



THE GEORGIAN REPORT




St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

September 2015

STOCKADE ART SHOW

Saint George's Episcopal Church
Welcomes You



Today's Organ Recitals

10:30– Jeffrey Wengrovius
Associate Organist, St. George's

11:30– Andrew Krystopolski
Director of Music, St. George's

12:30– Justan Foster
First Reformed Church of Scotia

1:30– Joan Pearson
Associate Organist, St. George's

2:30– Trevor Kahlbaugh
First Presbyterian Church, Albany

3:30– Derek Stannard
Immaculate Conception, Glenville

Our Café is OPEN

More than ever, St. George's was part of the 2015 Stockade Art Show on September 12. With a dry, partly sunny day, the artists were happy to set up outside. Our doors opened for visitors at 10:00 with Jon Pearson, Judith Smith, and Judy DeNegris greeting everyone who was lured by the church's beauty and organ music. By afternoon Dot Dever, Rick Forshaw, Louisa Carr, and Chris Henry were also welcoming the 420+ visitors who came in. The most common question: "How old is the church?"

Gerald, as always, was out with Kevin at dawn to set up the equipment, tables and chairs for St. George's Café. Artists start their day early and so does our lunch line, so the grills and hot fryer heated up about 10:30 with Jim Wingate, Gene DeLong, and James Whitehead cooking, and Ann Duff, Judy DeLong, and Nancy Angus taking orders and serving hot food. Johnny Angus dealt with cold drinks while Marilyn Warner and Joan Bessarab collected money. Sandee Hughes and Joan Pearson filled in everywhere while Kevin Grace ran the kitchen. Jim Moore, Sam Wengrovius, Steve and Sue Hartz, and Sue Jenner arrived to work when the lines were longest, and Paul Smigelski finished the day on the grill. A separate table selling hot and cold drinks was a popular addition, manned throughout the day by Kevin's niece, Amelia, and her friend Cassidy. Jeff Wengrovius stayed after playing his recital to help with the quickest cleanup ever.

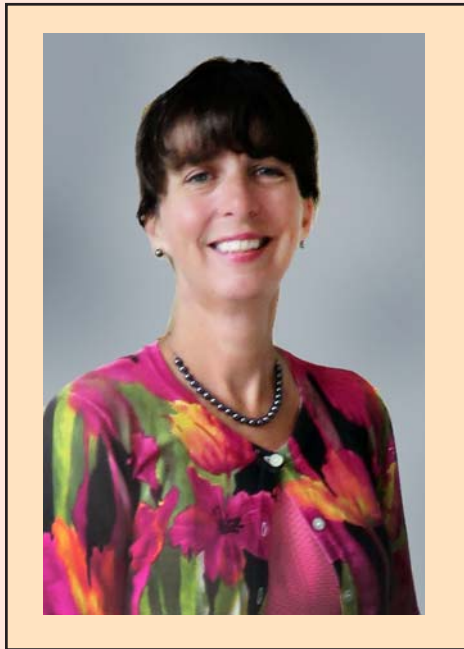
Andrew once again organized the popular organ recitals that started at 10:30. Visitors heard Jeff

Wengrovius, Andrew Krystopolski, Justan Foster of First Reformed Church in Scotia, Joan Pearson, Trevor Kahlbaugh of First Presbyterian Church in Albany, and Derek Stannard of Immaculate Conception in Glenville. The church was alive with music and conversation and photographers.

Putting the food and the mums together, we made about \$1,500. Donations keep us going every year! We could not be successful without contributions for food and paper supplies and happy volunteers. Many thanks to all who helped make this a successful and fun event.

joan pearson, kevin grace

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS



When a Vestry position became available in May, it didn't take long for Suzanne Hartz to volunteer. She had been asked to join before but the timing felt right now....although she didn't realize she was signing up for "double duty" with both monthly Vestry and Search Committee meetings, the latter ongoing during our rector search. Like many parishioners, Sue is looking for a rector who is "a uniter, not a divider."

Sue's maternal side was Episcopalian and they regularly attended St. George's, where she received her First Communion and was married to Steve. Sons Sean (30), Scott (24) and Sam (22) grew up at St. George's and still attend occasionally. You can usually find Sue and Steve, and even their sons, at various church social events.

Throughout her Georgian years, Sue has worked on different committees....taught Sunday school....and in addition to being the newest Vestry member, she sings tenor with the St. Cecilia Choir, hosts the yearly choir picnic at the Hartz Family Camp on Saratoga Lake, joined our "All on the Same Page" book club, and worked at this year's Stockade Art Show. Her vestry assignment goal is to streamline and define Pastoral Care and the

Good Samaritan ministries. A voracious reader, Sue enjoys all her water toys: swimming, boating and water-skiing in summer, and goes cross-country skiing in winter. Year 'round, she enjoys hanging out with her girlfriends aka partying.

