Dear Family of God,

Isn’t it painful when someone you love forgets your birthday? Or say your spouse forgets your anniversary, wouldn’t that be hard, too? How do you feel when a friend forgets your name? Add that to the list of painful moments.

If we were going to list life’s most hurtful moments, number one on the list, without a doubt, would have to be Jesus’ ordeal on the cross. At His lowest point, as He bore all the world’s pain, alienation, neuroses, and sin, **for one fleeting second**, even His loving Father in heaven had to turn His face away. Jesus cried out in human history’s darkest moment, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

The Father forsook Jesus for in that space of time, Jesus carried the ugliness of all our sins. He became one of us, and for that He was accursed.

But, the story doesn’t end there. Easter Sunday is a string tied around the finger of the world. It reminds us that God loves us absolutely. It reminds us that Jesus’ cross is not the last word. A cross is cruel enough. It would be even crueler if we were to forget the One crucified on our behalf. We know the pain of what it is like to be forgotten. Well, three men died on crosses on that gruesome Spring Friday many years ago. But, only One is truly remembered. Why? It is because He remembers us. Even when we try to forget Him, **He remembers us**. God loves us even when we try to forget Him. His love is strong enough even to defeat death. Thanks to Easter, Jesus will always be with us. He can never forget us. Thus, as Jesus promises us, “Lo, I am with you, always even to the end of the age.”

Happy Easter,

Fr. John Kelly+
From Your Associate Rector

May and June, springtime, Memorial Day, graduations, proms, weddings, mothers’ and fathers’ days and Pentecost, oh yes, hurricane season. So much to do, so little time, there is one thing, however, let’s not forget we are in the midst of Easter and having survived Lent, we are all new people in Christ. In the time of the Early Church there was a two year preparation time for baptism which occurred on Easter. Believers would enter the water draped in sin, ceremonially die to sin and re-surface cleansed and pure in heart and soul. From Easter to Pentecost we remain blanketed in white reminding us of the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life. In my past life as a rector I omitted the general confession from the Eucharist for the fifty days, much to the discomfort of many of my parishioners, who felt they didn’t dare go through the week without confession. The liturgy during this period remains an Easter liturgy believing Christ freed us from our sins. It certainly is not custom in many if not most Episcopal Churches, but it was a way I had been taught. We can sing Alleluia to our heart’s content and be joyful in the Resurrection. After Pentecost we enter what is described in our church calendar as Ordinary Time, meaning other than certain saints’ days there are no major church feast days. So, we can vacation, party, and enjoy life and if we get too carried away, Advent will be right around the corner and we’ll begin with penitence and self-examination all over again. Isn’t it wonderful that the Church is on a continuing cycle of opportunity to seek forgiveness and redemption? God is truly great and loves us so unconditionally, maybe we should help spread that unconditional love. Love y’all!!

Fr. Ed

Journeying through Grief

The Journeying through Grief Support Group meet the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the Library of the Parish Hall. Our mission is to provide encouragement for healing in any loss, in a small group setting.

For further information, please contact Shirl Edgerly at 352-751-5132.

May

1  Andy Malinosky & Amy Ruth
2  Monte & Missy Monforte
3  Mr. & Mrs. Uma Zacharias
5  Bob & Peg Tomasi
6  Jim & Jan Bradley
12  Harry & Joan Lee
16  Emil & Bev Pignetti
18  Ronald & Rose Malicki
18  Russell & Linda Williams
22  Dan & Linda Brantner
22  Jim & Joanie Hubbard
22  Henry & Tamra Setser
23  Bob & Margaret Beechinger
23  Bill & Jan Bytheway
25  Keith & Sally Douds
25  Tom & Beve Ryberg
29  Alex & Dawn Jasinski
30  Dick & Kay Watters

