ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH						
The Messenger						
Volume 10, Issue 12	Eleutherios the Holy Martyr, Bishop	December 2010				
Editor: Cathy Speronis	Illyria and his mother Anthia December 15					
Inside this issue:	Apolytikion: Adorned with flowing priestly vesture and with dripping streams of blood you at once went to	PI PI PI				
President's Message 2 Parish Council Care Committee Women's Book Group History Book Savings	your Lord Christ, O blessed wise Eleftherios, annihila- tor of Satan. Wherefore, do not cease to intercede for those who honor your blessed struggles in faith. Kontakion: O venerable One, we all praise and entreat	é.				
St. George Christmas 3 Needs Christmas Caroling Christmas Eve Liturgy Announcement Bookstore Items	you, Eleftherios, Priest-Martyr, comeliness of Priests and exaltation of champions. Deliver from diverse dangers those fervently honoring your memory, interceding unceasingly for us all.					
Ta Nea 4 Fr. Adam's Message	This Saint had Rome as his homeland. Having been orphaned of his father from childhood, he was taken by his mother Anthia to Anicetus, the Bishop of Rome (some call him Anencletus, or Anacletus), by whom he was instructed in the sacred letters (that is, the divine	embracing the remains of her son and kissing them with maternal affection,				
Thanks5Bottle RedemptionNotice to ParentsCoffee Hours NeedsRecent DeathMillay Family Wreaths	Scriptures). Though still very young in years, he was made Bishop of Illyricum by reason of his surpassing virtue, and by his teachings he converted many unbelievers to Christ. However, during a most harsh persecution that was raised against the Christians under	she was also beheaded. Reading courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery				
Stewardship Report 6 Financials	Hadrian (reigned 117-138), the Saint was arrested by the tyrants. Enduring many torments for Christ, he was finally put to death by two soldiers about the year 126.	Apolytikion courtesy of Narthex Press Kontakion courtesy of				
Messenger via E-mail 7 Pot Luck Coffee Hour AHEPA Tournament	As for his Christ-loving mother Anthia, while	Narthex Press				
Daily Bible Readings 8 Our Prayers Memorials Coffee Hours	St. Francis of AssisiO Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love.Where there is injury, pardon, Where there is doubt, faith, Where there is despair, hope, Where there is darkness, light, And where there is sadness, joy.					
December Calendar 9 Dedication 10 Altar Angels & Patrons	O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to h we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; And born to eternal life.	ove; For it is in giving that				
	Amen					

Dear Fellow Members of the Saint George Family,

Merry Christmas to Everyone! On December 19 we will be holding our End of Year General Assembly Meeting. The Main issue being discussed is the 2011 budget. Please remember to send in the remainder of your stewardship balance this month, if you have not already done so. This joyous time of year should remind us all just how important Saint George is to all of us in our daily lives!

2010 was a special year for so many reasons. First, this was our 80th Anniversary as a very special, caring and loving church family. Second, the Parish of Saint George has had a very successful year with it's festival booth and dance. Third, we are meeting our obligation to the Archdiocese at 100% for the fifth straight year and finally, we have increased our charitable giving and have never missed a second tray donation!

As we celebrate the birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ, it is extremely important to remember those who are less fortunate and that church provides a place of salvation for all. Whenever possible invite someone to a service and bring in non-perishable food items to help our Sunday School children with their canned food drive.

May everyone enjoy the blessings and spirit of a wonderful Christmas!

In the Love of Christ, Lee P. Speronis - President, Parish Council 2010

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 2010

Lee Speronis, President	
Susan Jonason, Vice-President	
Kathy Fitzpatrick , Secretary	942-7532
Ambrose Smitherman, Treasurer	
George Leakos	
George Brountas	989-4987
Kevin Cox	667-6257
Christopher Limberis	942-9243
Jack Montgomery	945-6022

ST. GEORGE "CARE COMMITTEE" **ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS**

What a wonderful way to be involved in our St. George community while helping others!