Sue and Steve own Hartz Family Cleaners on Upper Union Street and very generously offer pro bono cleaning services to St. George's when needed. Sue works the front end, deals with customers, does tagging and bookkeeping, while Steve does the cleaning and pressing "...and all the real work," she laughed.

The "finest hour" in Georgian history, according to Sue, has been the volunteering of time, treasure and talent around out church campus. She cites the steeple restoration, installation of the new organ, and renovation of St. George's House and the Rectory as prime examples.

Admitting to leaving St. George's for a brief time, Sue returned because she prefers what's familiar, comfortable and traditional. Georgians are another family to her. An advocate of Rite I, Sue got into her Vestry mode and offered, "We're lucky to have the finances we do. We've had dark times, and train wrecks, and it's hard to keep snapping back, but we're a resilient church," she ended on a positive note.

lynn paska

Our St. Cecilia Choir returns for the new season.....



OUTREACH



Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM)

The Schenectady Inner city Ministry is an ecumenical partnership, founded in 1967, of 54 congregations (encompassing 15 denominations) for ministries of social service and social justice. SICM's stated mission is to minister to the urban community and its individuals; to challenge religious organizations, individual members and the general community to provide greater involvement and service in the urban community; and to develop understanding, trust, and cooperation among religious organizations and encourage their membership in the organization.

SICM operates the largest emergency food organization in Schenectady County, the Schenectady Damien Center (a drop-in resource center for people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS), the Summer Lunch program, and wellness initiatives. The SICM food pantry is located at 839 Albany Street and serves any Schenectady County resident in need of food. ID is required to prove residence and the pantry can be accessed one time per month. It is open M,W,Th,F from 9 to 11:30. In 2014 the pantry served 50,119 individuals.

St George's is a founding member of SICM and has supported many of the programs it operates especially the food pantry and the summer lunch program. Georgians have helped serve lunches in previous years and can be proud of Erin Thiessen's fine efforts as St George's intern the last two summers, in her contribution to SICM's summer activities.

Because caring for our neighbors is so fundamental to our Christian faith, St. George's has an on-going collection of non-perishable foodstuffs for the food pantry, with an informal goal of supporting the food pantries efforts at a 1,000 pound per year donation. There is a basket in the parish hall awaiting your contributions. 569 pounds of food have been turned in so far in 2015. Please make it a part of your Sunday morning routine to grab a couple of cans from your pantry to drop in the basket on your way to coffee hour!

SICM is always in need of volunteers to help sustain its programs.

alice polumbo, louisa carr

ASSISTED LIVING MINISTRY

Gifts come in all shapes and sizes....and, denominations. But the greatest gift of all, at least from the perspective of St. George's Assisted Living Ministry volunteers, is yourself.

Joan Pearson volunteers for this ministry because of the outreach aspect. "When my parents were in nursing homes, I saw how many residents lacked visitors," she said, and went on to explain that the residents love the music, and even the most unresponsive will pray or sing at some point. "We always reach them at some level," she offered. The experience or interaction with a patient or resident is enough reward for Joan. "They know they can ask

us to name someone in the prayers, and quite a few have regular requests."

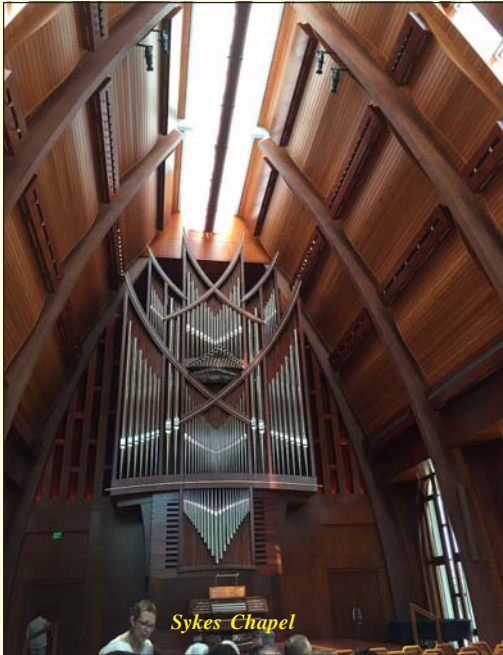
Volunteers are always needed. "The residents enjoy visiting. We divide jobs during a service. If some of us have conflicts, there might be only three doing a specific service. Five or six is an ideal number," she added.

