

# St. George's Spearhead: to parish, neighbor, and world

St. George's Anglican Church - a CANA Parish  
56 Main Street, Helmetta, New Jersey 08828

Summer Edition  
Volume 495

## "Spread a Little Sun-shine"

We live in a beautiful world. I love it when on a sunny day; you can see the rays of the sun coming through the clouds. The light appears almost tangible. I find it is always most impressive when you are out in an open area and can see a long ways. That is when you will see many of these rays that look like they are cutting or poking through the clouds. Interestingly enough, if you have too many clouds then they are just blocked completely. Too few clouds and you often don't see the effect at all. There is probably some scientific explanation for why it happens. Who cares, it is beautiful!

### **Malachi 4:2 (NIV)**

**But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves.**

Look at this passage and see how the sun brings healing. I believe that this is more than just renewal of the land. This is more than just the flowers blooming or the farmers' crops growing. This is about our renewal as people of God.

People don't think that the bible has anything to tell us. People think that we are more enlightened now that they were then. Maybe on things like transportation, but when it comes to people, we have not made much progress. Here the bible is talking about the sun having healing in its rays. We have come to know that people who live in darkness can suffer. It is called Seasonal Affective Disorder. It was not systematically reported on until the 1980's. Maybe you have to deal with it. I know that I do. I wake up in the morning during the winter and it is dark. By the time I get home it is dark. That might not seem very relevant right now since it is light outside past 8 PM. It is totally relevant to us as Christians. God knew about Seasonal Affective Disorder before it had a name and inspired Malachi to write about it.

Now that it is summer, we expect to be outside and doing things. However, we often get thunderstorms. How many of you as children or with children love to go outside once the storm has passed. The world often smells fresh and clean right after a storm has come through. Maybe that is because it was humid before and afterwards it is often cooler. See my scientific mind at work, trying to always rationalize it. Yes, I am sure there is a perfectly valid reason that some meteorologist could explain. Forget that and just go out and enjoy God's creation.

Still, we live in a broken world. For all of its beauty, though, there is still a lot of ugliness. Christians are persecuted worldwide in places like Nigeria, Iraq, Afghanistan, all of the "-stans" as far as I know, Sudan, North Korea, Egypt, Pakistan, China. Peace seems very elusive in the Middle East and many other places. Greed has wrecked our economy and will probably continue to play a part for the foreseeable future. Our fast-food attitude on life means that we are not patient for anything. We want it and want it now! We are the tenants of God's vineyard, but are we producing a decent crop? If we do not, God is going to find some new tenants who will help produce a better harvest. Read Romans 11:11-24. Paul is talking about the Israelites were cutoff from the vine and the Gentiles were grafted in. Paul is speaking to us as much as he was speaking to the Gentiles then. We should not be so proud to think that because we have Jesus, we are better than the Jews. God can graft the Jews back in if he so desires. If we in our pride think that mere ritual with no meaning on a given Sunday is what saves us, then God will cut us off the vine and maybe graft someone else in our place.

We are all in need of healing. Some of us just don't know it. Many of those who don't know it are not Christians, but there are many who call themselves Christians and still don't understand how much healing they still need.

**Mark 2:17 (NIV)**

**On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."**

He did not say to distinguish that there were some who did not need a doctor. He said this to say that people who think of themselves as righteous do not feel like they need to be healed. Therefore they will not seek out a healer. The addict often uses this kind of lie before they get into recovery. They are doing OK. Life is good. When trouble comes their way, they have a plan of action. Sadly it may involve drugs, alcohol or sex. It is not just addicts that are in need of healing. Many of us are wounded inside. We keep it to ourselves and the world thinks that everything is great. It is only when things are totally out of control in our lives that the problem may rise to the surface. If you are control freak, that does not last long and you get the cork back on the bottle lest someone see the real you. We need healing. The world needs healing, but does not know where to get it.

We are all in need of a savior. We have a story to tell. The story of Jesus tells of how they were waiting for the Messiah. There is nothing to wait for anymore. The Savior has already come! Each of us for some reason or another believes in Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the Living God. We did not always believe in him, but somehow we learned about him. That faith was probably tested at some point in your life and your faith grew in that moment.