The next Care Committee meeting is to be announced. For more information or if you know of a need the Committee could meet, Please contact Presvytera Lisa (947-4709)



Women's Orthodox **Book Group**

The next meeting of the Women's Book Group will be in January. Our next book, In the Heart of the Desert, by Fr. John Chryssavgis, has been ordered and will arrive soon.

For more information, please contact

Marina Smitherman at 866-7717

All ladies are welcome!

UNDERWRITING THE **MESSENGER**

We invite parishioners to help subsidize our newsletter. You can support publication of *The Messenger* in the following ways:

- Sponsor the Monthly Dedication Page @ \$75.00 per month.
- Become a *Messenger* Patron (a) \$50.00 for the year.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

St. George History books are for sale at half price (\$25.00) each. Please see Maria Brountas if you are interested. Call 942-5718 or 299-3839 St. George History books ar for sale at half price (\$25.00) each. Please see Maria Brountas if you are interested. Call 942-5718 or 299-3839

St. George Christmas Needs

This year's Christmas Offering Envelope is going to be mailed out to parishioners in hopes that you will bring it to church, or drop it in the mail, if you find you are unable to attend services. It is our fervent hope that you will take this opportunity to honor our Lord at His Nativity, along with helping His church.

Also, please remember to send in your Christmas card to adorn the Christmas Card Tree in the narthex. It is always lovely to see all the beautiful cards with church-family greetings displayed. Any accompanying donations will go into the Christmas Card Tree Fund.

In addition, we invite parishioners to donate one or more Poinsettias to decorate the church. If you wish your flowers to be in memory of a loved one, please leave a message in the church office.

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling is being planned for Tuesday evening, **December 21st**. At **6 pm**, we will meet in the lobby of Winterberry Heights Assisted Living Center at 932 Ohio Street (directly in front of Sunbury Village). We will sing carols there and then go to Ross Manor to carol. Afterwards, we plan to go to Captain Nick's Restaurant for dessert. All adults and families are encouraged to participate. Please RSVP interest to **Presvytera Lisa (947-4709)**.

Christmas Eve Vesperal Divine Liturgy

This year's Christmas Eve service will begin at 5 pm. We pray we can all come together for this beautiful, candle-lit service of our Lord's Nativity.

Announcement

Fr. Adam and Presvytera Lisa will be away from Saturday, January 8th, through Friday, January 14th. On Sunday, January 9th, there will be no Divine Liturgy at St. George, but the church will be open for candles and prayers. For any emergency, please contact a parish council member.

Thank you.

Church Bookstore Offers Christmas Items

Please take a moment at church to check out the new offerings in the church bookstore in the narthex. There are Orthodox Christmas cards, plus beautiful icons and books.

TA NEA (The News)

By Cathy Speronis 118 Poplar Street Bangor, ME 04401 (942-7822)

Another Glorious Christmas Season is upon us! It is such a special time when we gather with our loved ones to celebrate Our Lord's birth. The most wonderful gift of all is This Gift which God has given us. Let us share our faith, love and humility with all to His Glory!

Greetings to all of our snowbirds who have escaped the cold. (Or have they?)

The Speronis family is very excited to be traveling down to Long Island to spend Christmas with family. It has been 8 years since they have celebrated together. On their way down they will stop to celebrate Electra Giatrelis' (Lee's Mom's) birthday which is on the 24th, visit with Aunt Alyce in MA and Aunt Aris in NY. "We send all of our love and blessings to our family in South Carolina - Peter Speronis, Jamie, Kristy, Connor & Bryson Speronis; Helen Speronis in Greece; George & Connie Cave in Florida; The Leounes Family in PA and all of our other family and friends. We will miss celebrating with our St. George Family and wish everyone a truly Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

All news is welcome! If you have anything you would like to share you can call me at my number above. If I'm not in, please leave me a message. You can also email me at **catthecook@roadrunner.com**. Continued prayers to those in need. In love and faith, Cathy

From heaven to earth a great peace and love shall come our way, as we prepare for the holy feast of our Lord's Holy Nativity. What we experience, in the very depths of our soul, is the result of a two-way action on the part of our loving God: Our fathers - the saints and the martyrs - have passed from this earthly existence to heaven, and this is because our Lord "God and Savior Jesus Christ came to earth from the heavenly realm, to save us and lead us to His Kingdom.

