



## From the Associate

Driving through rural Ohio last week, I ran across a hand painted sign that read: "God HAS blessed America." Whatever the intended implication, it got this reader thinking about blessings and gifts and the generosity of God's Spirit and God's love.

God's blessings have been particularly apparent this past year at St. George's. In a time of strict belt-tightening and working with a thin parish budget, we have seen an unprecedented outpouring of generosity.

There have been memorial gifts to help beautify the sanctuary and allow innovative improvements to the Cornerstone service. There's the challenge gift enabling the purchase of 41 Manor Lane. A team is being formed to help create an appropriate memorial for founding member Dottie Yeck. And through all of these things a steady stream of visitors and new members joining and helping all of us remember, rejoice and renew in our golden anniversary year.

Yet there is one blessing that most older members of the congregation may not be aware of—yet is very much appreciated by our teenagers.

Last spring a former parishioner by the name of Amy Leitch made an appointment to see me. She and her husband, Jonathan, would be returning to Dayton after spending a few years in Wisconsin. While they were away they had both been active in the Episcopal Church, participated in Alpha, and been in charge of a very successful youth group. Amy went on to say that if there was any way they could help with our youth here they would be happy to do so.

Now offers to help with the teenagers don't happen with great regularity, but they do happen often enough for me to think: "OK, let's talk the usual paperwork, then come and hang out with

the group and see how you fit in."

That was six months ago, and in a single word: WOW! It wasn't a matter of "fitting in" - it was scoring 120% on that magical blend of "coolness", "responsibility" and "authenticity" that is the key to working with young people today. Not long ago I was raving to a parishioner what a pleasure it is to work with Amy and Jon—and how well they relate to the youth. "Why don't you bring them on staff?" she asked me. "In my dreams," I replied, "You know the state of the budget." Then I heard the wonderful words: "I would like to make that happen." WOW—again!



**Amy & Jonathan Leitch (top)**  
with Kathy Hitch & Thomas Rodgers  
**"Hanging the Greens" 2004**

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It is a privilege to announce that thanks to a special memorial gift, Amy and Jon will be joining our staff in 2005 as part-time assistants for youth ministry.

Amy grew up in Dayton, worked for the Boy Scouts of America and is a specialist in event planning for non-profit organizations. Her sister and brother-in-law are St. George's own Sheryl & James Kent. Jon is a native of Scotland (his father serves in the Royal Air Force), and is working on a degree at Sinclair while training to be an E.M.T.

Our youth will no doubt respond to this announcement with the predictable "cool" and perhaps their highest accolade: "this rocks out loud."

Parents will perhaps wonder what this means for my role in youth ministry at St. George's. Will I still be actively involved? The answer is most assuredly "YES". I still enjoy youth ministry—and will continue to bring my experience to the table. I can tell you THAT has grown considerably since I was put in charge of my first youth group in an all-black, inner-city parish some fifteen years ago.

The youth at St. George's are one of our greatest and most important blessings. I am VERY excited about working with Amy and Jon. While we are often called the strongest youth program in the diocese—LOOK OUT- I believe we're going to kick it up yet another notch!!! Amy and Jon will be installed at the 10:30 service on January 9th.

Meanwhile, please join me in giving Amy and Jon your enthusiastic support. Their role is one of the most important there can be not only for the future of the church—but the present growth, faith and well-being of our young people.

Yes, God HAS blessed us in so many, many ways. May God continue to bless St. George's, and may all of us be a blessing to those around us in the year to come.

Paul+

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The Rev. Carol W. Hull  
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**Monthly Orbit information**  
deadline is the 15th of each month  
for the upcoming month.

**Sunday Orbit information**  
must be submitted by noon  
each Tuesday  
for the following Sunday.

**Schedule of Services**

**Saturday**  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist  
6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

**Sunday**  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Dear People of St. George's,

Last night we got a call from **Mary Ann's** new Guatemala buddy, **Vidalia**. For about ten minutes I could hear flourishes of Spanish and English as Mary Ann reached into her grab-bag of Español and Vidalia her Inglés. I threw in a few Buenas Noches, Feliz Navidades' and Muy Buenos' for good measure. Vidalia, a middle school principle, accompanied two students from that country to our humble adobes here in the states. Although they only stayed a week, it was obvious from this phone call that a special relationship had been forged.

