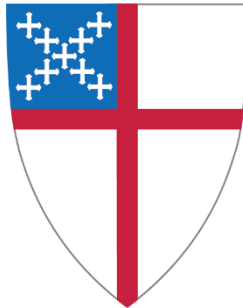


# Welcome to St. George's Episcopal Church

## Ministry Directory



**St. George's Episcopal Church**  
**Tucker Hill Road at Route 188**  
**Middlebury, CT 06762**  
**(203) 758-9864**  
**[www.stgeorgesct.com](http://www.stgeorgesct.com)**



**Mission Statement:** As called by Jesus Christ, we of St. George's Episcopal Church will worship God reverently through prayer, sacraments and learning and will grow in our love of God. With the presence of the Holy Spirit we will love our neighbors in a healing, forgiving and accepting community and share our faith in our daily lives.

Welcome!

We are so glad you have joined us today! Let me tell you the story of our church.



In 1958, St. George's church started with a dream from a handful of families to establish a place of worship in the town of Middlebury. That faithful assembly began in Shepardson School (now the Shepardson Community Center), then in the garage of the Stowell family home, and then on the land you see around us now, donated by George Goss, the namesake of our church. As the parish grew, the first church building became a parish hall and the sanctuary that we worship in now was built. In 1984, the first church building, used as a parish hall, burnt to the ground. One fire and two churches later, the passion and commitment of a small group of people who felt it was important enough to dedicate their lives to establish and maintain a worshipping community in Middlebury is still awe inspiring!

Today, we are an intergenerational community of faith that enjoys fun, worship, and service together. We are dedicated to building on the legacy of the families that were compelled to donate land and to give their money, their time, and their resources to build a strong foundation on Jesus Christ for Middlebury and the surrounding communities. We hope you will make St. George's part of your strong foundation in Christ Jesus, too!

-The Rev. Tara Shepley

## **Special Events**

### **Blessing of Animals**

St. Francis was especially fond of all God's creations. On the first Saturday of every October, St. George's Church follows St. Francis' lead, taking seriously God's love for all animals. We not only have the blessing of the animals, but we also hold a fair with various animal-related vendors. Parishioners make dog and cat treats, raffle baskets, and baked goods. The proceeds are donated to local animal charities.

**Contact: Mary Lou Arnson, Cell: 203-592-2832,  
Home: 203-598-7094, mlart2@aol.com  
Beverly Dasonville, 203-565-3778,  
beverlydasonville.emt@gmail.com**

### **Blueberry Bash**

The Blueberry Bash is an outdoor festival celebrating all things blueberry (especially baked goods). It is held in early August and is open to the public. If you like to bake and organize summer gatherings, please let us know! Proceeds of the sales go to support ministries of St. George's Church. The purpose of the Blueberry Bash is to raise awareness of St. George's Church and to expand the church's outreach in the community.

**Contact: Paulette Zyko, 203-758-9104,  
pczyko43@snet.net**

### **Gingerbread Village**

The Gingerbread Village is extremely special, not only to the church, but to the community. It is held for one week beginning the first Saturday in December. The creating of the Village is a time for all the members of the church to come together and reconnect to each other. All members of

St. George's are invited to help create the many parts of the Village. Absolutely no experience is needed. In addition to the Village, there is a luncheon available as well as raffles and items for purchase.

**Contact: Barbara Fecteau, 203-758-9557,  
bfecteau59@sbcglobal.net**

## **Music**

### **Children's Bell Choir**

This ministry plans and performs a holiday bell concert starring the children of Sunday School. The spiritual mission of this ministry is to incorporate music appreciation and understanding into spiritual education, as well as to bring joy to the congregation. We'd love all children age 5 and older to join us.

**Contact: David Coppola, 203-232-9435,  
davidjcopola@gmail.com**

### **Choir**

*"Music is the greatest joy we mortals are to know, A little sound from heaven to share with us below."*

The choir meets in the church from September through June. So, why join? The obvious answer is TO SING. But there are so many other reasons to join: to make friends, to self-express, to pray, to connect to the congregation, and to have fun. Often members feel most "spiritual" while singing in church as a form of religious expression.

**Contact: Maria Coffin, 203-287-9543,  
mariacoffin@sbcglobal.net**

# **Christian Formation & Prayer**

## **Adult Bible Discussion Group**

“Renew your mind with the reading of the Word” (Romans 12:22). Adult Bible Study meets on Sunday mornings after church to discuss the scripture. This group is open to people of all levels of Biblical experience (and/or no experience). It is a safe place for free discussion, doubt, growth, and self-expression.

