



# THE GOOD NEWS AT ST. GEORGE'S

## SUMMER IN THE HILLS

For the past several summers it has been my privilege to be a visiting pastor at the Chapel in the Hills in Rapid City, SD. The chapel itself is a wooden, Norwegian style church (like the one in the Heritage Park in Minot) and is in a beautiful green wooded setting. There is a little cabin on the grounds and pastors can stay there free for a week if they preside at the evening vesper services in the chapel and any weddings that are scheduled. The rest of the time I have free and I plan to ride my motorcycle through the hills.

The weddings are always a surprise. I first meet with the wedding party half an hour before the actual ceremony and I never know who is going to show up. One wedding party came in full Western gear. The men wore black jeans with the big silver belt buckles, cowboy shirts with bandanas around their necks, and ten gallon hats on their heads. The women all had cowboy boots under their fancy dresses.

Another wedding was all bikers. They rode up to the chapel on their bikes and wore their leather chaps and black t-shirts. I surprised them by wearing my black leather vest over my clergy shirt for the ceremony.

And then there was the Scottish wedding! All the guys wore kilts, the women wore tartan shawls, and a bagpiper led the music. You never know what you will see.

The evening vesper services are very special. It is usually only a small group gathered - 10-15 people. They are tourists from all over America who stop to pray in the midst of their travels. After worship some may ask for special prayers for challenges in their lives. It is a special privilege to do so.

This June I will return for another week at the chapel. It's a time of rest and renewal but I love that there will be intentional times to be in touch with God and God's people. Those chance encounters with others during weddings and vesper services always give me glimpses of God's presence in the world.

As you have time for rest and travel this summer, my prayer is that God will go with you and bless you with surprise glimpses of God's presence anywhere and everywhere in God's great world.

- Pastor Steve Sathre



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## *Update from the search committee*

As we shared last month, the advertisement for the rector position is open again. I believe with the absolute great fit that we did find that the parish profile does reflect our values and what we are looking for in a new priest. Waiting to find the right time for the right candidate to come to us is in our church family's long term best interests. Still it is disappointing that we have not found that person yet. We are in wonderful hands in the interim with our executive team of the vestry and with Pastor Steve. I have hired many people in my professional life. And after many hard lessons learned, I can vouch that waiting for the right candidate is always best rather than just filling the position with someone who may not be the right fit. We will keep you updated as we proceed. Please keep our search and the search committee in your prayers that God's time to bring our right candidate will be soon.

- Respectfully Submitted, Jannelle Combs

## *The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan*

You are invited to participate in the next Formation for All course sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan. This course will explore both the origins and contemporary practice of Anglican Spirituality and Ethos, and will examine the structure of the Episcopal Church.

It will meet via Zoom on June 5 and 19, and July 2, 10, 17, and 31, from 5:30-7:00 PM.

Please contact Tom Tudor if you are interested or would like more information on registration for this course. There is no fee and you may participate on any or all of the above dates. You may also contact Brad Pickens, one of the instructors, by text at 812-277-6808.

- Tom Tudor

## *Piecemakers Quilts*

15 quilts were donated to the Elks camp Grassick

(L to R) Shirel, Andrea, Mark Webster (Trustee + Incoming state president for the Elks), Jenny Hunt (Director of Camp Grassick).

- Shirel Zillier



## *Loss and Legacy*

Cleaning out my study, I found notes from a workshop I attended on Pastoral Care. This teaching reminded us that in the beginning of life our world and circle of relationships tend to expand. We have a support system including parents, spouse, peers, children, work associates. And then as we age or become sick our circle of relationships shrinks. Feelings of loss and loneliness can easily set in.

Recently, St. George's lost two long time members: Ray Magstadt and Tom Orchard Jr. Both men had been homebound and unable to attend in person services. While many new members never had the opportunity to know them, they had been visiting and providing communion to them, I want us all to remember Ray Magstadt and Tom Orchard for their active participation in the life and fellowship of this community - for their faithful attendance and support of the ministry of St. George's for so many years. The legacy of those before us has provided a foundation to continue onward. I pray each of us will listen for the spirit's guidance as we remain present to those whose support systems have dwindled.

- *Deacon Beth Lipp*

It is with a truly heavy heart that we write about the death of our beloved organist, Arlene Gray on May 21st. The sudden loss of such a keystone in our church community has shaken us, and it may be a while before we're able to process it enough to speak to it more fully. We mourn the loss of such a bright, cheerful light, an excitable and joyous woman. She was excited to move back to her home state soon, eager to help reinstate youth music programs there and immersing herself back into her community after the recent death of her husband. Her passion for making and sharing music was palpable and those who experienced it firsthand were lucky to do so. Her funeral is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup>, and when we know more about the time of the service we will be sure to share it. Tinker with your old piano or play a favorite song to remember her today.

- *Alekz Thoms, Administrative Assistant*



Raymond Magstadt



Tom Orchard Jr.



