

St. George's Journal

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - HELLERTOWN, PA

FROM YOUR INTERIM RECTOR

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!!!

Did you happen to see Bishop Paul's Easter message in the newspaper? He begins by saying: "A Buddhist master was asked to give a retreat for Christians. Accepting the challenge, he spent time with the New Testament. He began [the retreat] by confessing how surprised he was to find out what was in those short documents. If Christ is resurrected, he said, the posture, attitude and every breath of Christians should show that."

We are Easter People! We should **live** like Easter People!!!

Easter tide for me is a wonderful renewal of my faith. It reminds me that there would be no Christianity if our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had **not** been raised, and thereby given us victory over death as well! Easter is a time of new life. Another sign of this for me is my appointment as Interim Rector at St. George's.

It seems to me that I should give you a little "auto-biography." As many of you know, I grew up at Trinity, Bethlehem. I started singing in the (paid!) Men & Boys Choir when I was eight years old. (Yes! I became a professional singer at age 8.) The next summer I got to attend Boys' Choir Camp for 2 weeks; later on I became a junior counselor there, and then a full counselor. When I became eligible, I joined the old Trinity Boys' Club. I was a very active acolyte. In high school, I belonged to the youth group, and later became president. Ten years later, while I was finishing up my undergraduate work at Moravian College, my wife Sue and I were advisors to Trinity's Youth Group for two years. During that time, we brought the kids to St. George's for a District Youth Rally.

Not surprisingly, during high school I thought about being a "minister." The word "ordained" never occurred to me, as it had not yet sunk in that we are **ALL** called to be ministers of Christ. But these thoughts would be overwhelmed by concerns that I could never get up in front of people to conduct services, or sit down with them in an office to offer counseling, etc. Never stopped to think that I would get three years of preparation in seminary! Not to worry. God went to Plan B: get Dick involved in the theatre! After a bad year at Illinois Tech in Chicago right after high school (Liberty, Bethlehem), I came home and started working for my dad's fire extinguisher sales & service business, **AND** I joined Munopco (Municipal Opera Company of Allentown).

Eventually, with some nine musical productions under my belt, along with a 9-month gig singing in a division chorus in South Korea (yes, I served my country for two years in the U. S. Army, against my will), God spoke to me in no uncertain terms on the 2nd Sunday in Advent, 1964 while I was serving with the Trinity Choir. I'll be happy to share my special "Revelation" with you upon request; or, it may show up in a sermon some time! Anyhow, I now like to say: "The Good Lord had the wisdom to put me on the stage before he put me in the pulpit!"

I was also blessed to meet my wife Sue at Munopco! On June 19, we will celebrate our 44th Wedding Anniversary. I promise I'll bring her to St. George's one of these Sundays, but she not only attends TrinityBeth; she's also (ironically?) in the Choir!

Enough for now. Perhaps another time I can share where I have served in the Church. **GO FORTH! BE AN EASTER PERSON!!!**

Father Dick+

FROM YOUR DEACON

Act 2: 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common.

This verse from the first reading of the Third Sunday of Easter and a similar one from Acts 4 for the Fourth Sunday of Easter are often held up as evidence that early Christians practiced a form of communism—either the Karl Marx variety or the 1960's flower children/hippie style of communal life. But I think that often too much emphasis has been placed on the sharing of material possessions and not enough on their shared experiences. Yes, the community did take care of those in need and deacons such as Stephen were chosen to assist the apostles in that ministry. But the sharing involved much more. The early Christians spent much time together in temple worship and in homes, strangers became friends, and their community was renowned for the love they showed toward one another.

Over the past year the members of St. George's have had several opportunities for shared experience. We have celebrated the completion of 100 years of ministry in this locale, forty years of ministry by our last rector and that rector's retirement. The collection of the parish's history and the photographs which document that history provided many nostalgic moments for the reliving of shared experiences for long-time members of St. George's. And relative newcomers (including myself) heard some of the stories and witnessed the joy those memories still provide.

But St. George's is a living organism—dynamic and always being re-created by God as fresh and new. One clear example of that newness is that two of the three soups for the ECW's recent Soup, Salad and Elegant Dessert evening were made by people who had not yet set foot in St. George's when the event was held last year. We are in the process today of sharing experiences which create bonds of love among strangers and that will be tomorrow's memories. With a congregation that is more geographically dispersed it is a process that may need to be more intentional than in the past. We do not live down the street or around the corner from one another. Our children do not attend the same schools, we do not frequent the same beauty parlors or barbers, and the pace of life seems to have quickened. Our parish is remarkably friendly and our new members have felt that welcome. The theater trips to Lancaster and Bucks County Playhouse are examples of one type of shared experience. As my children and wife join me here at St. George's this summer, I invite suggestions on ways we as a parish can provide opportunities for other shared experiences—planned and spontaneous. And child-friendly experiences need not exclude those whose children are grown. St. George's family has many honorary aunts, uncles and grandparents who might enjoy revisiting a place that has changed since it was last seen. The Lehigh Valley has much to offer and none of us knows all about it. By pooling our knowledge and sharing our joy we can become more completely the Body of Christ and know the abundant life God intends for us.

