



The Shield

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • SPRING-SUMMER 2023



Receiving • Living • Sharing
THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

The Faces of Christian Hospitality

HOSPITALITY THROUGH THE LENS OF JESUS & JULIA CHILD

JOYFULLY ENTERTAINING ANGELS

HOSPITALITY AS JUSTICE

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Letter from Malone and Colin

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
(Matthew 25:35)*

When Conrad Hilton opened the first hotel to bear the Hilton name in 1925, he aimed to operate the best hotel in Texas. Today Hilton has grown to be one of the most respected brands in the world. The vision statement for Hilton begins, "to fill the earth with the light and warmth of hospitality... ." Honestly, that would serve as a beautiful vision statement for any church.

Our Scriptures are replete with stories about hospitality. The Bible places a high value on hospitality and food, and sometimes banqueting is the focal point of that hospitality. In Genesis 18, Abraham is the first person to open the door of his home in hospitality to others – in this case it is to the Lord himself! Throughout Scripture, you will find references to serving others with love the way Jesus did. The call to show hospitality to others is the gospel itself.

In this issue of *The Shield* we encourage you to reflect on Jesus' call for us to engage in the ministry of hospitality. When the Nashville community thinks of St. George's, do they think of us as being a community that is welcoming to all, even the stranger? How might we, empowered by the love of Christ, fill Nashville with the light and warmth of God's hospitality?

The truth is, when the ministry of hospitality is lost, the church becomes a mere human institution prone to carefully constructed boundaries that prevent people from wandering off into corrupt and whimsical paths. When the ministry of hospitality is forgotten, the church focuses on "getting it right," rather than living in the expansive security in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In short, when the church fails to be a place of hospitality, it fails to reflect God's love to world.

We return to Hilton's words, "to fill the earth with the light and warmth of hospitality." Christian hospitality changes hearts. When we are recipients of heartfelt invitation, we feel like we belong, we feel a connection to others, and we feel the reassurance that we are not alone. When we extend hospitality to others by including them into our space and lives, our hearts expand with grace and joy. Just as the sunshine reveals the beauty of a stained-glass window, hospitality allows the light of Christ to shine from our hearts.

May we not only share the gospel, may we also share ourselves. Join us as we seek to fill the earth with the light and warmth of the hospitality of God.



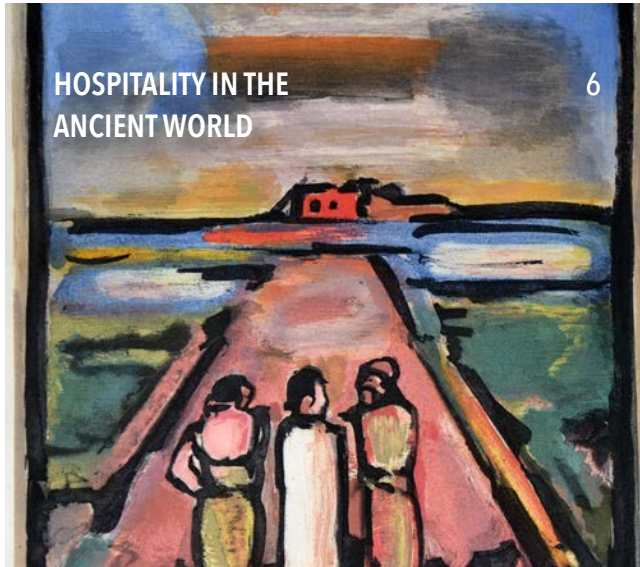
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Hospitality

Through the Lens of Jesus & Julia Child

by the Rev. Margery Kennelly

I loved watching Julia Child on TV. I especially looked forward to the part at the end when she set the dishes on the buffet in front of a table set with folded napkins and lighted candles. She took off her apron and proclaimed in bugle tones "Bon appétit! There was a delightful sense of her enjoying the preparation of a special dinner even just for two. Julia valued hospitality. The first Christmas after Richard and I got married, my mother gave me Julia's magnum opus, *The Way to Cook*. With mixed results I tried her recipes. Over time I noticed that underlying much of the endeavor was the project of impressing. Introducing the dessert section, she writes "But when you are entertaining important company, you usually want to show off." It is this aspect of hospitality, the need to impress, that is overwhelming. In fact, the need to impress impedes true hospitality.

The heart of hospitality is providing a safe place where friend or stranger can feel the welcoming spirit of Jesus. So much of life is filled with competition, comparison, judgment, gossip, loneliness, danger, or want. True hospitality offers an antidote to these things. You can probably think of a time when you were welcomed in a way that surprised and restored you. It might have been a very simple gesture. Maybe it was just a glass of tea and the invitation to sit down for a while. I remember vividly as a little girl feeling lonely some afternoons. I would go upstairs to "the ironing room," where the saint who prayed me into my Christian faith was steadily making her way through my father's button-down shirts. She would look at me, assess the situation, and invite me to sit with her in the rocking chair where she read me a story or sang a song. She stayed late to finish her work because she had made time for me. We called these days "Loneliness Days." But the great irony is that I remember them not for the loneliness, but for Virginia setting aside her work to welcome me just as I was. I remember Virginia's hospitality.

Julia Child, Portrait
by Lynn Gilbert, 1978
(CC BY-SA 4.0)

The heart of hospitality is providing a safe place where friend or stranger can feel the welcoming spirit of Jesus.

