



the Shield

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • WINTER 2025-26 • ISSUE NO. 45



Receiving • Living • Sharing
THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

AWAKE AND ALERT

AN ADVENT PILGRIMAGE TO MAMA'S KITCHEN

CONFIRMATION: PROCLAIMING OUR FAITH IN CHRIST

75 YEARS OF ST. GEORGE'S KINDERGARTEN

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. Jason Terhune
Associate Rector

jason.terhune@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Zachary Berry
Curate

zach.berry@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Joe Ananias
Priest Associate

joe.ananias@stgeorgesnashville.org

The Rev. Sarah Condon
Priest Associate, Women's Ministries
sarah.condon@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, Children's Ministries
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

Keep Awake: An Advent Invitation

As the days shorten and the world speeds toward Christmas, the Church begins not with sentimentality but with a wake-up call. Jesus' word for the first week of Advent is simple and bracing: "Keep awake." We do not know the hour, he says; therefore, be alert—like a doorkeeper watching for the master's return. The point is not guessing timetables, but learning to live ready, hearts in order, work in hand, eyes open to God's reign breaking in now.

To be awake in Advent is to resist spiritual drowsiness—to shake off distraction and indifference and pay attention to what God is doing right here, right now. It means noticing the people we might normally overlook, listening for God's quiet voice beneath the noise, and keeping our hearts tender rather than numb. Wakefulness is not about anxious striving but about holy attentiveness—a readiness of spirit that recognizes God's presence in the everyday: a conversation, a meal, a song, a need. It is the posture of those who believe that Christ is nearer than we think.

You'll see this wakefulness embodied throughout the pages that follow. Inside you'll find reflections from two recent pilgrimages—journeys that trained our senses to attend to God on the road and in creation. One was a men's canoe trip through the still waters and red canyons of Utah's Green River, where silence became a teacher and the desert sky a kind of cathedral. The other traced the ancient Camino de Santiago in Portugal, where walking itself became prayer—step after step, a reminder that faith is learned in motion.

You'll also meet our Nashville Fellows, recent college graduates in a nine-month, ecumenical leadership and discipleship program that integrates faith, work, and community in partnership with St. George's and other churches in our city. Their year forms habits of attentiveness: to Scripture, to neighbors, and to vocation.

And we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our kindergarten—a ministry that has helped little ones (and their grown-ups) learn the holy art of paying attention, from learning letters to sharing laughter in a world that is God-given and good. In a noisy age, that kind of patient attention is a countercultural gift.

So, dear friends, as Advent begins, let us practice wakefulness together. Set a daily moment to pray. Make a straight path for the Lord by forgiving someone, or by asking forgiveness yourself. Light the candles slowly. Sing the hymns loudly. Serve gladly. And as we wait, we do not wring our hands—we lift them, trusting the promise at the heart of our faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. Keep awake.

J. Malone Gilliam, Rector

Colin Ambrose, Vice Rector & Chief of Staff



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An Advent Pilgrimage

TO MAMA'S KITCHEN

By the Rev. Sarah Condon

The word “pilgrimage” can feel like it lives in the parts of church lexicon that make me bristle a little bit. I grew up in an Episcopal church that was filled entirely with former Southern Baptists. My Sunday School teacher, the priest, and most especially my parents were not generational Episcopalians by any means. So often, words like “nave” (the church), and “sacristy” (the communion kitchen) still feel weird in my mouth. And “pilgrimage” feels much the same. Pilgrimage feels like the kind of thing other people have the time to do. For a lot of people, it feels extravagant to go on vacation at all. But to go on a pilgrimage, where you not only leave but leave with a purpose, can sound otherworldly. When our kids were little the closest thing we got to a pilgrimage was to drive 45 minutes to the beach in Galveston, Texas. Which just meant we were changing diapers with an ocean view.

But if life has taught me anything, it is that things may not be for me in certain seasons but may be crucial for me in others. Besides, I do catch myself using the word “nave” sometimes.

Recently, I heard a sermon by the Rev. Erin Jean Warde about pilgrimage. But she was speaking about the pilgrimage of grief that she has recently found herself on. Her sister died very suddenly in 2022, and all at once Warde described being swept up into a real pilgrimage. Not simply one of despair and longing, but also a pilgrimage where she found herself being taken care of by her community.

She wisely pointed out that there are pilgrimages we *choose* to go on. And those have real meaning in our lives. God willing, they bring us closer to the tenderness of Jesus. But also, there are those pilgrimages that we would never choose for ourselves, but they, too, drive us into the arms of the living God.

Grief is a pilgrimage, for sure. But addiction within yourself or someone you love, a mental health crisis in your family, or even the failure of a marriage—these are all pilgrimages that most of us will be given to walk at some point in our lives.

But similarly to Warde’s experience, we do not walk these pilgrimages alone. We walk them together.

I am often reminded that one of the many distinctions of early Christianity was that they visited prisoners. In the letter to the Hebrews, the church is told to “remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body” (Hebrews 13:3). What is a prison sentence, with all of its silence and waiting, if not a pilgrimage of sorts? And God is telling us not to let the imprisoned endure it without community and encouragement.

