



# THE GOOD NEWS AT ST. GEORGE'S

JANUARY 2024

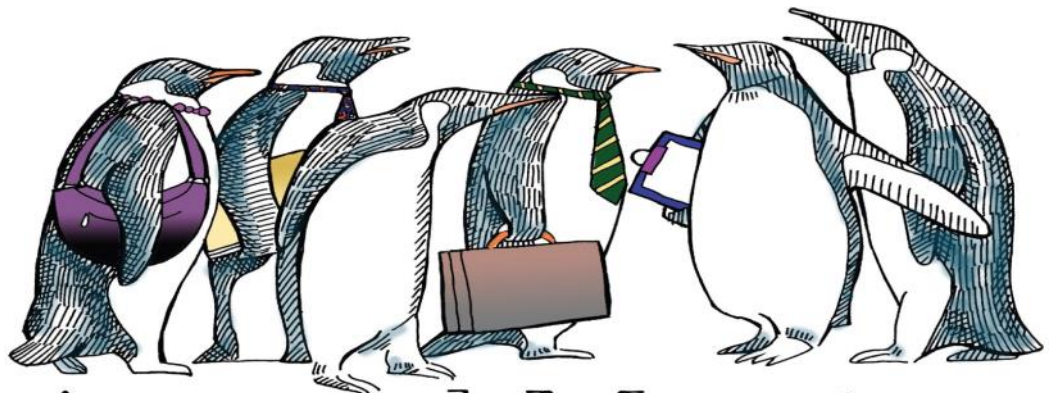
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## Bishop Provisional Elected

On Sunday, January 7, a Special Convention (virtual) was held, and Bishop Brian Thom was elected Bishop Provisional of North Dakota on the first ballot in both the Lay and Clergy Orders. Bishop Thom has replaced Bishop Tom Ely, who has served the Diocese of North Dakota very well since February 2021. Bishop Thom has started visits to North Dakota, and we hope to welcome him to St. George's soon. In addition, please keep Bishop Ely and Ann in your prayers as he continues his cancer treatment.

*Welcome Bishop Brian Thom!*



## Annual Meeting

Please join us immediately after the service on Sunday, January 28 for special Vestry-hosted coffee/snacks and the St. George's Annual Meeting! We'll celebrate the year's accomplishments, get updates on the year to come, and take votes on some important parish business including vestry membership and next year's budget. We need at least thirty qualified voters for a quorum, so please make a special effort to stay for this meeting.

Joanne Lassiter  
Senior Warden



Here's a huge thank you to St. George's for participating in the pledge drive for 2024! The number of pledgers and the total amount pledged have both **increased by about 50% over last year**. To me this shows remarkable faith and hope in St. George's mission and practice and a deep willingness to walk together.

As we live into our common life next year, I hope that you continue to feel joy and love every time you give to St. George's.

We keep track of personally identifiable contributions throughout the year so that we can provide you records for tax purposes. Look for your statement of 2023 contributions to arrive by email in January.

Faithfully,

David Martin, on behalf of the Stewardship Team with Joanne Lassiter, Jacinda Simmons, and Pastor Steve Sathre

## Thank You from the Piecemakers

*By Andrea Stromberg*

Thanks to everyone who admired and bid on the Piecemakers quilts. There were significant funds raised to further the work of this group in providing quilts for baptisms, confirmations, graduations, to shut-in's and others out in the community who welcome these warm gifts. And, if you want to sharpen your cutting, sewing or ironing skills, please get in touch with Shirel Zillier, who will help you in that regard!



## Seeking Coffee Hosts

*By Andrea Stomberg*

**What will you be doing on April 14? or July 28? or December 8 next year?**

Well, I'm not sure what I will be doing, but we all have an opportunity to sign up to be a coffee host for those Sundays! Or any other Sundays! The signup sheets for 2024 are up and awaiting your attention.



