



THE Shield

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • ORDINARY TIME • FALL 2023 • ISSUE NO. 38

Receiving • Living • Sharing
THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

10th
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

LIVING HOPE

THE RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH & KINDERGARTEN: PARTNERS IN HOPE

RAISING UP LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

ST. GEORGE'S CLERGY

The Rev. J. Malone Gilliam
Rector

malone.gilliam@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Colin Ambrose
Vice Rector & Chief of Staff

colin.ambrose@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Dr. David Barr
Associate Rector

david.barr@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Margery Kennelly
Associate Rector

margery.kennelly@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Richard Kew
Priest Associate

richard.kew@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Ven. Dr. Martin Odidi
Priest Associate

martin.odidi@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Sarah Puryear
Priest Associate

sarah.puryear@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Roger Senechal
Priest Associate, Senior Ministries

roger.senechal@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Tim Taylor
Priest Associate


ST
GEORGE'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4715 HARDING PIKE
NASHVILLE, TN 37205

stgeorgesnashville.org
615-385-2150

info@stgeorgesnashville.org



Letter from Malone and Colin

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Hope. What do you hope for?

Health for yourself, your family, or friends? Peace on the world stage, on our streets, in our schools? Prosperity and the general welfare of humanity?

Perhaps your hopes also include more modest, yet similarly challenging and remote possibilities, like Vanderbilt winning the SEC Football Championship!

We all have hopes, things for which we long to become real. Sometimes our hopes seem more akin to wishes—things we don't actually expect to happen. The Greek term for "hope" in the 1st Peter passage means "an eager, confident expectation." This conveys a much more realistic anticipation than simply wishing on the moon.

In his first epistle, Peter addressed believers in Asia Minor who were suffering from persecution. His words were meant to serve as an encouragement in the face of their trials and difficulties. People cannot survive long without hope. Hope keeps us going through painful experiences and fear of what the future may hold. In a fallen world where people face poverty, disease, hunger, injustice, disaster, war, and terrorism—we need hope.

But what is the source of this hope which keeps us moving forward when we are tempted to throw in the towel? It is none other than Jesus Christ, the living God! Thus, we have a Living Hope, which reminds us of two truths. The first is that our hope is in Jesus, the living one, and the second is that our participation in Christ's life offers a living hope as a testimony to the world.

St. George's stands upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, our Living Hope. Jesus, who defeated death and the grave, is just, generous, abundant, and his mercy stands victorious over our fears and injustices. Without him our rites, worship, and service are emptied of their power and meaning. We desire to be creative witnesses—reflections of Living Hope for our families, neighbors, community, and the wider world. Our Living Hope gives us hope in our living.

J. Malone Gilliam, Rector

Colin Ambrose, Vice Rector



EMBODYING HOPE

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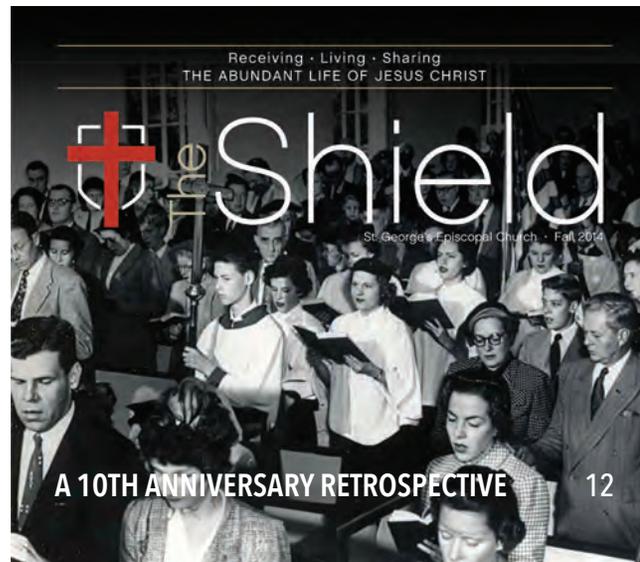
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EMBODYING *Hope*

By the Rev. Margery Kennelly

"Have hope," or maybe, "Even still, hope..." has been the directive of the Bible since God's first recorded loving utterance in the book of Genesis: "Let there be light!" Yet we live in an already/not yet time when darkness can obscure our view of God's power and love. As biblical scholar Lisa Sharon Harper remarks in *The Very Good Gospel*, "It is important to note that God does not obliterate the darkness, rather, God names it and limits it—puts boundaries on it." From our earthly perspective, the sun rises each morning and pushes back the dark, and at night even the moon and stars guide ships to safe harbor.

HOPE IN THE NEW CREATION

In the New Testament, John the Evangelist says, "Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." He speaks into our anxiety and disbelief and reminds us that just as God spun his goodness into his creation, he again, definitively pushed back against the powers of darkness in the life, death, and resurrection of his son Jesus. In that complete self-giving of God, the new creation began to unfold. The Holy Spirit entered the world not to restore Eden, but to bring into being the more beautiful new world that was birthed out of the old. And perhaps most stunningly, it is in cooperation with the participation of human will and creativity. "Behold, I am making all things new," Jesus says from the throne in heaven.

