



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

March 2014

CANDLEMAS 2014



On February 2nd we celebrated Candlemas, the Feast of Light, Jesus' presentation at the temple. After a prayer for "the light of faith," blessing candles for the coming year, Fr. Paul, acolytes, choir and congregation sang of "Christ, the Light of all Creation" during a candlelit procession around the church.

Fr. Paul's sermon visualized the presentation of new baby Jesus to elderly Simeon and Anna as the meeting of two traditions, the old and the new, resulting in something different. We shouldn't be spectators in our faith but must ourselves decide where to go with it, what to make with it.

The familiar words of Simeon, the Nunc Dimittis, began the service and also accompanied communion. Kathrine Burke, a friend of Andrew, composed the lovely communion setting of the Nunc Dimittis. Christian Ritter directed the combined voices of the New York Catholic Chorale and our St. Cecelia Choir, bringing additional joy to Harold Darke's "A Mass in A minor." Candlemas became a Feast of Light in our own sanctuary of light.

joan pearson

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

From Fr. Paul's "State of the Parish" address to a fantastic Italian meal prepared by Chef Kevin Grace and his band of kitchen helpers, the Annual Parish Meeting was a gathering of facts, fellowship and food after a combined 10AM Mass on Sunday, January 19th. Jon Pearson gave the Treasurer's Report. Joyce Braun took notes as Clerk of the Vestry. Andrew Krystopolski spoke briefly on his music ministry. Jane Moran and Louisa Carr were elected to the Vestry. Tom Madelone and David Kennison were acknowledged for their volunteer work on the steeple project. Raffle winners, including Wendy Madelone, claimed their prizes. Barb

Wengrovius and Sandee Hughes were cited for twenty years of dedicated service to Christian Education. Thanks also went out to the outgoing Vestry members (Alice Polumbo and Joyce Braun), the church wardens (Chris Henry and Rick Forshaw), and the paid office staff (Donna Vrooman, Gerald Cooper and Dawn Tonneau.) Clutching their Annual Meeting brochures and Parish Surveys, Georgians "waddled" out of The Great Hall stuffed to the gills with fresh fruit, salad, garlic bread, eggplant parmigiana, lasagna, steamed vegetables, and a variety of desserts. Once again, Kevin....you outdid yourself !!!

lynn paska





THE RECTOR WRITES

You may recall that I set the year 2014 to be a “Year of Boldness” for St. George’s Church and its people, taking into account our huge success last year in keeping our heads above water financially, but also continuing to see real Church growth and development. This year sees the visit of Bishop Peter Danaher from Geelong in Australia leading us in some exciting sessions on growth and development, culminating in a joyous Pentecost celebration. So with all this in mind I offer the parish a prayer often attributed to Sir Francis Drake. I love this challenging prayer, a call to the adventurous life.



Sir Francis Drake was England’s most famous sailor and explorer, he sailed around the world in a ship called the ‘The Golden Hind’ in 1580 In 1588 he led the outnumbered British Navy to defeat the Spanish Armada, no mean feat. This powerful prayer was allegedly found in his ship’s diary, written on the eve of one of his great adventures.

**Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.**

**Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.**

**Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.**

**We ask you to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push back the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.**

**This we ask in the name of our Captain,
Who is Jesus Christ.**

Christians have played a vital role in events that have shaped history. It is good to be reminded of those who have gone before. It is good for our children to learn of the courage, accomplishments and prayers of those who have trusted Christ. Drake was the son of a Protestant preacher. Sir Francis Drake, like all

figures of human history, had his strengths and his weaknesses. But, as you can see from the prayer above, he was passionate about his faith in Christ. This prayer applies as equally to our lives as it did to his. May we have the courage to pray it again here in St George's with real boldness?

We need to remember that past boldness is no assurance of future boldness. True spiritual boldness demands continual reliance on God's spirit through prayer and worship, through faith and trial – only then we will see that to which God is calling us. I offer the Prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake as a powerful and useful reflection on all we try to do here at St George's. I remember someone once saying that people who make no mistakes in life lack boldness and the true spirit of adventure. Such people are in fact the brakes on the wheels of progress!

