



# THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

December 2010

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, Fr. Paul presided over the “blessing of the animals” (a Franciscan celebration of all God’s creatures) at 3 o’clock on Sunday, October 3rd assisted by Senior Warden David Kennison and with accordion music provided by St. George’s Director of Music, Andrew Krystopolski. It was a clear, sunny day with approximately 50 people and pets attending this very special outdoor service at the west doors of the church. There were dogs and cats, big and small, on leashes, in carrying cases, or protectively snuggled in arms - females named Abby and Emily; males named Mickey and Morty; unisex names like Budweiser and Corduroy; Imzadi (which means “beloved”), named after a Star Trek character and nicknamed Imi; and, how could we ignore Napoleon - who, after his blessing, made a hasty Bonaparte’s Retreat.



# CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT



Building the float for this year's Christmas Parade can be summed up with "From chaos, order; from the ashes, beauty." The parade theme was "A Disney Christmas" and St. George's interpretation led to our entry, "Stairway to Heaven," featuring a singing choir of angels and St. Peter (Fr. Paul) holding his keys. Before construction, the previous, badly weathered float had to be deconstructed right down to the frame, requiring many hours from Rosemary Pannone, Mike & Laure Thiessen, and Rick Forshaw. Designing and building, gluing and stapling, painting and glittering, revising and adjusting took place in Rosemary Pannone's yard, with last minute touches added even as we entered the queue in our spot between firemen and (very loud) cheerleaders.

Many parishioners contributed to the float and the fun: Rosemary Pannone, all of the Thiessen family, Rick Forshaw, Andrew Kristopolski, Jon and Joan Pearson, Kim Pannone, Gabe Thiessen, the children's choir, and adult choir members Gene DeLong, Bob Paska, Joan Pearson and Laure Thiessen.

*joan pearson*



## VISITATIONS

You don't have to talk to George Roben for very long before it becomes abundantly clear how important family is to him. George and his wife of 61 years, Helen, raised five children: Alan (Niskayuna), Margaret (Duanesburg), Terri (Ballston Lake), and Liz and Brock (both of PA.) An engineer at GE, George was originally drawn to St. George's by the Liturgy but he quickly adds that the coffee hour brought people together - like family. George served on the Associate Vestry while some of the

Roben clan sang in the Junior Choir.

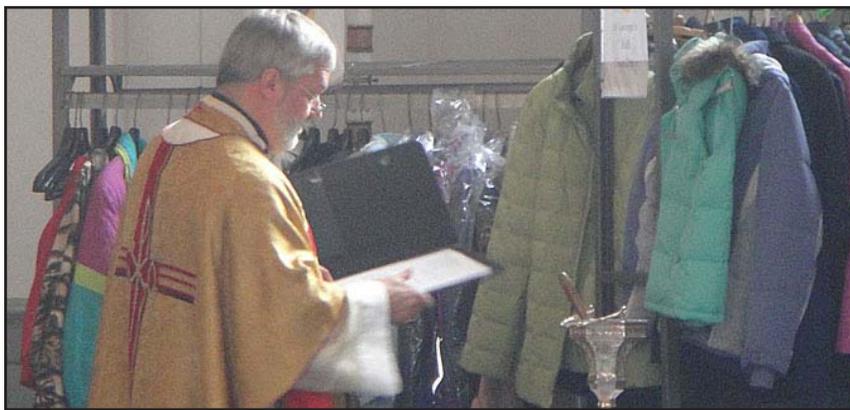
In 2007, Helen passed away. He and their children had always been there for her but now George needed support. Not surprising, with a role model like their Dad all three local children stepped up to the plate. Alan lived in the family home for a number of years helping as needed and seeing that George got to church. Currently, George splits his time between his two daughters' homes. George finds it difficult to get up and ready for Mass on Sunday at 9AM but attends services that are later in the day, often on Thursday or Friday.

So if you see a tall, stately young man of 90 at one of these services, say "hi" to George Roben; a man we are proud and privileged to have as a member of the St. George's Parish family.