This fall at St. George's, we are pondering what this means for how we live our lives—that Jesus has contended with death and won. Our Essentials groups will be studying 1st and 2nd Peter, which explore this theme.

Blowing Bubbles by Russell Faxon, given by the Ambrose and Jackson families in memory of Frances Hill Ambrose.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:3-5)

EMBODYING HOPE IN THE RHYTHMS OF HOME LIFE

What does it look like to be a people who embody such a living hope? My husband Richard grew up spending summers with his grandmother, a beautiful Christian lady—truly the most ladylike individual I have ever known. She lost her husband to suicide when she was forty-nine, yet she held fast to hope. Granny Kennelly was the person who provided a loving stable home life for Richard throughout his childhood and teen years. He describes with great fondness how every night, after washing the dishes and setting the table for breakfast, she would put two eggs on the counter in a Pyrex dish "so they would be at room temperature in the morning and ready to be properly soft-boiled."

Somehow this small domestic act has always moved me because of its brave anticipation that there will be a morning, and in so far as it was up to her, it would be started well. Given the challenges and sorrows of Granny Kennelly's life, that little ritual was an embodiment of her faith in the power and goodness of God just as much as her extravagant generosity, her service on the altar guild, and her personal frugality.

EMBODYING HOPE THROUGH ART

Embodying the hope of the gospel means living out of the superabundance of a world where God's love and mercy have vanquished the scarcity of death. In his book, *Art and Faith: A Theology of Making*, artist Makoto Fujimura claims that the making of art—in so far as it is unnecessary in a utilitarian economy—is an embodiment of gospel hope. There is a connection between mercy, beauty, and the new creation. Making art is a testimony to the extravagance of God's love and the future that it promises.

God's new creation comes through the old. In the first creation, God names the dark and places boundaries on it. In the new creation, he works through the dark by entering it on the cross, and gives birth to newness that is even more beautiful because it holds in it the story of God's loving redemption. Jesus still bears the scars on his resurrected body. Some would say that the best art references this reality.

Makoto Fujimura describes creating paintings for the four gospels in which he alludes to the dark by creating a black gesso, which is used to prime surfaces. He layered pulverized precious minerals on the gesso to create "boundaries of light." The process itself was exceedingly slow, and the minerals were costly—which speaks to the extravagance of God's love. Both the art and the making of the art embody hope.

EMBODYING HOPE BY KEEPING THE SABBATH

In a culture where our worth is measured in productivity, keeping sabbath makes a counterclaim. By putting aside all tools and productive undertakings, we reclaim our status as beloved—inherently valued in our relationship with God and others. We do not need to prove our worth through our actions and productivity. We receive our beloved status in the rest, fellowship, and the honored place at the Lord's Table.

A friend recently reported the lyrics of a funny song about how when a man went fishing, he thought about God. But when he went to church, he thought about fishing—leading him to wonder if it might be more spiritually advantageous just to go fishing. It makes a good song, but his query does not factor in the heart of sabbath which is stepping into our communal relationship as God's beloved.

St. Paul tells us in Ephesians that we are like living stones being built up as a spiritual house. Worship isn't just about us. But it does restore us to our true identity as *"born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading."* †



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH & KINDERGARTEN:

Partners in Hope



An Interview with the Rev. Malone Gilliam and Zee Pendleton, Director of St. George's Kindergarten

Q. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR A CHURCH LIKE ST. GEORGE'S TO HAVE A SCHOOL ON OUR CAMPUS?

MALONE: The school is a place for dedicated formation of our children that takes place during the week—not just on Sunday. At some level this is a reminder that faith is not just a Sunday thing, but an ongoing part of our lives. At the beginning of life, we're pouring into children and forming Christian values.

ZEE: The school provides exposure to families who aren't necessarily active in a church or who haven't yet brought their children to a church. Life comes at you quickly when you have a bunch of little ones, and we can help teach them prayers, take them to chapel, and teach them some ways to start making those connections. When new parents are still learning how to establish patterns as a family, we can give them the tools to get started.

MALONE: This is great because you're coming at it from the perspective of the school wanting families to engage with the church, and I'm coming at it from the perspective of the church knowing that you are deeply engaged in formation all week long. Of course the church has formation going on during the week as well, but this is the intentional dedicated formation of children from Monday to Friday. It's a good reminder that St. George's is not just a Sunday organization.

ZEE: It's also significant that St. George's provides a chaplain for the school. There are other Christian schools like ours who don't have a chaplain from their church.

MALONE: This is a visible tie between the church and the school. And it also provides continuity—overlap for the community and for the activities of the church and the school. Because the chaplain is one of our clergy, we know there is shared teaching. The children are coming to know the same God in kindergarten chapel that our children are learning about in Sunday school.

ZEE: It's also so important for teachers or parents in crisis to have a relationship with a priest. I can always pick up the phone and ask for help to support families in the school.

