



# THE Shield

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY • WINTER 2022-23



Receiving • Living • Sharing  
THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## Sharing Our Lives & Our Selves TOGETHER

EXPLORING JOYFUL ANTICIPATION:  
A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH  
ST. GEORGE'S CLERGY

STORIES OF LIVING THE INCARNATION

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## Dear St. George's Family

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

I was in Lowe's on September 24, and as I made my way to the right aisle, I found myself stepping around employees putting together Christmas displays for the store. Certainly, the Advent and Christmas seasons excite me as much as the next person, but this seemed premature even for those leveraging the economic angle.

Driving home, it dawned on me that Lowe's wasn't off base at all for engaging the Christmas season this early. While our motivations are likely very different, why should we limit our exposure to "the Word becoming flesh" for only a month or two each year?

What an awesome revelation John gives us about our God. There is no greater marvel, no greater mystery, no greater majesty than the magnificent story of how God, in the person of Jesus Christ, out of his unending love for each one of us, descended out of eternity into our world and subsequently into our lives.

When God sent the fullness of his good news, he didn't write it onto stone tablets, stuff it into an envelope, attach it to an email, or send a tweet. Oh no, there would be entirely too much potential for misunderstanding. His eternal grace and truth could not be entrusted to a third-party delivery system. He wrapped it up in himself.

This gift has been wrapped for you, for me, for all of us. But if you are anything like me, when images of Christ's nativity are front and center, I tend to be so distracted in the busyness of the season that I put off any sincere contemplation of this lifesaving gift. Then in the blink of an eye, Advent and Christmas have passed; I'm exhausted, and I've missed enjoying the gift of Christ yet again.

Will we receive the child whose first bed was a feeding trough? Sending a message wrapped up in a person is at the heart - the core meaning and significance - of Christ's birth. Jesus is the box, the wrapping paper with a bow on top - the human container that embodies the good news of grace and truth.

That gift is meant for us to celebrate every day, not just at Christmas. Several years ago, Mary and I began keeping our crèche out all year; we never put it away. It is a constant, visible reminder of God's love shown to us uniquely in his birth: Immanuel, God with us.

In response to the gift of the incarnation, each of us is called to share our lives and our stories of faith with one another. To keep this bottled up in our own hearts would be contrary to the message of the gospel. Throughout this issue, we share stories of how our community is responding to Christ's love by sharing our faith and humbly caring for the needs of others, while keeping the joy of the incarnation ever before us.

Peace,

J. Malone Gilliam, Rector



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*Madonna of Compassion* by the Rev. John Howard Walsted (1991). Displayed in St. George's Nave.



# Exploring Joyful Anticipation

## A Roundtable Discussion with St. George's Clergy on the Intimacy of the Incarnation

**Malone:** I have to admit, I find it much easier to enter into the joy and celebration of Christmas than Easter – there is something in the sheer embodiment of the season. God becomes human and there is this enormous anticipation in the coming kingdom.

**Margery:** When I think of the incarnation, I think of the word *carne*, which means “flesh” or “enfleshment.” The birth of Jesus has a fleshly dimension. God takes on human flesh, and the material world receives this new life and new hope.

**Chris:** Christmas is maybe easier to experience than Easter because Easter changes everything in a way that is sometimes too grand for us to grasp. But Christmas hits all the dimensions of human experience that we can know.

**Colin:** I think Chris is right about Christmas being easier to experience than Easter. For me, Christmas is so relational. At a personal level I am humbled that the Word would empty himself and become human for our sake. What an act of love! All of our family relationships and friendships somehow get lifted up as the Word comes down.

**David:** One hurdle to experiencing Christmas is the consumerism that surrounds the season. We rightly critique the consumerism of Christmas. However, it is interesting that the anticipation of receiving gifts maps on so well with the prophetic anticipation of Advent. All the longing that we have is given a tangible answer in the incarnate Christ. This kind of Christmas anticipation can also teach us to anticipate Jesus.

**Chris:** That’s a great point about the anticipation of Christmas. Think of how hard it is to get the kids to bed on Christmas Eve – and how early they get up! They are *overwhelmed* with excitement. This a lesson for us about the enjoyment of good gifts. Kids cannot stop being excited. Neither should we about the incarnation.

This is exactly what the parable of the women and the lamps in Matthew 25 is about. “Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour” (Matthew 25:13). We *should* stay awake. You don’t have to tell kids to do that!

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Continued on Page 6



**Colin:** I always chuckle when we sing “Silent Night” on Christmas Eve. If you have little children at home, your home is the opposite of a silent night. They are so excited for the next morning!

**Malone:** You know, this is helpful for understanding God’s side of things as well. We love to give gifts to our children. And to see children enjoying what they have been given is a source of immense joy for the giver. Now imagine that joy in the heart of the Father who has given us so much, even his own son. To see us love God the Son and one another must give God great pleasure.

**Margery:** I also can’t help but think about people who experience Christmas with no family and no cheer, and to compare that with the first Christmas which was, of course, not purely joyous, but very rough. Yet the darkness has not overcome the light. This light infuses the darkness.

**Colin:** That is true. For many, Christmas is a reminder of what they have lost. You are supposed to be joyful, but you might not be because of tragedy and struggle. The expectation of joy serves to increase your suffering. However, we must remember that the incarnation actually addresses our suffering during the Christmas season. The incarnation proclaims a deeper reality that brings light in the midst of suffering.

**David:** Again, it goes back to prophetic longing. Advent longing can be so powerful whether we’re in a good place or a challenging place at Christmas, precisely because the incarnations says all of our longing has an answer. Christmas is about how the incarnation gives us an immediate hope, a received promise that our longing has an end. Even when it unfolds over years of our lives, we know this deep yearning will be met.

