



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

December 2013

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



In Georgians' yearly examination of the way in which we give back to our church a portion of the gifts GOD has benevolently bestowed upon us, the challenging, probing theme:

SEEK TO SERVE.....PRAY TO KNOW....PROMISE TO PLEDGE

served as the foundation for our exploration of giving.

St. George's stewardship focus began October 28th and culminated Commitment Sunday, November 17th with one Mass at 10AM. During the three week/four Sunday period, an aspect of the theme was powerfully expounded upon by sermons from guest preachers Rev. Stephen Ryan (Seek to Serve), Rev. Stanley Craig (Pray to Know) and Fr. Paul (Promise to Pledge.)

Commitment Sunday, the day Georgians make their pledge of financial support for the upcoming year, utilized the liturgy of Northern India during which special prayers were read by Karen Perka and Fr. Stephen Ryan. After worship, Georgians gathered in the Great Hall to enjoy a festive, unusual meal and offer their pledge.

The delicious luncheon, centered on foods from the Bible, was prepared and served by the Vestry from a coordinated menu crafted by Chris Henry. Parishioners were also given "food for thought" for suggested ways their parish life participation might be extended.

Everyone was invited to walk a large labyrinth placed on the floor to make their pledge. The labyrinth, a quiet and meditative device, physically represented the prayer and reflection Georgians used in their dedication to be faithful stewards of St. George's for 2014.

A financial pledge permits realistic operational plans for the upcoming year. Many thanks to generous Georgians who have thoughtfully renewed their support. Pledge cards may be turned in at any time either via the offertory plate during worship or weekdays at the office.



alice polumbo

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOUNTEERS

Tom Madelone is our “go to” welder guy. He and Wendy (Adams) were married at St. Bonaface Church and ten years later, in 1981, they officially joined St. George’s (Wendy’s family’s church.) Tom, a hard worker and perfectionist, has been an active volunteer every since.

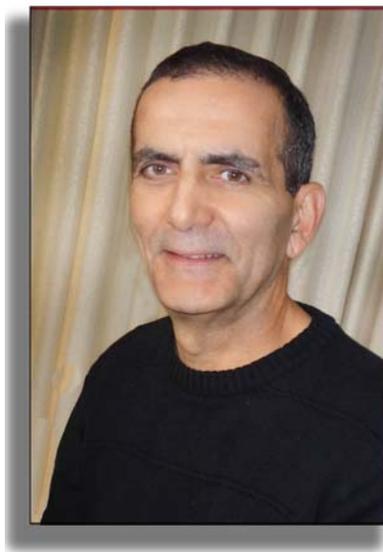
Serving as sexton before and for a short time early in Fr. McSwain’s tenure, Tom is willing and eager to tackle almost any task. “It’s a joy to give back to my church,” he explained. “I’ve been fortunate. I feel gifted with the skills that I have and all the opportunities that came with it. Our church does a lot of good for people who need a place to go to for help without the red tape and bureaucracy.” He utilizes his time and talent for St. George’s because “...it’s not about the money, it’s about volunteering.”

Tom’s father was a welder and Tom, himself, has been a welder all his life. Much of his training was in the Air Force as an aircraft and missiles welder. Now employed as a Special Operations Welder for KAPL, Tom also has a small shop where he does various repairs and fabrications, mainly for small businesses. He has a patent to a Universal Fixturing Tool but admitted, “Getting the patent was easier than marketing it.”

Many years ago, Tom was commissioned by the Garden Club and Vivian Finch for two Memorial Garden projects - the wall trellis, and the arch trellis (which took him a year to build), the latter dedicated to the memory of longtime Georgian, Jack Finch.

