



# The Shield

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • WINTER 2023-24 • ISSUE NO. 39



Receiving • Living • Sharing  
THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## **THE TRANSFORMATIVE WORK OF WORSHIP**

**THE RENEWAL OF WORSHIP**

**AN INVITATION TO JOURNEY INWARD:  
LISTENING TO THE "SLOW ART" OF MAKOTO FUJIMURA**

**CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR PILGRIMS:  
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL & CAMINO OF SANTIAGO**

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## Letter from Malone and Colin

In *The Confessions*, St. Augustine addresses God with these words, “You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” We were created for love—love of God and love of neighbor. And yet the problem we face is that our love is directed to lesser things. Forces pull our love away from God and neighbor. As Christians, how do we counteract the forces that draw us away from ultimate things? How do we redirect our hearts? The answer is communal worship. Our worship is the antidote because worship redirects our hearts back to God. As we hear the word of God proclaimed, sing praises to God in song, and hear God’s word of absolution spoken over us, we remember the one who made us for himself as we are enchanted by the beauty of his love.

Most of the time we are not even aware this is happening. We slip into the pew a few minutes late. Our mind wanders to the week ahead. We might even catch ourselves dozing off to sleep during church. But if we are faithful in attending to our shared worship, this process begins to work inside of us. After a year, or maybe two or three, we discover a heightened devotion to God with our thoughts returning to God during our day. The promises of God seem a little more real and applicable in our lives. This is the transformative work of worship as it shapes our hearts.

Theologian James K.A. Smith writes, “Jesus’ command to follow him is a command to align our loves and longings with his—to want what God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God and crave a world where he is all in all—a vision encapsulated by the shorthand ‘the kingdom of God.’” Whether it is our traditional Sunday morning services in the Nave, The Table service in Legacy Hall, daily Eucharist in the Chapel, choral evensong, or our weekly healing services, we are aligning our loves and longings with God and his ways. We are turning away from lesser things and aligning our hearts with the one who truly matters.

In this issue of *The Shield* we explore all the ways we worship at St. George’s. We should never take for granted our ability to gather for shared worship as Christians. What a gift it is to join with brothers and sisters in Christ as we direct our hearts to the God who meets us in Christ.

J. Malone Gilliam, Rector

Colin Ambrose, Vice Rector & Chief of Staff



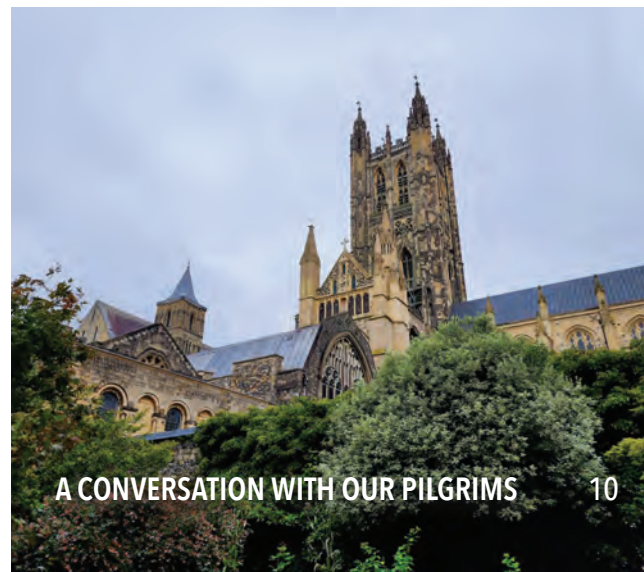
WORSHIPPING IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS 6



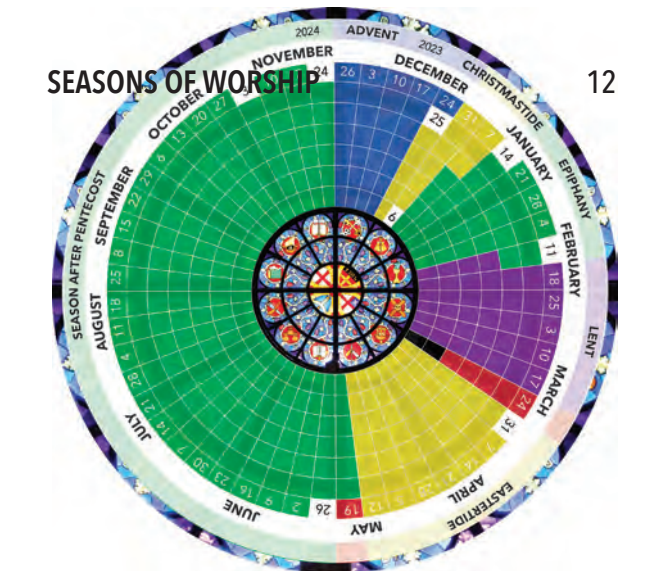
KINDERGARTEN CORNER: YES, JESUS LOVES ME 7



AN INVITATION TO JOURNEY INWARD: LISTENING TO THE "SLOW ART" OF MAKOTO FUKIMARA 8



A CONVERSATION WITH OUR PILGRIMS 10



SEASONS OF WORSHIP 12



MEET THE NASHVILLE FELLOWS CLASS OF 2024 16

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 LETTER FROM MALONE AND COLIN
- 4 THE RENEWAL OF WORSHIP
- 6 WORSHIPPING IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS
- 7 KINDERGARTEN CORNER: YES, JESUS LOVES ME
- 8 AN INVITATION TO JOURNEY INWARD: LISTENING TO THE "SLOW ART" OF MAKOTO FUJIMURA
- 10 A CONVERSATION WITH OUR PILGRIMS
- 12 SEASONS OF WORSHIP
- 14 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE
- 16 MEET THE NASHVILLE FELLOWS CLASS OF 2024
- 18 NEWS & NOTES
- 20 ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS
- 22 TREASURER'S REPORT
- 23 TRANSITIONS & BOOK NOOK



# The Renewal of *Worship*

by the Rev. Dr. David Barr

**T**he Latin phrase "*lex orandi, lex credendi*," so often used within our tradition to describe the importance of worship, is typically translated as, "the rule of prayer is the rule of belief." The central idea here is useful and core to our liturgical life together; our way of common prayer should shape the nature of our belief. And yet another translation might be: the way of worship is the way of belief. That is, worship itself is the way into belief, faith, and trust—not the reverse, as one might expect. Worship, oddly enough, precedes doctrine.