You have a story to share, with someone else. Some who needs healing, but does not know the way to the Emergency Room. You can be the ambulance driver. You can be the EMT that comforts them on the way to hospital. You can be the doctor or nurse that treats them when they get to the hospital. The hospital that I am talking about is St. Georges. We are here with the good news about how God wants to have a relationship with his people. He wants to heal them. Let's spread the word!

~ Deacon Greg Ventura



**SUNSHINE**

*The mission of St. George's Church is to know Christ as our Lord and Savior, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, to love Him, serve Him, and witness His love to the world.*

**Contact Us:**

**St. George's Anglican Church**

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**Deacon:** The Rev. Greg Ventura  
**Administrator:** Kristen Tabert  
**Editor:** Kathryn Hackett-Fields

**St. George's Vestry:**

**Wardens:**  
2011: Steve Bauman – Senior Warden  
2012: Barbara Raczynski – Junior Warden  
**Vestry:**  
2011: Jim Charlton, Peter Cirrotti, Douglas Wilson  
2012: Bruce Eckman, Doug Miles, Chris Palmer  
2013: Jose Gomez  
**Treasurer:** Jan Kwiatkowski  
**Vestry Clerk:** Bev Bauman

**Parish Prayer Cycle**

*Pray each day for revival in the parish, the community, the nation, the world.*

**Monday:** Parish Staff, (Rector, Parish Administrator, Choir Director, Sexton), Vestry, Treasurer  
**Parish Directory:** Albergo-Briggs

**Tuesday:** The Sunday School, Youth Ministry, Youth Directors, Teachers, Helpers, Nursery and Parents.  
**Parish Directory:** Capobianco-Gomez

**Wednesday:** Outreach, Evangelism, Alpha, Hospitality Activities, Newcomers Committee, Communications.  
**Parish Directory:** Gray-Lackey

**Thursday:** Pastoral Care, Prayer Chain, Order of St. Luke, Alcoholism Counseling, AA Group, Al-Anon Group, South County Day Care and Prison Ministry.  
**Parish Directory:** Lang-Ogden

**Friday:** Stewardship, Finance, Property, Scholarship Committee, Publicity, use and care of earth's resources.  
**Parish Directory:** Oros-Simonelli

**Saturday:** Worship leaders, Choir, Praise Band, Musicians, Lectors, Chalice Bearers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, Altar Guild, Ushers, and Greeters.  
**Parish Directory:** Smith-Zeintek

**Sunday: Come and Worship!**

## Priority One Men's Weekend

The Priority One Men's weekend is scheduled for Sept 15-18 (Thursday evening - Sunday morning) at Lake Champion, NY. Registration is in progress. I have already registered under the group heading of "St George's Helmetta NJ". Cost is anywhere between \$195 and \$240 depending on registration date. Early registration ends June 30th.

For more information see the web site <http://www.priorityone.org/> Click on the "more" button under the Lake Champion weekend to register online and learn more. If anyone is interested in going and needs assistance registering - please contact Dave Altamura for assistance.

**Priority One's Fall Men's Weekends** are a time to find better ways of dealing with the most important aspects in your life. It is a time to listen, to think, and consider some serious life choices in a truly unique atmosphere.



## Ladies Night Out

Jan Kwiatkowski

What a wonderful evening we had with Jennifer Sands, Christian author and speaker! On Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, Jennifer shared her testimony with us, showing how God has been in control of her life. The free will offering taken paid Jennifer's speaking fee and raised \$400 for the mortgage. Thank you to those who gave so generously.

Our next Ladies Night Out is scheduled for Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>. Beginning at 6:30 PM in Ericson Hall, the ladies of St. George's and their female guests will dine on a covered dish dinner. Watch the Sunday bulletin for additional details.



## Are You Tending to Your Campfire?

By Kathryn Hackett-Fields

June 8<sup>th</sup> and another news update on the Arizona wildfire. The hungry monster can be heard in the background, devouring the vegetation and homes it finds. This is not the kind of history anybody likes to see being made. Uncontrollable destruction and death, all because of one neglected camp fire.

In the letter of James, he mentions another kind of wildfire – the malicious words that spread so easily from one ear to the next. *Who can tame the tongue?* he muses. It's a good thing for us to remember, since "the tongue" now includes keyboards, keypads, pictures and video snippets coupled with phones! We've made a new term – going viral – for suddenly-released evidence that is sent by one person, with a subject matter that causes it to be "forwarded" all over the world like a global biological threat.

