$16,000 deficit likely. The 2008 budget had anticipated a \$6,000 deficit. Church reserve funds can cover the projected deficit; however, the deficit coupled with pledges for 2009 will create budget problems for the new year.

The Stewardship & Finance Commission and Vestry work to develop a balanced budget each year but fluctuations occur. Church finances have stayed fairly constant over the years. During the search for a new priest, pledges for 2008 dropped from the preceding year. In 2008 there were 94 pledging units offering \$187,000 in pledges. Currently the pledge drive for 2009 has 86 pledging units with \$187,000 pledged.

We expect the number of pledging units for 2009 to increase and hopefully that will get our budget back on track.

--Tom Boschert  
Senior Warden

### **Annual Meeting 25 January**

Our yearly Parish meeting will be on Sunday, January 25th, right after the luncheon served after the 10:30 service. Resolutions should be in by the end of December.

Commission chairs and Parish officers, annual reports must get to the office no later than **Friday, January 16** to be included in the published report.

[Vestry, continued from page 15]

Planning Meeting – Tom stated that Todd Hall was booked. He asked if the Vestry would like to have a “winter charger weekend” for planning for entire church. We could meet in groups after a pot luck on a Friday night and continue through Saturday. Father Dale felt this would be a renewing event for the parish and would like more feedback from the parish regarding where they want to have St. George’s focus on moving in the future. November 22nd was proposed as the possible date. We will check further.

Nominating Committee – Tom and Jim will be leaving. Will need three new members, one replacement for Ellen at the annual meeting.

Tim Paeltz made a written presentation to the Vestry for a small theater group to present *It’s a Wonderful Life* at the church. The Vestry will look into this further and get back with Tim.

Father Dale led the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

## **Saint Nick to Visit December 7th**

St. Nicholas has checked his schedule. He will be able to visit St. George’s on the day after his feast day.

This fourth-century bishop was a real person who was born in Asia Minor (where Turkey is now) when it was part of the Roman Empire. Like St. George, St. Nicholas lived when the Emperor Diocletian ordered Christians to be punished. Nicholas was put in prison and treated badly, but (unlike George) was not killed. When a new Emperor, Constantine, decided that Christians were okay, Nicholas and a lot of other bishops met in the city of Nicaea in 325 to make clear just what Christians do and do not believe. (What Nicholas and the other bishops agreed on became part of the Nicene Creed, which we say together every Sunday.) When St. Nick comes to our church on December 7th, be sure to ask him what they said about Arius at the First Council of Nicaea.

Bishop Nicholas was known for giving away his money to help poor people. One story is told of how he secretly tossed three bags of gold down a chimney to save three young women from slavery. Other stories say that he rescued a sailor from drowning and children from a murderer. We don’t know if the many stories about him are all true, but we do know that Nicholas became one of Christianity’s best-loved saints, with many cheerful customs kept on his December 6th feast day.

## **Advent Forum Topic: Community Ministries**

Outreach ministries and a new city-wide initiative to identify and support church service programs will be the topic for the Adult Forum during Advent.

Parishioner George Evans, who oversees the St. George's-St. Mark Food Pantry, will discuss the pantry's work on December 7th. Jim Schneider, an official on Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert's staff, will visit on the 14th to explain the city's initiative to bring together faith communities in common purpose to serve the needy. On the 21st Fr. Dale Coleman will discuss the theology of service.

Advent and the coming of Christmas are an apt time to talk about service, about living out God's love in the world. That's what God Himself did! — took on human flesh and came to Earth as Emmanuel, God-with-us. Among other things, God-with-us surely means the stirring up of His spirit of giving and His protecting hand on those in need.

This timely series offers lively conversation, strong coffee, and food for thought! Plan to join us — the discussion will be better if you are there.

*[Vestry, continued from page 4]*

gone to the board meeting and was impressed with how well it was run.

The Liturgy Commission reported that Cindy Lynk is taking over the scheduling of chalice bearers and lay readers.

