



# DRAGON

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

Volume 47, No. 10

December, 2011

Belleville, Illinois

## Advent Reveals God's Love

One Christmas story tells us the "children were nestled all snug in their beds....", yet the apocalyptic old testament reading and the gospel that began Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary tell us to "keep awake."

Advent has begun. We await His coming." We will celebrate His first coming and we do await His second coming. This is the season when many of us chase around looking for the perfect gift, the special, memorable something that is unique and fulfilling. Often we look past the One that offers the greatest gift of love and peace.

The good news is as we search for the perfect gift God is searching for us. He wants us to know Advent is the story of God coming to us and we

celebrate that He has already found us. We celebrate Christmas - the gift of "God with us."

We observe Advent with the Advent wreath. On the first Sunday we lit the candle of Hope. This Sunday the candle signifies Preparation. On the third Sunday lighting the rose candle symbolizes Joy.

The fourth Sunday of

Advent the candle is the light of Love. The Lord is forever faithful.

The Advent wreath is complete on Christmas when the center candle is lit. "Our hope has been met. Our preparations are done. Our joy has been made perfect. The love of God has come to live among us." Merry Christmas.

### ***Still Time To Make 2012 Pledge***

Our Christian journey in faith calls for us to pray, learn, give and act. We are each important members of our church community, the Diocese, the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion and all of Christendom. We are the body of Christ.

Our challenge as part of the

body of Christ is to be responsive to the needs of our communities. To date, we have received 79 pledges totaling \$164,468 compared to our 2011 budget of \$263,980. Please prayerfully consider pledging, if you have not done so, to help support the many ministries of St. George's.



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## St. George's

### Rector

The Very Rev. Canon  
Dale D. Coleman  
233-6320 (789-3723)

### Deacon

The Rev.  
Joan (Jody) Coleman  
(505) 913-0375

### Senior Warden

Dan Duncan  
476-3034

### Parish Warden

Hal Inabinet

### Administrative Assistant

Janet Koch

### Music Director

Nancy S. Ypma, D.Mus.  
234-1947

### Rector Emeritus

The Rev. Canon  
Elliot H. Blackburn

# CALENDAR DECEMBER

Dec 4	St. Nicholas Visits St. George's Choir Sings at Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols, 6:00 pm
Dec. 6	EFM Alumni – 7:00 pm – CR
Dec. 8	Finance Commission Meeting – 7:00 pm – CR
Dec. 10	Choir Retreat – 8:30 am – Noon – PH & Chapel
Dec. 12	Vestry – 7:00 pm - CR
Dec. 16	Crisis Fund 9 – 3 pm
Dec. 20	EFM Alumni – 7:00 pm – CR
Dec. 23	Office closed
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Eucharist 11:00 pm Holy Eucharist with music starting at 10:45 pm
Dec. 25	Christmas Day 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Dec. 26	Office closed
Dec. 28	No Service at 9:30 am or Prayer Group
Jan. 2	Office Closed
Jan. 9	Vestry – 7:00 pm CR
Jan. 10	Liturgical Commission – 7:30 pm – CR
Jan. 29	Annual Meeting

Every Wednesday 9:30 Holy Eucharist/Healing Service

Every Wednesday 10:00 Prayer Group

Every Wednesday Choristers - 5:30 pm - Choir - 7:30 pm

### Holy Eucharist

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

### Church School

Sundays (Sept. through May)  
8:50a.m. - Parish Hall Opening

### 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 [stgdragon@gmail.com](mailto:stgdragon@gmail.com) or to the church office or placed in the folder marked "Dragon" in the wall file on the landing between classrooms and offices. Editor: Tom Boschert

*Due to the holy festival of Christmas  
the January Dragon will be published January 8, 2012*

# Holy Hardware

This Sunday, at St. George's Adult Forum, our new Deacon, Jody Coleman will have a first of three presentations to provide basic information about "Hardware in our Worship".

