

THE GOOD NEWS AT ST. GEORGE'S

GOD BLESS MORE THAN THE USA

As the political season heats up, we see politicians of all stripes cozying up to Christians and trying to convince them that God is definitely on their side. And if they are good enough for God, well then they surely deserve our vote. The most recent example is a former president selling the God Bless the USA Bible. It has the flag on the cover and includes a copy of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the lyrics to the patriotic anthem, "God Bless the USA."

The relationship between religion and politics has always been a delicate balancing act and subject to constant abuse. I have to admit that I am on the side of keeping them as separate as possible. The power of religion lies in its ability to stand outside of politics and call the government to account. Christians fail to learn the lessons of history that getting too tied in with politics always leads to abuse of power and being coopted for someone's political agenda.

There have always been Christian voices urging caution. I recently saw a very conservative preacher denouncing the God Bless the USA Bible. He pointed out the obvious: that the Kingdom of Heaven is much larger and more inclusive than America. He said that our ultimate allegiance is to God, not to any earthly country. As he pointed out, we are ultimately citizens of heaven and this world is not our permanent home. We are just passing through.

When I heard that, I realized that I wanted to finesse that assumption. To me, it is precisely because I am a citizen of the WHOLE world that I cannot be too tied to any single country. As children of God we have been gifted and entrusted with this entire beautiful, wonderful world. It is a trust for all the people on the planet. Obviously, I am not a permanent resident here, but that doesn't mean that I am just waiting to go somewhere else. No, I am privileged and responsible for enjoying and caring for this whole world and all its children.

So during the hectic campaign season, it's good to keep a broader perspective. Certainly I can wish that God would bless the USA but just as importantly I want God's blessing for all the countries of this world. My faith should never be something that can be used to cut me off from others but the very reason I am bound to all of God's good creation.

- *Pastor Steve*



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Update from the search committee

We had two great Teams interviews with the two rector candidates and the search committee. We felt one candidate was a great fit for our congregation and needs. That candidate agreed that he still felt a call to St. George's. We submitted the candidate to vestry in their April meeting, and they agreed to move forward to the candidate coming to Bismarck in May. As we were working through travel details, the candidate felt he needed to be closer to family and withdrew his application.

We have been reassured by Reverend Steve Godfrey that this is not unusual, and candidates often have many choices. The search committee will start the application process again. Our timing may be better this time of year. We would greatly appreciate your continued prayers that the right candidate will find their call to our parish.

- Jannelle Combs

Summer Tours of St. George's

Last summer, on the afternoon of the ice cream social at the Old Governor's Mansion, St. George's was open for tours. This was very successful.

This summer, I would like to expand on this and have St. George's open for tours each week on Thursdays and Fridays from 11 am until 2 pm. Three members of St. George's would be available at the church during each time period.

You don't need to be a history major to participate. A short written history of St. George's is available for the tour conductors to use, and the booklet setting out the history of the windows is also available.

I see this as a great marketing opportunity for St. George's. Please contact Tom Tudor (701-390-4742) if you would like to participate, or if you would like more information about this project.



Piecemakers Quilts

On May 12, 15 Piecemakers quilts will be blessed and delivered to the Bismarck Elks for use at their Camp Grassick, a facility to provide fellowship and outdoor experiences to the disabled. These 15 quilts were the result of efforts by many, including two gatherings at the church for work to tie and finish the quilts. The Piecemakers appreciate the support of the congregation and always welcome new people to help- no sewing skills required! If you are interested, please get in touch with Shirel Zillier! (szillier@hotmail.com)

- Andrea Stomberg

Learn more about Camp Grassick:

elkscampgrassick.com

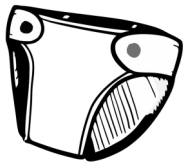
Altar Flowers

We've been working hard recently to get altar flower sponsors lined up and we've had good success. We do have several open Sundays coming up though. Flowers may be sponsored in celebration of an event, (graduation, anniversary, birthday, wedding, birth) or in memory of loved ones. The current rate is \$65. The church has been paying for the flowers directly and will contact you for reimbursement. You may request special flower types or colors. You are welcome to take the flowers home after the service.