**Margery:** The incarnation also gives hope to those who are in pain by revealing the character of God. God is so powerful and subtle. He dwells with humans not just to show us more fully what God is like, but to restore his people from the inside. God is even gentle enough to dwell with the animals.



**Colin:** He is gentle enough to dwell with us even still! We can understand the incarnation through the work of the Spirit, and we can participate in it daily.

**Margery:** That's right! And depending upon our theology of the Eucharist we can think of the Eucharist as a moment of ingesting grace – a time of receiving God's own presence in our bodies.

**Colin:** Yes, we are to become by grace what Christ is by nature. The church itself is a kind of extension of the incarnation in that way, which is what St. Augustine himself thought. We get to be Christ's actual hands and feet in the world.

**David:** I also can't help but think about it from the vantage of heaven as well. The incarnation has a permanence that is jaw-dropping and hopeful. If the second person of the Trinity takes on human flesh for eternity, there is so much hope for us. We can't remove the divinity from humanity – we cannot undo the new covenant. We are destined to be what Christ is.

**Malone:** The best illustration of the incarnation that I've heard is a story from a friend. This friend was coming home from work and saw his young son peek out from a hiding place while he was playing soldiers with a classmate. The son came running toward the dad and wrestled with him on the grass, and eventually the boy's classmate wanted to join in on the fun. The dad, who had never met the boy's friend, was quick to welcome him in a new game they could share together. This is what the Incarnation does for us. We are invited into life and joy with God because Jesus shares the intimacy he enjoys with the Father. We get invited to join in. The invitation is already there.

**Chris:** Again, you don't have to teach a child to stay up on Christmas Eve! ✝



# Surrendering the Desire for Self-Reliance

by the Rev. J. Malone Gilliam

Several months ago, I read something that stuck with me. “You live most of your life inside your head. Make sure it’s a nice place to be.” One could contemplate this endlessly and benefit from its truth.

Unfortunately, the predominant voice I hear inside my head is that of the perfectionist. It parses my thoughts and actions, finds shortcomings, and then derides me as to how I could have done much better. For some of you (perhaps most or all of you) this accusing voice is familiar. If so, you’ll know this makes for an uncomfortable inner dialogue.

One major pitfall to listening to this voice is that we have often have unrealistic expectations of ourselves and others. When we don’t live up to perfection, shame pulls our gaze inward. Consequently, we vow to “try harder” and “do better” next time. It also dissuades us from asking others for help. We falsely believe we should be able to accomplish most everything ourselves, without burdening anyone else.

This brings me to the subject of Pastoral Care. Every single one of us has needs beyond our own capacity. If only we could mark, learn, and inwardly digest John Donne’s insight that “no man is an island,” an idiom taken from his sermon at St. Paul’s Cathedral in 1642. Donne preached about how human beings are connected to each other and how important that connection is for our well-being and survival.

We need one another for physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual support – together. We are meant to journey through life together. This is a direct affront to that pestering voice inside our heads, chastising our failures to exist as self-sufficient islands – isolated from one another.

Pastoral Care is not just the purview of ordained clergy or trained professionals. Although there are certainly moments when these are the appropriate people to call upon. Rather, Pastoral Care is a ministry of the entire Body of Christ as we live life together. From providing meals for a family in need, to praying with a grieving friend, to writing an encouraging note for a student facing the challenges of life as a teenager – these are all part of Pastoral Care ministry. You likely engage in this ministry without even realizing it!

As we become more aware of the importance and vitality of sharing life together, perhaps it will prompt us to express our own needs and accept the support we all need. There will most likely always be the temptation to “go it alone” in life. Recalling Paul’s words about each of us providing our place in the Body of Christ, our growth in following Christ certainly includes surrendering our self-reliance and journeying together in mutual support. ✝



# Sharing Our Faith:

## A LEGACY FOR OUR FAMILIES

by the Rev. Sarah Puryear

In his well-known matrix of time management, Steven Covey author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, identifies a category of work that is most easily neglected but comes with the biggest consequences – tasks that are in his words “important but not urgent.” Such tasks include long-term plans, prioritizing exercise, and making time for vocational discernment. These tasks have a huge impact on our quality of life – they keep us focused on our lifelong goals and values – but it is easy to push them aside to deal with the onslaught of tasks that feel more urgent.

Tending to the spiritual formation of our children can easily fall into this category, and for understandable reasons. At our children’s baptisms we commit to “bring them up in the Christian life and faith” and “by our prayers and witness help them grow into the full stature of Christ.” But our lives become so full that other legitimate priorities for our kids – like their involvement at school, in sports, and with friends – can feel more pressing. And while we all know teaching children about our faith is important, it can feel intimidating and time consuming to tackle. We may not feel prepared with enough answers. We may not have received a strong example from our families of origin. In the faces of those challenges, it’s easy to put off what is important but not urgent, hoping that we will find time for it later.

However, the role of parents and grandparents is of critical importance in a child’s development of faith. Studies show that in most cases, parents have more impact on their children’s spiritual development than the clergy or youth pastor at church. Faith is more easily caught than taught – meaning that we come to understand Christian faith best through the example of others – through seeing them read the Bible, hearing them pray, witnessing how God has been at work in their lives, and talking openly with them about our questions and thoughts. Those interactions can become the foundation of a child’s understanding of God as loving, present, powerful, and active in our lives.