Your friend and priest,

Fr Paul

FR. WAMPLER'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY MASS



It was appropriate that approximately 60 Georgians, friends and neighbors attended a very special mass celebrating Fr. Delos Wampler's 60th Anniversary to the priesthood on Saturday, December 21st at 9AM in our Lady Chapel. Accolades, gifts and cards were presented to this beloved priest who is admired by all who have the pleasure of knowing him.



YOUTH NEWS

"Boat Boy" in training

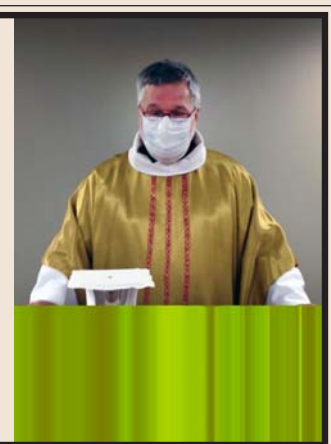
Dylan Friello

pictured with Thurifer

Maggie Blanch.



Who is that "masked man" and what is he doing? Not a surgeon ready to operate, but Fr. Paul giving communion to Schenectady nursing home residents! Because of flu outbreaks in NYS, even Rectors take unusual precautions.



CHRISTMAS 2013



Perhaps shoppers felt shortchanged by Advent this year, but not the worshippers at St. George's who found the Namaste Ensemble, Fr. Wampler's 60th anniversary, choir rehearsals, acolyte training, hanging the greens, and reception planning as well as daily and Sunday services. In every aspect we were challenged to remember others, not to focus on our own wants.



At Advent Lessons and Carols on December 8th, Fr. Paul bid us to pray for "the poor and hopeless; the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children..." Monies from the collection went to A Thousand Moms, an organization dedicated to the emotional, developmental, and social needs of LGBT/Q youth in the child welfare system. After music and scripture readings the congregation gathered at Lawrence's statue for the lighting of the Stockade Christmas tree and then refreshments at Arthur's.



Hanging the Greens required less hammering this year as the old wooden creche was retired and Nativity figures placed on a centered platform where everyone could see them. Candles, greenery, wreaths, ribbons, garlands, Wise Men approaching from the East readied the church for Christmas.



We welcomed Baby Jesus with acclamations and processions and joyful songs at Midnight Mass. Sean Jones, Megan Bouyea, and Joshua Whitehead added their violins to the music of organ and choir and the joyous *Mass of the Nativity* of Richard Shephard. In his sermon, Fr. Paul included a poem by Christine Rosetti: "Love came down at Christmas, / Love all lovely, love divine; / Love was born at Christmas; / Star and angels gave the sign..." Because God wanted to be one of us, to be vulnerable, He can now fully understand what it is like to be human. After Mass everyone feasted at a reception organized by Chris Henry, Kevin Grace, Michelle Whitehead, Dan and Amy Machold, and Bob and Jane Moran.



prayer for blessing our homes in the coming year. By inscribing 20+C+M+B+14 on the lintels of our fronts doors we write the year, 2014, and the initials of the Three Kings, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. And so we begin the New Year, with a simple chalked inscription and a prayer for good health and spiritual protection in our homes.

joan pearson



Christmas isn't over until Epiphany, when the Magi arrive bringing gold, incense, and myrrh. Fr. Paul distributed chalk that he blessed along with a

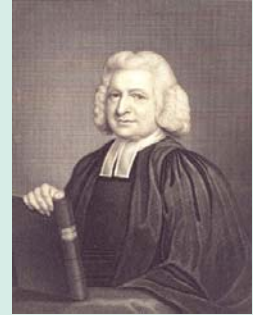


EPISCOPAL EDUCATION

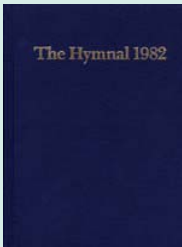
Charles Wesley – The Greatest Hymn Writer of All Ages?

Who doesn't like to sing a familiar hymn at Sunday Mass? Combining sacred music and words, hymns form an integral part of our solemn liturgy. Hymns are written to reinforce scriptural text so singing really is praying. St Augustine put it best: "He who sings, prays twice". Where do all our hymns come from? Who wrote them? Many hymns were written by a prolific author, Charles Wesley, who wrote over 6,500 hymns. In this article, we learn more about his life.

