



# THE GOOD NEWS AT ST. GEORGE'S

NOVEMBER 2023

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## **AUTUMN AND THE HARVEST OF THE SOUL** by Pastor Steve

Until the snow arrived, we were having a beautiful fall this year. Every day as I came down 4<sup>th</sup> Street to the church, I literally drove under a canopy of gold. What a wonder that the green leaves of summer also held within them the rich yellows, oranges, and reds of fall.

Last month I quoted one of my favorite authors on spirituality, John O'Donohue. He says that just as there are four seasons of the year, there are corresponding seasons of the heart. Autumn in our lives occurs as we mature into our senior years. As he points out, autumn is the time of harvest when we gather in the fruits of our life experience. He writes: The

*Harvest is one of the great feasts of the year. The fertility of the earth yielded its fruitfulness. Correspondingly, when it is autumn in your life, the things that happened in the past, or the experiences that were sown in the clay of your heart, almost unknown to you, now yield their fruit. Autumntime in a person's life can be a time of great gathering. It is a time for harvesting the fruits of your experience.*

I recognize in my own life what a blessing this is. There is a sorting out of things as we age. Things that seemed desperately important in earlier stages of life, no longer seem very meaningful. Some things become clearer; their purpose revealed. Other things remain unclear or seem even more confusing, but there is also the ability to realize that I really don't need everything to be explained.

Most of all, fall is a time of deep gratitude. I realize how richly I have been blessed and continue to be blessed. Out of my abundance I realize how much I still have to share with the world. As we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving this month, may God gift us all with thankful hearts and lives.

# African Scholarship Fund

*By Jane White*

These children lost all of their male relatives during the Sudanese war and fled to a refugee camp and later Kenya with their mother/aunt. Reuben Panchol (a member of our congregation) is their only living male relative and he helps support them. However, he is unable to also pay for tuition, while supporting his own family in North Dakota.

For several years, some members of St. George's Church have paid for their tuition through the African Scholarship account. Now that account is depleted. On January 1, 2024, another \$1700 tuition payment is due. The amount we have paid has increased over the years as the children enter high school and tuition increases. We are hoping we can continue to help these children obtain a high school diploma, therefore increasing their odds of obtaining good jobs after graduation. Once the older children graduate, they may be able to help pay for tuition for their younger siblings. They have overcome so much....they started school without knowing Swahili or English.



Please consider donating to the African Scholarship Fund. These kids' future will be greatly affected by your generosity.

## Update from Search Committee

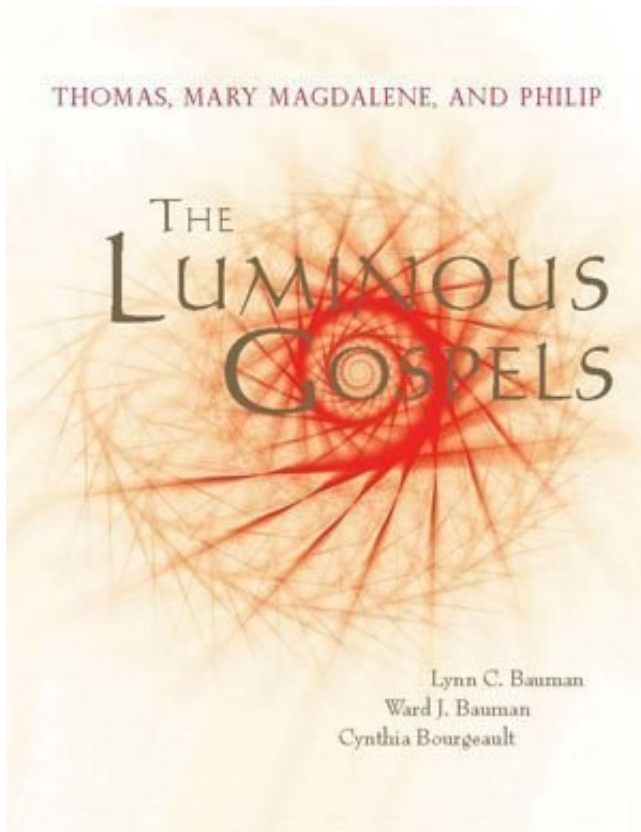
*By Jannelle Combs*

The search committee has continued to meet to revise and refine the rector search brochure and the information for the Episcopal Transition Ministry Office. It has been submitted. Hopefully by the time of the newsletter, there will be a webpage on our church's website with a copy of the brochure accessible to anyone who would like to review it. Each of the members of the search committee drafted portions of the brochure as well provided input through the revisions. The written content, as well as the dynamic pictures, some of which were provided by Dan Dailey, have created a striking brochure of which the whole church should be very proud. Dr. Thoms created the visual format in canva that looks like a professionally done product. Thank you for the all the time, hard work and the talents to the members of the search committee: Alison Hiatt, Elton Lassiter, Toby Skinner, Dr. Jason Thoms and Jane White.

# Book Discussion Group is Open to All

*By Deacon Beth Lipp*

Book Discussion Group will meet Tuesday, November 28 at 2 pm in Rita Murphy Hall.