What are our vestments the clergy wear? Why do priests dress like mother and want to be called father? What are the plates and candles and things used at Sunday Eucharists?

Why different colors of altar and pulpit hangings? Why isn't the pulpit on the other side of the Sanctuary? Why do we refer to the Sanctuary as a specific space around the Altar-with the place for the Reserved Sacrament, and call other spaces Nave and Chancel? Why is there a candle lit above where the Sacrament is reserved?

.....Why does the priest do a lot of ritual and show? Do not miss this Sunday's Introduction to the Church's Worship Hardware! And she will answer your questions too!

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*A few thoughts ...*

## THE MEANING OF ADVENT

*The Church's year began with Advent, Sunday, November 27. While the rest of our culture is going bonkers with Christmas and "Santa Baby" and the five thousandth playing of "The Little Drummer Boy", the Church is preparing for the coming of Jesus: His Advent, His coming into His world.*

*There is great wisdom in this need for us to recognize we are responding to God's action of forgiving and loving us in Jesus. The central theme of Advent is waiting, symbolized by the pregnancy of Mary, a young Jewish woman whose people had waited long for the coming of the Messiah. Rushing into Christmas does harm to Advent's message of waiting and preparation. I suggest that without Advent, Christmas is not Christmas.*

*I very much like St. George's use of the color blue (from an English tradition) for this short season. Blue is the color for Mary and for Heaven. It points away from making Advent a penitential season like Lent. The theme is shown in the gradual crescendo of light in the Advent wreath, representing the light of Christ dispelling the world's darkness.*

*May we gather with joy on Christmas Eve and Day and announce the glorious news of "God with us" in His Son Jesus, a celebration of twelve days.*

*May we have A Blessed Advent!*

*Faithfully yours in Christ,*

*Fr. Dale+*

## *Choir Joins Cathedral Festival*

St. George's choir is again joining the rich tradition of Christ Church Cathedral of St. Louis in an Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols. The service will be held this Sunday December 4 at 6:00 pm at the Cathedral, located at 1210 Locust St, a block past N. Tucker.

Our choir has taken part in the festival for more than 16 years. Fr Dale says it is a beautiful service and hopes many of our members will attend.

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## **Annual Meeting Set, Jan 29**

The Annual Meeting has been set for Sunday, Jan 29. Elections will be held for 3 positions on the vestry, 5 synod delegates and 2 deanery delegates. The vestry will shortly announce nomination procedures. Please submit all reports to the office by Thursday, January 19. You can submit your report by e-mail to [stgeorgeoffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stgeorgeoffice@sbcglobal.net) or mail it to the church office.

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## **2011 Tax Deductions**

The end of 2011 is rapidly approaching. To qualify for a 2011 tax deductions all contributions and pledge payments must be postmarked by Saturday, December 31. If you have fallen behind on your pledge and need to catch up or if you want to make a special donation, to use it as a tax deduction be sure to meet the end of the year deadline.

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**Memorial envelopes for Christmas greenery** are in the pews. Offering and names must be turned into the office by Thursday, December 15 to be included in the Christmas bulletins.

# 2011-2012 CHRISTMAS and EPIPHANY SCHEDULE

## **Sunday, December 18**

### **Advent 4**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist  
with Christmas Pageant

## **Saturday, December 24**

### **Christmas Eve Services**

5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eucharist;  
Choristers will sing  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Holy Eucharist  
preceded by music beginning at 10:45 p.m.

## **Sunday, Christmas Day**

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

## **Sunday, January 1, 2012**

### **Holy Name**

### **of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

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

## **Sunday, January 8, 2012**

### **Epiphany** (*transferred*)

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
8:50 am Church School Opening  
9:10 am Adult Forum  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist

## With Sympathy

In November we said goodbye to a good friend and inspirational leader at St. George's. Chaplain Jack Elliott died Nov 17 after a decade long battle with cancer. The Southern Baptist minister came to St. George's with his wife Sandra after retiring from the Air Force. Sandra preceded him in death. St. George's had become his church home. He was a spiritual director for Father Dale and occasionally offered homilies. He was a quiet, dignified gentleman that inspired many of us. He is missed. We offer our sympathy to his family.

