



THE GOOD NEWS AT ST. GEORGE'S

FEBRUARY 2024

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WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?

The season of Lent doesn't have a very positive image. We associate it with penitence, feeling guilty, and depriving ourselves of something we like. But what purpose does that serve? Discipline can be a positive thing in our lives, but what is accomplished by giving up a little treat like chocolate for six weeks knowing that we can start eating it again immediately after? What does that accomplish? I've known friends to give up desserts for Lent in hopes of losing a few pounds. I don't think that was what God really cares about.

Originally, the purpose of giving something up for Lent was to allow us more time and energy to do something else, something more positive like prayer or service or helping others or developing a new, better habit. The aim was personal growth.

But to really understand Lent, we need to know how it got started.

In the early church, people became members through adult baptism. Lent was set aside as a time to specifically prepare the new converts to be baptized. Easter morning was the great celebration of resurrection and of baptism. As the dawn came up on Easter, the new Christians went into the water and came out as new members of the church.

The forty days of Lent were spent teaching the basics of the faith to the new believers. It was much like the confirmation classes we offer in the modern church. They learned about the Bible stories, the 10 Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the creed, and of course the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. They were asked to set aside other things that would distract them from focusing on their faith. It was a time of discovery and growth.

I'd encourage you to reframe this Lent in these terms. How could you use these forty days in a positive sense? What is some small but significant way you would like to grow your faith? God doesn't need grumpy, self-deprived people. God wants us to be alive and growing as believers. Have a blessed Lent!