Q. THE SCHOOL AND THE KINDERGARTEN OPERATE AS INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS ALTHOUGH WE HAVE A SHARED SPACE, SHARED COMMUNITY, AND SHARED VALUES. CAN YOU SPEAK TO THAT?

MALONE: We both have shared overarching visions of Christian community. We are going about discipleship in our way at the church. The school is doing it in their ways. But our specific missions are different—the kindergarten has a dedicated focus on overall education within a Christian setting. But the things that are appropriate to them and the challenges that they face are particular to their unique areas of focus. It's important that they have their organization structure and budget to address those areas.



ZEE: I would agree. I think that being a separate entity allows us to provide more to the church—we make gifts to church, we can offer scholarships to families, and directly help families in crisis. Having a healthy board and a healthy relationship with our chaplain and rector makes our relationship so much stronger. I love where our relationship is right now. Whatever the church is offering—we want our families to be included. As a result, our partnership is bringing in families looking for a church home. St. George's is such a welcoming place, and it's so much more than a just preschool.

Q. HOW DOES THE HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL HEALTH OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH?

MALONE: Our health is contagious. When the school is healthy, it brings life, and there's a vibrancy that spreads into the church. Also, there's an opportunity for the school's families to participate in an intergenerational community in this familiar place. So when both sides are healthy, we fuel one another in our missions.

ZEE: When a family from the school comes to St. George's for worship, there's excitement from the children because they recognize David from Chapel or Malone from the hook-up line. The presence of the church staff in the school speaks volumes to families. When they step into the church, they feel at home.

Q. ARE THERE WAYS YOU'D LIKE THIS PARTNERSHIP TO GROW OR CONTINUE TO IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE?

ZEE: We've talked about having joint speakers for both communities. And I'm excited about certain projects we might work on together.

MALONE: We're looking for more ways to partner together for the common good. I don't even think we've scratched the surface of what we can do together. I'm excited about what it looks like in the future because there's so much potential for the partnership to develop in mutually beneficial ways.

Q. WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR THE FUTURE?

MALONE: From the education of the kiddos to what we're doing at the church, it's about people who are engaging in faith for the betterment of the culture and society, walking out the mercy, forgiveness, and grace of God. It starts at an early age with these kids and continues on. The church and school both want the same thing. Creation is good, and we have a creator God who loves us. That is our hope from the smallest students in the kindergarten through our beloved seniors.

ZEE: Ditto, ditto, ditto. Every year it just keeps getting better. I think we have a strong partnership, but things can always get better.

MALONE: We want St. George's to be a place marked and characterized by joy and hope and enthusiasm. Life has its challenges, but whenever we're able to ground our lives within the church, it makes our engagement in those challenges stronger and full of hope. †



THE RESURRECTION CHANGES **everything**

by the Rev. Dr. David Barr

The Essentials Bible Studies at St. George's have taken more than 300 people on a grand tour of foundational texts in the Bible. Some books have been long, some have been poetic, some dense and theological. This fall we will immerse ourselves in the two letters of St. Peter, the so-called Petrine epistles.

While these two letters are short, there is little doubt of their importance. Peter, the intimate friend of Jesus himself, was the true forerunner for the post-resurrection church as it spread from Jerusalem into the known world. Just as Paul, the great Jewish scholar and speaker, built out the theological categories for the church's new life in the Spirit, Peter the fisherman from Bethsaida, built the leaders of the church, establishing the earliest Christian communities that would turn the world upside down.

Peter's letters, perhaps written from Rome, give us a glimpse into the concerns and hopes of one of Jesus' closest friends. Once again it is interesting to compare Peter's short written contributions with those of Paul. Paul's writings are expansive, elaborate, and diverse. Peter's are short, dense, morally charged, and forceful. Where a dominant concern for Paul is the way in which Gentiles are grafted into the promises of God, the Petrine epistles seem intent to explore how the resurrection of Jesus changes everything, including our lives. In a way, even the form of these epistles seems to naturally inhabit our lives, as one could easily memorize the bulk of both letters.

Our hope in studying the letters of Peter is that we might round out yet another vantage point in the New Testament's broader witness of God's redemptive work. The gospels show us who Jesus is and what he has done for us; the Pauline epistles tell us how we inherit the promises given to Israel; and the Petrine epistles flesh out how the resurrection informs the details of our lives and recommissions our commitments under God's ongoing power and work. If you want to know what Peter, the great apostle of the first century, thought about Jesus, God, and life, look no further. We have what he wrote. And he calls us to live into the hope of the resurrection. ✝

1 & 2 Peter

**NEW GROUPS
LAUNCHING
SEPTEMBER 11!**

These 10-week small group experiences are designed to draw you into one of the essential elements of our Christian faith—moving through the Bible in community with fellow Christians. Our hope is that your knowledge of Scripture grows as you engage with the story of Jesus.

**ARE YOU READY TO
DIG INTO SCRIPTURE?**

Join a group in-person or online by visiting: stgeorgesnashville.org/essentials or by contacting:

Martha Rodes
615-385-2150 x 249
martha.rodas@stgeorgesnashville.org



BEING FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE

by the Ven. Dr. Martin Odidi

Growing up as a child, I remember how we would share our meals with our friends during lunch or dinner if they happened to be around visiting. It did not matter that we were an average family financially—we were always happy to share and to help as much as we could.

