



# THE GOOD NEWS AT ST. GEORGE'S

DECEMBER 2023

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## THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD by Pastor Steve

The reality of Christmas has boggled human brains for centuries. The coming together of the human and divine, the material and the spiritual, the temporal and the eternal, is not something that seems intuitive to our minds. The two realities seem diametrically opposed.

Much of Christian poetry has struggled to make sense of this. One poem by Richard Crashaw puts it beautifully as it greets the birth of Jesus:

Welcome, all wonders in one sight!

Eternity shut in a span;

Summer in winter; day in night;

Heaven in earth, and God in man.

We tend to see the incarnation as a sort of "demotion" for God, something humbling, if not humiliating. We humans are so busy trying to lift ourselves up and transcend our human limits, that we can't imagine God entering into the constraints of human life. But is that simply us projecting our desires upon God?

It becomes quite apparent that God has no problem with matter or created things. In fact, it appears that God is right at home in the midst of it all. One of my teachers pointed out that Jesus was the second incarnation of God; the first incarnation is creation itself. It is not that God is equal to the created world, but the created world only exists as an emanation of God. Matter has no reality apart from its existence in God. This is why it is the most natural thing for God to be born as a human baby and loved by very human parents. The true wonder of Christmas is not that God condescended to come to earth, but that God unmistakably reveals that this is where God has been hidden all along. We glimpse it in the grandeur of nature but we cannot possibly miss it in the face of a sweet child.

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So this Christmas we are invited to look at this world with new eyes. It can be a messy, scary, violent place but is not abandoned by God and neither can we abandon it. It is our calling to look carefully for the presence of the life-giving, transforming God in the midst of it all. And then point it out so others can see it as well and walk with hope in that reality.

## Christmas Old and New

*By Pastor Steve*



Join Pastor Steve at 9:00 am on December 10 & 17 Rita Murphy Hall for a look at why we celebrate Christmas the way we do. Our current traditions and stories weren't always how Christians observed the holiday.

The first week we will look at how various practices were introduced and transformed over time. The second week we will take a close look at the original stories in the Bible.

## Update from Search Committee

*By Jannelle Combs*

Greetings from the search committee. The parish profile is live on the church's website as well as the national church site for rector postings. This will remain open until December 31st. Rev. Steve Godfrey will have an in person meeting with others who do transition ministry in other dioceses in December. He will have the opportunity to promote our parish to help increase our chances of finding a great fit for both the priest and our church.



The search committee will start crafting interview questions in December. And hopefully we will have connected with some initial contacts by the time of the next newsletter.

# What's in your Blue Box?

By Andrea Stomberg



The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO will distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

## Piecemakers Silent Auction and Fund Raiser

By Andrea Stomberg

After service December 10, the Piecemakers will be accepting bids on four lovely quilts, as well as selling a variety of other sewn crafts. Funds raised will allow the Piecemakers to continue to provide warmth and comfort to parishioners, those newly baptized and graduates, as well as people in need throughout the area.



Quilts have been recently been provided to Bridges of Hope, Warm Start, the Burleigh County Child Advocacy Center. The next project will be to provide bed quilts for the Elks Camp Grassick, a summer camp for persons with physical and intellectual disabilities.

Help make this ministry possible by bidding generously! The quilts will be on display prior to the auction so you can ponder which will look best in your home or the home of someone you love.

Bids will be accepted in \$10 increments above a minimum bid by assigned number from 11:30-12:00 on December 10. If you have questions call Shirel Zillier at 258-3791.

# Cookies! Cookies!! Cookies!!! Cookies!!!! It's that time again!

*By Andrea Stomberg*



Saturday December 16, bring a plate of your homemade holiday treats to the church between noon and 1:00 to be assembled with others and sent out to our home-bound parishioners, or bring them earlier, during office hours.

Make them lovely, make them sweet, make them savory or make them plain- all are welcome!



## Christmas Poinsettias

*By Kim Gullickson*

There is still time to dedicate a Christmas Poinsettia in Memory Of or In Honor Of a Loved One.

Checks may be written to:

St. George's Episcopal

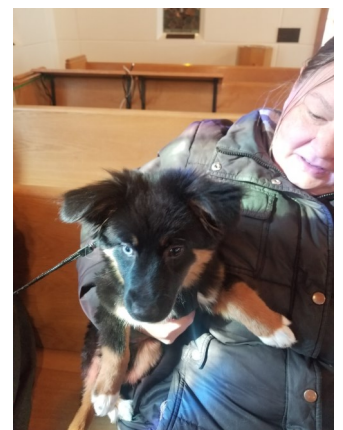
*Memo: Poinsettia (\$25)*



# Annual Pet Blessing

*By Jacinda Simmons*

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the guests at St. George's were cuter and more fun than usual. The Annual Pet Blessing was held. There were several adorable pets – 4 dogs, 2 cats, and 1 hamster. Pastor Steve had a short service, then blessed all the pets individually, and also blessed those pets who have passed away. Donations were taken for Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue.