The Spiritual Enrichment Commission reported that Lynette Schneider has taken over the prayer shawl ministry and that several people have been involved with the Fallen Soldiers Program and we have gotten positive feedback.

Property: Discussed the sound system. Tom has asked Chris Treadwell about the microphones. Our mics plug into the old system. Chris will see if we can rewire the new mics into the system. We are looking at 4 lavalier and 2 handheld mics.

The Education Commission reported that Frank and Betsy Rogers are proposing a bon fire at Fern Glen on November 1st; that Chris Althoff will be doing the Halloween party; and that Father wants to meet with the teachers to see how things are going.

Tom Boschert presented Communion by-laws which were approved after discussion.

Tom Boschert presented a Priest-in-Charge job description that he had formulated with Fr. Dale. After discussion, the Vestry voted to accept the job description.

*[Vestry continues on page 16]*

# OPPORTUNITIES

## Common Threads

To all involved or looking to become involved in the St. George's & St. Mark Prayer Shawl Ministry:

There is a new sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the parish hall. Even if you have signed up before, please place your name, phone number, e-mail address, etc. on the sheet. I am trying to get everything updated from when Carol Belt retired. If there are any questions, please contact me, Lynette Schneider, at (618) 416-2234 or [MingTaoQR@aol.com](mailto:MingTaoQR@aol.com).

A good bit of yarn donated to the prayer shawl ministry is in the cabinet in the parish hall. Also, there is a box of needles of all sizes and types. If anyone wants the yarn or needles to work with, please help yourself.

In the same cabinet there are needlepoint hoops and patterns for painting on sweatshirts. If you are interested in the patterns, please help yourself. If you know of some community center that can use what has been left, please share with them. The cabinet is getting full and it would be nice to pass those donated items on to those who can use them.

--L.S.

Yes! — I'm planning to attend St. George's Advent Quiet Day Saturday, Dec. 6.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I will need child care and lunch for \_\_\_\_\_ children, ages \_\_\_\_\_.

# OPPORTUNITIES

Parishioners, your  
2009 weekly offering  
envelopes will be in the  
Canterbury Room  
starting Dec. 7th.

## Nominate Soon

Parishioners are invited to submit names for the Vestry, Synod, or Deanery. At the Annual Meeting parishioners will elect three Vestry members, five Synod delegates, and two Deanery delegates.

Nominees must be confirmed communicants in good standing at St. George's, regular in attendance at worship, and faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

Turn nomination forms (p. 19) in to the Parish Office by **December 19th**.

The Editor very much regrets the inclusion of doggerel in this issue and cannot imagine how such an editorial lapse took place.

## Lessons & Carols

On Sunday, December 7th, St. George's Adult Choir will participate in the Advent Lessons & Carols service at Christ Church Cathedral on Locust Street in St. Louis. Many choirs from Episcopal churches in the Greater St. Louis area participate. The service begins at 6:00 p.m. Come join us at this beautiful and inspirational service!

## The Gifting Tree

A sight you may not often see  
Is poster acting like a tree,

A tree that grows in narthex room  
Like 2-D cardboard Tannenboom,

A tree that does in Advent wear  
The names of children in its hair,

A tree that tells the Christmas hopes  
Of kids whose lives are on the ropes,

A tree who bids, by Advent Three,  
Your presents back in Canterb'ry.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only you can prevent  
Christmas Day disappointment.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### **Elderhostel at Toddhall**

Toddhall announces an opportunity for people over 55 from St George's/St Mark to participate in an Elderhostel event at a reduced cost.

*Jerusalem: from Perspective of Christian, Jew, and Muslim*

Sunday, Dec. 7th: Overview evening.