This is indeed a holy time for all of us as we prepare for our Lord's Holy Nativity. It is a time to pray and a time to fast. It is a time to go to Holy Confession and take Holy Communion. And it is a time to think about how we are to celebrate this great and holy feast day spiritually. All of heaven itself is in a state of great wonder and rejoicing at the Lord's Incarnation. Just think what a blessing, what great kindness and what an unsurpassable act of love it is for us that the Mighty Lord God came - and still comes - to earth from heaven, His Kindgom, to guide us on the path towards our salvation. As our Gracious Lord God comes to us while we are still on this earth, we must surely wonder how we should draw near to Him. Can we come to Him with the same love that He is offering us? Or will we be so busy trying to buy gifts and spending so much time at holiday gatherings that we really forget that indeed a Holy, Mighty, and Immortal God is being born for our sakes? We remember from the Holy Scriptures how our Lord Jesus Christ was born, and came and lived among us. As He began to teach the multitude of people who came to Him they were amazed at what He said, and felt blessed just to be in His presence. They learned that all anyone had to do was to receive His great blessings. Healing was simply to touch the hem of His garment in faith, and be healed. Those who truly hungered listened to every work of love He offered. They received His words and believed in them as an act faith in a new life and hope that the way to heaven was open to them. And it is just the same for us at this season of His Holy Nativity - our Lord Jesus comes from Heaven to save us on earth and show us the way back to heaven and eternal life with Him. Let us think, too, about the Three Wise Men who journeyed so long and so far before they arrived at the place our Lord's Holy Nativity. What wonder, what peace and joy they must have felt as they knelt in prayer and offered their gifts. Think about the fact that in their presence was a great holiness, and that on this Holy day salvation and love for all of mankind has come!

Now the question is this: What shall we do, as pious and Orthodox Christians, once the day of our Lord's Holy Nativity comes? Like the Wise Men, shall we also kneel in prayer, and offer our glory and honor to our Lord God? Shall we go to Church for the beautiful vigil services and Holy Divine Liturgy and sing with the choir: "Glory to God in the Highest, on earth peace and good will among men?

Don't forget the great feast that is being celebrated in our Holy Churches. Prepare yourself and your beloved family so that you all may give that which is truly due to our God - all honor and worship - and let us receive our Lord Jesus Christ with true humility and love. And there is one great gift He wants from us - that we should love Him and desire to seek Him spiritually, preparing ourselves to go from earth to heaven. Because of what we have experienced in recent months our souls need so deeply the blessings of our Lord God. We can receive all of these spiritual rewards during the Nativity fast, and on this great Feast Day in prayer. (Taken from a Sermon from a pious priest)

Peace in the Lord's Nativity,

Fr. Adam

We Give Thanks

To Maria Brountas for offering the kollyva in loving memory of her parents.

To Prosforo bakers Marina Smitherman and Maria Flanzala.

To **all the parishioners** who donated casseroles on December 15th to the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. This is a wonderful community outreach that St. George Church has been involved with for many years.

St. George Bottle Redemption Site

St. George Church has a redemption "account" at the Bottle Redemption on Broadway in Bangor across from the Irving Station and next to Tri-City Pizza. Just drop bottles off there - 7 days a week (they do not need to be counted) and make sure to specify that they are for the "St. George Church Account."

Every little bottle adds up!

A Notice to Parents

We all want our St. George children to be safe. Please keep aware of where your children are, especially after Liturgy during Coffee Hour. Children should be supervised and should not be in the church sanctuary, church office, or in the upstairs meeting room by themselves.

Thanks for being vigilant in this regard!