*jim wingate*

# OUTREACH

Twelve Georgians supported the 20th Annual Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Breakfast on November 10th at Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia. Seated at St. George's table were: Maggie and Fr. Paul Blanch, Nancy and Johnnie Angus, Joan Bessarab, Lynn Paska, David Kennison, Andrew Krystopolski and Wendy Madelone. Also attending, but seated at other tables, were: Jon Pearson and Bob Paska, and Chris Henry. It was a good breakfast, a good time, and for a very good cause.



Georgians generously donated 64 outerwear garments (45 women and children coats delivered to the YWCA, 59 men's coats to the Salvation Army) from our Annual Fall Coat Drive, as blessed by Fr. Paul at our November 28th Mass.

At the 1st Bethesda House Pot Luck Dinner at Bethesda House (January 2010), eighty-five meals were served - with approximately fifteen volunteers from St. Stephen's and St. George's cooking, serving, visiting with guests, cleaning up, and generally doing whatever else was needed at the time.

**It was fun.** "It takes two Episcopal priests and one lay person to tame a roll of plastic cling wrap." (Marilyn Causey, St. Stephen's.)

**It was heartwarming.** "I sat down next to a two-year old boy. His hands were all sticky with

chocolate cookie. I talked to him and offered him bites of food from his plate. Soon his mother was saying it was time to go. He looked up at me and stretched out his arms. I hugged him and told him I loved him. I let him go and he puckered up his little mouth to give me a kiss. That was one of the sweetest moments of my life!" (Diane Reed, St. George's.)

**It was productive.** "It was especially meaningful to interact with the guests and have the opportunity to make their day special." (Carol Merrill-Mazurek, St. Stephen's.)

**It was a success.** "A day of gathering and many prayers as guests were served." (Donna White, St. Stephen's.)

Bethesda Program Coordinator Des Rossi said in a letter to St. George's "...everyone raved about how good the food was and how they miss homecooked meals."

The Bethesda House Pot Luck Dinner is our most ambitious

outreach initiative requiring the help of many Georgians to realize our commitment of 50 generous, healthful, nutritious meals. Guests arrive hungry and eat hearty. Please consider helping St. George's fulfill this obligation by providing volunteer help on January 30, 2011 at Bethesda House but, more importantly, cooking up something you like and contributing it to the meal. It will be consumed with gusto! See Outreach Chairperson, Alice Polumbo, for more details.

Crop Walk, sponsored by Church World Service in Elkhart, IN, will take place on May 1, 2011. 75% of the funds raised is apportioned to overseas family/food relief and self-help projects; 25% remains in the community and is disbursed by SICM. Wendy Madelone is our liaison for this Outreach Project.

## THE RECTOR WRITES ....

Every now and again when my sons were growing up, especially in their early teen years they would complain of leg pains that did not seem to be associated at all with their latest sports injury, as both were keen rugby, soccer and cricket players. I would simply explain to them, “you are probably growing, that’s all. Your bones are getting bigger to carry bigger muscles and organs, and your skin is stretching to cover it all.” This was not the most scientific of answers, yet it was the one that encompassed the truth of the matter in very simple terms. If you have seen or experienced **spiritual** growth and transformation in your life then you can probably testify to experiencing growing pains as well. The more we grow the more the Holy Spirit reveals self-centered thought patterns, humanistic philosophies, and sinful and selfish attitudes that have often long dominated our lives. It hurts to have these things exposed and removed, but the pain is worth it all when it leads toward greater Christlikeness.



Churches also experience growing pains. Times of spiritual and numerical growth often reveal ministry opportunities we are overlooking and can also expose weak areas that need attention. I believe we as a church are experiencing some of those growing pains as God stretches and prepares us for future ministry to our parish and beyond.

Last October it was one year (October 21st) since Maggie and I arrived at St. George’s. I recall very clearly my first ever visit to St. George’s a year before that, so I personally had been thinking about the growth that would be required to make St. George’s a vibrant and focused Church fit for purpose and ready to face the future with faith and confidence for what seemed like a very long time.

One of the strengths of our church is the pioneering spirit that I see in so many of you. Growing pains become so much easier to bear as each person helps carry the load. I commend you for being *steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord* (1 Cor 15:58.) I recognize this is not too common. Let’s face it, in our day and age, it is much easier to go to a large and successful “mega church” where, upon first impression, everything seems “done” and there is a program for everyone. Being part of a smaller church often requires a greater level of commitment and patience - is this not why we adopted the motto **“We are the Church.”** You have shown here that deep commitment and patience because you believe the Lord has a spiritually prosperous future in store for us here at St. George’s, but the proof of this working is how we keep ourselves focused and fresh.