## Coffee Hour Schedule

4 Dec	Rogers
11 Dec	Kincaid
18 Dec	EYC
25 Dec	No coffee hour
1 Jan 2012	No coffee hour
8 Jan	Haefner & Helber
15 Jan	Walters
22 Jan	Fernandez
5 Feb	Gillispie

If you would like to become a host for coffee hour please contact Tom Boschert or the church office. Team members host the coffee hour approximately 3 times per year.

## Time Is Limited

## Angel Tree Is Up In The Canterbury Room

The Community Services Commission is once again working with the Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois to help brighten Christmas for the children and families served by LCFS.

The Angel Tree is filled with 100 Christmas gift tags. On the table are 100 informational sheets identifying a youngster by sex, age and desired gifts (along with LCFS identification information (caseworker and group ID). Please select one or more children to support based upon the informational sheets.

When returning the wrapped gifts, please transfer the requested information to the stickers on the back of the gift tags—this is the only way you can ensure that your generous gift gets to the child you selected. (If you are giving

more than one gift to a child, please make sure all gifts are appropriately labeled.)

There is no need to try to fulfill all the wishes of your child. We have generally suggested a limit of around \$50 so that all the children are similarly blessed. And please note that used gifts are prohibited by law.

Please bring all gifts to the Canterbury Room or the church office not later than Sunday Dec 11. The Community Services Commission thanks our members for their continued generous support of the needy in our area.

## With Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to Ed and Cindy Lynk and Eddy and Betsy on the death of Ed's father. Col Edward Lynk, USMC (Ret), died Nov 4.

Advent 1 was the first Sunday of the new church year. Using the Revised Common Lectionary it is year B.

## NEW ADDRESS

Shirley Mize Todd  
726 Community Dr Apt 105  
Belleville, IL 62223

cell - [618-791-1346](tel:618-791-1346)  
home [618-398-9171](tel:618-398-9171)

**2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are on the table in the Canterbury Room. Please take your set home to save the church postage.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 12/1 Andrew Mannix  
Emily Althoff
- 12/03 Jackie Maple  
Joan Barnes  
Sarah Bender  
Sean Gillen  
Aidan Gillen
- 12/04 Morgan Dickey
- 12/05 Louise Robertson
- 12/07 Dawn Jung
- 12/08 Ellen Treadwell
- 12/10 Richard Slocomb  
(grandson)
- 12/11 Ted Cook
- 12/14 Jim Althoff
- 12/15 Dana Meyer  
Brandon Walters
- 12/17 Kevin Korte
- 12/18 Becky Korte  
Rosemary Paeltz
- 12/19 Dan Gillen  
Eddy Lynk  
John Mize
- 12/23 Ross Kincaid  
Jeremy Robinson  
Kelly Gillen
- 12/26 Robert Howard  
Robert Massie Sr.
- 12/28 Carol Isbell  
Lana Kincaid  
Sydney Walters
- 12/29 Janis Corbett
- 12/31 Pat Ledden  
Marilyn Boschert

## St. George's Bookstore Has Ideas for Christmas

Looking for a special gift for a special someone? Vicki Hall recommends looking at the St. George's Bookstore!

During December, each Sunday the bookstore will be open from 9-10:25 and again following the 10:30 service.

Vicki offers a few ideas for your gift-giving. The bookstore has recently received *Walking with God*—a book of meditations published by Forward Movement and including the writings of our own Betsy Rogers. Also, a new addition is the Bead for Life

collection, a line of jewelry created by Ugandan women which—including necklaces, bracelets and earrings as well as several other interesting items. A special feature is the handmade wooden crosses by Jeff Gates. The James Avery in stock jewelry collection is 10% off.

