



## ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Valley Lee, Maryland



**Sundays**  
**8am & 10:30am**

### PASTORAL NOTES

#### *Greeting from Fr. Greg*

As many of you know, I am in far western Charles County, spending time with our kids and young adult leaders at Camp EDOW, our diocesan summer camp. The annoying biting flies aside -- and I'm not even going to mention the heat because there's nothing complaining about it can do to change it -- we've had, and are having a great week. Kids are learning about Jesus as well as their own gifts and abilities. They're making friends and having fun. Church is really happening, right here, right now.

And while all of this goes on, I have in my own prayers, and I know so many of you have in yours, too, those lives God has placed in our own, "our family and friends, those we know and love as companions on

our earthly pilgrimage," as the Book of Common Prayer teaches. Especially, I commend to your prayers and safe-keeping **Joe Dobson**, former parishioner of St. George's, who died this past week ([click here](#) for information about services for Joe); **Linda Dobson**, Joe's wife, and their family; **Tina Wiles**, Stephanie Wiles Russell's mother, who died this past week; **Stephanie Russell** and her family; **John Cowles**, our friend, who is in great weakness; and **Lanette Cowles** and their family.

## Pastoral Care

I am grateful to Mr. Mike Knight who will offer the Word and preach this Sunday, and to our gifted Lay Readers and Lectors who will help Mike in leading worship. Please make every plan to join in worship at St. George's this Sunday at 8am or 10:30am, and plan to remain in fellowship if you are able to do so following those gatherings. Please hold those named, above, in your prayers, as well as offer your own thanksgivings and intercessions to the God who made us, who loves us, and who walks the way with us. For my part, I look forward to being back together with all of you in worship and formation, in service and fellowship, in

leadership and growth the Sunday after summer camp ends, looking forward to a new and exciting program year ahead.

All my best, meanwhile, faithfully in Christ,



## **INTERESTED IN TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL?** *Planning for 2016-17 begins!*

St. George's is blessed with a great group of children, youth and families -- and last year's Sunday School registration was 36 kids, in fact. Divided between three classes (youngest, middle, and junior high/high school), the planning for the 2016-17 Sunday School year has already begun. 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, 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! A first meeting of the Sunday School teachers will be Sunday, Aug. 7, starting at Noon. Feel free to come if you're interested in teaching this year!

And thank you!



## **CAMP EDOW STARTS AGAIN** *A Summer of Fun & Faith Formation!*

Our kids and young adult leaders are having a great time this week at Camp EDOW, our diocesan summer camp. This past Sunday, Camp EDOW kicked off it's fifth year! And St. George's is an enthusiastic supporter of this overnight camp for kids going into grade 4 through those entering 9th grade. Held at Camp Merrick in Nanjemoy, MD, Camp EDOW

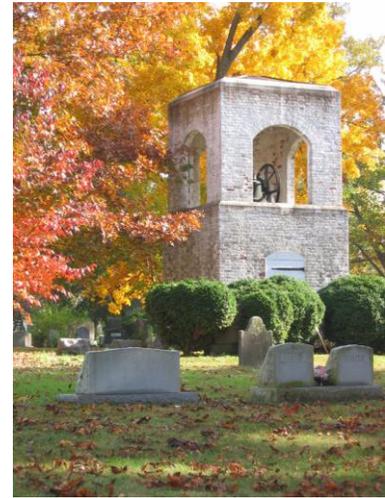


offers faith formation, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, boating, worship, fun all-camp activities and so much more! It's the goal of Camp EDOW, above all, to encourage the growth of relationships with self, others, and God. Thanks to everyone who's supporting and sending kids, and thank you to everyone who is supporting this dynamic ministry with your prayers. As the lead chaplain, Fr. Greg has been away from Thursday, July 21 -- when staff training began -- through Saturday, Aug. 6.

