

Saint George's Episcopal Church

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Parish Profile

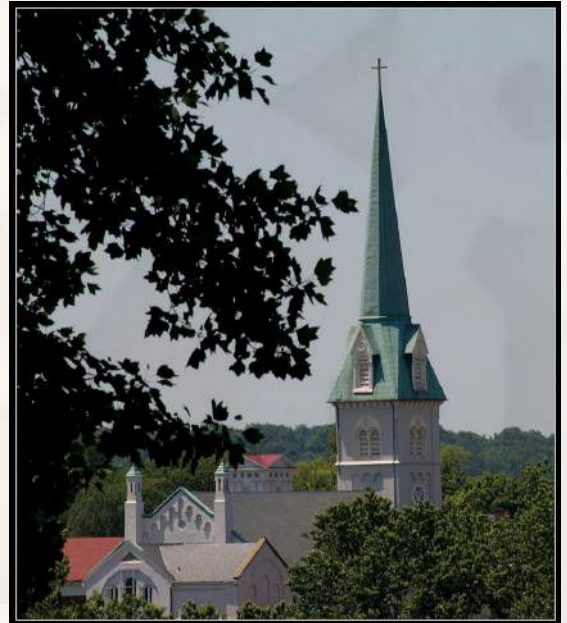
Growing into Christ + Reaching out in Love



You are welcome at St. George's Church regardless of race, nationality, sexual orientation, or tradition.

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Welcome



CHURCH IS OPEN

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7

St. George's mission is one of hospitality. From the flowers that reach down to the sidewalk, to the beautiful music calling to the passersby, the friendly greeters and ushers at the doors of the church, and the welcome statement in our bulletin, hospitality is manifested in many aspects of life at St. George's.

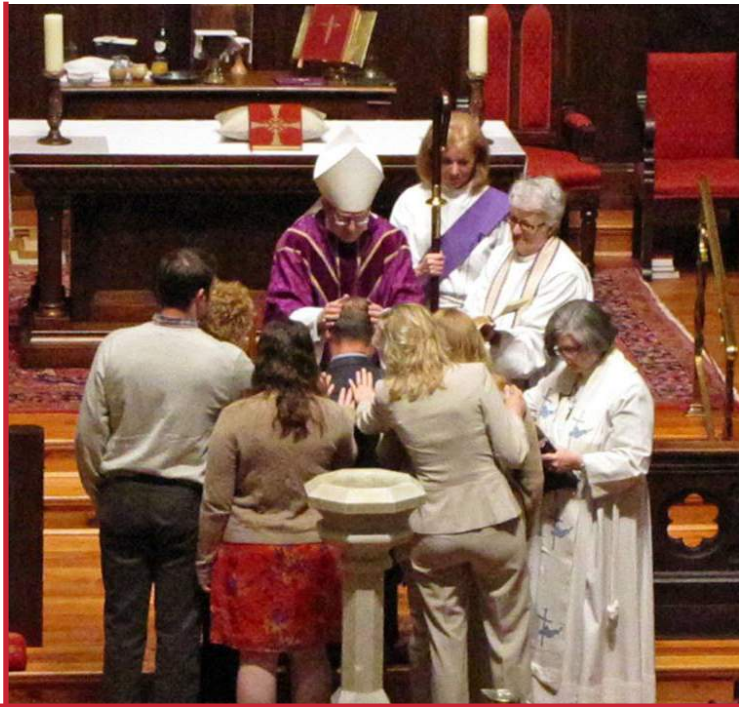
A new elevator to the nave and wide wheelchair-friendly pews have brought parishioners back to church, and nineteenth century box pew doors are left open to make seating more inviting for old-comers and newcomers alike. Most bulletins have the entire service printed, so those not familiar with the Book of Common Prayer can follow along with ease.

Everyone is invited to participate in the Eucharist. Respondents to the parish survey wrote that this was why they chose to attend St. George's. Visitors are welcomed to St. George's, at every service, and asked to "come back and see if we're a good match for you."

Parish Survey:
**When did you feel
welcome at St. George's?**

*When I read the
front of the service
bulletin - All Are
Welcome - and
after a time found
it to be true.*

Newcomers are given "welcome packets" of goodies with information about St. George's, along with a coffee cup inviting them to coffee hour, and a magnet with the church service schedule. Our Director of Newcomers reviews each completed pew card and has the appropriate staff member contact them. An orientation class and newcomer's social is held twice a year, and newcomers are encouraged to become active in the church and their opinions and interests are valued.



Who We Are



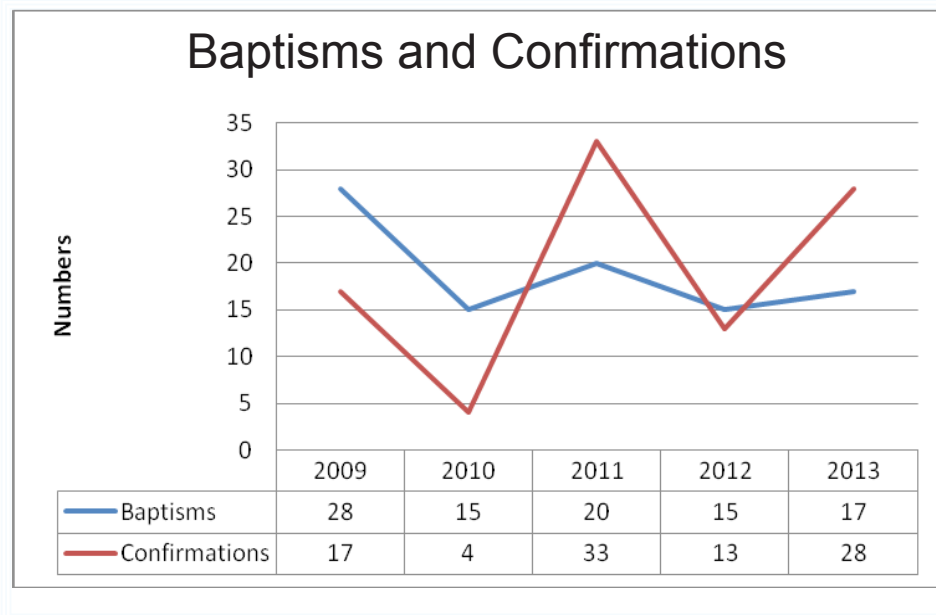
St. George's welcoming and inclusive message draws people to our doors, and we have seen steady growth. Our church family is made up of young families, singles, retired, military, partnered, new-to St. George's and multi-generational life-long members.

The LGBT community has responded to St. George's welcome, as have increasing numbers of young families. Children are always welcome and play an important role in services as readers, assisting with communion, and serving as acolytes and gospel bearers. Each Sunday our Celtic and Compline services attract participants from all over our community, both church and un-church.

Our mission of welcome extends beyond increasing our membership. St. George's is a community gathering place for concerts, Lenten speakers, and community services. As a congregation, we want to continue to optimize our location and position in the Fredericksburg community as a gathering place for spiritual, cultural, and social activities.

Active Baptized Members	1,195
Average Sunday Attendance	371
Easter Attendance	1,003
Signed Pledge Cards	326
Church School Enrollment	240
Average Attendance:	
7:45 AM Rite I	55
9:00 AM "Rite III"	153
11:00 AM Rite II	150
5:30 PM Celtic	65

Average Attendance:



Fellowship

With a diverse, growing church, and five services each Sunday, fellowship connects us to one another as a congregation. And we are a festive church! A continual coffee hour from 7:15 a.m. until the last person leaves after the 11:00 a.m. service provides opportunities for those attending different services to talk with one another. Bistro tables encourage small groups to share conversation over coffee.



Post-service receptions are frequent, at celebrations of baptisms and feast days, visitations by bishops, and at special receptions to focus attention on various events such as the Shrine Mont Retreat and mission work.



An annual parish-wide Eucharist and picnic is held at a local park as our kickoff to summer. Our Mardi-Gras party may be our most lively occasion, with music, dancing, gumbo, jambalaya, red beans and rice, and pancakes. This year 250 parishioners enjoyed the feast before the fast, as well as the festive reception after the Easter Vigil.



About 95% of our parish reports that they feel St. George's is welcoming and inclusive; however, as the parish grows in size and complexity, we need to be mindful of both our newest and oldest members' needs and expectations. Our fellowship endeavors will need to keep pace as we move forward, so we can maintain and deepen our connections.

Last year's Shrine Mont retreat attracted about 200 parishioners for a weekend of relaxation, retreat, fellowship, and prayer.



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OUR PARISH HISTORY

294 Years Young

St. George's Parish was created in 1720 by the House of Burgesses at the same time Spotsylvania County was established. During the Colonial period, there was no separation of church and state, and both the parish and county were part of the local government. The church was responsible for the welfare of orphans, widows, the sick and needy in the community. When Fredericksburg was created from Spotsylvania County in 1728, the current site was set aside for the church lot. It was here that St. George's Church was built in 1732 and ready for use in 1734. It was called the Rappahannock Church but later took the name St. George's after the parish. This church served Fredericksburg and the area during the early years, when the town was a rough, bustling port town on what was the frontier of the Virginia colony.