Even while aspects of this Latin dictum feel counterintuitive, in fact, nothing is especially new or groundbreaking about the ancient formulation. The phrase itself likely comes from way back—well over a thousand years ago—from the Christian writer Prosper of Aquitaine. Prosper himself was not an original thinker, but a disciple of St. Augustine, and a popularizer of Augustine's preeminent teachings on God's grace. And in this way, his formula (if it was truly his!), draws powerfully from the profound Augustinian and Pauline insight that what we love makes us who we are. The things that we attend to, adore, and worship give shape to our decisions, the formation of our character, the culture of our families, and our very souls.

The immediate challenge of this logic is simple. Whatever we spend our lives worshipping—success, stability, a particular lifestyle, or a relationship, it will ultimately determine what we are like. Worship money, for instance, and your ability to acquire it or not will determine all the decisions you make. Worship a lifestyle, and you'll do everything to collect the tokens that signal who or what you want to be. It's a sobering reality—particularly because whatever we worship, aside from our maker, has no concern for our well-being and joy.

Choral Evensong

# Adult Confirmation & Anglican Christianity

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“The things that we attend to, adore, and worship give shape to our decisions, the formation of our character, the culture of our families, and our very souls.”

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But the grace of this truth is far greater. Place yourself in contexts where you might come to love God, and he will make you more like him. Allow your heart, soul, and mind to fall into adoration and awe of God’s character, and you will begin, little by little or by leaps and bounds, to grow into his likeness. It is, in fact, what we were made to do—worship the one who made us.

At St. George’s, one of our greatest commitments is the worship of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is not simply about maintaining beautiful services, excellent music, or fidelity to our rich liturgical tradition, it is about helping people find what they were made to do. It is about ushering people into a space where God might capture our hearts and lift up our souls to recognize his greatness. This calling is even laid out obviously and plainly in our opening collect for purity. We ask God to “cleanse the thoughts of our hearts” by the power of his Spirit. Why? So that we might “magnify” his name. When we worship God, everything else falls into place, and our “bounden duty” becomes our delight.

But what does this look like? Several months ago, I was serving in one of our Sunday services, and as I listened to the choir sing the sequence hymn, I was carried into some fresh appreciation of God and his work, and in that moment, I completely forgot to walk to the altar and read the gospel! I was caught up, taken, pulled up short. When I finally became aware of my liturgical responsibility I went to the altar, held the gospel book, began to read the words of Scripture aloud, and I found myself believing them with a deeper consent and a greater faith. Here was God. Here are his words to us. I worshipped, and then loved him more. And so, it is just as Prosper said in the early 5th century, *lex orandi, lex credendi*.

When you come to worship at St. George’s, please let yourself be taken up and away. Attend to God’s goodness and character, made known in the person of Jesus, and let your worship of him change your soul. Show up and see what he does when you worship. ✝

## HAVE YOU ALREADY ATTENDED ST. GEORGE'S 101 AND ARE LOOKING FOR A NEXT STEP?

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

If this image compels you, please join us for adult confirmation class every Sunday morning at 10:05am from January to May. We welcome people from any faith tradition, even Episcopalians simply looking for a refresher on the Anglican faith.

For details follow the QR code below or simply contact Martha Rodes, Director of Lay Ministry Engagement:

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





## WORSHIPPING IN THE *Beauty* OF HOLINESS

**A**t St. George's we worship in a variety of ways because our God is both King and Shepherd. And each service allows us to hear from God in a different way. The familiar prayers of the Holy Eucharist service may bring comfort, or the smell of incense may infuse your heart and mind with love for the Holy Spirit in and around us. Or perhaps the anointing of healing oil feels like a tangible form of God's blessing in our lives. Through all forms of prayer and worship, God is there. And by worshipping together, we find that our lives are transformed further and further into his likeness. In this season of anticipation, we invite you to worship with us—in old ways and new.

### DAILY WORSHIP

At 7:00am, Monday through Saturday, a small number of people gather to start their days with a brief service of Eucharist. Offering each day to God builds a pattern of prayer and awareness that time is a gift from the one who made us.

### CHORAL EVENSONG

Choral Evensong has been sung daily in the Anglican Church since the 16th century. At evensong, the choir sings much of the music, which illuminates the biblical texts so that those in the pews may have a time of stillness—to meditate, pray, and be fully aware of the mystical beauty of the Lord.

### COMPLINE

Stemming from monastic practice, compline is the last service of the day before bedtime. From the same root as the word "complete," compline in the strict sense marks the beginning of a time of silence—from the end of the service until the next morning. This brief and beautiful service is set in a darkened church and sung by a small men's choir. Incense and candlelight provide a beautiful setting for prayer in this quiet service.

### HEALING PRAYER

All of us need healing, whether it be physical, emotional, or relational. Scripture teaches us to bring these needs before God. We do this at the 10:00am Wednesday Healing Service in the Chapel. At this service we share Eucharist and receive healing prayers and anointing. We also have prayer stations at the 8:45, 9:00, and 11:00am Sunday services where you can receive prayers from our Prayer Ministry Team.

### STAFF & CLERGY PRAYERS

Every weekday the entire staff gathers for a short devotional and shared prayer to begin the day. Following staff prayers, your clergy meet to reflect on the Scriptures and to pray for the needs of the church.