June

1  Bill & Judi Donaldson
2  Maurice & Betsy Joy
4  Donald & Barbara Keener
4  Clyde & Elaine Teetsel
6  Joe & Millie Klemish
10  John & Debra Ruhsenger
11  Bob & Betty Larmi
12  Chuck & Mary Moon Allison
15  Larry & Healther Devlin
15  Harry & Sandie Jordhamo
15  Ed & Paula Spang
16  Jim & Pat Knecht
17  Keith & Judy Bonn
17  Jim Markowski & Dale Drep
18  Ed & Betty Schneitzer
19  Dennis & Mary Hoffman
20  Bill & Gloria Clayborn
21  Wallace & Noreen Berry
22  Dick & Karen Deviney
22  Steve & Susan Young
23  Chris & Cynthia Corley
25  Ben & Barbara Pilla
26  Tony & Bonnie Bifulco
26  Charles & Marge Casler
27  Nick & Alicia Quackenbush
28  Bob & Jan Kumpa
29  Lloyd & Polly Holmes
29  Dick & Marilyn Horton
30  Peter & Jean Haslam
30  Ed & Betty Johnson

If you are a member of St. George Episcopal Church and your Birthday or Anniversary is not on the list, please call the Parish Office at 750-1010 so that we may update our records.

Thank you
From Your Senior Warden

As I sat down to write the article for this edition, I thought back to the Annual Meeting when Father John took the time to thank many of the volunteers that provided service to St. George in 2018.

Continuing in that thought, I’m afraid many of us take for granted the work done by Fr. John because it is just “part of his job,” but is there a reason we don’t say thank you for a job well done? There certainly shouldn’t be; so here goes:

† For the innumerable trips to the hospitals – THANK YOU!
† For the trips, comforting and Last Rites at Hospice – THANK YOU!
† For the meaningful and dignified memorial services – THANK YOU!
† For listening to all of us who think we can run the church better – THANK YOU!
† For expanding the church’s mission with our Outreach efforts – THANK YOU!
† For taking care of the parishioners through In-Reach – THANK YOU!
† For sacrificing home time for emergencies - THANK YOU!
† For showing up every day despite criticism - THANK YOU!!!
† For praying for us behind the scenes - THANK YOU!

Pastoring the flock is a labor of love and not a career choice that promises future financial gain, and we at St. George are fortunate to have you. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Bob Lance, Interim Sr. Warden
From Your Junior Warden

Last fall, Father John reminded the Vestry that they are charged with the responsibility of maintaining all church property. He suggested that a committee be established to create a master plan for the property. This will allow us to promote a sense of agreement on the needs and activities concerning landscaping and facilities management. It will also provide our parishioners the opportunity to express their opinion regarding landscaping and maintenance by volunteering to serve on this committee.

As your new Junior Warden, I have been working to complete this task that was presented to the Vestry. I am pleased to announce that seven of our fellow parishioners have volunteered to serve on the newly formed Building and Grounds Committee. Our first meeting was held on April 2. We got off to a great start by identifying members’ strengths/interests and matching them to specific needs within the church. The level of excitement within the group was quite contagious and we are all looking forward to serving St. George Church.

Keeping in mind that we are all humble servants and we will make mistakes, I hope when decisions are made, we can all come together for our common good and do what we believe is pleasing to God.

Thank you for allowing us to serve.

Tom Hayes, Jr. Warden

Money Matters

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<tr>
<td>February, 2019 Income</td>
<td>$67,251.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>February, 2019 Expenses</td>
<td>$61,859.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March, 2019 Income</td>
<td>$63,969.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>March, 2019 Expenses</td>
<td>$61,385.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>YTD Balance through March 31, 2019</td>
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Income for the first quarter of the year exceeded what was expected, and expenses were less, so we ended the quarter with a positive balance. All commitments for the first three months have been met - I hope the trend continues.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Ruth Wadman, Treasurer

(Adopt-A-Chaplain—continued from previous page)

Our current chaplain, Cpt. Joseph Lively, is in a very forward, remote area of Iraq, and ministers to over 600 troops from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He must have the patience of Job! While I stress and track shipments as each week goes by with none of our packages being delivered, he replies, “Don’t worry, Mrs. Steed, your packages will arrive just when we need them the most”. It currently takes about six weeks from the time we ship until the arrival of a box. So, FINALLY, on March 26th, the first two boxes we mailed in February arrived! I included with those first boxes some of our weekly bulletins, and also the last edition of “Saints Alive”, as I wanted Chaplain Lively to have a feeling of our church and some of the outreach programs we support. I know many of you have read his published reply, but for those who missed it, I wanted to pass it on once again:

“Mrs. Steed, we have received your care packages and they were awesome! Thank you so much for your care and attention and I appreciate the church bulletins! Your church seems to be doing a lot of great things. I’m glad we are a part of your church’s outreach. The many cakes, cookies, M&M’s will go a long way. Your help is much appreciated! Please pass along my thanks to your congregation!”

