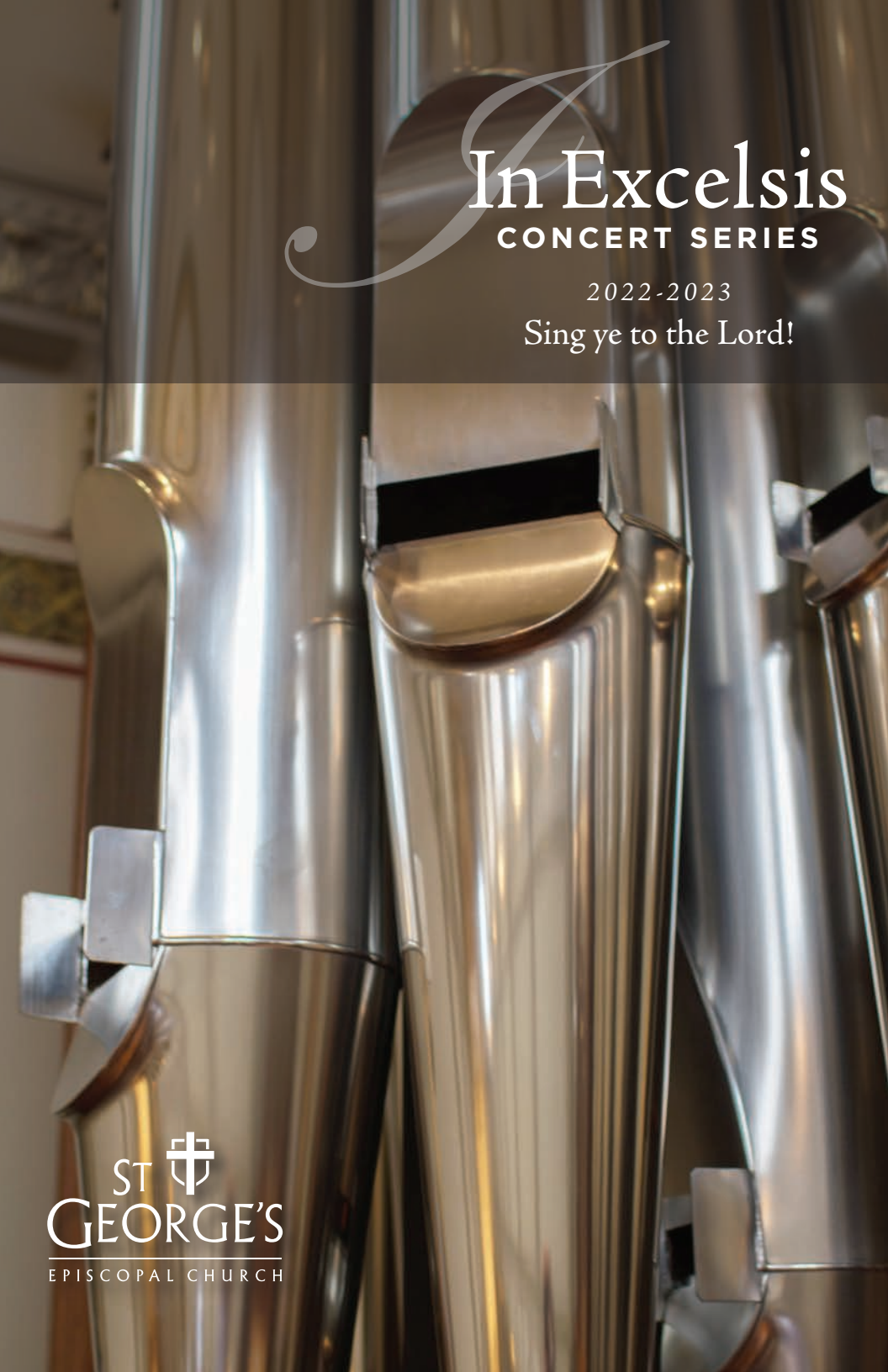


In Excelsis
CONCERT SERIES

2022-2023

Sing ye to the Lord!