Interestingly, we find in our Book of Common Prayer, an appeal for "those who influence public opinion." Let us include ourselves when praying for them! Every day we will find a need to control our hearts and minds in order to benefit or protect the soul, and most probably more than "a" need.

Currently, on Sundays we're hearing a lot from Romans, with St. Paul wrestling his way through daily spiritual warfare. I'm going to listen carefully, since my church is at a vulnerable time and our collective voice should be calling upon the same God for help. We're doing pretty well!

With summer fellowship and hopefully a little more time on our hands, let's use it wisely in preparation for the arrival of our next priest and leader, while we keep bonding more deeply with each other.

(And watch those campfires!)



# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

## JULY

- 18 Vestry Meeting 7:30 PM
- 23 Annual Baseball Outing
- 24 Blessing of the Helmets 10 AM
- 30 Paint Day

## AUGUST

- 4 Vestry Reports due
- 6 Ericson Hall Reserved Private Party
- 15 Vestry Meeting 7:30 PM

## SEPTEMBER

- 8 Vestry Reports due
- 9 Ladies Night Out
- 18 Retreat Planning [EH]
- 19 Vestry Meeting 7:30 PM
- 30 Healing Mission

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Sundays:

Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 am  
Fellowship following each service

### Tuesdays:

Discipleship Group 1 pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 8:00 pm

### Wednesdays:

Men's Discipleship Group 8:30 am {Panera's}  
Morning Prayer and Women's Bible Study 10 am  
[will break until Sept]  
Discipleship Group [Smith's] 7:30 pm

### Thursdays:

Serenity Seekers (Al-Anon) 1:00 pm  
AA Step Meeting 7:00 pm  
Choir and Praise Band Practice will resume in Sept.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR OTHER IMPORTANT DATES AT [WWW.STGEORGESHELMETTA.ORG](http://WWW.STGEORGESHELMETTA.ORG).

## PAINT DAY – HELP NEEDED!

On Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, a group of volunteers will be painting the interior of the parish rectory. We want it to look great for whomever the Lord chooses to serve as our new Rector. We need lots of help, so if you are free and willing to lend a hand, please join us at 9AM. Please bring extra ladders, drop cloths etc. See George Bilyeu for any additional details. The more the merrier!



# Love Letters

*by Kit Rockwell*

*Thank you, Lord*

Dear Lord,

Thank You, Lord, for a brand new, beautiful day. Thank You especially for You. For You sweeten everything and every relationship by Your presence.

It is the Christ in each member of our family and each dear friend that endears them to us. All that is good, lasting and true comes from You.

Let me then thank You and adore You, knowing that intercession is secondary. If I just place all in Your loving, capable hands I can be sure the "best" will be done for them. It may not be what I think is best, because my view is so limited. You alone have the eternal view and can see the good You will bring about from each trial.

So, thank You, my Lord, for all your precious gifts, especially for my dear family and all the blessings that You have so generously showered on us. Above all, thank You for Yourself.

Love,

*Kit*



## BLESSING OF THE HELMETS

**ON SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2011 WE WILL HAVE A SPECIAL BLESSING OF THE HELMETS DURING THE 10 AM SERVICE.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE SERVICE PLEASE CONTACT STAN GREAVES AT 732.727.6987.**



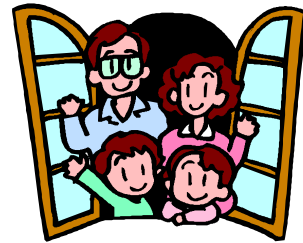
# Welcome to Our Church!

Every week, our Sunday mornings show the result of a lot of advance preparation, and if you have not been worshipping here very long you may not know some of the resources or “helpful hints” that are always part of any group enterprise.

- Our Weekly Prayer list – the announcements and names on the Prayer List come from information sent to the Parish Office, and/or a small wooden box in the Bell Tower for collection of prayer requests. Feel free to add your own. Kristen Tabert is our Administrator, Monday-Thursday from 9-2 p.m.
- Healing Prayers are offered at the 10 a.m. service during Communion, and you can always get a prayer partner or two after the 8 a.m. service.
- Prayers are not confined to Sunday! Emergency needs can be called in to the Parish Office and given to Kristen or left on the answering service. We have a Prayer Chain of people who receive and forward prayer requests by phone.
- Yes! There *is* summer fellowship after both services, with coffee or cool drinks. Come sit a spell and give yourself a gift of relaxation, support and healthy laughter.
- If you use Offering envelopes, you don’t need to use separate ones to “catch up.” If you weren’t here last week, just the current week’s is fine. (Just one less for the Ushers to open and tally)
- How can you find out more about any area of parish life? They may be in Announcements, or you can ask an Usher or Vestry member any

time, and if we don’t know, we’ll find out (see the white Sunday service information for names). There are all sorts of what we call *ministries* that can appeal to your special talents, gifts and joy, and many can be done from home.

