



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Valley Lee, Maryland



CELEBRATING JESUS' ASCENSION

Mexican-themed Potluck Supper

- **TONIGHT! May 6, 6pm at Church of the Ascension, Lexington Park**

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus led his disciples out to Bethany -- just beyond Jerusalem. There, he blessed them and "was carried into heaven." ([Luke 24:44-53](#)) The Ascension is one of the greatest truths we celebrate, for in doing so God raised up everything -- yes, *everything* -- into his glory! Tonight, we're celebrating the Ascension at Church of the Ascension on *Seis de Mayo* -- that's *Cinco de Mayo*, one day late -- 6pm, Friday, May 6. An evening of good food, good fun, and good fellowship awaits our common celebration of this great feast! Bring a main-dish, salad, dessert and/or drink for a Mexican-themed potluck supper. If you can, please let coordinators Marsha Merchant or Karol Wolgemuth know if you plan to attend. Marsha Merchant (imswamp@yahoo.com), and Karol Wolgemuth (Karolwolgemuth@aol.com or 301.481-3760). All are welcome!

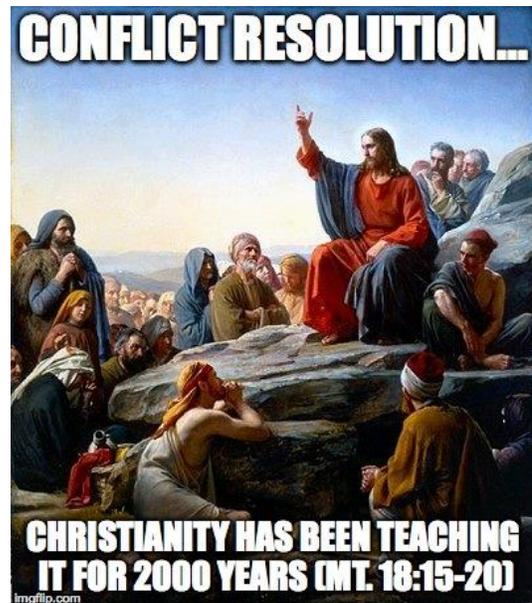


CONFLICT & THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Adult Forum this Sunday, May 8

- ***9:30am in the parish hall***

All are welcome to this Sunday's adult forum (9:30am) for a conversation and bible study about that most basic aspect of being human -- that we sometimes get into arguments with one another! It's a biblical fact, too, and Jesus had much to say about how we need to tend our relationships with one another, deal headlong with disagreements, and always leave a bit of room for God to be present. Turns out that disagreements might be one of the ways in which Christ invites us to deepen our discipleship and grow our common bonds of affection! Come and learn. Come and share. All are welcome.



GOT STUFF?

Rummage Sale supports Sunday School & Youth Ministries

- ***Saturday, May 14, 7am to Noon!***

Want to do some spring cleaning? Drop off your priceless items for St. George's Spring Rummage Sale -- the proceeds of which will go to support Christian Formation ministries. The sale is Saturday, May 14, 7am to Noon. And you can drop off your belongings anytime, starting now, in the (new) detached storage shed behind the parish hall. Please drop off gently used/like new items in working order by Thursday, May 12. NO box TVs, exercise equipment or clothing, please! The Rummage Sale will be Saturday, May 14, from 7am to 12 noon - rain or shine. For questions, or if you're willing to help, contact Kristin Keil at (301) 994-0775. Thank you!



CAMP EDOW

A Summer of Fun & Faith Formation!

St. George's is a proud and enthusiastic supporter of our diocesan summer camp -- ***Camp EDOW*** (the acronym stands for *Episcopal Diocese of Washington*). Camp EDOW is an overnight camp for children going into grade 4 all the way through those entering 9th grade. Held at Lions Camp Merrick in Nanjemoy, MD, Camp EDOW aims to promote the spiritual and emotional development of children, youth, and young adults through the fostering of a safe and positive environment for all. Days at camp feature faith formation, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, boating, worship, fun all-camp activities and so much more! It's the goal of Camp EDOW, above all, to encourage the growth of relationships with self, others, and God. St. George's is happy to provide scholarships for any of our kids who might like to attend, so talk with [Fr. Greg Syler](#) at your earliest convenience.