### EVENING PRAYER

Our Sunday service of Evening Prayer comes from the Daily Office, created centuries ago to be at the heart of our Anglican faith. Each service from the Daily Office has selections that remind us of the time of day, as well as the corresponding season of life. In Evening Prayer, we read the tender lines of the *phos hilaron*, "Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises..." (p. 118). Some of the most beautiful texts in our prayer book—and in Scripture—are found in Evening Prayer and the other services in the Daily Office.

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday morning is when most of the church comes together to share Eucharist, prayers, and music. Our traditional worship in the Nave shows God's transcendence and majesty, and our modern service called The Table invites us to experience God as our friend and shepherd. Weekly worship is our anchor and is a foundational part of our Sabbath-keeping, as we orient ourselves toward God.✝



# Yes, Jesus Loves Me

**E**ach week the 4 and 5-year-olds at St. George's Kindergarten go to chapel for a short service. This service is adapted to support children as they learn what it means to be a Christian. The service is led by the Kindergarten Chaplain, Father David Barr, and his friend, Doug the Dragon. Doug, who hails from the Louisiana bayou, is a beloved visitor at chapel. He is always getting into something, and the children love learning from what he does—and sometimes doesn't—do well.

While chapel is fun, it's also a formative part of each child's education. Our music teacher, Sarah Nuss, leads everyone in songs and simple hymns. And every week, David and Doug teach the children a Bible story and give birthday blessings. The children learn age-appropriate prayers including the Lord's Prayer and a special Kindergarten Creed. Throughout the week, the teachers incorporate the prayers and Bible story into their classroom curriculum.

The students sometimes begin the year rather timid, but once they adjust to the ritual and routine, chapel becomes a treasured part of their week at St. George's Kindergarten. Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit chapel at any time throughout the year and be blessed! ✝



# An Invitation to Journey Inward:

## LISTENING TO THE “SLOW ART” OF MAKOTO FUJIMURA

by the Rev. Margery Kennelly

One of the things I remember learning in art school is that darkness can only be represented on paper or canvas by the application of many transparent washes. Or to put it the other way around—if you apply an opaque layer of black to the paper, it becomes a flat plane, not a space inviting you into darkness. When I stand in front of Makoto Fujimura’s painting, *My Bright Abyss #1* (pictured to the right), I am drawn into darkness. It seems to stretch back in time and space. But the darkness is not all. There are also glimmerings coming forward. These glimmerings are the mineral pigments that sparkle subtly—evoking in my imagination galaxies and the most ancient lights of creation. This is the light that shines in the darkness which the darkness has not overcome. There is a stunning green swath at the bottom which causes me to remember the smell of damp grass on a summer night. And that fragrance says to me, “Life is alive!” And after looking even longer, I see traces of a cross coming through the texture. When Makoto Fujimura was in the Bradford Gallery looking at that painting, he smiled and explained that the cross had emerged from the contact of the canvas with the wooden stretcher behind it. He marveled at how perfect this “accidental” impression had been on this canvas.

Looking at an expressive painting for a long time takes us on a journey outward and then inward. Art is not a riddle to be solved or a code to be broken open. But it has power to be a window that takes us out of the grimy utilitarian world of consumerism that ultimately belittles us. It lets us breathe in the beauty of God’s own majesty and loving purpose for us. Receiving God’s gift is, in itself, an act of worship.

Makoto Fujimura speaking at opening reception  
for *My Bright Abyss: Paintings & Prints*.





Opening reception for *My Bright Abyss: Paintings & Prints*.

## SLOW ART

When Makoto describes how he works, the modifier he employs is “slow.” He purposefully enters an ancient Japanese process called Nihonga, which involves the intricate preparation of pigments and glue. There are as many as 70 layers applied to a single canvas. And because there is chemistry involved in the minerals and the canvas and the atmosphere itself, the process is a bit of a dance. In his book *Art and Faith: A Theology of Making*, he writes, “I realized that I was practicing a devotional liturgy of sorts. I imagine my water-based paint to possess the tears of Christ.” In this, he testifies to the sacred nature of making.

This deliberate slowness and awareness of meaning beyond accomplishment reminds us of our own central act of worship: the Holy Eucharist. In that sacred ritualized action, one of the things we do is give thanks to God for giving us all things: “All things come of thee, Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.” In that simple statement, we acknowledge a fundamental truth about ourselves and the God who made us. We participate in the ongoing creation of God’s material world. God has given us this role—not because he needs us, but because he loves us. This dignifies all our work in a wonderful way. A designer friend said to me recently that she discovered her gift of creativity late in life. It has brought her such delight and even paid the bills! But she had never imagined that the gift was, in fact, a participation in God’s kingdom work—which is beautiful. As Fujimura states, “When we make, we invite the abundance of God’s world into the reality of scarcity all about us.”

## MAKING AND THE INCARNATION

A theological premise that sets Christianity and Judaism apart from other faith traditions is the emphasis on the original goodness of the material world. God made it and pronounced his delight in it. When Christians speak of the spiritual life, we do not see it as a contrast to the physical life. We acknowledge the fall that distorted the perfect world God created. But when God took on flesh and dwelt among us, he did this to reclaim the preciousness of creation and reinfuse it with the goodness and power of his own spirit. And in so doing he also renewed our human capacity to create for good. Jesus was not only the son of God—he was also a carpenter, a maker. “Making” takes on a glorious significance as one way that God infuses the world afresh.

As we enter the season of Advent and Christmastide, it is fitting to reimagine our calling as makers. Mary the virgin is a beautiful reminder of our blessedness in this. By saying yes to God, her own body in a most mysterious way participates in the restoration of all things. You might argue that each of us is a maker of something—perhaps you are a woodworker, a writer, a gardener, a baker, a brewer, a planner, or an architect. As you contemplate what you make, can you imagine that this activity is a participation in God’s work of making all things new? As one way that heaven permeates the earth? †

## BRADFORD GALLERY EVENT

# Silence and Beauty

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18  
AT 5:30PM**

Together we’ll share conversation inspired by Makoto Fujimura’s diptych, *Silence and Beauty*, currently on exhibit in the Bradford Gallery.