Because the role of Christian parents is critical, the church needs to invest not only in children’s spiritual formation, but also in that of their parents and grandparents. This fall, St. George’s offered two Sunday School classes to provide ongoing support and ministry to parents and grandparents. In *Equipping Christian Parents*, we have been using the children’s Sunday School curriculum as a springboard to learn more about the Bible ourselves and be better prepared to engage our kids in conversation and prayer. When I asked attendees to identify someone who had a spiritual impact on them as a child, I was surprised at how many of them named a grandparent. The Grandparents’ Forum, also held during the Sunday School hour, seeks to help grandparents build a vision for how they can have spiritual impact and share their legacy of faith. It’s been a conversational space for grandparents to share the challenges and blessings that come with this role in their families.

While we can’t manufacture a relationship with God for children we love, we can plant seeds of faith and ask God to help them grow. If you’re seeking to foster your child or grandchild’s relationship with God, here’s one small practice I recommend. Ask your child at bedtime or another quiet moment, “What made you glad today?” You can follow up with a simple prayer, thanking God for that gift. Never underestimate the power of praying aloud with your kids. The goal is not to sound eloquent or well-spoken but to express our hearts to God, who can do more for our loved ones that we can ask or imagine. ✝



# CHURCH IN THE YARD

by Agatha Nolen, Director of Outreach

One of the most beautiful things about Episcopal worship is its familiarity – you can worship at any Episcopal church and know the rhythm of the service and the words of the prayers and creed. Worshipping at Church in the Yard is no different – it has the same liturgy, an inspiring sermon, and Holy Eucharist. But the differences are stark: we worship outdoors on plastic chairs, and instead of hymns we hear an occasional chorus from the pedal taverns on Lafayette Street.

Paused during the pandemic, Church in the Yard has recently restarted its ministry of worship and meals to folks in need each Sunday at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity in downtown Nashville. To support this important ministry, St. George's has adopted the 2nd Sunday of each month to share worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, offer healing prayer, and provide a hot meal and sack lunch. We cook on Saturday morning at St. George's and take food downtown on Sunday. We never have food left over – not a single morsel goes to waste.

Serving and worshipping side by side with more than 100 unhoused individuals is a humbling experience. It forces us to step out of our comfort zones with grace and humility as we physically share the body of Christ together. We are all God's precious children, and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve. I've never been hungry – I can't pretend to understand what our neighbors are facing. All I can do is love them with God's love.

"... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:23). ✝

The words spoken by Christ about homelessness, the needy, and the stranger are often uncomfortable to hear, but the call to action is clear. The command to love our neighbors, no matter who they are, is immutable.

Loving our neighbors at Church in the Yard presents inward reflection that is both challenging and revealing. It takes courage to shed self, step into action, and be at the service of others in a way that demonstrates vulnerability and openness – especially without any guaranteed outcome.

Church in the Yard is an opportunity to connect with others and let them know that they are seen, not only by God, but by their fellow brothers and sisters. You are not there to change the lives of those you are serving, but to allow God to work through the actions of love and compassion that you express by being fully in the service of others.

My hope is that more people at St. George's would be willing to take the steps through this ministry of service. The life changed often becomes your own.

Eric Conte-Gordon,  
St. George's Volunteer  
at Church in the Yard

# Sing ye to the Lord!

by Dr. Woosug Kang , Director of Music Ministries

**“Those who sing, pray twice.” –St. Augustine**

**“Yes, because singing allows us to share more of ourselves with God.” –Woosug Kang**

**H**ave you ever wondered if your voice is “good enough?” Our voices can make us feel strong, yet very vulnerable. Singing can humble us in an instant depending on how we think we should sound. There is plenty of Scripture that encourages us to sing, but I have yet to find the one that says, “O sing unto the Lord, those who are talented enough.”

Our voices are all unique and powerful in their own ways. When we speak the Nicene Creed or the Lord’s Prayer together, the words carry a weight that is different than speaking on our own. Yet when it comes to singing in the pews, some of us feel as if we are inadequate or not needed. Thinking that we must sound a certain way to sing is a lie we learn from entertainment culture – there is an endless number of TV shows where people are judged and valued by how they sound. But God doesn’t judge us. Your voice is made for singing, and your voice is needed.

Singing holds a unique power – a gift from God! Using our voices to praise and worship God is one of the most foundational acts we can share together as Christians. It’s a gift we’ve all be given, and it’s been used to express our hearts to God and others since the beginning of time. Scripture reminds us that singing is one of the most natural ways to worship. Moses and Miriam sang

after God delivered the Israelites from Egypt. Mary sang in tender humility when she learned she would bear the Savior of the world. And the entire book of Psalms is a collection of ancient songs of prayer. It is clear that God invites us to sing.

As a choir, our focus is about how we all contribute to create music together that leads the congregation. Our choirs have the difficult and vulnerable tasks of having me listen to their singing (and yes, I hear ALL of their voices), receiving direction, making adjustments, and working hard to blend their voices. Working this way with one another is an act of trust and vulnerability – what you hear from our choirs on Sunday is the result of us being vulnerable in sharing and growing together.

The role of the choir is to provide a firm foundation of music that invites you to join in – regardless of the size, shape, or sound of your voice. The choir’s seating closer to the pews, and the ability of the new organ to speak with many colors and volumes, are elements intended to encourage the congregation in singing. We invite you to connect with us and with God through music. Let us embrace each other in humility – let us worship together in song.



## DEDICATORY HYMN FESTIVAL

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, AT 7:30PM**

You’re invited to join us for a hymn festival featuring Robert McCormick, Dr. Jeremy Begbie, and St. George’s Choir. This *In Excelsis* music event is the first in a series of dedicatory concerts in celebration and thanksgiving of our new organ, Buzard Opus 48. Information about the series can be found in the *In Excelsis* brochure or at [stgeorgesnashville.org/inexcelsis](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/inexcelsis).

