

The Branch

“I am the vine, you are the branches.”
John 15:5



The Newsletter of
St. George's Episcopal Church

November 2018

98 Kip Drive
Salinas, CA 93906
831-449-6709
www.StGeorgesSalinas.org



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Ginger Collins

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And Others

Our Mission Statement

St. George' Church is a community of Christians who worship joyfully, provide fellowship, serve the community, invite everyone into Christ's Family and strive to grow in spiritual maturity.

Please email articles or announcements for *The Branch* to:
thebranch98@gmail.com



The Baptism of Curtis Harmon

Our Ministry Together

October was an exciting month at St. George's as we looked at the meaning of stewardship. The month began with the Blessing of the Pets calling to mind the stewardship of creation. Next, we looked at the stewardship of faith in terms our Christian mission. Because there is no word for mission in the Bible, we reflected on where each of us is being sent to share our faith. On the 3rd Sunday in October, we examined the stewardship of our talents and experience as we thought about the many places in our community where help is needed.



October 28th was Promise Sunday. Not only did we make a financial commitment to St. George's, but also a commitment to invite at least 3 people to church over the next year. To date, as a congregation, we have committed to inviting 40 people to church over the next year. One week into that commitment, 3 invitations have been extended and 2 have been accepted.

Invitation numbers are being tracked on the information board in the parish hall. Feel free to change the numbers as you make your invitations. These growing numbers are part of our ministry together.

A Prayer for Discernment

We pray that the Holy Spirit, that fell upon the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost, enters the minds and hearts of the members of St. George's congregation that we may begin a period of mutual discernment regarding the life of this parish family as a Christian witness to the community around us and of the ministries that we undertake in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ: To understand who we are and what we hope to become.

Amen

Out and About with the Deacon

“God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.” From the Ordination of a Deacon - BCP

Last Tuesday evening Dave and I along with several others from around our diocese attended a vigil at Temple Beth Israel in Carmel Valley. There was standing room only. Bishop Mary was among the people invited to light a candle for one of the slain victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Philadelphia. It was a solemn but uplifting service. In the end, Dave and I were glad we went and felt blessed to have been there.

Last spring at our Deacons' Day with the Bishop, we were given a very informative tour of Dorothy's Place by director Jill Allen. When we think of Dorothy's Place we usually think of Dorothy's Kitchen and the hot meals served every day to people experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty. They now have a women's shelter and a health center where people can come for a hot shower 24 hours a day. I asked Jill how we could help and she suggested they could use toiletries and towels. With that in mind, we have been collecting these items at the back of the church for the past month. I will be taking your donations to the health center the week after Thanksgiving. You are welcome to come along.

A more permanent facility for the warming shelter has been approved by both the city and the board of supervisors. The new building will be located on Laurel, near Natividad Hospital. Of course, it will take time to build so they will continue to operate the shelter at its current location, 111 West Alisal St. We have been partnering with St. Paul's to bring a hot meal to the warming shelter every third Sunday of the month. There are usually about 70 people using the shelter on any given night. The city has been better of late in keeping us informed. There is a meeting on Monday, November 5, at 6pm, at 100 Howard St. that I am going to attend. It is open to the public and anyone can attend. It is sponsored by Monterey/San Benito Counties Homeless Continuum of Care. They are seeking community input. I am hoping this is a good sign.

Once a month, I bring communion to some of the ladies at Madonna Manor. This month I am going on Nov. 21 at 10am. If anyone would like to join me, company is always welcome. These ladies have become very special to me and I always enjoy our time together.

I have been invited by the ladies of Northminster Presbyterian Church to give a sermon at their retreat on Saturday, November 17. I haven't got all the details yet, but I know there will be a luncheon and time for conversation. I am hoping we can use this time to build our relationship with them. Invite them to our senior luncheon and our exercise class. I have placed flyers with the registration form in church. I can also send you a flyer by email if you would like to attend. Just let me know.

Advent is coming soon. It is my understanding that we will be having soup and conversation during the Wednesdays of Advent. I am working on another slide presentation from my trip to the Holy Land in 2017. This presentation will have an Advent theme with "visits" to the Holy Shrines related to Jesus' birth. I now have a projector so we will have a larger screen!!

