

# St. George's Journal

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - HELLERTOWN, PA

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been about ten days since the letter went out announcing my retirement. Since then many of you have spoken to me and expressed your feelings and concerns. In my sermon on January 18, I addressed some of them. But the weather was bad that morning so not all of you heard what I had to say. I hear your sadness and I share it. It is hard for us to say good-bye when we have worked and worshipped together for four years and come to know and love one another. It is hard for me to leave you people who have invited me into your hearts and lives to walk and pray with you in your struggles, and sorrows to share your joys. It is hard, after forty years of priesthood, to let go of pastoring a congregation (although I'm sure that I will be called upon to "fill in" at churches around the diocese). But, the time comes when you know in your heart and in your increasingly old bones that it is time to live more slowly, to let go of some responsibilities and, perhaps, to do some things you've wanted to do before you are too old to do them. One person asked about my health. The answer to that is "No, I'm fine." In fact, I look forward to having more time for cycling and hiking. But, I *do* often feel tired in a way that makes it hard to do all I have to do and do it well. There's a joke about the priest who was still in his parish but had effectively retired years ago! I don't want to become that parson.

Some of you have kindly expressed both sadness *and* support for my decision. Those who have retired understand the slower pace and new possibilities that retirement can offer. One of you, with great wit, put it this way; "I'm so sad that you are doing what's right for you." Another simply gave me a hug and said, "Congratulations!" Thank you for your kindness, your love, your support and understanding.

As I said in my sermon on January 18, I have heard it by the holy gossip grapevine that someone asked, "Is someone causing him trouble? Is that why he's leaving?" Another person, one who had needed a lot of attention, was asked by a family member, "What did you do to him? Wear him out?" We laughed together about that one. The answer is "no." There were times when I did things that some people didn't like. That's normal and to be expected. But, lately, as far as I know, things have been going very well and very happily.

In my letter to you I said that I was glad that Wayne Sherrer, soon to be ordained deacon, would be staying on at St. George's in that he could help provide "continuity of worship and pastoral care." All I meant was that he could show guest clergy or an interim, whichever the vestry chooses, how we're used to doing things and that he'd be available to make hospital calls and help bring Holy Communion to our shut-ins. That's all I meant and nothing more.

Again, thank you for your love, your support and understanding. Please continue to share our feelings, questions and concerns. Let me know if there is something you think I need to do to make for a smooth transition. Keep the vestry and the parish in your prayers. Be faithful in worship. And let us give thanks for the time we have had together, all we have accomplished, the love we share, and all the blessings God has given us.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Ray

## WORSHIP NOTES

On Sunday, February 1st, children will take the collection and serve as offering bearers. On Sunday, February 8, the newly-elected members of the vestry will be commissioned during the Eucharist. Also on February 8, our newly ordained deacon, Wayne Sherrer, will serve as deacon of the Eucharist for the first time at St. George's. As deacon he will read the Gospel, preach, assist with the administration of Communion and pronounce the dismissal at the end of the Eucharist.

Let us rejoice with him.

Fr. Ray's last day with us will be Sunday, February 22. There will be a special rite of leave-taking during the Eucharist on that day. It will be a day to give thanks and celebrate the four years of our ministry together.

**Guest celebrants** have been lined to take the services from Ash Wednesday through the end of March. The Rev. Richard Ditterline will be with us on Ash Wednesday and the last four Sundays in March. The Rev. John Brndjar will be with us on Sunday, March 1. Please welcome them.

**Ash Wednesday is February 25.** There will be two celebrations of the Eucharist, one at 12 Noon and another, with music, at 7:00PM. Ashes will be administered at both services. Worship on this day and make a good beginning of a holy Lent.

We welcome Trevor Jefferson and Chris Stauffer as the newest members of our guild of lectors. May God bless them and us in the reading of the word. We also welcome our newest acolyte, Alessia Castillo.

Sometime before the end of the month a shelf will be installed beneath the altar cross. Candles and altar flowers will be placed on it. The two small shelves that presently hold altar flowers were originally installed to coordinate with the altar when it was against the wall. They will be moved to other locations. The new shelf is a gift of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

Our thanks go to the Rev. John Coble for the gift of a white chasuble (vestment worn by the priest at the Eucharist). It replaces our old one, which was badly stained.

The ciborium, the covered cup in which the consecrated bread is kept, is being refurbished in loving memory of A. Eleanor Snyder. We extend our thanks to her family and friends for this gift.

## St. George's Journal

Volume 7, Issue 2  
February 2009

Published Monthly by  
St. George's Episcopal Church  
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*A Parish of the Diocese of Bethlehem*  
The Rt. Rev. Paul Marshall, Bishop  
The Rev. Raymond Harbort, Priest

### Vestry

Bruce Browne, Senior Warden  
Tim Miller, Diane Doll,  
Paula Martinko, Mike Salvaggio  
David Vandergast, Margie George,  
Joan Goodwin, Polly Roberts  
Tim Miller, Treasurer  
Karen Urbanowicz, Financial Secretary

### St. George's Vision

To see the world  
through Christ's eyes.