To this area moved many families that were to distinguish themselves in our history, the most well known being the Washington family. Mary Washington became a member of this church when she moved to Fredericksburg. Her famous son, George, went to a church school taught by one of the early ministers, the Rev. James Marye. George Washington's sister Betty and brother Charles also were members. Revolutionary War generals Hugh Mercer and George Weedon were members here, as well as William Paul, the brother of John Paul Jones.

By 1815, the original frame church was in poor condition and was replaced by a brick church. This church was built on improper foundations. When the walls started to crack and the building started to sink, the congregation realized they needed to plan for a new church.

In 1849, the current handsome church was built under the leadership of the Rev. Edward McGuire.



St. George's 1863



St. George's in the distance, Civil War

It was designed by Baltimore architect Richard Cary Long in the Romanesque Revival Style.

The exterior featured round arched doors and windows, a tower with the town clock, and a tall steeple. The interior follows the typical design of the basilica with a nave and a rear gallery. After a fire in 1854, side galleries were added.

Between 1885 and 1943, stained glass windows, including three Tiffany windows, replaced the original clear glass.

During its long history, St. George's church has survived as a continuously vibrant church in spite of difficult and traumatic times. The fire of 1854 was followed by the Civil War years when Fredericksburg changed hands 11 times between the Union and Confederate armies. During the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg, the church was hit by cannon shells at least twenty-five times. The church was used for revival services for troops and as a hospital for the wounded. Its four-piece silver communion service was stolen by Union troops, with the last piece recovered in 1931.

After World War II, from 1946 to 2003 St. George's was led for 57 years by only two rectors, the Rev. Thomas Faulkner and the Rev. Charles Sydnor. Both advanced social justice at St. George's more than at any time in its history. During this time the church wrestled with the same issues of justice and equality that plagued the country.

Faulkner's time at St. George's paralleled the rise and maturing of the Civil Rights movement. It was through the work and example of Faulkner that 'race' was added to St. George's welcoming statement. Charles Sydnor became rector upon Thomas Faulkner's retirement in 1976. Sydnor's commitment to social justice was grounded in the baptismal covenant and he recognized the accomplishments of his predecessor.

During his tenure, Sydnor opened St. George's to community discussions on topics such as AIDS, school shootings and issues of poverty. In 1992, St. George's hosted a World AIDS Day observance in Fredericksburg. During the vigil Sydnor told the crowd that all in attendance were welcome to worship at St. George's. Not long after, the parish agreed to add sexual orientation to its statement welcoming people to the church regardless of race, nationality or denomination.

We are a church rooted in the past but embracing the future. St. George's is committed to fulfilling its historic charge to witness to our faith in our community and the world.



Nave, 1906



Christmas, 1924



Nave 1960

A Defining Moment for Social Justice in our Community Initiated by St. George's Church

In February 2013, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Katharine Jefferts Schori, arrived at St. George's Church to participate in the beginning of its Lenten season.

The weekend events included a service at St. George's to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. This service, "From Repentance to Hope: A service of Remembrance, Celebration, and Witness," was organized jointly with Shiloh Baptist Church Old Site and the City of Fredericksburg.

Following the service, a "Witness Walk" led by the mayor of Fredericksburg and various clergy, passed by a slave auction block and ended in a rose garden where a bronze sculpture titled "Jubilee," commissioned by St. George's, was unveiled and dedicated. Over 300 people attended this event.



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Our Diocese



The DIOCESE of VIRGINIA

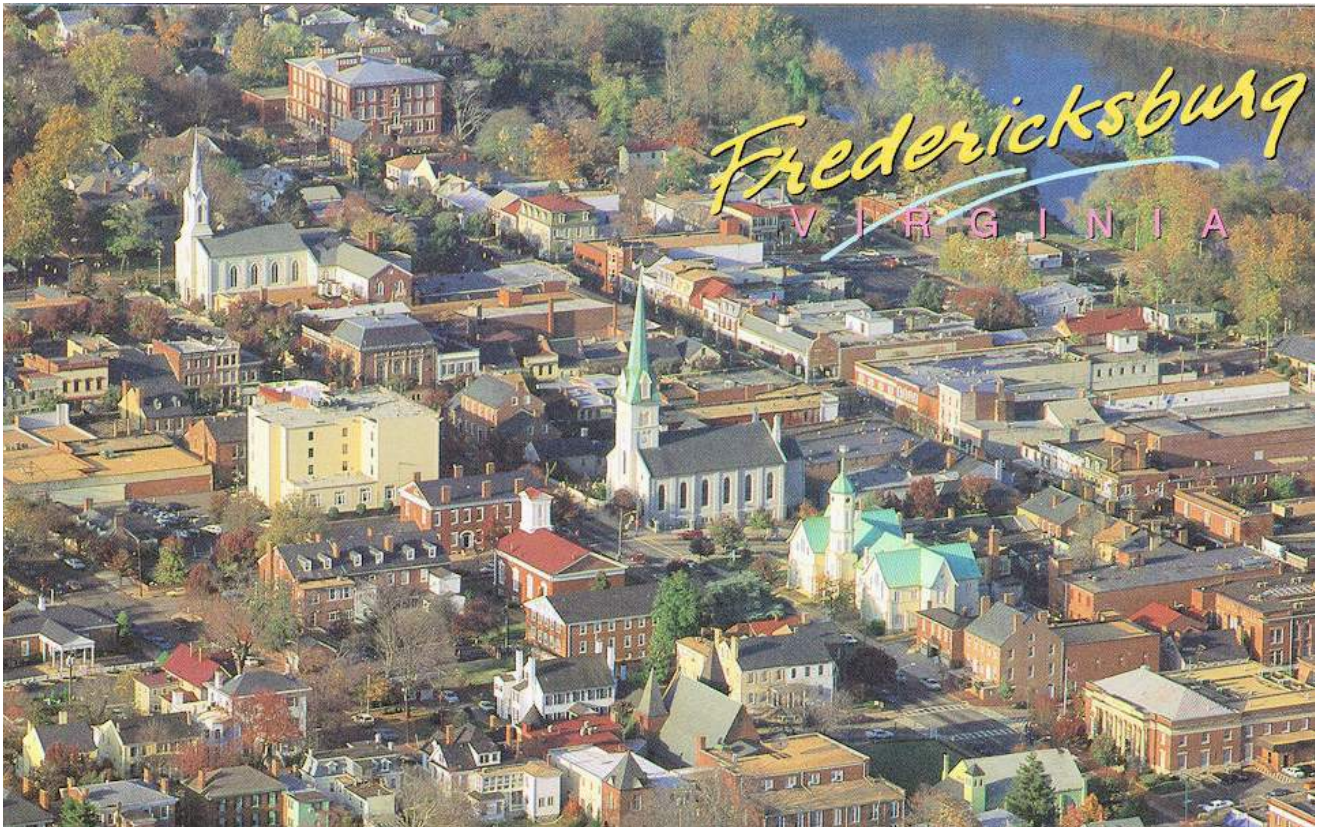
St. George's is a member of The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, the direct descendant of the first Anglican parish in what is now the United States of America. The Diocese of Virginia was organized in May 1785, and was one of the nine dioceses represented at the first General Convention in September 1785, which brought together the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

Today, the Diocese of Virginia is one of the largest in the Episcopal Church, and includes a community of more than 80,000 baptized members and 425 clergy in 38 counties and cities of central, northern and northwestern Virginia, serving the world through 182 congregations, six schools, two diocesan centers and six diocesan homes. The Diocese has three Bishops: The Rt. Rev. Shannon Sherwood Johnston, Diocesan Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff, Bishop Suffragan, and The Rt. Rev. Edwin F. "Ted" Gulick, Assistant Bishop.

The see city is Richmond where its offices (Mayo Memorial Church House) are located. The diocese does not have a conventional cathedral church but rather an open-air cathedral, the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration (Shrine Mont), which was consecrated in 1925. Shrine Mont is also the site of a diocesan retreat and camp center. The diocese also operates the Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn in western Richmond, a conference center overlooking the James River. Virginia Theological Seminary, the largest accredited Episcopal seminary in the United States, is located within the diocese in Alexandria, Virginia.

St. George's Episcopal Church is a member of Region I, which includes churches in Fredericksburg, Culpeper, and the surrounding area.

For more information about the Diocese, visit www.thediocese.net.



Our Town

Fredericksburg is an independent city in the Commonwealth of Virginia located approximately 50 miles south of Washington, DC and 50 miles north of the Virginia capital Richmond; it is part of the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area. The population of the city hovers near 25,000. Many area residents commute to Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia via the Virginia Railway Express which stops at the Fredericksburg train station. Since many of the city's residents work for the government or for government contractors, the economy of the area has been largely buffered from the economic downturns of the last five years.