Charles Wesley, hymn writer and Methodist, was born in Epworth, England in 1707, the youngest of 19 children. He attended Oxford, where he was more interested in socializing than Scripture — he wrote later: "My first year at College I lost in diversions." His older, more serious brother, John, wrote about Charles: "He pursued his studies diligently, and led a regular, harmless life; but if I spoke to him about religion, he would warmly answer, 'What, would you have me be a saint all at once?' and would hear no more".



John Wesley, Anglican, Methodist and author of over 6,500 hymns.



The Hymnal 1982 contains over 23 Wesley hymns.

During his years at Oxford, Charles Wesley had a spiritual awakening. He wrote to John: "It is owing, in great measure, to somebody's prayers (my mother's most likely) that I am come to think as I do; for I cannot tell myself how or why I awoke out of my lethargy." He formed a group with three fellow students, and they devoted their days to studying the Bible and praying, minimizing everything else — not only socializing but also eating and sleeping. They were mocked by fellow students. John Wesley wrote: "From the very beginning — from the time that four young men united together — each of them was a man of one book. They had one, and only one, rule of judgment. [...] They were continually reproached for this very thing, some terming them in derision Bible Bigots; others, Bible Moths; feeding, they said, upon the Bible as moths do on cloth." The names Bible Bigots and Bible Moths didn't last, but another student, seeing how methodical the young men were, nicknamed them "Methodists," which stuck. John Wesley returned to Oxford and took over as leader of the Methodists.

The Wesley brothers' first mission as Methodists was a failure. After Charles graduated, John convinced him to become ordained and accompany him as a missionary to the Colony of Georgia. Charles reluctantly agreed, and about two weeks after his ordination, the brothers set sail. John to Savannah and Charles to the new settlement of Frederica on St. Simons Island. Charles immediately ran into trouble. His strict religious habits were unwelcome to the settlers. And he was 28 years old, a handsome and eligible bachelor, prime material for gossip. Two married women named Beata Hawkins and Anne Welch told Wesley that his boss, Governor James Oglethorpe, had tried to sleep with them; then they told Oglethorpe the opposite - that Wesley had tried to seduce them, in town and on board the ship. The gossip spread quickly, the women's husbands became angry and violent, and both Oglethorpe and Wesley believed the rumors about each other. Eventually, it was clear that the women had made it all up, but Wesley was overwhelmed and returned to England. As he was leaving, Oglethorpe gave him some parting advice; he said: "On many accounts I should recommend to you marriage, rather than celibacy. You are of a social temper, and would find in a married state the difficulties of working out your salvation exceedingly lessened." Back in England, Charles did get married, to a woman named Sarah; their marriage was a long and happy one, full of mutual respect.



Even the angels sing to pray. Painting by Jan van Eyck, 1390-1440, "Angels Singing and Playing Music" St Bavo Cathedral Ghent, Belgium.

The trip to Georgia had another profound influence on Wesley. On the ship, many of his fellow passengers were German Moravians, and they constantly sang hymns together. This was a radical idea — the Anglican Church had beautiful choirs, but the congregation never joined in. When he returned to England, Wesley began to write hymns that could be sung by congregations, and it became his life's work. He sometimes wrote a hymn every day, using popular songs for the tunes. The Wesley brothers traveled around England, preaching in the open air, and Charles continued to write on the road. By the time of his death at the age of 80, he had published more than 4,500 hymns, and left thousands more in manuscript form. His hymns include "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending," "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," and "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," in which he wrote:

*"Other refuge have I none;
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,*

*Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
All my help from thee I bring;*

*Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of thy wing."*

Kind acknowledgement is made to The Writer's Almanac from American Public Media, which in their Dec 18, 2013 edition contained much biographical information from which this article has drawn.

david kennison

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOUNTEERS

Although she only wears a size 6, those stepping into Alice Polumbo's Outreach and Stewardship shoes have mighty big foot-steps to follow.