Every year at Yale Divinity School they send the entire senior class of Episcopalians to Canterbury on a pilgrimage. And as a trepidatious young mom, I was reluctant to leave our firstborn baby and fly across the ocean to see old churches. Mind you, this was not the description in the brochure, but it was the anxious description in my head. And yet, it was one of my most formative seminary experiences.

Certainly, it was beautiful and exciting. Up until that point in my life I had never left the country. But more than that, I began to see the experience of worship itself as pilgrimage. We were blessed to be offered a candlelight tour of Canterbury Cathedral led by the Dean himself. It was incredible to come into such a space in almost total darkness.

The Dean began in the back and spoke about how people would arrive at the massive doors longing for solace. And as we came up the center aisle, he stopped at an inlaid golden compass rose in the floor. He began to address the conflict in the church and in the larger world around us, and then said in a very British accent “This church is Mama’s kitchen. You are all always welcomed in Mama’s kitchen.” Meaning that no matter what the world says about you or your identify, good or bad, you are ultimately at Home when you are at Canterbury Cathedral.

I think about this a great deal when I walk into church. I think about the journey that we all make every Sunday morning when we leave the creature comforts of our homes and pilgrimage to our common Home.

We remind each other that we are beloved by God through Christ Jesus. We hear the Word preached with a grace that is beyond any doubt we might carry. We pray for the world together, we confess our sins together. And certainly, the tangibility of kneeling together to receive the bread and the wine are true signs of a pilgrimage accomplished.

You will be reading this in the season of Advent. Which is a wild time to think about pilgrimage. If you are anything like me, you have a list of things that will most certainly never be completed by December 25th. So I do not want to add to it here.

But worship, showing up for church, and remaining awake to see God in our lives—this can be our pilgrimage for Advent. We arrive at church and see we friends we love. We sing hymns to proclaim the goodness of God in our lives. We journey toward a God that has already come so near to us. And we do it together. Because whether it is a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral or to St. George’s on a Sunday morning in Nashville, we are all welcome Home in Mama’s kitchen. My Advent prayer is that we would be so bold as to find our rest and peace there this season. ✝

Spiritual Reflections

ON THE JOURNEY



Pilgrims' offerings left at the foot of the cross



Steve Cottingham on the Camino

WALKING THE CAMINO IN PORTUGAL

"My experience on the Camino (to Santiago de Compostela) was a perfect example of what a pilgrimage is—to seek a deeper relationship with God and with those around me seeking the same. The physical nature of the hike over various and sometimes difficult terrain, the beauty of the changing landscape, the acts of kindness, and the shared stories provided a beautiful metaphor for our common life in Christ. It was truly memorable, and I hope to experience it again!"

— Carolyn Sorenson

"On the Camino I learned new ways to lighten up. Not only to carry less weight on my back, but less in my daily life. The excesses in life that we often carry, and really don't need, take away our joys and the rich pleasures of simplicity, of solitude.

One morning I discovered a sacred place. Alone in the mountains of Pontevedra, Spain I hiked gently uphill past small fields into a forest along a rutted stone path leading to a small waterfall and a beautiful view of a meadow. I stopped, looked, listened in complete silence, and I felt something that reminded me of how wonderful it is to belong to something much greater than myself. That experience, which is something I could never have purchased, lifted my spirits, opened my eyes, and lightened my steps. It tied the rest of the long journey to a sense of purpose, meaning, and spiritual connection."

— Steve Cottingham



Carolyn Sorenson (center) with other pilgrims on the Camino



St. George's men in Utah



Ryne Anderson in Utah

CANOEING THE GREEN RIVER IN UTAH

"This September I had the opportunity to spend a week in the beautiful region of Moab, Utah, alongside an outstanding group of men. Over the course of three days, we canoed down the Green River in Canyonlands, possibly the most remote place I have ever been. Completely removed from any traces of human civilization or habitation, our only supplies were those which we brought into the canyon with us.

We were immersed in a land of monumental natural architecture, unlike anything we are accustomed to, and this land gave us constant insights into just how immensely awesome and powerful the Lord is. Mountains and spires of rock stretched as far as the eye could see and the night sky was filled with countless stars that we normally see only a fraction of, while the milky way stretched over us. All these things reminded us of God's sheer vastness. It was impossible to spend time in a place like this without realizing how great he truly is!

We were free from all of the world's distractions out here, and we were able to be attentive to the blessings God had for us in this wonderful adventure. The land gave us constant and very immediate reminders of God's character. By the end of our journey, I believe most of us were loathe to return to the world outside.

I was blessed to make this journey alongside men who time and again showed me reflections of God's grace and provision. This trip afforded us the opportunity to forge bonds of friendship in a very significant and meaningful way. I pray we can all gain greater understanding of God's character, and break free of the things of this world which are false."

— Ryne Anderson

CHORISTER PILGRIMAGE TO LINCOLN CATHEDRAL 2027

The Choristers of St. George's are preparing for a once-in-a-lifetime journey—a choral residency at the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral in England. For one unforgettable week, their voices will fill this centuries-old cathedral, whose breathtaking acoustics have inspired worshippers for generations.