Monday, Dec. 8th: Christian Perspective; bus to cathedral in St Louis with presentation and tour

Tuesday, Dec. 9th: Muslim Perspective; bus to mosque with presentation and tour

Wednesday, Dec. 10th: Jewish Perspective; bus to synagogue with presentation and tour

Thursday, Dec. 11th: Morning panel discussion, with question & answer session, among the three instructors who presented/toured their faith tradition earlier in the week.

Meals are included in the cost of \$250 per person. If interested please contact Tom Heiting (281-394-852) or John Forister (799-9996).

### **Capital Ideas**

God has blessed St George's with wonderful property and facilities. As good stewards of God's gifts we must consider how to maintain our facilities. Your Vestry has started looking at several big projects needing attention and is prayerfully considering the need for a Capital Campaign to raise the resources needed to continue our ministry in the community.

This month, your Vestry continues to look for parishioners able to devote time and talents to a Capital Campaign committee. If you are interested, please talk with Tom Boschert, Brian Maves, or any Vestry member.

St. George's Episcopal Church  
2008-2009  
CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 21  
Advent 4

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Church School  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 24  
Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eucharist;  
Choristers will sing  
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Celebration of the  
Holy Eucharist; music beginning at 10:40 p.m.

Thursday, December 25  
Christmas Day

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday December 28, 2008

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Child care provided No church school

Sunday, January 4, 2009

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, January 6, 2009  
Epiphany

7:00 p.m. Joint Holy Eucharist with St. Mark Lutheran

**Invite a Friend!**

Spend Christmas with family and friends here at St. George's. The Evangelism Committee is making it a little easier to invite a friend or neighbor to celebrate the Christmas season with us at St George's. We have designed an invitation for you to drop in a Christmas card and send to a friend. You'll find these invitations in the bulletin and in the Canterbury room early in Advent. Please think of at least one local person you can send a Christmas card with the invitation to visit St George's during the Christmas season.

--M.Z.

## December Parish Calendar

Nov. 26 Joint Thanksgiving Service 7:00 p.m. – Calvary Lutheran Church

Nov. 27-28 Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed

---

Dec. 1 Toddhall Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Conf Rm  
Order of St. Luke – 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 2 *Wonderful Life* Rehearsal – 7:00 p.m. – Parish Hall

Dec. 4 WEDG Dinner – 6:30 pm – Fischer’s  
*Wonderful Life* Rehearsal – 7:00 p.m. – Parish Hall

Dec. 6 **Advent Quiet Day** Luncheon – 12 Noon – Parish Hall  
First Meditation – 12:45 p.m. – Chapel

Set up for Bookstore Christmas Sale

Dec. 7 Christmas **Bookstore Sale** – Parish Hall  
Choir at Lesson & Carols at Christ Church Cathedral – 6:00 p.m.  
*Wonderful Life* Rehearsal - 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall  
St. Mark Annual Meeting - Chapel

Dec. 8 Vestry – 7:00 p.m. – Conf Rm

Dec. 9 *Wonderful Life* Rehearsal – 7:00 p.m. – Parish Hall

Dec. 11 ***It’s a Wonderful Life* Performance** – 7:00 p.m. – Parish Hall

Dec. 12 ***It’s a Wonderful Life* Performance** – 7:00 p.m. – Parish Hall

Dec. 13 ***It’s a Wonderful Life* Performance** – 2:30 p.m. – Parish Hall

Dec. 20 Altar Guild Cleaning Day

Dec. 21 Red Cross **Blood Drive** – 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Parish Hall  
**Christmas Pageant** at the 10:30 service

Choir retreat – 12:00-2:30 p.m. – Parish Hall

Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve** – Office closed – No 9:30 a.m. service

**Children’s Eucharist at 5:00 p.m.**

**10:40 p.m. Pre-Service Music**

**11:00 p.m. Festival Celebration of Holy Eucharist**

Dec. 25 **Christmas Day** – Office closed – **10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Dec. 26 Office closed

Dec. 31 No 9:30 a.m. service

---

Jan. 1 Office closed

Jan. 6 **Epiphany**-Holy Eucharist with St. Mark-7:00 p.m.

