



## ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Valley Lee, Maryland



### FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY

***Sun, Sept. 18 8:45 to 10:15am***

Come for church and stay for breakfast, or come for breakfast and stay for church! This Sunday, Sept. 18, from 8:45 till 10:15am, St. George's serves a fellowship breakfast -- a delicious addition to your worship life, and a nice opportunity to meet those folks who worship at "that other service"! All are welcome. September's menu features biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, roasted mini potatoes, fresh fruit, something sweet, juices, coffee and tea. A donation of \$8 for adults, \$5/kids is welcome to help offset expenses.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES!

- ***9:15am Chapel***
- ***9:30am Sunday School Classes***

Last weekend, we kicked off another dynamic year of intentional Christian formation, and we were so glad to see so many new and returning faces, and so many excited children, youth, parents, grandparents, and teachers! [\*\*\*Click here for the registration form!\*\*\*](#) Children's Chapel is at 9:15am in the parish hall, and classes for Pre-K to 1st Grade / 2nd Grade to 5th Grade /

and 6th Grade & up start at 9:30am. Mary Kay Peterson, chair of the Christian Formation committee, is interested in talking with any of you who might feel inclined to help our formation ministries, and especially those who might be able to help teach, even every so often, so please feel free to reach out to her. Also speak with Fr. Greg if you may be interested, or don't be surprised if he or Mary K. also reach out to you! Thank you.

## LET THE LOVE OF JESUS SET YOUR SOUL ABLAZE

- *Reflection from Eliza Garth, music director*

I'm not an accomplished gardener by any stretch of the imagination, but I love spending long days of sunlight with my hands deep in dirt and flakes of mulch decorating my hair. Autumn comes and I put away the trowel with just a little wistfulness. There is something magical about autumn, though, when the natural world settles in for a rest, harboring potential new life for seasons to come. Daylight becomes scarce, and a sense of waiting and anticipation sets in. Thanksgiving comes, and then Advent - when people of the Christian faith turn their gaze toward the approaching Light.

Recently I came across a text in the 1982 Hymnal that I had not encountered before, and was taken with the beautiful images it uses to express themes of thanksgiving and the opulence - beyond monetary value - of nature and the changing seasons. It reminds us that, like the lark, we are members of the natural world, and calls to us to raise our voices in praise:

*Not here for high and holy things  
we render thanks to thee,  
but for the common things of earth:  
the purple pageantry of dawning and of dying days,  
the splendor of the sea,  
the royal robes of autumn moors,  
the golden gates of spring,  
the velvet of soft summer nights,  
the silver glistening of all the million million stars,  
the silent song they sing of faith and hope and love undimmed,  
undying still through death,  
the resurrection of the world,  
what time there comes the breath of dawn that rustles through the trees,  
and that clear voice that saith:  
Awake, awake to love and work!  
The lark is in the sky,  
the fields are wet with diamond dew,  
the worlds awake to cry their blessings on the Lord of life as he goes meekly by.*

*Come, let thy voice be one with theirs,  
shout with their shout of praise;  
see how the giant sun soars up, great lord of years and days!  
So let the love of Jesus come and set thy soul ablaze,  
to give and give, and give again, what God hath given thee;  
to spend thyself nor count the cost;*



*to serve right gloriously the God who gave all worlds that are,  
and all that are to be.*

Here at St. George's, our musical life changes with the seasons. Autumn is here now, a season of sheltering and of darkness, and a time for gathering and singing and worshipping deeply. I wish you joy as, together, we "cry our blessings on the Lord of life" and bring our autumnal musical offerings to God's altar.

