



Come Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your Divine Love.

St. George, the little church that's fighting back!



Saint George by Donatello

In an age where Christians are compromising or abandoning their faith, like our namesake, St. George, this little church has taken a stand and announced to the community that we hold firm in our beliefs. We are ready to slay the real dragon that is loose in the world today.

The idea of coming to a church to worship is dying. The dragon of popular secularism has caused

traditional Catholic churches to flip their altars around and tear down altar rails. They have given up some of the unique traditions that identified them as Catholics. The dragon has caused old line Protestant churches to focus on praise bands and theatrics rather than prayerful worship.

The new non-denominational approach to worship is advancing without having any statements of belief, and are bending to whatever the popular trends might be in an effort to build membership.

The dragon has even led some churches to believe that the cross serves as a barrier and have removed it from their buildings. The oldest and most famous symbol of Christianity, the crucifix, has been removed because it is a scary image and frightens children. Likewise, the dragon has downplayed the importance of receiving Christ in Holy Communion as He commanded, but made it an occasional symbolic gesture, if it is done at all. Professing Christians consider staying home on Sunday's and playing golf or watching TV, to be as rewarding as going to church and worshipping God.

At St. George, we focus on the body of Christ, as have Christians for the last 2,000 years. We not only believe in Christ as a historical figure, but as a real presence that we share at every mass during Holy Communion. We respect and admire the traditions of past

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Our Newsletter has an **NEW NAME** and a **NEW LOOK!**

We are excited about having a newsletter for St. George, and now our first two issues have been issue. We've received a lot of positive comments and it has been well received. But, we were still not happy with the look and feel. First, the banner was taking up more than half of the first page and it was squeezing out the news and articles. Second, it was heavily filled with graphics and colored boxes that used up valuable colored ink in our copy machine. Third, most of the articles were not about this congregation.

Our New Name is "The St. George Spirit" to show the New Spirit at St. George and the look is simple and clean.

Our articles center on church members and church happenings. We hope you like the change.



NEWS FROM THE ST. GEORGE VESTRY

The vestry met on April 20th and discussed a number of issues. First on the agenda was, as always a review of our financial situation. On the surface, we are holding our own, but we are facing a two edged sword in the upcoming months, one is a declining attendance because of people returning to the north over the summer. The other edge is due to the economy. People are feeling the financial pinch and are not getting bailed out. We realize that self preservation becomes a necessity, but we encourage people to give what they can, when they can. We were fortunate to received two large gift donations that help fill the financial gap.

The Warden's report covered the great work that the Green Team has been doing to beautify the church. The vestry also discussed cleaning out and tearing down part of the shed.

The Bishop talked about the explosion in young children at our church and the happy noises that they brings to the services. We must all realize that

the church will not grow without their contributions and we welcome them and their noise. He also read a letter that discussed the GAFCON meeting in London and their endorsement of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. You can read about this on their website, <http://gafcon.org/news/>.

The vestry also discussed some ways to get our name out to the public who don't know who we are or what we believe.



ST. GEORGE, THE LITTLE CHURCH THAT'S FIGHTING BACK! - FROM PAGE # 1

generations and, to ignore these two thousand years of tradition, we believe, diminishes the sacrifices made by these early Christians. For this reason, at St. George, we wear the traditional garments, we follow ancient rituals, we say the old prayers, and worship in the traditional manner.

It is our belief that the dragon that is loose in the world intends to destroy Christ's church and is successfully doing so in very small increments by changing a belief here, dropping a tradition there. Eventually we will find that we are not the same religion, and we do not have the same beliefs. We will have lost our Creed.

As we sit in our beautiful, but mostly empty church every Sunday, we may not see ourselves as fighting back at anything, but

we are. Just by managing to survive, we stand as a monument to tradition and a place of refuge to those who seek to worship, as was taught since the beginning of Christianity. We worship without giving in to the dragon. Over the years, we have lost many good members who have been swayed to desire those small changes that we feel would eventually destroy our identity and our faith.

If St. George's is fighting back, it certainly does not appear that we are winning. The dragon, for the time being, is having his way in the world. Every year the surveys tell us that more and more people are leaving the church and abandoning Christianity. Scandal and controversy are everyday occurrences. Christians are

bending to the dragon of popular secular beliefs.

On the surface it appears that we are not winning! However, we do have one ace up our sleeves. By steadfastly believing that Christ is the center of our religion and upholding the traditional values that have sustained the Church through the centuries, we can be the ultimate victors. This is the weapon needed to slay the dragon. Like the apostles who cowered in the upper room, we simply need to have faith that the Holy Spirit will descend and light our fire!