The book chosen for this discussion is "The Luminous Gospels, Thomas, Mary Magdalene, and Philip" By Lynn C. Bauman, Ward J. Bauman and Cynthia Bourgeault.

The extraordinary discovery of the Nag Hammadi Library and other early Christian documents over the last century has sparked a revolution of understanding. We can now imagine the possibility of moving from the Christian Gospel as dogmatic tradition about Jesus, to the teachings of Jesus as a wisdom tradition. That is truly "good news." These early texts give us another view, one that is luminous with insight. Open these pages and enter a new world of early perennial wisdom. As you enter their world, you are invited into a way of knowing that is essential for receiving the gift of wisdom.

All are welcome to join the discussion. Books are available for purchase at Barnes & Noble or Amazon.com.

## Organ Music

*By Arlene Gray*

Your organist, Arlene Gray, wishes to play the organ for the public and for all of you, on Wednesday evenings, at 5 p.m. for only 25 minutes. This is meant to be an exposure to the sounds of our lovely pipe organ after its recent full tuning.

Gray plans to play one "serious" recital piece, then give the history of one hymn. Then folks can sing along as she plays the hymn. Participants may make a request of a favorite hymn for sing along.

This organ music will begin November 8th, the week after Taizé' service at the church. There will be a simple prelude music for the Taizé in keeping with the meditative spirit of that service.

Consider yourself personally invited to attend Wednesday evening organ music and let Arlene know how much you enjoy hearing the organ played in our lovely sanctuary.



# Building and Grounds Committee Looking for Interested Members

*By Steve Tillotson*

You may have noticed our church building and yard have had several challenges this past year, due largely to the severe winter. A long – dormant sump pump in the bottom of the elevator shaft started to regularly pump water into the northwest part of the yard, resulting in some ponding. We are consulting with our plumbing contractor to see if the water can be re-routed into the church's interior drainage system as a long-term solution.

Additionally, we need to find: a contractor to install new, larger, gutters for the north side of the church to handle stormwater; a landscape company to improve drainage of the north yard, and an insulation company to insulate portions of the church that developed ice dams on the roof resulting in water leakage into several areas of the building. Finally, the front entry of the church, which is the roof over a storage room below, needs sealing to protect the concrete from inadvertent use of de-icing salt which is very damaging to concrete.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee would appreciate and welcome any church members who are interested in helping coordinate a response to these challenges and help preserve our beautiful church. Please contact Tom Hopkins, Steve Tillotson or the church office if interested.

## Bismarck Global Neighbors Donation

*By Joanne Lassiter, Senior Warden*

On Sunday, October 1, 2023, Senior Warden Joanne Lassiter presented a check to Leah Hargrove, the Executive Director for Bismarck Global Neighbors, for \$15,000, which will be used to increase Global Neighbors' mentoring program for new Americans. The donation was made possible by a generous donation from Kenneth Nicola, a past lifelong St. George's Church member.

Bismarck Global Neighbors mentorship program matches community members with new Americans. Mentors share 1 hour per week, tutoring and introducing their mentee families to American life for six months. Activities vary from family to family and according to your abilities but frequently include English practice, homework tutoring, culture swapping, driving practice, exploring the community, and sharing meals.



# 2023 North Dakota Episcopal Diocese Convention

By Jannelle Combs

Many St. Georgians participated in the annual North Dakota Episcopal Diocese Convention on October 27 and 28 in Mandan. In addition to delegates and clergy, the church provided the piano music, choir, altar guild, and acolytes for some of the services. Bishop Tom Ely updated the convention on his health with his journey with Stage IV cancer. He was able to be in person, but the planned visits for the rest of the year are not recommended by his oncology team. He has appointed Rt. Rev. Brian Thom from Idaho as an Assisting Bishop to help fulfill the bishop duties. The new season of ministry team had previously provided the report findings, which can be found here: <https://www.ndepiscopal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NSMTF-Report-2023.pdf>. The convention voted with the recommendations to maintain the North Dakota diocese separate from other states, begin the search for a new bishop but also appoint another provisional bishop to provide for the diocese's needs while the 18-24 month process to call a new bishop continues. They also provided for funding for an additional diocese ordained minister and changed the titles of the current two minister positions to missionaries. Deacon Beth Lipp and Dr Jason Thoms were elected to the Standing Committee, and Solveigh Barney is the first alternate to the national General Convention. It was wonderful with connect with other Episcopalians from around the State and hear the blessings and opportunities they are experiencing as well.



Please join us for our annual

## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

&  
*pie social*

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22

7:00 pm  
Faith Lutheran Church  
1402 E Ave C, Bismarck

**Featured speaker is Ron Walters from Great Plains Food Bank. All offerings will benefit their mission. Bring beans, peanut butter, or canned meat to donate!**

Hosted in partnership by St. George's Episcopal Church, Bismarck United Church of Christ, Lord of Life Lutheran, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Faith Lutheran, and McCabe United Methodist

# Clergy Appreciation Month

By Joanne Lassiter, Senior Warden

October is designated as clergy appreciation month. According to 1 Timothy 5:17, "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching." It appears that while recognition of clergy has been encouraged over time, the month of October became identified as the month for clergy appreciation starting in 1994 with designation of October as Pastor Appreciation Month. On October 10<sup>th</sup> after church, we

celebrated Paster Steve Sathre, Deacons Beth Lipp and Ed Wos as well as Reverand Steve Godfrey with cake and good tidings to them for all they do.