This pilgrimage is more than a musical opportunity. It's a time for our young singers to grow in faith, friendship, and artistry as they lead daily worship in one of the most historic sacred spaces of the Anglican tradition. The memory of a pilgrimage like this can last a lifetime—deepening each chorister's love for God and for the gift of music.

We invite you to walk with them on this journey—through your prayers, your encouragement, and your financial support. Join us this January for a special fundraising dinner that will help make this pilgrimage possible for every chorister who hopes to go (see page 20 for details). ✝





CONFIRMATION:

Proclaiming Our Faith in Christ

By the Rev. Dr. David Barr

One thought that plagues the hearts of many Christians is the simple question: When did I become a believer? And how do I know if I truly am one? It is a simple enough query, but it is—as I’ve come to believe of most simple questions—one of the most important. Can we determine our legitimate inclusion into the body of Christ by our character or our friendships, our Sunday attendance or our involvement in community service? Could baptism genuinely be the only (invisible!) mark that represents our initiation? What if I didn’t really believe anything as a child? These are good questions!

Within the Episcopal Church, the rite of confirmation has historically been the gateway to full inclusion into the sacramental, and thereby spiritually substantive, life of the church. Until the prayer book revisions of the 1970’s, to be confirmed meant to be prepared for participation in Holy Communion. But, of course, today at St. George’s, this is no longer the case; as with most other parishes, baptism is now the ritual of initiation to the Eucharist. And this is for good reason. Because, by most accounts, the early church understood baptism as a full spiritual incorporation into the life and promises of Christ, not a preliminary step along the way. And so to place the onus of inclusion on baptism means that it holds a particular and formidable place of importance—not lessening confirmation—but shifting its emphasis.

In the language of our prayer book, confirmation is now a rite of affirmation and renewal. This does not mean that parents must give their children communion or that they cannot still treat confirmation as the gateway to receiving communion. Parents can and still do choose to delay a child’s first communion until after confirmation. But what the ’79 revision did accomplish is to place baptism in a position of preeminence. And what this means for confirmation is that, at the very least, it is an opportunity to actively claim the strong promises given to us in baptism. It is an opportunity to claim those enduring proclamations over our lives and bodies in baptism that are also accompanied by a real and spiritual power.



While some might think of this change in the prayer book as a lessening of confirmation's importance, we must see how essential this work of acceptance and claiming hold of God's promises truly is. Nearly every Christian tradition I can think of offers some way for people to publicly say, "yes, I profess the faith passed down to me. Yes, I acknowledge and believe that Jesus is the son of God. Yes, I am a Christian." Every year at St. George's we offer this opportunity to young and old alike. Why? Because everyone needs the opportunity to make that claim to the world and to recognize who has laid claim of them in the world in which they live. In other words, our hearts may be prone to wandering and fear, yet the promise of confirmation is that we can always turn back to what God has done in baptism along with the our public response to his grace. We may wonder, "am I really a Christian?"; and the congregation of the church catholic, the communion of saints, says "yes!"

As some of you may know, I have been an avid rock climber since I was in college. When someone first starts rock climbing the unavoidable fear of falling is ever present; their legs shake, and on challenging terrain their arms may lock up. But the more you climb, the more you learn to trust the rope and the equipment, until one day you simply find yourself climbing as if a fall is of no consequence at all. You go from erratic and careful progress upward to a more fluid (and enjoyable!) movement between the easier and more difficult sequences, moving up the face of the rock in confidence and freedom. Perhaps confirmation is a little like that. It is finally grasping the strength of God's promise over us. It is learning to say in whatever terrain of our lives: "I see that God is reliable. I see that his promises are certain. I see that I fundamentally belong to Jesus even more than I can ever comprehend."

Even when we may be tempted to think of this mysterious rite as an obligation, we are invited to trust simply in what happened. We go to the classes. We walk to the front of the sanctuary. We kneel, and build relationships, and speak words of truth that are passed down to us from a universal body of wisdom that God sustains, and as surely as the bishop lays hands on our heads, we may know that we are Christians, the beloved children of God.

For so so many of us, we can get trapped in the endless cycle of either forgetting that we belong to Christ at all, or doubting whether we act enough like a Christian to be called one. And yet we may confidently claim our sonship in situations of repentance and failure, rest and work, and most certainly in circumstances where we long for courage and confidence. ✝

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sundays, January 4–April 26 at 10:05am

When you become a confirmed Episcopalian, you step into one of Christianity's largest global traditions. To be confirmed is not only a way to visibly affirm one's place within the people of God across the globe and time, it is also a way of receiving a whole new story—a rich inheritance of theology, worship, song, and liturgical practice. In short, it is a way of being Christian that has endured for many centuries and has given hope and endurance to millions. Confirmation is the gateway to that tradition.

We invite you to attend classes with us this winter and spring and to consider whether you are being called to make an outward commitment of your faith through confirmation. Adult confirmation class gathers weekly on Sunday mornings during Sunday school hour from January through April. We welcome people from any faith tradition, even Episcopalians simply looking for a refresher on the Anglican faith.