## **LIVING INTO THE COVENANT WITH ASCENSION** ***Parish Administrator, Gail Dobson, to serve both churches***

- ***Joint Executive Committee engaging strategic planning around ministry, mission, and operations***

Ever since our vestry adopted the Covenant with Church of the Ascension, Lexington Park -- seeking a new way to both maintain our treasured identities and once again become a thriving Christian body in St. Mary's County -- the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) of both vestries has been hard at work. On the St. George's side, the JEC is represented by Fr. Greg, Mike Mead, and Bob Ertter. You've read, here, that St. George's incredibly gifted parish administrator, Gail Dobson, has agreed to serve both parishes. Gail is at St. George's and Ascension throughout the week, and she and we are learning what kind of schedule makes



most sense. In addition to providing administrative support for the Church of the Ascension, Gail is assessing other areas where the two parishes might achieve economies of scale. Her careful understanding of church systems and, indeed, her investment in the wider mission of the church is not only an asset to this congregation in Valley Lee, but will help St. George's better understand how we can move forward into God's brilliant future, while appreciating and honoring the work to date which has brought us to this point. We look forward to continued growth, and we remain especially grateful to

Gail Dobson, who is undertaking a significant and hopeful service. Please join St. George's leadership in pledging to Gail our prayers and support. As the JEC continues to seek creative ways to achieve economies of scale, considers an alternative economic model which underpins the congregation, as well as engages the necessary strategic planning around our current ministry offerings, we look forward to hearing from you -- all the interested parties of St. George's. A timeline which will feature the work and process, to date, is being developed, and a survey instrument will be forthcoming in the Sunday bulletins. We would greatly appreciate your input, either via the survey or by contacting Bob, Mike, or Greg. Your feedback and input will inform our decision making as we move forward. Thank you.



## **ASCENSION'S FOOD PANTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

### ***A Few Hours a Week, a Lot of Good***

The food pantry at Ascension, Lexington Park is looking for a few more volunteers. Do you have some time to give? Thank you to the several St. Georgians who've already stepped forward to inquire and volunteer! There's always room for others. You'll spend roughly three hours a week, from 8:45 to 11:45 Monday through Thursday, welcoming clients, filling grocery bags, and helping with the necessary paper work. The need is particularly urgent on Wednesday and Thursday. All volunteers work in pairs. For more information or to get on the schedule, please contact Ascension's Joan Coleman -- [jcoleman@md.metrocast.net](mailto:jcoleman@md.metrocast.net) or (240) 298-4492. Thank you!



## **THIRSTY THEOLOGY**

***Tues, Sept. 20, 5:30pm at Ruddy Duck, Solomons Island***

- ***Electoral Politics and our Christian Faith***

Thirsty Theology is a fun space to talk about God, faith and life ... in public! This Tuesday evening, Sept. 20, Thirsty Theology continues -- but on the other side of the bridge! All are welcome starting at 5:30pm at Solomons Ruddy Duck, and we'd love to be together for some pub theology. It's election time, if you haven't already noticed. At Thirsty Theology, we're going to talk in non-partisan ways about the common good and our role as followers of Jesus in electoral politics. Come anytime around 5:30pm, or whenever you get there, and the conversation starts at 6. We wrap up no later than 7pm, and snacks and beverages are provided. All are welcome, and bring a friend!



## **LOBSTER DINNER**

***Saturday, Oct. 1 - 5pm & 6:30pm***

Maine comes to Maryland with St. George's Oct. 1 Lobster Dinner. We'd love to see you and your friends, and reservations are now open! The \$25 dinner includes a 1.25 lb. lobster, baked potato with toppings, cole slaw, homemade roll, drinks, and a homemade dessert. An optional Cornish Game Hen dinner is \$20. There'll be two seatings - at 5pm and 6:30pm - and we're serving a total of 80 dinners. Reservation forms are available in church, the parish hall, [or on the website](#). Payment must accompany the reservation. We'll accept reservations until the 80 slots are taken, or until Sept. 25. If you're volunteering to help, please make your reservations early to be sure both your volunteer time and your dinner time can be