Vidalia stayed with us while sixteen year old **Cesar** and 15 year old **Zulman** stayed with another member of St. George's, **Patti King**. On one evening, we all met the King family at Kettering High School to view a wrestling match. Although I took a quarter of wrestling for a physical education credit at Kent State, I have never seen a real match before. The Kings' son was a participant. This is a grueling sport and their boy is to be admired for his toughness and competitive drive.

Mary Ann manages the office for the Kettering School EvenStart Program at the Barnes Building. The place offers an eclectic mix of people and their pre-school children from all over the globe looking to make a new start or just a fresh start here in the USA. So, it was a perfect place to take Vidalia for a couple of days. I believe she was put to work a few times as a Spanish translator. With the Town & Country Shopping Center close by, Vidalia was treated to some great shops and restaurants.

On one evening, we grabbed the Guatemala Gang for a night of "Shock and Awe". Our son, **Joe**, came along too, as we took them all to Clifton Mill. The Mill and grounds were lit up like a Christmas tree. The Little Miami River, right next to the Mill, shimmered in lights of bright reds, greens and whites. After taking in the river scene, we managed to walk towards a smaller building when, with perfect timing, **Santa Claus** popped out of the chimney. As Santa ho, ho'd, the Guatemalans looked puzzled but waved with the rest us. As we left the place, I'm sure they wondered as I did, "What is the electric bill for this event?"

Even with the demands of the holidays, it was nice to extend friendship and hospitality and to try to appreciate and understand the cultures of others. The entire Western Hemisphere has so many resources and people. It's a shame the United States doesn't do more to provide a helping hand right here in the Americas. However, that doesn't seem to be the path our political leaders have taken us on. So it's up to us to create goodwill in our own small ways. I hope that you have had a blessed Christmas and that your new year will be filled with hope, possibilities and accomplishments. Be generous to your families, to others and, of course, St. George's Church.

Uh, Oh!...There's at least an inch of snow on the ground and I have yet to fire up my new snow-thrower...GOTTA GO!

*Let Peace Arrive in 2005*  
**Patrick MacKenzie**

## PERSONAL NOTES

### **Condolences:**

...to **Bob and Beth Hard** on the December 13 death of Beth's mother, **Jean Loggins**.

...to **Mary Bratton and family** on the December 8 death of Mary's father, **Murray Dinsmore**.

...to **Dick Okamoto** on the December 6 death of his daughter, **Karen Okamoto Fry**. Karen grew up at St. George's.

...to **Patti & Greg King, Tiffany, Greg, Brittany, & Kristen**, on the December 15 death of Patti's mother, **Wanda Moldovan**.

### **Congratulations**

... to **Kiah Dennis Webster** on being made a Candidate for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Kiah, who is sponsored by St. George's in the ordination process, is currently a graduate student at Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas.

...to **Chris and Bill Hartung** and **Regina Tuholsky** on the birth of a granddaughter and great-granddaughter **Lauren Grace Farley**. Lauren's parents, **Ann and Greg Farley**, were married at St. George's.

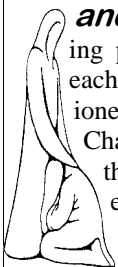
### **Special thanks**

...to parishioner **Lori DeWine** and to Wardens **Doug Reno and Carol Herrick** for their work in facilitating St. George's purchase of the Manor Lane property; and to **Charlie Roup** and Treasurer **Dan Strawn** for assisting in the search for a new business manager.

The Sacrament of **holy baptism** is the First Sunday after the Epiphany, January 9. Please call the Rector if you desire baptism for yourself or a family member at one of the services that weekend

### **personal prayers for healing**

**and intercession.** Beginning in January healing prayer will be offered on the second Sunday of each month during the 10:30 Sunday service. Parishioners trained in healing prayer will be available in the Chapel during the Eucharist to pray privately with those who desire prayer for themselves or for others. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.



### **annual meeting: february 13**

The Annual Meeting of St. George's congregation will be Sunday, February 13, immediately following the 10:30 service. The agenda includes election of Vestry members and presentations about various aspects of parish life, including a summary of the 2005 budget. The February Orbit will have full information about the meeting and profiles of candidates for office. Please save the date and plan to attend this important event. A light lunch is provided. Children will have a special activity, and nursery care will be available.