In the foreword of Fujimura’s book of the same name, Philip Yancey writes, “In this world of pain and suffering, God often seems silent. Fujimura’s reflections show that light is yet present in darkness, and that silence speaks with hidden beauty and truth.” After a reception in the gallery, our conversation, facilitated by Christina Ananias, will explore the mystery of beauty that emerges even when we cannot hear God.

Christina Ananias is a candidate in the Doctor of Theology program at Duke Divinity School and teaches at Belmont University. Her research focuses on the particular contributions that modernist and contemporary visual art bring to the practice of theology, and how theology informs the interpretation and practice of art-making. She and her family are new to the St. George’s community.

**NEXT EVENT:  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

Stay tuned for details!

# OUR PILGRIMS



*St. George's Choir with Archbishop Justin Welby (center) and Dean David Monteith (left).*

## **CLAUDIA & DON PADFIELD** Pilgrims to Canterbury Cathedral, July 2023

**Tell us a bit about your pilgrimage—where you went and who you traveled with.**

The Choir & Choristers of St. George's were invited to serve as Choir-in-Residence at Canterbury Cathedral, seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the worldwide Anglican church. In July, we traveled to Canterbury with the choirs and other parishioners for the residency. In addition to the work of leading daily evensong and Sunday services, we participated in special excursions including Dover Castle, Leeds Castle, Windsor Castle, and the Historic Dockyard Chatham.

## **How was worship a central part of the pilgrimage?**

Even though we knew we would be participating in daily worship, the deep spiritual connection took us by surprise. In addition to the nightly choral evensong, Don went to morning prayer which was held in various smaller chapels around the cathedral. Worshipping with Archbishop Justin Welby on several occasions was an unexpected joy!

## **Is there a moment you remember that was particularly moving or special?**

We stayed at the Cathedral Lodge; being able to wake up to the cathedral outside our window, hear the bells practiced in the afternoon, and returning to the hushed grounds every night felt sacred in and of itself. We feel blessed to have made a spiritual pilgrimage together to Canterbury Cathedral—much as others did while we were there, and countless others did before us.



*Pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago in Aruza, Spain.*

## **SARAH ANN EZZELL**

**Pilgrim on the Camino de Santiago, July 2023**

**Tell us a bit about your pilgrimage—where you went and who you traveled with.**

A group of St. George's members and friends walked 75 miles (100 km) from Saria to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, along the Camino de Santiago, or the Way of St. James. The Camino has many routes, but they all end at the Cathedral of Santiago, where the tomb of St. James the apostle resides.

**What about the pilgrimage surprised you?**

I think it impacted me that I turned 75 years old this year, and I walked 75 miles on this pilgrimage. We hiked daily for five days straight without a single day off. I expected to hit a wall, but I never did - I had it in my mind that I could do it, and I did!

**How was worship a central part of the pilgrimage?**

Before we even began, we worshiped with the Bishop of Spain, and he blessed our shells (outward symbols of our pilgrimage) and credentials - a booklet which is stamped along each leg of the Camino by individuals at shops, churches, and even artists along the way. We began and ended each day with devotionals, reflections,

singing, and prayer. And on our last day, we attended worship at the Cathedral of St. James - it was filled with people! The cathedral has the largest botafumeiro (incensor) in the world, and during a special part of the service, it was swung all the way up to ceiling, sending smoke rising like the prayers of the faithful pilgrims.

**We believe pilgrimage, like worship, is best experienced with others. In what way was your experience made more meaningful because you shared it with others from St. George's?**

A pilgrimage like this gives you time to think about things for self-improvement. And you really get to know your companions. It was a great bonding trip - I love these people. We learned a lot about each other, and it was very meaningful.

And although we each walked at our own pace, it was really a special moment when we finished the journey together as a group. It was a celebration as we walked into the Cathedral square together. We had an experience together unlike any other.

**What advice do you have for someone thinking about making a pilgrimage?**

Go with an open mind and open heart. Go knowing that it will be a challenge. Plan ahead, and put it all on the road when you get there. ✝

# Seasons of

# Worship

**T**he liturgical calendar of the Episcopal church offers us intentional time for reflection on broad themes from Scripture and is marked by the seasons and Holy Days. Walking through the Christian year reminds us that Christianity is best understood through its liturgical worship and praise rather than through abstract theological formulations. Each season invites us to approach different aspects of God and the gospel given to us in Christ.

We begin each new year with **Advent**, anticipating the birth of Christ for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. During Advent we learn how to wait hopefully on the Lord—the Lord who comes on Christmas and who promises to come at the end of time. The color of Advent season is blue.

The season of **Christmas** spans 12 days, as we celebrate the great truth of the incarnation: God becoming human in the person of Jesus. We celebrate Immanuel, God with us. The color of the Christmas season is white.