ST GEORGE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Letter from the Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends,
St. George's Music Ministry is delighted to present the 2022-2023 season of the In Excelsis Concert Series: "Sing ye to the Lord." This season includes the celebration of our new Buzard Opus 48 organ as the final project of the Living our Legacy building campaign launched in 2019. Completed halfway through our season, the organ will uplift our worship as we praise our Lord in the beautiful acoustics of the renovated nave. I am grateful for the members of our Organ Committee who have shared their talent, timeless hours, and immeasurable efforts to bring this organ to St. George's. I would also like to welcome John-Paul Buzard, President of Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, and his expert staff as they arrive at St. George's in July 2022.

In this brochure you will discover a season with ambitious programming to celebrate this unique time in the life of St. George's. We continue our long-standing tradition of annual favorites, including a Lessons & Carols service, an All Saints Concert, and services of Choral Evensong and Compline. These foundational offerings highlight our continued effort to worship with excellence in music and liturgy.

Our pursuit of exceptional choral music continues as we welcome St. John's Chapel Choir from Cambridge led by Dr. Andrew Nethsingha. Lastly, we will host five organ dedicatory programs including a Hymn Festival, a series of solo recitals featuring James O'Donnell from Westminster Abbey, and performances by our own St. George's musicians.

I am extremely thankful for the hard work of our Music Ministry staff, Friends of Music, St. George's Choir, Choristers and St. Dunstan's Choir who make our parish a rich place of music and worship. I invite you to join us for this special season of music at St. George's.

Yours in Christ,

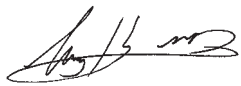
The Rev. Colin Ambrose
Priest-in-Charge

A Letter from the Director of Music Ministries

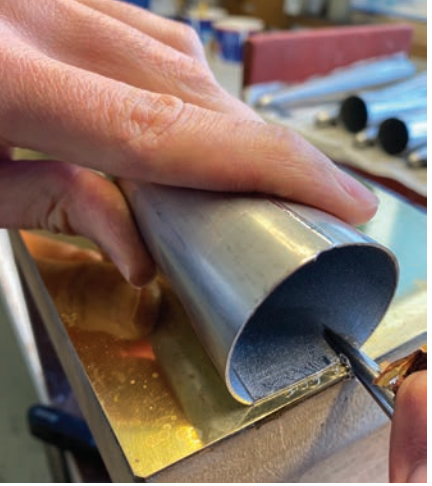
The Living our Legacy Campaign was already a glimmer of hope in the eyes of our church leaders when I arrived at St. George's as the Director of Music Ministries in 2016. When considering how we might enhance the tradition of the rich history and musical legacy given to this congregation, we knew that improving the placement of the choir and enhancing the acoustics of the nave were top priorities. During our research, we came to the realization that building a new organ to match the renovated design of the chancel and the newly improved acoustic environment was the best method for both honoring our history and building a lasting legacy for future generations. The organ committee was formed in 2018, and they worked closely with the music staff and a consultant to evaluate many organ firms. The result of their work resulted in signing a new organ contract with Buzard Pipe Organ Builders in December of 2019.

This new organ, Buzard Opus 48, is not only a gift to the congregation but to all of Nashville and the wider community. The organ's main role in the life of our church is to help us lift our voices in worship to the Lord. The title of this year's In Excelsis season, Sing ye to the Lord, is inspired by Edward Bairstow's famous Easter anthem and reflects our long-held vision that worship is the primary way we respond to Christ's love for us.

Thanks to the tremendous support from our donors, the In Excelsis Concert Series has grown much these past six years, and I am grateful to be able to plan such a wonderful season with the support of the Friends of Music Committee. I now invite you to join us—whether for concerts, annual services, or regular Sunday morning worship—to sing to Lord. We look forward to sharing this music with you.