Please contact Tom or Sherrie Hopkins (701-425-1865) or Alekz, the church administrator (stgeorges@stgeorges-bismarck.org), if you would like to participate.



Nappies Needed



St. George's will collect nappies- diapers!- during May in honor of Mother's Day, for distribution to big and little people in the community who need and can use them! Bring a few or a lot any time during May. They will be a blessing for families who find their budgets stretched! Both disposable and cloth diapers are welcome, premies to toddler and even adult sizes are needed!

- Andrea Stomberg

Keep Bismarck Beautiful

Spring has finally sprung. Just in time for the upcoming 11th Annual Keep Bismarck Beautiful clean-up day! This city-wide event relies heavily on volunteers of all ages. **We are in need of hundreds of helping hands to clean up our community, so please help us spread the word and recruit volunteers!**

It would be wonderful if you had a team volunteer at the event.

Details:

- **Date** - May 4
- **Time** - 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (noon)
- **Registration** - [register to volunteer](#) and be entered for door prizes!
- **Meeting Place** - Peace Park, Bis. Parks & Rec Office, 400 E Front Ave.
- **What you need** - Bring gloves, wear long pants and comfortable shoes.

We will provide - t-shirts, garbage bags, safety vests and Bearscat Donuts for the first 100 volunteers.

Contact: bismarckrotary@gmail.com

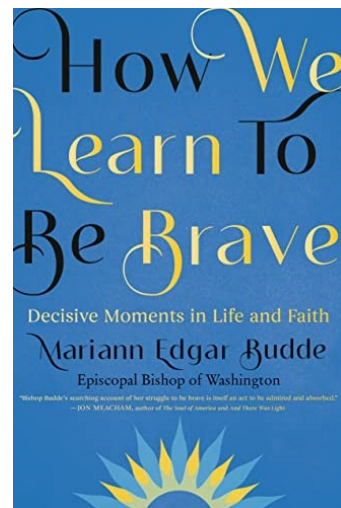
Follow “Keep Bismarck Beautiful” on Facebook for up-to-date details

Thank you for your partnership! We look forward to working with you to clean up our community.

Molly Herrington, *Keep Bismarck Beautiful* volunteer
701.202.0500 (call/text)

Book Discussion

BOOK DISCUSSION: All are invited to read “How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith,” by Bishop Mariann Budde and join the discussion **on May 13th at 4pm.**



Preaching Workshop

On April 13, several individuals gathered at Grach Church in Jamestown from 1000 - 3 pm for a preaching workshop. Mark Strobel presided over the workshop where members listened, participated in conversation, and ate a delicious lunch hosted by Fr. Bob Hoekstra. Many thanks to Mark Strobel, what a wonderful facilitator! - Joanne Lassiter



(Left to Right): Elsie Magnus, Barb Hultin, Beth Lipp, Mark Hanlon, Mark Strobel, Joanne Lassiter, Harvey Henderson, Peter Halbach, Christie Iverson, Robert Schlotman.

Photo Credit: Steve Godfrey

Financial Update

Thank you to St. George's for your weekly plate offerings and for keeping up with your pledges! The Vestry continues to receive monthly reports on our finances. By the end of March, we received about 11% of our budgeted income and spent about 12% of our budgeted expenses, so we are keeping up reasonably well. We will increasingly draw on our investments as we realize ongoing expenses for water incursion mitigation, and as our new Administrative Assistant (Aleks Thoms) and new Educational Activities Coordinator (Karan Krom) come on board. Estimates of these expenses and funding sources are all included in the budget previously approved for this year, though the water mitigation costs are likely to be higher than we hoped. Thank you again for remembering St. George's in your giving.

- David Martin, Operations Treasurer

Vestry Updates

A few exciting initiatives: Karan Krom recently accepted the part-time Educational Activities Coordinator position, and Alekz Thoms has returned to St. George's as the part-time administrative assistant through the summer months. The Vestry appointed David Martin as head of the St. George's Digital Team – thank you to all team members who participate in the digital/livestream work.