WHAT IS ROGATION SUNDAY, AND WHAT ARE ROGATION DAYS?



A common feature of Rogation days in former times was the ceremony of "beating the bounds", in which a procession of parishioners, led by the minister, churchwarden, and choirboys, would proceed around the boundary of their parish and pray for its protection in the forthcoming year.

The first Rogation, the Greater Litanies, was introduced as a Christian substitute for the Roman-pagan celebration Robigalia, which was a special celebration to pray for crops.

Rogation days are, in the calendar of the Western Church, four days traditionally set apart for solemn processions to invoke God's mercy. They are April 25, the Major Rogation, coinciding with St. Mark's Day; and the three days preceding Ascension Day, the Minor Rogations.

The word "Rogation" comes from the Latin verb rogare, meaning "to ask," and was applied to this time of the liturgical year because the Gospel reading for the previous Sunday included the passage "Ask and ye shall receive" (Gospel of John 16:24). The Sunday itself was often called Rogation Sunday as a result, and marked the start of a three-week period (ending on Trinity Sunday), when Roman Catholic and

Anglican clergy did not solemnize marriages (two other such periods of marital prohibition also formerly existed, one beginning on the first Sunday in Advent and continuing through the Octave of Epiphany, or 13 January, and the other running from Septuagesima until the Octave of Easter, the Sunday after Easter).

The faithful typically observed the Rogation days by fasting in preparation to celebrate the Ascension, and farmers often had their crops blessed by a priest at this time, which always occurs during the spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Violet vestments are worn at the rogation litany and its associated Mass, regardless of what color was worn at the ordinary liturgies of the day.

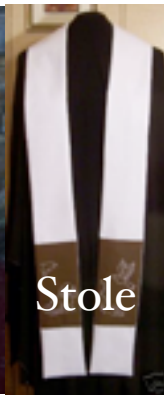
VESTMENTS USED IN OUR SERVICES



Cassock



Surplice



Stole



Alb



Chasuble



Cincture

The vestments worn at the altar are liturgical garments and articles associated with the Christian religion, especially the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, and Lutheran Churches. The **cassock** was formerly the universal everyday clothing of the clergy, many have abandoned it in favor of a clerical suit of more conventional design. The **surplice** it is thought forms no more than an expansion of the ordinary liturgical alb. Rome knew the surplice at least as early as the 12th century. The **stole** was originally a kind of shawl that covered the shoulders and fell down in front of the body; it became gradually narrower and so richly ornamented that it developed into a mark of dignity. The **alb** is the oldest liturgical vestment, and was adopted very early by Christians, and especially by the clergy for the Eucharistic liturgy. The **chasuble** is the outermost liturgical vestment worn by clergy for the celebration of the Eucharist. The **cincture** is a long, rope-like cord with tasseled or knotted ends, tied around the waist outside the alb. The color may be white, or may vary according to the colour of the liturgical season. Next month we will talk about the colors used in our church services.



MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND DRIVE BEGINS AT ST. GEORGE -- NOW IS THE TIME TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

With a generous donation of \$11,000 (plus four additional niche cost donations) to the Memorial Garden fund, the challenge has been made to the Parish of St. George to raise the balance of the funds necessary to start construction. The original plan for the Memorial Garden includes a 24 or 32 niche columbarium placed on a concrete base. The garden will be walled-in for privacy and meditation. The Vestry is currently getting quotes on a split block concrete wall that would match the walls of the church building.

The Vestry of St. George has set aside the ground directly behind the Parish Hall, but no construction can begin until all funds are raised to complete the initial project of grading, concrete base, columbarium, and wall. It is our plan to have all funding in place by the end of December 2009. Letters with complete details and pledge/donation cards will be mailed out to you within the next two weeks.

The price for each niche for Anglican members will be \$900 when paid before the end of 2009. That price includes a niche with space for two containers for cremains or ashes and an engraved plaque. The letter will explain how members can make monthly payments or write one check for \$900.

Additional donations will also be sought for other elements in the Memorial Garden, to include a large decorative cross, benches, pavers, plants, and more. The Vestry will inform you of the

prices of these elements as the plans progress. You can also let us know of your intent to fund one or more of these special elements. Watch for the mailing explaining everything soon!

WHY DO WE NEED A MEMORIAL GARDEN?