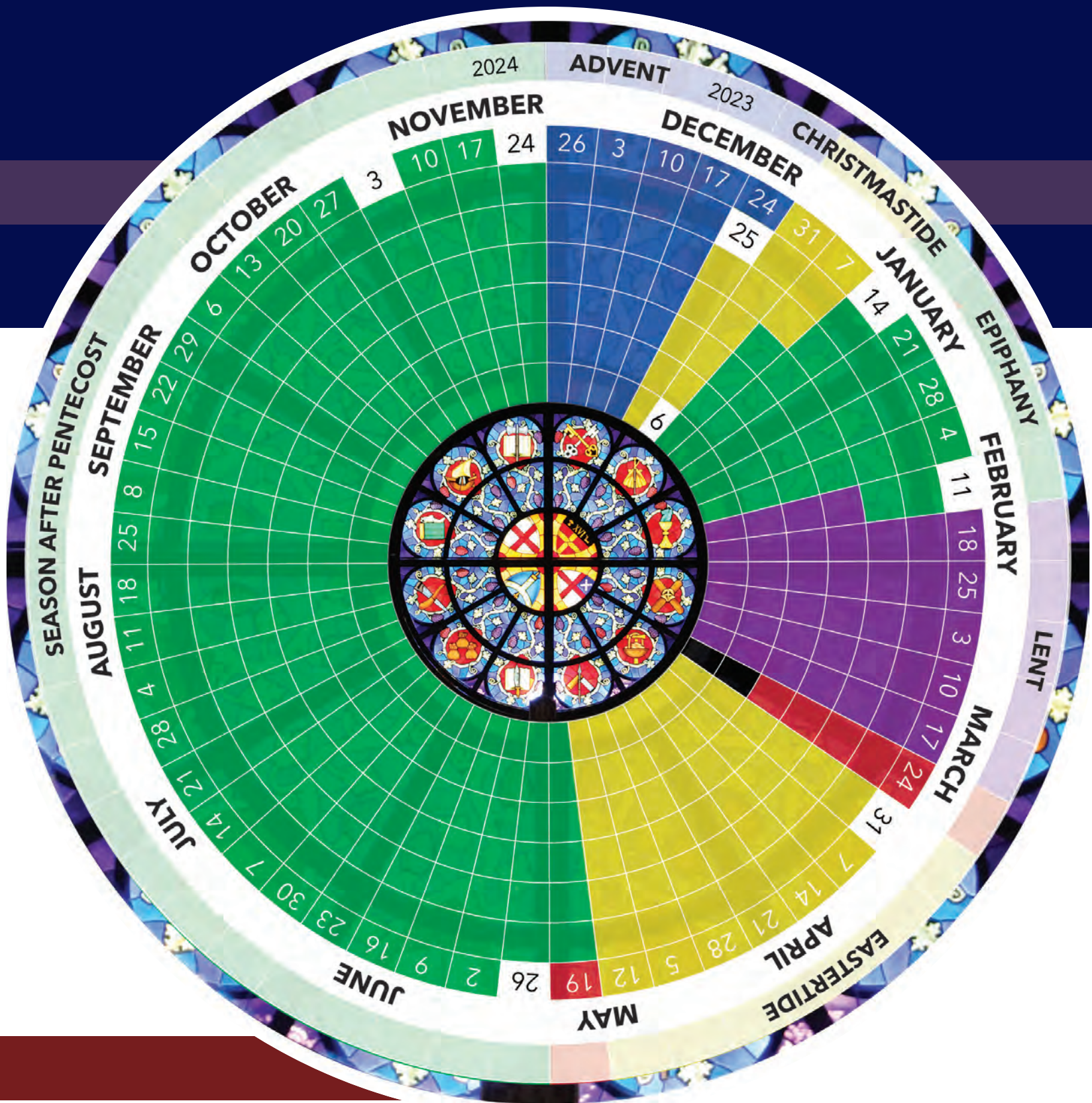
**Epiphany**, also known as the Feast of Lights, traditionally marks the coming of the magi to see the Christ child. It's also the season in which we celebrate symbols of Jesus' divinity, including his baptism with water and the Holy Spirit, the miracle of the wedding at Cana, and his transfiguration before Peter, James, and John. During Epiphany we approach the God who makes himself known, both in Christ and in creation. The color of the Epiphany season is green.

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, **Lent** is a season with 40 days of preparation before Holy Week. Remembering our need for God's forgiveness, Lent is marked by liturgies of penitence and solemnity. Many observe Lent with individual disciplines of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. The color of the Lenten season is purple.

**Holy Week** begins with Palm Sunday and concludes with the triduum, the three days before Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. During this time, we revisit the events leading to the resurrection on Easter Day. The color for the beginning of Holy Week is red, and it changes to black for Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

**Easter Season** is filled with 50 days of joy as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, in which we glimpse God's future for us and for his creation. During the Easter season we recount Jesus' appearances before his ascension to heaven. The season concludes with the Day of Pentecost (meaning "50th day") and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The color of Easter season is white.

**The Season after Pentecost**, also known as Ordinary Time, begins the Monday following Pentecost and continues into the fall. Ordinary Time is often referred to as "the growing season." During this season, we celebrate the complete mystery of Jesus Christ, his life, teachings, miracles and words, in order to better follow him as disciples. The color of Ordinary Time is green. †





*Paige & Henry Menge and Kim Patikas, 2024 Annual Campaign Chairs*

**S**t. George's is a large and thriving parish. You can step into the building nearly any day of the week to see people of all ages gathering here—this is good news! St. George's provides a variety of ministries that happen every day, not just on Sundays. Our building and people provide a place for solace and a place for joy. It's where we build community and grow in faith.

The scope, size, and complexity of our parish life requires our vestry to budget responsibly 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. As the year progresses, your gifts count toward fulfilling that pledge, and the church is able to predict the resources available throughout the year.

St. George's endowment only covers 3% of our annual expenses. **We need the faithful and financial support of all individuals and families as we seek to further God's kingdom together.** Every pledge matters. We invite you to:



**PRAY** - Give thanks to God for the blessings in your life. Pray about making a sacrificial gift to the church for the ultimate growth of God's kingdom on earth.