Our church and faith community has been in existence for well over two hundred and fifty years; since the first ground was broken in 1759 and the builder began work on St. George’s Church, we know that great things have been achieved for the Kingdom of God in this place over the successive years. We have a heritage of God’s faithfulness to be thankful for. **But, in many ways, we are also today a new church!** By His grace, God has sovereignly chosen to open up a new era of ministry and produced an enthusiastic spirit of anticipation for a bright future in our faithful members of many years standing, but also in the many new people who have arrived and who now worship with us on Sundays as well as weekdays. In many ways, our ministry to this community has only just begun all over again. As we continue to pursue God’s will, grow in His Word, and make His pleasure and worship our top priority, He will be faithful to walk us through stretching times for His glory. What an exciting future we have under God, and as we prepare to move into a new year - 2011, a year we pray that will be full of many new and exciting things. **Be ready at all times for the gifts of God, and always for new ones.** Meister Eckhart.

Fr Paul F Blanch

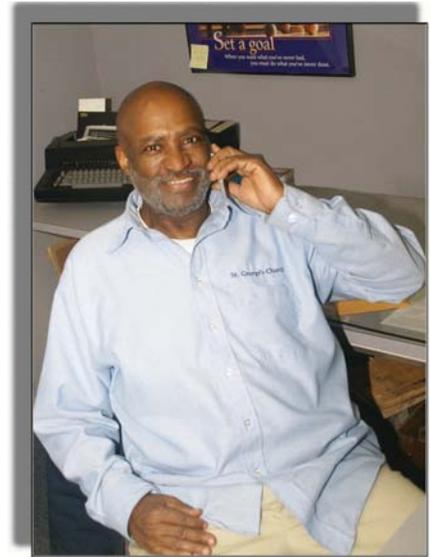
# SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S STAFF

The office staff at St. George's provides valuable services year after year. For just two people, they accomplish more than twenty-two, and they do it flawlessly. While they are paid staff, both volunteer "above and beyond" their normal duties. Responsible for the efficient operations of both the church office and the church campus, they're not clock-watchers and they don't leave until the job is done. While we hope never to take them for granted - it's nice to recognize their outstanding contributions and show our appreciation with a heartfelt "thank you."



**DONNA VROOMAN** was hired as Administrative Assistant to the Rector in April 1998, and it has proven to be a perfect "fit." Originally full-time and now part-time since January 2007, Donna has more free time to take care of family and friends. Although she is scheduled to work Monday through Thursday from 8AM to 1PM, it is rare that she doesn't come in early and/or stay late to complete her work. Or, stop in on a weekend to make sure everything is in order. She's not a parishioner, but no-one could be considered more parish family than she. A friend and confidante to all, because of her exemplary work ethics the church (stealing a line from the Dunkin' Donuts television commercials) runs on Donna time.

**GERALD COOPER** is easy to spot in a crowd now that he wears a "uniform" (shirt and/or jacket) with St. George's clearly identified on the garment. He's ours, and we want everybody to know it! As our super sexton since October 2005, Gerald maintains our church buildings and grounds, inside and out, and does everything a sexton should do. The New Orleans native was taken aback during his first winter here when he discovered that snow and ice must be cleared on a Sunday to make it safe for the congregation to get from Point A (parking lot) to Point B (church.) Whether making the brew for coffee hour after mass or meeting the security people at midnight after someone accidentally set off our alarm system, Gerald is our man of the hour every hour.



## LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Vestry members/parish leaders were encouraged by the Diocese of Albany to participate in a 4-hour Sexual Predator Awareness Training on October 9th at Calvary Church in Burnt Hills. A Certificate of Completion was given to those Georgians attending: Gerald Cooper, Rick Forshaw, Joyce Kapusta, Andrew Krystopolski, Rosemary Pannone, Bob Paska, Lynn Paska, Jonathan Pearson, Mike Thiessen, Donna Vrooman and Barbara Wengrovius.