Up until the early nineteenth century, the Church provided for burial within its premises. Grand cemeteries outside most city limits replaced the traditional churchyard burial ground. During the past few decades, many congregations have reclaimed this traditional role of the Church, closing the circle of ministry from birth through death while providing a continuing physical relationship with the church in death. The renewed understanding of the opportunity to celebrate eternal life and memorialize the worth of individuals has encouraged the development of a Memorial Garden at St. George Anglican Cathedral of Ocala.

Father Jim's Corner!

This month I'll discuss the Feasts of the Ascension & Pentecost. The Feast commemorates Jesus' Ascension into heaven 40 days after his Resurrection. It always falls on a Thursday and this year it falls on May 21. The Acts of the Apostles records the ascension into heaven. In Chapter 1 Verse 9 we read about the ascension. "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight." While the Apostles looked up into the heavens, two men in white garments stood by them and asked why they were looking up

into heaven. The same men told the Apostles that this same Jesus, who was taken up into heaven, shall come again in a like manner.

The Ascension is an important Christian feast attesting and celebrating the reality of Jesus returning to the Father, and to return again in the future. The Ascension is the final component of the Easter mystery, which consists also of the Passion, Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Decent among the Dead, and Resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, celebrates when the Holy Ghost came upon the Apostles as recorded in the Book of the Acts. Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter and falls on May 31 this year. Fifty days after Jesus' Resurrection (and 10 days after his Ascension) the Apostles were gathered together in a room. Suddenly from heaven a sound, like a loud wind filled the room where they were staying. Then flames of fire appeared and it sat upon each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and they began to speak in tongues. This was the beginning of the Christian church. The Apostles went out and traveled to spread the Word and Gospel of Jesus Christ to all men, to the Gentiles as well as Jews.

The origin of the name Whitsunday may be derived from the word White Sunday, referring to the practice of baptizing converts clothed in white robes on the Sunday of Pentecost. Baptisms were more popular on Pentecost in England and other European countries. This was because the weather was colder on Easter Day which was celebrated earlier.

May God Bless, Father Jim

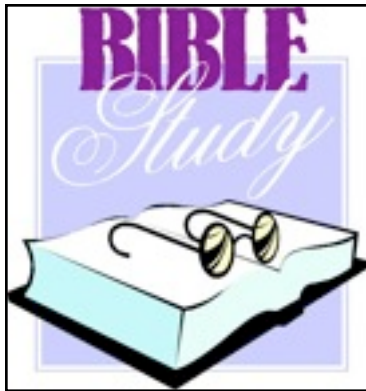


MAY 2009

St. George Anglican Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Special Days this month! <u>May 10th</u> Mothers Day – <u>May 16th</u> St. George's 13th Anniversary Picnic – <u>May 17th</u> Rogation Sunday – <u>May 21st</u> Ascension Day – <u>May 25th</u> Memorial Day – <u>May 31st</u> Pentecost</p>						
<p>3 8:00 AM Mass 9:15 AM Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Mass 5:00 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 8:00 AM Mass 5:30 PM Mass & Healing + Potluck Supper</p>	<p>7 10:00 AM Woman's Bible Study</p>	<p>8 5:30 PM Mass & Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>9 7:00 AM Green Team 11:00 AM Bright Ideas 5:00 PM Mass & Sermon</p>
<p>10 Mother's Day 8:00 AM Mass 9:15 AM Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Mass 5:00 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 8:00 AM Mass 5:30 PM Mass & Healing + Potluck Supper</p>	<p>14 10:00 AM Woman's Bible Study</p>	<p>15 5:30 PM Mass & Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>16 7:00 AM Green Team 11:00 AM Mass & Picnic to follow 5:00 PM Mass & Sermon</p>
<p>17 Rogation Sunday 8:00 AM Mass 9:15 AM Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Mass 5:00 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<p>18 6:00 PM Vestry Meets</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 8:00 AM Mass 5:30 PM Mass & Healing + Potluck Supper</p>	<p>21 Ascension Day (Holy Thursday) 8:00 AM Mass 10:00 AM Woman's Bible Study 5:30 PM Mass</p>	<p>22 5:30 PM Mass & Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>23 7:00 AM Green Team 5:00 PM Mass & Sermon</p>
<p>24 8:00 AM Mass 9:15 AM Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Mass 5:00 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day 9:00 AM Mass to honor Veterans & Veterans families</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 8:00 AM Mass 5:30 PM Mass & Healing + Potluck Supper</p>	<p>28 10:00 AM Woman's Bible Study</p>	<p>29 5:30 PM Mass & Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>30 7:00 AM Green Team 5:00 PM Mass & Sermon</p>
<p>31 Pentecost 8:00 AM Mass 9:15 AM Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Mass 5:00 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<p>May Birthdays: 5 - Ralph Amato, 6 - Ran Martin, 7 - John Yeafoli, 8 - Fr. Jim Dean, 13 - John McCarty, 14 - Fr. John Hale, 14 - Dorothy Johnson, 16 - Jacqueline Miller, 17 - Ethelbert Roach, 20 - Connie Wagner, 23 - Bob Thomas, 23 - Jan bulls, 25 - Emily Johnson, 30 - Mary Beth Benoit</p>					