Dr. Woosug Kang
Director of Music Ministries



July 2022 Bradford Gallery Art Exhibit: "Buzard Opus 48"

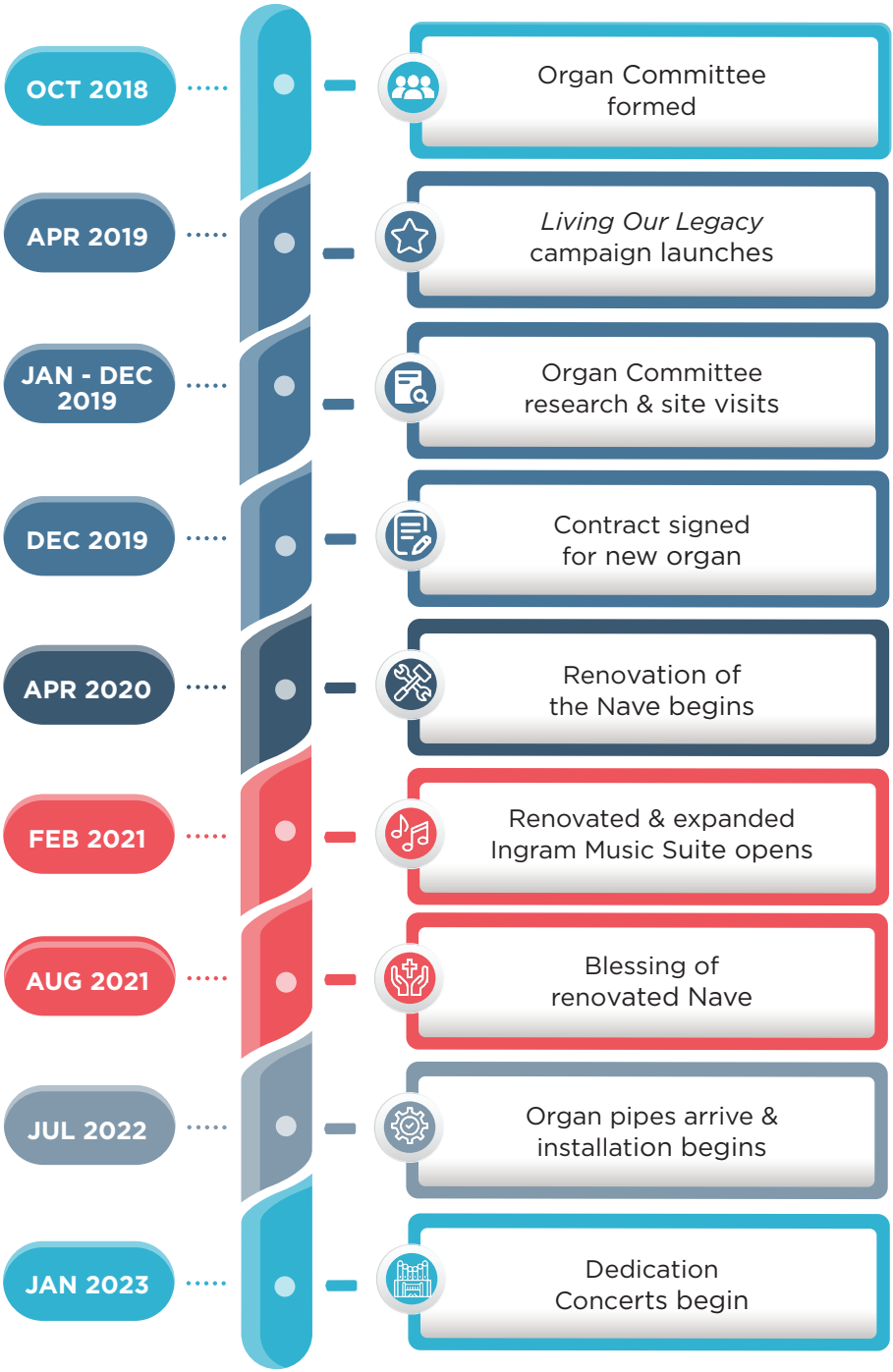
The *In Excelsis* Series has partnered with the Bradford Gallery to demonstrate how both musical and visual arts inspire and promote the beauty of our faith.