As I reflect on 1 Peter 4:10, it reminds me of my family growing up and even more so now that we are engaged in the ministry of the church which is God's kingdom.

Peter tells us that we are stewards of God's different gifts. These gifts could be in the form of finances, property, businesses, skilled professions, or great talents. As stewards we are custodians of God's gifts in our lives—these gifts are blessings from God. These gifts have made our lives rich and full of abundance. They speak of God's faithfulness to us.

What better way do we have to appreciate what God has done for us than to give back to God in gratitude? Giving back to God by way of the church in support of all the various ministries is such a fulfilling way to say, "God, thank you." And it's a beautiful way to further God's kingdom here on earth, as the church reaches out to its members and the community in worship and humanitarian services. How amazing!

I remember when my wife, Funmi, and I first came to St. George's in 2018, we were received with a warm and loving welcome, which we have continued to experience in so many ways. In my first week here, I gave \$200 to the church as my contribution toward the Living Our Legacy capital campaign, without realizing that the campaign had not officially started! Since then, we have contributed gratefully every year to the annual campaign as a way of giving back to God and to St. George's Church from what we have received.

God has given every one of us the ability and capacity to serve in one form or another as stewards in his church. Let us use this opportunity for the glory of God. ✝



"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10)

Hope for St. George's Future

St. George's church is a place bustling with activity. On an average Sunday you'll witness hundreds of people of all ages coming and going—to worship, to attend Sunday school classes, to share coffee and conversation with new and old friends. Weekdays are no different... small groups meet to study the Bible, seniors gather for a meal and fellowship, youth volunteer with Room in the Inn, and children learn how to play together in a sandbox. It's a place where all those who want to belong do belong.

Have you ever thought about what St. George's will look like 20 years from now? Fifty years from now? Members of the Cornerstone Society have thought about it. In fact, these faithful members of St. George's have not only thought about it, but they have made sure that this vibrant, healthy parish will continue to minister to our community for many years to come. Cornerstone Society members have done this by making planned gifts to the Endowment for St. George's.

Planned gifts are those that are legally completed during a donor's lifetime, but whose benefits most often do not accrue to St. George's until a future date—usually after the death of the donor. One of the easiest and most common ways to make a planned gift to St. George's is through a bequest in a will.

Membership in the Cornerstone Society is reserved for those who have thought about the future of our parish, and who want to continue their legacy of support for the parish in perpetuity. A planned gift to the Endowment for St. George's is a legacy you leave for future generations of Episcopalians.

If you already have made provisions for St. George's in your will or estate plan, let us know so that we can welcome you into this forward-thinking and generous group. If you are considering a planned gift, let us know how we can help. We thank all those who have considered the future of our parish. And we look forward to adding many more members to the Cornerstone Society in coming months and years.

Very gratefully,



Catherine Beemer, Director of Parish Giving



**CORNERSTONE
SOCIETY**

for the Endowment of St. George's

HOW DOES THE CHURCH CURRENTLY USE THE ENDOWMENT FOR ST. GEORGE'S?

- **EMERGENCY FUNDING**
used in times of crisis
- **INVESTING IN MINISTRY**
assisting our clergy in their moves to Nashville
- **ANNUAL OPERATIONS**
approximately 3 percent of the fund's balance is used for ongoing annual operations of the church.
- **BUILDING ST. GEORGE'S FUTURE**
the endowment provided a lead gift to the recent Living Our Legacy campaign for the building and renovation project.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE ANNUAL

**HARVEST
DINNER**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

LEGACY HALL

A **10th** ANNIVERSARY ISSUE Retrospective

Since the birth of St. George's in 1949, we've had numerous ways of communicating with our church community. From our first monthly periodical called the *Lancer* in the 1960s to the monthly *Shield* newsletter created in 2005, St. George's has always found ways to share important teaching and announcements with church members.

Over time, we saw the need to be more intentional about articulating the shared story of this growing congregation. In the fall of 2013, *The Shield* was reimagined as a quarterly periodical—sharing dynamic photos and helping folks connect more deeply with our mission. On the occasion of *The Shield's* 10th anniversary issue, we offer this retrospective look at where we've been and where we're going. Through the lens of *The Shield*, we see that Jesus is the one who weaves the thread bonding everything we do here at St. George's—each worship service, each community initiative, each fellowship event, and each family in our midst. We are all connected by a living hope. ✝

2013 | NO ORDINARY TIME:

Being partners with God in extraordinary, life-changing ministry as we welcomed our inaugural class with the Nashville Fellows Program.

2015 | SALT & LIGHT:

Bearing witness to God's kingdom around us and sending support to enliven our sister parish, Church of the Resurrection.

2017 | MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE:

Celebrating our ministries of music and arts as they help us glorify God through worship and creative expression.



2014 | DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES:

Recognizing that God calls us to come together as a community then sends us out to serve and minister to others.