This sort of simple hospitality reflects the heart of God. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you" (John 14:1-3). God makes it clear that he loves and welcomes us as his beloved children. And God regards all sorts of people as his beloved children, which means that Christian hospitality will always be marked by surprising diversity. Sometimes I think an interesting definition of church would be a room full of people who would not normally be sitting together.

Jesus has gladly prepared a place for you. This place that he prepares is one where you specifically belong: a seat with your name on it. It is out of that reality that we are called to practice Christian hospitality. We are called to stretch ourselves to engage this way of welcoming people as we have been welcomed. That stretching feeling is a sign that we are growing into a deeper engagement of faith which ultimately brings joy.

We recall that Jesus' preparation to receive us into his father's house was costly. And so Christian hospitality will have an element of sacrifice in it. Maybe we will feel the sacrifice of our time, or our privacy. We won't want people to see the accumulation of clutter on our coffee table or the dog hair on the sofa. But the good news is that Christian hospitality doesn't need to be stressful, and there is no call to impress.

So what exactly do Julia Child and the Holy Trinity have in common? Prioritizing the preciousness of hospitality. But while there are times for Julia's lavish feasting with meticulous preparation, the heart of hospitality is a simple gesture of welcome and acceptance. This is the loving practice that we are all called to engage. ✝

TURNING AN IDEA INTO *Practice*

"Jesus is not only someone who exercises hospitality; he draws out hospitality from others. By his welcome he makes other people capable of welcoming. And that wonderful alternation in the gospels between Jesus giving hospitality and receiving hospitality shows us something absolutely essential about the Eucharist. We are the guests of Jesus. We are there because he asks us, and because he wants our company. At the same time we are set free to invite Jesus into our lives and literally to receive him into our bodies in the Eucharist. His welcome gives us the courage to open up to him. And so the flow of giving and receiving, of welcome and acceptance, moves backwards and forwards without a break. We are welcomed and we welcome; we welcome God and we welcome our unexpected neighbors."

— Rowan Williams,
104th Archbishop of Canterbury,
Being Christian

What might be ways to engage the Christian practice of hospitality: ways that stretch you but aren't stressful?

At St. George's we have many ministries to practice the loving hospitality of Jesus:

- *Serving homeless guests*
- *Supporting refugee families*
- *Housing Nashville fellows and Duke Divinity School interns*
- *Building relationships with children at one of our partner schools*
- *Greeting and shepherding newcomers*
- *Preparing church receptions and fellowship events*

And of course, we offer Eucharist every day of the week and five times on Sunday! Inviting someone to join you at a service is always a ready opportunity.

Maybe practicing Christian hospitality looks like inviting people into your home – perhaps just one or two guests. Could you pray for the guests on the morning they are coming? How could you welcome them when they arrive? How could you say goodbye? What would it look like to prepare for their visit with prayer more than with cooking or cleaning? We hope these ideas will encourage you to practice hospitality in new ways this season.



Les Disciples, Georges Rouault, color aquatint, showing the disciples with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. On display in the Bradford Gallery in the exhibit "Seeing Christ in the Darkness."

Hospitality in the Ancient World

by the Rev. Dr. Chris Jones

It is genuinely difficult for people in the 21st century to envision life in the ancient world. Technology, medicine, sanitation, economics, and globalization – just to name a few things – have altered life in tremendous ways. For instance, we live far longer and have many more opportunities to work and travel than our counterparts in the past. As a result, we cannot adequately grasp how precarious existence was for the bulk of the human population. A bad crop, a workshop fire, or even a simple fever could have devastating and far-reaching consequences.

Of particular concern in this era was the needy traveler. Many of us have been stranded by a canceled flight, a reservation mix-up, or a bad storm. And in our world, you can find a nearby hotel for shelter while you sort out a resolution. Yet hotels were a rarity in the ancient world, and very few people would have enough money to pay for them. Consequently, most people had to rely on the hospitality of strangers to survive. This is one reason why many of the famous stories from this era address the problem of the needy traveler. Consider Homer's *Odyssey*, which recounts the wanderings of Odysseus and the many hosts he encountered – some good, some bad.

Travelers were particularly vulnerable as they could only carry a few possessions and often walked along dangerous roads or sailed unpredictable seas. They had very little control of their safety or well-being. The invitation to share a meal or the gift of overnight shelter was more than just a convenience. Thus, the *philoxenos* or "lover of strangers" was seen as an ideal citizen, and many sought to acquire the virtue of *philoxenia* or "hospitality."

Hospitality was widely viewed as the obligation of local citizens to protect and provide for travelers who entered their territory. Hosts who practiced hospitality were celebrated while hosts that refused to do so were sharply criticized. Abraham, for example, is rewarded for providing a meal and housing three strangers in Genesis 18. In contrast, the people of Sodom and Gomorrah are judged for trying to take advantage of the same three strangers in Genesis 19.

Hospitality was not just limited to meeting physical needs, however – it was also a way to integrate the stranger into the local community. This is evident in Acts 16, where Lydia helped connect Paul and his traveling companions with the residents of Philippi. In short, a *philoxenos* met the concrete needs

of vulnerable travelers through food and housing, and also provided for social needs by helping to knit them into society.

