

# The Shield

## July – August 2020



### THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Along with all of you, I am filled with joy at our regathering. Beginning on June 7th, we have been able to worship in our beautiful church, although the “new normal” still takes getting used to. Wearing masks, keeping prayer books in plastic bags, not singing, and not receiving Holy Communion are all difficult changes to accept. I do hope that everyone understands the necessity of these measures. Let us give thanks to God that we are able to worship together again.

I am happy to announce that we will begin receiving the Body of Christ in Holy Communion on July 5th. I have worked out the details with the diocese, and I will explain how it works that morning (and as often as new people are present). The goal, of course, is to protect everyone from transmission of the virus as much as possible.

Like many of you, I watch the daily news and see things on the Internet that are disturbing and concerning. I'm sure there are as many feelings and opinions about the events and news as there are people in our parish, but we all share a common faith.

We all make the same baptismal promises (*Book of Common Prayer, pages 304-305*). I believe that we all sincerely mean it when we make those commitments. And I also know it is possible for each of us to interpret them differently. But I hope that no one dismisses them or refuses to keep them. I re-read them several times a week, and I hope that you will go back from time to time and prayerfully, thoughtfully consider what they mean in your life.

The leaders of our diocese, and of The Episcopal Church itself, are speaking out and taking loving actions for the good of the people who are suffering most in the multiple crises that surround us. They are joining their voices with those of religious leaders from many faiths. They are communicating with the public in all forms of media, using whatever influence they have in today's secular world, trying to remind our leaders and everyone of the principles of faith that we share.

A parent with a child who is very ill will naturally spend more time and attention on the suffering of that one child. It doesn't mean they love their other children any less, nor does it mean they do not love all their children equally. All of that parent's children matter, but the one in crisis, the one who is suffering the most, rightly needs and deserves more care and love. Jesus told us that a good shepherd will leave the 99 and go search for the one that is lost. [*Luke 15:4*]

Many ministers, including Episcopal pastors and other clergy in our diocese, are preaching about these matters. I don't know if you would prefer that I do that, or are glad that I refrain from doing so. My position, for as long as I have been a priest, is that I will never "preach politics" from the pulpit, but people have different ideas about what the word *politics* means.

What I will do is (a) answer your questions about what I think, but only if you ask; (b) follow my principles of faith in my own life of prayer and service; (c) take an active part as a citizen in current events, and support whatever causes seem to me to be appropriate; and (d) preach about morality, ethics, justice, and Christian theology.

I try to follow St Paul's model:

"When I came to you, brothers and sisters... I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified." [*First Corinthians 2:1-2*]

I promise you this: I will always speak from my heart, my faith in God, and my love for all God's people. My goal is always to proclaim Christ crucified in a way that speaks in your hearts and minds.

Please pray for me as your pastor, your preacher, and your friend.  
Please encourage me, correct me, teach me, and love me as your brother in Christ.

*Father Tom +*

### ✠ THOUGHTS FOR OUR TIMES ✠

Mother Teresa was once asked,  
“What do you say when you pray?”  
She answered, “I say nothing.”  
“And what does God say?”  
“God says nothing.”

Mother Teresa's point was not that God does not respond to our prayers, but rather that the important thing is simply to BE with God in prayer.

Some people in the Bible actually heard God's voice, although at least in the case of Jesus' baptism, it sounded like thunder. But it is safe to say that few if any of us will ever hear an actual voice.

It is more useful to say that God MOVES in us, leading us to right thinking and right actions. Through the Holy Spirit, and through the love of our neighbors, God is present with us when we pray.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger.

Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers.

Pray for powers equal to your tasks.

Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle.

But *you* shall be a miracle.

Every day you shall wonder at yourself,

at the richness which has come in you, by the grace of God.

—Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)





## **Covenant for Regathering — May, 2020**

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, I promise, with God's help and to the best of my ability, to abide by the guidelines of the Diocese of Maryland for participation in the life of my congregation according to the regathering phase in which my congregation is authorized to carry out its mission and ministry.

In fulfillment of the Baptismal Covenant (*BCP* p. 304-305), I will strive to:  
Love my neighbor as myself, I will...

- Wear a mask or scarf over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead worship through an assigned speaking part, and follow public health guidelines for hand sanitizing and disinfecting
- Only attend worship and receive communion if I am non-symptomatic for the COVID-19 virus or any other transmittable disease that could compromise the health of another congregant
- Will abstain from attending if doing so would put me at greater risk due to my own health status

Respect the dignity of every human being, I will...

- Make no physical contact with people beyond the members of my own household
- Maintain a six foot or more distance from other members of the congregation
- Respect any requests for distance, masking, cleaning, to ensure the safety and comfort level of others

Seek and serve Christ in all people...

- Trust and support the decisions of both my diocesan and congregational leaders
- Stay connected with others in my community by telephone, video chat, or mail

## Information from Our Parish Nurse

Handwashing and Masks are the best way to stop the spread of any disease either viral or bacterial. We as a people are in charge of our own health. We must protect ourselves and each other as we go out in public. I will admit masks can be uncomfortable but are only needed when you are in a public area with people other than your immediate family.

—Sharon Logsdon, R.N.



## THE WOMEN OF ST GEORGE'S

The Women of St. George's will hold their first meeting of 2020 on July 20th at 7:00 pm in the parish hall dining room.