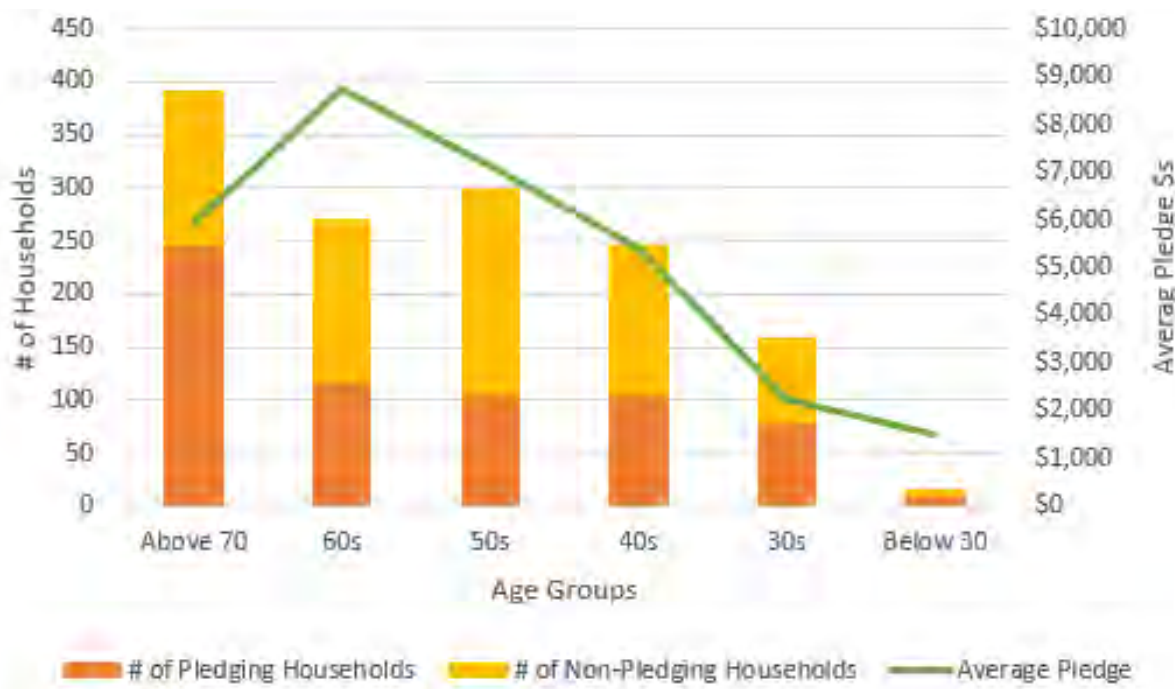
**PLEDGE** - **Make your pledge** with a printed card, by logging into your Realm account, or by using our online pledge form.



**PRAY AGAIN** - Pray that you can fulfill your pledge in 2024 and that the leaders of St. George's are - as you have been - faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to the church.



2023 Cornerstone Society Dinner



## INSIGHT

The chart above shows our parish's pledging demographics from last year's campaign, indicating that fewer than 50 percent of 1,400+ households pledge to the church. Each family can make a difference as we advance the mission of the church.

Will you help us increase the number of pledging families at St. George's? ▶▶▶



We are grateful to those who have come before us and those who will follow. Each year, names are added to the plaque near the Gathering Space, celebrating church members who have made a commitment for a future gift to the church. A planned gift might look like a bequest in a will, a disbursement from retirement accounts, or listing the church as a beneficiary of an insurance policy. No matter how you decide to honor St. George's with your estate or finances, you can be sure your gift will be used to further the mission of the church for generations to come.

Thanks to members of the Cornerstone Society, the endowment of our parish—the financial cornerstone of St. George's—remains strong for the years ahead. As you make your year-end plans, we hope you will consider making a commitment to St. George's future through the Cornerstone Society.

Visit [stgeorgesnashville.org/planned-giving](https://stgeorgesnashville.org/planned-giving) to learn more and enroll in the Cornerstone Society.

[STGEORGESNASHVILLE.ORG/ANNUALCAMPAIGN](https://STGEORGESNASHVILLE.ORG/ANNUALCAMPAIGN)



Photo Credit: Mary Deaton Heldman

# MEET THE Nashville Fellows

CLASS OF 2024

**E**ach year, we're delighted to welcome a new class of Fellows to St. George's through this ecumenical ministry alongside West End Community Church and Covenant Presbyterian Church. From August to May, this group of four young adults will participate in the life of our congregation, live with a church family, maintain part-time employment, and study and discern God's call for their lives. Volunteers support this partner ministry of St. George's through prayer, hospitality, professional and personal mentoring, and shared relationships. Visit our website at [stgeorgesnashville.org/fellows](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/fellows) to learn more about how you might support this exciting ministry now and in the future.





Nashville Fellows Class of 2024, pictured with John Allen, Executive Director, and Sally Chambers-Rhea, Program Coordinator.

# **THE NASHVILLE FELLOWS PROGRAM**



**DEREK BLAIR**  
***Mechanicsburg, PA***

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh in Economics, Derek has served as a Young Life leader and has a newfound interest in bow-hunting. Derek is hosted this year by Daniel Huff and is working for First Horizon bank in financial planning.



**ALEX NELSON**  
***Phillipsburg, PA***

A graduate of Penn State in Finance & Real Estate, Alex has served as a Young Life leader and high school track and field coach. Alex is spending the year at the home of Denise Yardley and her children, and he's employed by Charles Hawkins Co., a commercial real estate firm.



**LAURA DUFFETT**  
***Falls Church, VA***

A graduate of James Madison University in social work, Laura has worked combatting human trafficking, volunteered with refugees, and is training for a half marathon. Laura is living with Laura Proctor, and she is worked with the Nashville Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition.



**LIV ORTMANN**  
***Edinburgh, IN***

A graduate of Grove City College in Sociology & Pre-Law, Liv previously volunteered with her school's orientation board. She has traveled to four of the seven continents and has a brother living in Nashville. Liv is staying with Amy Skillicorn and is working for John Bouchard & Sons Co. doing historical research.

# NEWS & NOTES

from St. George's



## ① **First Young Adult Mission Trip**

In August a group of seven young adults from St. George's traveled to San Andrés Sajcabajá, Guatemala to serve at an organization called Hogar de Vida (Home of Life). Hogar de Vida provides a temporary home for at-risk children with full-time shelter, education, and care until they can return to a safe home environment. It also serves as a community outreach center that donates food, teaches healthy nutrition, repairs/builds homes, and more. While there, volunteers helped with day-to-day tasks like landscaping, delivering food, childcare, painting, and teaching Bible stories. But the real blessing was the opportunity to participate in a community wholly devoted to Jesus. Our young adults are hopeful that this is the beginning of a long partnership, and they are at work planning for a trip next summer.