Coffee Hour Needs

When grocery shopping, just pick up one non-perishable item that could be used at a church coffee hour and leave it on the counter in the church kitchen the next time you are there. Items that could be used include: bread and boxed pastries (that can be put in the kitchen freezer), crackers, chips, canned fruit, salad dressing, cookies, juice, and large zip-lock bags. Your offering will be much appreciated!

Coffee Hour Notice: It has been brought to our attention that some parishioners have allergies to peanuts. It would be appreciated if dishes with peanuts could be labeled, so that those with allergies will know to avoid them. *Thank you.*

Recent Death Innocent McCarthy's mother Ruth , for			
whom we have been praying, went to			
be with the Lord in early December. She passed away in Phoenix, Arizona,	MILLAY FAMILY CHRISTMAS WREATHS		
at the age of 89. Our hearts go out to Innocent, Matrona, and their family.	Jo Millay and family are once again offering their homemade Christmas Wreaths and Centerpieces for sale. They are lush		
✤ May her memory be eternal ✤	and beautiful and home grown in Surry, Maine. Order forms are in the narthex at church, or contact Jo Millay at (207) 667-8331 .		

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STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2010 Stewardship Status 12/4/10

Stewardship Target\$50,000 Stewardship Units pledged......86 Stewardship Gifts Pledged......\$ 45,777 Stewardship Gifts Rec'd.....-<u>41,142</u> Current Stewardship Deficit....\$ 5,145

PLEDGES RECEIVED AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2010

Indianos, Rose 🕆

Alling, Charlene Aloupis, Angela Aloupis, Athena 🕆 Aloupis. Vance Andreescu, Astrid Angel, Richard & Eleni Aretakis, Jonathan & Ann Cannizzaro Barbalias, Louis 🕆 Bozoian, Michael & Irini Brountas, Arthur & Maria Brountas, George & Kim Brountas, Helen Brountas, Mark & Susan Brountas, Peter A. Burgess, Paul & Polly Moutevelis-Burgess Cox, John & Debra Sinclair Cox. Kevin & Sherri Cox, Thomas & Catherine Cyr, Sharon DeSiervo, Augie Dimoulas, Antonios Dragatsi, Mr. & Mrs. Alex Duddy, Athena & Bill Fitzpatrick, Chip & Kathy Flanzala, Paul & Maria George, Nicholas & Grace Gressitt, Stevan Harrison, Stanley

Ireland, Cindy Jolander, Katherine Haliotis Jonason. Leo & Susan Karagiannes, Christos & Alice Karris, Alexis Karris, Lambros & Cynthia Kelley, Michael & Karen Kelley, Phyllis Kesaris, Nicholas & Callie Kesaris, Nick & Sue Kisimitakis, Mr. & Mrs. Deno Kulikowsky, Timothy & Alison Leakos, George Limberis, Mr. & Mrs. Chris Louridas, Peter & Glenna Lowd, Claudia Luck. Chris & Nia Makredes, Constantine Markides, Kyriacos & Emily Markowsky, Elizabeth McCarthy, Ken & Matrona Metropoulos, Rev. Adam & Lisa Michaud, Bert & Pattv Mihalopoulos, John & Eleni Montgomery, Jack & Hope Muller, Eugene & Maria Nawfel. Sam & Bonnie Page, Brian & Paula Panakis, Athanasios & Vasiliki

Pangakis, Jerry & Martha Paul, Georgia Pearce, Bryan & Detta Pesut, Drs. Nicholas & Andrea Petrides. Christos & Vassiliki Petrikas, George Predaris, George & Norah Predaris, Jon & Mary Rees, Penny Rozos, John S. Seviciu. Alex & Claudia Shaw, F. Allen Skoufis, Mrs. Peter J. Smith, Barbara Smitherman, Ambrose & Marina Soulas, Dora & Robert 🕆 Speronis, Lee & Cathy Spofford, John & Koula Stamos, Paula Stanley, Anna St. Peter, Sheldon & Kyvele Stroian, Anne Marie & Matei Ilina Turlla, Niko & Elizabeth Vafiades, Scott & Domenica Vardamis. Alex & Francis Walter, Dr. David & Donna Wells, Joe & Olga Wirta, Sophia

