



January 2010

## Warden's Word

### A Final Word

We have had a very eventful year at St. George's. We have welcomed new members to our community while saying farewell to others. St. Georgians have embraced this time of transition, trying new things, reexamining our direction, and thinking about how we can better serve God, our community, and each other. It is an exciting time at St. George's!

Transition time is also a great time for new leaders to emerge. If any St. Georgian has ever considered serving in a leadership role, this would be a great time to make that interest known to the Interim Rector Philip Wiehe or any member of the Vestry. I can personally attest that serving in a leadership capacity at St. George's can be very rewarding. Even if you do not have the time or inclination to take on a leadership role, our transition will provide a number of opportunities to become more involved at St. George's, and to provide input regarding our future direction.

The financial situation at St. George's continues to present challenges. During this stewardship campaign, it became clear that the current worldwide economic situation is affecting our pledges, in addition to a not-uncommon reduction of pledges during the transition. While the Vestry will have to make tough choices, our community at St. George's is strong, and we will overcome these financial challenges.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Senior Warden. I have developed a great appreciation for St. George's and the caring and giving spirit of the members of our congregation. There are so many members who give countless hours of service. We have a very talented staff that supports the activities of St. George's on a day-to-day basis. I want to thank the St. George's community for all of the support and advice that you have given me this year. I also want to thank the members of the Vestry and our Interim Rector Philip for all of their hard work this year. I especially want to thank Junior Warden Bob Clarke. I have thoroughly enjoyed work with Bob this year. His tireless efforts and keen advice have been invaluable to me and to St. George's. It has been an honor for me to act as Senior Warden this year. Thank you.

— *David Grahm*

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### Wednesday, January 6

7:30 pm. Service of Light (Taizé). This candlelit service will be in the style of the Taizé worship with brief prayers, readings of scripture, silence and music mostly from the Taizé community.

From the Interim Rector:

## Epiphany, Lent & Easter Services

As we turn our attention to Epiphany, Lent and Easter, here are a few things I would like to share with you.

First of all, my deep appreciation for all of you who made it to St. George's on December 20<sup>th</sup>, the day after the record snow storm. The sermon I wrote for that day was based on the Annunciation story and included an important message about the future of St. George's. [Click here](#) to connect to the text of the sermon.

On Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6, and Good Friday, April 2, we will have worship services that feature the music and worship style of Taizé. The services will be meditative in nature and will include some silence and several songs from the Taizé repertoire that are mostly repeated chant.

For Easter I would like to do something special with readings at the Easter Vigil that will begin at 5:30 AM Easter Sunday. There will be six readings that are the core of the Judaeo-Christian story. I would like to have the six readers memorize the text and present the stories in the manner of storytelling. If you think you could do this or have a question, give me a call.

Also, I would like to present a play at the 9:00 AM Easter Sunday service that would be repeated the next Sunday at the 11:00 AM service. I will need a cast of 4-six ensemble players to make this possible. There will be about twelve hours of rehearsal for the twenty-five minute sermon drama. The play can also go on the road to Linda's church in Baltimore. Again, let me know if you are interested. The cast must be finalized by Ash Wednesday, February 17.

Finally, although I am writing this several days before Christmas, I want to thank everyone who helped make the special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services possible. I expect that about 80 people altogether will be involved from decorating to singing.

Have a truly blessed New Year!

— *Philip Wiehe*

### Zumba Coming to St. George's

Start the New Year out with a high energy, fun workout right here at St. George's! It's a great way to get a jump start on your New Year's resolutions while actually enjoying yourself. Zumba is an exercise program set to Latin rhythms - fast and slow - that burns fat while toning and sculpting your body. Certified Zumba instructor, Sonya Marsden, will lead a class through this rigorous, high-energy, hour-long workout. Class will meet every Saturday morning in January beginning January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. There is no cost and you are welcome to bring a friend. Contact Kate Holemans if you have any questions, [kholemans@comcast.net](mailto:kholemans@comcast.net).

# What does Epiphany mean for us?



January 6, the Feast of Epiphany (a word that means showing forth, signifying the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles), was established by the Eastern Church in the 4th century AD—the first event to be commemorated in the Church calendar. Before then there was danger in proclaiming Christianity—Christians had been persecuted for the approximately 400 years since the birth of Christ. However, in the Western church, the Nativity, established as December 25, was celebrated long before the 4th century.