Although he’s proud of those commissions, Tom is proudest of all his volunteer church projects, which include:

- (1) Overseeing installation of the new boilers for the church and Cranmer House in 1998.
- (2) Working with David Kennison to repair the church boiler when it failed, leaving no heat in the church one cold Sunday in 2007. After the heating company came, damaged it worse than it had been, and left recommending the church buy a new boiler, David bought the parts then he and Tom spent an entire day in the basement tearing into the boiler.
- (3) Welding/repairing the historic cast iron fence in front of the church.
- (4) Designing/fabricating a stainless steel frame for the Advent wreath that slips into the Paschal candle stand.
- (5) Rebuilding the silver Paschal candle stand that was tilting to one side. Tom disassembled then rebuilt it with custom-made brass counterweight and new central tie rod.
- (6) Later, Tom made a custom-machined water reservoir for the Paschal candle stand for flower arrangements to be placed around the candle.
- (7) Repairing/restoring both the iron scrollwork and the 12-foot hand-forged iron mast for the steeple weathervane. Tom is glad to have been a part of the total team effort of volunteers and paid professionals for the steeple restoration which, he said, was “a true collaboration.”



Humble and unassuming, Tom Madelone deserves admiration and praise for his outstanding work and volunteerism.

lynn paska

FALL OUTREACH



St. George's fall outreach efforts continued building partnerships with various community organizations that assist those in need.

Once again to help keep those warm who struggle during cold weather, Georgians hung 82 fabulous outer garments during our annual fall coat collection. Just after Thanksgiving, 52 women/children's coats along with some blankets, hats, scarves and gloves were dropped off at the YWCA for women in the Y's residential program. The Salvation Army received 30 men's coats for distribution.



During Advent, St. George's is working with Things Of My Very Own, the Stockade based organization that assists Schenectady County foster children, in the creation of holiday gift bags. 24 bags, each identifying a targeted recipient, were scooped up by generous Georgians to fill and return in time for Christmas delivery.

On December 7th at the Eastern Parkway Price Chopper, John Pearson, the Tonneau family, Judy and Gene DeLong, the Jaquith family, Karen and Ed Perka, and Ralph and Alice Polumbo "rang the bell" to assist the Salvation Army in its annual holiday appeal.



St. George's yearly total of donations to the SICM food pantry is closing in on 1,000 pounds. Please remember the food pantry when doing your grocery shopping and perhaps consider an extra item or two to help St. George's reach the 1,000 pound total for 2013.

Our sometimes challenged community offers St. George's numerous ways in which to enact our faith and fulfill our goal to be a blessing. Your ideas of servicing those in need are always welcome.

alice polumbo

THE RECTOR WRITES

I read the other day that a former Archbishop of Canterbury once visited an Episcopal Church in Chicago, it was the Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest, and he described that church and congregation at the time of his visit as being “rooted, restless and ready to grow.” I feel that this comment says a lot about any church, but it certainly says a great deal about us here at St George’s now, and it fits just what I feel is in the air here.



ROOTED - We are a community firmly placed in the Christian tradition as expressed in the Episcopal Church. At the same time, we are a community of seekers, coming from a variety of traditions and denominations, trying to figure out what it means to follow Jesus in the world today. We gather at St George’s because it is a place where we can ask our questions and explore the meaning of faith in our lives. It is a place where we can teach our children, through word and action. It is a place that provides ways to share with those in need.

Anglicans trace their Christian roots back to the early Church, and their specifically Anglican identity to the post-Reformation expansion of the Church of England and other Episcopal or Anglican Churches. Historically, there were two main stages in the development and spread of the Communion. As a worldwide family of churches, the Anglican Communion has more than 70 million adherents in 38 Provinces spreading across 161 countries. Located on every continent, Anglicans speak many languages and come from different races and cultures. Although the churches are autonomous, they are also uniquely unified through their history, their theology, their worship and their relationship to the ancient See of Canterbury.

Anglicans uphold the Catholic and Apostolic faith. Following the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Churches are committed to the proclamation of the good news of the Gospel to the whole creation. In practice this is based on the revelation contained in Holy Scripture and the Catholic creeds, and is interpreted in light of Christian tradition, scholarship, reason and experience.