Ultimately, the model of hospitality for ancient Jews and Christians is God. In Exodus, God is revealed as a host who provides manna in the wilderness to the wandering Hebrews. And in the gospels, Jesus does something similar when feeding 5,000 people. It is unsurprising, then, that Jews and Christians established structures and patterns of behavior that promoted hospitality. Synagogues effectively functioned as hostels – a meeting place for travelers, who were welcomed, fed, and housed safely. The same is true for many of the earliest Christian house churches.

That hospitality was widely practiced and valued within the Church reveals two important truths. First, it clarifies the Christian understanding of the person and his or her home. The early church taught that the Christian person is a "sojourner" or "resident alien," whose true home is with God in the life of the world to come. In other words, while we are born in a particular place or have family ties to a certain region, we are meant for more than this – we are meant for an eternal life with God. Second, it shows concretely that all people are united in Christ. Paul memorably puts it this way: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free... for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Hospitality, then, is a crucial way that the earliest Christians demonstrated their core convictions. New Testament scholar Wayne Meeks summarizes this well when he writes: "Hospitality thus served both symbolic and practical purposes for the early Christian movement. Housing and feeding visiting prophets and apostles not only made their ministry feasible, it also reminded the hosts both of the movement's self-proclaimed identity as 'resident aliens' on earth and of its professed unity as a single 'people of God' throughout the world" (*The Origins of Christian Morality*, 105).

Simply put, hospitality was a fundamental value and a foundational virtue for people in the ancient world. And the earliest Christians modeled their hospitality on God, who graciously provided for needy persons in various ways. Although our circumstances today are different, we are still called to invite the stranger, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit the suffering – all because God has done these things for us. †



Youth Serving Guests at Room in the Inn

Showing Love to a Stranger

by Agatha Nolen, Director of Outreach

The New Testament word for hospitality is *philoxenia*, or a love of the guest or stranger. The early church met in houses, turning hosts into guests and guests into hosts. When it is most fully realized, hospitality welcomes guests but also recognizes their holiness. Guests have stories to tell which we have never heard before, which direct our seeing and stimulate our imagination. Their stories invite us to view our world in a new way.

At St. George's, our Outreach ministry is built around hospitality, and everyone can participate. One example is our longest-standing ministry, Room in the Inn (RITI). We house 12 men every Tuesday evening from November through March. They receive a hot meal with conversation, a warm place to sleep, as well as showers and laundry facilities. Everyone can participate in this ministry – our children color greeting cards for each guest, men stay overnight as innkeepers, bus drivers pick up the guests and deliver them back to the RITI campus, and numerous people bring food and sit with our guests over dinner to hear their stories. We have volunteers each week that take sheets and towels home to launder and bring them back the next week. We also have volunteers who purchase items from our Amazon wish list like socks, underwear, hats, gloves and coats, or donate gently used items for the men to select each week.

So many of our Outreach ministries are about meeting the tangible and critical needs of others – shelter from the cold and clothes for their backs. But in meeting these tangible needs, we have the opportunity to share God's love and care for every precious person in this world – our brothers and sisters in Christ. ✝

Room in the Inn (RITI) is St. George's at its best. I was new to St. George's when I first served with RITI, and it brought the church to life for me in a way that Sunday services could never do on their own. Not only did RITI connect me with some of my favorite people at the church, but it also opened my eyes to the vulnerable, broken parts of society that are so easy to overlook. If you want to experience real love in action, or if you're just looking for a way to get more involved at the church, I can't recommend this ministry highly enough.

–Kelly Worman

Serving as an innkeeper on a Tuesday night lets you do a deep dive into 12 men's lives. I used to think my job was to feed and host these men for an evening but soon learned that my job was to hear their stories, to let me into their identity. I learned this mainly from watching our youth interact with these men who have had trauma but still believe in Christ and the hope that he gives them. Spending a Tuesday night can be tough, but the fellowship and thanks we receive is so worth it. I encourage you to consider serving one night a year – you will learn a lot about hope, struggle, and gratitude.

–David Silvester

A LESSON IN RECEIVING *grace*

by Jill McElroy, Associate Director of Youth Ministries

The youth ski retreat is an annual catalyst for relationship-building among our teens and volunteers. In the last few years, it also has a history of being badly affected by winter weather. Our trip in January was no different. We had been driving in dark, snowy weather, and the roads would soon become dangerous. It was clear we would not be arriving at Beech Mountain, North Carolina, as expected. We were near my hometown of Bristol when I called up my friend Linda Welch, a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church. Linda answered my call and my crazy request: "Could we bring 60 people to spend the night in the youth wing and avoid getting stuck or hurt in bad weather? We're 30 minutes out." Although it was late at night, Linda ran to unlock the church. She also called the youth director, Katie, who enthusiastically showed up with air mattresses.



Youth preparing for sleep at First Presbyterian Church, Bristol.

Our crew pulled into my sweet home church parking lot – a place where Linda had led me when I was a teenager, a church that had been my home from the time I was only a year old. In a short while, we had a safe place to sleep, air mattresses for the adults, and the generous offer to shower at Katie's home nearby. One of her many gifts is to support ministry leaders, allowing them to better serve the kingdom of God. Katie knew that our volunteers had traded their holiday weekend for long hours, logistical challenges, and relational vulnerability – and she came prepared to minister to them.