The length of the season of Epiphany varies according to the Sunday of Easter Day. It commemorates the life of Jesus until his Passion: in 2010, the visit of the Three Kings at his birth, January 6; his baptism (first Sunday after Epiphany, January, 10); his public preaching (six Sundays until Lent); Transfiguration (Sunday before Lent, February 21).

The baptism of Jesus is the only occasion when all three persons of the Trinity were represented by their physical presence. Perhaps this is a reason why in the early church baptisms—of adults only at that time were performed at Epiphany, and this is still a special time for baptisms.

The result of celebrating the coming of Christ at different dates in the East and the West is a variety of Christmas traditions. But they have in common the celebration of God to humanity and the ministry of Jesus on earth. A special symbol in all is Light, meaning revelation and hope—the Star on the first day of Christmas, a special Feast of Lights on Epiphany. (At St. George's a yearly candlelit ceremony once traced the growth of the church from the Stable to the present).

In commemorating the coming of Christ in the calendar the church fathers called upon existing ideas about the presence of God on earth. The symbolism of Epiphany was based on the Jewish Feast of Lights, in which the miraculous supply of oil to light the lamps stood for the hope and certainty of the rebuilding of the Temple and thus for the continued presence of God. In popular celebrations details of some pagan rites, such as the giving of gifts, have been incorporated into our celebration of Christmas. Some Epiphany customs of the laity are: placing the Magi in the crèche on January 6; eating a slice of a special cake which, if it contains a bean, makes you a king; marking your front door until Pentecost with CMB for Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar; drinking on Twelfth Night a kind of cider called Lamb's Wool.

Whether theologically based and authorized by the church or hallowed only by custom, the eclecticism of our liturgy and our observances makes plain that Jesus Christ came to all human beings, to be the Savior of the World.

— *Cynthia Clark*

# Strategic Planning Q & A

Not just the “vision thing” again!

The Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting weekly since September. The committee, consisting of chair Nina Janopaul, Wayne Lewis, Patty Droppers, Brian Bonnet, Elena Keydel, Rob Stefan, Mary Beth Clarke, Don Lundquist, and Joan Pepin, is tasked with two jobs. The first is to gather and analyze information about St. George’s ministries, members, and neighborhood; about our strengths, weaknesses, and key values; and hand all that over to the Profile Committee that will write the parish profile used to hire our new rector. The second task is: first, gathering and analyzing information about creating a plan for St. George’s future.

*“Why are we doing this now?” you may ask. “Wouldn’t it be more appropriate to wait for the new rector to come?”*

We’re doing this now because in order to choose the right leader we need to have a clear understanding of what kind of church this is and what kind of church we want to be in the future. If we don’t know what we want to be, we won’t be able to choose the right person to help us become it.

But of course the new rector will have an enormous role to play in shaping our future. The strategic plan will not be set in stone; it will be, as our consultant (and interim rector) Philip Wiehe says, “set in toothpaste.” The plan can (and will) be adapted or altered as needed in the future.

*“Haven’t we done this already?”*

There certainly have been other opportunities over the last several years for groups of St. Georgians to envision St. George’s future. Some of those efforts, such as the Discernment group, have made valuable contributions to guiding our future. But the process we’re going through now is somewhat different. Although we certainly pray for God’s guidance in discerning St. George’s future path, we’re also taking a hard analytical look at our ministries and our strengths and weaknesses to figure out where our core energy for ministry lies.

To do that, we’ve tried to identify our *stated beliefs* – what we “officially” believe; our *actual beliefs* – what people really think; and our *operational beliefs* – the beliefs that are manifested through our actions. We’ve done this by looking at our many ministry areas and asking what we say we believe about the values implicated by that ministry; what we in fact do believe; and what beliefs are implemented through that ministry. Where those three areas overlap is our area of greatest strength and energy, and the foundation of our future development.

*“Why should a committee of nine people decide St. George’s future instead of the whole congregation?”*

It shouldn’t, and it won’t. The Strategic Planning Committee’s job is to gather and analyze information about St. George’s, not make it up! That’s why the Strategic Planning Committee conducted a survey of the whole parish, to which an impressive 130 members responded. (As a point of reference, St. George’s average Sunday attendance is 174. The Strategic Planning Committee also held three congregational meetings, which about 55 St. Georgians attended, to gather information about members’ wishes for St. George’s future and our hopes for the new rector. We’ll be reporting back to the congregation in January about what you’ve told us. Thank you to the many St. Georgians who took those opportunities to provide input. And if you have more to say, we’d love to hear it! Just call, email, or buttonhole any member of the committee and let us know your thoughts!