Deacon Wayne
waynesherrer@verizon.net

St. George's Journal

Volume 7, Issue 5
May 2009

Published Monthly by
St. George's Episcopal Church
735 Delaware Ave.
Hellertown, PA 18055
610-838-9355
stgeorges@rcn.com
www.stgeorghellertown.org

A Parish of the Diocese of Bethlehem

The Rt. Rev. Paul Marshall, Bishop
The Rev. Dr. Richard Ditterline, Interim Rector
The Rev. Wayne Sherrer, Deacon

Vestry

Bruce Browne, Senior Warden
Margie George, Junior Warden
Tim Miller, Diane Doll,
Paula Martinko, Mike Salvaggio,
Joan Goodwin, Polly Roberts,
David Vandergast
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

Except where noted, entire contents ©2009, St. George's Episcopal Church
Reproduction in part or in whole cannot be made without written permission of the publisher. Copy deadline: The 15th of each month.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

April 29th, 7:00 PM

We will meet with Father Ditterline to review our ongoing plan for Worship. Please join us for this important meeting. Thank you!

OUTREACH MEETING

Our next dinner we will be serving at Victory House is on Saturday, June 20th. The Outreach Committee will be having a meeting to plan the dinner on May 10th immediately after church. Our theme is "Welcome, Summer!" and we will be preparing a picnic dinner for the residents of Victory House - hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, vegetables and our "claim to fame" at St. George's - wonderful desserts! The Outreach Committee invites new members to participate in this safe and family-friendly way to "give back" to those in need in our immediate community. Please see Shari or call her at 610 346 6261 if you have questions. A list of items needed for the picnic will be shared by May 17th.

David Vandergast and Tim Miller serve dinner to Victory House residents.



OUTREACH REMINDER!

**Trinity-Bethlehem,
New Bethany Ministries and
Victory House have asked for our help!**

Clients need personal care items of all types, from shampoo to diapers. Please see the list posted in the church entry. Many of these items can be purchased at discount or dollar stores. Donations can be placed in the basket at the back of the church. If you have questions, please contact any member of the Outreach Committee.

THIS MONTH'S GREEN TIP



Around St. George's...

We've changed several of the high use bulbs here at St. George's to compact fluorescents. These are long life and energy efficient bulbs that you can also use in your home.

Think about the different products you could change at your house to make a difference.

More information on energy saving products can be found at:

<http://www.energystar.gov/>

**The Saucon Valley Farmer's Market will
re-open in May.
Watch for the signs in downtown
Hellertown!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NOTE

I think everyone enjoyed the Easter Sunday. The kids had a good time and it was nice to see all the children in church. Please remember that on April 26th after church we are having a Christian Education meeting. It will take place downstairs.

Thank you!

--Margie George

MANY THANKS!

Thanks go out to all who helped in any way with the events of Holy Week at St. George's this year. The contributions of the church school children to the Palm Sunday liturgy and the efforts of everyone involved in the Easter egg hunt were especially welcome. Our experience of Christ's passion and of resurrection joy were the richer.

THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptismal Anniversaries: Marie Mauro and Maxwell Vandergast, 5/1; Harold Clarke, 5/14; Diane Oechsle, 5/29.

Transfer In: The Stauffer Family

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Dianne Dalrymple and Douglas Peffer, 5/5; Maia Stauffer, 5/9; Jessie Peffer, 5/11; Leonard Martin, 5/13; Kayla Kozak, 5/14; Michael Salvaggio and Adam Marshall, 5/15; Paula Martinko, 5/18; Karen Urbanowicz, 5/25 and Floyd Bush, 5/30.

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.

Upcoming available dates include: All Sundays in June

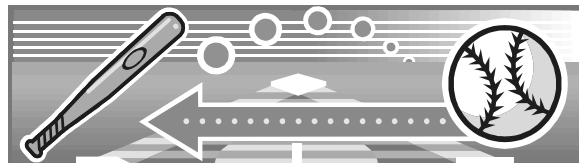
As a reminder: if you are having live flowers on the altar, it is YOUR responsibility to take them or have someone remove them. A letter is submitted quarterly showing the dates on which live flowers are requested. If you have any questions please contact me (Carol Sandrock: 610-838-8114). It would be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

—Carol Sandrock



A NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

The Ironpigs baseball team will be in town on Friday, July 17th @ 7:05 pm. Everyone that went last year had a good time. The price of the tickets are \$9.00 and \$2.00 of the tickets are redeemable for food, drinks, and merchandise. There are also fireworks scheduled after the game. Anyone interested in going, please see Joan Goodwin.



