



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

March 2013

BISHOP LOVE VISITS ST. GEORGE'S



Waiting for the joint 10AM Mass to start on December 13th.



Bishop William Love presides alongside Father Paul Blanch.



It's a clergyfest: Bishop Love, Father Paul, and Father Wampler.



Bishop Love talks with Pinky Moon and her son Wayne. Pinky was married to her late husband Rex in 1944 at St. George's.



Bishop Love is engrossed in a conversation with David Kennison.



Bishop Love enjoys a laugh with Jeff Wengrovius near the breakfast buffet.

REFLECTIONS OF A SICM SUMMER INTERN

Whenever someone asks where I worked last summer, I never simply say, "SICM." Working at SICM is more than a "place" called Schenectady Inner City Ministry. SICM is a community within itself, inclusive of all people regardless of individual differences.

On Mondays, the busiest day of the week, I worked at the Emergency Food Pantry. Nora Lee yanked me into action the moment I stepped through the threshold of the Pantry on my first day. "I don't have time to show you how things are done," were Nora Lee's first words. "So you're just going to shadow me today." She was right. A truck arrives with food (always later than expected), and a flurry of hands dive into a sea of items to be sorted, packaged and distributed to the waiting people. Albeit organized chaos, it is chaos just the same.

Later on the afternoon of my first Monday, I worked at Wallingford Park as part of the Free Summer Lunch and Edible Playground programs. A family of five young boys was the first to arrive and the last to leave. The youngest were 2 and 3. Their parents were nowhere in sight. The oldest boy could not have been more than 12, yet he was completely responsible for his four siblings. I was in awe. I wasn't in the safety and comfort of the suburbs anymore; no stay-at-home moms or summer nannies. Just a 10-minute drive from my house, and I was in a completely different world.

After the first couple of weeks of the Free Summer Lunch program, I did not see those five boys again. But another family of five children would teach me that maybe I wasn't really in a completely different world. This new family included BJ (my age), Robert, Brendan, Brianna and Anthony (12, 14, 8 and 4, respectively.) I met their mother before I met them; my first impression of her was enough to scare me away. She was tough; not someone to be trifled with; no smile, no nonsense. BJ wanted someone to talk to. Oddly enough, we related to each other on several topics. Robert and Brendan wanted to play pranks on someone, and I was perfect for that role. Brianna was always begging me to hold her; she just wanted to be loved.

Anthony and others helped distribute meals and clean up. As a SICM employee, I thought I was doing something noble. But what I did was nothing, comparatively. I received a paycheck for my work, but I was getting paid in the satisfaction of helping others; meeting some wonderful people, and making true friends along the way. Kids like Anthony were giving what they could, when they hardly had anything to

give.

My last week, an adult intern named Shirley (name has been changed) worked alongside me at Wallingford. She was talkative and through her ceaseless chatter, I learned her remarkable story. Shirley grew up in the Bronx, a tough teenager, much like those we were serving. But Shirley found her strength in the church.

Schenectady Inner City Ministry: isn't that what

it's all about? She put her faith in God, turned her life around, and created a better life. She lives in Schenectady, volunteering at St. Helen's to help pay the tuition so her children may attend school there. Shirley is not ashamed of collecting food stamps; she does what she has to for her children. Ever respectful in her discipline, Shirley maintained the civility of the Free Summer Lunch program. Shirley was inspirational and I am truly honored to have met such an amazing woman.

The overriding lesson of the summer for me was not to judge a book by its cover. Big and tall boys towered over me. Strong, tough girls were covered in piercings and tattoos. I was initially put off. But I listened, with interest, to their stories. Luckily, they did the same for me. One boy wore his pants around his knees, showing his boxers off to the world. A couple of weeks before my last day, he respected me enough to pull them up around his waist where they belonged when I told him that the "look" was not appropriate. Another boy waited for my ride to pick me up every day so that I would never be alone in the park; by the end of the summer, we had a secret handshake. I forged meaningful relationships with many of the teens we served. I hope to see a few of them, for I already miss them all terribly.