Each year, each Vestry member is assigned a particular ministry. For Alice, Outreach reached out to her in 2008 when she was elected to the Vestry. She tackled it with enthusiasm, bringing new life and diversity to community projects. Georgians became involved with Schenectady City Inner Mission (SICM)...Food Pantry, Summer Lunch Program, and sponsoring Summer Interns. Back to School backpacks and Christmas gift bags for Things of My Very Own, for children in foster care. Valentine's Treat Bags for group home residents of Mohawk Opportunities. The Annual Coat Drive (adults and children.) Monthly meals for the Bethesda House Lighthouse Program, partnering with St. Stephen's for a winter potluck for the facility's residents and guests, and supplying hygiene kits for a Lenten outreach. Sponsoring a table at the Salvation Army's Kettle Breakfast, plus holiday bell ringing at the Eastern Avenue Price Chopper. Along with Deacon Pat Jones (St. Stephen's), collecting Christmas cards and postage stamps for women in the Schenectady County Jail. Toys for Tots donation box at Christmastime. Collecting unused cell phones and holding private sales (donated clothing) for women in the YWCA's residence and battered women's shelter. Supporting the Annual Crop Walk.

Alice also brought creativity to the Annual Stewardship Campaign's pledge process. 2010 reconnected to our "We Are the Church" theme, focusing on 3 parishioners viewpoints on 3 consecutive Sundays, followed on the 4th Sunday by a luncheon hosted by Fr. Paul and Maggie. 2011 featured a parish-wide exercise in assembling all components of parish life into one pictorial jigsaw, ending in a luncheon in the Rectory. 2012 took us on a campus-wide pilgrimage and delicious Indian-themed buffet at The Great Hall. 2013 saw a huge labyrinth placed on the floor of the Great Hall with the congregation urged to reflectively walk the labyrinth and place their pledge in the box in the center. A buffet of bible-inspired food was prepared and served by the Vestry at the conclusion.

Officially "retired" from Vestry, Alice continues to serve as acolyte, counter, reader, advocate for her church, and has joined the Pastoral Care ministry. A member of St. George's since November 2006, Alice Polumbo is a petite woman with limitless moxie....organizational skills....and, faith.

lynn paska



ANNUAL MEETING RAFFLE

In addition to the business meeting, Chef Kevin's great food, and good fellowship....the Annual Meeting Raffle has become a highlight of our yearly event. Nancy Angus and Alice Polumbo coordinated the prizes and ticket sales. \$280 was realized, with all proceeds going to St. George's general operating fund.

The prize winners were: Meg Hughes (Gardens of Provence soaps), Wendy Madelone (Altamont Winery Redemption Red w/4 glasses), Jeff

Wengrovius (framed friend quotation), Kali-Rose Moran (Wintry mix of tray, mugs and cocoa), Judith Smith (Glass dish w/potpourri), Bob Paska (Trail's End Popcorn w/\$25 Bow Tie Cinema gift card), Peter Braun (2 lb box of Gardner's Peanut Butter Meltaways), and Andrew Krystopolski (Signed Cate Mandigo Christmas print.)

A big "thank you" to all who participated and "congratulations" to the lucky winners.

alice polumbo

- WARDEN REPORT -

National Grid is required by federal regulations to conduct periodic safety inspections of our inside gas piping and meters. The inspection was completed and there were no issues.



The rectory snow blower hit some ice and broke the auger. To have the machine repaired cost the Church \$240.00. It was ten years old. The new machine was replaced at a cost of \$300.00.



The rectory furnace started to leak water and at times released a bad odor. Troy Boiler Service Company came in and found the fire box was rusted in three

areas and two steam plate fins had cracks. To rebuild the furnace would have cost more than getting a new one. The replacement boiler would

have cost \$6,403.73. They found a boiler in Cleveland OH. After installing the boiler it took about 4 more days to get the unit adjusted and working correctly. This situation was resolved before Father Paul and Maggie left for England. *rick forshaw*



There still are copies of St. George's latest cookbook, "Divine Temptations," for sale at just \$20 per copy. Featuring 133 pages of gluten-free recipes and commentary, recipes from your favorite local

restaurants, plus new and updated recipes from Georgians, their families and friends.

For yourself....or, for the gift that keeps on giving....call the church office (518) 374-3163 to reserve your copy. All proceeds will be directed toward the Organ Refurbishment Fund.