The following is a very appropriate prayer from the Book of Common Prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace: and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



L.R. Pastor Steve Sathre, Deacon Beth Lipp, Deacon Ed Wos and The Rev. Diocesan Minister Steven Godfrey.

# The Paschal Candle

By Tom Tudor

The Paschal candle is one of the most sacred and enduring elements in Christianity. Until recent times, the Paschal candle was made of beeswax. The candle represents the purity of Christ; The candle's wick signifies Christ's humanity; and the flame His Divine Nature. It is adorned with one or more Christian symbols, often the cross to represent His redemptive sacrifice; the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet - Alpha and Omega - to signify that He is the beginning and the end; symbols of wheat and grapes, or a chalice and host, for the Eucharist - the true presence of Christ and our spiritual strength; the 12 Apostles - witnesses and scribes to the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ; and other symbols such as the Good Shepherd, the Lamb, the Sacred Heart, and the Risen Christ.



The Paschal candle is a rich symbol of our faith. It reaches its pinnacle at Easter. The Paschal candle serves as an image of the Resurrection. The candle, which represents Christ himself, is placed on a special Paschal candle stand near the altar.

The Paschal candle remains in the Sanctuary on its special candle stand during the full 50 days of the Easter season, and is lit for liturgical services during that time. After Pentecost the Paschal candle will be placed next to the baptismal font. The candle is lit during all baptisms throughout the year, passing the light of Christ to each person baptized. The candle may also be used at funeral services, and placed next to the casket during a funeral Mass. At funeral services, it is a reminder that the sacrament of Baptism is itself a death and resurrection in Christ, and testifies to Christian certainty in the resurrection of the dead and life with Christ in the world to come.

This candle, also called the Easter Candle, originated in the earliest days of Christianity, when evening prayer began with the lighting of a candle. This practice was probably inspired by the Jewish custom of lighting a lamp at the conclusion of the Sabbath. The lighting of the candle dispelled the darkness and represented Christ - the Light of the World.

In Italian basilicas, the paschal candle stand was made of marble and designed as a permanent attachment to the ambo. (The ambo was a stand where the Epistle and the Gospel were read. The Epistle ambo was placed on the south side of the sanctuary and the Gospel ambo was placed on the north side. Today, the lectern has replaced the Epistle ambo and the pulpit, the Gospel ambo, although at St. George's, the Gospel is read from the nave.) Several of these permanent candle stands still survive, as in the Basilica of San Lorenzo fuori le Mura (Saint Lawrence outside the Walls) in Rome, which was built in the 3rd century.

The word "paschal" is the equivalent of the Greek paschs, derived from the Aramaic pashā and Hebrew pesah, meaning the passing over. In the Old Testament, it refers to the night the Israelites left Egypt for the Promised Land, when God struck the houses of the Egyptians but left the Israelites untouched, thus "passing over" or sparing them.

With Christianity, the word "paschal" took on a new meaning, referring to Our Lord's passion, death, resurrection, and glorification. These events stand at the center of our faith. God's saving plan for us was accomplished by the redemptive suffering and death of Jesus. His resurrection and glorification are our assurances of eternal life - if we follow His words and His way.



**November Birthdays:**

Ashley Nelson, Zachary Flurer, Jeremiah Harrison, Brianna Carlson, Preston Bell, A'lyce Balzer, Janet Pinks, Krista Reynolds, Anne Reynolds, Tom Tudor, Sofia Wentz, Lara Wentz, Roy (Rusty) Towne, Hannah Gendron, Kate Hanlon, Willow Doll and Adalynn Neigum.

**November Anniversaries:**

Drew & Jannelle Combs and Shawn & Dionne Nelson.

**Wish them a Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary!**

**Text to Give to St. George's Ministries**

Let us offer our holy gifts as seeds; may we plant and water them with God's help; may God's grace yield a harvest of new life.

Text the word "give" to 701-658-6042 and access our secure online giving format.



## St. George's Divine Purpose Statement

**WE BELIEVE** that through Jesus Christ we are meant to faithfully and joyfully serve God and our neighbors.

**WE WORSHIP** as a community of believers who make people feel welcome from every walk of life. We value and welcome the diversity of all people.

**WE SERVE** seekers inside and outside the church to live in accordance with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Our diocese includes traditional homelands of Dakota, Lakota, Nakota, Turtle Mountain Chippewa, Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara tribes. We acknowledge & understand this land was stewarded by people who lived here for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans & express our appreciation for their continued faithful stewardship of this land.

## St Georges Episcopal Memorial Church Established 1880 | National Registry of Historic Places, 2021

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### Let's Get Social

Facebook page: [St.Georges.Episcopal.Bismarck](https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesEpiscopalBismarck)

YouTube Channel: St Georges Memorial Church

facebook.