From my first day as a SICM intern, I could think of ways to incorporate my experiences into my anticipated career: journalism. There are so many stories to tell, and I look forward to telling them. Wallingford Park was my summer home, where I hope to return as a SICM intern this year. Beyond that, the value of service to others has been forever ingrained into me and for that, I am the one who is thankful.



olivia jacquith

OUTREACH

The Winter months have not been a quiet time for Outreach initiatives at St. George's.

Isabelle and Josh Whitehead, Jon Pearson, Susanna Sherwood, Karen and Ed Perka, Barbara Todt, Nancy Angus, Judy DeLong, and Ralph and Alice Polumbo spent Saturday morning, December 8th at the Eastern Avenue Price Chopper ringing in the holidays for the Salvation Army's annual bell ringing appeal. \$215 was collected during St. George's shift that will go toward the various Salvation Army programs that serve our community.



St. George's 2013 Outreach started with the pot luck dinner at Bethesda House, done, once again, in collaboration with St. Stephen's. Many Georgians donated a wide variety of deli-



Allison & Anna Thiessen



Tom Madelone, James & Josh Whitehead

icious homemade dishes that were served to Bethesda House guests Sunday afternoon, February 10th between 3 and 4PM. Georgians on hand to help with dinner service also had the opportunity to renew acquaintances and share fellowship with members of St. Stephen's.



With the arrival of Lent, our parish is undertaking the composition of hygiene kits for donation to Bethesda House. These basic needs items are offered to Bethesda House guests seeking to maintain some consistency in their personal care. Empty kit bags with the requested contents listed along with a collection box are located at the Great Hall foyer Outreach showcase. St. George's hopes to turn over 40 hygiene kits to Bethesda House, one for each day of Lent, shortly after Holy Week concludes.

St. George's is once again hopeful of placing a young Georgian, between the ages of 16 and 23, in SICM's summer intern program. Materials and an application have been mailed to those meeting the age eligibility. If you fit the age qualification and haven't received an invitation to take part, please call the office.



With spring's arrival comes CROP Walk, a SICM-coordinated event sponsored by Church World Services. St. George's is hopeful of improving on last year's initial efforts largely led by Wendy and Tom Madelone. Mark your calendars now, CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk steps into gear on Sunday afternoon, May 5th.

alice polumbo

THE RECTOR WRITES

“Liturgical worship is dead.” “God only likes extemporaneous prayer, not ‘canned’ prayers.”

“Anglican worship is boring! Get up, dance, have some fun!”

I have heard every single one of these objections (and then some) to liturgical worship. I have probably made some of these claims in my youth. To a non-Christian, the word “liturgical” might mean the worship is not lively, but as Christians, the implications are more serious. When someone calls a church “dead” they mean that the worship is not only boring or stale, but that it is not following the will of God, that it has turned its back on “true” Christian worship or worse again that God has turned his back on that church.



The only way a church can be free from ritual and rote is to do everything new each week. I guess such a church might exist, but it would have to switch buildings, and even members, to be totally free from tradition and ritual. Imagine church like that... newly composed hymns each week, new music genres and instruments, readings from all sorts of sacred texts, different members attending weekly, worship services on different days and times, and switching buildings. Even then, after a while, the factors I just mentioned become rituals of their own. One could go crazy trying to completely escape ritual.

The question then becomes, “what kind of ritual do I want to participate in?” This might boil down to a matter of personality style, personal history, etc. But well let’s face it, when all is said and done, if one is going to be ritualistic, one might as well worship in a well-grounded, biblical, and historical ritual that has been proved over the centuries. This is where ancient Christian liturgy comes in.

Among many Christians, Liturgical worship has attracted a terrible reputation. The problem is that liturgy has become synonymous with “boring.” Many picture a handful of elderly individuals in an old church simply repeating prayers long after they actually believed the words to them – I must admit this is something that does worry me about the liturgy, because I often feel that some people who recite the words have little care for the meaning. In reality, liturgy comes from the Greek word meaning “*work of the people*,” and it describes a form of worship, directed to God, by God’s people. Going by that definition we could describe almost every worship service as “liturgical” (in one way or another), but obviously the worship of some churches involves more work of more people.