We currently have five (5) boxes of goodies and toiletries now in transit, and every day as I pray for Chaplain Lively and his troops, I pray that I will receive notification that more of our gifts have arrived and are being used by these brave men and women. I will keep the congregation informed as I receive word our shipments have been delivered.

With our new schedule, there will be a bit of a lull between last week’s shipment and the next one, so I ask you all to pray daily for our chaplain and his troops, and to remember them as you have in the past with generous donations on May 19. And a reminder – if you do not wish to ship, you may always make a donation towards shipping costs simply by making a check to St. George and noting on the memo line “postage for the troops”. Please see me, or my assistant Sharon Winchester, if you have any questions or concerns about this program. Let’s keep this mission going strong from our Veteran-friendly congregation! With my heartfelt thanks for your support of this mission

With my deepest appreciation,
Annette Steed, Coordinator
Adopt-A-Chaplain Ministry
Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew (St. George Chapter) meets on the first Thursday each month at 6:00 pm. Dwight Davidson issues an email meeting notice each month. Fr. Ed Bartle will be developing a new study plan.

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper #16 held on March 5, 2019 was a success as usual. The Brotherhood thanks the DOK for their help in serving the meal.

The Brotherhood is working on a social event to provide the men of St. George a better idea of what this ministry is all about.

Our Stamp Ministry is headed by Bill Kidney. Bill sorts and packages out stamps and sends them to Alliance Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers. The Alliance Stamp Ministry generated $37,00.00 in 2018. Alliance supports preparation, publication and distribution of curriculum for Sunday Schools.

All men at St. George are invited to join the Brotherhood. We meet at 6:00 PM on the first Thursday of the month. The objectives of the organization focus on Prayer, Study, and Service to the community with emphasis on evangelism through fraternal outreach and “the spread of Christ’s Kingdom among men.”

Dick Griffith, Secretary

Music Ministry

As we finish out a very exciting and busy year in the life of St. George’s Music Ministry, there are a few things I would like to tell you about.

On May 21st at 7:30PM, St. George will be hosting the Rising Stars Organ Concert, presented by the American Guild Of Organists, Central Florida Chapter. Join us for the final concert of the year as we celebrate and support the organ art in Central Florida. This concert will feature organ scholarship winners and music for brass quintet and organ. Every year the Central Florida Chapter awards deserving organ students scholarship monies for their organ lessons. This event is free to the public. A freewill offering will be taken up to raise money for future organ scholarships.

This Summer I hope to offer a pickup Summer Choir starting on Trinity Sunday, June 16 to September 1. The Summer Choir will rehearse an easy anthem on Sunday Mornings at 9:00AM in the Conference Room located in the Parish Hall and sing at the 10:00AM Service. The choir will not be robing or processing. This will be a fun low commitment opportunity to sing in the choir. Anyone interested is welcome to join us!

Our Bell Choir has some interesting possibilities on the horizon. I hope by my next newsletter article to be able to share with you some exciting news.

Please consider sharing your musical gifts by joining St. George’s Music Ministry. The chime choir and choir are both wonderful places for fellowship, fun and service. Please email me if you have any questions about joining either of these groups at davidbellows@stgeorge-episcopal.net.

Soli Deo Gloria!

David Bellows, Director Of Music

Veteran Friendly Congregation

Adopt-A-Chaplain

Exciting news for this important mission: our collection Sunday will be moved to the THIRD Sunday of each month, beginning in May. Therefore, our next collection date will be Sunday, May 19. My thanks to Fr. John and his staff for agreeing to this change, as I believe it will alleviate the current issues of items for the troops getting mixed with items for the Food Pantry (and vice-versa), and eliminate a lot of labor intensive sorting of donations. I also believe it will allow us to concentrate on just one mission at the time, and benefit both programs in the long run. Beginning with the May donations, we will request NO chocolate candy until further notice, as it is really heating up in the desert of Iraq. However, foods such as chocolate Twinkies will still be fine to mail. Seriously, do Twinkies EVER go bad?!
Tea Time!
Fifteen women from St George Episcopal Church in Lady Lake attended Afternoon Tea on Saturday afternoon, February 23, at The Baker House in Wildwood. It was an extraordinary afternoon getting to know each other and learning about the English tradition of afternoon tea.