April 2009							June 2009						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30				
26	27	28	29	30									



Women's Bible Study Group

The Women's Bible Study is for all ladies interested in exploring God's word.

The group meets in the Parish Hall each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. for approximately one hour.

For the next few weeks, the focus of the study will be on Moses and the Burning Bush, Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Ruth, Esther, Psalm 23, Amos and Jeremiah.

Invite someone who does not attend St. George to come with you. They will be welcome. Reach out to the community, but also invite your St. George family to join you.

Use the sessions not only to strengthen your relationships with God, but to enhance current friendships and forge new ones.

Ladies come, relax in a familiar atmosphere, sit back and prepare for what could be the journey of your life!

Men's Bible Study Group

We are forming a Men's Bible Study watch this column for more information as we begin a series of study aimed at the relation of God and Men. We don't know where

this will take us, but we are excited about the journey!

Sunday Christian Education

The Christian Education Group is open to all adults interested in studying the Bible. The group meets from 9:15 a.m., until 10:15 a.m. every Sunday. At present the group is studying the Four Gospels and is nearing the end of Matthew and will be taking up Mark within the next few weeks. It is not necessary to sign up at any time, just drop in when you have time.

The group is led by Jeff Sailor and for the past 4+ years now, and he has a fairly loyal following of attendees. His classes are always interesting and he is always interested in having new members join.

One of the best features of the group is Jeff's method of instruction. It is totally interactive; members are encouraged to voice their opinions and ask questions. The group operates on the "there is NO stupid question rule." They may not have all the answers, but they will eventually find some guidance on the matter and get back to you.

In today's troubled times, people may find themselves confronted with decisions that will affect their spiritual life. Bible study is designed to help them make the right choices and prepare them for the consequences of those decisions.

Grab a cup of coffee and a snack and bring it on over the the McCraney Building and join us. Don't wait for an invitation, you're always welcome!

St. George Vestry Members

BRUCE BARTLETT

term 2007-2009

CRAIG BENOIT

Junior Warden

term 2008-2010

JOAN CATON

term 2009-2011

DAN CAVINS

term 2008-2010

RON MARTIN

term 2009-2011

MELISSA MAYNARD

Secretary

term 2007-2009

JOYCE MCLAUGHLIN

Treasurer

term 2007-2009

SANDY SAILOR

term 2007-2009

BRIAN VOGUE

term 2009-2011

ELBERT WILKINSON

Senior Warden

term 2008-2010

KATHY WILLIAMS

Treasurer

term 2009-2011

The Vestry is a body of lay members elected by the congregation to run the secular business of the parish. Vestry members serve for a three year term.



BRIGHT IDEAS COMMITTEE MEETING - MAY 9TH @ 11:00 A.M. IN THE PARISH HALL



We are looking for some people who are interested in coming up with **BRIGHT IDEAS** that will enhance the spirit of community and provide fun and educational experiences at St. George, and maybe even generate some money for the operation of the church. This committee will be asked to do some “**OUT-OF-THE-BOX**” thinking and

brainstorming. All ideas will be considered, who knows, they may provide the spark that will lead to a great idea (that’s the power of group dynamics). You will see a **Bright Ideas Logo** on the Church Calendar to remind you that the **BRIGHT IDEAS Committee** will meet on May 9th.

Our first meetings agenda will concentrate on three things. First, we are looking for IDEAS, just

generating a bunch of ideas. Second, we will write them them down on paper. Third, we will categorize them into some logical order or grouping.