### **rector's thank you**

I was indeed surprised and deeply touched by the lovely reception December 12 in honor of my 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest. It's amazing that so many people kept the secret! Hook, line and sinker, I bought Paul's explanation that we were having coffee hour downstairs because the Parish Hall was needed for the children's pageant rehearsal!

Thank you so much for all the cards and good wishes. I came home with a beautiful basket of flowers and have savored every note. It has been wonderful to relive so many memories of parish events and pastoral occasions with the people of St. George's.

It is hard to believe that I have been a priest for 20 years. I was ordained a deacon June 16, 1984. Normally, one is a deacon for a year before becoming a priest; the minimum time allowed between ordinations is six months. But because I was the sole clergy person for a mission congregation, the Bishop opened his calendar to see when he could ordain me in time for Good Shepherd to have a priest on Christmas Eve.

I am writing this thank you on December 17 and remembering this day 20 years ago. It was a snowy Monday night when Bishop Bill Burrill drove down from Rochester to the crossroads village of Savona, New York; and we crammed about 130 people into the little cobblestone church. I remember the indescribable feeling of joy when the bishop laid his hands on my head and how wonderful it was to celebrate the eucharist for God's people for the first time on the fourth Sunday of Advent and again at midnight Christmas Eve.

Twenty years have come and gone, thirteen of them here at St. George's. I am so blessed to be serving God in ministry I enjoy and with people that I love. Thank you, thank you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

### ANGLICAN LINKS AND CELTIC HERITAGE

A fellowship visit to a Sister Church and a Celtic Pilgrimage  
June 28 – July 9, 2005

Led by the *Rev. Dominic Barrington* of St. Peter and Paul Church,  
Kettering, England  
and *Carol Hull, Rector of St. George's*

**A second informational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, at 7:00, in case you missed Dominic's earlier presentation.**

Members and friends of St. George's are invited to participate in a two-week trip to England next summer to visit with parishioners in our twin-city parish and enjoy a unique opportunity to explore the Celtic stream of our Anglican tradition.

For the first few days, travelers will stay in parishioners' homes in Kettering, celebrate their patronal feast day in their beautiful 15<sup>th</sup> century church on the market square, and make excursions to Cambridge, Bury St. Edmunds, Blenheim Palace, and the Royal Shakespeare Festival. Then the group will travel by bus through Yorkshire to the holy island of Lindisfarne and the magnificent Durham Cathedral, widely regarded as the most beautiful in England. Stops along the way include Whitby, Ripon, and Fountains Abbey. Travel is Dominick's passion, and he has extensive experience in arranging pilgrimages for church groups. The trip promises to be a wonderful opportunity to travel together in community and to experience our connection with the Anglican Communion.



*Descriptive brochures are available on the Welcome Table and through Carol Hull. Plans are based on a group of 25 people, and deposits are requested as soon as possible. Talk to Carol soon if you might be interested in going.*

### HOLY BAKING???

We have discovered a simple yet delicious recipe for communion bread. If anyone would be willing to occasionally bake a few loaves for use at the **CORNERSTONE** service it would be WONDERFUL.

Please speak to *Paul St. Germain*

### *st. george's welcomes new business manager*

*Suzanne Shaw* joins St. George's staff as part-time Business Manager January 4. Current Business Manager *Jean Hanning* is retiring after four years in the church office.

During her tenure, Jean computerized all the parish bookkeeping systems and did significant organizational work for the position. We are grateful for her excellent work in keeping St. George's financial records. She will stay on for a few days in January as Suzanne becomes familiar with the position.

Suzanne most recently served as a full-charge bookkeeper for Temple Israel in Dayton. A graduate of Otterbein College with a degree in Business Administration and Finance, she has previously worked for Lens Crafters, Cincinnati, and Midwest Allergy Associates in Worthington, Ohio. Suzanne is a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church, where is a leader of the youth group. She and her husband Ken have two teenaged daughters.

