



St. Georges United Methodist Church

Worship. Grow. Serve. Share.

January 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

John 3:8 states, "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

In *Wild Goose Chase*, the author, Mark Batterson shares a story titled "The Madonna of the Future." In the story, an artist devotes her entire life to a single painting. But when the artist dies, it is discovered that her canvas is still blank. She never finished because she never started. My question for you today: what is your unpainted canvas or unwritten book? What God-given dream is collecting dust? What God-sized vision remains unfulfilled?

I don't know your God-sized vision. But, what I do know is that you'll never finish what you do not start. God has a plan and a design for your life. Pursue your God-given hopes and dreams as though this were the last day of your life.

In today's text, Jesus' explains the unpredictable nature of the Holy Spirit to Nicodemus. At the same time, Jesus gives him a sense of urgency. As persons born of the Spirit, we must take advantage of our God-given opportunities to fulfill our purpose while we still have a chance.

Matthew 8:20 states, "Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Over two thousand years ago, Jesus gave us an invitation: “Follow Me.” But, that invitation also came with a warning. In Matthew 8:20, Jesus was speaking with an enthusiastic follower about counting the cost of becoming a committed disciple.

During that time, Jesus was gaining in popularity. Yet, He did not follow the crowds or even seek to make them bigger. Instead, in some ways, Jesus seemed to avoid them. Nevertheless, with Jesus performing miracles, the multitudes followed Him wherever He went. As a result, following Jesus must have seemed more glamorous than it really was. Therefore, it is understandable why this man may have made a spontaneous offer to follow Christ.

Following Christ was never meant to be glamorous. Yet, it is a calling that comes with peace, love, and joy. But, at the same time, there will be challenges every step of the way. There will be times when your spiritual adventure will lead you to places that you never thought you would go otherwise. Stay the course, never give up and finish the race.

Let us pray: Lord, in 2022, help me to fulfill my purpose in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rudy





Donna Goes Walk About....



So, how do you like the new parking lot entrance? Ask any one in my family and they will tell you I am not one much for change. I am a status quo kinda girl. But I have to say, seeing the finished layout of the new parking lot entrance...I like it! I do have to get used to the fact the I need to turn a little earlier than I used to. The contractor did a nice job of putting everything back out front and prepping for new grass in the spring. AND, the sidewalks look really nice around town,

Speaking of walking around town, we had a small group of Christmas carolers this year on Sunday evening the 19th. Just 5 of us put on our heavy coats and gloves to stroll around town and spread some Christmas cheer. Angela and Noel Williamson, Robin Streaker, Betty Jo Keiper and I had a great time knocking on doors and singing lots of our favorite carols. We had sung at a few houses when we saw lights down at the Creamery. "Hey! They might be open, We'll go sing to the customers!" Well, sure enough, they were open, but no customers. So we sang to the owner and his helper! They loved it! And our reward?



FREE ICE CREAM! That was the last day for the Creamery as they are closing for the winter and will re-open in spring. It's a wonderful place with terrific ice cream, a pleasant view of the canal and the folks there are lovely. Please be sure to visit them when they re-open in the new year. I'm looking forward to it!



The church family really enjoyed the children's Christmas pageant on the 19th and we had wonderful attendance at our Christmas Eve service. I pray that you had a wonderful Christmas day with your family. My

family was blessed with a lovely day enjoying our time with mom.

That's all for this month, so I'll see you on Sunday.

Donna



Friendship Star Quilters

The Friendship Star Quilters will be meeting again on Tuesday, January 4th from 9:30am to 4 pm in the church social hall as we continue to work on quilts for the local hospitals and the Helen Graham Center. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. Lunch will be served. Bring a sewing machine if you can.



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." – John 1:9

Methodist Women

The Methodist Women and Men enjoyed an evening of fellowship at our annual Christmas party. There were many surprises as our Prayer Pals for the past year were revealed. New Prayer Pals were chosen for 2022 as the tradition goes on.



Thanks to the generosity of so many, two families, one from Wilbur school and one from Southern, were enjoying a very Merry Christmas. Thanks to all who bought and wrapped present for these families. All gift requests were purchased and returned on time and delivered to the schools. A special thanks to Jim and Sue Tobin for delivering the presents. Again we saw the love and kindness of the members of St. Georges. The Methodist women will be meeting on Thursday, January 13th at 7pm in the church social hall.

Happy Birthday to...



Jamie Tobin.....Jan 8
 Mattl Molina.....Jan 17
 Dorothy Cleaver.....Jan 20
 Jim Gestwicki.....Jan 29

Jim Mullen.....Jan 10
 Jim Tobin.....Jan 18
 Aiden Tobin.....Jan 25

Ministry Update

Another Christmas is behind us. Now, we must think about putting the decorations away until next year. NOW, is also the time to bargain shop :)



There are many living in their cars, in tents out in the woods or staying in a shelter overnight but on the streets in the daytime-in the cold. If you see deals on hats, gloves, socks, coats, hand warmers, ChapStick, underwear-pick some up and place them in the collection box in the Fellowship Hall. Also welcomed items are gently used and washed coats, hats, gloves, sleeping bags, blankets or comforters and those small throw pillows on your sofa that you're tired of. They're a great size for someone sleeping in their car. Remember there are men and women that are struggling with homelessness. May the love and spirit of Christmas stay with us throughout 2022. Remember "J(esus) O(thers) Y(ou)" to the world. Thank you for your many donations in 2021. They have given hope and comfort to many. Have a healthy and blessed 2022.