## Many Thanks...

...to everyone who ordered chili and pies from the Youth Group to help raise funds  
...to Frank and Betsy Rogers for letting the Sunday School have the Fall Celebration at their Fern Glen cabin. The trees were beautiful, the weather was great, and the bonfire was big. It could not have been more perfect. Thanks for your generosity.

## Travel Bulletins

Thanks, Anonymous, for the bulletin from St. Francis Xavier (College) Church on the campus of Saint Louis University.

---

Thank you, Shirley Helber, for bulletin and newsletter from Trinity Episcopal Church in Owensboro, Kentucky. With the newsletter was a pledge and commitment card that asks members to "...commit a portion of [their] time to God in some form of prayer and scripture study..." and to "...prayerfully accept the challenge of taking a step towards the biblical tithe..." The back of this bright orange 8x5 card lists the ministries of the church, divided into categories of Worship, Outreach, Christian Education, etc. The card asks member to "...mark those ministries in which you are currently involved and any in which you would be interested in participating."

## Pageant Set for Dec 21

Little lambs and shepherds will be flocking to Bethlehem on the fourth Sunday in Advent as the St. George's Sunday School presents a Christmas Pageant based on St. Luke's gospel.

The story will be filled with familiar characters and the first verses of Christmas songs we all know. It should be a fun presentation for everyone and Father has graciously given up the time for his sermon so we will be able to enjoy the pageant.

Everyone is asked to bring some Christmas cookies so we can continue our special day during pre-Christmas coffee hour reception for our cast of little players.

--T. B.

Editor's Note: There are no little parts, only little players. Especially if they drink the coffee.

**Contributions or pledge payments must be received by the church office no later than Dec. 31st to count as a 2008 tax deduction.**

## Transition

The season of Advent begins on November 30th!

*Have a bulletin to share? Write your name on it and place it in folder marked "Dragon" in the wall file on the landing between classrooms & offices.*

## “Scarcity and Abundance” Theme of Advent Quiet Day

Does December take on a certain manic aspect for you? Do you long for a break from the frenzy of shopping, cooking and partying? Do you find yourself submerged in preparing for “the holidays” and unable to prepare for the coming of Jesus? St. George’s Spiritual Growth Commission can help!

“Scarcity and Abundance” will be the theme Saturday, December 6th, as the Rev. Gwynne K. Schultz of Sister Bay, Wisconsin, leads this year’s Advent Quiet Day. The commission offers the Quiet Day as an opportunity for reflection and spiritual growth in the midst of the year’s busiest time.

Gwynne Schultz is a pastor in the United Church of Christ. She has a master in divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary, New York City, and completed a year’s study at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington, D.C. Formerly of Santa Barbara, California, she was founder and facilitator of the Stillpoint Center for Spirituality as well as Centerpoint, a training program for spiritual directors. She has led numerous retreats and programs for spiritual growth.

The program will begin with a simple luncheon of homemade soups and breads at 12 noon in the parish hall. Gwynne’s meditations will begin at 12:45 p.m. in the chapel. A period of quiet time for reflection and prayer will follow each meditation. The day will conclude with a brief prayer service.

We will arrange for child care **if those wishing it will register on the form (p. 14) or call the office, 233-6321, no later than Dec. 4 to request it.**

Scarcity and abundance seem especially appropriate themes, both in this year of economic uncertainty and in this season, when we anticipate yet again the manifestation of God’s abundant love for us in the gift of His Son. Come apart with us! — and prepare to receive the Christ as He comes to us once again as an infant in Bethlehem.

--E.R.

A flower chart for 2009 is posted on the kiosk in the Parish Hall. Altar flowers cost \$40. Sanctuary lights may be reserved for \$5.