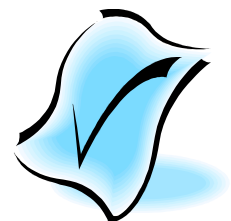
### Service Schedule

Sunday School 9:15  
Holy Eucharist  
9:30 AM  
Adult Forum 10:45

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## PARISH ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The parish annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 25th following the Eucharist. The results of the vestry elections were as follows: Margie George and Diane Doll were elected to two-year terms, and Michael Salvaggio and Paula Martinko were elected to serve one-year terms to fill out the unexpired terms of Jane Boden and Tom Kreichelt. David Vandergast and Debbi Rinker were elected to serve as Alternate Delegates to diocesan convention and will automatically be our delegates to convention in 2010. As provided in the by-laws, Fr. Ray appointed Bruce Browne to serve as Senior Warden and asked the congregation to support and pray for Bruce and the rest of the Vestry in the time of transition that lies ahead.



# YOU ARE INVITED...

*God Willing,  
The Right Reverend Paul Victor Marshall,  
Eighth Bishop of Bethlehem,  
will ordain*

*Timothy Scott Albright  
Rebecca Anne Parsons-Cancelliere  
James Douglas Moyer  
Christina Nord  
Wayne Calvin Sherrer*

*To the Sacred Order of Deacons  
In Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church*

*On the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord  
Monday, The Second of February  
Two Thousand and Nine  
Seven O'clock in the Evening  
The Cathedral Church of the Nativity  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania*

*Your prayers and presence are requested.*

*Reception follows.*



## UPCOMING RETREATS FOR WOMEN

### **Daughters of the King Lenten Retreat** *Journey of Prayer*

Led by The Rev. Joseph DeAcetis  
February 27th - March 1st, 2009  
For more information contact  
Joan DeAcetis (570) 325-2204

### **Women of Nativity 7th Annual Retreat** *Travel Mercies: Here, there & everywhere*

Led by The Rev. Suzanne Guthrie  
March 6-8th, 2009  
For more information contact  
Janet Kolepp  
jkolepp@msn.com, (610) 954-9582

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

While we are all disappointed that the Eagles won't be playing in the Super Bowl on February 1st, we'd like to ask you for your team spirit as we celebrate "Souper Bowl" Sunday. This is an opportunity for all Episcopalians to fight hunger in our communities. On February 1st we will be collecting dollar bills and cans of soup. Our monetary contributions will be donated to the Hellertown Area Ministerium (HAM) Crisis Fund. Father Ray has spoken to us recently about how little is left in the Crisis fund because of the enormous increase in requests that the fund has received. All soup donations will benefit the food pantry.

So, please bring your dollars, soup cans and generosity of spirit on February 1st!



## THE PARISH REGISTER

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Joan Goodwin, 2/1; Jane Chromczak, 2/5; Lucille Martin, 2/8; Edward Chromczak, 2/12 and Kasandra Kelly 2/22.

**We welcome Ava Alexis Jefferson into the Body of Christ - January 11th, 2009!**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Edward Chromczak, 2/4; Lucille Martin, 2/7; Alice Poltl, 2/21; Alesia Castillo, 2/25; David Roberts and William Messics, 2/28.

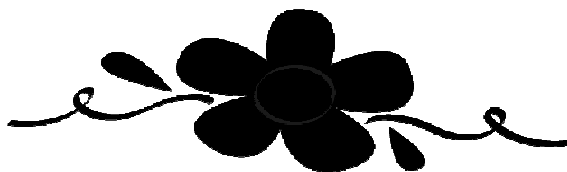


## NEW 2009 ALTAR FLOWER SCHEDULE

The **NEW 2009 Altar Flower Schedule** is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you desire a certain date for flowers, please fill in the appropriate date. Please indicate for whom they should be "in honor of" or "in memory of" and for "silk arrangement" (cost is \$10.00) or "live flowers" (cost is \$35.00). Please give first and last names. All monies should be paid to St. George's.

As a reminder: if you are having live flowers on the altar, it is **YOUR** responsibility to take them or have someone remove them. A letter is submitted quarterly showing the dates on which live flowers are requested. If you have any questions please contact me (Carol Sandrock: 610-838-8114). It would be appreciated if you would send your offering for the flowers prior to the Sunday you have requested.

—Carol Sandrock



## VESTRY NOTES

Meeting on January 21, the vestry; heard a report from the nominating committee for parish elections, voted to seek to hire an interim rector for 20 hours per week; approved a tentative proposed budget for 2009 which includes the salary for an interim rector and 5% wage increases for all parish employees; approved a proposal to install an awing over the McGee Entrance as a memorial to the late Franklin Rinker and Lorraine Granlund.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

*Correction from last month's Journal:*

Michael and Adele FaRannte

1532 Highland Drive

Bethlehem, PA 18015

*Email address change:*

William and Lori Marshall's new email address is: bandofamily@verizon.net

## OFFICE REMINDERS!

**OfficeHours:**

Monday and Wednesday

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Newsletter deadline is February 15th!**

PLEASE make sure to call the office if you are hospitalized. Hospitals won't always let the church office know under the new privacy laws. If you would like Fr. Ray to visit, the best thing is to call or have a family member call so we don't miss you.