**bridge enthusiasts:** Are you aware that St. George's has a "party bridge" group, meeting monthly on Saturday nights, which has been in existence 20+ years? New members (couples and singles) are welcomed and encouraged to join! Please call *Dorothy Smith (885-1932)*, *Melanie Hitch (299-1721)*, or *Virginia Holton-Stahl (433-8722)*.

**mothers & others.....** Need a night away from macaroni and cheese, flying sippy cups, or conversations about crayons and paste? Mark your calendar for the second Monday of each month when we meet for a night of good food, adult conversation, and unlicensed group therapy. For more information and/or to RSVP, please contact Margaret Feldmeth at [mfeldmeth@woh.rr.com](mailto:mfeldmeth@woh.rr.com) or at (937) 395-0212.

**the longest night...a service for a blue christmas.** Christmas is a painful time for some. St. Andrew's Church 1060 Salem Avenue, offers a special "Longest Night" service on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Come join in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture and song that acknowledge God's presence to all who mourn and struggle. **Questions? 278-7345.**

Announcements Continued from page 4

## vestry digest

At their December 13 meeting, the St. George's Vestry addressed these topics:

*Purchase of Manor Lane Property:* Wardens **Doug Reno** and **Carol Herrick** represented St. George's at the closing on the purchase December 13. St. George's now owns the property. The previous owner will continue to live in the house on a rental basis for the next two to four months. The Vestry directed the Visions Implementation Committee to continue developing recommendations for the property. Parishioners will be invited to an Open House on the property in the spring.

*Reviewed the 2004 budget.* Although the Treasurer's Report showed expenses exceeding income by \$8,620 for November and \$35,189 for the year to date,

Finance Committee projections expect the budget to end near even or in the black. The Vestry authorized transfers from designated funds to cover major repairs to the lower parking lot drainage system and the bell motor.

*Set date of the Annual Meeting for February 13 and noted February 19 as a Vestry Leadership Development Day.* (Note: Nominating Committee members for the Annual Meeting include **Elizabeth Gustafson**, **Abe Cherian**, **Dorothy Pepper**, **Barb House** and **William Sangrey**.) Retiring diocesan **Archdeacon Jim Hanisian** will lead the Vestry development day.

## stewardship update

As of this Orbit printing, St. George's has received 206 pledges for a total of \$428,591. Pledges for our 2004 austerity budget were \$468,574. Because of rising expenses, we really need to exceed that figure in order to continue a vital parish ministry. The Finance Committee will meet Wednesday, January 12, to prepare the 2005 budget. If you have not yet made a pledge of financial support, please fill out a pledge card or notify the Business Office of your intent to do so before that date. St. George's depends on the support of its members and every pledge is important! Thank you for your generosity.



### buy george

... A collection of items celebrating St. George's – good for year-long gift-giving



#### St. George's Cookbook

*Like Stars Appearing*—Ann Rowland's wonderful book about our stained glass windows



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary bookmarks—for that book you're reading right now



St. George window note cards—for any occasion



St. George T-shirts, sweatshirts, golf shirts—for children and adults



St. George flags—for waving!

**Come by our table in the Welcome Area following the 5:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. services**

**P.S. BUY GEORGE needs additional helpers to staff the sales table. If you can help, please call Doris Boulton (885-9640), Patricia Zeller (885-4146) or the Rector (434-1781)**

*the catacoustic consort* will present a program of English Renaissance music, from the time of Shakespeare, on Sunday, January 30, at 4:00 p.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church. Tickets will be available at the door.

"This concert invites listeners to journey back to England in the days of Shakespeare for an evening of music that will warm their hearts and energize their spirits. Our 'broken' consort of viols, cittern, bandora, recorder, and lute will accompany our guest singer in song and dance music," said ensemble director Annalisa Pappano.

"Because the instruments come from both the string and wind families, this ensemble is called a 'broken' consort," continued Pappano. "You can count on the fact that the instruments really aren't broken—they really will work."

The Catacoustic Consort was the Grand Prize Winner of the Naxos/Early Music America Live Music Recording Competition in 2003, and will release a compact disc on the Naxos label of its award-winning program of Italian dramatic laments, *Passion and Pain*. As a result of winning this national competition, the ensemble was featured in the Winter 2004 issue of *Early Music America*. The ensemble was also featured on the nationally-syndicated NPR program "Harmonia."