## FLEECE BLANKETS

An offshoot of the Prayer Shawl Ministry was the making of fleece blankets (along with age-appropriate books) that were delivered in mid-December to the Things of My Very Own organization for distribution to children in the community. This easy "no sew" project saw Joy Adams, Nancy Angus, Maggie Blanch, Rosie Fusco, Wendy Madelone, Sabine Seiler, Susanna Sherwood and Aileen Smith-Carusio responding to the initial meeting.

# BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY START-UP SUNDAY



The active church year started twice this fall, once with Back to Church Sunday and again with Start-up Sunday. It makes perfect sense to first welcome old and new returning worshipers and then invite



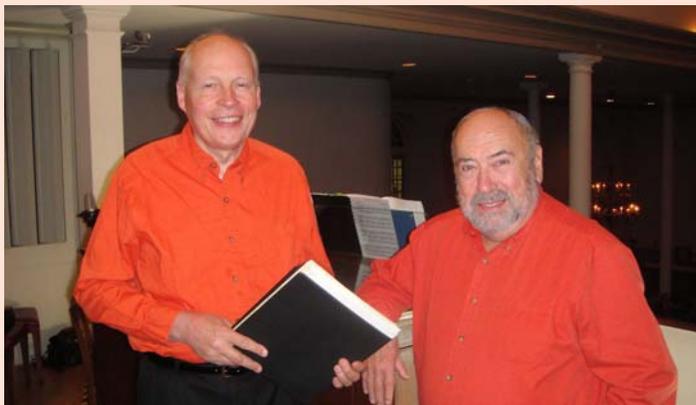
everyone into the active life of the church. It's a bit like college freshman orientation, when campus activities set up booths and entice students to join their groups. And along the way, meet people and make lifelong friends.

“We Are The Church” is never more important than on Start-up Sunday as we sign up for various ministries. No single person can be our ambassador in the taking care of all the needs of our church; we must share our talents. We are a multi-skilled congregation, from prayer shawl ministry to altar guild to acolytes to lectors to counters and greeters to Sunday school to choir to pastoral care to the Mary society to Chi-Rho to the gardens to our various Outreach projects. This year there is additional excitement as we welcome Andrew Krystopolski with his many plans for expanding the music program, and as Father Blanch gives us the benefit of his own years at other parishes. It is never too late to sign up for an activity, because St. George's will always be an active and generous community.

*joan pearson*



# ORGAN AND VOICE CONCERT



The public has its Blues Brothers - St. George's has its (note the matching shirts) Salmon Brothers - Eugene Tobey (Bass-baritone) and Donald Ingram (Organist) who delighted the St. George community with a magnificent Recital of Music for Voice and Organ on Friday, October 29th at 7:30PM in the church. Both British and American composers were highlighted. DVDs and CDs were for sale immediately after the concert, as produced by the Audio/Video team of Johnnie Angus, Rick Forshaw and Mike Thiessen. A very special guest in the audience was long-time parishioner Polly Moran (surrounded by her family: Kali, JJ, Bob, Jane and Malcom.) Afterwards, the Hospitality Committee hosted a delicious Reception in honor of the concertmeisters in the Great Hall - featuring Amy's White Chocolate Scallops and Mike's Handmade Truffles. Kudos, also, to St. George's Director of Music, Andrew Krystopolski, for his extraordinary page-turning of the organist's sheet music.



## DIOCESE ACOLYTE FESTIVAL

The Diocese Acolyte Festival was held at the Cathedral of All Saints on Saturday, November 6th. The day included a Continental breakfast, Grand Eucharist Procession and special celebratory Eucharist, lunch, and choice of informative workshops. Those attending from St. George's: Fr. Paul and Maggie Blanch, Rosemarie Fusco, Ralph Fusco, Chris Henry, JJ Moran, Kali Rose Moran, Erin Thiessen, and David Kennison (Acolyte Warden.) As a

gift from Bishop Love, each participant received a beautifully minted pendant designed with the Historic All Saints Bishop's Cathedral Emblem and Albany Diocese Shield.