# DAYS TO CELEBRATE

## Birthdays!

12/01 Andrew Mannix

12/01 Emily Althoff

12/03 Jackie Maple

12/03 Joan Barnes

12/03 Sarah Bender

12/03 Aidan Gillen

12/03 Sean Gillen

12/04 Morgan Dickey

12/05 Louise Robertson

12/05 Pam Jones

12/07 Dawn Jung

12/08 Ellen Treadwell

12/09 Robby McCluskey

12/10 Richard Slocomb

12/11 Ted Cook

12/14 Barney Barnes

12/14 Dr. Jim Althoff

12/15 Dana Meyer

12/15 Brandon Walters

12/16 Julie Mathus

12/17 Kevin Korte

12/18 Audrey King

12/18 Becky Korte

12/18 Rosemary Paeltz

12/19 Dr. Dan Gillen

12/19 Eddy Lynk

12/19 John Mize

12/23 Ross Kincaid

12/23 Jeremy Robinson

12/23 Kelly Gillen

12/26 Robert Howard

12/26 Robert Massie, Sr.

12/27 Wendy Parker

12/28 Carol Isbell

12/28 Lana Kincaid

12/28 Sydney Walters

12/29 Janis Corbett

12/31 Pat Ledden

12/31 Marilyn Boschert

## Anniversaries!

12/11 Ken & Sharon Gottschall

12/29 Rod & Polly Hampton

12/30 Charles & Louise Robertson

# NEWS & NOTES

## Advent WEDG

The Women's Ecumenical Dining Group will gather at Fischer's Restaurant for its annual Advent dinner. The dinner is set for **Thursday, December 4th**, at **6:30 p.m.** and is open to all women 18 years and above. We will order off the menu. Come one, come all!

Fischer's is located at 2100 West Main in Belleville. Please call in your reservations to the church office (233-6320) by Monday, December 1st, to allow for an accurate head count. Come for good fun, good food, and good conversation.

## Take *Life*

Subscriptions to *EpiscopalLife*, the national newspaper for Episcopalians, are now available. You may subscribe under the Small Group Plan through St. George's for only \$15. Sign up on sheet on the kiosk in the Parish Hall or call the church office.

## Note of Thanks

10-27-08

Today I am thankful for the members of St. George's. Thank you very much for your Fall Ingathering of \$697.30. Your thankfulness will benefit many people through the annual United Thank Offering grants.

Love,  
*Mrs. Jan Goossens*  
Diocesan UTO Coordinator

## Wonderful Life

*It's a Wonderful Life--A Live Radio Play* will be presented in the Parish Hall on December 11th, 12th, and 13th as a fund raiser for the Food Pantry. The story of George Bailey's life and how it touches the lives of Bedford Falls citizens will be re-told in the format of a 1940s radio broadcast. Actors from St. George's, St. Mark, and the community will provide live voices, live music, and live sound effects for a live audience--you! The December 11th and 12th performances are at 7 p.m.; the December 13th show is a 2:30 matinee. Admission \$5.

# NEWS & NOTES

## Not Too Late to Pledge

Please turn your 2009 pledge card in soon. Our Vestry needs to know how much the parish will have to work with every month for the new year's budget.

Lost your pledge card? The church office has extras...

## Toddhall Retreatants in December

Nov 26-30 American Meditation Society, Boling Springs, PA, 25

Dec 1-4 Sew Busy Quilters, St. Louis, MO, 10

Dec 4-7 Renewal in Christ Ministries (Fr. Dalmasso), East Moline, IL, 26

Dec 5-7 Woman to Woman Midwest, Inc, Louisiana, MO, 9

Dec 7-11 Elderhostal (at Toddhall), 10

Dec 12-14 Patti Hawkins Quilters, St. Charles, MO, 10

Dec 17 Private Christmas Party, 50

Dec 20-21 Edwards Family Reunion, Homewood, IL, 12

Jan 2-3 Ursuline Academy, St. Louis, MO, 50

Call Viv Gillispie  
(233-4153) or  
Mary Mohrman  
(222-1587) to  
volunteer on one of  
these dates.