Robert McCormick currently serves as Organist and Choirmaster of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Guest speaker Dr. Jeremy Begbie is a friend of St. George’s, having previously taught and preached here on theology and the arts. Dr. Begbie is the Thomas A. Langford Distinguished Research Professor of Theology and McDonald Agape Director of Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts at Duke University. This event is co-sponsored by the Nashville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



# Snapshots

## OF THE INCARNATION AT ST. GEORGE'S

Serving others is about **being with** rather than **doing more**. This is the model of service we see in Jesus. The incarnation is God's choice to be with us. Through that choice God comes near to us and sees us for who we are, rather than what we have or have not accomplished. Our role as followers of Christ is to do the same – to be with those whom God made and loved. We hope you will seek out meaningful ways to be with others this season, knowing that this is an excellent way to spread God's love and see Christ in all people.





Holy Trinity is in its third century as an Episcopal parish. Imagine! Since before the Civil War they've been a place for people to worship God and to live their mission to "restore all people we meet to unity with God and each other through Jesus Christ." They go about their business day by day with strength and purpose and creativity. It's a privilege for me – and for St. George's – to walk beside them.

– Bob Schwartz  
Church in the Yard



In a letter to the Haidari family from Afghanistan:  
Over the last six months we have come to know, love and respect your family. We have admired your purposeful effort to adapt to a very different culture under extremely difficult circumstances. In February 2022 we promised NICE that we would support your family to get settled and to provide financial support from our church. Although our promise to NICE ended in August, our friendship did not and will not end – it will go on and on!

– John, Bennie, Bonnie, Rosemary,  
Karlen, Susie, Funmi, and Sue  
Refugee Ministry Team



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.

– David Silvester  
Room in the Inn




The parenting class provides me with the kids' specific Sunday school lessons and arms me for my mission of reinforcing and continuing the discussions at home. When my kids hear these biblical truths at church and at home, they are learning to see God and encounter him in the world.

– Katy Valesky, "Equipping Christian Parents"  
Sunday School Class



# Help Us Do More TOGETHER

by Catherine Beemer, Director of Parish Giving



**W**hen St. George's began, it was easy to make week-to-week decisions based on the financial gifts received during the year. Today however, the scope, size, and complexity of our parish life require our vestry to budget skillfully and carefully for the year ahead. This is why we ask you to make an annual commitment to St. George's in the form of a pledge. Throughout the year, your gifts count toward fulfilling that pledge. This allows us to predict the resources that will be available over the course of the year.

If you have not made your pledge, we ask that you:



**PRAY:** Give thanks to God for his blessings. Pray about how you might express your gratitude to God through a sacrificial pledge to God's Church for the growth of his kingdom.



**PLEDGE:** Make your pledge to the parish by filling out your pledge card and returning it in the envelope provided, by logging into your Realm account, or by filling out an online form at [stgeorgesnashville.org/annualcampaign](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/annualcampaign). The more pledges we receive in the days ahead, the better we can prepare your church budget for the coming year. We ask that you pledge by Together Sunday on December 11.



**PRAY:** Once you have turned in your pledge, pray again. Pray that you can fulfill your pledge as the coming year unfolds, and pray that the leaders of St. George's are – as you have been – faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to their leadership.

What does St. George's mean to you? For long-time parishioner John Abernathy, the church is his "green pasture." A place that brings comfort and joy, nourishment and peace throughout the phases of life.

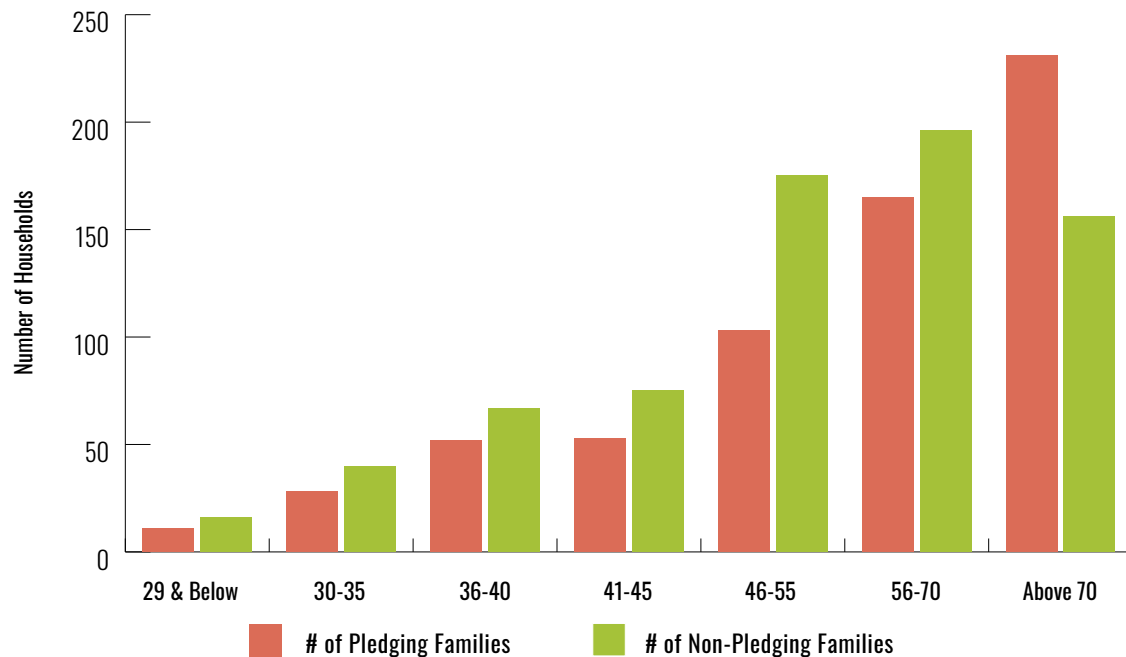
"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. "He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters." Psalm 23:1-2

The clergy and staff of St. George's work every day to ensure that our parish is a place where everyone feels welcome. Our community of faith is one where all should

be able to experience comfort and joy. With a multitude of worship services and opportunities for involvement, those who seek to deepen their relationship with Christ can do that *together* with hundreds of others.