While that night was full of unplanned logistical changes, I laid on the floor reflecting in gratitude. I marveled at the truth that God always knew this night for St. George's youth would happen. This night was a gift of seeing how full-circle discipleship is. I was able to show students the place where I had been disciplined at their age. Furthermore, we all had the gift of seeing my mentors' radical hospitality in a moment of crisis.

We simply never outgrow needing prayer and love and support. One of my favorite truths about the church is how it gives us a taste of Jesus' eternal readiness to help us at any moment. A beautiful part of Christian friendship is the ability to model this gift and be attentive to one another's needs. As members of a church community, we often find ourselves offering hospitality to others. But what a gift it is to receive the hospitality of another: to ask for help, to be seen, and to have our needs met. In the words of Father Tim, a beloved priest at St. George's, "My main job these days is to stand around and receive kindness." May we all learn to receive the hospitality of others with grace and thanksgiving. ✝



Reception Committee Volunteers

JOYFULLY ENTERTAINING ANGELS

by Robin Puryear, Director of Pastoral Care

Just as the foundations of our faith were built by those who welcomed the stranger into their homes and lives, we have come to know the importance of hospitality and what it means in the life of our church. St. George's Reception Committee has joyfully offered hospitality for more than 30 years, having been formally organized in 1980 by Becky Clayton, Emily Parrish, and Weezie Blair. In 2005, Debbie Townsend and Lynn Ragland assumed the Chairman roles, followed by Jean Bowden. The current Chairs, Alice Essary and Robin Puryear have been serving since 2011.

The mission of the reception ministry is summed up perfectly in Scripture: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2). Throughout the years, the Chairs and a wonderful group of volunteers have been faithful in their behind-the-scenes support of parish receptions, which occur on feast days of the church like Palm Sunday and Pentecost. And just like any family with long-standing traditions, the Reception Committee has built a collection of beloved recipes handed down from years past.

Church receptions are certainly a time for our parish to gather and grow closer to one another as we enjoy delicious food and splendid fellowship. But there is a much greater purpose at work. Sharing our warm hospitality with the Nashville community – especially guests and visitors of our parish – is an ideal way to introduce the very bright light of Jesus to our neighbors. As our church grows, we want to continue to reach deeply into our community, and we pray that our hospitality might serve as a beacon of welcome and comfort to everyone we serve. ✝

MEMBERS OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Catherine Beemer, Martha Chapman, Murray Clayton, Sue Claxton, Peggy Craig, Alice Essary (Co-Chair), Peggy Fitzgerald, Jeanne Gore, Susan Hammer, Shirley Hercules, Caroline McNeilly, Suzanne Pendergrass, Anna Powell, Robin Puryear (Co-Chair), Mary Jo Shankle, and Alice Schwartz.

FAVORITE RECIPES FROM THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE

TOMATO SAMMIES | Robin Puryear

- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 3-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 2 teaspoons fresh basil, chopped
- 1 baguette of French bread, sliced into ¼" rounds
- 6 - 8 Campari tomatoes, sliced into rounds

Stir together the mayonnaise, cream cheese, basil, salt and pepper. Cover and chill for a few hours. Lightly spread the cream cheese mixture on each bread round and top with a tomato slice.

CHEESE KRISPIES | Susan Hammer

- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups flour, sifted
- 1 ½ cups butter, softened to room temperature
- 3 cups of sharp cheddar cheese, finely grated
- 1 ½ cups of Rice Krispies

Add cayenne pepper and salt to the sifted flour. Cut the butter into the flour mix. Work the mixture between your fingers (no mixer). Add the cheese and Rice Krispies. Continue to combine the ingredients to a butter-like dough.

Roll the dough into 1-inch balls. Place on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Press the balls flat with a fork. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 15 minutes or until golden. Place a toasted pecan half on the top for garnish.

SAUSAGE BALLS | Alice Essary

- 1 pound of ground hot sausage
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar
- 1 cup of Bisquick

Combine the sausage and cheese, mixing until well blended. Slowly mix in Bisquick. Roll the dough into 1-½" balls. Bake in preheated 300-degree oven for approximately 45 minutes. Serve with spicy or honey mustard.

CHOCOLATE MINT BROWNIES | Jeanne Gore

Adapted from Helen Corbitt

- ½ cup butter
- 2 squares unsweetened chocolate
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1-2 tablespoons Café Bustelo instant coffee
- ¾ cup flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup whole walnuts (Mixer will somewhat chop as batter blends)
- 1 tablespoon vanilla (I use Molina Mexican vanilla blend from Hispanic markets)

Melt butter and chocolate squares in the microwave until melted (30-second bursts, stirring in between). Let cool a bit; stir in sugar and eggs. Beat until well mixed. Add dry ingredients and vanilla. Stir until blended, but do not overbeat. Pour batter into well-greased 9 x 13" pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes. Don't overbake. Let cool to room temperature or make the day before.

MINT FROSTING

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons milk
- ½ teaspoon peppermint extract
- 2-4 drops green food coloring

Combine all and beat until smooth. Spread over cooled brownies. Refrigerate to harden.