Home to the University of Mary Washington, bordered by the Rappahannock River, and host to numerous historical events in American history, Fredericksburg offers a plethora of activities for both its residents and the nearly 1.3 million tourists who visit the city each year. Both the American Revolution and the Civil War left their mark on the city, architecturally, culturally and socially.

Many St. Georgians reside in Fredericksburg City limits, within walking distance of the church; still others come from the surrounding counties of Spotsylvania, Stafford, and in some cases as far as King George County to the east of the city.

Worship



The experience of corporate worship is what brings us to St. George's each week. Our worship is both traditional and contemporary, claiming the resources of a glorious past and blending them with the vitality of current offerings. Worship opportunities are multiple and varied. While it is easy for St. Georgians to talk about outreach, history, and spiritual opportunities, it is our corporate worship experiences that

engender our most profound feelings about being members of St. George's. Discussions about the use of inclusive language, the use of the Book of Common Prayer, and the place of music in worship are some of the many elements of worship about which parishioners have strong and diverse feelings.

Over the last ten years the opportunities for worship at St. George's have doubled, from two primary services, to four. The addition of two more services has allowed St. Georgians to participate in liturgy that breaks from tradition while maintaining a link to the concepts of corporate worship that are familiar to many. These changes and additions have not emerged without some contention. However, offering less traditional services as well as services directly from the BCP, has enabled the church to draw people back to worship and to entice those with limited church experiences. Corporate worship at St. George's is challenging for clergy as well, given the variety and number of services. Our new Rector will be up to the challenge of continuing to nurture our desires for worship that speaks to the whole Body as it is manifested in our congregation.

St. George's offers its members a wonderful variety of approaches to God. While I may prefer the peaceful and personal introspection of the Celtic Service, another finds joy in the rousing community of the 9:00 a.m. service and still another the more traditional approach of the 11:00. St. G's offers something for the evangelist, the intellectual, the service-oriented, the spiritual, the community minded, and the care-taker. It has wonderful music. It provides a welcome home for those who are persecuted elsewhere. I am comfortable alone or with others, actively participating or simply sitting alone in a pew.

~Parish Survey

Services



Sunday 7:45 AM –Led by clergy, Rite I directly from the BCP, no music

Sunday 9:00 a.m. – Led by clergy, “Rite III” following the order of service from the BCP, but using The Message Bible with prayers from the New Zealand Prayer Book among others, worship supported by jazz ensemble and jazz choir, active children’s participation.

Sunday 11:00 a.m.- Led by clergy, Rite II, use of the BCP, with periodic additions, has included the use of inclusive language, supported by organ and choir traditional worship music.

Sunday 5:30 p.m. – Celtic Evensong with Holy Communion; drawn from the liturgical traditions of Iona, Northumbria, and New Zealand; the music at these services draws from the Celtic Tradition. This service has been well received by St. George’s parishioners, worshipers from other churches, and those with little or no religious background.

Sunday 9:00 p.m. – From the ancient monastic practice of ending the day in prayer and praise of God; this candlelit service features a small group of singers offering Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony. They take a break June – August.

Summer Worship 10:00 a.m. - During the summer months of June, July and August the service schedule changes and the 9:00 and 11:00 AM services are combined into one 10:00 AM service.

Additional Worship Opportunities:



Daily Office, noon, lay led

- ✙ Monday
- ✙ Tuesday
- ✙ Thursday
- ✙ Friday

Holy Eucharist and Laying on of Hands, noon, clergy led

- ✙ Wednesdays

I think it is important to have a rector who is child-friendly, especially during the services. I know that for us it has been one of the main reasons we are able to continue coming to St. George's every weekend with small children. The rugs up front are a wonderful way to include children in the service as well as make it easier for parents with small children.

~ Parish Survey



I hope inclusive language returns to all of our worship services. This is IMPORTANT to our truly being a welcoming church.

~Parish Survey



I love that St. George's offers three different services every Sunday. I prefer the traditional liturgy and therefore go to the 11, but it's great to have both options. Sticking to the wording in the BCP is important to me personally and I appreciate the effort to this at the 11 AM service.

~Parish Survey



I prefer the dignity and solemnity of the traditional form of liturgy – the Episcopal Church of my childhood, and the heart of the language in the Book of Common Prayer (Rt. 1).

~Parish Survey



Inclusive language is very important to me. It allows our liturgy to be more welcoming. I love the tradition of the Prayer Book, but I see the beauty of what inclusive language brings to our worship services. I hope that whoever we hire will be open to the variety of ways that our service can be enriched.

~Parish Survey

Spiritual Gatherings

As a large and growing congregation, one of our challenges is to continue to keep parishioners engaged within the St. George's community in ways that extend outside of corporate worship. To that end St. George's has a number of small spiritual groups which engage parishioners in a variety of spiritual pursuits.

ECW – Episcopal Church Women

St. George's has two ECW chapters. The Mary Faulkner Chapter meets in the morning while the Avis Harris Chapter meets in the evening. Women of both chapters enjoy fellowship, participate in fund raising events and attend programs covering a wide variety of community and church topics. United Thank Offering collections take place in the spring and fall of the year.

St. George's Men's Group

After a long absence, the St. George's Men's Group was reestablished in the fall of 2011. Beginning small, the group offered fellowship and prayer for its six active members. By the spring of 2012, the group had grown to over 20 active members.

Integrity Congregational Circle

The Integrity group met regularly until last year, when the group shifted to work throughout the larger community of Fredericksburg to promote inclusiveness and awareness of issues that affect the LGBT community. The church has participated in bringing the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington DC to Fredericksburg, sponsored a traveling photo exhibit entitled "Love Makes a Family", and has supported the World AIDS Day by hosting an ecumenical service at the church. St. George's also celebrated its first same-gender blessing last year of two longtime parishioners, and looks toward continued involvement by its members in all aspects of our church body.

Drum Circle

A drum circle is a gathering of people who come together to express themselves through the use of percussive instruments. Drum circle attracts both regular parishioners and those who are looking for community but are not church members.

Quiet Circles

Meet once a week. Everything that happens to you is your teacher. The secret is to learn to sit at the feet of your own life and be taught by it. Quiet Circles, is a time in which the noise within us and around us can subside and we can begin to hear our own inner voice.

Contemplative Prayer

Meets weekly, the focus of the group is to practice centering prayer as a way for individuals to draw close to God in the silence of their own prayers and contemplation. This group meets in the church's meditation room located off the nave in the gallery.



Outreach



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Matthew 25:35

St. Georgians know that outreach is a transformative process which is essential for our growth as a parish and as individuals. It has been said that outreach is in our DNA at St. George's. We understand it to be the cornerstone of how we live Christ's message.

Feeding Ministries

Our robust feeding ministries were created with the goal of building relationships with those in need, blurring the lines between those serving and those being served. Our weekly food pantry, The Table, is a market style opportunity to "shop" for fresh food and other items. Many of our volunteers at The Table came to us first as customers. Our twice-monthly Community Dinners, to which all are invited, are opportunities to feed, and to connect with our larger community. Part of our practice at Community Dinners is for those serving to grab a plate, and go sit with our guests to share the meal.

Our parish is energized by these feeding ministries, and they continue to attract new members to our

The very first time I attended a service at St. George's I felt instantly connected to something much larger than just a congregation. The spirit of giving back and giving of oneself is alive at this church and grabs you as soon as you walk in the door.

~Parish Survey

community and embolden us as Christians to live the message of Christ's love for all. We are passionate about sharing the bounty of our blessings, and are renewed by the grace which is returned to us in this process.

St. George's has been designated a "Jubilee Ministry" Center due to our feeding ministries. This designation provides access to grants and other funding sources including:

- ✦ A \$32,000 grant from the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region,
- ✦ A \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Riverside and San Bernardino counties,
- ✦ A \$7,000 Mustard Seed Grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

A key tenet of our feeding ministry is educating the community we feed, and ourselves, about healthy food choices, cooking options, and ways to optimize food budgets. To this end, our outreach leadership speaks to local churches and other community organizations about our ethic of fresh food and community building. This spring we will initiate a pilot project called "On the Way Market" to inform our clients about opportunities to use SNAP coupons to buy produce at the local farmer's market.



Outreach is an area in which St. George's wants to continue to grow, for both the larger community and for the community of St. George's. One of the items that grew out of our search process and our discussions about outreach is the desire to expand our outreach programs to address issues of community mental health and recovery from addiction. The St. George's Community is rich with experience and one of our many goals as a parish is to ensure that everyone has a place in which they can share their particular gifts.

Ways We Feed

Community Dinners are open to all, feed about 120 people per meal, and are held at St. George's every Monday of the year. St. Georgians provide food and staff Two Monday's a month, the other weeks are run by other churches who use our facilities.