The following women attended: LaVerne Collins, Barbara Coulter, Heather Devlin, Dale Dreps, Colleen Kelly, Tish Kelly, Bette Nelson, Meghan Nelson, Sandy Pack, Peggy Pappas, Joyce Pitcher, Sue Rickert, Helen Saum, Claudia Smith & Sharon Winchester

Lenten Supper Series
(Rt.) Fr. Kevin spoke on the future of the Book of Common Prayer.
(Btm.) Fr. Ed & Fr. Kevin Bartle at the last Lenten Supper -Monday, April 8th.

Barbara Miller Chair of the Ladies Golf Outing on Thursday, May 2 is happy to report that the Orange Blossom course was added as a third course to this event. That means non-Village women are able to participate. By the time, you read this Newsletter the OUTING will be over, so STAY TUNED FOR THE RESULTS.

The annual meeting of the Northwest Deanery of ECW will be on May 4 at St. Mary’s Church in Belleview. Members of the Board will attend. Again, by the time you read this, signup for attendance will be closed; however, watch for a follow-up report.

Bonnie Rae Cypher Chair of the Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show, on Thursday, May 30 met with her committee on April 10. The theme of this event is Time, Talent and Treasures and she is grateful to all those who have donated items emphasizing that theme for the auction. The models are ready to “walk the runway“ with Patchington fashions and the tickets will go on sale May 4. The cost is $18.00 and tickets sell out quickly, so do not wait too long before getting yours. If you would like to reserve a table for 8, please call Sarah Ralph at 352-259-2903 or email her at 13sarahsal@gmail.com.

Thanks to Annette Steed and Sharon Winchester Co-Chairs for leading the many volunteers who helped to make this year’s St. Patty’s Day celebration another success story. One of the biggest thanks goes to the dynamite duo of Fr. John and Fr. Ed for the entertainment they provided. A special thanks to the husbands of the members who stayed behind to help with the cleanup...you men were great.

At the March meeting we met Mary Lou Ray-Riley who spoke about her beloved project Operation Christmas Child and what and why this means so much to her. We were delighted to hear her life’s story and how we can help her by donating items to her very worthwhile project.

BUNCO once again on Monday, June 24...watch for details.

The next meeting will be on May 23 at 12:00 noon when we will put together items for the Fashion Show. There will be NO June, July or August meetings this year; however, the Board will continue to meet throughout the summer months.

All women of the parish are invited to attend our monthly meeting and we hope to see more of YOU!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
St. George Women’s Guild proclaims the healing love of Jesus Christ through fellowship and social action in our church, our local community and beyond.

Sarah Ralph, Secretary
Gateway to Hope Ministry (SKM)

The number of individuals depending on Gateway to Hope Ministry continues to grow. Gateway is continuing to be open three days a week (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) until the food supply has stabilized and is enough to support four days a week. The number of hot meals served in the first quarter of 2019 was 5,359.

The St. George Volunteers is a small army of Disciples with Evangelism as our primary goal. The St. George Volunteers, the Ocala Volunteers, and the people who depend on Gateway to Hope, continue to bond into a family. I’m frequently reminded that the St. George Volunteers have and continue to have a positive influence on the people who depend on Gateway and the non-St. George Volunteers. Using food as the tool to create the family we also provide companionship, hugs, love and let them know there is a whole church here for them. Prayers and information about Christianity is always available.

Gateway to Hope is a St. George Outreach Ministry that provides the opportunity to experience what its like to do Gods work. It’s an uplifting hands-on ministry. Anyone wishing to become involved in The Gateway to Home Ministry contact Dick Griffith at (352) 504-6302 or rl.griffith@comcast.net.

Dick Griffith, St. George Coordinator and Board Member of Gateway to Hope Ministry

Jean Haslam was elected to the 2019 Board as Treasurer; however, due to the need for some R & R, she found it necessary to give up that position. Nominations were opened and a special election was held. Sarah Ralph was elected Treasurer and Sharon Winchester was elected as Secretary. The Board is very fortunate to have Sharon as a member.

Speaking of Jean, it has been wonderful to see she and Peter at church services and at a few of the concerts.