RESTLESS - Restlessness, I have come to understand, is God calling us home. When we find ourselves feeling bored or restless, it is God whispering in our ear, “Come closer.” This whispering is an invitation to draw closer to the God of our understanding and in doing so, to draw closer to our deepest and most profound truths about who we are and who we are called to be in the world. To put a personal face on God, restlessness is God’s gift to us – the Divine spark of recollection that draws us toward remembering our true nature as One with God, One with ourselves, and One with each other and all of creation. It is this Divine spark that compels us to search until we remember, claim and embrace our highest truth as men and women of compassion, contentment and joy. This Divine spark is God’s gift to us and will feed that inner restlessness until we have come home to God and to our truest selves.

The greatest temptation in our human journey, however, is to believe that the remedy to this restlessness lies outside of ourselves. We seek outside ourselves for the new job, new home, new relationship, new acquisition, etc. that will cure the restlessness within. The truth, however, is that the only sure remedy to this restlessness is God.

Ready to Grow - Spiritual growth is not more knowledge or increase of years. It is simply more of Jesus and less of me. “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). This is what it means to be a disciple. I have preached in this in every parish wherever I have served for almost twenty eight years now. As simple as this is, I am amazed at how few people “get it”. I have observed that it is quite possible to attend church all your life and never hear this being taught. As a result, we can no longer take it for granted that church attendance, in and of itself, will automatically result in mature disciples of Jesus who know how to walk in love and live the life of faith. In fact, the exact opposite seems to occur.

Are you really serious about growing spiritually at St George’s? Here are a few questions that may help you decide.

- Are you ready to stop floating from church to church or small group to small group and form lasting relationships that will make you accountable for your spiritual progress?
- Are you determined to make gathering for Sunday and weekday worship the top priority in your weekly schedule?
- Are you willing to spend time on your own every day pursuing God through spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading, or self-examination?
- Do you have a sense of urgency about knowing God?

In the 17th century there lived a French monk named Brother Lawrence who was so renowned for his spiritual maturity that he was sought out even by religious leaders for instruction. One of them, Joseph de Beaufort, representative and counsel to the local archbishop, published a number of conversations and letters from Brother Lawrence in the now classic book on spirituality *The Practice of the Presence of God*. At the end of de Beaufort's first conversation with the spiritual master, he reports that Brother Lawrence made a kind but rather blunt statement.

"He said that if my purpose for the visit was to sincerely discuss how to serve God, I might come to him as often as I pleased and without any fear of being troublesome. If this was not the case, then I ought to visit him no more." In other words, only serious spiritual seekers need apply.

The early Methodists had the same rule. John Wesley's Fetter Lane Society met every week for self-examination and accountability. The group was open to anyone "of whose sincerity they [were] well assured." Those who weren't serious about spiritual growth were invited not to come. The cost was too high for the others—flakes and free riders simply wasted everyone's time.

Are you serious about growing spiritually?

Your friend and priest, *Fr Paul*

ALL SOULS' DAY 2013

At noon on Saturday, November 2nd, Fr. Paul led a solemn, black-robed procession into the sanctuary to begin a communal requiem for our loved ones. From the first notes of Vierne's stirring Kyrie, the congregation was drawn into this beautiful, solemn All Souls' Day Requiem Mass, "a bridge of faith between us and past worshippers and family members ... The purpose of All Souls' Day *is* remembrance."

Whether it is fresh or of long standing, grief is present in our daily loving thoughts of those we have lost. Fr. Paul read a long list of the deceased while congregants lit candles in their memories -- physical symbols of our love for so many who are gone. And our prayers are always important: "Out of your charity pray for the souls. Pledge not to forget ... Be grounded in prayer."

Jim Wingate's "Visitations" column is on hiatus for another issue....but will resume in March.

Louis Vierne's *Missa Solemnis* colored the Mass, sung by the combined choirs of First United Presbyterian Church, Troy, and our St. Cecelia Choir, conducted by Andrew Krystopolski and accompanied by Maury Castro. With its great waves and ebbs of music, this mass setting evoked power, sadness, and hope. What a glorious sound these many voices produced in St. George's!

The light of candles, words of hope, sounds of glory together created a meaningful Requiem for all who came to commemorate those who are gone.

joan pearson

IN MEMORIAM

Pauline Marie (Polly) Moran

1928 - 2013

"Rest in Peace"

You are missed by your church family and members of the St. Cecelia Choir.