For details scan the QR code or simply contact Martha Rodes, Director of Lay Ministry Engagement. Martha.Rodes@stgeorgesnashville.org
615-385-2150 x 249



THE VOICE OF THE

Heart

By the Rev. Sarah Puryear

If you've seen the 2015 Pixar film *Inside Out*, you know that its surprising take on emotions is that they all have a positive function. Even Sadness, whom the main character Joy thinks is such a drag for most of the story, turns out to have a role to play in the life of Riley, the girl to whom the emotions belong. When Sadness shows vulnerability towards the end of the film, this prompts the people around Riley to sit beside her and console her. It is the honest expression of sadness that connects Riley to others and helps her feel less alone.

Fourteen years earlier, Christian therapist Chipp Dodd wrote a book with a similar message. In *The Voice of the Heart: A Call to Full Living*, Dodd describes what he considers to be eight core emotions. He says that each of them in their original state is a gift from God that tells us something important—even the feelings we generally consider “negative” such as anger or guilt. When we listen to our emotions speak in their God-given voice, they help connect us to God, to others, and to ourselves. But we all know that emotions aren't always trustworthy. When our emotions become “impaired” or distorted, acting on them can distance us from others and from ourselves. In understanding the God-given purpose of our emotions, we can learn to relate and to listen to their important messages without letting them dominate our decisions and behaviors.

Today, parents are more aware than ever that we need to teach our kids to notice and name their feelings in order to help them grow into mature, responsible adults. We've seen from our children's first few days of life that they have a built-in range of emotions—from joy and delight to frustration and sadness. What doesn't come automatically to children is the ability to understand and listen to their feelings while also putting them in their proper place. In his children's book called *How Are You Feeling Today?*, Dodd introduces the eight core feelings in kid-friendly terms and shows children how to understand and express their feelings in healthy ways, rather than unhealthy ones. He shares how each emotion has a gift of truth from God that can help us navigate life with strength, wisdom, and resilience.

On Sunday mornings from January to April in the Parenting Series, we'll be studying *The Voice of the Heart* and discussing how we can adapt its message for our children. We are also delighted to welcome Chip Dodd to St. George's at a special evening event on Thursday, January 29th. This event, co-sponsored with St. George's Kindergarten, will allow parents to hear from the author firsthand. We hope these conversations will allow parents to be alert and mindful to our children's God-given feelings as they grow through all stages of development. ✝

SAVE THE DATE!

Guest Speaker Dr. Chip Dodd
Thursday, January 29
5:30 - 7:00pm in Legacy Hall



RECOMMENDED READING

The Voice of the Heart: A Call to Full Living
By Chip Dodd

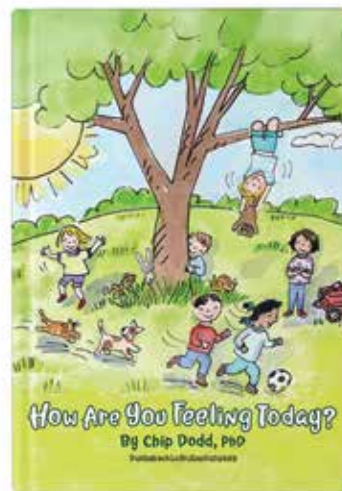
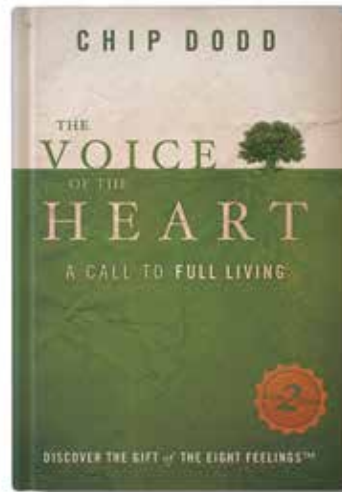
This book was given to me by a friend, and I have shared it with others! It is a warm, heartfelt guide to understanding and embracing our emotions. Dodd explains that feelings like sadness, fear, and joy aren't weaknesses—they are actually tools that help us live more fully by connecting with others, and connecting with God.

The book feels like a conversation with a wise friend, encouraging honesty, vulnerability and healing. It is a great read—thoughtful and eye opening. If you have ever felt stuck emotionally or spiritually, this book provides insight on listening to our hearts and hearing the call of God. Enjoy!

— Robin Puryear

How Are You Feeling Today?
By Chip Dodd

"God gave us our heart and filled it with feelings." Through this conversational-style children's book, Chip Dodd names eight core feelings and unpacks their meanings in an age-appropriate way. One of the most charming features of the book is a list of suggestions for things we can do each time we experience a new feeling. For instance, when we are glad, we could do something nice for another person. Or when we're lonely, we might talk about it with a trusted friend or caring adult. This is a great conversation starter for parents and young kids to navigate their big, God-given feelings together. And as with most children's books, there's a world of wisdom for us adults, too!



Parents are invited to join us for a special evening with Dr. Chip Dodd for encouragement and tools to use in the parenting journey. Hors d'oeuvres and fellowship at 5:30pm will precede the discussion at 6:00pm. Registration is encouraged for this FREE event, as space is limited. Tables for eight are available for those hoping to host friends. This event is co-sponsored by St. George's Church and St. George's Kindergarten.