PASTORAL CARE/VISITATIONS/MUSIC OUTREACH

With the combined efforts of the Pastoral Care Team, Visitations Team and Music Outreach, more and more Georgians, housebound and residents of nursing homes, now receive our sacramental ministry, fellowship and music on a continuing basis.

Whatever the needs of our former Georgians who can no longer be with us at church on Sunday, the growth and acceptance of these ministries and collaboration between the team members is beneficial to the recipients as well as those giving of their "time and talent." Singly and collectively, these Christian services are invaluable to a very valuable population who must never be forgotten. It is important to realize that these men and women are someone's sisters, brothers, fathers, mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers.

"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak and the wrong. Sometime in your life you will have been all of these." (Dr. Robert H. Goddard.)

Although we live in a society that honors youth, it is God's command to honor the elderly, too, as they are our blessings not our burdens. We offer up our thanks to Fr. Paul Blanch, Jim Wingate, Joan Bessarab, Wendy Madelone, Alice Polumbo, Andrew Krystopolski and our choir for regularly delivering communion, conversation and uplifting music to Georgians in private homes and nursing homes in the Schenectady area. Interested in joining any of these ministries? Simply call the church office and place your name on the volunteer list.

fr paul blanch, jim wingate, lynn paska

IN MEMORIAM



Mary Elizabeth (Ib) Bartlet

1925 - 2013

"Rest in Peace"

You are missed by your church family

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



A feast between the masses....on Sunday, February 9th....as Chef Kevin Grace and his kitchen crew rustled up a delicious Pancake Breakfast. The cost was just \$8 adults/\$5 children, for an “all you could eat” menu of fresh fruit, giant pancakes, scrambled eggs, potatoes, sausages, bacon, juice and coffee/tea. Seconds and thirds were encouraged. A good time was enjoyed by all attending, and the Organ Refurbishment Fund was richer by \$210.

#1

MARDI GRAS



Jambalaya, Muffaletta, Blackened Chicken and other favorite foods associated with New Orleans were on the menu at St. George’s Mardi Gras on Friday, February 28th (6-8PM) as prepared and served by Chef Kevin, Michelle, Kimberly and Paul. Music was provided by Andy K and his Quartet. Fellowship, courtesy of the attendees, many who got into the spirit of things by donning outrageous costumes, hats and masks! Some very nice raffle prizes were won by Mary Ann Grace, Rosemary Pannone, Kathryn Webber, Penny Cooper, Sue Hartz, Ron Edmundson, Bob Paska and Wendy Madelone....with Michelle Whitehead the 50/50 winner of \$92!



Tickets were \$18 adults, children \$10. After expenses, \$720 was placed into the Organ Refurbishment Fund.



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The Georgian Report

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OUTREACH

Lenten Giving...this Lenten Season, St. George's community outreach project will again be to prepare "Hygiene Kits" to serve the needs of guests of Schenectady's Bethesda House. The project was successful in supplying 40 such kits (a good Lenten number) in 2013. Bethesda House's mission is to be...

"an interfaith ministry to the homeless, disabled and economically disadvantaged citizens of Schenectady County, building a just, hospitable and inclusive community one person at a time by affirming the dignity and addressing the needs of each guest entering this "House of Mercy"."

We will have above 40 bags labeled and ready to go this year. It would be nice to achieve an even higher number of kit donations! Please see the display in the Parish Hall Foyer as Lent begins. Thank you for your generosity in the past, and for considering this project as a part of your Lenten worship.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."
Ephesians 2:10.

yours in christ, alicia pumbo & dawn tonneau

ALL ON THE SAME PAGE BOOK CLUB

Join us! We are a group dedicated to reading, enjoying and discussing books. Meetings are generally held on the second Monday of each month at 7PM in the Church Offices. (April 7th is an exception due to Holy Week..) All meeting dates and book selections are posted ahead in the Sunday bulletins. All are welcome!

dawn tonneau

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawls are symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. This is an ongoing universal ministry that brings comfort, support and hope to the recipient. Blessings and intentions follow the shawl maker from start to finish. Many of our sick/shut-ins have received their lovely gifts that have been blessed by Fr. Paul at the altar. At this time, Georgians who are involved in this Outreach are: Joy Adams, Nancy Angus, Maggie Blanch, Wendy Madelone, and Rosemary Pannone

wendy madelone