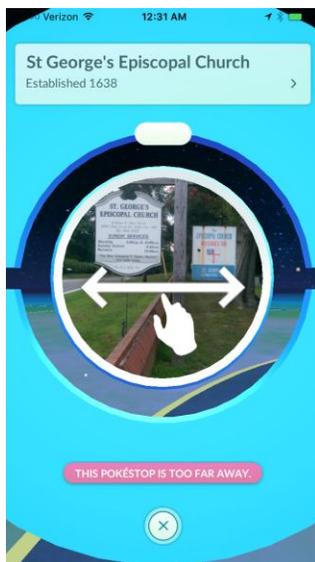
## **GIVE TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!** *Fundraising to Improve Campus, Match duPont Grant*

- ***Thank you to those who've given \$6,560 so far!***

Thank you to those who've given and/or pledged, to date, to St. George's 2016 Capital Campaign! \$6,560 have been given so far, and we are very grateful for your generosity. A letter from wardens Bob Ertter and Jen Thomas hit your mailboxes in early June, asking for your generosity for a mid-year capital campaign -- an opportunity to invest directly in the physical campus of this congregation as well as keep us ahead of long-term maintenance issues. Targeting an improvement in the parish hall's HVAC system -- a more energy- and, we hope, financially-efficient improvement -- this year's campaign 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 more insight or information, please talk with wardens Bob and/or Jen. If you would like a new letter or 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!



## **WELCOME POKEMON TRAINERS!** *St. George's, Valley Lee a Pokestop*



The "90s fad that never went away," as CNN reported, Pokemon is actually on something of an upsurge! With the early July release of Pokemon GO, millions of people, including lots of kids, are wandering around "the real world" checking out and maybe even learning about interesting places, picking up Poke-balls, trying to catch Pikachu or Squirtle (or any of the seemingly millions of other Pokemon out there!), and on a Pokemon training adventure! St. George's is a Pokestop, among so many others, and we're proud to be listed and thrilled to welcome all pilgrims and seekers and, indeed, Pokemon trainers! If you need to re-charge your devices or stop in for some ice water or a bathroom break, consider yourself welcome. We're glad you're here!

## **STEPPING INTO THE COVENANT**

## ***Collaborative Institutional Relationship with Ascension***

With the adoption of [the Collaborative Ministry Covenant](#) with Ascension, Lexington Park, each Vestry has appointed representatives to the Joint Executive Committee (JEC). From St. George's are senior warden, Bob Ertter, and vestry-member Mike Mead. From Ascension are wardens Karol Wolgemuth and Tom McCarthy. Both Greg Syler and Melinda Artman have input to the JEC. The JEC has received an accounting of time and a list of duties from both Greg and Melinda. They have discussed options for how worship opportunities might be best offered, and are considering more regular 'pulpit swaps' between Melinda and Greg, Ascension and St. George's. Currently, they are working on how administrative tasks can be coordinated and shared.



As the JEC meets, the respective Vestries and congregations will be updated on their work via our websites, newsletters, and bulletin announcements. The Covenant, as you will recall, envisions a collaborative future yet provides structure so that the parish identities will be maintained. We ask for your insights so we can mutually shape our collaborative future. And we commend this work to your prayers, both for this community and the mission to which God in Christ calls us boldly.

## **ST. GEORGE'S CEMETERY POLICIES** ***New Policies & Prices effective July 15, 2016***

Now effective (as of July 15, 2016), [click here](#) for St. George's revised cemetery and churchyard policies. Now, a single cemetery plot costs \$600 for members in good standing; \$1,200 for non-members. The cornerstones are \$35 each, and each purchaser needs



to purchase four -- so \$140. The cost of cornerstones is over and above the cost of the lot(s). Columbarium niches for members are \$900 for a single niche, or \$1,500 for a double. For non-members, the fee is \$1,500 for a single columbarium niche; \$2,500 for a double. For more information, please be in direct contact with parish administrator, Gail Dobson, or cemetery manger, Dave Larson.

## **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 whatchemacallit's, and which (this time) gives money back to St. George's Episcopal Church. In fact, St. George's received \$13.71 as a result of your AmazonSmile shopping activity between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2016. All that online shopping is a real gift to 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](http://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 July, supporting Ascension, Lexington Park*

- *\$435.47 to St. Mark's, UAME Valley Lee in June*

Every Sunday, the St. George's community prays for justice. The *Second Collection* is one tangible way we live these prayers. Every Sunday, that is, you're encouraged to donate loose change or some non-perishable food items. In July, we're supporting the food pantry



at Ascension, Lexington Park. Needed are non-perishable items such as canned meats, vegetables & fruits; complete boxed dinners (including meat); peanut butter & jelly; pastas & sauces; coffee, sugar & creamer; toiletries & cleaning supplies. In June, St. Georgians donated foodstuffs and money to the 'Bread of Life' food pantry at St. Mark's UAME in Valley Lee. Thank you for the \$435.47 in 'loose change' you gave! And thank you for your generosity.



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