In His service, Carole Jaques, Mission/Outreach Chair

Faith and Film Small Group Study

Everyone is invited to a Friday night weekly study (6 weeks) on the classic film *It's a Wonderful Life*. We will watch 20 minutes of the movie each week, and then break out into small groups of adults and teens to discuss themes related to the Bible. We will discuss a set of questions related to: Generosity and Greed

(Proverbs 11:25; 15:27; 21:26; 22:9; Matthew 6:24)

"The Importance of Community

(Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:31; Acts 2:44; 1 Corinthians 12:12)

"The Value of Human Life

(Isaiah 1:17; John 3:16; John 13:34; Ephesians 4:32)

After our discussion, a time of sharing of prayers will take place. Please join us starting Friday, January 21 (6:45 - 8:45pm) in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Noel Williamson at 302-650-4429 or mrnoelwilli@gmail.com if interested.



Jokes and Game Night for All Ages

Saturday, January 22 6:30 to 9pm

At St Georges

Please bring a snack/dessert to share (and a funny joke or two)

Drinks provided

RSVP to Noel at mrnoelwilli@gmail.com or 302-650-4429

Thank you.

Noel Williamson



Looking forward to 2022

As our Holiday season comes to an end, it's time to look forward to our goals and aspiration's for 2022. Surely our number one goal has to be growing our membership and children's attendance. As I look around our sanctuary on Sunday mornings I know that if we are going to continue as a church we need more young families/people in attendance. We have a great congregation with a lot of outstanding people that I love very much! But we all need to use our

talents to find new and exciting ways to bring new people to our church. I, along with Pastor Rudy, look forward to hearing from you about your ideas of how we can accomplish this goal! Recently, we completed the long awaited paving project with a new entrance off of Broad Street and moved the Senior/Handicap parking closer to the church entrance. At no extra cost, we were able to re-stripe the remaining parking area. In addition, we installed a new drainage system to help with the elimination of icing surfaces on the roadway and at the rear exit to the parking lot.



We considered removing the old shed concrete area along with adding a new concrete area for our dumpsters. However, we just couldn't afford it at this time. We hope to consider doing it over the next few years. Along with either sealing or repaving the remaining area of the parking lot.



Over the last few years T.C. Folz talked about the need to light our steeple, so the public would know that St Georges UMC exists. We are currently in the process of obtaining bids for that work and will finance it through our Memorial Fund account.

A few years ago we purchased a chairlift so that all members, regardless of their physical ability, can attend church services in our sanctuary. Even though we purchased the most expensive model and told it would last forever - this has not been the case! The chair has a defective part which has caused us to have a chairlift that's out of service more than in service. We are currently in the process of removing the chair and sending it back to the manufacture to be repaired under warranty. Hopefully, this will resolve the problem. I apologize to all those who regularly use the chair and I encourage members to sit with them downstairs on occasion until our reconditioned chair returns.

Other property improvements that I hope to bring before the 2022 Officers/Trustees Committee are:

1. Power wash the exterior of the church to eliminate mold and mildew.
2. Upgrade the Sanctuary paneling and refinish the flooring.
3. Improve our internet connection and upgrade our communication equipment.

The next Admin Council meeting is January 24th - All are Welcome!!

In His Service,

Earl Jaques

Administrative Council Chair

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of others. – Philippians 2:3-4

Scout Update

Court of Honor .



Pack 123 PAWS for Action Awards



Ship 123 Bridge of Honor



Pastor's Office Hours & Contact Information

If you have a prayer request that you would like sent along on the prayer chain,
please contact Rudy White by phone at 302-832-2211,

by email at pastor@stgeorgesumc.com,

or use the prayer wall at www.stgeorgesumc.com/prayerwall

Church office: 302-832-2211 Phone: 302-632-8065 (texting ok)

Email: office@stgeorgesumc.com, Office hours: M-Thurs 9 to 2

Christmas Day for some of our St. Georges Church Family



The Cavender family



Pastor Rudy and Vernetta took an impromptu trip to NYC and visited the tree at Rockefeller Plaza on Christmas Day

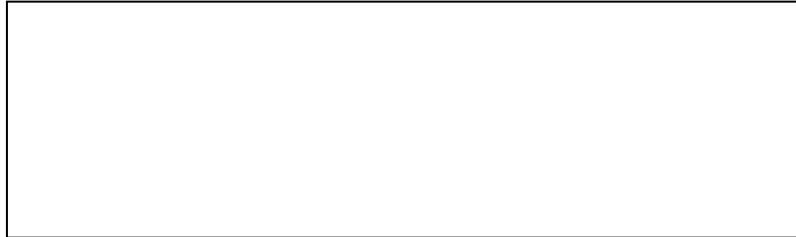


The McEvoy Clan



Sophie and Wesley Johnson w/ Rosie

St. Georges United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 145
St. Georges, DE 19733



Dates to Remember

Jan 2.....Communion Sunday
Jan 4..... Friendship Star Quilters 9:30am
Jan 13.....Women's Society meeting 7pm
Jan 21.....Faith and Film Small Study Group 6:45p
Jan 22.....Game Night 6:30p
Jan 24.....Ad Council meeting 7pm

Be well and stay safe!