MINISTRY FAIR



The Ministry Fair, held in the Great Hall on September 22nd and continuing through October, was a wonderful time of Georgians coming together to sign up for the various church ministries offered to the St. George's community.

THE BLESSING OF THE PETS



The Annual Blessing of the Pets was held on Sunday, October 6th at 3PM in honor of St. Francis of Assisi whose feast fell on October 4th. Due to inclement weather, the event was held inside the church this year. All creatures great and small on leashes or in crates....and their owners....were welcome.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Nothing is more delicious than a Pancake Breakfast....served between the 9 and 11:15AM Masses on Sunday, October 13th. Prepared by Chef Kevin and his kitchen crew, enjoyed by Georgians feasting in the Great Hall instead of a Diner.

ITALIAN NIGHT AT ST. GEORGE'S



Your name didn't have to be Cilberti, Coppola or Polumbo to enjoy Italian Night at St. George's on Saturday, November 2nd. Even Fahey (Irish), Olszewski (Polish) and Schofield (English) were Italian at this Great Feast!

Before dinner, every ticket holder had the opportunity to "choose your favorite sauce" from 5 sauce-makers in competition: Paul Nooney, Kevin Grace, Minesale's, Testo's, and Casa Visco (the winner.)

Kevin Grace, Paul Nooney and Kimberly Furnish cooked and stirred in the kitchen.

Andrew Sweisz, Charles Burgeron, Jane and Bob Moran worked the buffet line, with Kimberly Furnish finishing her kitchen chores and rushing out to join the servers.

The menu included: Minestrone Soup, Chicken Cacciatore, Meatballs, Eggplant Parmigiana, Shrimp Scampi, various Pastas (Angel Hair, Penne, etc.), homemade Pizzels and Cookies for

dessert. Italian bread and butter were on the tables. Sparkling water, juice, punch, coffee and tea were plentiful.

Ninety dinner tickets were sold (including "take out" and donations), with seventy seated in the Great Hall. Judith Smith sold tickets for the Toshiba 50" LED TV drawing which was held on Sunday, December 8th with Jeff Wengrovius being the big winner! Bob Paska won the Italian Night's 50/50 raffle of \$64, and the Organ Fund was \$750 richer by the end of this fun-filled event.

Those who have been around the Episcopal Church for awhile will no doubt be familiar with the two styles of Eucharistic liturgy that the Church offers – Rite I and Rite II. More recent members have probably wondered what these terms mean and why they even exist. Today, we take a closer look at Rite I and Rite II.



The Last Supper, the first Eucharistic feast depicted in this painting of Juan de Juanes, 16th century.

The Basics Simply put, Rite I and Rite II refer to slightly different types of ritual and ceremony - alternate ways of presenting the same thing, namely a re-presentation of our Lord’s Last Supper. Whether we call it the Mass, Holy Eucharist (from the Greek eucharistia or thanksgiving), Holy Communion or another name, we refer to the essential act that Jesus commanded his disciples to perform – “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” and “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood ...which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

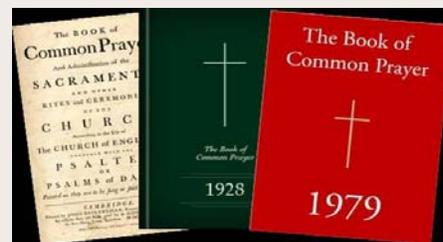


At the Epiclesis, the priest calls down the Holy Spirit to

Immediately afterwards comes the Epiclesis where the priest holds both hands over the bread and the wine and calls down the Holy Spirit into these elements, saying: “Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness.” [Rite II]. Thereupon, the bread and wine are consecrated by His presence. This is the core of the liturgy, a main sacrament of the Church and is common to Rites I and II.

So Why Two Liturgies? Historically, there was only one liturgical style (one Rite) and most recently, that followed the 1928 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) in the United States. In 1979, a new US BCP was released, updated into contemporary language and making changes in some rubrics and shape of the services. This moved the liturgy a short distance away from the Church of England (who use the 1662 BCP, on which the US 1928

BCP was based) and towards the style of the Roman Catholic Church following its realignments of Vatican II.