2016 Camp EDOW Dates:

- *Junior Camp* (rising 4th-6th graders) July 24 - 29, 2016
- *Middle Camp* (rising 7th-9th graders) July 31 - August 5, 2016



A GREAT YEAR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Continues through May 22, Chapel at 9:15am

- *Sunday, May 22 - Last Day of Classes / Chapel*
- *Sunday, May 29 - NO Classes / Chapel (Memorial Day weekend)*
- *Sunday, June 5 - Sunday School Celebration at 10:30am Worship*



Sunday School classes for kids are going strong, and the Adult Forum is, as well. Chapel's at 9:15am in the parish hall, and classes for all ages start at 9:30am. As we start to look forward to wrapping up this amazing year -- and get ready for fellowship and celebrations -- please click on the calendar and consider these special dates, above. The full St. George's Faith Formation calendar is available [via the following link.](#)

VESTRY NOTES

Continuing the Discernment

As St. George's continues to discern the future of collaborative ministry with Ascension, Lexington Park, the vestry is pleased to report that they have received and reviewed a draft Covenant, and they look forward to being in conversation about such a covenantal relationship with you, starting today. A listening session for the Ascension / St. George's Covenant will be at our parish hall on **Wednesday, June 1**, starting at 6:30pm. The draft Covenant will be explained and, together, we will engage this discernment in prayer and dialogue. Notice of this special meeting of the parish is being called pursuant to Article III, Sec. 2 of our by-laws. Please be in conversation with a member of our vestry at your convenience. Thank you.

The Vestry subcommittee looking more closely at St. George's by-laws (available on the church website) is pleased to invite you to a coffee chat on Sunday morning, May 22 at 9:30am in the parish hall. Seeking to address some of the points raised at December's Annual Meeting, as well as other matters about how we structure our common life together, the subcommittee -- which consists of our wardens, Bob Ertter and Jen Thomas -- looks forward to a fruitful conversation with you. We are grateful for Bob's and Jen's leadership, and grateful for our shared witness to Christ!

Interested in serving in Vestry leadership? Currently, the Vestry is searching for a Registrar, a person who is a good note-taker and someone who is helpful to the deliberations and discernment of St. George's leadership body. If you'd be willing to help fill this very important role, please talk with Bob Ertter, senior warden, or Jen Thomas, junior warden, or Greg Syler, rector. And thank you!



THIRSTY THEOLOGY

Tuesday, May 10 5:30pm at Bollywood Masala

Thirsty Theology is a chance to talk about God, faith, and life ... in a fun and safe public space! Join us this Tuesday evening, May 10 at Bollywood Masala (*a.k.a. the former Lenny's restaurant in California*) for a conversation about 'the Bible in your life.' Gathering starts around 5:30pm, and the formal conversation will kickoff at 6pm.

50% of Americans say they read "any form of scripture" in the past year, which means that the other half did not. 48% said they read the Bible at some point last year. Most read it monthly; 9% daily. The vast majority of those who read the Bible are turning to the King James version (55%), whereas the New International Version (NIV) comes in a distant second at 19%. Taking some of our cues from "The Bible in American Life," a 2014 study of Americans' engagement (or not) with the Bible, we'll talk tonight about how and what and whether you are reading the Christian scriptures, and what impact, if any, that might have

on discipleship and faith development, in general. Do you see yourself in these findings? What would you like to change, if you could? What gives you hope? What bothers you? We look forward to seeing you - and your friends -- Tuesday evening! All are welcome.



JOY LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 12 at St. George's Parish Hall

- ***11:30am Holy Communion & Lunch Fellowship***

Episcopal Senior Ministries features a monthly Joy Luncheon -- a time of worship, fellowship and a nice lunch, together with those senior, or, 'vintage' members of our communities! All are welcome, and on Thursday, May 12 it'll be at St. George's parish hall, starting at 11:30am. A simple celebration of Holy Communion precedes the meal, and we encourage you to RSVP to coordinator Cynthia Parker, at cpparkercj@gmail.com. All are welcome, and we look forward to being together!



PRAYING OUR FAMILY TREE

Thursday, May 19 Noon in Parish Hall

- ***A Prayer Group Ministry through St. George's***

All are invited to *pray your life* at St. George's Thursday prayer group. The next gathering will be Thursday, May 19, starting at Noon in the Rector's parish hall study. We grow, we are supported, and we learn to love through our relationships and families. But relationships can also be hard, sometimes. Our Christian tradition teaches that God also experienced the joys and hardships of real human relationships, for God became one of us. In John's New Testament letter we read: "...Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love us perfected in us." All are welcome, and if you'd like to know a bit more before showing up please talk to, email or call vestry-member Rose Wieldt or Fr. Greg. We look forward to walking together as we learn to *pray our lives*.