# Steamboat Red Cloud

By Tom Tudor

The steamboat Red Cloud was built by the Howard Ship Company in 1873 in Jeffersonville, Indiana, for the Evansville & Tennessee River Packet Company. The cost of construction was \$26,375. In 1877 the Red Cloud was sold to I. G. Baker & Company of Fort Benton, Montana. She was originally 178 feet long and was lengthened to 228 feet in St. Louis in 1877.



**The Red Cloud**

The *Red Cloud's* arrival on the upper Missouri River in 1877 was followed by the press with much anticipation. The steamboat's trip up the Missouri from St. Louis was reported in the *Benton Weekly Record* and the *Bismarck Semi-Weekly Tribune*, arriving in Bismarck on June 8, 1877. On her first trip to Fort Benton, the Red Cloud carried 320 tons of freight and 22 passengers, arriving there on June 22nd. On the return downstream, she carried 240 tons of freight for the Northern Pacific Railroad, together with soldiers bound for Dauphin's Rapids, Montana, and forty-six passengers.

Leaving Fort Benton for Bismarck on June 24, 1877, with one other steamboat in port there, the *Red Cloud* met ten other steamboats before arriving in Bismarck on June 27th.

The *Red Cloud's* trip from Bismarck to Fort Benton on July 28, 1877, set the all-time record for this trip of 8 days and 17 hours.

The *Red Cloud* carried more passengers than any other Missouri River steamboats during her period of service. On one trip in 1878 she carried 215 Canadian Mounted Police, 170 other passengers, plus horses, mules, cattle and sheep.

The *Red Cloud* hit a snag and sank in the Missouri River on July 11, 1882, about 200 miles below Fort Benton. Isaac Baker, a partner in the I. G. Baker firm had the bell salvaged and donated it to the Church of the Bread of Life. The bell is now located in St. George's steeple.



**St. George's Bell**

# The Nicene Creed

*By Tom Tudor*

The Catechism set out in the Book of Common Prayer (the BCP) states that the Nicene Creed is the creed of the universal Church and is used at the Eucharist. The Nicene Creed is found on page 358 of The Book of Common Prayer and is recited following the sermon.

Also found in the BCP is this statement set out in the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral adopted by the House of Bishops in 1886:

“The Nicene Creed is the sufficient statement of the Christian Faith.”

This creed was initially adopted at the First Council of Nicaea, which was a meeting of the bishops of the Christian Church convened by The Roman Emperor Constantine in CE 325 to meet at what was then Nicaea (now Iznik) in Turkey, about 50 miles from Istanbul (which was then called Constantinople and was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire). We recognize this creed as the Creed of Nicaea.

Nicaea came to be recognized as the first of seven ecumenical councils. (An ecumenical council is a council for the Christian Church.)

Constantine called this meeting for the purpose of uniting the Church. Several issues were addressed, but the primary question put to the bishops was how to address and exclude the teaching of Arius.

Arius emphasized the supremacy and uniqueness of God the Father, meaning that the Father alone is infinite and eternal and almighty, and that therefore the Father's divinity must be greater than the Son's. Arius maintained that the Son possessed neither the eternity nor the true divinity of God the Father but was rather made "God" only by the Father's permission and power. With reference to Jesus, Arius would say “there once was when He was not,” and “He came to be out of nothing.”

To say these things would be to say Jesus is not eternal like God and that He came into being from non-existence, like all of God's creatures. The Creed of Nicaea was written to say no to these beliefs, that they are heretical, and that anyone who taught them was a heretic.

The creed adopted at Nicaea was a confession of our Christian faith, which was restated at the Council of Constantinople in CE 451 (the Second Ecumenical Council). The faith expressed in this creed, the Nicene Creed, is the same as expressed in the Creed of Nicaea, with some language changes and the expansion of the statement describing and recognizing the Holy Spirit.

The Nicene Creed has been incorporated into the regular worship of the vast majority of Christians world-wide, including Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholics, and most Protestants who use a regular liturgy, including, of course, The Episcopal Church.

**December Birthdays:**

Luke Askew, Vasiliki Daniolos, Tre'ven Skinner, Drew Reynolds, Norma Boutrous, Ellee Koch, William Helphrey, Tayte Bender, Averie Gendron, Adella Red Stone, Kylee Olson, John Ringland, Beth Zillier, Jannelle Combs, Virginia Olson and Avery Vos.

**December Anniversaries:**

Leslie & Ana WhiteDress, Kent & Ardella Bellerud and Don & Beth Johnson.

**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

**Contact Us:** Phone: 701-223-1942

601 N 4th St. / PO Box 1241 Bismarck, ND 58502

email: [Stgeorges@stgeorges-bismarck.org](mailto:Stgeorges@stgeorges-bismarck.org)

web-site: <https://stgeorges-bismarck.org>

### Let's Get Social

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

YouTube Channel: St Georges Memorial Church

facebook.