2016 | GOOD WORK:

Connecting faith and vocation during all stages of life, as well as partnering with social enterprises through the launch of St. George's Enterprise Ministry.

2018 | LOVE THY NEIGHBOR:

Transforming lives locally through mission work done in small groups around the city.

2019 | LIVING OUR LEGACY:

Envisioning an exciting future for St. George's that responds to Sunday morning growth and provides new spaces for community partnerships.



2020 | ENGAGE NOW:

Finding new ways to grow in faith through the creation of the Essentials Bible study, prayer partners, and the *Play On!* Concert series in partnership with Musicians of the Nashville Symphony.

2021 | WELCOME HOME:

Finding joy and delight in being together in person at St. George's.

2023 | CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY:

Opening ourselves to one another by extending a heartfelt invitation to share in the grace and joy of Jesus Christ.



2022 | EMBRACING CARE & MINISTRY:

Practicing the art of compassion and finding a place for each person's spiritual gifts in our shared ministry.



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RAISING UP LEADERS FOR

the Church

When we look back at the early expansion of the Christian church, one of the most prominent features of their common life was the task of raising up leaders. Notice St. Paul never stayed in one place very long; the church in Jerusalem, while central, quickly shared its prominence with the church in Antioch and Rome; and most church leadership was local. In other words, building up and training leaders in new places was the mission of Jesus' disciples.

While St. George's is certainly different than Antioch, Rome, or Ephesus, our task of raising leaders is still central to the gospel imperative. You can see this taking place across the life of our parish, and it is one of the great marks of genuine vitality. We currently have two parishioners at various stages of the ordination process; our Duke Divinity School interns bless us and learn in our midst every summer; our Essentials groups are almost entirely lay led; our youth leaders have built out a robust and thriving youth program, and our Nashville Fellows Program sends out 12 to 15 young adults every year to pursue redemptive callings throughout the city. For many years now, St. George's has taken up this calling of Jesus with joy. Our hope is, of course, only to advance this work, and to build it up in the generations to come. ✝

1. Abe Wallace, Gerre Hancock Organ Intern for 2023-24
2. Funmi Odidi's Ordination to the Diaconate at Christ Church Cathedral
3. Agatha Nolen, Director of Outreach at St. George's and nominee for Holy Orders
4. Ashley Gitchell, Duke Divinity Intern for the summer of 2023
5. Chase Benefiel, Church member and nominee for Holy Orders
6. The Nashville Fellows Class of 2023 with John Allen, Executive Director
7. Chorister Braeden Conway receives a ribbon for his studies of Anglican music and liturgy
8. Youth Confirmation Class in May 2023

a conversation with...

OUR CENTENARIANS

St. George's is blessed with five individuals who celebrate 100 years (or more) in 2023! Each of them is such a valuable part of this congregation. Please join us in giving thanks for their lives and the many ways they have inspired us to grow in faith.



Celebrating her granddaughter's high school graduation in 2022.

JUNE GARRETT

We are excited to celebrate such a milestone as turning 100 years young! June loves her family and enjoys all opportunities for gathering together. She has seen and experienced the joys and challenges of life, and she navigates these changes with tenacity. An abiding faith brings her comfort and thanksgiving, as without God things could always be worse. She is known to exclaim "I want to live!" Her will to live is something that should give us all hope!

– Crystal and Rhea Garrett

WANDA JONES

Wanda Jones—100 years young! What an incredibly well-lived life, and it ain't over yet by any means; so let's rewind the movie. Born in North Dakota with a full head of red hair, Wanda didn't waste any time taking the world by storm. She broke the glass ceiling in the Tennessee investment world by becoming its first female broker. She shared her many financial talents with St. George's by serving as our treasurer while Jimmy Johnson was rector. She and her late husband devoted their lives to Nashville and our church. She continued their legacy recently with her generous donation of the Edward Jones Rotunda serving as the beautiful entrance to the Bradford Gallery and St. George's Kindergarten. Wanda has the epitome of a servant's heart for giving back to her city, her church, and God. Thank you, Wanda, for the instrumental role model you have been over these many years in the development of our great church.

– Larry Trabue



Wanda at the blessing of the Jones Rotunda in 2021.

RUTH McCABE

Ruth will celebrate her 104th birthday this coming October, and she is just as spunky as ever. Her purple-streaked hair shows her joy of living life to the fullest. From jumping out of an airplane and driving around a racetrack, to her ongoing weekly bridge games, nothing much has held her down. Her hope in the future is displayed by her zest for life.

We are especially thankful for her 80+ years of close friendship with Gareth's mother, Marie Aden. They traveled to England and other places together. Ruth and Marie still had lunch together every week after Marie was living in a nursing home.

Ruth is a treasure, and her seat on the second row at the 7:30am service is still waiting for her anytime she feels up to coming!

– Julia & Gareth Aden



Receiving a Christmas poinsettia from the church.



LEFT: Celebrating her 100th birthday in style with the Story Writing Group.