If you want something added to the calendar, please call or email (stgeorges@rcn.com) the office with **ALL** the details and we will be glad to put it on the Master Calendar in the office. We also **WELCOME** items for the newsletter and bulletin.

## ADULT FORUMS IN FEBRUARY

When Adult Forum resumes on February 1 we'll begin a series using Barbara J. Essex's book entitled "**Bad Girls of the Bible: Exploring Women of Questionable Virtue**". Anne Kitch, Canon for Faith Formation of the Diocese of Bethlehem says, "It is fun, accessible, has great reflection questions and excellent exegesis. (If you want your own copy, they are available used from Amazon.com at very low prices.) **Come and join us and grow in your faith.**"

## THANKS AGAIN

Dear friends,

In last month's **Journal** I thanked you for helping me celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. Obviously, because of our printing deadline, I had to write that note well before the celebration. On that day you presented me with a generous gift. I should have seen it coming and, if I had, I would have asked that you give it in thanksgiving to the Hellertown Area Ministerium Crisis Fund to help our neighbors in need. I have enough of everything and don't need more stuff. So, in thanksgiving for our ministry together and to honor your commitment to helping those in need I have given your gift to the H.A.M Crisis Fund in your name.

God bless you for your love of the poor and thank you again for all your kindness and support.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Ray

## THANKS.....

To Ed and Jane Chromczak for taking down all the Christmas decorations and carefully packing them away.

To Tom Kreichelt for reinstalling the fence that had been removed during the sewer repair last year.



## LESSONS

**February 1st**

**4th Sunday after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

I Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

**February 8th**

**5th Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11,20c

I Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

**February 15th**

**6th Sunday after the Epiphany**

II Kings 5:1-14

Psalms 30

I Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

**February 22nd**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

II Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

II Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

**February 25th**

**Ash Wednesday**

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 51:1-17

II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

## THIS MONTH'S GREENTIP

*SUN POWER*

Adjust your window blinds to reduce energy used for heating and cooling. In the summer, keep sunny-side blinds closed. In the winter, open up and let the sunshine in to help heat your home.



## February Ministries Schedule - 2009

	Feb 1st	Feb 8th	Feb 15th	Feb 22nd	Feb 25th (Ash Wednesday)
<b>Acolytes</b>	David Vandergast	Mike Salvaggio	Jane Boden	Corinne Martinko	Mike Salvaggio
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Carol Sandrock and Cindy Reccek	Carol Sandrock and Cindy Reccek	Carol Sandrock and Cindy Reccek	Carol Sandrock and Cindy Reccek	Carol Sandrock and Cindy Reccek
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	David Vandergast	Joan Goodwin	Corinne Martinko	Tom Boden	Jane Boden
<b>Counters</b>	Anna May Miller	Anna May Miller	Anna May Miller	Anna May Miller	-
	Polly Roberts	Polly Roberts	Polly Roberts	Tim Miller	-
<b>Greeters</b>	Dorothy Hecker and/or Debbie Peffer	Dorothy Hecker and/or Debbie Peffer	Dorothy Hecker and/or Debbie Peffer	Dorothy Hecker and/or Debbie Peffer	Dorothy Hecker and/or Debbie Peffer
<b>Lectors</b>	Roseanne Dalrymple	Trevor Jefferson	Karen Urbanowicz	Traci Braun	-
	John Hogan	Anna May Miller	Debbie Peffer	Shari Vandergast	Roseanne Dalrymple
<b>Ushers</b>	Debbie and Gladys Peffer	Debbie and Gladys Peffer	Debbie and Gladys Peffer	Debbie and Gladys Peffer	Debbie and Gladys Peffer
<b>Refreshments</b>	-	Jane Boden and Carol Sandrock	Paula Martinko	Gloria Quier and Judy Salvaggio	-

# FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Adult Forum 10:45	2 ECW 7:00 PM	3 Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	4 Quilters 9:00 AM	5	6	7 U.C.G.
8 Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Adult Forum 10:45	9	10 Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	11 Quilters 9:00 AM Vestry 7:00 P.M.	12	13	14 U.C.G. 
15 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Adult Forum	16 VFW Aux. 3094 1:30 PM	17 Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	18 Quilters 9:00 AM	19	20	21 U.C.G.
22 Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Adult Forum 10:45 <b>Father Ray's Last Sunday</b>	23	24 Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	25 Quilters 9:00 AM ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00 Noon Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Holy Eucharist	26	27	28 U.C.G.
<i>Things in italic are on Fr. Ray's Schedule</i>						

St. George's Episcopal Church  
735 Delaware Ave.  
Hellertown, PA 18055

FIRST CLASS MAIL

It is with bountiful gratitude that we wish  
Father Ray and Hank Baird a fond farewell.



*Please join us on February 22nd  
for Father Ray's last service as our Rector.*

“Heavenly Father, Shepherd of your people, we thank you for your servant Father Raymond Harbort, who was faithful in his care and nurture of your flock; and we pray that, following his example and the teaching of his holy life, we may by your grace grow into a stature of the fullness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

*-The Book of Common Prayer, page 248*