Especially now, we hope you will be thoughtful about what St. George's means to you and your family. Reflect on the blessings you have been given through your life in the church, and be as generous as you are able. *Together* we can do more. *Together* we will continue to be a place of refuge and strength for all who seek the gospel. Thank you for your steadfast support of St. George's. ✝

## 2022 CAMPAIGN PLEDGING BY AGE GROUP



### INSIGHT:

In almost every age group there are more non-pledging families than pledging families.

### 2023 GOAL:

More families participate in pledging so that the number of pledging families exceeds the number of non-pledging families in each age group.



**TOGETHER SUNDAY IS  
DECEMBER 11**

Offering our 2023 pledges to God as we joyfully anticipate our next year together.

**PLEASE PLEDGE BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11.**

[STGEORGESNASHVILLE.ORG/ANNUALCAMPAIGN](https://stgeorgesnashville.org/annualcampaign)

# — a conversation about



*2022-23 Nashville Fellows: Morgan Lennon, Ridge Barr, Hannah Urban, and Viona Okwii Brown*

**T**he Nashville Fellows Program (NFP) is a nine-month Christian leadership and discipleship program for young adults. Each year, St. George's partners with NFP to help a new group of recent college graduates discern their callings. Through this ecumenical program, we partner with West End Community Church to equip the fellows for a life and a vocation that advances God's kingdom. This year, five fellows are living with host families, volunteering in our youth ministries, and sharing in our parish life. We interviewed Bob Grohovsky & Tanzy Wallace about their experience serving as a host family this year.



## THE NASHVILLE FELLOWS PROGRAM WITH BOB GROHOVSKY & TANZY WALLACE



*Spencer, Bob, Adele, Bowen, and Tanzy*

### **Tell us a little bit about the story of your family at St. George's. How did you come to be a part of this community?**

After grad school, Tanzy moved to Tennessee and transferred her membership to St. George's. We had family friends at St. George's and loved Ed Coleman's sermons. In 1995, we married here and then raised our three children here. Our family has been involved in many different areas of St. George's – St. George's Kindergarten, family weekends, children's chapel, adult education (ETC class), teaching Sunday School, Our Little Roses, and more. Everything has a season, and at St. George's our family has always found opportunities that meet us where we are.

### **This year, you've agreed to host one of the Nashville Fellows – inviting Ridge Barr to live with you and share in your life as a family. We often think of our home lives as being very private. How did you two decide to open your home in this way?**

We didn't "decide" as much as we were called to open our home and lives this way. It actually started a few years ago on a trip to Our Little Roses in Honduras. One of the priests that went with us asked if we would consider hosting, but we were in the middle of trying to sell our house. It just wasn't the right time. We promised to consider it if we ever found ourselves in a position to do so. Fast forward a few years – our daughter Adele has just moved to Seattle, and our oldest son is in college. David Barr asked us to prayerfully consider hosting. My son asked me why we didn't offer, and we joked that he'd have to move into his sister's room. It started some prayerful dialog with God, and in the end we put our names in the hat. We are blessed and have plenty to share, but we honestly thought they would find someone else. We got the call, so we opened our doors to what God had planned for our family.

### **How have you seen God working through this new relationship?**

Ridge is a great person. While we have interacted with some of the fellows over the years, seeing how hard they work and what the program asks of them is inspiring. There is a sense of paying it forward, as our own kids are venturing forth in the world. There is also some give and take: how we can help a young adult launch and how a fellow can bring a positive energy into our home. I think our youngest son, Bowen, has really benefited from knowing Ridge. He has missed his siblings as they have gone to college, and Ridge has been a sounding board for him. He has also positively influenced Bowen with his activity at the church.