For more information, call 513/772-3242, visit the website [www.catacoustic.com](http://www.catacoustic.com), or e-mail [apappano@yahoo.com](mailto:apappano@yahoo.com).

## ADULT EDUCATION

**wednesday morning bible study** led by the Rector, meets 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., in the Parish Hall resumes January 5. The group will begin reading “Second Isaiah” (Isaiah 40 – 55), with its texts familiar from Handel’s *Messiah* and the Christian lectionary.

**sunday morning bible study:** Sunday mornings, 9:15 – 10:15 in the Parish Hall. **Bill Lamb and Rector Carol Hull** jointly lead a study and discussion group focusing on the gospel selection to be read aloud in worship that Sunday. New participants are always welcome. Bill begins at 9:15 with translation of the Greek text. General discussion begins at 9:30. *Bring a bible.*

**c.s. lewis reading group** meets *Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.* Led by the *Associate Rector*, the group will view “Shadowlands”, the movie, on January 11, and begin reading *Letters to Malcolm, Chiefly on Prayer*, on January 18. New-comers welcome.

**men’s breakfast & fellowship** meet on the second Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Interested men of St. George’s are welcome to attend. *jimrepert@sbcglobal.net or tel: 433-5339.*

**laurie benner’s reading group.** We will We will next meet on *January 24, 2005* at 7:00 p.m.. We will discuss *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini: An epic tale of fathers and sons, of friendship and betrayal, that takes us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the atrocities of the present. The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father’s servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption and it is also about the power of fathers over sons-their love, their sacrifices, their lies. Contact **Laurie** at 886-9472 or *lbenner@who.rr.com*



### Wonder-full wednesdays

resumes January 5 with supper and programs for people of all ages, children through adults. Gathering time is 5:30, with supper at 6:00, followed by classes. Alpha runs until 8:30; other programs end at 7:45. Questions about the children’s program? Call Rev. Kim...

Adult offerings include:

**alpha:** Questions of Faith, a practical introduction to the Christian Faith. Whether a person is relatively new to Christian faith or wants to learn more about basic Christian belief and practice, the objective of Alpha is to help people discover how Jesus Christ has relevance for their lives. Each session features a video presentation and discussion. Questions? **Brad Miter at 374-0218.**

**via media** is a brand new video course developed to proclaim God in Jesus Christ and to present the Episcopal Church in a 21<sup>st</sup> century American context. The phrase *via media* means “middle way,” and the course celebrates the Anglican tradition of “both/and” which frames the context of how we think theologically and wrestle with tough questions. Offering a diverse witness to the uniquely Anglican way of being Christian, **via media** invites people to find community in conversation about the journey of faith. Questions? **Paul St. Germain at 434-1781.**



**Additional ushers** are needed for the 10:30 services. To volunteer, please call **Jan Chromick at 439-1869**; or the church office, 434-1781

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION News

Another *Christmas pageant* has come and gone and on behalf of all our hard working young actors. I want to send a big thank you to all the wonderful parents who pitched in –from door parents to assistant “costumers” to crowd control and general support. Special thank yous to *Trish Pachiano* as our costumer extraordinaire and *Julie Powers* as our “music director”/guitarist. And speaking of music, it was wonderful to hear the premiere of our Treble Choir. Thank you *Susan Daly* for making this happen!

Our *Sunday School* classes will be exploring the theme “*God Comes to Us*” for the remainder of this year. This month we will hear the story of Abraham and Sarah and how *God coming to them* changed their lives.

*Wonder-Full Wednesdays* starts up again on January 5<sup>th</sup>. If winter gives your family a break from the busy schedules of fall, why not join us on Wednesday nights for great meals, faith-building fellowships and a terrific time?!

*Communion classes* will start in February. We will meet on Wednesdays for four weeks. All children in the lower elementary who are interested in learning more about our Eucharist are welcome. Please contact *Patti King if interested (434-1781)*.