Micah Lunches- parishioners make 150 sandwiches once a month which are disbursed my Micah Ministries.

The Table is a market style food pantry that has made food available to 4, 170 people in the first three months of 2014. We distributed approximately 130,000 pounds of food in 2013.

Beyond Feeding

FRED Camp brings together youth and adult volunteers for one week each summer to live and work in Christian Community while providing area residents in need with home repair and remodeling assistance. St. George's youth and a cadre of adults participate in this ecumenical outreach.

Micah Ecumenical Ministries Cold Night Shelter offers area homeless residents a warm place to sleep November through March during nights when the temperature drops below freezing. St. George's volunteer team serves the shelter two Monday nights each month, along with professional staff.

The Super Bowl of Caring is a YOUTH led annual outreach. This past year the main event was a partnership with our Presbyterian neighbors to prepare 25000 meals with the Stop Hunger Now Project.

GIRLS/BOYS Group, comprised of high school juniors and seniors, is a new addition to our youth offerings. Last year the group attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and having been enlightened and energized, returned to us with new insights about the world, their community, and themselves.



Rally for Service kicks off our liturgical year and gives St. Georgians the opportunity to contribute to any number of community projects, from river clean-up, to planting trees, to assembling Church World Service School Kits.

School Dressing Days is an interfaith initiative which provides clothing and school supplies to students in our community.

Christmas and Easter Outreach Offering supports community service organizations such as Empower House the local domestic violence non-profit.

I strongly believe St. G's longstanding history of effective community and world outreach is the GLUE which holds us together and the KEY to sharing the Good News of God in Christ.

~Parish Survey

Our Little Roses School and Mission, Honduras while recent political developments in Honduras have put a stop to annual trips, St. Georges' parishioners continue to support Little Roses and its students via donations.

Parish of Notre Dame de L'Annonciation Eglise in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Twice a year a group of St. Georgians goes to Haiti to do a health clinic for children in the parish school and members of the surrounding community of Bolosse. The parish also provides scholarship funds for the school.



The Red Shirt Mission, South Dakota.

St. George's youth and adults will work with the people of Red Shirt Village to offer a Vacation Bible School and work on building improvements at Christ Church.

Congregational Care

One Body Response Team

The 75-member One Body Response Team was developed in 2010 to provide St. Georgians with the care good neighbors give. One Body members assist fellow St. Georgians by lending a hand in an emergency; running an errand, touching base with someone by phone or with a visit, providing a hot meal, remembering an important anniversary with a card or call, or transporting someone to an appointment or church.

Stephen Ministry

This one-to-one lay caring ministry, which began in 2013, offers congregation members additional spiritual and emotional care after a life-changing event. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

Lay Eucharist Visitors

Our Lay Eucharistic Visitors are commissioned by the Bishop to bring previously blessed elements of Holy Communion to persons incapable of attending regular worship.

Prayer Shawl Knitters

The Prayer Shawl Knitters support parishioners who are dealing with particularly trying or tragic life events by providing them a hand-made prayer shawl, as a mantle of healing and comfort. Prayer Shawl Ministry volunteers gather in community to share prayers, stories, and the work of their hands and hearts.

Prayers and Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry

Chapter 898 meets monthly and provides prayers to those in need, both inside the church and beyond. Lap-size quilts and patriotic mini quilts are available. Our motto is “It is not about the quilt, it is all about the prayers.”



Music Ministries



"The role of the church musician is to help the people of God find their spiritual voice through music."

~ Carol Doran, Professor of Sacred Music,
Colgate Rochester Divinity School

St. George's is known for its music. We are blessed to have an active music ministry and the tools necessary for a variety of musical worship and outreach endeavors. For music to be an effective element of worship it must foster a spiritual connection between parishioners, God, and our community. The musicians at St. George's live into this mission by understanding:

- ✦ The energy for what they do as church musicians comes from the congregation.
- ✦ Volunteer musicians who are worshipping members of the community are best able to make that connection.
- ✦ Encouraging singers and instrumentalists from the greater Fredericksburg community to join our ensembles as a way to experience worship at St. George's is part of evangelism.
- ✦ Our program is people-driven, rather than repertoire-driven. Our players and singers are more important to vibrant worship than the music.

...In a visit to St. George's, I found myself in awe of the jazz service. The music was incredible, and the result for me was an unparalleled worship experience. My only wish is that I lived closer to St. George's and could participate in that Jazz Eucharist more often!

- The Rev. C.K. Robertson, PhD. Canon to the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Music Education and Outreach

Choral School

Free 8 week course, singers learn:

- Basic vocal technique
- Breathing to sing
- How to sing with great tone quality
- How to listen to everyone but yourself and stay in tune
- How to read music
- Basic music theory

The YogaVoice Workshop

Taught by yoga instructor and operatic baritone, Mark Moliterno, this weekend workshop teaches singers to use yoga postures and practice to remove blockages to good singing. Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life (RSCM Choir for Children)

Concerts

Chamber Music Series- nine monthly concerts during the school year – orchestral, chamber, choral and organ music - "Beautiful Music in a Beautiful Space"

Fridays @ The Last Resort – informal café-style jazz, folk and original music

Recordings from recent concerts can be found at: http://www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net/worship_services/music/



We have wonderful music at St. G's; however, sometimes I wish the songs were more to encourage the congregation to sing, rather than a performance.

~Parish Survey

The music program is a major reason we are at St. George's.

~Parish Survey



Music in Worship

Our worship is supported by a diverse blend of music from Jazz, to Gospel and Celtic traditions. It includes newly composed choral works sung by the Jazz ensemble as well as music from the Anglican/Episcopal tradition, accompanied by the organ and Chamber Ensemble. Gregorian Chant and Renaissance polyphony sung by the Compline choir round out the St. George's Sunday worship schedule. Music is a critical part of the worship experience at St. George's but it is not the focus of our worship. Its purpose is to bolster the worship experience and its challenge is to continually engage not only the very talented and dedicated choirs but also the entire congregation in its ministry.

- ✦ Four adult choirs, three of which perform weekly, with 36 members total
- ✦ Two children's choirs which perform Monthly with 15 members total
- ✦ A volunteer-led hand bell choir of 10-12 who perform weekly, alternating between the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM worship services
- ✦ A 13 member jazz ensemble supports the 9:00 AM Eucharist composed of flute, two alto saxes, one doubling on clarinet, two tenor saxes, baritone sax, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, drums and a second percussionist who plays vibes, congas and timbales
- ✦ A chamber ensemble that supports the 11:00 AM Eucharist composed of violin, cello, flute, oboe doubling on English horn, clarinet, French horn and bassoon
- ✦ Two Celtic ensembles that support the 5:30 PM Celtic Eucharist, composed of guitar, piano, and flute or violin
- ✦ Sung Compline at 8:00 PM on Sunday evenings

I think the music is important to the services and adds great variety but it is not the most important element of the services.

~Parish Survey

I am delighted and constantly amazed by the range of music offered at St. G's. The music program is innovative, complex, and executed with such professionalism. I love the diversity of music at the 9:00, 11:00 and 5:30 services.

~Parish Survey

The music is central to my worship experience. I attend the 11:00 AM and have often found that the chamber music almost "opens the gates of heaven" for me.

~Parish Survey



The Organ

St. George's manual tracker pipe organ was designed and built by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders of Canandaigua, NY. The organ façade is designed in the mid-19th Century Italianate style in keeping with the historic 1849 church building. The façade design was a collaborative effort between Parsons, Mr. Jim Wollon, a historic preservation architect from the Baltimore area, and Dan Cole of PipeShader. The organ sits majestically in the rear balcony with choir seating on tiered risers to the front and sides of the case. The organ accompanied worship for the first time in December of 2010. The 2,667 pipes are controlled from three mechanical action keyboards and one pedalboard – Great, Swell, Positive and Pedal – and range in length from ½" resonators to 16'. The stop list is designed to create a worship instrument with a broad tonal and dynamic range. The console is walnut and blood wood with accents of wenge wood and incorporates state of the art digital technology with 200 levels of combination action memory. St. George's pipe organ represents many years of prayerful study, planning and sacrifice, knowing that this instrument will serve the congregation and community for many generations.



Christian Formation



DEEPENING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SPIRIT

At St. Georges, we prize learning and seek to know God through Scripture, reason, tradition and human experience. A wide variety of educational opportunities is offered on Sunday and through the week. We have comprehensive, intentional programs for Christian Formation for all ages. To us this means Christian Education of the mind and heart, so each person is empowered to grow in relationship with Christ.

- ✦ Pilgrims Path is a program of lectures, discussion and small group meetings for those new to the Episcopal Church or new to St. George's. The program runs once a year for eight weeks in the spring, culminating in confirmation by the Bishop.
- ✦ Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four year extension program through the School of Theology at the University of the South. EfM has been continuously offered at St. George's for over 25 years.