GLAZE

Adapted from Cooking Light

- ¾ cup semisweet chocolate chips (or 10-12 dark chocolate kisses)
- 3 tablespoons butter

Combine and microwave in 30-second bursts, stirring after each, until melted. Let stand 2 minutes, then spread on top of frosted brownies or dribble in cross hatching or other patterns.

CELEBRATING LIKE JESUS

by the Rev. Colin Ambrose

When you read the gospels, you discover that Jesus was well known for enjoying a good party. In fact, his opponents condemned him as a "glutton and a drunkard" (Matthew 11:9; Luke 7:34). How did he gain this reputation? By attending lots of banquets and dinner parties. According to the Gospel of John, Jesus' ministry began when he turned more than a hundred gallons of water into wine to ensure a wedding banquet could continue. We are told that Jesus ended his ministry with a celebratory meal right before the events that led to the cross. And we remember that Jesus taught about parties in parables such as the parable of the great banquet (Luke 14:12-24). Just about everywhere Jesus went, he was ready to celebrate.

Parties. Celebrations. Jesus knew something no one else did. Jesus knew and proclaimed that "the Kingdom of God has come near." Celebration is a declaration that we have something worth celebrating in our life together – even and especially when all evidence is to the contrary. As Christians we are called to rejoice in what God has done, is doing, and promises to do. We are called to celebrate the goodness of God. We are called to make partying a prophetic act as we remember that God's kingdom has come near, and a new creation awaits us.

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Then & Now:

THE FACES OF CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

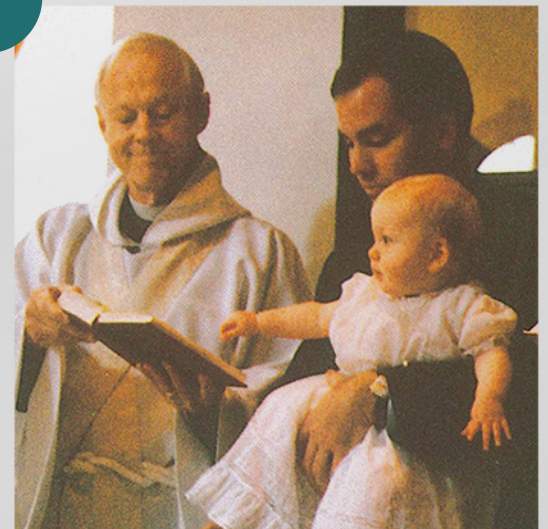
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1) Holy Eucharist, 1949

2) Emily Parrish, Margaret Wallace, and Becky Clayton at a parish celebration

3) The Rev. Bob Shaw baptizing a child, 1951

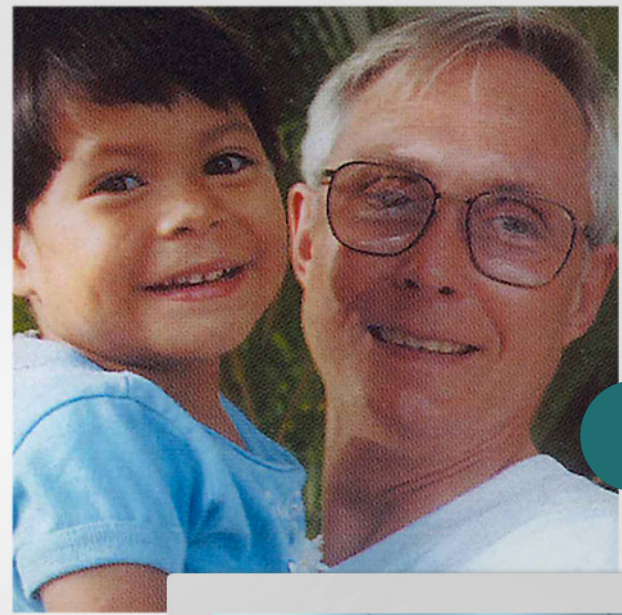
4) Family Weekend, 1993

5) The Rev. Tim Taylor assisting a baptism, 1994

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6) The Rev. Rick Sanders Sanders at the Pet Blessing, 1993

7) Bob Snyder serving at Our Little Roses

8) Sharing a meal with Afghanistan refugees, 2022

9) Church in the Yard volunteers, 2023

10) Mardi Gras Party, 2023

Parishioners at St. George's have been engaging in the meaningful work of hospitality since our founding in 1949. Many of these ministries were created decades ago but continue to flourish today, like the Reception Committee and Our Little Roses. And others like our monthly Church in the Yard support and our Immigrant & Refugee Ministry have younger roots. Through all of our ministries, which are ultimately anchored in hospitality, Christ weaves the thread of love and belonging. Above all, we remember that hospitality is the work of relationship-building, of celebrating Communion, of baptizing people in the household of God. Each of us is called to offer hospitality – to share our stories and to listen to the stories of others. We wait faithfully to see what new ways St. George's will have to engage this work in the future. ✝



Knowledge Bank: Students learning about financial literacy



KnowledgeBank: Super Money Kids bank

DOING FOR OTHERS WHAT GOD DOES FOR US:

▶▶▶ HOSPITALITY AS JUSTICE

by the Rev. Dr. David Barr

For most Christians, the topic of hospitality probably falls under the category of mercy or charity. We welcome guests into our homes and lives as an act of generosity. However, if we pause to think about hospitality in theological terms, it quickly takes on a broader character and even includes what we might consider the opposite of mercy – justice.