**Contact: The Rev. Tara Shepley, 203-228-4746,  
tbshepley@gmail.com**

## **Alpha Small Group ministries**

Alpha is a 10-week video and discussion series that seeks to be a safe and open space for small group discussion. It is aimed at people of all levels of faith (including doubters, skeptics, agnostics, and atheists) to explore the big questions of life and Christianity. Alpha meets for one hour and is an energizing and eye-opening experience. Youth Alpha is also available for 12-18 year olds, and it is part of our confirmation formation.

**Contact: The Rev. Tara Shepley, 203-228-4746,  
tbshepley@gmail.com**

## **Elementary Sunday School**

Sunday School for Children in 5th grade and under is offered September through June. Children engage with the scriptures, each other, and church tradition. It is a place of love, acceptance, and fun. Sunday School starts at 9:30am and ends at the peace, when the children are brought into church to sit with their families. All children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and

under are welcome to attend. (Nursery is available to age 2 and under by appointment.)

**Contact: Paulette Zyko, 203-217-6605,  
pczyko43@snet.net**

### **Healing Prayer Ministry**

The Rev. Tara Shepley is the CT Director for the Order of St. Luke. All members of St. George's are invited to attend the foundational study of this International Healing Order for training and formation in healing prayer. The third Sunday of the month has been designated Healing Sunday. Rev. Tara is available by appointment for all kinds of healing prayer: physical, spiritual, emotional, and memory healing. Healing prayer ministers are appointed by the Priest in Charge. All parishioners are welcome to receive laying on of hands at the Altar or at the back of the church on Healing Sunday.

**Contact: The Rev. Tara Shepley, 203-228-4746,  
tbshepley@gmail.com**

### **Intercessory Prayer**

St. George's Prayer Chain Ministry is comprised of a group of 17 parishioners who, when called upon, will pray to God for healing, thanksgiving, or peace of that person or persons and keep them in our prayers for as long as necessary, in a confidential manner. There is an opportunity to join us and experience the joy and the strength of all of us praying together. It is extremely important to all of us at St.

George's to continue this tradition of praying in unity.

**Contact: Sandra Allen, 203-758-1306,  
allencamelot39@gmail.com**

## **Jr./Sr. High Education Ministry**

Jr./Sr. High Bible Discussion is held every Sunday during the school year. This ministry is a way to familiarize our youth with the Bible, some church theology, and some of the Episcopal Church's formal structures and procedures. Discussions of Bible and Bible topics are almost always interesting and provocative. This counts as part of pre- and post-confirmation formation.

**Contact: Tom Hungerford, 203-758-8162,  
hungerford46@gmail.com  
Nancy Modeen, 203-879-4006,  
nmodeen@aol.com**

## **Labyrinth**

A labyrinth is an ancient practice used for spiritual centering, contemplation, and prayer. Entering the serpentine path of the labyrinth, you walk slowly while quieting your mind and focusing on a spiritual question or prayer. Our labyrinth was constructed by Bill Stowell. It is available to anyone who would like to use it to pray or meditate as they see fit. It is located past the memorial garden in the woods. Introduction to the Labyrinth is periodically offered throughout the year.

**Contact: Bill Stowell, 203-598-8292,  
bill.stowell1947@yahoo.com**

## **Lenten Series**

During the six weeks of Lent, the people of St. George's meet to study scripture or to grow in their faith with a book. Soup, bread, and desert is offered. Volunteers are needed to make food and to host the evening. The Priest in Charge leads the discussion.

**Contact: The Rev. Tara Shepley, 203-228-4746,  
tbshepley@gmail.com**

## **Youth Group**

Youth Group meets once a month and is a ministry which allows the youth in grades 6-12 to find safety, comfort, and friendship with their peers and their faith community. It ensures that they have fun experiences which they can internalize into their own personal growth. Faith is a part of all activities whether fun or community based. The mission of this group is to find their individual way as they walk confidently on their spiritual journey. Past activities have included apple picking, pumpkin decorating, zoom scavenger hunts, and putting together birthday cake kits as a service project.

**Contact: Kate McBride, 203-228-7006,  
mompurpleteacher@yahoo.com**

## **Baptism & Confirmation/Reception**

Baptism is available to people of all ages (including infants) who are ready to commit their lives to Jesus Christ.

Confirmation is available to baptized Christians who desire to commit to The Episcopal Church, and/or who want to renew their baptism vows. Youth who desire to be confirmed generally range from age 12-18. Adults may be confirmed as well. Confirmation candidates spiritually grow through Bible Study, Youth Alpha, retreats, the history of the Episcopal Church, service, and church participation. All who are interested are welcome to speak to Rev. Tara.

**Contact: The Rev. Tara Shepley, 203-228-4746,  
tbshepley@gmail.com**

## **First Communion**

While First Communion is not an official rite of The Episcopal Church, this ministry grew out of some parents' desires for more in-depth formation for their children. The age range for first communion training is around 7-9 years



old, but others may join as appropriate. It is a four-week course that is offered once a year. Children learn the Lord's prayer, a scripture memory verse, the meaning of a sacrament, and the spiritual significance of communion. Any child, whether they have taken communion or not, may join in the First Communion class. The Episcopal Church invites all baptized Christians of any age to take communion. First Communion is celebrated in church with the church family.