The St. George's Bookstore is a treasure trove of special items including Holding Crosses, Prayer Cubes, Book of Common Prayer, Bibles, assorted other books and much more.

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## LET IT SNOW LET US SHOVEL

This week weather forecasters reported snow flurries and freezing precipitation. They said it was a sure sign winter was near.

Another sure sign is the formation of a snow removal team to keep the walk ways of St. George's open when winter decides to be flakey. Last year was heavier than average, we need to be prepared.

We need volunteers to join the St. George's Snow Removal Brigade. St. George needs you! Contact Joe Hooten or the church office to volunteer.

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## BIRTHDAYS

### Continued

- 01/02 Aidan Walters
- 01/04 Jennifer Hatzel
- 01/06 Cindy Lynk  
Vimal Buckley

## Criminal Justice Ministry Volunteers Request Christmas Cookies

Each year Christmas cookies are given to the inmates at the County Jail and the Juvenile Detention Center. Our long time member Joe Bono is a member of the Criminal Justice Ministry volunteers. He says the cookies along with a salvation Scripture tract are a powerful witness that God has not forgotten the inmates. These cookies are the only gift most of these people receive for Christmas.

The volunteers ask members of local churches to donate cookies. "Holiday bakers at St. George's could you please bake an extra two dozen cookies to be donated to the Criminal Justice Ministry." Please bring the cookies to the church on Sunday December 18.

The cookies are then packaged with a Scripture verse. On December 22nd, the Criminal Justice Ministry volunteers will sing Christmas Carols inside the Jail while the bags of one dozen cookies are distributed to the inmates by the trustees and Jail guards.

Joe says they will need approximately 600 dozen cookies this year. This year the Jail Superintendent requests that NO NUTS or PEANUT BUTTER be put in the cookies due to some inmates have allergies to nuts.

Matthew 25:40 reminds us: "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'" Joe appreciates the continued support members of St. George's has shown this ministry.

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## Happy Anniversary

12/11

Ken & Sharon Gottschall

12/30

Charles & Louise Robertson

## Crisis Fund & Food Pantry Need Our Support for Needy

Tough times are putting a severe strain on both the Crisis Fund and the Food Pantry. The Crisis Fund is in need of donations. At this point there may not be enough money for the ministry to be able to meet with those in need during the month of December.

George Evans, food pantry coordinator, reports the results from the Boy Scout food drive were better than last year, but requests for food are out pacing donations. Our food pantry received 61 cases of food. Eleven cases came from Frieze Harley Davidson. The next major food drive won't come until the mail carrier's drive in May. Results of the past mail carrier's drive were less than a third of prior years.

Through the end of October, the food pantry spent \$17,000 for additional food. "We'll be out of food before March." Evans said donations have been down while both the family size and the number of families needing food have increase by more than 10%. Nearly 40,000 meals have been provided through October.

Your continued support will help both of these important ministries.

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*The opening for St. George's Sunday School has a new time and place. Morgan Dickey, superintendant, said the opening is beginning in the Parish Hall at 8:50 a.m. After a short opening to help connect the adults and children, the children will proceed to their classrooms.*

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### Toddhall

December will be a quiet month at Toddhall. Seven groups will be using our facility with a total of 358 guest.

**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 416-0620*

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

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

**Church Officers**

**Rector**—The Very Rev. Canon Dale D. Coleman, Jr.

**Rector's Warden**—Dan Duncan

**Parish Warden**—Hal Inabinet

**Treasurer**—Ruth Weber

**Clerk of the Vestry**—Kim Christ

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

**Vestry Members**

**Class of 2011**      **Class of 2012**      **Class of 2013**

Sarah Bender      Dan Duncan      Philip Isbell

Lana Kincaid      Hal Inabinet      Chelsea Meyer

Fred McNitt      Betsy Rogers      Robert Vaughn