Dear Stewards,

If you haven't sent in your pledge for 2010, please remit as soon as possible. Pledges are down 15% from 2009 and we would like to recoup some of that. Also, please try to have the balance of your stewardship commitment paid by the end of the year. Thank you for your generous support. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Kevin Cox, Chair - Stewardship Committee '10

FINA	FINANCIAL STATEMENT as of November 18, 2010			
	<u>Nov '10</u>	<u>YTD '10</u>		
RECEIPTS	\$ 4,377.05	\$78,297.69		
DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 4,234.12	<u>\$82,888.73</u>		
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$ 142.93)	(\$ 4,591.04)		



Receive "The Messenger" Via E-mail

If you have not been receiving the church's monthly newsletter, The Messenger, via e-mail and would like to, please give your e-ddress to Presvytera Lisa or e-mail it to her at aldiasma@yahoo.com. E-ddresses will not be shared and will only be used for sending "The Messenger" and for other pertinent church-related announcements.

Pot Luck for Coffee Hour

When there is no one signed up for the coffee hour on a specific day, please feel free to bring in something that you would like to contribute as a potluck item.

Thank you

AHEPA Marrow Donor Registry

Hello!

My name is Sophia Venetos and I am with the AHEPA Marrow Donor Registry. Our mission is to add persons of Greek descent into our database of prospective donors. The best chance for a leukemia patient is from a family member, secondly from relatives, and then from their ethnic group.

From March 9-13, 2011 we will be hosting our third annual AHEPA Marrow National Invitational Basketball Tournament. There, Pan-Orthodox teams from all around the United States and Canada compete for an excellent cause, as our tournaments motto is, **A Tournament that Saves Lives**.

Please consider passing on this information to your churches Athletic Director or anyone that you think would be interested in possibly participating or submitting an advertisement. We waive the entrance fee for any teams coming from out of state, and we have been able to get them a discounted rate at a 5-star hotel (around \$89 per night).

The goals of the tournament are to promote education, raise awareness of the marrow transplant process, recruit eligible donors and serve as a national fundraising event. We have several divisions, including Mens, Senior Men's, Womens, Boys High School, Boys 15 and Under and Grammar School. We hold a 3-point shooting contest, in which the proceeds are donated to a worthwhile Hellenic cause. Two years ago, the funds were donated to Niko Bezanis, a boy who had a diving accident, which resulted in him becoming a paraplegic. Last year, we donated the funds to a young boy with neuroblastoma. Were happy to say that he is now in remission!

During the tournament, we conduct drives in an attempt to find potential donors for individuals with cancer. A few years ago, a match was found for a young Greek woman and her life was saved. It only takes one to save a life!

We hope you think about our philanthropic opportunity. If you have any questions, please email me at sophiavenetos@gmail.com or call me at (847) 679-1113. You can also take a look at our web site **www.ahepamarrow.org** for more info. I look forward to hearing back from you. Thank you!

Sincerely, Sophia Venetos

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS December 2010

- 1. 2 Timothy 4:9-22 Luke 20:1-8
- 2. Titus 1:5-14 Luke 20:9-18
- 3. Titus 1:15-16; 2:1-10 Luke 20:19-26
- 4. Matthew 25:1-13 Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5 Mark 5:24-34
- 5. Luke 24:36-53 Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2 Luke 13:10-17
- 6. John 10:1-9 Hebrews 13:17-21 Luke 6:17-23
- 7. Hebrews 4:1-13 Luke 21:12-16
- Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-8 Luke 21:5-8, 10-11, 20-24
- 9. Galatians 4:22-27 Luke 8:16-21
- 10. Hebrews 7:18-25 Luke 21:37-38, 22:1-8
- 11. Ephesians 2:11-13 Luke 13:19-29
- 12. John 20:1-10 Ephesians 5:8-19 Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 22:14
- 13. Hebrews 8:7-13 Mark 8:11-21
- 14. Hebrews 9:8-23 Mark 8:22-26
- 15. 2 Timothy 1:8-18 Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5