Liturgy is not synonymous with rote either. Liturgy when done well, and done historically, leaves much room for extemporaneous prayers and petitions, as well as songs and hymns of different styles and ages, different colors, different church seasons, and scripture readings and this is really where Anglicanism has begun to shine. Liturgy can be traditional and less traditional, and all liturgy should not be judged by bad liturgy. In fact, the great variety allowed in liturgical worship actually rivals that of non-liturgical churches, whose colors, songs, and moods often remain the same the entire year. Most liturgical churches including our Episcopal Church have a lectionary, which means that over three years, 95% of the Bible will be read aloud in Church. Every Sunday, an Old Testament, New Testament, Gospel, and Psalm reading are read aloud. Also, the common liturgies of the Anglican, Roman and Eastern Churches are lifted almost entirely from the Bible.

Those of us who use a liturgy in our services participate in another important way: we often celebrate the Eucharist weekly or daily, continually observing Christ’s command to “do this in remembrance of me.” Eucharist, which most

people over here probably call the Lord's Supper or Communion, is the coming of the entire community to God's table to partake of Christ's body and blood and to remember his one sufficient sacrifice for our sins on the cross. For us communion is the main event in our worship, rather than the preaching. The sermon is simply a 10-20 minute reflection on the gospel, occurring near the middle of the worship service. Of course the Eucharist requires active participation by the community. No one can passively participate in the Eucharist, simply because it requires you to stand and sit, and at least leave your seat (although one can choose to simply remain still... and reflect).

This is not to say we Anglicans and our Roman and Orthodox brothers and sisters don't have a lot to learn from our more Pentecostal brothers and sisters who worship in a more "contemporary" way. Contemporary praise and worship services are full of enthusiasm, purpose, and a general excitement about one's faith. While all of these elements can be taken to excess – and can even be abused, we Anglicans could learn to be a little more enthusiastic and purposeful about our faith. Even long sermons do provide a good chance for religious education and hearing the message of God and they can be of real benefit.

Now whenever somebody asks me if liturgical worship is dead, I explain to them what liturgical worship is, its basis in true Biblical Worship, especially in the worship of the ancient Hebrews, its celebration of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, its reflection of every emotion through the celebrations of the church year, and its use of common prayer to unite the community. I tell them that liturgy includes room for contemporary worship as well as more ancient forms and if they are curious, I invite them to a service, and I hope they will see that far from being dead, many of us liturgical Christians are very much alive in our faith in Jesus Christ, whose body and blood we partake of weekly, worshiping with Christians past and present all to the Glory of God.

Your friend and priest, Fr Paul

SHOP & DRAGON'S DEN NEWS

The ever-popular White Dragon Sale has morphed into The Dragon's Den. The Den is set up to receive buyers, every few months, in the "tag sale room," second floor of our Education Building.

The Consignment Shop in Cranmer House has been emptied, freshened, and will open with a new format after Easter...featuring a local artisan each month. The first artisan scheduled will be our own multi-talented Jim Williams, who will show his collection of handmade jewelry (sterling silver and gold wire with natural gem elements.) Jim will be available to sell and consult on special orders.

A selection of unique seasonal items will also be available in the store.

Donations of items for the Den and Shop are always welcome. A Tax Deductible receipt is available for your generosity. Contact: Rosemary Pannone (334-5521) or Rick Forshaw (369-8275.)

rosemary pannone

GARDENS AT ST. GEORGE'S

Spring will be with us soon. We will be adopting our gardens again this year: very small gardens and very large gardens, a garden for everyone from novice to expert, some requiring only minimal care and others more labor intensive. Most garden work is done at your own scheduling.