## December Healing Prayer Teams

8:00

10:30

7th G. Heiting & A. Gabriel

S. Elliott & S. Cantonwine

14th L. Schneider & M. Brown

B. Vaughn & V. Hall (Catherine)

21st T. Heiting & M. Brown

K. Korte & S. Cantonwine

28th T. Heiting & G. Heiting

M. Brown & B. Korte

Next OSL meeting will be on December 1st at 7:00 (Segments 8-13).

# VESTRY

Our Vestry met in regular session on October 13th. Holy Eucharist was given by Fr. Coleman. The meeting was then called to order and the September minutes were approved. The treasurer's report was also approved. It was noted that the diocesan pledge has been paid and that September income grew by 7.6%.

Priest-in-Charge Fr. Coleman reported that he went with other church representatives to a Mayor's meeting at which the Mayor asked about church responses to the homelessness issue; that some parishioners wish to talk about the Diocese/Synod meeting; that he enjoyed the Ultrea meeting Friday night; that Synod is coming up and we needed another delegate since Marilyn Belleville and Stacie Mize are unable to attend. Tom Heiting proposed asking Gail Heiting, who was called and accepted. The Vestry voted to accept Gail as a delegate.

Tom Boschert, Senior Warden, reported that the dishwasher was broken and that the Chili Cook-Off Committee would like to cover the labor charges of \$350 and asked the Vestry to cover the equipment charges of \$400. The Vestry voted to approve the cost. There was discussion about the slight decrease in Sunday School attendance.

Brian Maves, Junior Warden, reported that the planter box area had been measured for the project proposed by Elliot Meyer. The project will not block the pathway. The width and height of the project is essentially the same. Brian will contact Joe Hooten to set up another meeting. The lawyers are ok with the project. A capital campaign planner was presented to the Vestry. A write-up regarding the possibility of a capital campaign will be placed in the *Dragon*.

Stewardship Commission reported that October 26th is Stewardship Sunday and requested that the Vestry put out a stewardship letter. A sample letter was presented to the Vestry as an example. This letter was approved to be mailed to the members of the congregation.

Evangelism Commission reported that the Chili Cook-Off grossed just under \$7300. The cost was \$2200 minus the cost of the dishwasher repair. Net profit was \$4775. This year smaller samples were given due to increased costs. The Youth will make more Chili on November 8th. Discussion ensued regarding the percentage for Youth vs. Neighborhood Association. The Vestry approved a 50-50 split. The Blessing of the Animals was a success; Fr. Dale said he saw three new families at the event.

Community Service Commission reported that the Bethany Place drive for laundry and paper products is beginning.

Todd Hall reported that someone has been found to clean and work the kitchen, that the trees have been selected for Charles' memorial. Fr. Dale mentioned that he had

*[Vestry continues on page 15]*

# OPPORTUNITIES

## Notice: Cookies Needed

Could you put a notice in the *Dragon* about Christmas cookies for the inmates at St. Clair County Jail and the Juvenile Detention Center in Belleville? These cookies may very well be the only gifts some of these people receive. It is a way to let them know God has not forgotten them.

For those who regularly bake for Christmas we ask that you bake two dozen extra cookies to be donated for this ministry. For those who want to contribute but do not bake, store-bought cookies are welcome. The Jail Ministry volunteers will fill one-quart zip-loc bags with cookies and add a Scripture tract to each bag. The bags will be distributed during our annual Christmas caroling at the Jail.

Those donating, please bring your cookies to St. George's Church on Sunday, 14 December, or contact Joe Bono at 618-538-5731 to make other arrangements for delivery. I will take the cookies to Grace Church on Monday, 15 Dec. to be packed for delivery to the Jail/Detention Center the next day.

Remember God loves you and so do I. May God continue to keep us all safe and bless us all abundantly.