Hosting can be as simple as making coffee and opening a package of Oreo's, or seeing what cookies are in the freezer. If you have qualms about working in the kitchen, there are many who can help and will happily work alongside you as you figure out where the cups, napkins, spoons etc are hidden, as well as how to make the coffee! Contact any vestry member, or Andrea Stomberg for help.

We all enjoy a cup of coffee and the company of our friends after service. Take a minute and sign up!

## Coffee House Success!

*By Andrea Stomberg*

St. George parishioners once again proved their generosity and concern for those in need by supporting the "Episcopal Relief and Development Coffee House" over the last several months. Disaster relief, economic development and immediate "boots on the ground" in places struggling from disruption is what YOUR Episcopal Relief and Development people do.

Together, we raised \$998 dollars to contribute to these efforts at home and abroad. The situation in the Mideast and Ukraine are two areas of involvement by Episcopal Relief and Development, but support to people impacted by fire or weather-related events in the United States is also provided. Globally, long term projects with local partners ensure that your dollar continues to work for good.

The website, [Episcopal Relief & Development](https://www.episcopalrelief.org/), highlights the work which touches over three million people each year, spreading God's love and letting us touch those in need in ways we cannot always manage by ourselves.



## Decorating Team

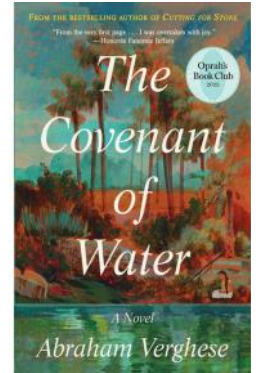
A big thank you to all who helped decorate St. George's for Christmas. The sanctuary looked beautiful and your efforts are most appreciated! Also thanks to those who helped put everything away.



## Book Discussion Group

One reason we enjoy Book Discussion Group is that it encourages us to read something we may not read on our own. Another added benefit from the discussion is everyone's unique perspective and experience on the topics.

The book *The Covenant of Water* is the topic of discussion on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. All are welcome to attend and join in the discussion. Next book will be selected by the group in attendance.



## St George's Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee met by email and voted to distribute the balance of the Outreach budget and Outreach Special Donations to support the following projects:

\$500 Youthworks (support for homeless teens)

\$550 Scholarship Fund for Reuben Panchol's nieces/nephews for primary school tuition

## In Remembrance

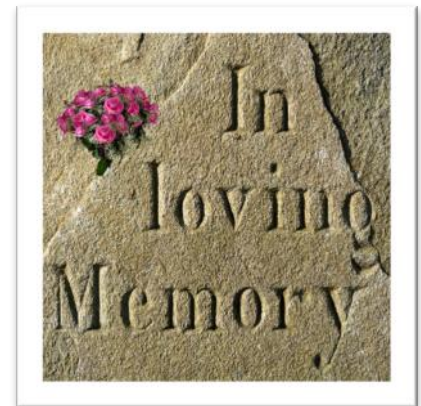
We remember those who have died in December.

Peggy Helphrey, December 24, 2023

Frances "Dolly" Luger, December 27, 2023

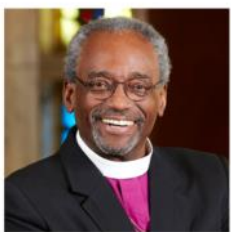
David Gray, December 26, 2023

In late December, we celebrated the life of Peggy Helphrey. Please keep Jim Helphrey and his family in your prayers. This week we celebrated the life of Frances "Dolly" Luger. Please keep Virginia Luger and her family in your prayers. On Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a celebration of life for David Gray, (First Presbyterian, Mandan). Please keep Arlene Gray and her family in your prayers.



May the love and support of our community provide comfort to the grieving families at this time.

## Please Pray



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry underwent surgery the morning of January 6<sup>th</sup> to treat a reoccurrence of the subdural hematoma he experienced in early December of 2023. The surgery was successful, and updates on his condition will be provided as they become available.

Please continue to pray for Bishop Curry, his family, and his medical team.