### IN MEMORIAM

*Dorothy Bain  
1917-2010  
Rest in Peace  
You are missed  
by your church family.*



The History of The Episcopal Church Part II-Beginning in America

In the first installment, we saw how the Episcopal Church is a natural offshoot of the Church of England. As English colonists arrived, so did their church. From its 1st-2nd century beginnings, the English Church ultimately split from Rome in 1534 over the issue of divorce and remarriage of Henry VIII. By the mid-1600s, English colonists had settled in America and the seeds of the church were sown in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and New England.

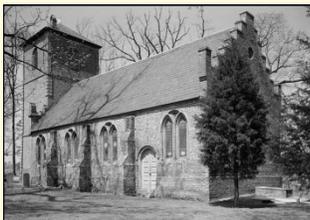


The arms of the Episcopal Church includes both the cross of St. George and a St. Andrew's cross.

The Early American Church The nascent American church was not yet the Episcopal Church; it remained the Church of England. America was a collection of primarily British colonies and loyalty was still to the crown. The first permanent settlement was in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. Other churches soon were established elsewhere in Virginia, Maryland (1702) and the Carolinas (1706 & 1730.) The Church of England was established as the state religion and was supported by public taxation.

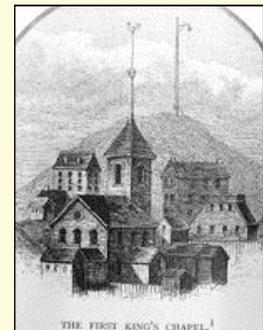


Interior of the First Church in Jamestown, Virginia



St. Luke's Church built in 1632 or the 1680s near Smithfield, Virginia, is the oldest surviving English church in North America.

Growth and Expansion Across the Colonies From the southern colonies, the English Church quickly expanded northward - New England, Pennsylvania and New York (1693.) In 1689, King's Chapel was built in Boston and was the first Anglican Church in New England. In 1693, the college of William and Mary was established in Williamsburg, Virginia to further Anglican faith and study. Between 1695-1705, expansion was rapid and enthusiastic. By the time of the American Revolution, Anglican churches were located in all 13 colonies, almost 400 in total.



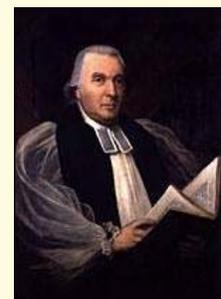
The American Revolution The American Revolution severed ties between the Church of England and the church in the colonies. This created a crisis in the American church, as most American clergymen, loyalists by virtue of their ordination vows, were forced to leave the country in exile. Church members who remained loyal to the King were persecuted, imprisoned and banished. The church was in trouble; membership declined. In spite of its growth, Anglicans were still a religious minority. There were no American bishops as it was a long journey to England to be ordained and the lingering ties to the English government were a major problem. A bright spot remained in that two-thirds of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were Anglicans, including George Washington, James Madison and the patriot Patrick Henry. The American church had friends in high places.



George Washington was an Episcopalian.

Post-Revolution Notwithstanding its troubles during the revolution, the American church survived, diminished but alive. But it needed leaders, organization and bishops. In 1782, the Rev. William White, rector of Christ Church Philadelphia and chaplain of the Continental Congress, stepped forward with a written proposal for an American Episcopal Church. But it was impossible to continue a hierarchal church without a bishop and none existed in America.

Samuel Seabury - the First American bishop Dr. Samuel Seabury, an ordained priest and rector in New York was chosen by his peers to be the first American bishop. Travelling to England to be consecrated, he was rebuffed as he would not vow allegiance to King George III. He then turned to Scotland, where he was consecrated bishop in 1784. He returned and settled in Connecticut.



Samuel Seabury-the first American Episcopal Bishop

Beginnings of the American Episcopal Church With a new bishop, the first General Convention was held in Philadelphia in 1785. On the agenda was a new church constitution and a newly-revised Book of Common Prayer. This process took years and in 1789, the *Protestant Episcopal Church* began its separate existence, determined to preserve its Anglican heritage but also committed to such American ideals as the separation of Church and State. Finally, the future looked promising and the way forward appeared clear.