As we heard on Easter Sunday, “It is finished!” You may be invited to serve in a way you don’t quite feel ready for at the time – we can handle “not yet” here! That’s the point of Christian community – the giving of encouragement and love as well as the exercise of our Spiritual gifts. The Bible book Titus, Chapter 2 through 3:8 is a good description of a Godly church. Welcome!



## *Selections and Writings from My Secret Garden: Bettie Linke*

*The holly trees surround my Secret Garden  
Green earth abounds  
A robin tries once again to pull a worm  
from the deep to feed her nestlings  
Work never ending - without complaint  
A breeze finds its way along the green  
velvet path  
Willing to cool down today's toil.*



# CHRISTIAN HEALING MISSION WITH JACK AND ANNA MARIE SHEFFIELD

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 –  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011

## MISSION SCHEDULE

Fr. Jack and Anna Marie Sheffield have been in the healing ministry for about 30 years and continue to pray for and witness hundreds of awesome miracles of God's grace and power in a variety of forms and manifestations. In 2001, they felt the call from God to begin an evangelistic ministry with the purpose of spreading the Good News that Jesus Christ still heals His people today: in body, soul and spirit. They travel extensively with a team of ministers who are gifted in the healing ministry to share the message of healing. In 2004, seeing a need for a place that would provide more in-depth prayer ministry, they helped to establish, and currently do healing ministry at, the *Christ Healing Center*, San Antonio, Texas. Fr. Jack and Anna Marie will be heading to Johannesburg, South Africa this year to start a Healing Center.

Fr. Jack was ordained a deacon in the United Methodist Church in 1979, and graduated from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1981. In 1993, he received nine months of "Anglicanism" at the Episcopal Theological School of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. In 2001, Fr. Jack received his doctorate from the Seabury Institute in Chicago. He has been a chaplain in the Order of St. Luke since 1993 and is currently the director of Region V of the Order. Fr. Jack has authored three books; God's Healing River, Under Healing Wings, and The Genesis Seed. Fr. Jack was recently appointed interim North American Director for the Order of St. Luke.

Anna Marie is a wife, mother, grandmother. She is an administrator for Deep River Ministries, and teaches and ministers at the healing center and various conferences. She loves to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Anna Marie is a graduate magna cum laude from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. She is a life member of the Order of St. Luke, involved in prayer ministry, and currently serves on the Order of St. Luke Board of Directors. Anna Marie is a former Daughter of the King, and Stephen's Minister, and a former Member of the Community of Hope.

Fr. Jack and Anna Marie have been married for over 30 years, have one son who is married to a lovely woman, and have three bright, funny, fabulous grandchildren.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

6:00 - 7:00 PM - Registration  
– Soup and Sandwiches  
7:00 PM - Healing Service  
Song and Praise  
Teaching  
Healing Ministry

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

8:30 AM - Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM - Registration  
– Continental Breakfast  
10:00 AM – Teaching  
11:15 AM - Sharing and Prayer Groups  
12:30 PM – Luncheon – Catered  
(pre-paid reservation only\*)  
1:30 PM - Song and Praise  
2:00 PM – Teaching  
3:00 PM - Sharing and Prayer Groups  
4:00 PM – Break

### Evening Healing Service

6:00 - 7:00 PM - Registration  
– Soup and Sandwiches  
7:00 PM - Healing Service  
Song and Praise  
Teaching  
Healing Ministry



\* Admission to this catered luncheon is by pre-paid reservation only. Please send your name, email address and phone number with a check made out to the "St. George's Anglican Church" for \$8.00/person to Linda Smith, 144A Providence Way, Monroe Township, N. J. 08831 (609-235-9312)

# How to Grow St. George's – Steve Bauman

First off, “church growth” is not the same as “evangelism.” They are related but we don’t “do” evangelism in order to grow St. George’s. We “do” evangelism because Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all nations. Guess what? If we do that well, church growth will result.