# The Nicene Creed (continued from last month's newsletter)

By Tom Tudor

There were seven Ecumenical Councils. These seven councils are recognized as Ecumenical Councils because they were called by an appropriate authority representative of the whole Roman Empire, and were wholly accepted by the Eastern and Western branches of the Church.

Last month's article set out a brief statement of the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity---of the relation of God the Father, God the Son, and God and the Son and the Holy Spirit. This was set out in the Nicene Creed, first formulated and adopted at the First Council of Nicea (325) and again, in the form we know today, at the First Council of Constantinople (381).

One of the purposes of this article is to illustrate that doctrines of the Christian Church were not readily formulated and agreed to when Christianity was first established as a "Church". The Church's history is filled with many hotly contested disputes and controversies. I do not pretend to be familiar with more than a small part of this history. It is, however, a story that is fascinating to study and explore. The following is one example of the complexity of this story.

The Nicene Creed declared that Jesus is truly God and truly Man. A widespread reaction concerning this doctrine and its vocabulary had developed following 325 and 350.

The Nicene Creed, adopted at the First Council of Constantinople, had declared that Jesus is truly God and truly Man.

Following the First Council of Nicea and the First Council of Constantinople were the Council of Ephesus (431) and the Council of Chalcedon (451). The Bishops in attendance at these councils looked at the doctrine of the Person of Christ, the actual identity of Jesus Christ. In brief, the question to be addressed at these councils was whether Jesus is two persons joined together with one nature or one Person with two natures.

Nestorius, the Bishop of Constantinople, was said to teach that within Christ there are not only two different natures, but also two different persons,

and that Mary gave birth to the human person with a human nature. Cyril, the Bishop of Alexandria, believed that there is one and one only Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the Son of Mary is the Son of God with his human nature.

Nestorius' teachings had been condemned at a Council in Rome in 430. At the Council of Ephesus in 431, which Nestorius asked the Emperor Theodosius II to convene to establish his orthodoxy, the council condemned his teachings, known as Nestorianism, as heretical. The Council of Chalcedon in 451 again condemned his teachings. The council declared that Mary did not give birth merely to a man with a human nature, but that her Son is the eternal Son of the Father, who took His human nature and flesh in her womb, that she truly is the "God-bearing" Virgin, the Mother of God.

The Council of Chalcedon issued a formulation of the union of the two natures of Christ, one human and one divine, "united with neither confusion nor division". Most of the major branches of Western Christianity and Eastern Orthodoxy subscribe to this formulation, while many branches of Oriental Orthodox Church reject it, subscribing to the doctrine that there is only one nature.

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) contains this definition in the section of the BCP containing Historical Documents of the Church, on page 864, which reads, in part:

*Council of Chalcedon, 451 AD*

*Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body, of one substance (homoousios) with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood...the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristic of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ....*

## Community Event

Join Deacon Beth Lipp and other church members as we participate in this community event.

You are invited to attend the Community Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Event

**When:** Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM

**Where:** Trinity Lutheran Church

**What to Expect:** The event includes speakers, music and root beer floats.



## Farewell and Big Thank You!

Kim Gullickson, our Administrative Assistant, has accepted a full-time position with the State of North Dakota. We are very grateful for her time with us. Her gift of organization, restructuring the filing system, will be a lasting benefit! We wish her well in her new opportunity.

## 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.



### January Birthdays:

Jane Harrison, Biar Panchol, Anna Hopkins, Andrew Reynolds, Sherrie Hopkins, Dionne Nelson, Carol DeWall, Pete White, Michael Gross, Pamela Helphrey, Virginia Luger, Alei Panchol, Jacinda Simmons, Peter Woodrow, Abigail Johnsrud, Karen Palaniuk, Juan Gonzalez, Rick Olson, Keira Knight, Janel Welch and Laura Schumacher

**There are no January Anniversaries**

## 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

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Art by Alekz Thoms

### 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.