The Blessing of Pets



Our Delegates' Point of View

I attended the Episcopal Diocese Conference as a delegate the last Friday and Saturday in October. Saturday was a long, but interesting day with beautifully performed hymns, interesting presentations, good discussions, and many wise words from Bishop Mary and others.

Early in the day, we worked in groups to make cloth flags honoring our parishioners who passed away this year and also those who were baptized this year. We lovingly remembered our departed friends by writing their names on the flag and displaying the flags on the edge of the stage.

Another highlight for me was a video presentation by St Benedict's Episcopal Church in Los Osos. The video showed the progress they have made in implementing recycling programs and other ways to help save the environment. They have completely eliminated all disposable paper products from their church. They only use reusable cups, plates, etc. I would definitely be interested in learning more about what they are doing to keep our planet healthy.

Hope De Leon

The Annual Convention of our diocese was held on October 26th and 27th at Sherwood Hall in Salinas. St. George's Church was represented by delegates Hope DeLeon and myself and with our Priest in Charge, Jim Collins, and Deacon Tina Heidmann also in attendance at our table. It was a very uplifting event with hardly a note of controversy during the proceedings. The only act of the convention that might be newsworthy was a decision to declare the diocese a Sanctuary Diocese in which individual parishes may decide to become Sanctuary Parishes—offering support, within the law, to recent immigrants. The highlight of Friday evening was the award of the Bishop's Cross to our own Richard Smith for his outstanding work for the diocese and for our parish. Several presentations were made by various parishes or groups in the diocese that featured achievements that address youth, homelessness, college ministries, and church revitalization. Both the Bishop's address and a sermon by our new Curator for Emerging Ministries, Kelsey Davis, were very well received. The search committee for a new Bishop reported that they are about to begin inviting and processing applications for this position. An election is anticipated by June of next year with the installation of a new bishop, to replace the retiring Mary Gray-Reeves, scheduled for January 2020. The convention was well attended, possibly more so than in previous years. Much of the business conducted took place with little or no discussion—mainly matters that we had to enact to make them legal or official. Serious discussion of the budget had taken place and issues resolved earlier at the meetings of the three deaneries. My general impression is that the convention provided an opportunity for the leaders of the diocese and representatives of the parishes to get together and reaffirm their corporate mission, celebrate their achievements, and reaffirm their confidence in the future of the diocese.

Lynn Fischer

Meet Jon-Mark Hurley ... Our New Piano Player



We are thrilled that Jon-Mark has joined St. George's family playing the piano and singing on Sunday mornings at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Jon-Mark holds the Master's of Music from Belmont University in Nashville, TN and a Bachelor's degree in piano from Santa Clara University. He is also professional actor (SAG/AEA) having appeared on TV and in movies.

In his latest role, Jon-Mark plays the haunted, genius Franz Schubert on Vero.com. He also teaches singing and piano to students of all ages.

When you hear lively piano music, beautiful singing or an infectious laugh, say hi to Jon-Mark.



Senior Luncheon:

The monthly "Senior's Luncheon" at St. George's Parish Hall is held on the third Tuesday of every month from 11:30 until 2:00.

The menu varies from wonderful salads, to delicious sandwiches and fruit. A drink and at least one delicious dessert is included for a \$3 donation.

This month, the luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 20th. Everyone is welcome.

From the desk of the Senior Warden:

Greetings to St. George's Family:

Pentecost will end in about 3 1/2 weeks and we will then begin the season of Advent. Time really flies!

I am unsure how the year has flown by but it seems like I have been on a 747 that is unable to land. I must say that the lives of the Wardens have improved immensely upon the arrival of Fr. Jim.

For those of you not aware of the time your Senior Warden spends at St. George's, here is a brief breakdown:

I meet weekly with the Rector, volunteer in the office weekly, attend the weekly staff meetings, organize the monthly Senior Luncheon, support the Senior Exercise program and sit on the Restoration Committee. In addition, I am a Eucharistic Minister, Acolyte, Lector attend vestry and worship committee meetings and support Fr. Jim.

Due to the Murder Mystery joint fund raiser with Madonna del Sasso the Restoration plan was put on hold. Hopefully in a few more weeks we will back on track and have more information to deliver to all of you.

If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at my home 663-4293.

*Respectfully submitted,
Margie Sokotowski, Senior Warden*

From the Jr. Warden's pink toolbox!