The gospel tells us that we have graciously been invited to share in God's own life through the death and resurrection of his son, Jesus Christ. God has been hospitable to us, even at great cost. In this way, we are no longer strangers to God and his kingdom, but are now his most treasured guests, as he deigns to claim us as sons and daughters. Through Jesus we are invited into his home, the very heart of God.

Because we have been invited into God's own life out of his abundant mercy, the most fitting and just thing for us to do is to reach out to the vulnerable and neglected of society and pursue their well-being. You see, when God has extended hospitality to us, it only makes sense that we should extend hospitality to anyone within our proximate reach – our neighbors, those who have been wronged, those who are new to our city, those who have no home. In this way, Christian hospitality seeks out a kind of equity and common good that dramatically transcends an understanding of hospitality as mere invitation or handout. It enacts, even in small ways, the kind of relational well-being that we will all one day share together under God. Hospitality is about seeking and extending the greater peace, *shalom*, or well-being, that God gives to us. It is therefore *just* to invite others into our lives for their good and ours. God has done so for us. †



Maple Built: Working on a communion table for a local church



Maple Built: Creating a wooden mosaic

2023 SGEM PARTNERS



One of the many ways St. George's is responding to the needs of our city is through St. George's Enterprise Ministry (SGEM), a ministry which supports life-changing opportunities through meaningful employment. SGEM was formed as a mission initiative that would bless the Nashville community and serve as a catalyst for future St. George's ministry opportunities and relationships. Our social enterprise partners receive grants as well as business mentoring, leadership development, professional and volunteer connections, and support of their social enterprise from our church members. Each year, the SGEM committee solicits and supports new grant applicants who would benefit from this kind of relationship with St. George's. We're delighted to announce two new SGEM partners in 2023: Knowledge Bank and Maple Built.

▶ Learn more about all of our partners at stgeorgesnashville.org/sgem.

KNOWLEDGE BANK

Knowledge Bank is a non-profit social enterprise committed to improving the financial literacy of youth in schools primarily located in underserved areas of Nashville. Knowledge Bank creates economic hope where hope may not have existed before, and they equip youth with the tools to adequately and healthily participate in free enterprise. "Improving the financial literacy of youth is the most effective solution for combating economic vulnerabilities like unemployment, underemployment, the widening wealth gap, and rising upper education costs," shares Executive Director, Mr. Courtney Hale. Their 3-component approach to improving financial literacy includes financial education, exposure, and the development of healthy financial behaviors. They engage students through workshops which introduce new concepts, start new conversations and teach life application. Students learn about banking, budgeting, career planning, credit, investing, entrepreneurship, paycheck deductions, and responsible spending.

▶ Learn more about this exciting organization at knowledgebanknashville.org.

MAPLE BUILT

Maple Built is a non-profit apprenticeship program utilizing woodworking to shape the future of young men in Nashville. Founded in 2016 by brothers Will Anderson and Schuyler Anderson, this program was created to support youth in the North Nashville area. Maple Built works with young men aged 15 to 18 who benefit both from practical employment and from having the first line on their résumé. These two elements provide a foundation so employees may see new options for their future which were not previously visible. To date, Maple Built has completed projects for the Vanderbilt Chancellor's office, 5 Points Pizza, Universal Music, Red Bull, Dave Ramsey, and many others.

▶ Learn more about this growing program at maplebuilt.com.

— a conversation with...



THE WALDO FAMILY

Tell us a little about your family and how you came to St. George's.

Mark and I randomly collided in a doorway in Nashville about 10 years ago when we were out with friends one evening and have been together ever since. We've been married for five years, have two lazy dogs (Bodhi and Leo), and two beautiful daughters; Eleanor (3) and Ruby (1). Mark is in the restaurant business and Alex is in Application Development.

Mark grew up going to All Saints Episcopal Church in Birmingham, AL, where we would both attend together while visiting his parents. We always wanted a church family of our own here in Nashville, so when our longtime family friends, Katie and Lewis Agnew, recommended St. George's, we visited. It has felt like home for us since our first visit back in 2020.

Thank you for serving on the events committee for Children's & Family Ministry. What have you enjoyed most about that?

Serving on the Advent Wreath Committee was such a great way for me (Alex) to get involved at St. George's. I certainly love organizing and helping throw any party, but I most enjoyed getting to meet all of the other wonderful women on this committee. Getting to work with them and seeing the event come together was very fulfilling while also a great way to get to know other great families within the congregation.

It seems like hospitality is a critical component of Mark's business. Would you say that experience influences your involvement at church?

There's a popular saying that we often quote: "People will forget what you said, and people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." In our business, we talk about this a lot when it comes to hospitality. I think that this was also true in our experience at St. George's.

It wasn't any one thing that continued to draw us in, but how at home our family felt at St. George's. We feel the same hospitality here that we strive toward every day in our restaurants. This certainly influences us as we continue to grow our involvement within the church.

What are you all looking forward to this year at St. George's?

This is really our first full year with the girls since we have joined, so we are excited to learn about all of the great events and programs that are out there for us to get involved in. The one thing we are probably most looking forward to is getting to watch our girls blossom at St. George's as they begin to formulate their own experiences and grow in their faith.

How would you encourage someone who is brand new to the church and wants to get connected?