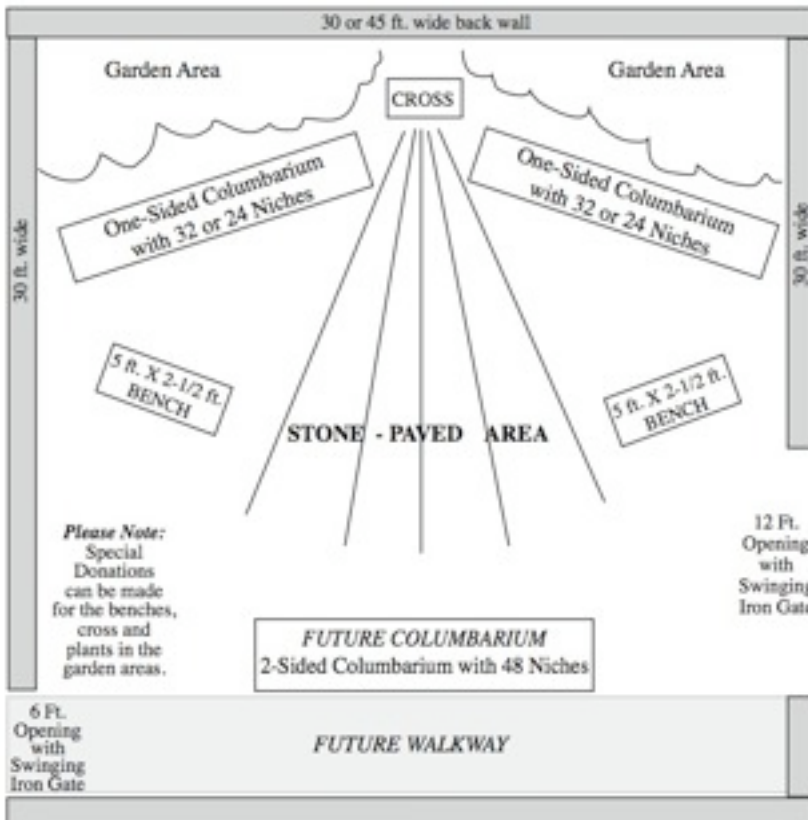
Once we have our Bright Ideas written down, we can look them over, and think about them and talk amongst ourselves until our next meeting.

At our second meeting we will vote on which ideas are practical, do-able, affordable and achievable (although those aren’t necessarily our criteria). We are most interested in finding projects that would give St. George the most benefit and the congregation the most fun.

REMEMBER, SATURDAY MAY 9th the **Bright Ideas Committee** will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We encourage anyone with an idea or are willing to help us flesh out ideas to join us. **We will have soft drinks and pizza for all attendees.**

The “Spirit” at Saint George is Rising ...

PLAN PROPOSED FOR ST. GEORGE’S MEMORIAL GARDEN



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MEMORIAL GARDEN?

The Memorial Garden is designed to provide a place for the permanent preservation of the cremains (cremated remains) of members of St. George Anglican Cathedral and their families. It will be a hallowed ground, sacred to the memory of those who have gone before.

Use of a niche includes the container for the placement of cremains or ashes, and the faceplate. The plaques will be uniform, inscribed with the name of each person memorialized, along with the dates of birth and death. The entire inscription will be done after interment or scattering.



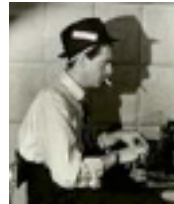
REPORTERS NEEDED!



We are very serious about making the St. George Spirit an exciting and interesting newsletter that the whole congregation will be eager to read every month. To do that, we need to have interesting articles and photographs. To have interesting

articles, we need people who will write them. That's where you come in as a newsletter reporter!

If you are interested in writing an article or two on a continuing basis, please let Brian Voge know. We need the help! Any idea you might come up with for an article would be appreciated. We were considering a featured Church Member of the month article, or possibly an article that simply kept us up-to-date with who is doing what in the congregation would be interesting. There are hundreds of other ideas for articles, let's have yours.



Paid Advertisements in this newsletter will help defray the printing cost and allow us to publish a better and more visually appealing product!

If you know of any organization or business that would like to advertise in our newsletter please let us know. Our rates are very low and our congregation is very supportive of those businesses that support and help us.

Your business or organization's 2 x 3.5 x 1.5 advertisement or coupon could be placed here for only \$10 per month!

Your business or organization's 2 x 3.5 x 1.5 advertisement or coupon could be placed here for only \$10 per month!

Your business or organization's 2 x 3.5 x 2 advertisement or coupon could be placed here for only \$15 per month!

Columbarium Niche in St. George's Memory Garden

Members & family only introductory offer we are selling a Niche (hold the remains of 2)

\$900.00

Offer good only for the remainder of 2009. Compare to \$3,500 and up at public cemeteries. Payment plans can be arranged if you act NOW!

Your business or organization's 2 x 3.5 x 1.5 advertisement or coupon could be placed here for only \$10 per month!

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