Social distancing will be observed. All attending should wear masks. If you need a mask, there will be masks available when you arrive. For the safety of all, please do not bring any food items from home. Purchased items in individual wrappers are permitted.

There will be election of officers and plans discussed for the remainder of 2020.

All women of St. George's Church are most welcome.

# Saint George's Prayer List

Joshua Abbot

Ruth Beal

Porter Beard

Harold Bishop Jr & Virginia Bishop

John Bridges, Rusty Bridges, Shirley Bridges

Dennis Carder

Emma Carnell

Fred & Della Cook

Bob Croft

Ellen Jenkins Davis

Dawn Downey

Robert Flynn

Clarence Finzel

George Frankenberry Jr.

Charles Glass, Darrell & MarySue Glass, Laken Glass, McKenzie Glass

Jeff Hall

Angela Hill

Evelyn Hausrath

Harvey Hogamier

Tammy Kern

Tyler Kisamore

Susan Kirby

Grace Lepley

Carol McCleaf

Carolyn Monahan

Janet Reynard

Ken Shaffer

Henry Snyder

Sandra Swanger

Janie Taccino

Grayson Turano



## Prayer for the Sick

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants for whom we pray, that their weakness may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Calendar for July and August

JULY 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5* Service 9:30 am	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Service 9:30 am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Service 9:30 am	20 Women's Mtg 7:00 PM	21	22	23	24	25
26 Service 9:30 am	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Service 9:30 am	3	4	5	6 Feast of the Transfiguration	7	8
9 Service 9:30 am	10	11	12	13	14	15 St Mary the Virgin
16 Service 9:30 am	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Service 9:30 am	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Service 9:30 am	31					

\*At our Sunday Service on **July 5th**, we will celebrate Independence Day. We will also celebrate the baptism and confirmation of Tracey Lee King. This will also be the first Sunday when Holy Communion (bread only) will be distributed at our Eucharist.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### JULY

#### Birthdays

Jared Lee Clark, Henry Verhoeven, Kim Bartholow, Arthur Weatherholt, Carol Brown, Hannah Grace Johnson, Krista Blank, Irene Werner, Christopher Festerman, Mingi Sue Jenkins, Jennifer Cripps, Cadon Joseph Winn, Elizabeth Webster, Ann Kessler, Virginia Crump, Emily Ann Stallings, Judy Branham, Sydney Leigh Winn, Flannery Davis

#### Anniversaries

Jim & Judy Branham, Gary & Krista Imes

### AUGUST

#### Birthdays

Harold E. Bishop, Matt Logue, Chris McConn, Fred Downey, Evelyn Hausrath, Heather Lewis, Claire Geary, Faith O'Donnell, Shirley Bridges, Dawna Simpson, Rob Johnson, John Femi, Henry Snyder, Jr., Karen Bonner, Valerie Preston,

#### Anniversaries

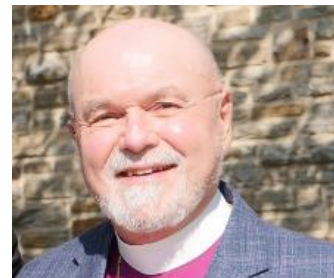
Shannon & Chris Davis, Holly & Mike Warne, Dee & Marty O'Baker, Carla & Thomas Kaufman, Gail & Bob Kreiger, Tom & Tammy Beal, Father Tom & Judy Hudson

### **MOUNT SAVAGE FOOD PANTRY**

The food drops are currently on hold. We hope they will restart as we go to green openings. The Food Pantry located at St. Patrick's Hall will be continue to be open on the 4th Wednesday of each month for emergency food needs. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, food boxes will not be given out for the 4th of July but the people normally receiving boxes will receive a gift card. These cards will be distributed on June 24th 10-11 am.

### **BISHOP BOB IHLOFF VISIT**

The Right Reverend Roberts Wilkes Ihloff will visit St George's on Sunday, July 5th for the 9:30 service.





## **A Prayer for Serenity in Times of Trouble**

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;  
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it.

Trusting that You will make all things right  
if I surrender to Your will;  
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.

### **Now, ask yourself:**

- Given the multiple stresses that I am dealing with, what do I need to accept that I cannot change?
- In what areas of my life do I need the courage to change the things I can?
- In what areas of my life am I stuck between acceptance and change?

## **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you our praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

*Adapted from The Armed Forces Prayer Book*

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## Contact Information

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## The Anglican Communion

The Most Rev. and Right Honourable  
Justin T. Welby, *Archbishop of Canterbury*

## The Episcopal Church

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, *Presiding Bishop*

## The Diocese of Maryland

The Right Rev. Eugene T. Sutton, *Bishop*  
The Right Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, *Assisting Bishop*

## Parish Officers, Staff & Volunteers

<b>Dee Stallings</b>	Senior Warden, Organist, Treasurer of the Women of St George's
<b>Jim Rice</b>	Junior Warden, Worship Leader, Acolyte Leader, Vestryperson
<b>Ken Preston</b>	Treasurer, Vestryperson
<b>Lynda Folk</b>	Assistant Treasurer, Vestryperson
<b>Peggy Hess</b>	Registrar, Secretary of the Women of St George's, Eucharistic Visitor
<b>Karen Bonner</b>	Church School & Altar Guild Chairperson, President of the Women of St George's, Vestryperson
<b>Sharon Logsdon</b>	Parish Nurse, Eucharistic Visitor
<b>Elliott Stallings</b>	Vestryperson, Bell Ringer