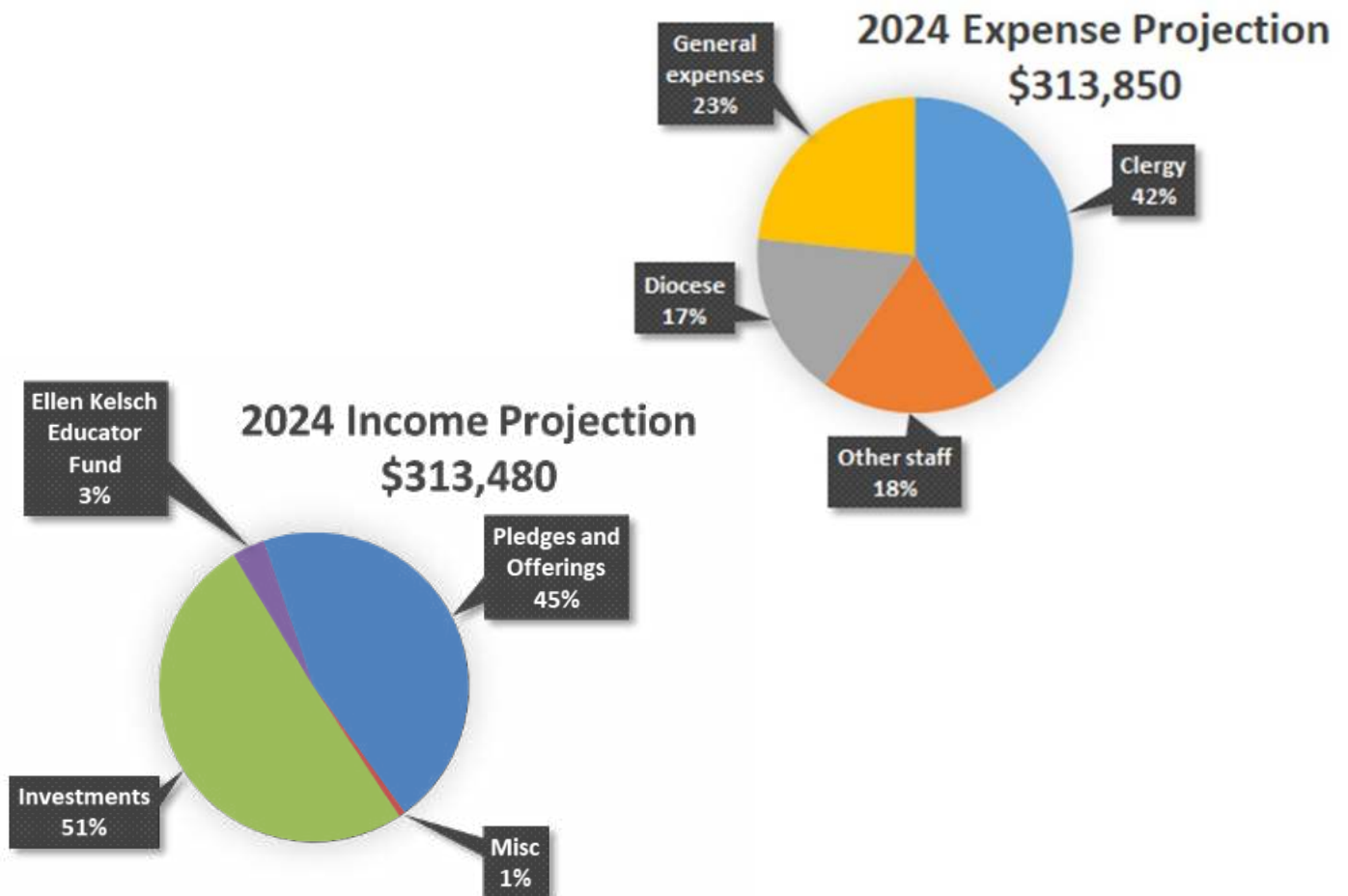


Pastor Steve Sathre

Budgets Adopted for 2024

Budgets for 2024 were adopted at the annual meeting of the parish on January 28. The pie charts below show the projected income and expenses for the year assuming we call a full-time rector in April, hire a part-time Administrative Assistant, and hire a part-time Educational Activities Coordinator. Delays in filling any of these positions will reduce expenses and required income.

David Martin, Operations Treasurer



Update from Search Committee

Greetings from the search committee. While we have had some great interest and application for the open rector position, the search committee decided that allowing the position to accept additional applications until the end of February would be in the best interest of our parish. Rev. Steve Godfrey met with other transition ministers from the heartland of the US in December. There were about 50 openings and 4 priests looking for a new position. Rev Godfrey has assured us that is not uncommon. In addition, right after our closing date for applications, seminarians were taking their examinations. This may have not been on the radar for those graduating from seminary due to the timing with their exams and the end of the year. Pastor Steve Sathre has agreed to continue for a little longer than planned initially so there will be no gap with allowing the search to proceed for a little longer.

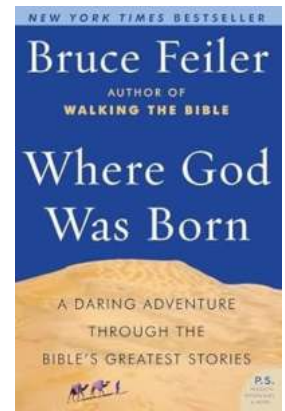
If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact any member of the search committee.

Submitted by Jannelle Combs, chair

Book Discussion: Where God was Born?

Join the discussion on February 19 at 2 pm in the Church Basement

Where God Was Born combines the adventure of a wartime chronicle, the excitement of an archaeological detective story, and the insight of personal spiritual exploration. Taking readers to biblical sites not seen by Westerners for decades, Feiler's journey uncovers little-known details about the common roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, affirms the importance of the Bible in today's world, and offers a rare, universal vision of God that can inspire different faiths into a united allegiance of hope.



Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. We will have imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, February 14th at 5:30 PM. Join us downstairs after the service for a simple soup and bread meal.

Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return.

Excess Humidity Mystery

If you attended church over the last four weeks, you saw the glass entryway doors covered in ice. After some super sleuthing by the building and grounds committee, they discovered the sump pump in the elevator shaft was having trouble keeping up with the high water table. Steve Tillotson spent some time evaluating and consulting with other members on the best path forward to ensure the water is managed properly.



Piecemakers

Come one! Come all! The Piecemakers will be tying quilts for Elks Camp Grassick which serves children and adults with various disabilities and special needs in six summer camping sessions. No special skills required. We will meet at 6:30 February 6 in Rita Murphy Hall. Hope to see you there. Many hands make light work!



The Apostle Paul

By Tom Tudor

Authors note: Most of the Information in this brief article has been taken from books which can be found in our library in Rita Murphy Hall.

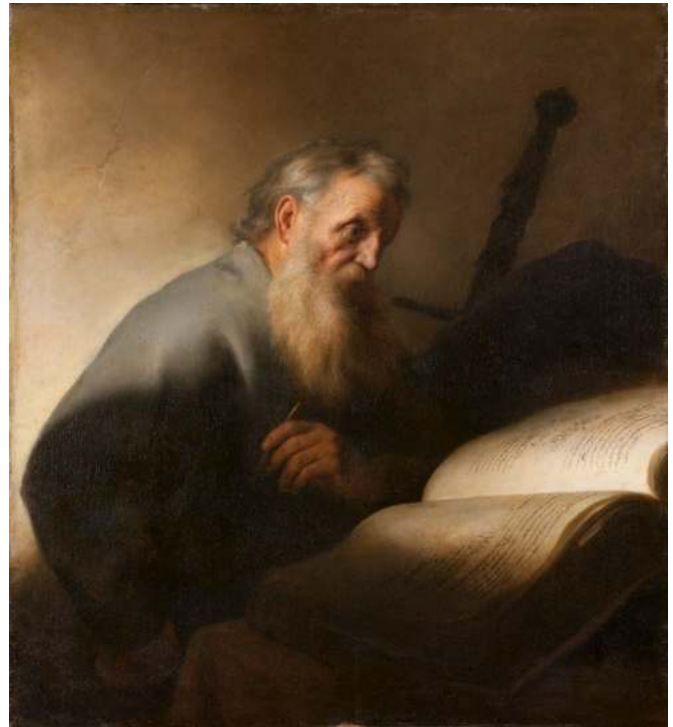
Paul was born in Tarsus, a city located about 12 miles inland from the Mediterranean Sea in present-day Turkey. The exact date of his birth is not known, but it would have been in the early first century CE. He was probably about ten years younger than Jesus. He was a Roman citizen by birth (his father was a Roman citizen). He was a Jew, studied Jewish theology in the synagogue at Tarsus and in Jerusalem. He became a Pharisee, an ancient Jewish sect distinguished by strict observance of the traditional and written Jewish law. He became a persecutor of what was then the Christian faith. However, his time as a persecutor was brief.