Opening in the same month as the installation of Buzard Opus 48, this exhibit in the Bradford Gallery will satisfy curious minds about the intricate process of building a new organ, as well as provide a look into the rich history of church organs throughout the centuries. As an instrument of immense scale, a church organ becomes a key component of a church's architecture. The new organ console, with its multiple manuals and stops, will be featured in the exhibit before it moves to its permanent home in the nave. Guests of all ages will have an opportunity to sit at the console and experience an organist's point of view.

We highly encourage children, youth, and their families to visit this summer while we eagerly wait for the new organ to be completed. Our hope is that this exhibit will stir enthusiasm and appreciation for the organ, as well as ignite a passion for the musical worship that we experience together at St. George's. This event is co-sponsored by Friends of Music and the Bradford Gallery.

The organ committee was formed in 2018, and they worked closely with the music staff and a consultant to evaluate many organ firms. The result of their work resulted in signing a new organ contract with Buzard Pipe Organ Builders in December of 2019.

Buzard Op. 48 Timeline



Sing ye to the Lord!

We are thrilled to present a concert season filled with celebration of the new organ, Buzard Opus 48 by Buzard Pipe Organ Builders. Our vision is that the new instrument will inspire congregational singing, accompany our excellent choirs to their fullest capacity, support our magnificent acoustic, and provide many different opportunities for praise and worship—whether solo organ repertoire or in concert with instruments and voices.

This unique season includes dedicatory recitals beginning in January 2023, when we anticipate the organ will be fully installed, voiced, and settled. An organ is one of the most sophisticated and complicated instruments to build, and every beautiful sound it creates requires that each pipe is adjusted by hand. During the installation and voicing period, our programming will be creative in repertoire and use of the space.

Friday, November 4, 7:00pm

ALL SAINTS CONCERT FEATURING *REQUIEM* BY HERBERT HOWELLS, AND OTHER *A CAPPELLA* WORKS.

St. George's Choir offers the poignant a capella setting of *Requiem* by Herbert Howells to remember and honors those we have lost. This performance will feature scripture readings and other choral works, including *They are at rest* by Edward Elgar and *Faire is the Heaven* by William Harris.

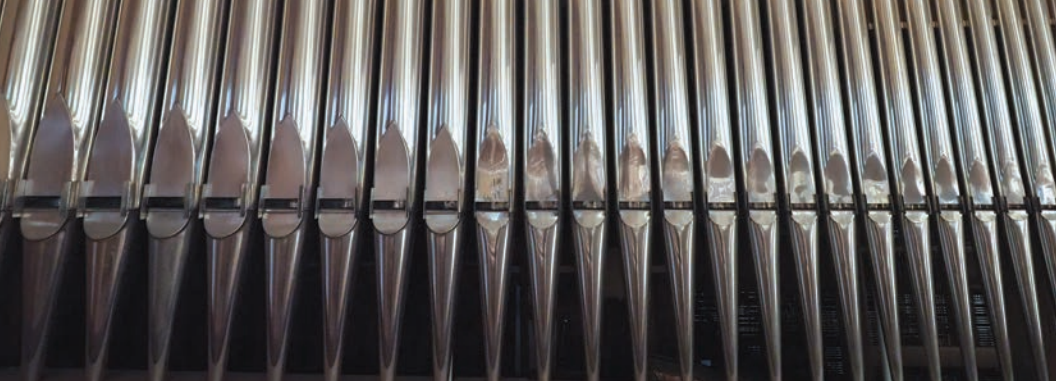
Sunday, December 4, 6:00pm

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

The bidding to "sing ye to the Lord" applies to all generations, and St. George's annual Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols includes singers from as young as first and second graders in St. Dunstan's Choir to our adult choir members. One of the major annual events at St. George's, this beloved service highlights all generations of our church family coming together and making joyful music. This service is a well-attended favorite, so please arrive early.