BETS RAMSEY

I'm sending a big shout out and "Thank You!" to Bets for all her hard work to inspire the Story Writing Group, to stir up our creative juices, and to keep up our enthusiasm to continue writing. Bets put a lot of energy and work into leading the group. Each month she came to class with articles about writing, poems, advice and inspirational stories from other writers, ideas for organizing stories for our own memoirs, and more. She always provided positive feedback each month about each person's story, which helped to keep us inspired. Our group has had a great eight years together, and we still have more to write about and to share.

– Karen Lackey

PAUL TESCHAN

The Helping Holy Land Christians (HHLC) ministry is a fine example of Paul Teschan's ministry work. During a St. George's pilgrimage, Paul felt a "divine nudge" to help Christians living in the Holy Land. He attracted others to the cause and built a team that has raised \$200,000 in scholarships, supported Father Kamal Farah's visits to St. George's, donated to the Maronite Church's youth program, and taught English via Zoom.

HHLC is kingdom work, to be sure—Paul's kingdom work. HHLC only continues on because of Paul's unique combination of empathy, leadership, drive, and generosity. I believe St. Francis would see Paul Teschan as a living, breathing instrument of God's peace. I sure do!

Thank you, Paul, for all you've done and for all you are. I look forward to friendship and work together in the future.

– Bob Schwartz



Paul chatting at a reception after the In-Excelsis concert in May.

NEWS & NOTES



Tornado damage at Chapel of the Cross



Duke Medical event at St. George's



Children's art on display in the Bradford Gallery



Mission Trip to Our Little Roses



Our choirs at Canterbury Cathedral with Archbishop Justin Welby and Dean David Monteith

from St. George's

① **Tornado Relief Offering**

The town of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, experienced devastating loss of life and property from the tornado on March 24. The Rev. Polk Van Zandt, who recently served as a Priest Associate at St. George's, has deep family ties to Episcopal Chapel of the Cross, a historic parish that was severely damaged in the storm. The Chapel of the Cross is an important spiritual and outreach center for the community and the surrounding area. A special offering from St. George's was sent for their immediate use as they responded to needs in the church and community.

② **Ministering to Medical Professionals**

In April, St. George's was delighted to co-host an important talk about healthcare with our friends at First Presbyterian Church and Duke Divinity School's Theology, Medicine and Culture Initiative. Dr. Farr Curlin joined us from Duke to diagnose the challenges that Christian healthcare practitioners face and to offer resources for renewing their vocations as healers. With more than 120 in attendance, there was energy to continue the conversation about mental health, and another event is planned for October 17 at First Presbyterian Church with guest speaker Dr. Warren Kinghorn.

③ **Noah's Ark: Hope in God's Promises**

The Bradford Gallery is currently hosting a collaborative children's art show featuring the work of students from Jones Paideia Magnet Elementary School, Episcopal School of Nashville, and St. George's Kindergarten. Students and their families were invited to a special exhibit opening as part of our St. George's Day celebration in April. We're delighted to partner with the community as we engage the Christian imagination and celebrate the fullness of God's kingdom through art.

④ **Mission Trip to Our Little Roses**

Youth and adult volunteers returned to Honduras in June as we continued our ongoing relationship with Our Little Roses and the girls and young women who live there. Our group was joined by three teachers and staff members from St. George's Kindergarten—what a special way to share this ministry of presence together!

⑤ **Choral Residency at Canterbury Cathedral**

Members of St. George's Choir and Choristers traveled to England in July to serve as the choir in residence at Canterbury Cathedral. Leading six Evensongs and one Choral Eucharist, the choir sang for hundreds of worshippers at the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion, seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

They were especially pleased to worship alongside Archbishop Justin Welby on three occasions, and to build relationships with cathedral clergy who had previously visited St. George's.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DR. DAMIN SPRITZER ORGAN CONCERT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 • 7:00PM

"Assured confidence and refined musicality."
—*Classical Music Sentinel*

We open our *In Excelsis* Series with the passionate and refined playing of renowned organist Dr. Damin Spritzer, performing on our new organ, Buzard Op. 48. Dr. Spritzer is Area Chair and Associate Professor of Organ at the University of Oklahoma, and she has performed with historic churches and instruments around the world. Dr. Spritzer will remain at St. George's to accompany the St. George's Choir and Choristers in Choral Evensong on Sunday, September 10.

MISSION DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

St. George's sends volunteer teams to share in the work of ministry by serving our fellow Nashvillians in a half-day event. Teams learn about the needs in our community and engage in meaningful work together for the betterment of others. There are opportunities for individuals of all ages, and we encourage families to serve together!

Learn more & register at stgeorgesnashville.org/outreach.

PICKIN' PARTY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 • 5:00PM

Join us out back under the stars for our 3rd annual Pickin' Party! This casual fellowship event is for all ages—bring your families for a fun evening together. Please make reservations for this free event at stgeorgesnashville.org/pickinparty.



THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 7:00PM

"The nation's premier Anglican choir of men and boys."
—*The New Yorker*

In Excelsis welcomes one of the most prominent choirs in the nation. Considered by many to be the leading American ensemble in the Anglican choral tradition, the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys provides music for five choral services each week at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York City. The choir regularly appears in concert with period-instrument ensembles in New York, and for the past three decades has also toured throughout the United States and Europe.

