

# SABBATICAL

## St. George's prepares for rector's sabbatical

**From April 21 to July 31**, St. George's and Rev. Grant will engage sabbatical. A sabbatical is understood to be a time utilized by clergy in order to be released from regular ministries for the purpose of spiritual renewal, study, theological reflection, and strengthening of skills and ministries. For the parish, it is an opportunity to focus on the ministry of the laity, to assess where the congregation is presently, and explore where it believes God may be calling them to be. Both Rev. Grant and St. George's will use this period to dive deeper into our family and parish histories, exploring the relationship between race, faith, and our ministries today.

During this time, Rev. Grant will not be available to the congregation. In his absence, the Wardens and Vestry, staff, and supply clergy will guide and support the parish. To this end, here is helpful information to guide you:

### Leadership

The Wardens and Vestry will continue their fiduciary, ministerial, and leadership responsibilities. They are the final authority during the Rector's absence within the parish. Any questions, comments, or concerns are to be shared with them.

- **Senior Warden**, Dan Mitchell: [Damitt24@gmail.com](mailto:Damitt24@gmail.com) or [Daniel.Mitchell@wsp.com](mailto:Daniel.Mitchell@wsp.com)
- **Junior Warden**, Aleeda Crawley: [aleedac@yahoo.com](mailto:aleedac@yahoo.com) or [aleeda.crawley@civicplus.com](mailto:aleeda.crawley@civicplus.com)

### Pastoral Care

The Healing Prayers ministry, the Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and supply clergy are available for pastoral care matters.

- To connect with the **Healing Prayers** ministry, email [st-georges-healing@googlegroups.com](mailto:st-georges-healing@googlegroups.com) or contact Amy-Cox Martins at [amycoxmartins@yahoo.com](mailto:amycoxmartins@yahoo.com).
- To connect with the **Lay Eucharistic Visitors** ministry, contact Mike Martins at [mdmartins150@gmail.com](mailto:mdmartins150@gmail.com).
- To connect with one of our **supply clergy**, contact Ruth Deane in the parish office at 973-762-1319 or [parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org](mailto:parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org).

### Sabbatical Offerings

- Parish sabbatical activities are coordinated by the Sabbatical Team. To connect with the team, contact John Lauder at [jwlauder@aol.com](mailto:jwlauder@aol.com).

### Staffing

St. George's staff will continue to serve the parish within their current roles. Be cognoscent that all staff members are part-time and will not be working additional hours during the sabbatical period.

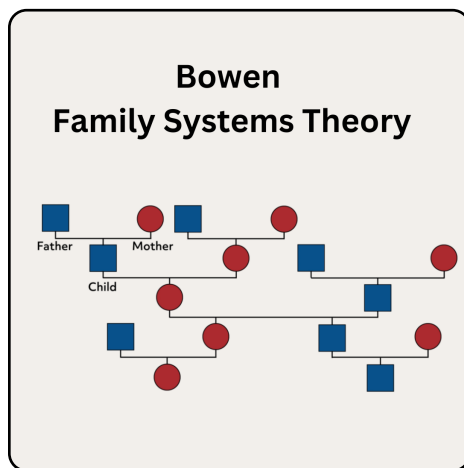
- Our Parish Administrator, Ruth Deane, is at St. George's Tuesdays and Thursdays (10am-4:30pm), and available by phone or email Mondays and Fridays (10am-4:30pm). To contact Ruth Deane in the Parish Office, call 973-762-1319 or email [parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org](mailto:parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org).

- Our Minister for Families and Youth, Meg Davis, serves during the program year approx. 10 hours a week, inclusive of Sunday mornings. She is not available during the summer from June 15-Aug.15. To contact Meg Davis, email [familyministry@stgeorges-maplewood.org](mailto:familyministry@stgeorges-maplewood.org).
- To contact our Minister of Music, Megan Coiley, email [megancoiley@stgeorges-maplewood.org](mailto:megancoiley@stgeorges-maplewood.org).
- To contact our Sexton, Curtis Bowers, please contact the Parish Office.

## Worship and Clergy Support

During sabbatical, St. George’s worship will maintain the current worship schedule. On the last Sunday of May, June, and July, all services will be services of Morning Prayer, to highlight lay-led worship within our tradition. All other Sundays will remain services of Holy Eucharist. Worship leadership will be shared by the Rev. Robert Morris, the Rev. Bernie Poppe, the Rev. Lorna Woodham, Aleeda Crawley, Brigid Dwyer, John Hamer, and Caitlyn Roper. To connect with one of our worship leaders, contact Ruth Deane in the Parish Office at 973-762-1319 or [parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org](mailto:parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org).

A prominent theme of Rev Grant’s sabbatical will be coming to terms with racism at the personal / internal level, at the societal/systemic level and at the institutional/church level. While Rev. Grant is on sabbatical, we intend to pursue parish activities to parallel his endeavors and help us align with his goals. The sabbatical planning group has identified five such activities, and we invite all parishioners to get involved with one or more of them:



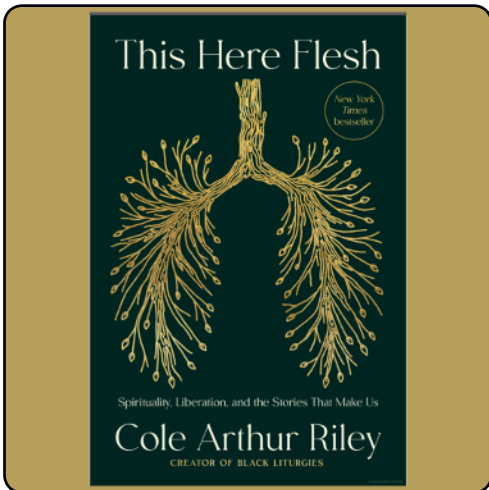
**Learn how family context and conditions impact us across generations,** and how we can aim toward more positive outcomes. Cheryl Notari will offer a presentation on Bowen Family Systems Theory on May 4, after the late service. The presentation lasts about 90 minutes and is free to attendees.



**Gain perspective on your personal history** and connect it to your story of belonging in a faith community by participating in a genealogy workshop. The workshop will be a series of five Zoom meetings during May, June and July; Check your Snapshot email for more details. For more information, please contact Valyrie Laedlein.



**Research and reflect on St. George's history**, in the context of the community's racial history. We hope to learn about how our parish has responded to important social issues and how that knowledge can guide us in our response to current concerns. Jane Jubilee and Ulysses Dietz are currently working on aspects of this project; at the March 2 annual meeting we'll provide more specifics and tell you how you can get involved.



**Read the book, *This Here Flesh***, by Cole Arthur Riley, which Rev. Grant also will be reading as part of his sabbatical. This will be a self-study activity during the spring and summer; then when Rev. Grant is back, we'll discuss the book with him, and see how it echoes our work on church history, genealogy and cross-generational family impacts.

While we aren't likely to finish the history project during the sabbatical period, we plan to present our to-date findings sometime in the fall.