Dr. Chip Dodd has spent his entire career guiding thousands of people through the struggles of life and into the lives God intended for them. In 1996, Dodd founded a powerfully effective counseling and treatment center in Nashville, and he spent the next 22 years serving as its Executive Director. Dr. Dodd has worked in private practice doing consulting, mentoring, speaking, counseling, as well as writing. He began Chip Dodd Resources in 2019 and continues to help people in their desire to live fully, love deeply, and lead well.

Make your reservation for this FREE event at stgeorgesnashville.org/parents.





Celebrating 75 Years OF SGK

Here at St. George's Kindergarten, we are celebrating a milestone—75 years of educating, preparing, and caring for preschool age children in our community. Many of you reading this will have fond memories of your own days at SGK, or maybe your children or grandchildren have been nurtured and grown into the people they are today because of the early experiences they had playing and learning within these walls.

What began as a small outreach of the church in 1950 flourished into the largest Episcopal preschool in the country in 2025, educating thousands of children over the span of 75 years. We give thanks to God for the provision that has allowed this growth, and we try always to be alert to the joy that he is spreading our midst.

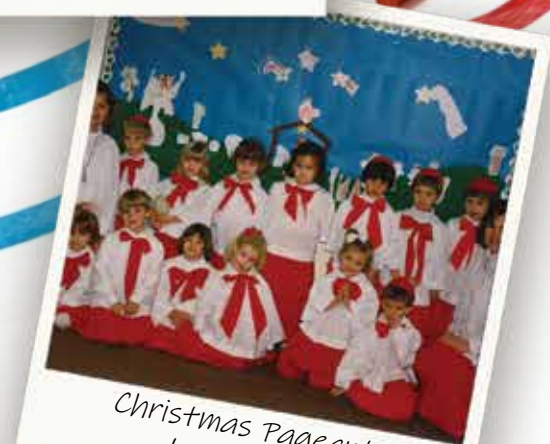
Looking back over the decades is sentimental and fun. It's impossible not to smile seeing the familiar faces, family connections, teachers, friendships, classrooms, costumes, parades and chapel services. We love seeing the ways that our school has changed, but more importantly, we love seeing the ways that it is the same. Our core values in Christ remain unchanged. Caring for children, partnering with families, and developing a lifetime love of learning—who we are today is rooted in who we were 75 years ago. Thanks be to God for SGK!



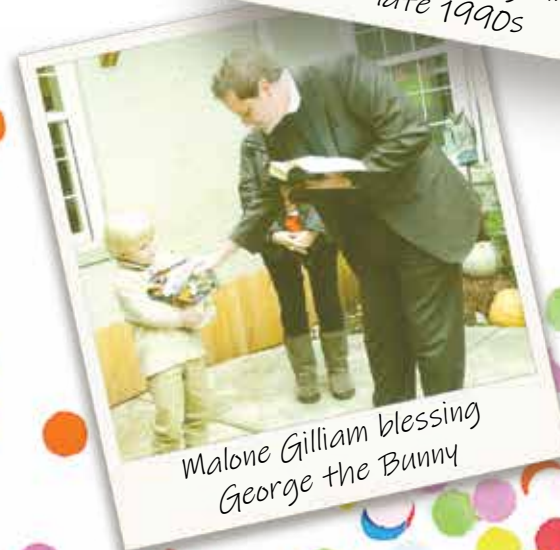
Class Portrait, 1978



*Beloved Music Teacher
Jackie Baker, 2001*



*Christmas Pageant,
late 1990s*



*Malone Gilliam blessing
George the Bunny*



Peter Pan, 2001



Noah's Ark



Classroom Fun, 1976



Kindergarten Chapel

ST. GEORGE'S KINDERGARTEN



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!



Photo Credit: Caroline Allen

MEET THE

Nashville Fellows

CLASS OF 2025

We're delighted to welcome the 13th class of Nashville Fellows to St. George's! This ecumenical ministry—shared with West End Community Church and First Presbyterian Church—walks alongside young adults as they listen for God's call and learn to follow Christ more deeply.

From August through May, four Fellows will participate in the life of our congregation as we worship, pray, and serve. They'll live with host families, work part-time in our community, and grow together in faith and friendship. Like all of us, they are pilgrims—awake and alert to God's movement in their lives, learning to trust that God meets them wherever they are in their spiritual journey.

We are especially grateful to the host families whose homes become sacred spaces of welcome and growth. Their hospitality reflects the generous heart of Christ and makes this year of formation possible.

Please join us in praying for our Fellows as they discern God's call on their lives through this transformational program.

GET INVOLVED: From professional mentoring to hospitality, there are many ways to support this ministry. Visit stgeorgesnashville.org/fellows to learn more about how you can support the Nashville Fellows Program now and in the future.



Nashville Fellows Class of 2025



HANNAH SAGLIMBENI | Lake Grove, NY

Alma Mater: University of Virginia
(Youth & Social Innovation, Biology)

Employment: Preston Taylor Ministries

"Since moving to Nashville I've seen how intimately and personally God knows and loves me. From the specifics of my host home to my job to friendship with the other fellows, I've seen a glimpse of just how deeply God knows my heart, likes, and needs—and how he really is working for the good of all those things as my loving Father."