Tom Hopkins, Steve Tillotson, and Dan Dailey have been more than busy managing the water, roof, and gutter issues. There are several moving parts to a "fix", but we want to do these "fixes" in a well-thought-out manner and one that is also financially reasonable for St. George's. A big thank you to our building and grounds team!!!

Jannelle Combs (along with others) led the charge in completing St. George's annual parochial report. The parochial report provides valuable insights into the church's life, ministry, finances, and membership; each congregation is responsible for filing this report annually with the diocesan bishop.

Several members of the Vestry are looking into community events for the remainder of the year that we can participate in as a congregation – more to come on the fun events.

Bishop Brian will visit St. George's on June 16 for confirmation/reception/reaffirmation. A catered meal will be provided after the service. Please save the date!!

Annual Fall Picnic will be September 15, also a catered meal, please save the date!

On April 14, at the Sunday service, the Vestry was commissioned by Reverend Steve (see picture; Steve Tillotson missing).

May the Lord bless us in all that we do!

Joanne Lassiter, Senior Warden



*Karan Krom,
Educational Activities
Coordinator*

*Alekz Thoms,
Administrative
Assistant*



L to R Tom Hopkins, Dan Dailey, Alison Hiatt, Jacinda Simmons, Joanne Lassiter, Pastor Steve, Tammy Enockson, Jane White, Jannelle Combs, David Martin, Not Pictured: Steve Tillotson

Dakota Pro Musica Mother's Day Concert

Dakota Pro Musica is presenting their 4th annual Mother's Day concerts on

Saturday, May 11th at 5:00 pm at First Lutheran Church in Minot,

Sunday, May 12th at 3:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck.

The concert "My Favorite Things" will celebrate moms and some of the things they love like coffee, flowers, family, and themselves!

The concert has no admission cost but a free will donation will be accepted.

(Art by Alekz Thoms)



Supo wore this handsome outfit at a recent Sunday service. He explained that it's nothing special in his country, an everyday suit of clothes.

Dakota Pro Musica presents

My Favorite Things

A Concert Celebrating Mothers and Things They Love

Dr. Jason Thoms
Founder and Artistic Director



Saturday, May 11th at 5:00 pm
First Lutheran Church
Minot, North Dakota

Sunday, May 12th at 3:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
Bismarck, North Dakota

Season Patron
Jay Christopher

Season Benefactor
Anonymous Donor
Hollis and Jacki Thoms

A Poem for Mother's Day

Mother's Day

By David Young

- for my children

I see her doing something simple, paying bills,
or leafing through a magazine or book,
and wish that I could say, and she could hear,

that now I start to understand her love
for all of us, the fullness of it.

It burns there in the past, beyond my reach,
a modest lamp.

Confirmation and Reception into the Episcopal Church

St. George's will be holding classes for those interested in joining the Episcopal church by reception or confirmation. Please contact the church office or Pastor Steve s if you are interested in the class. Bishop Provisional Brian Thom will be visiting St. George's June 16, 2024.



The Pascal Candle

This Paschal candle is one of the most sacred and enduring elements in Christianity. Made of beeswax to represent 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. Each year during the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday night, a fire is kindled in a metal bowl, called a brazier (bray'zhur). From the brazier comes a "new" and blessed fire that lights the Paschal candle which is carried in procession into the dark church. The "new" fire serves as an image of the Resurrection. The candle, which represents Christ himself, is placed on a special Paschal candle stand near the altar. Five grains of incense are inserted into the candle to recall the aromatic spices that were used to prepare Christ's body for the tomb, and the wounds in His hands, feet and side, which remained after His resurrection.



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 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, starting with the Catechumens at the Easter Vigil service. 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.