## ② **Special Offering for Maui**

The August fires in Maui led to devastating loss of life and property all over the island, but especially the town of Lahaina. St. George's held a special collection in support of the Diocese of Hawai'i's immediate relief efforts through their "care-van ministry," A Cup of Cold Water. Volunteers with this long-established ministry were ready to serve immediately, and they made daily runs around the island to distribute critical supplies and care to people in need. Your generous donations were sent directly to support this ministry as they responded to the immediate and ongoing needs of people affected by the fires.

## ③ **Farmers Market Proceeds Donated to Cul2Vate**

Each year, proceeds from the Farmers Market are donated to a food-oriented agency in the Nashville area. This year's proceeds were presented to Cul2vate, a Nashville farm which serves physically and spiritually hungry individuals in Davidson and Williamson Counties. Cul2vate grows food to help meet the needs those who lack healthy food, and they employ workers in need of a second chance. Through the program, their workers receive life skills and job skills training before finding gainful full-time job placement.

## ④ **Episcopal School of Nashville visits The Table**

What a joy it was to have students from Episcopal School of Nashville sing for us at The Table one Sunday this fall. Their families were invited to worship with us, and they shared fellowship at a light reception after the service. St. George's played an integral part in the school's founding in 2016. Since then, we have found many ways to partner with them, including our recent Mission Day in October. Learn more at [stgeorgesnashville.org/partner-opportunities](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/partner-opportunities).

## ⑤ **Mission Day**

As has become a tradition at St. George's, each season we go out into the community to serve organizations doing meaningful work. In October, dozens of church members gathered to volunteer with some of our long-standing partners as well as organizations we served for the first time: Barefoot Republic Camp & Retreat Center, Lambcroft Ministries/The Cookery, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and There With Care. Mission Days continue to be one of the most meaningful ways we connect with our neighbors in Nashville. Watch for details about our next Mission Day!

## ⑥ **Cultivating Connection and Purpose in an Anxious Age**

In an event co-hosted by St. George's and First Presbyterian Church, Dr. Warren Kinghorn, MD/ThD of Duke Divinity and Medical Schools presented a special talk in October at First Presbyterian Church More than 150 people attended for conversation around the topic, "What Do We Really Need? Cultivating Connection and Purpose in an Anxious Age." In a discussion moderated by Malone Gilliam, the group engaged in topics including the Christian theology response to anxiety and practical strategies to navigate anxiety. Another event with Duke Divinity faculty is planned in Nashville for the spring—stay tuned for details.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ▶ A SERVICES OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 • 6:00PM**

Prelude by Dr. Wilma Jensen at 5:30PM

A beloved annual tradition at St. George's, the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols shares the joy and wonder of the promised Messiah through profound Scripture readings, Advent carols, and beautiful choral anthems. This festive service features all our dedicated choirs: St. George's Choir, the Choristers of St. George's, and St. Dunstan's Choir. Dr. Wilma Jensen, our Organist & Choirmaster Emerita, will offer a 30-minute prelude for this special occasion. This service is a well-attended favorite, so please arrive early.

## ▶ CLERGY COCOA BAR

**SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 3 & 10 AT 10:05AM**

As we savor the beautiful Advent season, we know there's a cultural push toward busyness. Take a moment to slow down on Sunday morning by joining the clergy for fellowship over steaming mugs of cocoa, cider, or coffee – with all the fixin's.

## ▶ SILENT NIGHT: A SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 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 with choral music, candlelight, and prayer to make space for those seeking God's healing.

## ▶ MOZART BIRTHDAY CONCERT

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 • 12:00PM**

Celebrating one of the most remarkable composers in history, the Mozart Birthday Concert has become an annual delight here at St. George's. Led by Nashville-based musician Roger Wiesmeyer and friends, we enjoy the delightful music of Mozart, celebrating his legacy as a composer. Each year, donations are collected for a deserving nonprofit organization.

## ▶ ABRAHAM WALLACE, ORGAN CONCERT

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • 6:00PM**

Abraham Wallace is this year's Organ Scholar and the recipient of the 2023-24 Gerre Hancock Internship through the Association of Anglican Musicians. Given as part of the *In Excelsis* Concert Series, his concert program is loosely designed after the Holy Communion service from *The Book of Common Prayer* (1928), using selected prayers as inspiration for each piece of music. Opening with Gerre Hancock's *Meditation on Union Seminary* and concluding with a beloved movement from Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, this program is sure to delight and inspire.

## ▶ MARDI GRAS PARTY & PARADE

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
& SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

All families with children are invited to a festive Mardi Gras Celebration happening on Saturday, February 10 at 5:00pm. Before we enter the penitential season of Lent, we'll celebrate with pizza, king cake, mask decorating, games, and more. The next morning, join us at The Table in Legacy Hall for a children's parade. Details and registration for the party will be available online at [stgeorgesnashville.org/children](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/children).

# & UPCOMING EVENTS

## ADVENT IV

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

10:00am The Table in Legacy Hall

## CHRISTMAS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

3:00pm Holy Eucharist with Children's Homily

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

9:30pm Choral Prelude

10:00pm Holy Eucharist

## CHRISTMAS

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25**

10:00am Holy Eucharist

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

7:30am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am The Table in Legacy Hall

5:00pm Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist

## THE EPIPHANY

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6**

7:00am Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

Regular Sunday Schedule - see back cover for details.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

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 make a donation online.