### *On a Personal Note:*

*Thank you to all of you who expressed their sympathy and warm thoughts in the death of my mother, Wanda Moldovan. I know God is showing His love for me at this time because it is shining through each of you as you offer your prayers, hugs and kind words. As I have been blessed by the love of my family, so I am blessed by the love of my church family at St. George's.*

***Many thanks!*** *Muchas Gracias!* to *Patti King* and her Family and *Mary Ann* and *Pat MacKenzie* for their most generous hospitality extended to our Guatemalan visitors. Word cannot express the delight and joy experienced by *Vidalia*, *Zulman* and *Cesar* as they experienced the sights and life here in America and Dayton and Washington Township and St. George's. But most especially they were comfortable and impressed by the real sense of Christian community with which they were able to be present. Thank you to all who welcomed and greeted them and supported this effort.

*Paul St. Germain* and *Connie McCarroll*



### *to russia with love #4*

*Area teens are invited to travel to Russia next summer on the fourth Youth Ministry Trip sponsored by the Miami Valley Episcopal Russian Network (MVERN). From June 14 to July 1, Episcopal young people will meet Russian youth, renew friendships with Russian friends who have visited the Miami Valley, and learn about their culture, faith and daily life.*

After three days of sightseeing in St. Petersburg and the ancient city of Novgorod, the young people will travel to the Tosno region where for twelve days they will participate in an immersion program with English-speaking Russian teenagers from MVERN's partner church and the Tosno School System. In addition to sightseeing, sports, computer games, music, art and other projects, they will be an example of American youth ministry during four service days in the village of Sablino, site of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, MVERN's partner parish. An overnight in Prague is scheduled during the return to the USA

Any youth who went to Russian during MVERN's three previous exchanges can testify that this is a moving and inspirational trip, during which they discovered that who they are is more important than what they have. The 2005 exchange will offer the same opportunities to bring Russian and American young people together on a deep level of Christian love, faith, and communication. The group will be led by the Rev. Paul St. Germain, the Rev. David Halt and a carefully selected group of adult chaperones. The trip will be limited to 20 youth.

To learn more about this trip, teens and their parents are invited to attend a "Russian Quest Fest" on Sunday, February 6, 6:30 PM, at St. George's Episcopal Church in Kettering. Watch a multimedia presentation of past trips while enjoying pizza and soda. Former travelers and chaperones will be available to describe their experiences and answer questions.

The cost of the trip is estimated at \$2,499, with the possibility of further reduction from the diocese and MVERN. As interest is running very high, church communities and youth groups are encouraged to begin looking ahead to fund-raisers. Brochures with complete information will be available in early January and applications must be received by February 28.

For further information call *Chris Saunders (937/435-3550)*, or *Teresa Lynne (937/271-3917)*.

**SOCIAL OUTREACH:**

**needed:** The Social Outreach Committee needs a volunteer or two, to take the food from our pantry (when the closet gets full - approximately once per month) to St. Margaret's Food Distribution Center, located in their old church building at Abbey and McCall, just off west State Route 35. A van or SUV would be handier.. **Please phone or contact Roger or Mary Rollins, 937-293-7940.**

**salvation army (booth house):** Next opportunity to assist will be **Wednesday, January 12.** Dinner will be prepared in the undercroft kitchen 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Servers carpool to the shelter at 4:30 p.m. Cookies and 9X13 cakes are greatly needed for dessert. Please bring your donation to the undercroft by 3:30 p.m.

**the other place:** Volunteers from St. George's prepare and serve breakfast on the 4th Saturday of each month at The Other Place, a daytime homeless shelter in Dayton. If you would like to help serve or donate breakfast items, please contact **Marty DeMarey 299-5895, Mary Rollins -293-7940, Sheila Browning -436-3287, Carol & Tim Davis-299-8870.**

**the basics of teaching English** as a second language will be presented by Karen Johnson, Saturday, **February 12.** Class size is limited. It is being held here at St. George's from 7:30 a.m. (registration) to 4:00 p.m.. **You must register.** Applications are available...please contact **Robert van Patten, 848-4069** for more information.

**episcopal relief and development** is reaching out to affected dioceses in the Churches of South India, Ceylon and Province of Southeast Asia. ERD will remain with affected communities as they begin to recover and assess their long-term needs. Please pray for families affected by the disaster in South Asia. To help those affected by the tsunami, donate to the Emergency Relief fund under "Ways to Give." Donations can be mailed to Episcopal Relief and Development, c/o Emergency Relief Fund, PO Box 12043, Newark, NJ 07101.