– *The Strategic Planning Committee Team*

**Join Stan Curtis & Tia Wortham for an evening of**

# **Baroque Duets**

## **FEATURING**

Stan Curtis, trumpet      Tia Wortham, soprano  
Ben Keseley, piano/organ

**Date:** Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Time:** 6pm

**Venue:** St. Georges Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland St., Arlington, VA 2220  
VA Square Metro stop | Free off-street parking

**Admission:**    FREE                      FREE                      FREE                      FREE                      FREE                      FREE

## **REPEAT PERFORMANCE**

**Date:** Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

**Time:** 8pm

**Venue:** Harris Theater at George Mason University, Burke, VA  
paid garage parking – reasonable rates

**Admission:**    FREE                      FREE                      FREE                      FREE                      FREE                      FREE

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

(subject to change)

Three arias from "Semele" [George F. Handel]; 2 rare works: La Tromba [Alessandro Melani] & Pace una volta from "Zenobia" [Luca A. Predieri]; Sonata for Trumpet [Flor Peeters]; Cantata No. 51 "Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen" [Johann S. Bach]

## Parish Announcements

Handbell Rehearsal on Thursdays  
6:45 pm

St. Cecilia Choir Rehearsal every Thursday  
7:45 -9:15 pm

Half Notes on Thursdays  
6:30 pm (212)

Zumba Exercise Class  
9:30 am, Saturdays, beginning January 9

Service of Light (Taizé)  
7:30 pm January 6

Body Builders  
January 6 (after Taizé service)

Time Out for Women  
7:30 am, January 9 & 23

Tower Villas Condo Annual Meeting  
12:00 pm, January 21

## Church Office

Phone: 703-525-8286  
Fax: 703-522-6634  
Metro: Virginia Square (Orange Line)  
Web: [www.saintgeorgeschurch.org](http://www.saintgeorgeschurch.org)  
E-mail: [info@saintgeorgeschurch.org](mailto:info@saintgeorgeschurch.org)

### Interim Rector

Philip Wiehe .....C 530-575-7420  
([pwiehe@saintgeorgeschurch.org](mailto:pwiehe@saintgeorgeschurch.org))

### Music Director

Benjamin Keseley  
([bkeseley@saintgeorgeschurch.org](mailto:bkeseley@saintgeorgeschurch.org))

### 9:00 AM Musician

Karen Rowe  
([krowe@saintgeorgeschurch.org](mailto:krowe@saintgeorgeschurch.org))

### Bookkeeper

Robert Stone

### Sexton

Thanh Nguyen

### Parish Administrator

Joy Warburton  
([jwarburton@saintgeorgeschurch.org](mailto:jwarburton@saintgeorgeschurch.org))

## 2009 vestry/officers

Outreach ..... Paul Belanga  
Worship ..... Mary Martha Churchman  
Evangelism/Junior Warden ..... Bob Clarke  
Connections ..... Seton Droppers  
Senior Warden ..... David Grahn  
Fellowship ..... Lisa Green  
Children and Youth..... Rebecca Hill  
Adult Ed ..... Elena Keydel  
Communications..... Marge Miller  
Parish Care ..... Anne Omelianowich  
Buildings and Grounds.....Garry Vaughn  
Financial Management..... Nancy Yeager  
Treasurer..... George DeFilippi (*ex officio*)

## Council delegates

Delegate ..... Laurie Lewis  
Alternate Delegate ..... Lyn Crawford

## Committee chairs

Adult Ed ..... (currently vacant)  
Altar Guild.....Sarah Kreger  
Buildings & Grounds.....Connie McAdam  
Children and Youth.....Jill Nusbaum  
Communications..... Marge Miller  
Connections ..... Mike Nelson  
Evangelism ..... Bob Clarke  
Fellowship ..... Carrie Thomas/  
Kate Holeman  
Personnel ..... Norma Kacen  
Outreach ..... Happy Olmstead  
Worship ..... Norma Kacen