**Next Time - Part III, Growing Pains within the new American Episcopal Church**

david kennison

# † Auriesville †

SHRINE OF JESUIT MARTYRS



A pilgrimage to Auriesville (the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs) took place on the afternoon of Sunday, September 19th. Eighteen Georgians gathered in our parking lot at 1PM for carpooling to what turned out to be a most delightful day - an informative guided tour, learning historical information, time for quiet and reflection, a chance to make purchases in the gift shop, and ending with Fr. Paul saying Evening Prayer in one of the small chapels on the magnificent grounds. We returned to St. George's at 6PM tired but refreshed, happy and humbled, and grateful for the experience of sharing this memorable time together.



Confirmation was held on Sunday, November 14th at 4PM at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany. Congratulations to the seven Confirmands from St. George's: Kathleen Todt, Kali Rose Moran, JJ Moran, Erin Thiessen, Taylor Adams, Sam Hartz, and Virginia Manning.

## - SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -



We get a lot of visitors to St. George's. There is hardly ever a day - weekday or weekend - that our unlocked doors will not be tried by visitors. Some tourists certainly, some inquirers, some simply curious, some a bit apprehensive not having been in a church in a very long time. Some are even our Stockade neighbors, having lived down the street or a short block away and never having set foot in St. George's.

We see them at Mass too. Some on weekdays; more on Sunday. When I speak with them their stories are amazing. *"I was baptized here," "I sang in the choir here," "My parents used to come here," "My children were confirmed here."* So many people have a warm history with St. George's and so many now have no church. They have simply fallen away.

Why don't they come back? Have they been hurt? Are they afraid to try it (and us) out? Do we not greet them warmly enough? Is our beautiful liturgy a little too "high church" for them? Do they walk away and go somewhere else? Is the image of the Episcopal Church a little rigid, stuffy and inwardly focused? Do we act like we are the "frozen chosen"? Or do they stay home and sleep in on Sundays? Have we not reached out to them? I recently came across a moving sermon by Desmond Tutu, Nobel laureate and Archbishop Emeritus of Southern Africa, given in All Saint's Church, Pasadena, CA in 2006.

*Jesus did not say, "If I be lifted up I will draw some." Jesus said, "If I be lifted up I will draw all." All, all, all, all. Black, white, yellow, rich, poor, clever, not so clever, beautiful, not so beautiful. It's one of the most radical things. All, all, all, all, all, all, all, all. All belong. Gay, lesbian, so-called straight. All are meant to be held in this incredible embrace that will not let us go. All.*

Archbishop Tutu calls us to remember the "comprehensiveness" of their tradition.

*"Isn't it sad, that in a time when we face so many devastating problems - poverty, HIV/AIDS, war and conflict - that in our Communion we should be investing so much time and energy on (internal) disagreements?"*

Pointing to the Anglican tradition of tolerance, Archbishop Tutu said the Communion, which *"used to be known for embodying the attribute of comprehensiveness, of inclusiveness, where we were meant to accommodate all and diverse views, saying we may differ in our theology but we belong together as sisters and brothers"* now seems *"hell-bent on excommunicating one another. God must look on and God must weep."*

Yet when Christians are found to be *"caring, gentle, compassionate, sharing, embracing everyone ... God is smiling,"* Archbishop Tutu said.

St. George's has always had the image of "the great and the good," maybe too much so. There is no virtue in that. I know we are a warm, intelligent and forward-thinking congregation. It comes from each of you. Is it time to let

## - JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -



I have only two items to report as we "re-cover" from all the activities of Christmas 2010.

#1. The lights have been placed in the parking area, which should increase security in the lot.

#2. Work on upgrading St. George's House is ongoing.

*ralph fusco*

## - TREASURER'S REPORT -



Have you considered updating your Will recently? Estate tax planning has been in limbo for several years due to changes to the limits at which taxes are required, and changes in the tax rates. However, there are still some things that are very clear. By naming St. George's in your Will you can reduce estate taxes, and you can help to ensure that St. George's continues to flourish for generations to come.

You can start with a new Will (if your Will is more than 5 years old it should at least be reviewed), or you can add a simple codicil to an existing Will naming St. George's as a beneficiary. Such a bequest can be stated as a fixed dollar amount, or for a percentage of your estate.