Bishop Dave Bena, a special friend of St. George’s, has written a paper called, “*So Grow, for Heaven’s Sake.*” He sent it to me after his last visit and our talk about growing St. George’s. That paper is what inspired this article and I have drawn from it.

Our situation reminds me of when Elisha told Naaman to wash in the Jordan to get rid of his leprosy. He resisted at first, since it was too simple, but at the suggestion of his servant, he did it anyway and was healed of leprosy! (2 Kings 5). Are we like that? Is our answer too simple?

God has given us the formula for church growth, but maybe like Naaman, we think it should require some great deeds, like hiring a consultant, bringing in big name speakers, taking out large ads in the paper, etc., but all the time the real key to the growth of St. George’s is dedicated prayer.

As any good coach reminds his players, get the basics right and success will follow. Part of the basics in growing a church is to first get it healthy and growth will follow. Fortunately, the way to growth and health is pretty much the same and both are God’s will for St. George’s.

Here are some references for growth that Bishop Bena has shared with us (Look in the Book for the complete story):



*In Matthew 28: 19-20*, Jesus gives each of us and St. George’s a prescription for health and growth – the Great Commission. As the sneakers commercial says, “*Just do it!*”

*In John 3:17 –18*, Jesus tells us that God wants His lost people to be found - and we are to help! Remember, he will never ask us to do something and then not empower us to do it.

*In Acts 2:46-47*, we are told that God definitely wants to add to our numbers, and to do so, we are to study scripture, care for one another, participate in worship, and pray intensely.

*Acts 4: 29-31*, tells us what God wants to see in every parish: People who pray and *speak God’s word with great boldness. People who stretch out their hands to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of Jesus. People who are all filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Bishop Bena says that “*serious, intense prayer by parishioners has over and over again been used by Almighty God to produce bold Christians who grow churches. Your church needs to be intentionally praying personally and publicly for growth – spiritual, numerical, financial.*”

**Are we trusting enough, bold enough, and serious enough to take the simple way to growth – God’s way?**

Here are simple instructions that Bishop Bena has shared with us:

1. Lay leaders need to pray **every day** for each other by **name**, and specifically that the congregation grows **numerically, spiritually, and financially.**

2. Lay leaders need to pray for every member of the congregation by **name** at least once a week.

3. Lay leaders need to discern who among the parish have a real thirst for prayer and church growth then invite them to become the **Church Growth Prayer Warrior Team (CGPWT)** to pray that people will be won to Christ and that St. George's will grow.

4. This new team (**CGPWT**) will be trained on how to pray and what to pray. Here is a sample of the training given and discipline required of each member.

- Pray for one hour every day.
- Keep a prayer list that includes prayers for spiritual, numerical, and financial growth.
- Read a chapter from the Bible every day and search for sections that speak of conversion and growth.
- Have a parish roster and pray for every member of the parish weekly.
- Pray all week for visitors (seekers) to come to church on Sundays or to special events.
- Write visitors' names down and pray specifically that they will stay in the parish and grow spiritually in the Lord. *(These names should stay on the prayer list until the visitor either become involved in the parish or definitely stops coming.)*
- Pray for those preaching, leading, visiting, and counseling, that they will so reflect Christ that visitors will be drawn to St. George's.
  - Pray for the ministries of St. George's, that they will draw visitors to the church and meet

their spiritual, relational, and material needs.

- Pray for an attendance increase at all services and events.
- Pray for the financial well being of the parish, and that people will give generously so St. George's ministries can expand to reach more people with the Gospel.
- Pray that the offering of financial gifts increases week by week.
- Pray against the evil influences and "the dark side" which seeks to weaken the church and God's expansion of the Gospel.
- Meet together as a Team at least monthly to pray together, read the Bible, exchange ideas, and receive further training.

The leader of the Team needs to be in weekly email contact with all team members so that information and prayers can be easily passed.

I realize that it may be hard to grow without a Rector, but we can prepare the ground for his arrival. The CGPWT, I believe, is just what the Doctor ordered to prepare for our next Rector.

**Who will join me on this excellent adventure?** Pray about stepping out in faith and making a serious commitment to grow St. George's and the Kingdom of God.

It has been said that many church-goers like to "suit up" but very few want to actually get "into the game." **Warm benches do not make victories!** Contact me to join the CGPWT and let's get into the game!