& UPCOMING EVENTS

OPENING ART RECEPTION

Featuring artist and guest speaker **Makoto Fujimura**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 6:00PM

St. George's is thrilled to welcome the work of Makoto Fujimura to the Bradford Gallery. In addition to being a contemporary artist, whose distinctive "slow art" has been featured in galleries and museums around the world, Fujimura is a speaker, writer, and advocate. Fujimura once considered these paintings too dark and incomplete for any of his exhibitions; however, he recently discovered a "brightness to their countenance."

Learn more at stgeorgesnashville.org/gallery.



REQUIEM BY MAURICE DURUFLÉ

with **St. George's Choir and Orchestra**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 • 6:00PM

Regarded as one of the most sublime settings of the requiem text, Duruflé's *Requiem* will stir the souls of the listener with its powerful harmonic language rooted in ancient chant. St. George's Choir and Orchestra will present this work with interwoven readings and prayers. We invite you to come and honor the saints who have gone before us through powerful music and text.

Learn more at stgeorgesnashville.org/inexcelsis.

ADVENT WREATH PARTY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26 • 5:00PM

Join us for a parish-wide party to prepare for Advent. We'll have all the trimmings to make an Advent wreath, along with a fellowship dinner. Those who are able are asked to contribute \$5 per person to help cover the cost of dinner and materials. RSVP online at stgeorgesnashville.org/adventparty by Sunday, November 19.

GIVE TO ST. GEORGE'S TODAY



REALM

Under the Giving tab you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations on any day of the month you choose. Realm walks you through each step and saves your information securely for future reference.



MOBILE

Text "George" to 73256 from your mobile phone or device. A link will be texted back to you to make your gift with a credit or debit card through a secure site.



ONLINE

Visit stgeorgesnashville.org/givenow and follow the "Give Online" link to make a donation online.



BY MAIL

Checks can be mailed to:
St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike
Nashville, TN 37205.

Please make checks payable to:
St. George's Episcopal Church



STOCK

Donate full shares of stock or mutual funds to fulfill your pledge or as a one-time gift.

For more information, contact Laura Zabaski
laura.zabaski@stgeorgesnashville.org

ST GEORGE'S FINANCIALS



TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR TO DATE THROUGH JULY 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR	VARIANCE
REVENUE					
Pledges	\$2,177,540	\$2,152,363	\$25,178	\$1,879,731	\$297,809
Unpledged Gifts	368,638	260,960	107,678	355,300	13,338
Other Income	182,030	165,667	16,364	159,614	22,416
TOTAL REVENUE	2,728,208	2,578,989	149,219	2,394,646	333,563
EXPENSES	2,647,996	2,752,864	(104,869)	2,448,289	199,707
NET CASH FLOW	\$80,213	(\$173,875)	\$254,088	(\$53,644)	\$133,856

TRANSITIONS

BAPTISMS

Francis Elaine Berklacich, daughter of Taylor Northcutt & Sam Berklacich
Breanna Robbe Cecil
George Phillip Cecil, son of Breanna & Clay Cecil
Kevin McNairy Coode, son of Elizabeth & Chris Coode
John Stevenson Crabtree, Jr., son of Mackenzie & John Crabtree
Hayes Opal Craig, daughter of Anna Kate & Dylan Craig
Eden Elizabeth Craig, daughter of Anna Kate & Dylan Craig
Cruz Decker Cua, son of Ashley & Maxx Cua
Penny Caroline Guinn, daughter of Paige & Justin Guinn
Elizabeth Price Hardy, daughter of Elizabeth & Chris Hardy
Sienna Emily Hasle, daughter of Ashley & Roy Hasle
David Declan Kidd, son of Ashley & Alex Kidd
Parker Joseph Landsberg, son of Hayley & Anthony Landsberg
Emily Jacqueline Pickens, daughter of Rebecca & Ward Pickens
Natalie Sloan Porter
Jack Edward Taylor, son of Meg & Matt Taylor
Fountain James Vance, son of Lindsey & Miller Vance
Elizabeth Merritt Young, daughter of Liana & Jeff Young
William West Young, son of Liana & Jeff Young

BIRTHS

Wendall Robert Fisher, son of Madison & Cody Fisher
Sienna Emily Hasle, daughter of Ashley & Roy Hasle
Elizabeth Middleton Hoogland, daughter of Annie & Ben Hoogland
Davis Declan Kidd, son of Ashley & Alex Kidd
Margaret Wallace McNeilly, daughter of Carolyn & Tate McNeilly
Caroline Ann Moore, daughter of Kennedy & Roe Moore
Thomas Hull Palmer, son of Dede & Wallace Palmer
Willa Turnbull Pursley, son of Brooke & Turnbull Pursley
Beckett David Ransom, son of Meaghan & Robert Ransom
Elizabeth Brooks Warren, son of Molly & Elliott Warren