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 15 8:45 to 10:15am

Come for breakfast and stay for church! Or come to church and stay for breakfast! Our monthly fellowship breakfast is Sunday, May 15, starting at 8:45am in the parish hall. All are welcome to this once-a-month breakfast provided to us from Shana Schroeder, our



kitchen manager. This compliment to your worship life is also a great opportunity to meet those folks who worship at 'that other service'! A donation of \$8 or \$5/kids is welcome to help offset the expense. See you there!

AMAZON SMILE!

You shop, Amazon gives!

Thank you to those who've already registered with *Amazon Smile!* -- the same place where you buy all kinds of knick-knacks and whatchamacallit's, and which (this time) gives money back to St. George's Episcopal Church. In fact, St. George's received \$29.28 as a result of your AmazonSmile shopping activity between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2015. All that online Christmas shopping really pays off, so thank you so much, St. George's! It's all thanks to you -- those who've registered with *Amazon Smile!*

It's really easy:

1. First, go to www.smile.amazon.com
2. Click on the charity you want to support -- enter "St George's Episcopal Church Valley Lee, MD"
3. Now every time you go to amazon.com, it'll ask you "Do you want to go to Amazon Smile! Click "Yes," and Amazon will give a portion of whatever you buy directly to St. George's.
4. And *THANK YOU!*



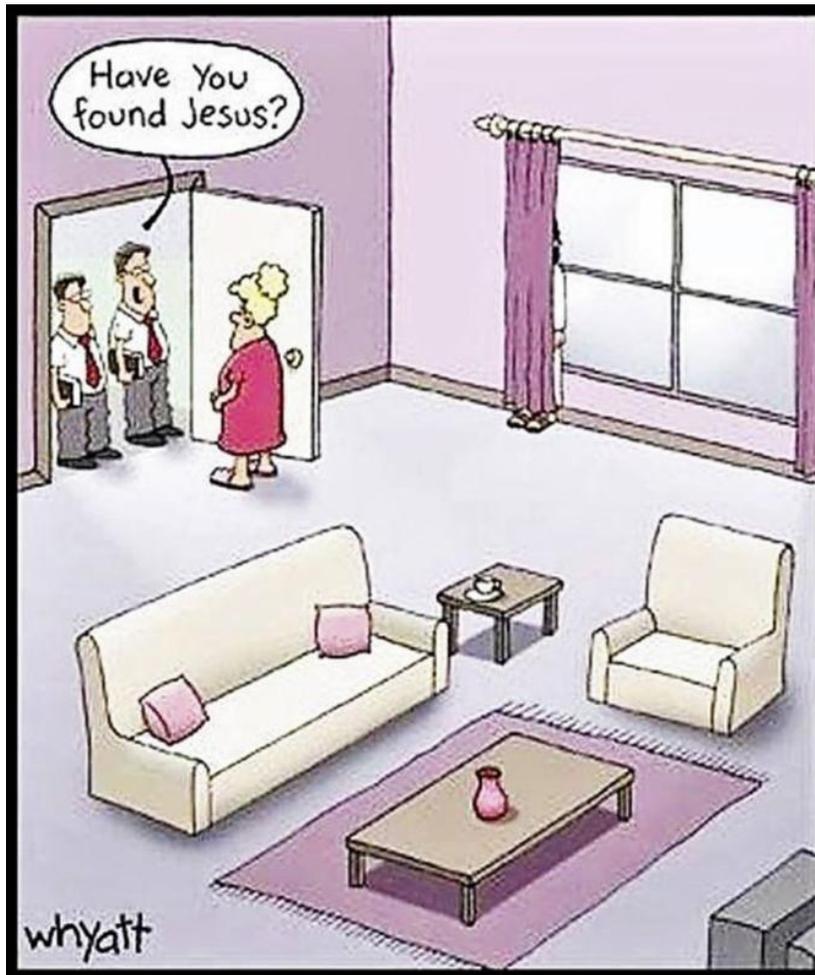
ST. GEORGE'S SECOND COLLECTION

In April, supporting St. Mary's Caring in Lexington Park

- ***\$455.75 to Ascension's Food Pantry in March***

Every Sunday, the St. George's community prays and strives for justice. The Second Collection is a tangible way we live out these prayers. That's a venue through which you're encouraged to donate some loose change, or some non-perishable food items. In April, we'll support the St. Mary's Caring food pantry and soup kitchen in Lexington Park. Non-perishable items needed are canned meats, vegetables & fruits; complete boxed dinners (including meat); peanut butter & jelly; pastas & sauces; coffee, sugar & creamer; and toiletries & cleaning supplies. In March, St. Georgians donated foodstuffs and money to the food pantry at Ascension, Lexington Park. Thank you for the \$455.75 in 'loose change' you gave in March! Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.





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