OFFICE

REMINDERS!

Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Newsletter deadline is
May 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 someone 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. **Church announcements for the bulletin should be turned in by Tuesday of each week.**

EASTER CUSTOMS

The Great Fifty Days begins with Easter Day and concludes on the Day of Pentecost. The seven weeks that span the time between Jesus' resurrection and the sending of the Spirit are sometimes called "a week of weeks." Historically this was also the time when the mysteries of the Christian faith were revealed to the newly baptized. Today the lectionary texts help us explore the mysteries of faith expressed in sacrament, word, and life lived for others.

The Easter Greeting "*Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!*" is used at the beginning of all liturgies and before the sermon.

Alleluia (from the Hebrew *Halleluya* for "praise God") is restored to the liturgy and is used frequently as a superlative expression of triumph, thanksgiving and joy.

The Easter Joke reflects the ancient church's understanding of the Resurrection as the supreme "joke" played on the devil by God.

Christ Our Passover (*the Easter Canticle, BCP, p. 83*) may be used as the Invitatory Canticle at Morning Prayer and as the Hymn of Praise at the Eucharist.

Standing for Prayer was the universal position for prayer until late in the Middle Ages. The Council of Nicea (*AD 325*) forbade kneeling for prayer on Sundays and during the Great Fifty Days of Easter.

The Paschal Candle symbolizing the light of the Risen Christ burns at all services through the Day of Pentecost.



LESSONS

Easter 4 **May 3**

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

I John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Easter 5 **May 10**

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:24-30

I John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Easter 6 **May 17**

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

I John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

Easter 7 **May 24**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

I John 5:9-13

John 17:6-9

The Day of Pentecost **May 31**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

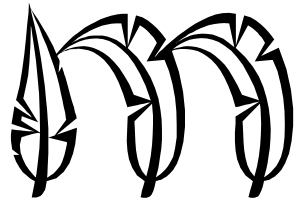
BRING A FRIEND TO ST. GEORGE'S SUNDAY

Our first lesson each Sunday during the Easter season shows the enthusiasm of early Christians who couldn't stop telling others about their faith. On May 17th we will have another Bring a Friend to St. George's Sunday. Our organist Phyllis Cragin and her family are preparing some special music for that day. Those of us who have heard their earlier contributions to our worship can tell their friends just how delightful that music is and invite them to come and hear it for themselves.



May Ministries Schedule - 2009

	May 3rd	May 10th	May 17th	May 24th	May 31st
Acolytes	Jane Boden	David Vandergast	Corinne Martinko	Mike Salvaggio	Alesia Castillo
Altar Guild	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck
Altar Flowers (Given By)	Catherine Doll	Goodwin Family	Mike and Paula Martinko	Carol A. Sandrock	-
Chalice Bearer	Corinne Martinko	Tom Boden	Jane Boden	Dianne Dalrymple	Debbie Rinker
Counters	David Vandergast	David Vandergast	David Vandergast	Mike Salvaggio	Mike Salvaggio
	Shari Vandergast	Shari Vandergast	Shari Vandergast	Tom Kriechelt	Tom Kriechelt
Greeters	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck
Lectors	Christina Stauffer	Trevor Jefferson	Anna May Miller	Karen Urbanowicz	Roseanne Dalrymple
	John Hogan	Debbie Rinker	Shari Vandergast	Christina Stauffer	John Hogan
Ushers	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck	Rich and Janice Fluck
Refreshments	The Browne Family	Jane Boden and Carol Sandrock	Paula Martinko	Gloria Quier and Judy Salvaggio	Dianne Dalrymple and Joan Goodwin



MAY 2009

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 U.C.G.
3 Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM	4 E.C.W. 7:00 PM	5 Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	6 Quilters 9:00 AM	7	8	9 U.C.G. <i>Dana on vacation 9th- 16th</i>
10 Mother's Day Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Outreach Meeting	11 V.F.W. Aux. 1:30 PM	12 Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	13 Quilters 9:00 AM	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 U.C.G.
<i>Dana on vacation, 9th-16th</i>						
17 Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Bring a friend to St. George's Day!	18	19 Polling 6:00 AM until close	20 Quilters 9:00 AM	21	22	23 U.C.G.
24 Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM	25 Memorial Day <i>Dana out of office</i>	26 Weight Watchers 7:00 PM	27 Quilters 9:00 AM Vestry 7:00 PM	28 U.C.G. afternoon	29	30 U.C.G.
31 Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM U.C.G. afternoon						

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Happy Mother's Day

...to all our mothers at St. George's Church!

We wish you and your families a wonderful day and thank you for all you do for St. George's!