Friday, January 20, 12:00pm
Mozart Birthday Concert with Roger Wiesmeyer

In Excelsis is proud to present an annual Mozart Birthday Concert in partnership with Roger Wiesmeyer and other Nashville-based musicians. This unique program also serves as an outreach opportunity, as all donated proceeds go to support a deserving nonprofit program in Nashville. This is a wonderful way to spend your lunchtime on Friday—join us for delightful music and a great cause!



Friday, January 27, 7:30pm

DEDICATORY HYMN FESTIVAL FEATURING ROBERT MCCORMICK, DR. JEREMY BEGBIE, AND ST. GEORGE'S CHOIR

Join us for a hymn festival led by Robert McCormick, the organist and choirmaster of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, and guest speaker Dr. Jeremy Begbie, Thomas A. Langford Distinguished Research Professor of Theology and McDonald Agape Director of Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts at Duke University.

Described as "indomitable and immensely gifted" by *Choir & Organ Magazine*, Mr. McCormick is known as a highly creative improviser and liturgical organist, and he is respected for his wide range of concert repertoire. He brings inspiration, excitement, and elevated creativity to our beloved hymns as we sing to celebrate the new organ. Dr. Begbie is well-known for being an incredible musician and a respected theologian, speaking on the deeply-rooted relationship between music and theology. "Whatever music you enjoy and wherever you are on the journey of faith, he will delight, surprise, challenge, and inspire you" (N.T. Wright). This event is co-sponsored by the Nashville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists but is open to all.

Friday, February 17, 7:00pm

DEDICATORY ORGAN RECITAL FEATURING DR. JAMES O'DONNELL

The first organ recital in our dedication series will feature James O'Donnell, who served as Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey for the last 23 years. Coming to St. George's from his new appointment at Yale School of Music and Yale Institute of Sacred Music, he will showcase Buzard Op. 48 in a dazzling fashion. He is a renowned organist and conductor who has performed all over the world in the most prestigious venues and was described by *The Irish Times* as "a master of his craft."

Dr. O'Donnell was awarded the papal honor of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory in 1999. He received Honorary Membership of the Royal Academy of Music in 2002 and a Fellowship of the Royal College of Music in 2009. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, in 2011 and received an Honorary Doctor of Music from the University of Aberdeen in July 2013.

In addition this program, Dr. O'Donnell will present a masterclass to our choirs and will lead a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday, February 19, at 5:00pm.

Sunday, March 5, 6:00pm

DEDICATORY ORGAN RECITAL FEATURING DR. WOOSUG KANG

Dr. Woosug Kang will present a solo organ recital showcasing the variety and depth of Buzard Op. 48. He came to St. George's in 2016 to serve as the Director of Music Ministries, and he has been recognized for developing and growing the music ministry ever since, including the recent acoustic enhancements of the nave and serving on the Organ Committee. Dr. Kang enjoys a dynamic career as a conductor and organist, having performed in many parts of the US, the UK, New Zealand, and Australia. All donated proceeds from this concert will benefit the Choristers of St. George's in their residency at Canterbury Cathedral, UK, in July 2023.