Adult Education Offerings – four unique educational/spiritual extension opportunities are offered weekly.

Following the 7:45 AM service:

- ✦ Early Bird Group – Small group, laity led, often focuses on a book discussion.

Following the 9:00 AM service parishioners are invited to participate in one of three offerings:

- ✦ Small Group Lectionary Discussion, laity led.
- ✦ Small Group Exploratory Group various unit topics discussed throughout the year, laity led.
- ✦ Adult Forum – a larger group lecture on topics that touch the church and community, often features invited guest speakers

Lenten Weekend at St. George's is an intensive exposure to well-known theologians and Christian thinkers; frequently preceded with preparatory book study. Lenten weekend is held the first weekend in Lent; on the following Monday a diocesan clergy event, sponsored by the bishop, is held at St. G's featuring our speaker. Our guest have included:

- ✦ Most Reverend Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori
- ✦ Marcus Borg
- ✦ Dr. Michael E. Lee
- ✦ Susan Guthrie
- ✦ Kate Braestrup

St. George's seeks to try to live out the teaching of Christ and love of God. That is what makes it such a wonderful community. St. George's also provides education for all of us to keep thinking, growing and opening to new ideas.

~Parish Survey

Children and Youth Formation



St. George's has a comprehensive children's spiritual education program. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is utilized for children between the ages of three and twelve. The program for teenagers offers young people the opportunity to extend their knowledge of the spirit while addressing their progress to adulthood. There are also youth group activities which range from liturgical events at church to full-fledged mission trips. St. George's realizes that the key to future growth is to attract, keep, and enlighten new generations. One of the items that emerged in group discussion and via our survey was the need for a dedicated staff member, possibly a youth minister as the lead for all youth programming at the church. As we continue to grow, St. George's is cognizant of the importance of children and youth's spiritual formation as a key to maintain our vitality and legitimacy in the future.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:

- ✦ The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children that is based on the conviction that God and the Child are in relationship. Each level of the child's work explores the fundamental theme of covenant.

Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life:

- ✦ Music School for young singers
- ✦ Two groups, 3 to 6 and 7 to 10-year-olds

I believe that our new rector should be ready to find a dedicated youth staff member. Our young children's ministries are very strong, but we have lost many of the kids by middle & high school.

~Parish Survey

When my child was much younger, he stated very loudly and with much enthusiasm as we sat in the pew "Jesus loves me, mama, Jesus loves me!" Amen – that's what St. George's is all about, helping everyone feel the power of God's love and presence all around us.

~Parish Survey

Journey to Adulthood:

- ✦ The Journey to Adulthood is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades. It encourages relational ministry and both serious and playful activities to underscore the two guiding principles of the program: Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God; and Adulthood must be earned.

Confirm not Conform:

- ✦ Teenagers explore the beliefs and questions that come from the students themselves. The debate and discussion, sparked by the students, ignites their faith into something lively and real. CnC takes the idealism and skepticism that co-exist in young people and uses that energy to help youth become engaged with their faith and their community.

St. George's Pre-School:

- ✦ St. George's Preschool offers a safe, developmentally appropriate learning environment for a small yet diverse group of preschoolers from our parish, the community, and underserved families living in our vicinity. Using Montessori teaching principals and environment, best educational practices, and Episcopal spiritual traditions, it offers education of the whole child. Twenty-five percent of the pupils have their tuition subsidized by scholarship funds.



Facilities

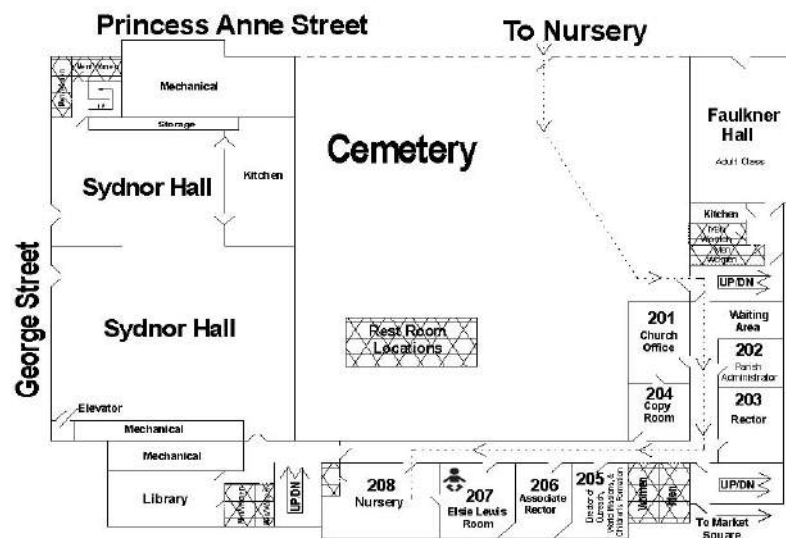


St. George's is a tourist destination in our city, and its steeple the most prominent and oft painted part of the Fredericksburg skyline. It is open daily for tours, and a dedicated group of docents tell visitors about the building and the history of the church.

St. George's Episcopal Church sits on a half-block site located at 905 Princess Anne Street, the northwest corner of Princess Anne Street and George Street in Fredericksburg, VA. As the drawing below depicts, the property was constructed in stages over a period of time, with the oldest dating to 1823, now named Faulkner Hall. The church building, located at the corner of George Street and Princess Anne Street, was constructed in 1849 and was completely renovated in 2009. The bell tower remains the highest point in downtown Fredericksburg and contains three clocks owned by the city and bells owned by the church. Many in the city, including the circuit courts, set their time based on the St. George's bell.

First Level Building Layout – The Nave sits above Sydnor Hall

At full capacity, the nave can seat 700, with 500 on the main floor and 200 in the gallery. During regular services, 2/3 of the gallery is occupied with the music program, musicians, hand bell ringers, choristers and the organ.

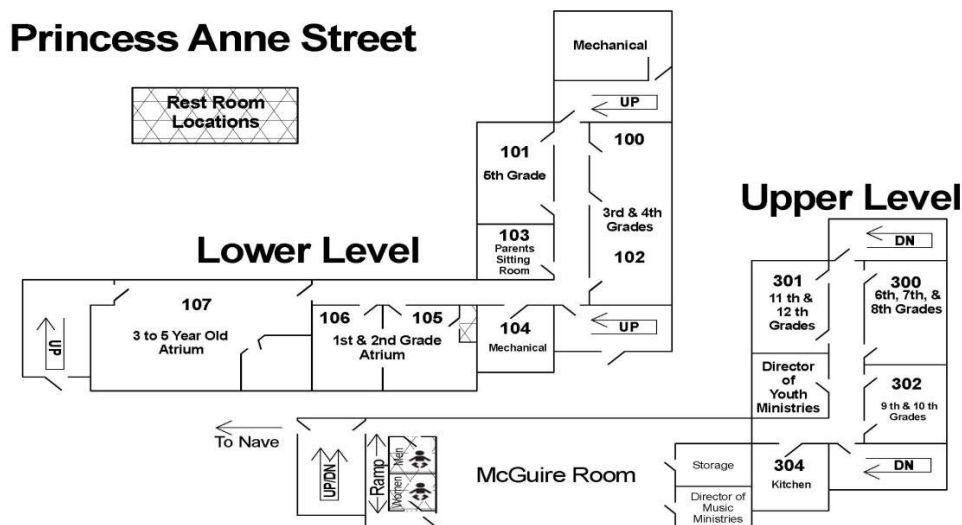


Below the nave is Sydnor Hall, named for the former long-term rector Charles Sydnor, is used for most parish functions and can be divided into two sections. The small side holds a full commercial kitchen, which was completely renovated in 2013, including all new appliances, cabinets and a commercial dishwasher. A separate entrance is available from George Street. The large side is set up for presentations with a drop down screen and overhead projector with computer connections. Handicap access for all three levels of the building is available from George Street via the elevator located in Sydnor Hall. All of Sydnor Hall was renovated in 2008.



Faulkner Hall, named after former long-term rector Tom Faulkner, is the oldest building on the site, dates to 1823 and is our largest conference room with seating for 12 to 16 around the tables in the center and another 20 with chairs against the wall. Handicap access for this building is directly from Princess Anne Street. This space was given a simple face lift with the last renovation.

Building Layout – McGuire Hall Education Wing – McGuire Room is the Music Room and is at the same level as the Nave



Connecting the two buildings is McGuire Hall which was completed in 1959 and houses class rooms, a pre-school, offices, music room and nursery with easy access to the nave. The music room was added as a third story above the office portion with the 2009 renovation and includes two new handicap restrooms with direct access from the nave level. The large music room includes practice space with a piano and harpsichord, robing room, music library and an office for the Director of Music and assistants.