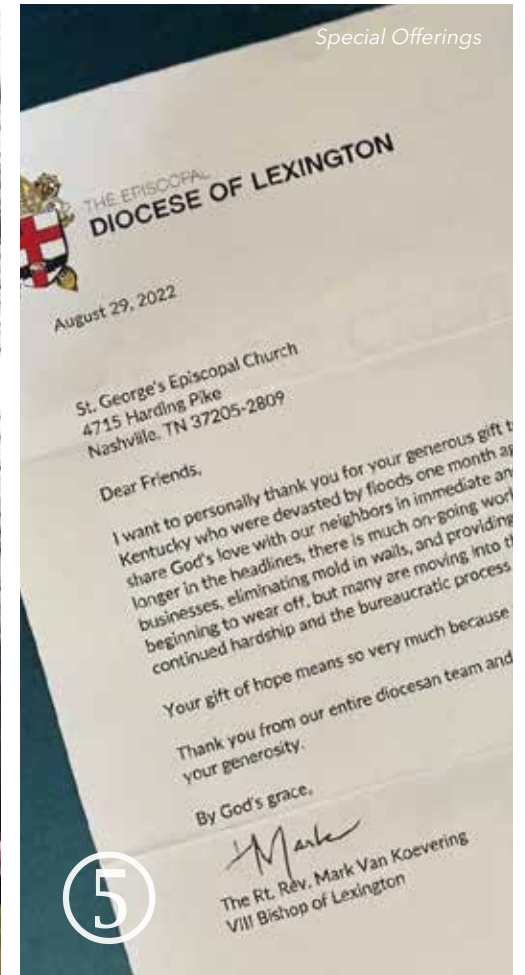
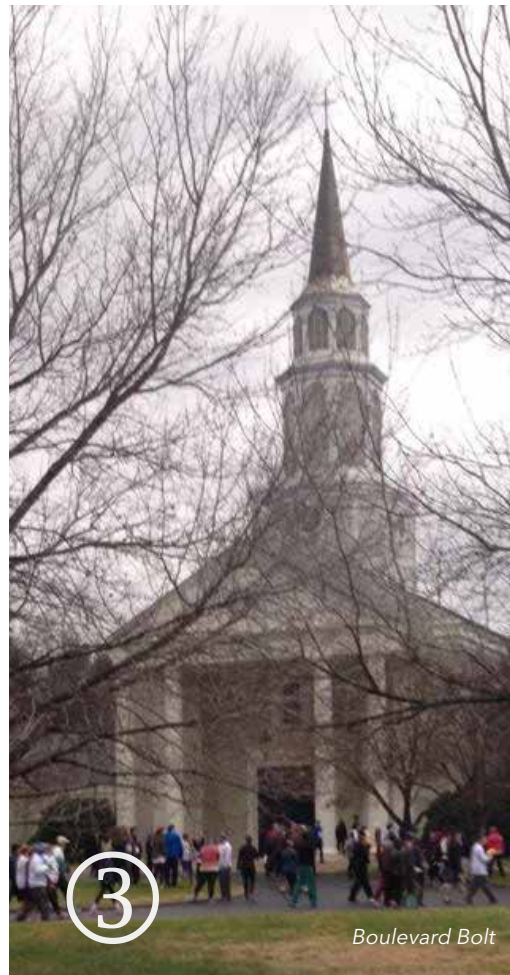
### **What advice would you give someone who has considered hosting a fellow but is unsure about making the commitment? How would you encourage them?**

Prayerful consideration. If it were your child, what would you want for them, and who would you want around them? Instead of asking "should we?" try to think about "why shouldn't we?" That was the big factor – there was no good reason not to open our home. It is easier not to do it, but that wasn't a good enough reason. So we did!

### **What are you particularly excited about this year at St. George's?**

Lessons and Carols, which is probably my favorite event of the season. I think Bowen is excited about Sunday School and Bob about the ETC Sunday school class. For my older two that are out of the house, I love that they can still "dial in" to church so we can worship together virtually. 🙏

# NEWS & NOTES



## *from St. George's*

### ① Mission Day

We were so grateful to gather with more than 50 adults and youth to serve joyfully in our community. On September 24, we volunteered at seven local agencies tending to animals, landscaping, sorting food donations, packing welcome kits for refugees, and more. We look forward to serving together again on Saturday, December 10. Sign up at [stgeorgesnashville.org/outreach](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/outreach).

### ② Room in the Inn

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers for ensuring a smooth return of the Room in the Inn ministry on November 1! Each Tuesday evening, we need as many as 17 volunteers to provide overnight shelter and meals for 12 men. This vital ministry is part of a city-wide program that allows us to "tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary ... and all for your love's sake" (BCP, p. 134). Sign up to cook, drive, host, and more at [stgeorgesnashville.org/outreach](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/outreach).

### ③ Boulevard Bolt

After a 3-year hiatus, the Boulevard Bolt celebrated a return to the in-person race this past Thanksgiving Day. This ecumenical response to those experiencing homelessness began in 1994 as a collaboration between St. George's, Immanuel Baptist Church, and The Temple Ohabai Sholom. Proceeds from the race will be awarded to local agencies providing direct support to those experiencing or working to end homeless in our city. Thanks to all the St. Georgians who volunteered or participated in this important annual ministry.

### ④ Afghan Family Update

Our official relationship with Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE) and sponsorship of an Afghan refugee family concluded in August. Our team of eight volunteers committed six months to help this family adjust to life in America, and we are pleased to report they have made wonderful progress in difficult circumstances. The father and three young adult daughters have all found permanent employment, and the youngest child is enrolled as a high school sophomore. Two law firms are providing pro bono services for the process of seeking political asylum. The whole family continues to attend English language classes provided by NICE, and the girls all hope to attend an introductory nursing course soon. While the formal ministry is over, the friendship we've established will carry us forward. As a church, we will continue build our refugee ministry to support families in need.

### ⑤ Special Offerings

Thanks to your generous support, we have collected two special offerings in response to natural disasters in recent months. We sent \$16,800 to the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington in response to devastating flooding in eastern Kentucky. The diocese serves the eastern half of the state and used the funds to direct assistance to families who were most in need. And in response to Hurricane Ian, we collected \$23,135 for the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, which incorporates almost 80 parishes, including churches in the hardest hit areas of Sanibel Island and Pine Island.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

## A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 6:00PM**

One of the major annual events at St. George's, this beloved service is a celebration of Advent and the anticipation of the coming Christ child. This service will be led by all of St. George's choirs with interspersed readings. This service is a well-attended favorite, so please arrive early.

## MISSION DAY

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**

St. George's sends volunteer teams to share in the work of ministry by serving our fellow Nashvillians in this 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](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/outreach).