Hi everyone,

Here are some of the highlights that I have been working on



The St. John Room toilets have been fixed and a Permaliner was installed through the very old clay pipes. This new type of insert will have a warranty of 25 years!

We are also working on the Parish Hall to bring those pipes up to date so that we don't incurred higher costs later in the future years.

The final real estate we are working on is the Elwood property. The pipes are old and have their issues as well. We've cleaned out the pipes but they are separating and will not hold up for the years coming.

I am updating our facility agreements with Champions Youth and with our janitorial contractor for 2019. The janitor gratefully added some additional clean up to improve on what they are doing now.

On Thursday this week, I will have the office doors re-keyed as there are far too many instances of the office door being left open or unlocked. If you have a master key, please let me know so that I can give you a key....if the need is still necessary.

A couple future projects will be to clean and paint the outside bathrooms, put a fence along the back driveway side of the empty lot. I will also put wire fencing behind the wood in hopes to keep most of the trash on the driveway side and easier to clean up.

This week I will be putting in the shelving for the former food pantry where we will store, behind locked doors, all the janitorial supplies so that the supplies don't go "walking".

Lastly, it was determined by the City of Salinas that the lamp post that is set on the corner of our parking lot is owned by St. George's. I will be checking out solar lights for the lamppost to better light up the parking lot.

Much more is happening every day....if you have some extra time (or a student who needs community service hours) let me know..... I always have work to do!

Thanks, Joan

*****A Thank You from Madonna del Sasso *****

October 25, 2018

St. George's Church
Attn: Rev. Dr. Jim Collins / Joan Dresser
98 Kip Drive
Salinas, CA 93906

Subject: Murder Mystery 2018 Fundraiser

Dear St. George's Congregation:

It is with great pleasure that I officially inform you that our fundraiser dinner/Murder Mystery was a success! We raised \$2,183.86 for each organization and the night was fun had by all.

I sincerely wanted to thank the members of St. George's for their collaboration efforts, and talents in making this night a memorable one.

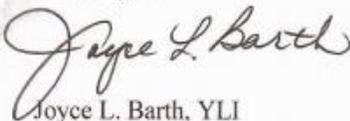
It took a village to pull off all of the logistics, not only for the event/dinner itself, but also the production of the play with actors being located in different geographical regions, schedules, etc.

I extremely enjoyed and belief that it is through collaboration like this, especially within the church communities that all serve the greater good. I believe, this is how it should be, combining resources, talents, and people of all demographics, marching toward a common goal. Not as competition, but as teammates.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. Young Ladies Institute, #85, and Madonna del Sasso church thanks you as well.

Have a blessed holiday season and you will always be in our prayers.

Sincerely,



Joyce L. Barth, YLI
Co-Chairperson
831-206-4637

Food Pantry Ministry

I am happy to welcome some new volunteers to our food pantry ministry. Joan Dresser has joined the ranks as a shopper and is partnering up with Jeannie Dahl. Hank Hill has been helping me with shopping as well as working on Fridays with the distribution. Marisela Lopez, who lives next door in the former rectory, has taken the training at the Food Bank, and now helps out wherever she can. I would also like to thank Lois Crowell, Hope and George DeLeon, Rene Amparano, and Peter Ochoa for their faithful dedication to this ministry over the years.

Every month I am required to make a report to the Monterey County Food Bank reporting the number of families served each month along with the number of children and seniors. I can tell you that the average number of families served so far this year is 58, average number of children is 99, and the average number of seniors is 49. Usually during the winter months the numbers tend to grow. For the month of October we served 65 families, 119 children, and 62 seniors.

We are planning to distribute turkeys on our regular distribution day on the Friday before Thanksgiving, November 16. We won't be able to get turkeys from the Food Bank so we will be relying on donations to be able to have a turkey for everyone. Chrissy Haydis is spear heading the round up of turkeys. I noticed that Food Maxx has turkeys for 39 cents a pound.

Thank you again for all your support of this vital ministry.

Thanksgiving Turkeys

will be distributed at the food pantry on Friday, November 16th.

At least 60 turkeys are needed. Your donation to help purchase turkeys can be made out to St. George's Church and dropped off at the church office when it is open. All donations should marked "turkeys."

If you purchase a turkey, frozen or fresh, please drop it off at the food pantry before 10:30 am on the 16th.

United Thank Offering and Honoring Episcopal Women.