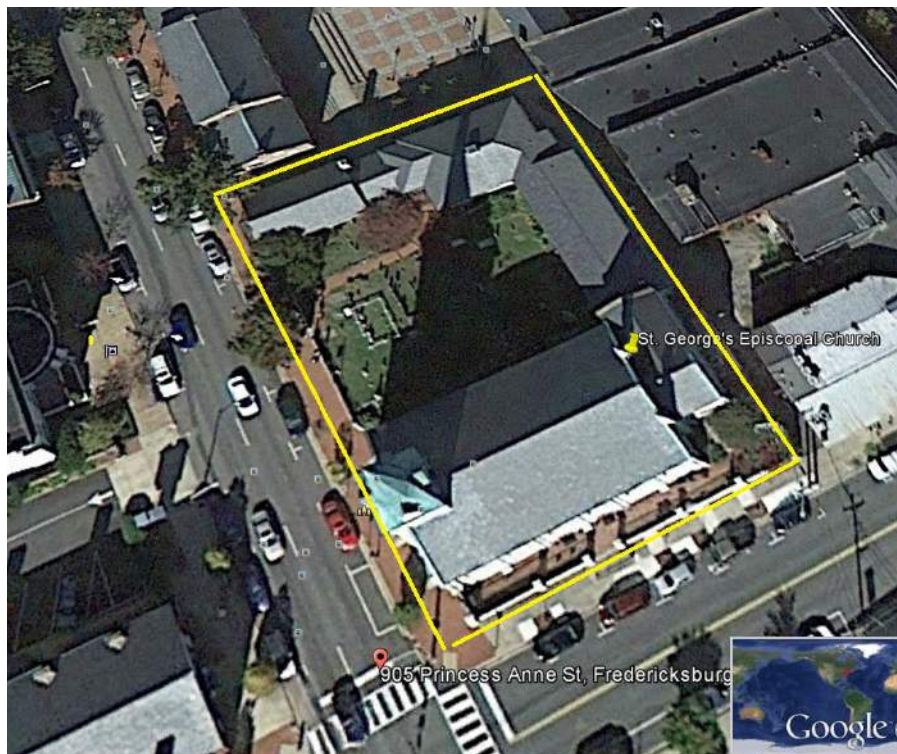
The graveyard in the center of the “U” dates back to the mid 1750’s and carries a sign “The Founders of Fredericksburg Sleep Here.” The cemetery is a big draw for tourists walking in downtown Fredericksburg. To further accommodate those tourists, the nave is open to the public on all days with a sign posted on the steps indicating that the church is open. Docents are available to answer questions visitors may have from May to September.

While St. George’s physical plant is old, in recent years the parish has done much to

maintain and update the facilities. From 2007 to 2009, a nave renovation project restored a vesting/sacristy room against the back wall and the choir and organ were moved to the rear gallery. The altar is free standing and was moved closer to the congregation, a removable communion rail was placed at the nave floor level, eliminating any steps. Some front pews were removed to place the font in the center as a focal point and include an area for a “rug space” for young children. A third floor was added to McGuire Hall which includes a music room and office for the music director. The last renovation to the church was completed in 2013 when the kitchen was updated and refurbished to meet the increasing demands for its use for community dinners and The Table.

With a fairly large and flexible facility, St. George’s often hosts large diocesan events such as the Electing Council for Bishop Susan Goff in 2011, as well as, monthly Standing Committee meetings. Our central location between Washington and Richmond makes St. George’s a convenient place for meetings, and the Diocese often calls on us to act as host.

Although the buildings are fairly large by church standards, St. George’s still has space needs. There are activities scheduled in the building every night of the week. The youth area, for example, consists of three small rooms where at least one larger room would be better. The church does not have a dedicated parking area and uses the lots of nearby banks and office buildings to supplement the on street parking on Sundays. We always seem to need more meeting space and conference rooms.



Leadership



Vestry

St. George's Vestry consists of the clergy and twelve elected, adult parishioners who perform the duties prescribed in the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Elections are held yearly during Advent, at the parish meeting. Vestry members serve three year terms. This past year saw a record number of candidates for Vestry, a trend we hope will continue. The interest among parishioners in serving on vestry is something the parish would like to continue to foster. Our Vestry meets monthly.

Each Vestry member is appointed as a liaison between Vestry and one of the twelve ministry commissions of the church. Vestry members are expected to attend commission meetings and participate in their particular commission's work. This arrangement serves to keep Vestry informed of the many activities of St. George's, while also giving commissions a voice on the Vestry to advocate for their particular concerns.

Staff

In 2004, St. George's staff included two full time clergy, a secretary, Christian Education director, parish administrator and sexton. At that time, the organist, youth director and nursery supervisor comprised the part-time staff. By 2013, ministries and programs at St. George's experienced substantial growth, particularly in Outreach, World Ministries and Music Ministries. To support this growth, the church employed seven full-time and five part-time staff. Responsibilities within many of the positions changed to reflect the growing needs of the parish. In 2014, the only change to staff structure was in the area of cleaning the building. A full-time position was eliminated and a cleaning service hired to do regular servicing of the facility.

Clergy:

- + Interim Rector
- + Associate Rector
- + Deacon, Director of Children's Ministries

Stipendiary Staff – Full Time:

- + Business Manager
- + Parish Administrator
- + Director of Music Ministries

Stipendiary Staff - Part-Time:

- + Receptionist/Secretary
- + Facilities Manager
- + Nursery Coordinator
- + Assistant Organist/Pianist
- + Director of Children's Music and Music Assistant

Non-Stipendiary Staff:

- + Director, Bell Choir, and Music Administrator
- + Director of Newcomers and Fellowship

Communication



Like most churches moving into the twenty-first century, St. George's has faced new challenges for communicating in the digital age. Where once we provided a monthly written newsletter, we now send THE WEEKENDER out via e-mail. The Sunday Bulletin is filled with information about church happenings and frequently contains a Quick Response Code for the tech-savvy among our congregants who wish to gain further information about a particular event.

We are blessed to have parishioners who are able and willing to act as facilitators and administrators for our Facebook Page and to periodically tweet about St. George's or the wider Episcopal community. Blogs are another way for parishioners to gain a more in-depth view of ministries at the church.

While St. George's has embraced the 21st century and uses many methods of communication with the congregation, we continue to look for effective and creative ways to keep congregants informed. We are especially aware that not all of our parishioners are internet savvy, and we reach out to those members via the weekly bulletin and occasional cards and mailings.

Connect with St. George's:

Website: www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Twitter: @StGeorgesEpisc

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StGeorgesEpiscopalFredericksburg

The George Street VOICE: www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net/thevoice

The Weekender: www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net/theweekender

Blogs:

Linda Carter's Table Talk: www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net/tabletalk

Carey Chirico's Sabbath Time: www.deaconcarey.wordpress.com

John Vreeland's St. George's Music: www.stgeorgemusic.wordpress.com

Stewardship

St. George's recognizes that no matter how committed parishioners are to outreach or the worship experience, without good stewardship nothing else is possible. The church is audited yearly by Bowling and Franklin and Co., LLP, and we take our financial gifts and obligations seriously. St. George's has largely been able to weather what, for some churches, were dire economic trends. Until this past year, St. George's pledges have risen in line with budget requests and needs. The last several years have seen St. George's take on considerable debt in order to prepare the physical plant for the future and to meet increasing outreach goals. Multiple capital campaigns have paid off with a nave renovation, additional staff, and facilities' upgrades. We are particularly proud to be on the cusp of paying off a 3.8 million dollar renovation including its \$1.8 million dollar construction loan by the end of 2014. Our new rector will enter a church facility ready for the 21st century and without any outstanding debt.

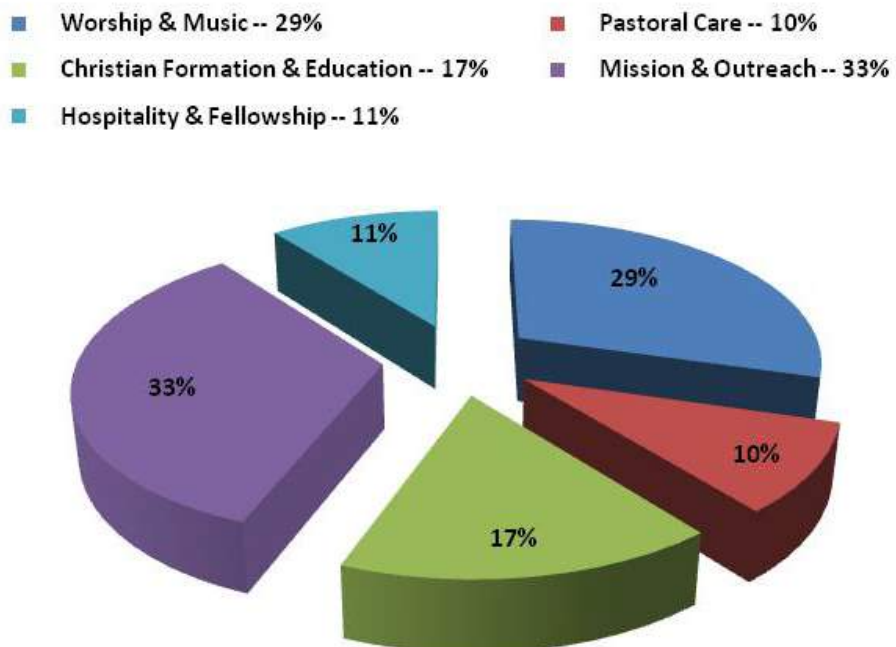
St. George's Stewardship Campaign is organized by the Stewardship Commission. In recent years the campaign has been conducted in October and November around a theme established by the commission. The target dollars are set by the requests from the 13 commissions. A tentative budget is often set by October which establishes the campaign goal for the year. The campaigns have been driven by parishioner testimonials both in church and in video, sermons by the rector, and presentations in adult forums, narrative budgets, and letters to parishioners. As the building debt is cleared, it is hoped that pledge dollars for operations will once again increase to meet the parish's desires for outreach, staff, and other church programming.