**Contact: The Rev. Tara Shepley, 203-228-4746,  
tbshepley@gmail.com**

## **Service & Outreach**

### **Altar Flowers**

Flowers for the altar are generously provided by John Cookson. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway to donate for special flowers commemorating your loved ones on the Sunday of your choice.

**Contact: John Cookson, 203-228-1769,  
rhu8891@yahoo.com**

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild prepares for the Sunday Eucharist and special services such as baptisms, funerals, etc. This faithful group orders supplies, polishes silver, puts flowers on the altar and more, including decorating and undecorating the church for special holidays and events. Finding quiet time in the sanctuary is often a sacred and treasured experience for those who participate in the Altar Guild ministry.

**Contact: Beverly O'Donnell, 860-621-0031,  
lilwbev@aol.com**

### **Audio-Visual Ministry**

Our mission is to spread the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ outside the boundaries of our physical building through the use of audio and visual technology. Our goal is to reach out to all people who cannot physically attend church in person but who still desire to hear the Word of God and faithfully participate in the Celebration of the Life of Jesus Christ. Volunteers are needed to live-stream the service on Sundays. If you know how to use a smart phone and like to post to Facebook, this ministry is for you!

**Contact: Kenneth Heidkamp, Cell: 203-510-6966,  
kheidkamp@aol.com**

### **Building and Grounds Ministry**

St. George's Church was blessed to be the generous recipient of a land donation over sixty years ago. We have been tasked to steward this land and the buildings on this land, to the glory of God, and to the honor of those who gave their time and resources to the cause of Christ. The care and maintenance of our church, rectory, and ground are all managed by volunteers. It is absolutely essential that others join the effort to care for what we have been given. The Jr. Warden oversees the Building and Grounds team.

**Contact: Augie Vagnini, 203-598-0870,  
aunadi99vagnini@yahoo.com**

### **Clothing Shed Ministry**

The clothing shed located in our parking lot is a wonderful program for donating clothing that gets distributed to those in need. Your unwanted items will help those who cannot afford to buy the clothes they need to keep them warm or protected from the elements. In addition, when there is a disaster such as the earthquakes that hit Puerto Rico, our clothing shed items will go to where the need is the

greatest. In addition, we receive a small amount of money for each bag of clothing that is donated which helps support our outreach programs. Please donate generously to this ministry and consider joining in the management of the clothing shed.

**Contact: Bill Stowell, 203-598-8292,  
bill.stowell1947@yahoo.com**

### **Garden Ministry**

*“The best place to seek God is in a garden. You can dig for Him there.”– George Bernard Shaw.*

The Memorial and Church Garden Ministry is the creation and maintenance of the gardens at St. George’s. The church gardens include a Memorial Garden, a Monarch Butterfly Garden, and the front gardens. The Memorial Garden is a place for people to sit and reflect. The Butterfly Garden is full of the plants that monarchs need to survive, such as milk weed, echinacea, phlox, and crocosmia. This garden also helps the ailing bee population. The garden is intentionally untidy in the fall and winter so as to provide insects places to over winter in the garden debris. In 2020, Alex Kennon added a Pollinator garden in fulfillment of his Eagle Scout requirements.

**Contact: Leslie Kruse-Taglialatella, 203-598-0373,  
lkruse@comcast.net**

### **GL SCRIPS Fundraising Program**

This program is simply a gift card program. Instead of shopping with cash, credit, or debit cards, order gift cards through GLSCRIPS and earn money for our church. Each card has different percentage values that is given back to your organization. Many popular retailers offer cards through the program– Stop & Shop, Shoprite, Amazon,

Dunkin Donuts, Kohl's, Lowe's, Panera Bread, Burger King, Visa Gift Cards (with no activation fee), and so many more! For example, a \$100 Shop Rite card gives back 4% or \$4.00.

**Contact: Kristine Boisits, 203-558-0177,  
kmb1174@sbcglobal.net**

## **GWIM**

We are a member of the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries (GWIM). They are a nonprofit organization located in Waterbury that serves disadvantaged people living in the Greater Waterbury community. Their mission is to nourish the hungry in a respectful and dignified manner. As a member of the organization, we have a representative that attends their meetings and relays information back to the members of St. George's. If you would like to fulfill this important position, please contact the office, and let them know you are interested. Parishioners are invited to bring weekly food donations to the Sunday Service in support of Middlebury Social Services and GWIM.