GRAY, Arlene  
Organist

## *Ben & Chuck Suchy*

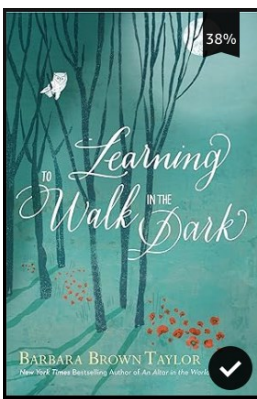
St. George's hosted an evening "listening" concert on May 24<sup>th</sup> featuring musicians Ben and Chuck Suchy. The audience was especially appreciative of this easy listening two-hour experience of folk and funky folk music featuring voice, guitars, harmonica, and accordion. The sound in the venue was particularly good with many positive comments from attendees. All this with storytelling, cookies, and coffee, for a free will offering. Special thanks to Tom Hopkins, Sherrie Hopkins, Shirel Zillier, Karen Buchholz, Kate Hanlon and Mark Hanlon. Photo by Shane Balkowitsch

- Kate & Mark Hanlon



## *Learning to Walk in the Dark*

The next book for St. George's book discussion is *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. The group will meet on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at St. George's. We will discuss the entire book at this meeting. All are invited to participate!



Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark". She argues that we need to move away from our "solar spirituality" and ease our way into appreciating "lunar spirituality" (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes). Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most.

With her characteristic charm and literary wisdom, Taylor is our guide through a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find our footing in times of uncertainty and giving us strength and hope to face all of life's challenging moments.

## Offertory Cards

Thank you for keeping up with your ongoing pledges and contributions to St. George's! Every week during the offertory we gather and present the gifts of bread and wine and contributions for blessing.

But not everyone carries cash or writes checks like they used to. Many of our parishioners contribute by giving online or by writing a smaller number of larger checks throughout the year.

Now, you can give on your phone by scanning the QR codes on the cards we've created, which you can drop in the offering plate. They read "I have given!" and are appropriate to use every week, no matter how you give to St. George's or how often—whether you give online monthly, or quarterly with a check, or any other way. They're not just for online donors.

So, if you have given to St. George's, then we invite you to offer a card to the plate as an outward sign reflecting your ongoing support for the community. Look for the cards in the pew card holders near the aisles or on a table near the entrance.

Greeters, counters, and anyone else tidying up after a service should try to gather and redistribute these cards to the pews or table so they are easy to find. Thanks to Deacon Beth for the idea and to Alekz Thoms for the design and production!

- David Martin, Operations Treasurer



## Creation Care – Simply begin.

Recycling has been on my radar for years, but I had the excuse that in our rural area recycle pick up was not available. So even though I felt pangs of guilt each time I threw away a plastic laundry jug, water bottle, or cardboard box, I didn't change my behavior. Until I heard that the Bismarck city landfill was being filled much faster than anticipated in the long-term plan. I recently spoke about that in a sermon. Now I had to change my ways.



This Photo by

We went to Walmart and bought a small container to hold recycling in the kitchen. We repurposed a larger garbage container in our garage for recyclables. Step one completed. I learned that the City of Bismarck landfill has recycling drop off containers just before you reach the weight scale. It is free of charge! About every two weeks, I take a drive and empty my large black garbage bag of recyclables at the city landfill recycle site. Step two completed. Our weekly garbage was cut in half. It really was relatively easy once we decided to simply begin.

- Deacon Beth Lipp

# JUNE 2024 ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL MEMORIAL CHURCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			5:30p - Holy Eucharist 6p - Potluck		10a - St. G's delivers senior meals	1
2 10AM - Eucharist 11AM - Coffee Hour	3	4 11a - Centering Prayer	5 5:30p - Evening Prayer 6p - Potluck	6 5p - Executive Cmt	7 10a - St. G's delivers senior meals	8
9 10AM - Morning Prayer 11AM - Coffee Hour	10	11	12 5:30p - Holy Eucharist 6p - Potluck 7p - Vestry	13	14 10a - St. G's delivers senior meals Diocesan Council	15 Diocesan Council
16 10AM - Eucharist Confirmation w/ Rev. Brian Thom 11AM - Luncheon	17 4p - Book Club	18 10AM - Eucharist @ Touchmark 11a - Centering Prayer	19 5:30p - Holy Eucharist 6p - Potluck	20	21 10a - St. G's delivers senior meals	22
23/30 10AM - Eucharist 11AM - Coffee Hour	24	25 Newsletter Articles Due	26 5:30p - Holy Eucharist 6p - Potluck	27	28 Arlene Gray Funeral	29

NOTES

## 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.

## OUR 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.

## St. George's Text to Give Online

Text the word "give" to 701-658-6042 to make a secure gift online.

Street Address:  
601 N. 4th St.  
Bismarck, ND  
58501

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 1241  
Bismarck, ND  
58502

Phone:  
(701) 223-1942

Email:  
[stgeorges@stgeorges-bismarck.com](mailto:stgeorges@stgeorges-bismarck.com)

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

YouTube:  
St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church