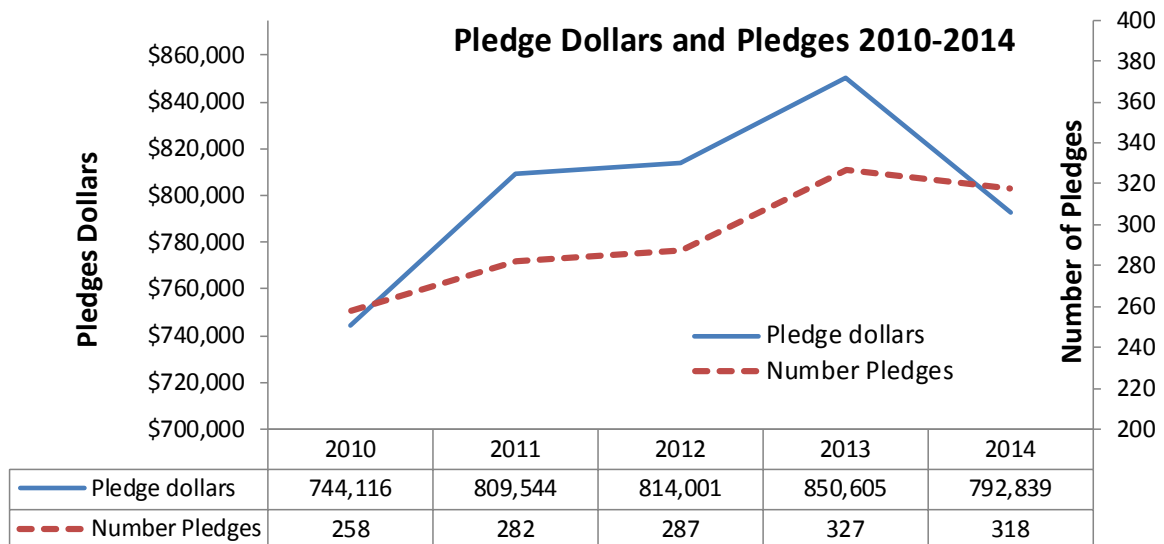
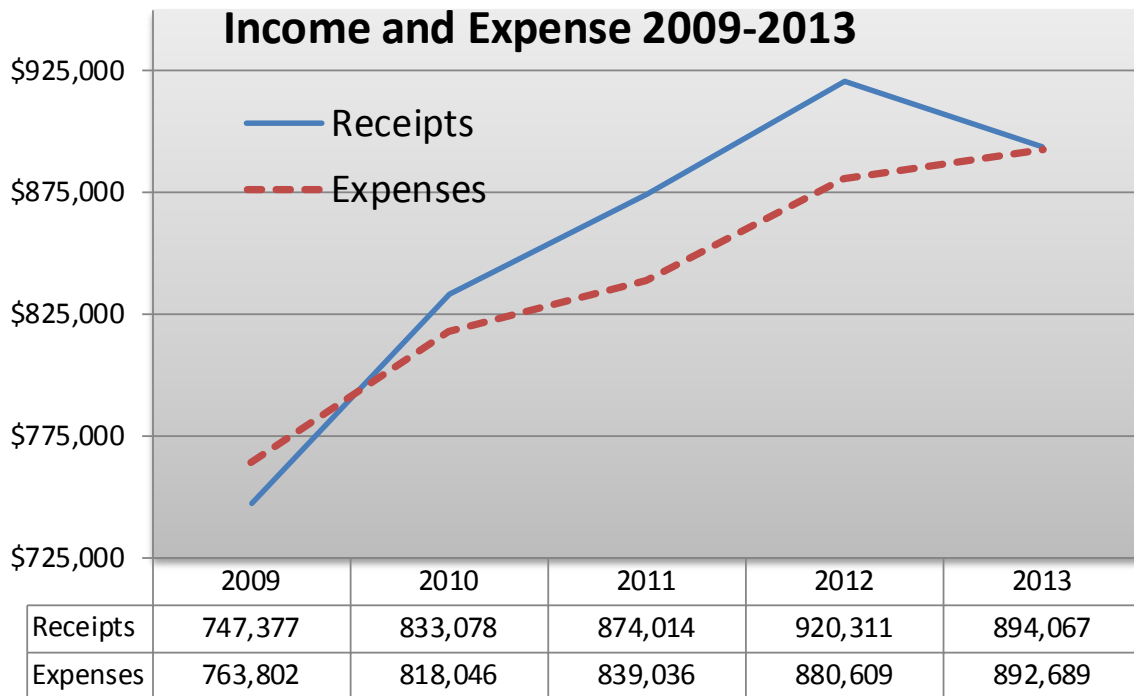
Time, Talent and Treasure

Capital Campaign

Renewing for Ministry 1
 + Pledges of \$1,526,084
 + 184 families
 Renewing for Ministry 2
 + Pledges of \$841,332
 + 161 families
 Give to Grow
 + Pledges of \$568,006
 + 116 families

St. George's 2014 Budgeted Use of Funds





What We Seek in a Rector



Welcome to one of the oldest Episcopal congregations in America and one that loves to talk about our past but is not "stuck in the past" when it comes to problems of today or tomorrow. Remember that 3-legged stool - Scripture, tradition, and that grey matter God put between your ears. Do not be afraid of confronting today's issues and "changing with the times." We at St. George's love our ancient past but also love to point out our progressive leaders in the past 60 years - ones not afraid to take a stand, to help those without a voice help themselves. Get to know us and you'll love it here.

~Parish Survey

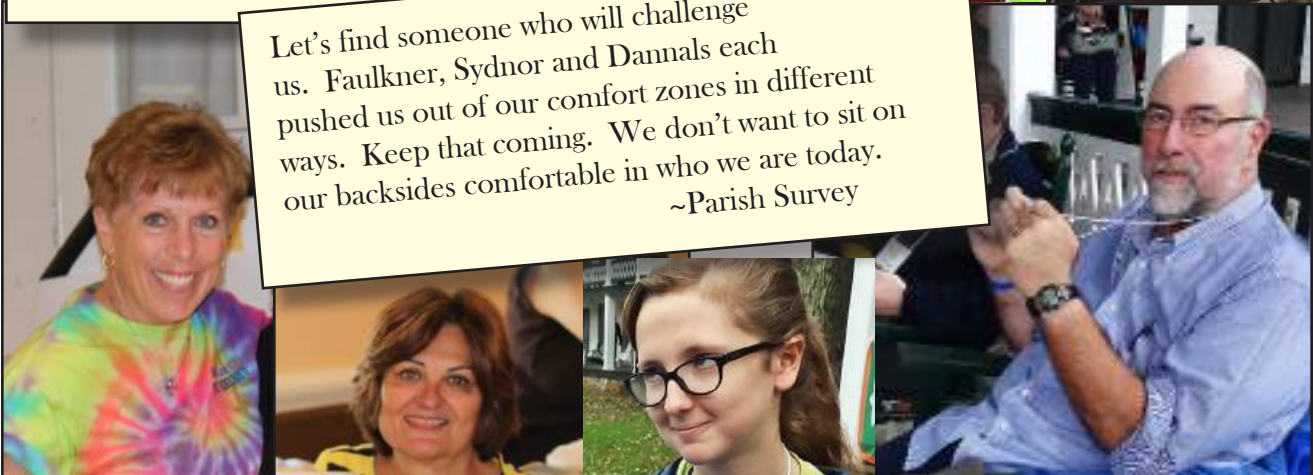
We will be best served by a forward thinking leader who is comfortable with a strong laity. I hope to find a priest who can lead us compassionately forward.

~Parish Survey



Let's find someone who will challenge us. Faulkner, Sydnor and Damals each pushed us out of our comfort zones in different ways. Keep that coming. We don't want to sit on our backsides comfortable in who we are today.