## SILENT NIGHT: A SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 6:00PM**

Recognizing that Advent and Christmas can be a particular challenge to those suffering from grief, loss, anxiety, and loneliness, St. George's offers this beautiful service of choral music, candlelight, and prayer to make space for those seeking God's healing.

## WOMEN'S ADVENT RETREAT

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17**

Come away to a lovely farmhouse in Leiper's Fork and enjoy fellowship with God and each other in a season that is all about watching and waiting. We'll be joined by special guest Kendall Vanderslice – writer, baker, and founder of educational nonprofit Edible Theology. Fascinated by God's use of food throughout the arc of the gospel, Kendall has merged her work in the kitchen with the academic study of food and theology. Women of the church are invited to join us as we consider how the love of bread transforms the way we read Scripture.

Learn more & register at [stgeorgesnashville.org/news](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/news).

## CHRISTMAS EVE

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

3:00pm Family Eucharist  
with Children's Homily

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

9:30pm Choral Prelude

10:00pm Holy Eucharist

## CHRISTMAS DAY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

10:00am Holy Eucharist

## SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

7:30am Holy Eucharist

9:00am The Table in Legacy Hall

10:00am Holy Eucharist

5:00pm Evening Prayer with Eucharist

## ASH WEDNESDAY

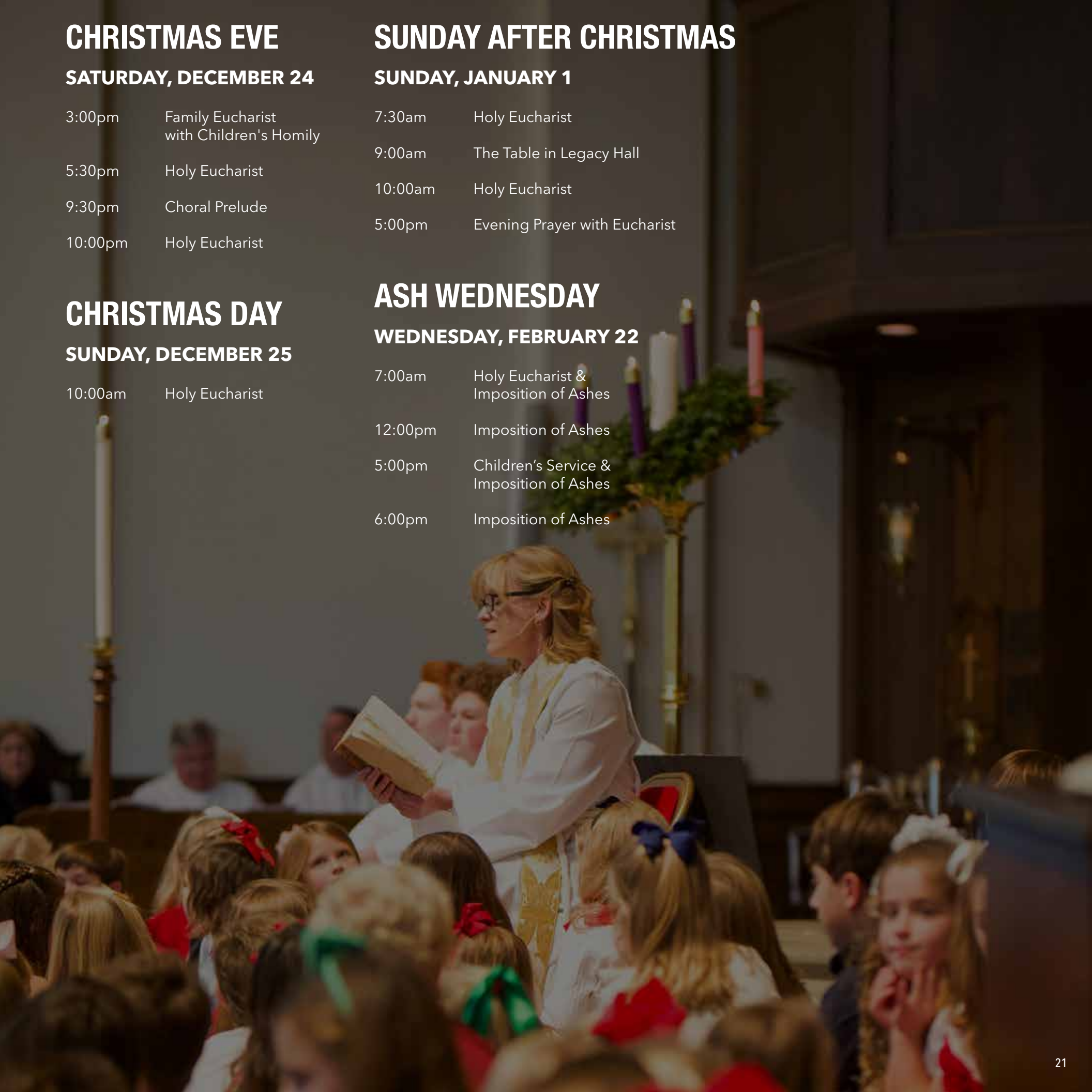
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

7:00am Holy Eucharist &  
Imposition of Ashes

12:00pm Imposition of Ashes

5:00pm Children's Service &  
Imposition of Ashes

6:00pm Imposition of Ashes



# 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](http://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](mailto:laura.zabaski@stgeorgesnashville.org)

## ST GEORGE'S FINANCIALS



## TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR TO DATE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2022

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR	VARIANCE
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Pledges	\$2,349,568	\$2,477,120	(\$127,552)	\$2,349,429	\$139
Unpledged Gifts	427,779	371,676	56,103	577,377	(149,598)
Other Income	202,436	204,500	(2,064)	311,310	(108,874)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>2,979,783</b>	<b>3,053,296</b>	<b>(73,513)</b>	<b>3,238,116</b>	<b>(258,333)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,158,503</b>	<b>3,290,318</b>	<b>(131,815)</b>	<b>2,955,302</b>	<b>203,201</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(\$178,720)</b>	<b>(\$237,022)</b>	<b>\$58,302</b>	<b>\$282,814</b>	<b>(\$461,534)</b>

# INREACH

## DO YOU NEED SHORT TERM HELP?

Call an Inreach Shepherd.