KAYLA JAMES | Cherry Hill, NJ

Alma Mater: Wake Forest University
(Biology)

Employment: Mercy Health Care

"I have seen God in how much he has shown me he is present with me—through the people I have met in church and in the Nashville Fellows Program. I have been practicing turning away from my circumstances—big and small, easy and hard—and believing in his presence with me and his words in both my quiet time and throughout the day. I am praying to discover more of who I am."



JAKE HIGHFIELD | Charleston, SC

Alma Mater: Clemson University
(Mechanical Engineering)

Employment: Lee Company

"I have seen the Lord at work in many ways this semester. He has placed me in a great job where I am able to thrive with my skills and actually be helpful and find fulfillment. He has also provided me with quite possibly the best host family possible who have helped me to grow in my faith and have shown me nothing but love and kindness. I see myself growing in my faith everyday here and am nothing but thankful."



WILL BONHAGEN | Orlando, FL

Alma Mater: University of Florida
(Family, Youth & Community Science, Religion)

Employment: Charles Hawkins Co.

"I have seen God bless me with friendships that encourage me in my faith, and I've learned more about the steadfastness of his love. I stay alert of God's presence through slowing down and taking time in nature. I have found I can reflect on what God is doing when I do that. I am praying for discernment on my next steps after Fellows—where and what God is leading me toward. I'm also praying to encounter God in my daily life."

BE INVOLVED, BE INVESTED

Campaign Update

Thank you to the hundreds of families who have already made a pledge to continue St. George's ministry work in 2026. Because of you, so many of our critical worship services, learning opportunities, and outreach ministries will be offered to folks throughout our community next year. But the work is not done yet!

Our growing congregation boasts more than 1,600 active member families. We invite you to deepen your commitment to this church by making a pledge and helping us reach our goal of 800 pledging individuals and families.

Will you help us reach 800?

Gratefully,
Stephanie & Matthew Gillmor
Kay & Brent Neal
2026 Annual Campaign Chairs

2026 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

"This is part of our family. On the Sundays that we miss church, we miss our family."

– Laura & Colin Bonfiglio

"It's really important for us to give back to St. George's because the church has given us so much."

– Emily & Stephen Garrett



The Garrett Family



The Grant Family

"It's dramatic how God has made it possible for us to pledge and give back to St. George's in ways we never could have imagined."

– Stephanie & Allen Grant

"A pledge—and a fulfilled pledge—is a great gift to St. George's. But it is a greater gift to you."

– John Abernathy

"St. George's is our church home. Like any family, everybody has a role to play. By pledging, we help to support all the ministries of the church that are important to us."

– Nicole & Wayne Curtis



The Curtis Family

To hear more stories about the ways St. George's is making an impact, or to make a pledge, visit our website at stgeorgesnashville.org/annualcampaign.



NEWS & NOTES

from St. George's



① Transforming Lives Through Education

Seventeen years ago, Helping Holy Land Christians (HHLC) began as a St. George's ministry supporting Christian students in Israel and Jordan through English tutoring and scholarships. In 2025, HHLC celebrates several milestones, including four students completing their undergraduate studies. One young graduate named Desiree writes, "I want to express my heartfelt thanks once again. ...Your guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support have meant a great deal and played a significant role in helping me reach this important milestone." This year, six new college scholarships were awarded, including one to a Palestinian Christian studying business and finance at Northwestern University. HHLC continues to partner with the Rev. Dr. Kamal Farah, longtime friend of St. George's, to identify worthy scholarship recipients throughout the Holy Land.

② Mission Day

Our quarterly Mission Days are a great way to get to know our local outreach partners and serve alongside old and new friends at St. George's. At our fall event, volunteers served at three amazing local organizations: Matthew 25, Lambscroft Ministries (The Cookery), and Ella's House. Before diving into a 2-3 hour work project, each group received a personal welcome from the organization's staff—a special way to learn about why their work makes a difference in people's lives. We invite you to join us for a future Mission Day—there are opportunities for all ages and abilities!

③ Strong Support for Community-Centered Art Exhibit

It has been an honor for St. George's to showcase the work of talented local artist Charles Brindley this fall. In conjunction with his art exhibit titled "Primeval Witness," Brindley has offered a robust calendar of events with cross-cultural appeal, bringing dozens of new faces to St. George's for the first time. From a panel discussion on architecture and our unique local ecosystem to a half-day drawing workshop, this exhibit reaches across the traditional genre of visual art and invites people to engage with and celebrate the fullness of God's kingdom.

④ Young Hearts, Big Impact

Our elementary students are modeling the spirit of Christ this fall! Behind the scenes, volunteers have been organizing special opportunities for kids and parents in each grade level. Our 1st graders made sandwiches for Church in the Yard, 3rd graders spent quality time with other kids at Youth Encouragement Services, and our 4th graders hosted a shelter night for Room in the Inn. We are so impressed with their hearts for service!