Saturday, March 25, 7:00pm

ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL CHOIR FROM CAMBRIDGE, UK, DIRECTED BY ANDREW NETHSINGHA

The *In Excelsis* Concert Series is committed to supporting the work of excellent international choral ensembles. This season, we are excited to welcome St. John's Chapel Choir from Cambridge, UK. Led by internationally-renowned choral conductor Andrew Nethsingha, the choir is known to millions of listeners across the globe through its impressive catalogue of over 100 recordings. Since its first release in 1959, the Choir's output has spanned centuries of musical composition and received critical acclaim under successive Directors of Music. Jeremy Pound of BBC Music Magazine writes, "Listening in, the individual vocal strength of various singers, particularly in the back rows, came as no surprise – John's have long been a powerful crew – nor did Nethsingha's skill in blending them so immaculately."

Sunday, April 30, 6:00pm

DEDICATORY ORGAN RECITAL FEATURING MR. GERRY SENECHAL

Mr. Gerry Senechal has served as the Associate Director of Music Ministries and Organist since the mid-2000s, and he has been an integral part of growth and development of St. George's music ministry. He is highly regarded as a liturgical organist and composer. Many of his works are frequently sung, including hymns, descants, reharmonizations, anthems, and psalm settings, as well as other service music. Using his great passion for Anglican music, Mr. Senechal will demonstrate the full spectrum of the color and capacity of Buzard Op. 48. All donated proceeds from this program will benefit the Choristers of St. George's in their residency at Canterbury Cathedral, UK, in July 2023.

Tuesday, May 9, 7:30pm

DEDICATORY CONCERT WITH THE NASHVILLE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The final dedicatory performance features the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra (NPO) under the direction of Dr. Christopher Norton. The NPO is one of the most visible and vibrant musical outreach activities here at St. George's, and in this special concert, Dr. Woosug Kang and Mr. Gerry Senechal join forces with the NPO to celebrate the Buzard Op. 48 by "singing" together to conclude our season. The repertoire will include the thrilling *Symphony No. 3 "Organ Symphony"* by Saint-Saëns and the Nashville premiere of New Zealand composer John Wells's *Organ Concerto in D Major*. Dr. Kang also performed the US premiere in 2015, which was featured on the American Public Media radio program *PipeDreams*.

Choral Evensong

Beautiful music filled with inspiring texts comprise our offerings of Choral Evensong—one of the most beloved liturgies we have to offer at St. George's. This season, our choir and choristers will present musical works that will be offered during our upcoming residency in July 2023 at Canterbury Cathedral, UK, the home of our Anglican heritage.

Choral Evensong services are scheduled for the following Sundays at 5:00pm.

- **September 11**
- **October 9**
- **Festival Evensong February 19 led by James O'Donnell**
- **March 12**
- **May 21**

Compline

Compline adheres to the monastic tradition of concluding the day with prayer and worship. This solemn and quiet service is sung by the tenors and basses of St. George's Choir.

Unless otherwise noted, Compline is offered the following Wednesdays at 9:15pm.

- **September 21**
- **October 19**
- **November 16**
- **December 21**
- **January 15 (Special Sunday Compline at 5:00pm)**
- **February 15**
- **March 15**
- **May 17**

Special Services at St. George's

You're invited to join us for any service at St. George's. The ones listed below are highlights of our church year and have special music to enhance the meaning of the day. Please visit our website for details at *stgeorgesnashville.org/worshiptimes.* All are welcome!

- **All Saints Sunday: November 6**
- **Christmas Eve: December 24**
- **Ash Wednesday: February 22**
- **Palm Sunday: April 2**
- **Maundy Thursday: April 6**
- **Good Friday: April 7**
- **The Great Vigil of Easter: April 8**
- **Easter Sunday: April 9**

The *In Excelsis* Concert Series has been thriving these past several years thanks to the increasingly generous support of our donors. The Friends of Music Committee recognizes these donors with much gratitude.

To become a Friend of Music, visit our website at *stgeorgesnashville.org/inexcelsis* or send a check to St. George's Episcopal Church (4715 Harding Pike, Nashville, TN 37205), with **Friends of Music** noted in the memo line.

Most importantly, we thank you for supporting our musical offerings with your time and attendance. We are blessed to be able to share this ministry with you.

ST GEORGE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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