The  
**social issues committee**  
will meet the first  
Tuesday of January

**dohn family newsletter**

The view from

*This Little Row**in the Lord's Vineyard***Dohn Family Prayer Letter – November, 2004**

Health Ministries, La Republica Dominicana, South American Missionary Society  
P.O. Box 399, Ambridge, PA 15003

Anita and Michael Dohn are physicians serving as missionaries with La Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana through the South American Missionary Society. They live with their four daughters in San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic.

**We had a few surprises Wednesday related to a bull and a screaming child.**

The first surprise was the bull in the church yard. He had appeared the prior Sunday as part of the Día de Gracias (Thanksgiving) service at church, tied-up to the palm tree in the front lawn. The Diocesan clinic is next to the church and the job of caring for the bull became the responsibility of the clinic's handyman José – though the bull was having none of it. Every time that José brought food or water, the bull lowered his head, snorted, and pawed the ground. Well, José was having none of THAT and always made a hasty retreat, much to the amusement of the clinic staff and patients.

"Why is the bull still here?" Anita asked. "No one has come to get him," was the simple answer. The more complicated answer was the continuing negotiations between our priest and the local butchers as they haggled over a purchase price. By the time you read this, an agreement will have been reached and the bull will be gone from our lives for good. Unless, of course, he is sold to our butcher . . .

As I left our office at the clinic that afternoon, I heard a child screaming hysterically. Uh-oh, the dentist is at work. But I passed the dentist on the stairs; she did not have any patients. Perhaps the child is getting a shot at the vaccine station; no, all quiet there. The physicians' exam rooms were also quiet. I realized that all the uproar was coming from the physical therapy gym. What could they be doing to that child?

The child was a deaf-mute girl who had come for her physical therapy. Ah-ha, communications problems, I thought. "Does anybody know sign language?" I asked Jacquelyn, one of the therapists. "Yes, two of us do," she answered. The problem was not communication. Evidently, they could not find the little patient's favorite stuffed animal amongst the ones that the PT department maintains for children in therapy.

So, what did I take away from the two surprises that day? First, when the bull arrives at church, it is going to hang around longer than you expect and (as José knows) it can be troublesome. And second, despite the relative simplicity of health care and the scarcity of resources here, the people are a wealth of talent and skill: two of them are proficient in sign language.

*Keep praying. In Christ, Michael*

*Drs Anita & Michael Dohn, and Rebecca, Tracy, Natalia & Elizabeth.*

## FROM THE MAILBOX



*Dear Paul & Carol,* Thank you for the parish's recent hospitality at the Graham-Mazoroski wedding. You made us feel welcomed and at home. You have a gracious altar guild, as well. Thank you!! In Christ, **The Rev. Joe Redmond.**

A letter from **Matthew Fenlon**, son of Jerry and Linda Fenlon, reports that he has traveled in East Asia, Russia, and Ethiopia in his work on the Jesus Film project and that he is beginning the ordination process in his parish in Florida. *Matt was here visiting his family for Christmas.*

*To the good people at St. George's:* I want to thank Carol for her visit to me and subsequent phone calls; Melanie Hitch for bringing me the lovely church flowers and taking the time to visit and encourage me, and to all of you who sent much appreciated cards during my recent cardiac experience at the hospital. Your messages and prayers were overwhelming and heartwarming. Even the Ohio State fans expressed concern. I truly have much to be thankful for—and especially for all of you at our wonderful church. *God bless you all, Ben Sproat.*

*Dear Friends,* On behalf of the Board, the faculty, but most of all, the students, I want to thank you most heartily for your gift of \$500 to the Bexley Fund. Your dollars are helping to ensure that the Episcopal Church will continue to be equipped with leaders who are trained in scripture, orthodox tradition, and the warm embrace of Anglican catholicity. God bless you for your generosity, and I ask also to remember us in your prayers. *Faithfully yours, The Very Revd John R. Kevern, Ph.D. Dean and President of Bexley Hall.*

*Dear Friends of Outreach:* I would like to express my sincere gratitude to your Church Community for the generous donation of \$500.00 that we have received this week. Please believe that your gift will be used wisely to provide various services to the group home residents in our Outreach Ministry. Last week, a new group home has come knocking on our door and it seems that these residents are even more needy than our 141 old ones. Thanks again for thinking of us. You are in our prayers. *Yours sincerely, Marie Brose, Chaplain, Outreach Minister, St. Agnes Corpus Christi.*

## SPECIAL MINISTRIES

The Prayer List in the weekly bulletin will begin afresh January 2 in the new year. Please contact the Parish Office if you want a name on the list, and let the Office know when it's appropriate to remove a name after a time of prayer.