Thanks to the generous donation of Easter baskets and grass from Sally Dade, along with donations of gifts, candy and McDonald gift cards from Guild members and parishioners, the women made 17 beautiful Easter Baskets. Following the March meeting, they were delivered to Haven House for the children.

Growth Committee

The St George Growth Committee is charged with fulfilling The Great Commission, Jesus’ command to the disciples to spread his teachings throughout the world. We will do this by focusing on creating and implementing a plan to increase our membership.

Many of you may think, “Isn’t our congregation already big enough?” While we are the second largest congregation in our Diocese, we know that to accomplish our mission and to fulfill the Great Commission, we must refocus our efforts to take advantage of the accelerating growth in Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties.

A key part of this plan, which was approved by the Vestry last November, requires developing a unique reputation for St George as having the best liturgical and fine arts music program in the area. Our first annual Concert Series, organized by Music Director David Bellows, is the first step in this plan. And you have done your part by inviting friends to attend these lovely and unique events. Thank you and please continue to invite friends to our beautiful concerts.

We must also develop a new communications strategy to better engage with prospective and current parishioners. This strategy must include all forms of traditional media (newspaper ads, radio ads and news stories) as well as online media (free online advertising, social media posts, the St George web site, and more).

We have three committee members now and continue to seek more individuals who want to get involved in this exciting effort to fulfill Jesus’ command to ‘make disciples of all nations’. Please contact Dale Dreps at ddreps@gmail.com for more details.

Dale Dreps,
Growth Committee Chairperson
Daughters of the King have been busy since the last edition of *Saints Alive*. We helped the Brotherhood of St Andrew with their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. On March 19, we held our 2nd chapter retreat. Fr. John began the day with Morning Prayer and the Service of Preparation for our candidates. We are delighted to have Gloria Balzano, Milli Fitzgerald, Pat Knecht, Sue Meredith, Dorcas Miller, and Maria Satterfield going through the discernment process. Plans are to admit them to The Order in June. We also are happy to have Virginia Gilbrook going through the reinstatement process. Our chapter retreat was chaired by Nancy Steiner with assistance from Tish Kelly and Lelia Mullis. During the day-long retreat we used excerpts from *The Cup of Our Life* by Joyce Rupp. It proved to be inspirational and thought provoking.

**Service of Preparation for New DOK Candidates**

On April 1, we helped with the Monday night Lenten Supper. On Friday, April 12, we sponsored a Lenten Quiet Day. Deacon Nancy chaired the Quiet Day whose theme was “Saying Yes to Jesus” through prayer. The morning opened with the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Ed Bartle (Stephen Chapter chaplain) was the celebrant. We then moved into meditation and learning how centering prayer, meditative walks and soaking prayer can enhance our prayer life.

Our annual Maundy Thursday Soup Supper will have also taken place by the time you read this. While this supper is a gift from St. Stephen Chapter to the parish, we do accept contributions to the DOK Diocesan Outreach Project. I want to share how the donations we received will be used this year.

Each year, the DOK chapters in the Diocese of Central Florida select an outreach project at its Fall Assembly. This year the project is to provide Bibles (in their native language of Chichewa) to the Daughters in Malawi – the poorest country in Africa. The Malawi DOK Order began in the late 1990’s. The Daughters now number more than 4000. On the weekends, the Daughters - in their blue and white - process through villages singing *a cappella* about the joy they feel as they help villagers, perform acts of service, pray for those in need and spread the good news of Christ. 40 - 50 Daughters are sharing one Bible. Our diocesan outreach chair has found a supplier through whom we can purchase a Chichewa language Bible for $10. We greatly appreciate your donations at the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and the difference this will make for our Sisters in Malawi.

for His sake,

*LaVerne Collins*

President, St. Stephen Chapter

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**Wednesday Healing Service**

The St. George Clergy offer you a wonderful growth opportunity every **Wednesday**. At 11:30 AM, we gather in the Church for a weekly Healing Service with Holy Eucharist. Our Clergy staff each take turns preaching. The sermon may be based on the Holy Day for the week (St. Matthew, St Peter and St. Paul, etc.) or it may have a special theme.

Music has a special Renewal emphasis. Our musicians may include Fr. Ed, Ken McBride, or, now, David Bellows. Following the reception of the Holy Eucharist, those who wish receive Anointing at the Altar Rail for themselves or others. You are welcome to try it and invite a friend.