Take the Ministry Match quiz and don't be afraid to reach out about things that interest you! Ministry Match did a great job of showing us different ways to get involved. We felt like the only bad decision we could make was no decision, so we dove in headfirst and it has felt very organic since then. Ministry Match makes it so easy to see which areas in the church need help and how to get in touch. A large congregation can be intimidating, but joining a committee makes the community feel much more intimate. The more you put in, the more you will get out – and you won't regret it! ✝

NEWS & NOTES



from St. George's

① Christmas Offering

Each year, St. George's Christmas offering is dedicated to meet a particular need of our neighbors in the community. Thanks to your generous response, we collected \$24,000 through the Christmas offering. The donation was split evenly between The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, Nashville, and Safe Haven Family Shelter, two initiatives responding to homelessness in the Nashville area.

② Organ Dedication Events

This season's *In Excelsis* Concert Series is a celebration of our new organ, Buzard Opus 48. Almost 400 people attended the season's opening Hymn Festival, featuring guest organist Robert McCormick and guest speaker Dr. Jeremy Begbie. We're excited to share more organ music with the community in April and May for the final two concert events of the season.

③ Special Sundays

In February, we celebrated two special groups at St. George's. BSA Troops 31 and 78 are both chartered at St. George's, and we were delighted to welcome the scouts and their leaders in worship. After the service, we blessed the newly constructed Scout building behind the church, thanking God for the resource it provides our young scouts. We also welcomed the families and staff of St. George's Kindergarten, giving special thanks for the 12 teachers and staff who have served at St. George's for 15 years or more. St. George's is the largest Episcopal preschool in the country, bringing in families from all over Nashville.

④ Art Gallery Reception

We welcomed 75 people from the community and parish to the Bradford Gallery for the opening reception of *Seeing Christ in the Darkness*, a beautiful collection of Georges Rouault's graphic prints. The exhibit invites us to recognize the suffering of the world, and through it, to be anchored with hope in the salvation of Jesus Christ. We were joined by artist and collector Sandra Bowden, who graciously served as guest speaker for the event.

⑤ Mission Trip to Our Little Roses

We have re-invigorated our ministry at Our Little Roses, Honduras by returning for a winter mission trip. Our volunteers traveled in February to serve and build community with the girls and young women who live there. We look forward to the summer trip when youth and adults serve together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

MISSION DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

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.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

In celebration of St. George's Feast Day, join us for a fun evening event. In addition to fellowship and fun for the whole family, we'll honor our neighborhood police and firemen.

Find details on our homepage at stgeorgesnashville.org

PARISH PICNIC & COMBINED WORSHIP

SUNDAY, MAY 21

This annual church picnic is the perfect way to gather together as we shift into the summer season. Our 10:00am traditional and 10:00am Table services will worship together in the Nave, then gather outside behind the church for food, fellowship, and play. See back cover for summer worship times.

Please register online at stgeorgesnashville.org/picnic.

IN EXCELSIS CONCERT SERIES

SUNDAY, APRIL 30 AT 6:00PM

Dedicatory Organ Recital featuring Gerry Senechal

Mr. Gerry Senechal has served as 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. A highly regarded liturgical organist and composer, many of his works, including hymns, descants, reharmonizations, anthems, and psalm settings are frequently sung. All donated proceeds from this concert will benefit the Choristers of St. George's in their residency at Canterbury Cathedral, UK, in July 2023.

TUESDAY, MAY 9 AT 7:30PM

**Dedicatory Concert featuring the
Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra**

The final dedicatory performance of the season features the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Christopher Norton. The NPO is one of the most visible and vibrant parts of outreach activities here at St. George's. The repertoire includes the thrilling *Symphony No. 3 "Organ Symphony"* by Saint-Saëns with Gerry Senechal and the Nashville premiere of New Zealand composer John Wells's *Organ Concerto in D Major* with Dr. Woosug Kang, who performed this work's U.S. premiere in 2015 as featured on the American Public Media program *PipeDreams*.

Learn more at stgeorgesnashville.org/inexcelsis.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY • THURSDAY, APRIL 6

7:30pm in the Nave

Nursery available.

GOOD FRIDAY • FRIDAY, APRIL 7

12:00pm & 6:00pm • Traditional Services in the Nave

5:00pm • Children's Stations of the Cross in Bradford Gallery

Nursery available for all services.

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER • SATURDAY, APRIL 8

7:30pm in the Nave

Nursery available.

EASTER DAY • SUNDAY, APRIL 9

7:00am, 8:45am, 11:00am & 5:00pm • Traditional Services in the Nave

9:00am & 11:00am • The Table in Legacy Hall

Children's Egg Hunt • Back playgrounds after the 8:45am & 9:00am services

Nursery and childcare available for all services between 8:45am and 11:00am.

Overflow parking available at Truxton Trust (4525 Harding Pike).



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 be directed to an online giving form where you can make a donation.