If you had a garden last season and wish to do it again, check the list of availability and please sign up. See the "Gardens" board in the the Great Hall lobby, call Rosemary Pannone (334-5521), or email: rosiesrags@yahoo.com.

rosemary pannone

A Eucharistic Workshop was led by Bill Ryon of St. Paul's Church, Washington, DC from Friday evening January 18th-Saturday afternoon January 19th. This 3-session investigation of the biblical, historical and theological foundation of the Lord's Supper was well received by all participants: Richard Angelo, Judy DeLong, Patricia Gibbons, Chris Henry, Anne Kennison, David Kennison, Wendy Madelone, Diane Nemir-Reed, Susanna Sherwood, Barb Wengrovius, Jim Williams, and Dennis Wisnom.

CHRISTMAS 2012



As Fr. Paul lit the first Advent candle and ushered in this holy season of anticipation, we expected more than shopping, parties and overeating. We could attend Wednesday evening classes of topics chosen by the participants, Christmas choir rehearsals on Tuesdays and Sundays, Bishop Love's visitation on the third Sunday of Advent, and the Northeast Parent and Child Choir Sing on a very busy fourth Sunday of Advent.

Tragically, our smooth, joyful preparation was blasted by the shootings in Newtown. All of us were shattered, and we constantly held the victims, families and community in our hearts and prayers.

Everyone who helped "hang the greens" on December 23rd looked to Louis Bannister for guidance, thus the candle stands placed elegantly and visibly in the windows, nestled in greenery and wreaths. The creche, again, constructed by resident carpenters, held the welcome new (durable) Nativity figures, Wise Men approaching from the East. Jeff Wengrovius set a mood, playing Christmas carols as we worked.

At 11:30 on Christmas Eve, violinists Sean Jones and Sarah Becker accompanied Andrew in Joseph Haydn's *Concerto in C Major for Organ*, followed by "Oh come, all ye faithful..." and a grand procession to the creche with Baby Jesus. Christmas

arrived with the sounds of Everett Titcomb's beautiful Communion Service in F Major and familiar readings about the Prince of Peace and Jesus' birth, with favorite Christmas hymns, and with Kali Rose Moran and Isabelle Whitehead's gorgeous duet of Antonio Vivaldi's *Selections from Magnificat*. In his sermon, Fr. Paul affirmed that there is a place for all of us at the manger, always something we can do in the love of Jesus. With the violins of Joshua Whitehead, Sean, and Sarah again accompanying the organ, Mass concluded and the Sweets and Savories reception began, organized by feastmaster Chris Henry.

Kings Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar joined the creche on the Feast of the Epiphany, when Fr. Paul challenged us to remember and share God's unconditional love. We each left Mass with a gift, blessed chalk, and an assignment - to use the chalk to write 20 + C + M + B + 13 over or near the door to our homes. Writing the date of the New Year plus the initials of the Three Kings and saying this prayer blesses our homes for the coming year:

"God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen."

joan pearson

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2013



Reflections of the Annual Parish Meeting, on Sunday, January 27th...in pictures and words. Fellowship. Kevin Grace's lasagna dinner. Vestry elections (congratulations to Mike Thiessen, Jeff Wengrovius and Bob Paska). Ministry reports. Fr. Paul's annual message. Vestry clerk Joyce Braun's notetaking. Jon Pearson's treasurer report. Tributes to Joan Bessarab, Joy Adams, Ann Duff and Aileen Smith-Caruso for operating the Consignment Shop for many years. Above all, ***WE ARE THE CHURCH***, which is evident from this yearly anticipated event.



RAFFLE



Participating in the Annual Meeting Raffle realized \$305 for St. George's, and those who bought tickets had a chance to take home some nice prizes. Congratulations to the five winners: Bob Moran (bottle of wine and 4 gold-rimmed glasses), Meg Hughes (Thumbelina-sized porcelain basket and personal products gift basket), Amy Button (box of Gardner's peanut butter meltaways), Charlie Richardson (cheeseboard with dome and bag of Moose Crunch), and Dawn Tonneau (swan-shaped candy dish.)