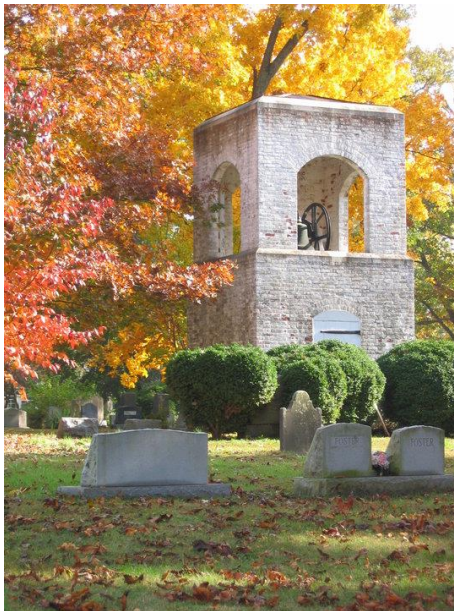


accommodated. Questions? Want to help? Contact Pam Baake at (301)994-1706 or (240)577-3679. Thank you!

## **THANKS FOR GIVING TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!** *Fundraising to Improve Campus, Match duPont Grant*

- ***Thank you to those who've given or pledged \$15,135 so far!***

Thank you to those who've given and/or pledged so far to St. George's 2016 Capital Campaign! \$15,135 has been pledged so far, and we are very grateful for your generosity. This mid-year capital campaign is an opportunity to invest directly in the physical campus of this congregation, as well as keep us ahead of long-term maintenance issues. Specifically this year, we're targeting an improvement in the parish hall's HVAC



system -- a more efficient improvement, all around -- and this special fundraising also puts us on schedule to raise matching funds for the every-five-year Jessie Ball duPont Fund's Repair & Restoration Grant, a 2:1 matching program up to \$50,000 on their part! In other words, every dollar you give or pledge to give is matched by \$2 from the duPont Fund (up to \$50,000 on their part)! If you would like to give, there's always time. Talk with wardens Bob and/or Jen, or make your contribution or pledge with Capital Campaign in the memo line, or note to the office. If you wish to give a more significant contribution, please talk with Gail Dobson, our parish administrator, or Greg Syler, our rector. And thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

## **EPISCOPAL FELLOWSHIP AT ASBURY SOLOMONS** *Sept. 19 at Noon, Every Third Monday*

Lunch and theological conversation await you and your friends at Asbury Solomons' monthly Episcopal Fellowship. At Noon on the third Monday of the month -- this month it's Sept. 19 -- all are welcome to the dining room at Asbury Solomons Island. Lunch is \$10, and it's open to residents and non-residents. On Monday, Sept. 19, the Rev'd Skip Steiner, assistant at Middleham and St. Peter's, will give a talk on the sacraments. Please respond to Russ Horton by Sept. 15 at (410) 394-3216, or [jrhortonsr@comcast.net](mailto:jrhortonsr@comcast.net) Asbury Solomons Island is a continuing care retirement facility located at 11100 Asbury Circle in Solomons, MD 20688.



## ST. GEORGE'S SECOND COLLECTION

### *In September, still supporting Snack Sak Program*

- **\$545.91 to Snack Sak Program in August!**

Every Sunday, the St. George's community prays for justice. The *Second Collection* is a tangible way we express these prayers. Every Sunday, that is, please bring some loose change or non-perishable food items. In August and September -- these back-to-school months --



we're giving your 'loose change' to the Snack Sak program. Sponsored by the United Way and several local organizations, St. George's among them, Snack Saks provide food relief for hungry local school children for over the weekends during the school year when meals are otherwise scarce. In one nearby elementary school, more than 300 students are considered hungry. Snack Saks not only plug gaps, but save lives -- and we at St. George's feel especially called to support it as Christians and as this wider community prepares to

go back to school. It only costs \$9.25 to provide this service per child per week; just \$300 per child per school year. Anonymous testimonials from children who participate in the program tug at your heart and suggest it really helps them, and their families, too. If you would like to talk further or invest more of your resources, please reach out to vestry member Mike Mead, who is the Honorary Chairman for St. Mary's County United Way for 2016. In August, thank you for giving \$545.91 in 'loose change' to this program! And thank you for donating an entire *trunk*-full of non-perishable food items, which we've given to our partners at the Church of Ascension food pantry. We continue this Second Collection, again, in September, and thank you, in advance, for all your generosity.





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