⑤ Boulevard Bolt

Longtime Nashvillians will know that the Boulevard Bolt is a Thanksgiving Day tradition for thousands of families. But it is worth celebrating this seemingly simply 5-mile race that is the result of a multi-faith partnership between St. George's, Immanuel Baptist Church, and The Temple - Ohabai Shalom. In a world full of division, we are grateful to maintain this special relationship with our neighbors to support this beloved annual tradition. Throughout its 32-year history, the Boulevard Bolt has raised more than \$4.8 million to care for homeless people in our city.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. LUKE'S COMMUNITY HOUSE: TOY STORE THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

When you donate new, unwrapped toys for children ages 0 to 18, you ensure that families with limited means no longer must choose between rent and food or gifts during the holiday season. This year, The Toy Store plans to support more than 600 children with your generous donations.

GUEST PREACHER, DR. BRENT STRAWN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Dr. Brent Strawn is Professor of Old Testament and Professor of Law at Duke University. He joins us as our guest preacher at the 8:45 and 11:00am traditional services in the Nave and will teach Sunday school at 10:05am in Johnson Hall to continue David Barr's class on the Old Testament, highlighting its ongoing relevance, interest, and beauty.

CLERGY COCOA BAR SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 7 & 14 AT 10:05AM

As we savor the beautiful Advent season, we know there's a cultural push toward busyness. Take a moment to slow down on Sunday morning to enjoy Christmas goodies and a cup of cocoa served up hot by the clergy—complete with toppings and whipped cream.

LESSONS & CAROLS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 6:00PM

Perhaps the most beloved musical service of the year, Lessons & Carols proclaims the joy and wonder of the Advent season with Scripture readings, carols, and hymns featuring all three of our choirs. Come at 5:30pm for an organ prelude of seasonal carols as you prepare your heart for this musical feast.

SILENT NIGHT: A SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 6:00PM

A service of prayer to make space for those seeking God's healing as we approach this holiday season. We welcome anyone at this service in the Nave, but especially those who find the holidays a challenging time of year.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 8:45AM

During the 8:45am traditional service in the Nave, our children reenact the beloved Christmas story.

ESSENTIALS SMALL GROUPS NEW GROUPS LAUNCH JANUARY 19!

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. In our next season of Essentials, we'll take up Israel's story of exile and restoration through the lens of the major prophets. This study will not only examine historical events and contexts, but it will also take up topics of Christian purpose, endurance, displacement, and godly satisfaction in life.

Join a group in-person or online by visiting stgeorgesnashville.org/essentials or contact Martha Rodes at 615-385-2150 x 249 or martha.ropes@stgeorgesnashville.org.



A FEAST FOR THE SENSES: CHOIR FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Save the date for an evening celebrating our Anglican musical heritage! Our own skilled organists, Dr. Woosug Kang and Gerry Senechal, will engage in lighthearted musical competition with both traditional and whimsical selections in the return of the Dueling Organists concert event at 6:00pm. Following the concert, we'll feast on a British Sunday roast in support of the upcoming pilgrimage for St. George's Choristers. The concert is presented free as part of the *In Excelsis* Concert Series, but the dinner will be a ticketed fundraiser. Watch for details coming soon!

MORE SPRING OPPORTUNITIES!

Watch for the opportunities brochure to see a complete line-up of events and service opportunities for January through May.

Christmas at St. George's

24
D E C

Christmas Eve

- | | | |
|-------|-----|--|
| 10:00 | AM | Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
with children's homily and festive brass music |
| 3:00 | PM* | Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
with children's homily and St. George's Choir |
| 5:30 | PM* | Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
with St. George's Choristers, Graduates & Lay Clerks |
| 9:30 | PM | Choral Prelude featuring Christmas music |
| 10:00 | PM | Holy Eucharist (Rite I) with St. George's Choir |

25
D E C

Christmas Day

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 10:00 | AM | Holy Eucharist (Rite I) with Christmas hymns |
|-------|----|--|

28
D E C

1st Sunday after Christmas

- | | | |
|-------|-----|---|
| 7:30 | AM | Holy Eucharist (Rite I) |
| 9:00 | AM* | The Table in Legacy Hall |
| 10:00 | AM* | Holy Eucharist (Rite II) |
| 5:00 | PM | Evening Prayer & Holy Eucharist (Rite II) in the Chapel |

* *Nursery & Childcare available for 8-week-old infants through kindergartners*

SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES



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. Messaging rates may apply.