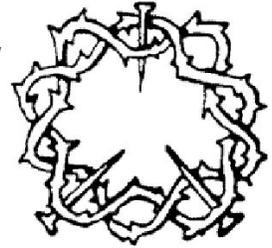
alice polumbo

The Origins of Lent



We all know that Lent is a period of preparation for Easter – through prayer, introspection and self-denial, right? But how and why did this start? What should we be doing during Lent?

Lent derives from the Anglo-Saxon *lencten*, meaning “Spring,” and *lenctentid*, which not only means “Springtide” but also “March,” the month in which most of Lent falls.



Lent in the Earliest Days Since the earliest Church, there is evidence of Lenten preparation for Easter. St. Irenaeus (d. 203) wrote to Pope Victor I on the celebration of Easter and the differences between practices in the East and the West: *“The dispute is not only about the day, but also about the actual character of the fast. Some think that they ought to fast for one day, some for two, others for still more; some make their ‘day’ last 40 hours. Such variation in the observance did not originate in our own day, but very much earlier, in the time of our forefathers”*. Translated from Greek into Latin, the punctuation between “40” and “hours” made the meaning appear to be 40 days, twenty-four hours a day. However, since the time of the apostles — a 40-day period of Lenten preparation existed, albeit with inconsistent practice and duration.



Center panel of a famous triptych by Paul Rubens, 1815, currently in the cathedral of Our Lady, in Antwerp, Belgium. Full of drama and power, the cross with Jesus is raised.

Lent became more regular after Christianity’s acceptance in 313 AD. The Council of Nicea in 325, noted that two provincial synods should be held each year, *“one before the 40 days of Lent.”* St. Athanasius (d. 373) implored his congregation to make a 40-day fast prior to the more intense fasting of Holy Week. St. Cyril of Alexandria (d. 444) noted the practices and duration of Lent, emphasizing the 40-day period of fasting. Pope Leo (d. 461) preached that the faithful must *“fulfill with their fasts the Apostolic institution of the 40 days”*. By the end of the 4th century, the 40-day period of Lent existed, with prayer and fasting as its primary focus.

Why 40 Days? The number “40” is found throughout the bible. In his preparation for the Ten Commandments, “Moses stayed on Mount Sinai with the Lord for 40 days and 40 nights, without eating any food or drinking any water” (Ex 34:28). Elijah walked “40 days and 40 nights” to the mountain of the Lord, Mount Horeb [Sinai] (1 Kgs 19:8). Jesus fasted and prayed for “40 days and 40 nights” in the desert before he began his public ministry (Mt4:2).

The next issue was to establish how much fasting was required. In Jerusalem, people fasted for 40 days, Monday-Friday, but not Saturday-Sunday, thereby making Lent last for 8 weeks. In Rome and in the West, people fasted for 6 weeks, Monday-Saturday, making Lent last for 6 weeks and this became the standard practice, with Ash Wednesday bringing the number of fast days to 40.

How to Fast? The rules of fasting varied, with some areas abstaining from all meat and animal products, while others allowed fish. Pope Gregory (d. 604), writing to St Augustine of Canterbury, said: *“We abstain from flesh, meat, and from all things that come from flesh, as milk, cheese and eggs.”*

The general rule was to have one meal a day, in the evening or at 3 pm, which evolved to allow a smaller daytime meal to keep up one’s strength from manual labor. Dispensation was given for eating dairy products if pious work was performed, and eventually this rule was eliminated. Simplification continues, even to the present day. Our daily life doesn’t stop just because Lent is here. The challenge is to observe the spirit of Lent while living in a secular culture, to remain in the world but not become a product of the world.

Lent Today There is no need to act like a Pharisee looking for a loophole. Focus on spiritual works, walk the Stations of the Cross, attend weekday Mass, take time for personal prayer, make a good confession, receive absolution, repent of sin, renew your faith and prepare to joyfully celebrate the mysteries of our salvation.