As these modernizations were being made, a portion of the Church wanted to keep their traditional style and in true Episcopal form a via media (middle way) was proposed, which included the old and the new in the new book. Thus was formed our two liturgical styles - Rites I and II.

Essentially the same in structure, Rite II was contemporary in language and theological style and included more options for various prayers. Rite I was retained, akin to the older 1928 BCP and the piety and language of its Elizabethan roots. There are a number of other changes throughout the liturgy - prayers moved, prayers omitted, prayers made optional, prayers reworded, all too numerous to include here.

Does It Make a Difference? We can be sure that God does not care which ritual and ceremony we use. He asks only that we worship him as our savior and are faithful to his teachings and his sacrifice for us. The Episcopal Church, in its *Articles of Religion* (see Book of Common Prayer, p 874) allows in Article XXXIV that “it is not necessary that Traditions and Ceremonies be in all places one, or utterly like, for at all times they have been diverse, and may be changed according to the diversity of countries, times, and men’s manners, so that nothing be ordained against God’s Word.”

So whatever rite, whatever form of liturgy is used, comes down to local custom and to local and personal preference. St George’s has always been quite proud and protective of its traditional Rite I liturgy for the beauty of its presentation and its ability to elevate the worship of Almighty God from common everyday language. Yet, we also offer weekday a Sunday Rite II liturgies for those who prefer it. Some other churches prefer Rite II all the time. Whatever way, God asks only that we gather together each week for worship.

david kennison

STEEPLE BLESSING



Sunday, November 24th - the Feast of Christ the King - was a monumental one as Georgians from both the 9 and 11:15AM Masses congregated at the west doors and gathered around the base of the restored steeple. The deep cold and blustery wind did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the congregation as Fr. Paul was transported by David Kennison (project manager) 135-feet in the air to give a special blessing and sprinkle the steeple with Holy Water. Prayers of rededication were offered from on high and a resounding cheer went up from the assembled parishioners, as the choir, led by Andrew Krystopolski, broke into song with a hymn of thanksgiving. The press was there to record the event and many pictures were taken of this historic event in the life of St. George's.

Georgians can be proud of the fact that the majority of the \$93,000 project cost was realized through their generosity and dedication to preserving the authenticity of every piece of their historic church. Completing the project cost was an historic preservation award of \$25,000 by the New York Landmarks Conservancy's Robert W. Wilson Sacred Sites Challenge.

CHOIR NOTES

Members of the St. Cecelia Choir (L-R) Bob Moran, Gene DeLong, Diane Nemir-Reed, Joan Pearson, Jeff Wengrovius and Rembert Hebert rehearse with Music Director Andrew Krystopolski at the piano....prior to performing a Musical Outreach Ministry at Heritage Home for Women on Upper Union Street on Sunday, September 29th after the 11:15AM Mass.



- WARDEN'S REPORTS -



Summer and Fall have come and gone since our last issue. Now our new liturgical year begins and, soon, a new fiscal year. Your Vestry has been working diligently to create a balanced budget for the coming year and may actually come closer to having a balanced budget than we have in many years. For a very long time, we have been living slightly above our means; but within the last few years, we have seen our membership strengthen and our numbers rise. Last year, your Vestry and Rector resolved that we needed, at the very least, to lessen this practice. Last year's budget was significantly trimmed and our fund-raising efforts significantly increased to meet our expenses.

This year the gap has become even more narrow. Without any looming large projects, it's our hope that we can finish next year without a deficit for the first time in a long time.

best, chris

Church Alarm Systems Sensors



About a month ago we had a fire alarm in for the Church. The Fire Department could not reset all the areas in the Church after some sensors were found bad. Only part of the alarm system was turned on. Twelve new sensors heads have been installed and are working fine.

rick forshaw

- TREASURER'S REPORT -



As we close out 2013, I have to say it has been an extremely busy year from a financial standpoint. Our operating budget as of December 1st is running pretty close to the estimates we used when the budget was drawn up a year ago. Unfortunately that means we are running a significant deficit, albeit expected.