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- 16. Hebrews 10:35-39; 11:1-7 Mark 9:10-15
- 17. Luke 11:47-54; 12:1 Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2 Mark 9:33-41
- 18. Galatians 3:8-12 Luke 13:19-29
- 19. John 20:11-18 Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 Matthew 1:1-25
- 20. Hebrews 10:32-38 Mark 9:33-41
- 21. Hebrews 12:25-27; 13:22-25 Mark 10:2-12
- 22. James 1:1-18 Mark 10:11-16
- 23. James 1:19-27 Mark 10:17-27
- 24. Hebrews 1:1-12 Luke 2:1-20
- 25. Matthew 1:1-25 Galatians 4:4-7 Matthew 2:1-12
- 26. John 20:19-31 Galatians 1:11-19 Matthew 2:13-23
- 27. Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60 Matthew 21:33-42
- 28. James 3:1-10 Mark 11:11-23
- 29. Hebrews 2:11-18 Matthew 2:13-23
- 30. James 4:7-17; 5:1-9 Mark 11:27-33
- 31. 1 Peter 1:1-25; 2:1-10 Mark 12:1-12

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU!

Marianna DeJesus 50
Hazel DeSiervo 50 Chip Fitzpatrick Kay Gaddis 50 Electra Giatrelis
Aristea Halkedis 50 Mary Limberis 50 Mike Margaronis 50
50 George Metropoulos 50
50 Fr. Christopher Moody 50
50 Mike McNamara 50
Georgia Paul 50 Kosta Shanos
Alyce Speronis 50 Helen Speronis 50 Sheldon St. Peter 50
50 The son of Joanne Brountas Levine

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE SPECIAL PEOPLE IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

MEMORIAL SERVICES OFFERED

On **December 5th** a Memorial service was held for the souls of Maria Brountas' parents, **Eugenia and Nicholas Gianibas**.

☆ MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL ☆

COFFEE HOURS SPONSORS

December 5th - Maria and Arthur Brountas in loving memory of Maria's parents, Eugenia and Nicholas Gianibas.

When not sponsored, Coffee hours are a potluck offering. If anyone would like to sponsor a coffee hour on any particular Sunday, please see Presvytera Lisa to reserve the date.

Thanks to all those who contributed toward the Coffee Hours during this past month!

DECEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 5:30 pm Vesperal Liturgy for St. Barbara	4 NO GREAT VESPERS
5 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for 10th Sunday of Luke	6 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for St. Nicholas	7	8	9 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for Conception of St. Anna	10	11 6 pm Great Vespers
12 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for 11th Sunday of Luke	13	14	15 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for Saint Eleutherios	16	17	18 NO GREAT VESPERS
19 9 am Orthros with Liturgy follow- ing for Sunday before Nativity of Christ Sunday School Christmas Program	20	21 6 pm Christmas Caroling to the Nursing Homes	22	23	24 9 am Royal Hours for Nativity 5 pm Vesperal Liturgy for the Nativity of our Lord	25 Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
26 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for Sunday after the Nativity of Christ	27 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for Saint Stephen	28	29	30	31 5 pm Vesperal Liturgy for Circumcision of our Lord and for Saint Basil the Great	January 1 NO GREAT VESPERS
January 2 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for Sunday before Theophany	January 3	January 4	January 5	January 6 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following and the Blessings of waters for Theophany	January 7 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for St. John the Baptist	January 8 Fr. Adam away until January 14th NO GREAT VESPERS

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

90 Sanford Street Bangor, Maine 04401

Rev. Fr. Adam Metropoulos Church Phone: (207) 945-9588 Parish Home Tel: (207) 947-4709 Email: dstgeorgeortho@roadrunner.com Website: www.stgeorge.me.goarch.org Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage P A I D Permit # 46 Bangor, ME