~Parish Survey



You are welcome at St. George's Church regardless of race, nationality, sexual orientation, or tradition.

What's striking to me about St. George's is that it's traditional, but unorthodox. That is, our parishioners are made up of many who have been here for decades and many who are new. The long timers are just as vibrant as the newcomers and seem to be open to change. But because of our history of social justice awareness, change isn't scary or threatening. Our church building is iconic in one of America's most historic towns. It's seen war and reconciliation. Our parish rolls feature American founders and their families and scores of everyday people. Our Rector takes on a solemn responsibility to the long legacy of St. George's while living up to the promise of driving our parish forward to address the spiritual needs of parishioners and community members alike. This is no small task. I'm sure you are up to it.

~Parish Survey



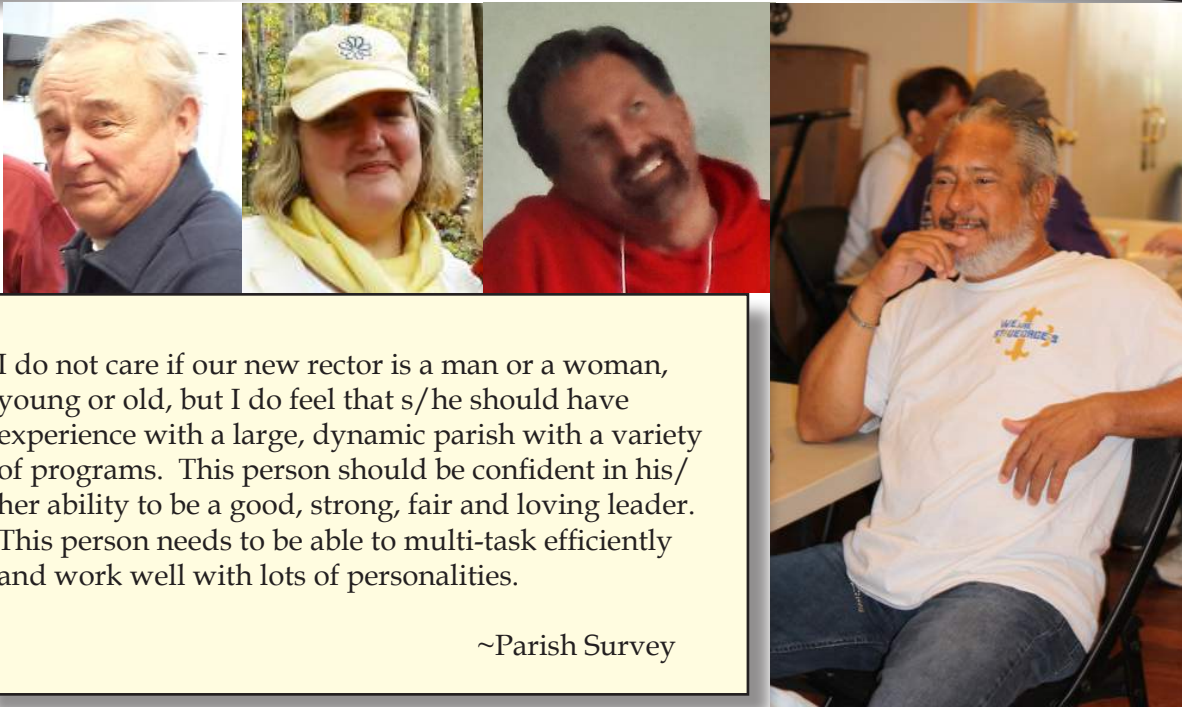
Traditional; liturgically traditional but socially progressive. Supportive and knowledgeable of church music. Supportive of both Jazz and Traditional Music.

~Parish Survey



I would like to have a rector committed to supporting and developing programs that reflect the individual gifts of parishioners, rather than having programs that reflect the rector's priorities..

~Parish Survey

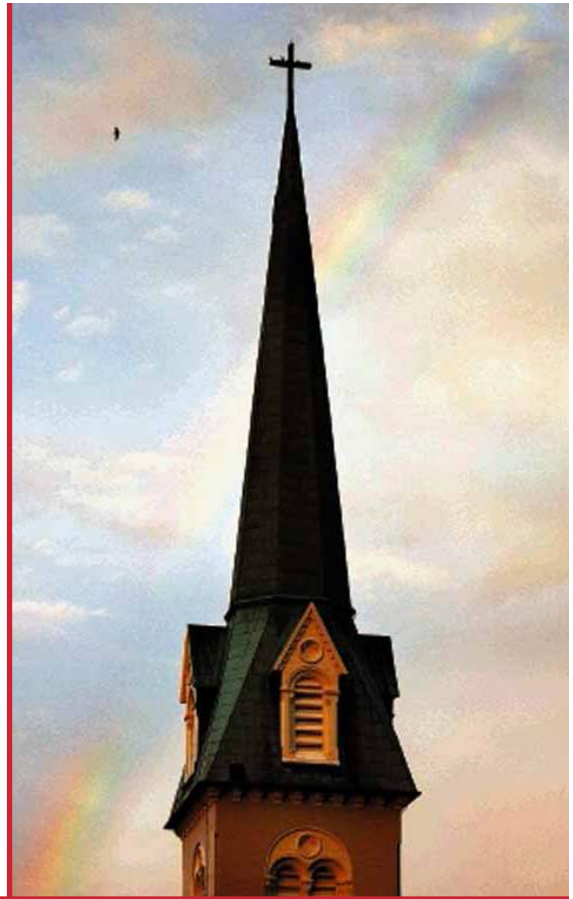


I do not care if our new rector is a man or a woman, young or old, but I do feel that s/he should have experience with a large, dynamic parish with a variety of programs. This person should be confident in his/her ability to be a good, strong, fair and loving leader. This person needs to be able to multi-task efficiently and work well with lots of personalities.

~Parish Survey

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Hopes and Dreams



In February 2013, during Bishop Katharine's Lenten visit, she encouraged St. George's congregation to "dream big." Surveying, talking and compiling information in the last six months, a number of dreams, or challenges, have presented themselves to us as a parish. Our next Rector will enter a church that has changed significantly in the last decade. An influx of new voices, and an overflow of outreach opportunities, energize us as we approach the next 300 years of life at St. George's with a renewed commitment to our history of social justice, to our practice of inclusion of all, and to the furthering of the message of Christ's love and care for all people.

To that end, St. Georgians dream of a parish that is both unconventional and traditional. Grateful for our diversity, we will continue to be a place where all voices can be heard with respect and love. The parish looks forward to new ways to reach out to one another and to the larger community, to look at issues of recovery and mental health, to become a spiritual and cultural hub for the city of Fredericksburg. We look forward to working more collaboratively with surrounding faith communities, to facilitating conversations when called upon, and engaging with the community in shared endeavors.

We anticipate, with both trepidation and excitement, the changes that will present themselves from within and without. We want to continue to grow, in people, and potentially in facilities as well. We hope to attract a more ethnically and economically diverse membership, to expand our appeal to families, young adults, the church and un-church, with a robust selection of educational, spiritual, and fellowship opportunities.

We want ultimately to be a prayerful and healing place that continues to grow in love as Christ loved-to be God's people.

It's up at dawn and leads the day and quiets us to help us pray.
It's the candle light and the pews worn smooth.
It's about the old and about the new.
It's a labyrinth on the floor, a hug, a handshake, an open door.
It's in the steeple and the tower, in the faces all about us.
It's the meals and prayers and those we serve.
It's in the coming and the going.
We welcome all not only some, we offer hope to all that come.
It's who we are and what we do, it runs around and under and through.
It's the memories and such, but mostly yes mostly,
It's the people plain enough, that make up St. Georges Church.
It's traditional, it's Episcopal, it's community.
It's St. George's.

by Anne Thaxter and Sandy Kenyon, St. Georgians

Candidate Submittal Process

Clergy interested in being considered for the Rector position should send the following materials by e-mail to searchcommittee@stgeorgesepiscopal.net by August 15, 2014

- + An updated Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) Portfolio with answers to all narrative questions
- + A letter of interest and current resume
- + Current references with contact information (including phone number and e-mail addresses of each reference) should be included in either the OTM Profile or your resume
- + Answers to the following questions/requests:
 - After reading our profile, what attracts you to St. George's?
 - Describe your style of leadership and describe a situation which might give us a picture of your style.
 - Please send a copy or video/audio link to a sermon you have given that holds special meaning to you, and tell us why it does.
 - What have you enjoyed most/least about your ministry?

Thank you for your interest.

~The St. George's Search Committee

Dori Eglevsky, Chair
Russ Carter
Peggy Marshall
Meghan O'Connor
Mary Jane O'Neill
Barbara Willis

Dick Juergens, Vice Chair
Pat Baughman
Hurley Bogardus
Hannah Cannon