Our volunteers assist members of our church family with rides, tasks, running errands, or a few meals. Inreach "reaches in" to help smooth out temporary rough spots. It would be our joy to serve you. To request help, call the Inreach Shepherd of the month listed below. If you have other questions, please contact Jeanne Gore, Inreach Chairman, at 615-604-9856 (c), 615-371-9078 (h), or [jengalan@comcast.net](mailto:jengalan@comcast.net).

## Upcoming SHEPHERDS OF THE MONTH

### DECEMBER

Emily Walker 865-789-5798  
[emilyleahwalker@gmail.com](mailto:emilyleahwalker@gmail.com)

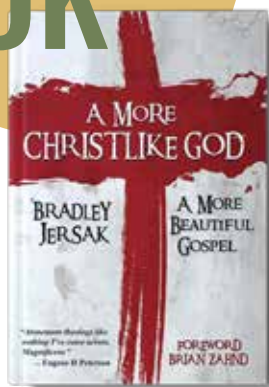
### JANUARY

Gail Molen 772-696-2267  
[gpmolen@gmail.com](mailto:gpmolen@gmail.com)

### FEBRUARY

Carrie Playfair 615-983-0722  
[carrieplayfair@yahoo.com](mailto:carrieplayfair@yahoo.com)

# BOOK NOOK



## ***A MORE CHRISTLIKE GOD: A More Beautiful Gospel***

By Bradley Jersak

As a disciple of Jesus, something I've found valuable over the years is an exposure to different perspectives, alternate ways of thinking about my Christian faith and about God. Brad Jersak's work has been a breath of fresh air and has broadened my understanding of Christ, the cross, the existence of evil, and the truth that God looks EXACTLY like

Jesus. Hence the title: A More Christlike God. This book will also serve as the principle platform in my Sunday school class in the new year.

*-The Rev. J. Malone Williams*

# TRANSITIONS

## BAPTISMS

Lilliana Yvonne Dailey,  
daughter of Jacob & Kathryn Dailey

Avery George Fitzgerald,  
son of Richard & Virginia Fitzgerald

Max Settle Fuson Jones,  
son of Paul & Ellen Fuson

Winifred Rose Fuson Jones,  
daughter of Paul & Ellen Fuson

Anderson Crenshaw McKnight,  
son of Joseph & Lucia McKnight

Irene Houston Jewell Staub,  
daughter of Joseph & Milner Staub

## DEATHS

Mary DeLacy Ferris Cate

Julia Lipscomb Jarman

Stephen Michael Logan

Mrs. Arthur C. Nelson

Charles D. Nord

Martin Lee Peterseim

Gardner Orr Smith

Ann McClure Harwell Wells

## BIRTHS

Alexander Stonehouse Coleman,  
son of Nathan & Lisa Coleman

Winston Porter Filipski,  
son of Russell & Rebecca Filipski

Olivia Stephen Garrett,  
daughter of Steven & Emily Garrett

Ogden Hatton Grace,  
daughter of Frederick &  
Catherine Grace

Christopher Adam Scales,  
son of Christopher & Emerson Scales

Henry Heller Schulte,  
son of Tim & Catherine Schulte

## NEW MEMBERS

Courtney & Mary Baker

David & Nancy Benskin

William Clark

Nathan & Lisa Coleman

Pierson & Shan Davis

Russell & Becky Filipski  
Lisa Foote

Savannah Jackson

Kenneth & Sukey Johnson,  
and Trip and Tully

Mark & Vicki Markham

Roe & Kennedy Moore

Alfred & Kathye Nippert

Dan & Jackie O'Dowd

Jon & Kathleen Polivka

Russell Swanson, and Tinselton

Drew & Tee Tanney

Josh Trantum

John & Sarah VanMeter

Mark & Alex Waldo

Matthew & Evelin Yardley

# 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](http://stgeorgesnashville.org)

♦ Nursery available (8 weeks – 2 years)

♥ Childcare available (3 – 5 years)

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols**  
Sunday, December 4 at 6:00pm

**Silent Night: A Service of Hope & Healing**  
Sunday, December 11 at 6:00pm

**Christmas Services**  
Saturday, December 24 at 3:00pm, 5:30pm, and 10:00pm (with choral prelude at 9:30pm)  
Sunday, December 25 at 10:00am

**New Year's Day**  
Services at 7:30, The Table at 9:00am, 10:00am, 5:00pm

**Ash Wednesday**  
Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00am, Noon, 5:00pm, 6:00pm

For the most up-to-date information on all our worship offerings please visit [stgeorgesnashville.org](http://stgeorgesnashville.org)

 Follow us at [facebook.com/stgeorgesnashville](https://facebook.com/stgeorgesnashville)

 Follow us on Instagram @stgeorgesnashville

 Podcast | Sermons at St. George's

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



Youth Confirmation Retreat

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

### Communications Team

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

### Graphic Design

Mazzo Media

### Photography

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Front Cover: Children's Christmas Pageant