On October 13th, about 120 women from churches in this El Camino Diocese met at St. Stephen's Episcopal church in Gilroy to collect the monies given as United Thank Offerings and to honor women from congregations, who do outstanding work to promote the ministries of their respective churches and assist in the smooth running of the daily life of their parishes. Fifteen women were honored on this occasion. Joan Dresser is the recipient of this honor from our church, St. George's. Tina, our deacon presented Joan the certificate in front of all those women present. We thank God for all these honored women who bring glory to God by their good works.

Thank all of you who contributed the generous sum of \$170 to this United Thank Offering, which is an outreach ministry of Episcopal Church Women (ECW). From all parishes in 8 provinces (or 50 states) the money collected for UTO in 2017 was \$1,283,216, which is to be used for different projects or program here in US or abroad.

The focus for UTO grants in 2017 was "*Becoming a Beloved Community: Racial Healing, Reconciliation, and Justice.*"

Last year the national UTO board received almost \$2.8 million in requests. This shows that there is room for us to be more generous as the need is greater.

The largest grant was awarded to a church in our Diocese El Camino Real, St. Andrew's in Saratoga, a generous sum of \$68,000 for a Bridge Project. This grant will allow the hiring of one staff person to lead this 'Project Bridge' to implement re-entry case management that targets incarcerated men and women within 30 days of their release, utilizing the church as a strategic support provider. The program will also provide advocacy within the community and work for prison reform.

Congratulations to members of St Andrew's, the recipient of this grant for a very worthy cause. May God continue to bless all those who are involved to alleviate suffering and help vulnerable people.

Vicky Fischer

2018 Honored Woman from St. George's Church



Ms. Joan Dresser

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	2 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	3
4 8:00 Rite I Eucharist 10:00 Rite II Eucharist	5 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	6 8:00 - 2:00 Fr Jim in the office 9:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Senior Exercise 10:00 Warden' 11:00 Staff 1:00 Order of St. Luke	7 8:00 -2:00 Fr. Jim in office	8 9:30 Senior Exercise 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	9 10:30 - 1:00 Food Pantry 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	10
11 8:00 Rite I Eucharist 10:00 Rite II Eucharist 9:15 Worship Committee	12 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	13 8:00 - 2:00 Fr Jim in the office 9:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Senior Exercise 10:00 Warden' 11:00 Staff 1:00 Order of St. Luke 5:30 Finance Team	14 8:00 -2:00 Fr. Jim in office	15 9:30 Senior Exercise 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	16 10:30 - 1:00 Food Pantry 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	17 11:00 - 1:30 Women's Retreat Northminster Church Deacon Tina to speak
18 8:00 Rite I Eucharist 10:00 Rite II Eucharist 11:30 Vesty 1:30 Sunday School	19 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open 8:00 - Est, Pray, Love Bible Study	20 8:00 - 2:00 Fr Jim in the office 9:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Senior Exercise 10:00 Warden' 11:00 Staff 11:30 - 1:00 Senior Lunch 1:00 Order of St. Luke	21 8:00 -2:00 Fr. Jim in office	22 Thanksgiving	23 Office closed 10:30 - 1:00 Food Pantry	24
25 8:00 Rite I Eucharist 10:00 Rite II Eucharist	26 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	27 8:00 - 2:00 Fr Jim in the office 9:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Senior Exercise 10:00 Warden' 11:00 Staff 1:00 Order of St. Luke	28 8:00 -2:00 Fr. Jim in office	29 9:30 Senior Exercise 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	30 10:30 - 1:00 Food Pantry 11:00 - 1:00 Office Open	



St. George's Episcopal Church
98 Kip Drive, Salinas, California, 93906
Diocese of El Camino Real

(831) 449-6709

www.stgeorgessalinas.org

Clergy, Vestry, and Officers

Interim Priest in Charge

The Rev. Dr. James Collins

Bishop and Rector

The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves

Deacons

The Rev. Tina Heidmann

Senior Warden

Margie Sokotowski

Junior Warden

Joan Dresser

Vestry Members

Joan Dresser

Margie Sokotowski

Dulce Munoz

Richard Smith

Lynn Fischer

Pete Wagley

Elrond Lawrence

Diana Cervantes

Treasurer

John Walworth

Assistant Treasurer

Richard Smith

Clerk of the Vestry

Diana Cervantes