In Christ's love,  
*Joe Bono*

## Newcomers

In the materials the Rector Search Committee put together to provide information on St. George's, one page noted what various clergy associated with St. George's had said concerning quality of the Christian community. They were extremely positive from Fr. Elliott, Mother Emily, Fr. Hewitt Johnson, and Fr. Emery. I concur heartily. The caring nature of St. George's has affected me deeply. This says something very positive about the clergy who have pastored at this parish.

In the last couple months we have had a number of newcomers come to both the 8 and 10:30 services, and on November 9, we had three different new single folks or households visiting. I believe God is sending newcomers our way because of the Spiritual gifts present here of loving Christian community. This is a rare opportunity to welcome this many new folks and incorporate them into a parish. Please, this Advent and Christmas, look beyond those you know and reach out to someone new. Let them know how much we appreciate their presence.

Faithfully,  
*Dale+*

## St. George's

**Priest-in-Charge**  
The Rev. Dale Coleman  
233-6320 (213-6071)

**Senior Warden**  
Tom Boschert  
222-9051

**Parish Warden**  
Brian Maves

**Administrative Assistant**  
Janet Koch

**Parish Secretary**  
Roselle Derfler

**Music Director**  
Nancy S. Ypma, D.Mus.  
234-1947

**New Member Ministry**  
Joan Barnes  
233-0735

**Rector Emeritus**  
The Rev. Canon  
Elliot H. Blackburn

# St. George's Bookstore

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SALE

**Sunday, December 7th**  
in the  
**Parish Hall**  
following the  
**Eight O'clock and Ten-Thirty Services**

>Bibles< >James Avery Jewelry< >Prayer Books<  
>Unique Gifts<

**All Proceeds Go to Outreach Projects  
in the Parish and Diocese.**

*Make your Christmas shopping easier with a visit to  
St. George's Bookstore.*

### **Holy Eucharist**

Sundays 8 and 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.

### **Church School**

Sundays (Sept. through May)  
9 to 10:10 a.m.

### **Nursery**

Sundays  
9 a.m. to noon

*St. George's Dragon* deadline is the third Sunday of the month before issue month. Dragon fodder may be e-mailed to the editor or to the church office or placed in the folder marked "Dragon" in the wall file on the landing between classrooms and offices.

Editor: Terry Paeltz [tntpaeltz@wisperhome.com](mailto:tntpaeltz@wisperhome.com) Contributing Artist: Mrs. Charles McConnell (Sue)

# St. George's Dragon

St. George's Parish Mission? To Love and Serve the Lord and our Neighbors as Ourselves

Volume 44, No. 12

December 2008 through Day of Epiphany

Belleville, Illinois

## Inside

Opportunities...3,  
6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 18

Vestry...4

Schedules...5, 10, 11

Thanks...6, 9

Days to Celebrate...7

Advent  
Begins on  
November  
30th

## Out of the Ordinary

The preacher at the Diocesan Synod threw out the quip so quickly, I wondered who got it.

*Q. What's the difference between a terrorist and a liturgist?*

*A. You can negotiate with a terrorist.*

I resemble that remark, as they say, and can get a little picky about liturgical matters including seasons in the church year. We know the church year begins with Advent, and the themes of preparation for Christ's coming into the world, into our lives. This has always been to me a joyful change from the dog days after Pentecost, and (here comes the pickiness) a real church season after long months of Sundays in "ordinary time" shown with the use of green. (No, it is not "the season of Pentecost" as so many priests and deacons have stated, usually with a Forward Movement tract to support their case.)

At St. George's the color of the season is blue, the traditional color for Advent from one part of Church of England which desired to distinguish this season from Lent. Advent's themes are signified by the increasing number of lit candles in the Advent Wreath, an increasing sense of anticipation of the light coming into the world in the birth of Jesus.

May we allow this season to be a time of preparation for the glorious news of the Incarnation, and the love and mercy and peace which is given us and the world through the coming of Christ.

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
*Fr. Dale+*