La Pietà by Michelangelo, the body of Jesus on the lap of his mother Mary after the Crucifixion, currently in St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican.

MARDI GRAS 2013



Who needs New Orleans? At St. George's we have great Big Easy jazz, beads, and Cajun food of our own. From 5:00-5:30 on February 10th, "Jellyroll Jeff" Wengrovius warmed up Mardi Gras with ragtime favorites on the piano. Soon the Great Hall burst with partygoers dancing to Andy K and the Jazz All-Stars, featuring saxophonist Keith Pray, bassist Linda Brown, drummer Bill Harrison, singer Linda Harrison, and pianist Andrew Krystopolski. Children decorated their masks and hats with feathers and stars and added to the celebration in every way. A sumptuous buffet of jambalaya, gumbo, red beans and rice, seafood etoufee, blackened chicken, and

muffalettas was produced by Chef Kevin and assistants Amy Machold, Michelle Whitehead, James Whitehead, and Karen Hess. Traditional king cakes yielded up a lucky coin to one person at each table.

Of course there were wonderful raffle prizes: gift certificates to Hartz Family Cleaners, dinners at Petta's Restaurant, a night at the Stockade Inn, and an outing for two on Dutch Apple Cruises. At evening's end the cleanup crew reluctantly replaced New Orleans with our familiar Great Hall. Music, food, dancing, prizes, laughter -- a good time with good friends.

joan pearson



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FR. WAMPLER



On the occasion of his 90th birthday, Fr. Wampler was surprised! by a breakfast buffet, cards, gifts, and a cake from the congregation at St. George's.



- WARDENS REPORTS -

So much excitement since our last issue! I will try to be short and sweet in my comments. Since the glories of Christmas have gone by, we have had a wonderful injection of life and happening at St. George's through the bleak winter months.



We have seen renewal of the "shop" through a holiday clearance sale and again last month with merchandise from the "Tag Sale" overflow. We've turned over a new leaf, moving from a consignment-based operation to regular retail-based concept that seems to be proving very popular.

We've continued to secure the funds needed to repair our Moller organ. We are nearing our goal of \$40,000. Who would have believed we could have raised such an amount through our events and activities? This year's events kicked off with the ever-popular Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day parties. These proved to be fruitful not only financially but moreso as an outreach of fellowship to the Stockade community in which we live. Next it will be time to tackle that Steeple Fund.

Our budget will be challenging this year with our deficit projection. But your Vestry is committed to reducing costs without compromising services wherever possible. If this is not enough, well, we know we have the talent and ability within ourselves to actually raise the money.

With all that said, I feel the need to thank you all personally for the trust you have placed in me as your newest Warden. I am honored and humbled by that trust, and I will endeavor to serve you all, St. George's, and, above all, Almighty God, to the best of my ability.

Yours in Christ, chris henry

Cranmer House Roof - We had a leak for the second time near the same area. This caused damage to the ceiling again. Roofers found nails starting to come through and splitting. It has been recommended that we replace the roof. Estimated cost \$32,000. Perhaps we can just replace the flat part of the roof. The splits have been repaired. We will keep monitoring the roof.



Great Hall Kitchen

Last month the hot water tank for the kitchen and bathrooms stopped working. The commercial tank would cost about \$5,500 for a new water heater. The heater has been repaired for \$365. We will monitor it for leaks. The tank was installed in 1987. We hope we can extend its time before we are forced to replace it.

rick forshaw

- TREASURER'S REPORT -



Is your estate plan up to date? You may have heard that with the passage of new tax laws, the federal government has permanently raised the limit for estate taxes. But that doesn't mean it isn't an important issue for you to address. If you don't have a Will, New York State will decide how your money should be split up. Do you think your spouse should get everything, or do you think a substantial portion should go to your kids even though your spouse survives you? The New York State plan for your estate might surprise you.