The good news, however, is what has made this such a busy year from a financial standpoint. We have raised substantial sums of money for both the organ repairs and the steeple repairs. I sincerely thank all of the parishioners who have contributed to these two projects either through help with fund-raising or through generous contributions.

For 2014 the vestry has adopted a very tight budget. We expect a deficit of \$3,574. Nobody likes a deficit, but compare that to the projected deficit of \$29,334 for 2013! It is still too early to know what our pledge contributions will be for 2014, but we are all hopeful that you will completely support the general operations of the church this year. Please pray that St. George's can avoid more major repairs to our aged infrastructure.

jonathan pearson



Start the New Year right....with the purchase of "Divine Temptations," St. George's cookbook that features gluten-free recipes and commentary, recipes from your favorite local restaurants, and 133 pages of new and updated recipes from Georgians, their family and friends. It's perfect for Christmas, New Year's, birthdays, bridal showers, weddings, anniversaries, and any time there's a gift-giving occasion.

The cost is just \$20 per copy, with all proceeds directed toward the organ appeal.

Call the church office (518) 374-3163 to reserve your copy. It's the gift that keeps on giving....all year long.

THE GAZETTE PARADE



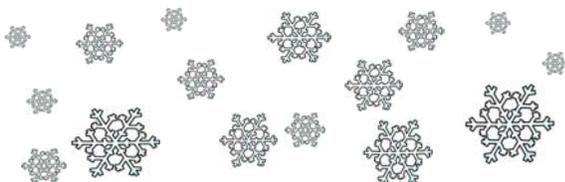
We won 1st Place (\$500) for our float “The Spirit of St. Louis.” This is the 2nd consecutive year we came in first place. The Annual Gazette Holiday Parade theme this year was The Roaring Twenties. “The Spirit of St. Louis” was piloted by Charles Lindbergh also known as “Lucky Lindy.” Again, there were countless hours of design, construction and decoration on this float, making the award so much sweeter for all involved.

The crew included Chris Henry (the pilot, “Lucky Lindy”), Samantha Whiteman, Isaac Furnish, Ava, Trevor and Liam Weakley accompanied by mom Tara Forshaw, and Anna and Jonah Thiessen. Mark & Kimberly Furnish took pictures, Laure Thiessen as the “Statue of Liberty,” and Fr. Paul as “The Frenchman” of Paris. Barb Wengrovius provided more costumes, Jason Benoit in the design and construction. Thanks to Erin, Kathleen, Steven, and Mike for braving the cold to carry our banners. And to David Kennison who came to work on the steeple and gave up his whole day to help with last-minute finishing. As always, this wonderful float is the product of Georgians working together giving their time and talent. A good time was had by all.

Whether you were there not, the temperature was *cold*. The crew of St. George’s was out in the wind. Many, many thanks to those who helped in the making or painting the float/plane again this year. We acknowledge our friends and neighbors at The Schenectady City Chamber of Commerce.

THANK YOU ALL!!

rick forshaw





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The Georgian Report

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CONFIRMATION - SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

On a sparkling fall day, twenty-four candidates marched down the center aisle of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Syracuse to be confirmed by Bishop "Skip" Adams. Readings, reflection, and lively discussions in Fr. Paul's confirmation class ensured that his Georgians were ready for this step.



Appropriately, the Bishop's sermon started with the greatest rock song, "Stairway to Heaven," and how that stairway is our gift from God.

After the sermon each candidate was called forward, and the bishop, sponsor and family members laid hands on him/her while Bishop Adams spoke the words of confirmation. Sponsored by Fr. Paul were Colton Jaquith, Isabelle Jaquith, James Williams, Alan James Whitehead, Joshua Whitehead, Samuel Whitehead, Sunday Whiteman, and Samantha Whiteman.

Samantha and Sunday were oblation bearers during the procession and Joan Pearson sang with the Cathedral Choir. Andrew Krystopolski was assisting organist and choirmaster. Following the service, candidates and guests gathered at a reception in the dining room. After months of study with Fr. Paul, the class has graduated - congratulations!

joan pearson