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 JANUARY 2023



| | ACTUAL | BUDGET | VARIANCE | PRIOR YEAR | VARIANCE |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| REVENUE | | | | | |
| Pledges | \$264,637 | \$322,347 | (\$57,709) | \$240,290 | \$24,347 |
| Unpledged Gifts | \$88,041 | \$40,637 | \$47,404 | \$44,870 | \$43,171 |
| Other Income | \$3,809 | \$1,667 | \$2,143 | \$539 | \$3,270 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$356,488 | \$364,650 | (\$8,162) | \$285,699 | \$70,789 |
| EXPENSES | \$428,413 | \$452,127 | (\$23,714) | \$390,280 | \$38,133 |
| NET CASH FLOW | (\$71,925) | (\$87,477) | \$15,551 | (\$104,581) | \$32,656 |

TRANSITIONS

BAPTISMS

Frances Ellen Beck, daughter of Amanda & Thomas Beck
Alexander Stonehouse Coleman, son of Lisa & Nathan Coleman
Nico James Cua, son of Ashley & Maxx Cua
Harper Drew Davis, daughter of Shan & Pierson Davis
Shepherd Reid Davis, son of Shan & Pierson Davis
Hadley Reagan Davis, daughter of Shan & Pierson Davis
Lucy Jane Dragnich, daughter of Andi & Alex Dragnich
Emilie Hewes Dressler, daughter of Christine & Paul Dressler
Winston Porter Filipski, son of Rebecca & Russell Filipski
Olivia Stephen Garrett, daughter of Emily & Stephen Garrett, Jr.
Ogden Hatton Grace, son of Catherine & Frederick Grace
Remington James Harvey, daughter of Ashley & Forrest Harvey
Gallagher Fairmoore Phillips, daughter of Brittany & Charles Phillips
Mildred Elizabeth Richard, daughter of Ashleigh & Andrew Richard
Christopher Adam Scales, Jr., son of Emerson & Christopher Scales
Frederick Neves Smith, son of Leslie Dewees & Austin Smith
Eleanor Claire Waldo, daughter of Alexandra & Mark Waldo
Ruby Lawrence Waldo, daughter of Alexandra & Mark Waldo
Miriam Buchanan Wilson, daughter of Frances & Rob Wilson

NEW MEMBERS

Nicole & Carter Baker, Ella and Mary Kate
Sandy & William Berry
Anne & Bill Davis
Leslie Dewees & Austin Smith and Neves
Kaye Elam
Claire Finley, Parker and Audrey
Jennifer & Charles Gay
Xiangmeng Ge & Yang He
Heather Hallemann
Lena Hooker
Karie & Rick Humphrey III
Savannah Jackson
Kymberly Kester
Brooke Land
Evelin Yardley
Emely Zelaya

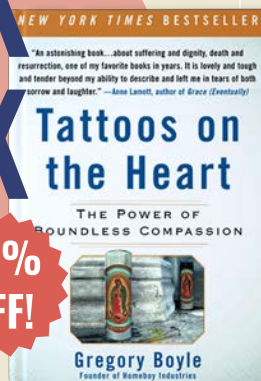
BIRTHS

Eden Elizabeth Craig, daughter of Anna Kate & Dylan Craig
Parker Joseph Landsberg, son of Hayley & Anthony
Charlotte Edwards Pendleton, daughter of Lauren & Will Pendleton
Fountain James Vance, son of Lindsey & Miller Vance
Gibbs Revere Wetherall, son of Rachel & Gibbs Wetherall

DEATHS

Catherine Allen Hamilton Barksdale
Nanci Morris Barskdale
Charles Dent Bostick
Kimble Quentin Bradley
Maclin Pacshall Davis, Jr.
John Howard Exton
Lavinia Jones Fillebrown
Arthur Stewart Hancock
Julian Cooley Scruggs
Mary Ready Weaver Parrent Taylor
John Lillard Templeton
Lallie Hudgings Wallace
Matthew Henry Yardley

BOOK NOOK



TATTOOS ON THE HEART: The Power of Boundless Compassion

By Gregory Boyle

Greg Boyle's *Tattoos on the Heart* is an account of his ministry of hospitality toward gang members in Los Angeles. The book takes the form of a thematic narrative, as Boyle discusses topics like compassion and kinship by telling stories about his interactions with young men and women living on the margins of society. Boyle defines compassion and kinship through a lens of hospitality – of

reflecting God's love to all people and inviting others to be a part of one's family. Along the way, Boyle shows that hospitality is not only dear to God but is also at the core of the church's ministry within the smaller parish and society as a whole.

—The Rev. Dr. Chris Jones

WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

| | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 7:30am | Holy Eucharist |
| 8:45am | Holy Eucharist *♦♥ |
| 9:00am | The Table ♦♥ |
| 10:05am | Sunday School ♦ |
| 11:00am | Holy Eucharist ♦♥ |
| 5:00pm | Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist |

* *Livestreamed at stgeorgesnashville.org*

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

♥ *Childcare available (3 – 5 years)*

SPECIAL SERVICES

Holy Week
See page 21 for the schedule.

Compline
Wednesday, May 17 at 9:15pm

Choral Evensong
Sunday, May 21 at 5:00pm

Summer Sundays beginning May 21

| | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 7:30am | Holy Eucharist |
| 9:00am | Sunday School |
| 10:00am | Holy Eucharist *♦♥ |
| 10:00am | The Table ♦♥ |
| 5:00pm | Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist |

On May 21, the 10:00am Table and Nave services will worship together in the Nave.

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](https://instagram.com/stgeorgesnashville)

 Podcast | Sermons at St. George's

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



Youth Ski Trip to Beech Mountain, NC

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

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