BY MAIL

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



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 OCTOBER 2025

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR	VARIANCE
REVENUE					
Pledges	\$3,339,523	\$3,350,387	(\$10,865)	\$3,148,730	\$190,793
Unpledged Gifts	652,924	433,286	219,638	539,460	113,464
Other Income	236,512	221,167	15,345	235,447	1,064
TOTAL REVENUE	4,228,958	4,004,840	224,118	3,923,637	305,321
EXPENSES	4,404,528	4,381,674	22,854	4,128,292	276,236
NET CASH FLOW	(\$175,570)	(\$376,834)	\$201,264	(\$204,655)	\$29,085

TRANSITIONS

BIRTHS

Alexander Gordon Conaway III, son of Renee & Gordon Conaway
Luca Edward Garchitorea, son of Virginia & Chris Garchitorea
Thomas Flinn Harlin, son of John & Caroline Harlin
Rolie Thomas Helfrich, son of Anita & Austen Helfrich
Ann Blake Hoogland, daughter of Marion & Sam Hoogland
Charlotte Moquin Hunter, daughter of Madison Moquin & Jace Hunter
Martha Bonner Murray, daughter of Margaret & Whit Murray
Harriet Anne Pickens, daughter of Becca & Ward Pickens

NEW MEMBER FAMILIES

John White & David Best (Benjamin)
Michele & Jeff Bowman (Jacob, Haley)
Aubrey & Dylan Colter (Artie)
Patty & Dick Cummings
Mary Ellingboe
Kyle Marquardt & Jeanne Chick
David Matthews (William, Rose)
Andrea & Chad McIntyre (Elle, Lucy Kate)
Brittany & John Mori (Luca)
Madi & Andrew Powell
Connie Silvester
Mark Teague
Kate Wilson

BAPTISMS

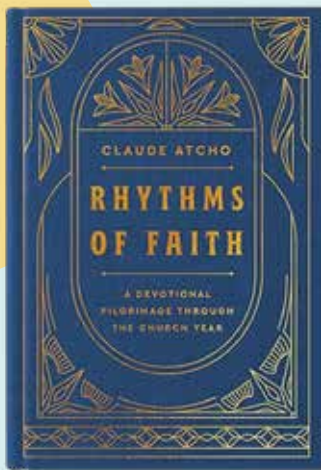
Merritt James Bassett, daughter of Gracie & Win Bassett
Eleanor Clara Bonnell, daughter of Kristin & Christian Bonnell
Andrew Wylder Byrd, son of Melania & Nelson Byrd

Louisa Meriwether Maria Byrd, daughter of Melania & Nelson Byrd
Vivienne Marks Byrd, daughter of Melania & Nelson Byrd
Lana Mae Cvetkovic, daughter of Hannah Haley & Denis Cvetkovic
Mila Diana Cvetkovic, daughter of Hannah Haley & Denis Cvetkovic
Elodie Parker Deems, daughter of Amy & Eric Deems
John Hallum Harkins, son of Ann Pearman & David Harkins
Shepherd Dean Haworth, son of Kylie & Harris Haworth
Rolie Thomas Helfrich, son of Anita & Austen Helfrich
Ida Elizabeth Helfrich, daughter of Anita & Austen Helfrich
Harriet Blake Helfrich, daughter of Anita & Austen Helfrich
Sloane Marie Martin, daughter of Raegin & Nat Martin
Gwinn Maier Smith, daughter of Leslie Dewees & Austin Smith
Nora Summers Taylor, daughter of Whitney & Josh Taylor
Martha Ward Truemper, daughter of Julia & John Truemper
William Bryles Truemper, son of Julia & John Truemper
Elizabeth Blair Tynes, daughter of Sara & Blair Tynes
Edwin Lawrence Walker, son of Lizzy & Matt Walker
Draper Hill Wetherall, daughter of Rachel & Gibbs Wetherall
Benjamin Alexander White-Best, son of John White & David Best
Frances Grace Williams, daughter of Annie Deptula-Williams & Shawn Williams

DEATHS

Ernest Williams III
Louise Eve Bransford Frazer
Gary Joseph Garrett
Betty Dana Hundley Herbert
Mary Elizabeth Campbell Jackson
Waltraut Hornbostel Mizell
Mary Ellen Shean
Patricia Porter Thomas

BOOK NOOK



RHYTHMS OF FAITH: A Devotional Pilgrimage through the Church Year

by Claude Atcho

God is constantly on the move in our lives, but often we can't see the slow, incremental work that he is accomplishing through time and repetition. The church calendar is an incredibly useful and often-overlooked tool to engage with God's work in us—to enter more fully into seasons like Advent, Epiphany, Lent, or Ordinary Time (the Season after Pentecost). In his new book *Rhythms of Faith: A Devotional Pilgrimage through the Church Year*, the Rev. Claude Atcho provides an approachable guide that can be used daily or weekly as individuals, or with friends and family in a communal setting. Personally, I am sometimes out of touch with the current season of the church year, and I am excited to use this incredible resource to help me to better track these seasons and see what God is doing through them! I highly recommend it!

—*Daniel Hubbs*

Director of Youth Ministry

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

Advent & Christmas Services
See page 21 for details.

Compline
Wednesday, December 17 at 9:15pm
Sunday, January 18 at 6:00pm

Choral Evensong
Sunday, January 11, at 5:00pm
Sunday, February 22 at All Saints' Chapel, Sewanee

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00am, Noon, 6:00pm
Children's Ash Wednesday Service 5:00pm

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

stgeorgesnashville.org

Weekly Podcast: *Sermons from St. George's*

Social Media:   



— Issue No. 45 —

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. J. Malone Gilliam, Rector
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

All photos used with permission. Special thanks to Joe Gomez.
Front Cover: *Children's Christmas Pageant*; Back Cover: *Confirmation Retreat*