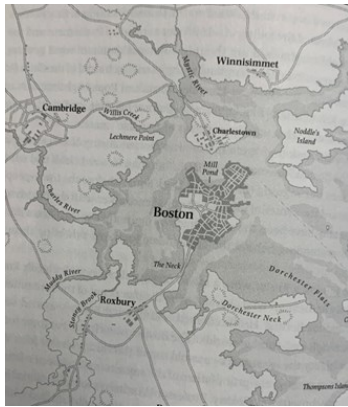
- Tom Tudor

Old North Church

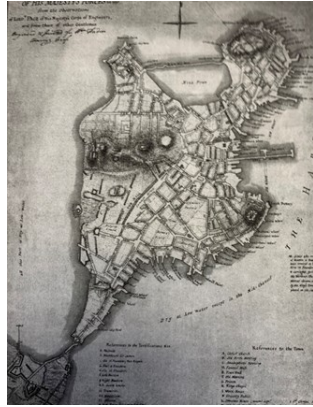
Christ Church, in the City of Boston, was, before the Revolutionary War, an Anglican church located in the North End neighborhood of Boston. Christ Church is more familiar to us as the “Old North Church.”

Old North Church is famous for its role in Paul Revere’s midnight ride on April 18, 1775. On that night, two lanterns were hung in the church's steeple, which alerted Revere, then in a rowboat crossing the Charles River, and others to British military movements which led to the battles of Lexington and Concord, the first engagements of the American Revolutionary War.

The City of Boston was virtually an island at that time, connected to the mainland on its south by a narrow road known as the Boston Neck. The Charles River enters the Back Bay of Boston from the west, and the Mystic River enters the Back Bay from the north. To the east of the city is Boston Harbor.



City of Boston in 1775



Construction of Christ Church began in 1723, and continued for 22 years. Its steeple was added 17 year after the commencement of construction, and has been toppled twice by hurricanes, rebuilt and replaced both times. Christ Church is the oldest standing church building in Boston and is a National Historic Landmark.



The wine glass pulpit. It is raised to give those in the box pews a better view of the preacher.



The box pews. The high sides kept heat from foot warmers in and drafts out.,

Christ Church closed during the Revolutionary War because its congregation included both Patriots and Tories. The Rector, a Tory, was banished to Canada. The Church reopened after the war as a member of the newly organized Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.

- Tom Tudor

MAY 2024 ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL MEMORIAL CHURCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		3p - Executive Cmt	1 5:30p - Holy Eucharist 6p - Potluck 6:45p - Choir Rehearsal	2	3 10a - St. G's delivers senior meals	4 9a-12p—Bis. Clean Up Day—meet at 400 E. Front Ave
5 10AM - Eucharist 11AM - Coffee Hour	6	7 NO CENTERING PRAYER	8 5:30p - Holy Eucharist 6p - Potluck 6:45p - Choir Rehearsal 7p - Vestry	9 9:30a - Fire Inspection Ascension Day	10 10a - St. G's delivers senior meals	11
12 Mother's Day 10AM - Eucharist 11AM - Coffee Hour Blessing Quilts	13 4p - Book Club	14	15 5:30p - Holy Eucharist 6p - Potluck 6:45p - Choir Rehearsal	16 10a - Magstradt Burial 1p - Magstradt Memorial Service	17 10a - St. G's delivers senior meals	18
19 Pentecost 10AM - Eucharist with Mary Johnson 11AM - Coffee Hour	20	21 10AM - Eucharist @ Touchmark 11a - Centering Prayer	22 5:30p - Holy Eucharist 6p - Potluck 6:45p - Choir Rehearsal	23	24 10a - St. G's delivers senior meals	25 Newsletter Articles Due
26 10AM - Eucharist 11AM - Coffee Hour	27	28	29 5:30p - Holy Eucharist 6p - Potluck 6:45p - Choir Rehearsal	30	10a - St. G's delivers senior meals	

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

has been an important presence in the Bismarck community since 1880, and we continue to meet the Living God in this place today – through worship, education, outreach, and most of all, through the relationships we have created with each other.

If you have any questions or think we can help you, please do not hesitate to contact the church office or talk to any of our parishioners or stop in for coffee.

St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church

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