**hospitality:** Volunteers are needed to sign up to host the fall hospitality time following the 10:30 service. The church provides the fixings for coffee and tea. Volunteers are asked to make the coffee (instructions are on the machine) and provide refreshment snacks and a beverage for children. Please help with this important ministry of hospitality. The Sign-up Sheet is in the Parish Hall. Questions? Contact **Carol Herrick 433-0143.**

**stephen ministry:** Stephen Ministers are trained to serve as caring lay persons to extend the pastoral care efforts of the clergy. A Stephen Minister visits regularly with a person who might be experiencing a difficult period or transition in their life, and who would like to have someone listen objectively, empathetically and confidentially. To request a Stephen Minister, speak with either of the clergy. For more information about the program, contact either of the Stephen Leaders: **Jean Case (434-4260) or Fay Layden (433-3867).** *St. George's Stephen Ministry, Supervision Meetings – Parish Hall, Third Saturday of each month, 10:30 a.m. - noon December 18.*

**lay eucharistic ministers:** We have several lay people who are trained and licensed by the diocese to take communion to the homebound, those in hospitals, or residents of nursing homes who cannot get to the services. If you would like to have communion brought to you, please call the church office. This can be done on a temporary or long-term basis.

**prayer chain** requests call **Yvonne Jennings, 435-0055 / kjennings1@woh.rr.com** or **Carolyn Thomas, 298-0064 / cktenn@aol.co**

**flower ministry:** After the 10:30 service, altar flowers are sent to parishioners and friends who are experiencing illness, bereavement, or other pastoral situations

**St. George's Episcopal Church**

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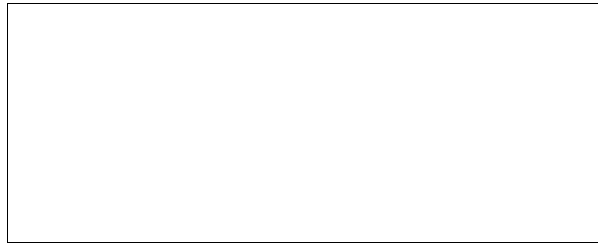
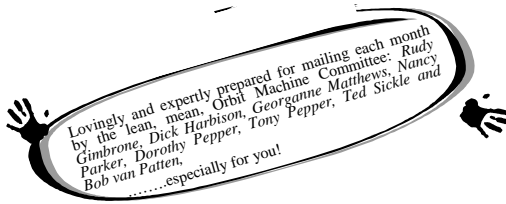
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***the annual spaghetti dinner***

*Sunday, January 30 5:00 p.m.*

*Cost is \$10 (\$5 for children 12 years old and younger)*

A wonderful night of fun and fellowship to benefit Social Outreach!

Many volunteers are needed to help with set-up, food preparation, and clean-up. If you enjoy working with other people for a good cause, please sign up in the Welcome Area or call **Bev Montgomery, 433-7575**



***raffle and silent auction*** for this year's Spaghetti Supper. To donate goods or services, please **contact Margaret Feldmeth at [mfeldmeth@woh.rr.com](mailto:mfeldmeth@woh.rr.com) or at (937) 395-0212**.

If you enjoy doing something that you think others could benefit from, please consider donating a few hours of yourself to our auction. Examples: two hours of light gardening, an hour of errand-running, some handi-work (or specific work) around the house, a few hours of babysitting, a home-cooked and delivered meal, etc. You set the parameters and define exactly what you'd like to donate. Be creative! This is a good way to support the community without having to leave your comfort zone. Contact Margaret for more information, or to submit your donation. Thank you for helping us help others.

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