DEATHS

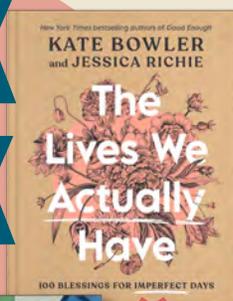
Mary Caldwell Clarke
Elizabeth Oldham Essary
Christopher Lawrence Fort
Anne Harris
John Lee Maxcy
Elinor Cunningham Berger Peek
Franklin D. Pendleton
Marshall "Shag" Tate Polk III
Lucianne Forcum Wilt

NEW MEMBERS

Julie & Brent Anderson, Owen and Henry
Ellanore Baker
Amanda & Thomas Beck, Francie and Briley
Evalyn Bentley
Nicole Bragg
Marilyn Burkhart
Jami Burnett & Kris Moore
Laila Cherian
George Clements, Jr.
Eliza Coode and Kevin
Jennifer Dzwonkowski
Allison & Derek Farrell
Charlotte Figler
Chesnee Foster
Whitney Gannon
Paige & Justin Guinn
Theodore Graff
Chris Hardy and Price
Anna & Collin Harvell
Mary Helen & David Hepner

Dennis Holt
Annie & Benjamin Hoogland and Ella
Betty James
Ann & Rodger Kesley
Jeff King
Martin Lammers
Marlee Lawhorn
Laurie Lawrence
Elizabeth Logan
Abbi & John Maher, George and Alexandra
Lee Marshall
Sarah & Sam Martin
Amanda McClellan & Joshua Sisson
Tim Moorhead
Karen & Robert Norton, Piers and Alexandra
Elizabeth & Rob Osborn
Courtney Pannell
Joanne Payson
Brooke & Turnbull Pursley
Meaghan & Robert Ransom, Chip and Beckett
Meredith & Matthew Risner, Reagan and Sam
Rebecca & Chris Rouland
Mary Schaefer
Bill Schwartz
Joshua Sisson
Ivan Sloan
Meg & Matt Taylor, Avery and Jet
Joan Thomas
Blair Tynes
Andrew Uchirin
James Ward, II
Laura & Pete Zabaski
Rolf Zettersten

BOOK NOOK



20% OFF!

THE LIVES WE ACTUALLY HAVE: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie's, *The Lives We Actually Have* is a compilation of blessings written to help us invite God into the breadth of our human experience: the tiredness, stress, joy, and grief. Bowler and Richie have, quite beautifully, written honest blessings that invite God's presence into all aspects of life. My personal favorite is the blessing "for when

you're feeling grouchy." This approachable book reminds us that God's blessings are not limited to our triumphs; rather, they are living hope and comfort in the unwavering presence of God in our lives.

—Ashley Gitchell, 2023 Duke Divinity Intern

CULTURE CARE: Reconnecting with Beauty for our Common Life by Makoto Fujimura

Makoto Fujimura opens with a story early in his marriage when they were on a tight budget and his wife, Judy brought home a bouquet of flowers. He was frustrated and asked her how she could buy flowers when they barely had enough money to eat. Judy replied, "We need to feed our souls, too." *Culture Care* describes how our sense of

beauty and our creativity are central to what it means to be made in the image of a creative God. This recommendation is timed alongside an exhibit of Fukimura's art coming to the Bradford Gallery in October.

—Agatha Nolen, Director of Outreach

WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

7:30am	Traditional
8:45am	Traditional *♦♥
9:00am	The Table ♦♥
10:05am	Sunday School ♦
11:00am	Traditional ♦♥
5:00pm	Evening Prayer

* *Livestreamed at stgeorgesnashville.org*

♦ *Nursery available (8 weeks – 2 years)*

♥ *Childcare available (3 – 5 years)*

SPECIAL SERVICES

Choral Evensong
Sundays, September 10 and October 15 at 5:00pm

Compline
Wednesdays, September 20, October 18,
and November 15 at 9:15pm

Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 1 at 3:00pm

Service of Remembrance
Sunday, October 8 at 10:05am

Thanksgiving Day Service
Thursday, November 23 at 10:00am

For the most up-to-date information on all our worship offerings please visit stgeorgesnashville.org

 Follow us at facebook.com/stgeorgesnashville

 Follow us on Instagram @stgeorgesnashville

 Podcast | Sermons at St. George's

 Follow us on YouTube/St. George's Episcopal Church, Nashville



— ISSUE NO. 38 —

The Shield is a publication of St. George's Episcopal Church and is shared with members and friends to engage and inform readers about the life and mission of our church community.

Communications Team

The Rev. Colin Ambrose, Vice Rector & Chief of Staff
Rebecca Teel, Director of Communications
Laura Zabaski, Parish Administrative Officer
Stephanie Elder, Worship & Communications Coordinator

Graphic Design

Mazzo Media

Photography

Photos used with special permission of St. Thomas Choir and Makoto Fujimura. Additional photography provided by Christ Church Cathedral and Gerry Senechal.

Front Cover: Celebrating the Eucharist | Back Cover: VBS 2023: Heroes Unite!