**Contact: Karen Stowell, 203-525-6457,  
gonequiltin1@yahoo.com**

## **Helping Hands**

Helping Hands is the committee that screens requests for financial aid. It is intended for those who have a temporary financial need which impacts basic life requirements such as medical needs, utility bills, clothing, etc. Distributions from the fund can be made to persons in Middlebury of the Greater Waterbury area; payments are made directly to a provider of the need such as a landlord, utility company, etc. A person may only apply for assistance once per year unless the committee determines there is a special

exception. The committee consists of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and three members and meets on an as-needed basis when called by the Chairman.

**Contact Chairman: Steve Ferrucci, 203-725-5462,  
steveferrucci@snet.net**

## **Hospitality**

We have coffee hour after church service on Sunday. This is a time to chat with new members as well as those that have been affiliated with the church for a long time. There is a sign-up sheet for those who would like to take a turn at setting up the coffee room and providing snacks. Some of our fund raisers include Soup for Supper and the Gingerbread Cookie sales.

**Contact: Margaret Vagnini, 203-598-6174,  
aumadi99vagnini@yahoo.com**

## **Lay Eucharistic Ministers**

Lay Eucharistic ministers are licensed by the Diocese. Their mission is to bring pre-consecrated bread and wine to shut-ins on a monthly basis or as needed or requested. It is a blessing to bring the sacraments of communion to those who cannot make it to church and to share friendship and companionship with those who are at home. (This ministry has been suspended due to Covid concerns).

**Contact: The Rev. Tara Shepley, 203-228-4746,  
tbshepley@gmail.com**

## **Liturgical Lay Ministries: Assistants, Crucifer, Lector, Prayers**

This ministry is for individuals who want to assist with the worship service. Persons can assist by volunteering to read the lessons or lead the congregation in the prayers of the people. In addition, liturgical assistants will assist the priest

in preparing the communion and also serve as a chalice bearer. Experience is not required. Those interested should contact either Rev. Shepley or Bill Stowell. It is an honor to be able to serve the Lord in this important ministry.

**Contact: Bill Stowell, 203-598-8292,  
bill.stowell1947@yahoo.com**

### **Ushers/Greeters**

The ushers represent the church in a very visible way. They assist and assure the smooth operation within the church service and strive to make sure parishioners and guests feel welcome. Ushering is a great way to get to know other parishioners and to, hopefully, make their day a little brighter.

**Contact: Beverly Dassonville, 203-565-3778,  
beverlydassonville.emt@gmail.com**

### **Vestry**

The vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation, to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the Priest in Charge, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances. The vestry are blessed to grow and serve together with a common mission to serve the people of the church. The vestry also provides opportunities to grow as a spiritual leader. Vestry members are elected at the annual meeting.

**Contact: The Rev. Tara Shepley 203-228-4746,  
tbshepley@gmail.com**

## **Website & Social Media Ministries**

We have evolved from publishing a simple website to leveraging social media platforms with video capabilities. Brilliant photos of the church, live stream videos of our services, or spiritual vignettes by Reverend Tara prove to people that we are active in our faith at St. George's. Our social media platforms invite and reinforce our mission as well as reinforces the sense of community our new and long-standing parishioners have come to enjoy and rely on. St. George's has a website and accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

**Contact: Malachy and Charlie Croke, co-chairs this ministry (malachycroke@gmail.com and ccroke@yahoo.com).**

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## **St. George's Staff**

Priest in Charge: Rev. Tara Shepley  
203-228-4746      tbshepley@gmail.com

Sr. Warden: Ken Heidkamp  
203-510-6966      kheidkamp@aol.com

Jr. Warden: Rich Modeen  
860-461-6406      rdmodeen@aol.com

Verger/Treasurer: Bill Stowell  
203-598-8292      bill.stowell1947@yahoo.com

Parish Administrator: Karen Langin  
203-758-9864      saintgeorgesct@gmail.com



## **Who Was St. George?**

We typically associate St. George as the patron Saint of England, a brave knight on a white horse, slaying a dragon.

### **But St. George wasn't English...**

St. George was born in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD in Cappadocia (modern day Turkey). He was thought to have died in Lydda (modern day Israel) in 303 AD. In the Middle Ages, he became popular with English Kings for his virtue and holiness. His symbols include a red cross on a white background and a knight on a horse with a sword and shield, vanquishing a dragon.

**St. George wasn't a knight who slayed a dragon...** but he may have been an officer in the Roman Army and a martyr who died for his Christian faith for refusing to honor the pagan gods of The Emperor Diocletian. 500 years after his death, a legend formed around St. George as a dragon slayer. The legend is likely rooted in the battle of Good over Evil.

### **England is not the only place that celebrates St.**

**George.** In Middlebury, we remember our very own St. George- George Goss (1921-1982), who generously donated the land for this church and rectory, and our church's namesake. It is said that he slept in a room that overlooked St. George's so he could see the church steeple as the first thing he saw in the morning and the last thing he saw at night. Like our own St. George, may we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, too!