While you are thinking about your estate, please think about St. George's. A simple clause in your will can specify that a certain percentage of your estate, or a specific dollar amount, should go to St. George's. Our church wouldn't be where it is today without the generous support of former parishioners in their Wills. Please talk to Fr. Blanch or me about how you can add St. George's to your estate plans.

jonathan pearson iv

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

At the annual parish meeting, two gentlemen were honored for their long-term volunteer services to St. George's. One basically grew up in our church; the other is a transplant who found a church home and family here. With a combined service of 24+ years, they were recognized through accolades and gifts for their unwavering leadership and ministry.

David Kennison served as Senior Warden for four terms including one virtually complete term for an elected parishioner who resigned shortly after the election. In this capacity, he has served as right-hand man to two rectors, and held St. George's together during our priest-less interim. Prior to that, David served on Vestry for two full terms. During his fourteen consecutive years of service, his wife says the church saw more of him than she did! This has changed, however, as In the Kitchen with David (not QVC host Venable but former St. George's senior warden Kennison) means a home-cooked meal awaiting Anne's arrival from work each night...or, hot take-out containers on the table. But, you haven't seen the last of him! Years ago, he assumed other duties: (1) Sacristan, or supervisor/trustee of the operation of the church sacristies aka ordering/organizing/overseeing sacred vestments and vessels; (2) Acolyte Master, and (3) Parish Scheduler, the latter two encompass scheduling and training acolytes, readers, greeters and counters.

Uppermost in his daily routine these days, however, is "chief cook and bottle washer" on Myron Street.

Bob Paska volunteered as financial secretary of St. George's for ten years. What started as a few hours of ministry morphed into a part-time job of (weekly) paying bills, maintaining contributions, issuing reports, analysis work; (bi-monthly) issuing payroll service; (monthly) reconciling cash account to bank statement, printing financial reports; (yearly) distributing financial and individual contribution statements, closing the accounting books; (miscellaneous) ordering/maintaining/assigning contribution boxes, supervising the counters' stations, auditing accounts, coordinating financial concerns with the treasurer as well as the office. Church growth, and the job escalated just as his immediate family changed (pun intended!) After much soul-searching, Bob resigned as of 12/31/12. "It was time," he said....for a new type of volunteering: co-babysitting twin granddaughters. Bob is planning to teach them the world of spread sheets, debits and credits at an early age so that they might follow in his love of accounting. Bob is a member of the choir, counter, summer greeter, and was elected to Vestry at the annual meeting.



SAFE GUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

On December 15th, ten people attended the "Safe Guarding God's Children" course that was specifically intended for those in parish leadership roles. This is the second time this informative course has been offered.

Those attending were: Lisa Russo, Barb Wengrovius, Judith Smith, Karen Perka, Fr. Paul and Maggie Blanch, Chris Henry, Dawn Tonneau, Michelle Whitehead, and Diane Nemir-Reed.



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CHOIR VISITATION*



Gathered around Polly's bedside (L-R) were: Bob Moran, Jeff Wengrovius, Suzanne Hartz, Joan Pearson, Rembert Hebert, Wendy Madelone, Bob Paska, Kali Rose Moran, and music director Andrew Krystopolski, who accompanied the singers on the keyboard.

Polly Moran is a long-time member of St. George's and a staunch advocate for our music program. She lives with her son Bob, daughter-in-law Jane, and grandchildren JJ and Kali Rose, all of whom are active in our church and/or choir. Polly was treated to a private concert by members of the St. Cecelia Choir, who visited her at home after the Annual Parish Meeting. During the impromptu "concert," Polly telephoned her brother and held up the phone so that he could hear the singers for himself.

* **NOTE:** the regular Visitations is on vacation. Jim Wingate will be back again in the June issue with his very popular column.

Pardon us for "tightening our belt," but The Georgian Report is doing its share to offset St. George's expenses. Starting with the March issue, we will be publishing electronically only and, as usual, will be available to read on our website. We will have a limited number of hardcopies in the Narthex for those who do not have computers, and for distribution to those in our visitation ministry. This is a cost-effective way of producing our newsletter and eliminating bulk mail, without sacrificing quality.