## BY MAIL

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

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



## STOCK

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

For more information, contact Laura Zabaski  
[laura.zabaski@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:laura.zabaski@stgeorgesnashville.org)

ST   
GEORGE'S  
FINANCIALS

## TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR TO DATE THROUGH OCTOBER 2023



	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR	VARIANCE
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Pledges	\$3,106,653	\$2,976,934	\$129,719	\$2,650,338	\$456,315
Unpledged Gifts	544,177	401,981	142,196	508,063	36,114
Other Income	234,946	210,667	24,279	203,808	31,138
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>3,885,776</b>	<b>3,589,581</b>	<b>296,195</b>	<b>3,362,209</b>	<b>523,567</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,699,823</b>	<b>3,880,593</b>	<b>(180,771)</b>	<b>3,478,590</b>	<b>221,233</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>\$185,953</b>	<b>(\$291,012)</b>	<b>\$476,965</b>	<b>(\$116,381)</b>	<b>\$302,334</b>

# TRANSITIONS

## BIRTHS

Olivia May Aquino, daughter of Cat & Enzo Aquino  
Marguerite Grier Grace, daughter of Catherine & Frederick Grace  
Carl August Grote V, son of Frances & Carl Grote IV  
Elizabeth Jane Irving, daughter of Lindsay and Brian Irving  
Camille Martha May, daughter of Lauren & Philip May  
John Thomas McDaniel, son of Helen & Jack McDaniel  
Annie Herrington Petro, daughter of Kathleen & Chris Petro  
Murphy Powell Regen, son of Lauren & Powell Regen  
Avery Charlotte Stroop, daughter of Ellen Hammer and Stephanos Stroop  
Margaret Anderson Tynes, daughter of Sara & Blair Tynes

## BAPTISMS

Charlotte Ann Bivens, daughter of Carlee & Shaun Bivens  
Wesley James Eagan, son of Joanna & Tim Eagan  
Leighton Rae Harvey, daughter of Ashley & Forrest Harvey  
Sienna Emily Hasle, daughter of Ashley & Roy Hasle  
Charlotte Louise Hazlehurst, daughter of Erica & Chad Hazlehurst  
Elizabeth Middleton Hoogland, daughter of Annie & Ben Hoogland  
Filomena Odette Jacobs, daughter of Ari & Alex Jacobs  
Hartwell Hunt Kerrigan, son of Denton & John Kerrigan, Jr.  
Margaret Wallace McNeilly, daughter of Carolyn & Tate McNeilly  
Charlotte Allston Mihelic, daughter of CC & TJ Mihelic  
Thomas Hull Palmer, son of Dede & Wallace Palmer  
Beckett David Ransom, son of Meaghan & Robert Ransom III  
Henry Heller Schulte, son of Catherine & Tim Schulte  
Elizabeth Brooks Warren, daughter of Molly & Elliott Warren  
Gibbs Revere Wetherall, son of Rachel and Gibbs Wetherall

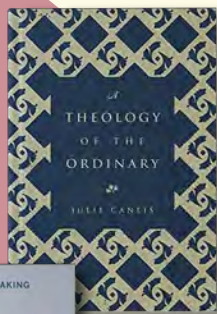
## NEW MEMBERS

Steve Arthur  
Emily Barnhouse  
Gracie Bassett, John  
Elissa Estopinal & Ross Boatright, Reed  
Brendon Caballero  
Cynthia Ann Curtis  
Lanier & Sean Day, Isabella  
Amy & Cameron Drummond, Wyatt  
Seth England & Rakiyah Marshall, Theo and Mayer  
Brian Irving  
Sandy & Michael Khouri  
Lael & Gordon Kiesling  
Tracy & Matt Kim  
Michele Lowe  
Lynn & Bill Parsons  
Elizabeth Sauer, Graham and Teddy  
Missy & Tony Scoville

## DEATHS

Jo Ann Denman Akers  
Francis "Rick" Edward Carter  
J. Leigh Griffith  
Paul S. Jones  
Betty Lillias Round Viehmann

## BOOK NOOK



### **A THEOLOGY OF THE ORDINARY** by Julie Canlis

Based upon a series of lectures at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington in 2016, this little book packs a potent theological punch. Julie Canlis (PhD University of St. Andrews, Scotland) began reflecting upon life returning to the US after living abroad. She was struck by the emphasis within Christian circles on being 'extraordinary'

or 'radical' for God. But what about the goodness (and ever so real challenge) of living our 'normal' lives for God? Canlis's wisdom has been a tremendous help to me in navigating our faith which is, more often than not, lived out in 'the ordinary.'

*—The Rev. J. Malone Estlin*

### **ART AND FAITH: A THEOLOGY OF MAKING** by Makoto Fujimura

Looking for the perfect Christmas present for your artsy godchild/friend who is a bit disenchanted with church? Or maybe you want to sit down with a book that is grounded in challenging realities but is also hopeful and gives you a way forward. Makoto Fujimura's book draws us in by taking us on a very personal journey into an artist's studio and into

his soul. It speaks across generations about God, beauty, and the renewal of all things. This is a realistic book, but it is also a hopeful one. Fujimura speaks encouragingly about the significance of our role as makers—a role we are given by God, the ultimate maker.

*—The Rev. Margery Kennedy*

# WORSHIP WITH US

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

\* Livestreamed at [stgeorgesnashville.org](http://stgeorgesnashville.org)

♦ Nursery available (8 weeks – 2 years)

♥ Childcare available (3 – 5 years)

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols**  
Sunday, December 3 at 6:00pm

**Children's Christmas Pageant**  
Sunday, December 17 at 8:45am

**Silent Night: A Service of Hope & Healing**  
Sunday, December 17 at 6:00pm

**Christmas Eve & Day**  
See pages 20-21 for details.

**Sunday, December 31**  
See pages 20-21 for details.

**Compline**  
Wednesdays, December 20  
and February 21 at 9:15pm  
Sunday, January 21 at 5:00pm

**Choral Evensong**  
Sundays, January 14 and  
February 21 at 5:00pm

**Ash Wednesday**  
Wednesday, February 14  
7:00am, 12:00pm, 6:00pm  
Children's Service at 5:00pm

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

 Podcast | Sermons at St. George's

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



### — ISSUE NO. 39 —

*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.

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