Paul became a follower of Christ after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. (The story of Paul's vision and conversion is set out in chapter 9 in the Book of Acts.)

Paul is known as the apostle to the Gentiles. He began his missionary journey and to preach and write his letters about twenty years after Jesus' death. Paul is often considered to be the most important person after Jesus in the history of Christianity.

Paul's letters are "first hand" and are the earliest Christian documents known at present. He believed that he was the Messianic envoy to the Gentiles, preparing the way for the return of the son of man from heaven to raise the dead and establish his terrestrial kingdom.

Paul did not write all the letters attributed to him in the New Testament. Only seven are believed to have been written by Paul. These letters portray a Paul quite different from the Paul of the other letters, known as the Deutero-Pauline letters.



The letters, in chronological order, are 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Galatians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Romans (the longest letter), Philippians (the shortest letter), Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Titus, and 1 and 2 Timothy,

In the course of his mission, Paul made four journeys to the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, traveling from Asia Minor in the west to as far east as Spain. Paul's letters may be divided into two groups, those written during his activities as a Messianic envoy and those written while he was a prisoner at Rome.

Paul was under "house arrest" during his first journey to Rome, about 62-64 CE. He was free to travel for a time, but upon his return to Rome he was imprisoned for a second time and, during the persecutions of Nero, died a martyr's death in 67 CE.

Dakota Pro Musica: *A Prayer for Ukraine*

Dakota Pro Musica has scheduled a performance at St. George's on Sunday, February 25, at 3 PM. A poster containing information about this concert will be displayed at St. George's.

The Dakota Pro Musica choral ensemble was founded, and is directed, by Dr. Jason Thoms. Jason is currently the Director of Choral Activities at Bismarck State College. A detailed listing of his background and accomplishments can be found on Dakota Pro Musica's YouTube home page.

Jason created Dakota Pro Music using the professional choral models of some of America's top choral ensembles. Dakota Pro Musica is North Dakota's only fully professional choral ensemble.

Dakota Pro Musica's goal is to build community through professional concerts and community outreach programming, and selects its choral pieces to honor people from various cultural and religious backgrounds and personal identities.



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.



February Birthdays:

Harvey Bosch, Lily Combs, Ron DeWall, Holly Doll, Kira Eliason, Steve Goecke, Lacey Gross, Mark Hanlon, Keanna Maxon, Tammy Olson, Claudia Schoellkopf, Quinn Silbernagel, Kelly Suchy, Abby Tillotson, Salem Towne

There are no February Anniversaries

Wish them a Happy Birthday !

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

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



Art by Alekz Thoms

Let's Get Social

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

YouTube Channel: St Georges Memorial Church

facebook.





February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6p Executive Cmt.	2 10a St. G's Delivers St. Meals	3
4 10a Holy Eucharist 11a Coffee Fellowship	5	6 11a Centering Prayer	7 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 6p Potluck 6:45p Choir Rehearsal 7p Vestry Meeting	8	9 10a St. G's Delivers St. Meals	10
11 10a Holy Eucharist 11a Coffee Fellowship	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 6p Soup & Bread Supper 6:45p Choir Rehearsal 7p Vestry Meeting	15	16 10a St. G's Delivers St. Meals	17
18 Season of Lent 10a Holy Eucharist 11a Coffee Fellowship	19 2p Where God Was Born—Book Group	20 10 Touchmark Holy Eucharist 11a Centering Prayer	21 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 6p Potluck 6:45p Choir Rehearsal	22	23 10a St. G's Delivers St. Meals	24
25 Season of Lent 10a Morning Prayer 11a Coffee Fellowship 3p "A Prayer for Ukraine"	26 1p Newsletter Items Due	27	28 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 6p Potluck 6:45p Choir Rehearsal	29		