Another approach can provide some immediate benefit to the donor. With a Charitable Remainder Trust a donor can "invest" a sum of money in a trust that pays an income to that donor for the balance of his/her life. The residual of the trust after that donor's death (called the Remainder) goes to the charity - St. George's. In this case the donor can benefit in multiple ways: he/she continues to receive income from the gift much like the income that might be received if no gift were ever made; there is also an immediate tax deduction for a portion of the gift; and the income received during life may not be fully taxable.

St. George's has benefited from two Charitable Remainder Trusts in recent years. Rev. Darwin Kirby, a former Rector of St. George's, named St. George's as a beneficiary of money he placed in two different Charitable Remainder Trusts. Also, a few years before his death, Harry Whittingham established a Charitable Remainder Trust which named St. George's as the remainder beneficiary.

*jonathan pearson*

our light shine a little more brightly and open our doors and our hearts wider? Matthew 5:14 says *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."*

This Advent and Christmas, let us all try to be more open, more accepting, more tolerant, more welcoming, more demonstrative of Christ's love to our family friends to everyone who walks through our doors. After all, *We Are The Church* and this is our mission to be alive in Christ.

*with great affection, david*

## CANADIANS TOUR ST. GEORGE'S

Sir William Johnson, born in 1715 in County Meath, Ireland came to America in 1738 to manage a vast land tract of his uncle's and ended up becoming one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of the Mohawk Valley. His many philanthropic endeavors included financing the construction of two area Episcopal churches - St. John's (Johnstown) and St. George's (Schenectady.)

Thus, St. George's was one of numerous stops on the itinerary (September 26th-29th) of the Loyalist 2010 Mohawk Valley Bus Trip of the Sir John Johnson (Sir William's son) Manor House Committee. It was a whirlwind stop to learn about the history of our church and to see the pew (#110) where Sir William sat in the original church. It is interesting to note that, at that time, Sir. William's pew had been "adorned with a handsome Canopy supported by Pilasters" and St. George's, prior to subsequent renovations and an addition, was 36-feet wide and 56-feet deep.

Fifty-one tired Canadians, who had begun their journey at 6AM on the first leg of this tour, arrived at 5PM (45-minutes late); trekked through our church

and grounds; listened to presentations on religion/theology from Fr. Paul and St. George's history from David Kennison; asked questions; enjoyed a brief organ "concert" by Fr. Paul; and took many pictures.

The purpose of these annual bus trips is to help raise funds to preserve the Sir John Johnson House National Historic Site in Williamstown, Ontario. The tour leaders gave Fr. Paul an informative book about their organization and the current tour, as well as a donation to St. George's in the amount of \$125.





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## STEWARDSHIP 2011

This year's stewardship campaign theme was "Recommitting to *We Are The Church*.....Imagining Our Future." Everyone received an initial mailing asking us to reflect on our relationship with God and his church, St. George's. It also showcased our many blessings and what it takes to keep St. George's operational. The campaign formally concluded with a commitment Sunday buffet at the rectory on November 21st. In between, Georgians listened to deeply personal reflections from speakers who shared their calls to be good stewards.

Included in Treasurer Jonathan Pearson's remarks was a retrospective on finances past and present, how endowments have kept St. George's "alive," and that our future depends on our generosity. It was a rude awakening. We can take care of ourselves today....but have to plan for future generations.

Senior Warden David Kennison gave a surprisingly short (for him!) talk on three individuals - a co-worker Fred; author C.S. Lewis; and his wife Anne - who came from entirely different routes to give themselves up to God in their own way. As David so succinctly put it, "*Your church needs you right now.*"

Long-time parishioner Susanna Sherwood spoke on her own journey at St. George's that spanned fifty years of sporadic (she was not a local resident) attendance. Calling Fr. Paul and St. George's "our miracles," she ended with "*....even miracles have to be paid for.*" Susanna hit the nail on the head....it takes a dedicated congregation to keep us together and solvent.

Jonathan, David and Susanna gave us "food for thought" as we renew our commitment to keeping St. George's financially sound. We have not quite reached our hoped-for goal of \$130,000 but are getting closer as pledges continue to be received. Pledge cards may be deposited in the offertory plate at Mass or turned in to the Parish office.

*lynn paska, alice polumbo*