If you have a few spare hours a month to devote to this important Assisted Living Ministry, please contact either Andrew Krystopolski, Judith Smith or Alice Polumbo for particulars, or to sign up and brighten up someone's day.

alice polumbo, lynn paska

THE ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN MUSICIANS 2015 CONFERENCE

*“The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit and always green
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree” Jane Siberry*



Over 300 musicians, liturgists, and enthusiasts from all over the country gathered in Tampa on June 14-18 for the Annual Conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians. The conference theme, “The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen,” was a reminder that our salvation history is even more than a living, breathing story: it is a dynamic cycle that recurs in every Christian in every age. As church musicians, we have been entrusted with the awesome privilege of bringing the drama and urgency of this story to life in every liturgy we shape at St. George’s. These few days of conference allowed us to put that privilege into perspective and gave us the opportunity to reflect on how we as Georgians encounter “Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree.”

Our central location at the Hilton, Downtown Tampa, allowed us to walk to many of the conference sites. The opening Eucharist Monday morning at St. Andrew’s Church welcomed us with a tremendous organist, wonderful choir, and stunning congregational singing. Members of AAM arrived for rest, recharging, and sharing: church organist can be a lonely profession.

Morning Prayer, Evensong, or Eucharist, each day meant a meticulously planned service at another Episcopal church. Two of these were especially memorable. Monday afternoon in Sykes Chapel (at the University of Tampa) we participated in a workshop on Contemplative Evensong with Charles Hogan of St. Mary’s Church in High Point, NC. We remember a typical Florida thunder storm beginning as the entire chapel was in silent meditation before Evensong. The service was sung a capella by conference attendees so there was no organ prelude. The great storm was our accompaniment for Evensong. We could hear rain crashing on the chapel roof and thunder echoing through the large hall. Psalm 77 was appointed and verses 16 & 17 couldn’t have been timed more perfectly with the elements. It was a holy moment for us.

Another amazing musical prayer occurred the next morning. On Tuesday we boarded buses to St. Thomas Church, Snell Island, St. Petersburg, for Sung Morning Prayer. The Reverend Canon Dr. Thomas Williams was the preacher and the Gulf Coast Youth Chorus sang the Canticles. The best part of the whole service for us: the congregation of about 300 singing 40 verses of Psalm 78 in four part harmony, alternating between decani and cantoris, incorporating dynamics and prayer. It was an awesome experience. The Service concluded with a hymn commissioned for our conference by Rev. John L. Hooker on the text, “The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen.” At an AAM conference music is worship, and the singing fortissimo.

We heard unbelievable recitals, one by Dr. Haig Mardirosian, a Dean of the University, on the Dobson organ in Sykes Chapel; and another from Joshua Stafford, Director of Music at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown, NJ, on the Reuter organ in the First Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg.

On Wednesday morning, we were given the kind invitation to come and play the organ at Sykes Chapel thanks to our friend, Maury Castro (formerly of First United Pres. in Troy). Since Maury's church on Cape Cod is in the market for a new pipe organ, he had arranged a special meeting with the builder of the chapel's organ to learn more about an instrument for his church. We were the only three people in the entire conference given an all access pass for a few hours on this remarkable instrument. There is video of Andrew playing this instrument on YouTube.



We attended a workshop on Keeping the Singer's Voice Healthy given by Dr. Daniel Vincent, a Tampa Bay ENT, which included a video of vibrating vocal cords and photos of vocal nodes and hemorrhages. Another workshop, Copyright Law and the Church Musician, given by lawyer and church musician Jason Lorenzon, spoke about the nitty-gritty of copyright laws. Many churches break copyright laws and don't even realize it. We are proud to say that St. George's Church abides by all copyright laws. There was an anthem-reading session, sight-singing new music from composers and publishers.

The Dali Museum, trolley ride, flamenco dancers, talented teen voices – all added to the mix. We returned with music, ideas for music, and fresh oxygen. Music and God are both infinite. It seems natural that we help them come together in worship.

andrew krystopolski, joan pearson

SECOND SUNDAY JULY ADULT FORUM



Senior Warden Chris Henry presided over the Second Sunday adult forum on June 12th. All questions and answers addressed the issue of our search for a new rector. Interesting note: one of our young adults, Anna Thiessen, was fully engaged in asking about the search process.

Members of our Vestry provided tasty "Sweets & Savories" to complement the usual coffee and tea offered each Sunday at Coffee Hour.

PARISH PICNIC 2015



What's your favorite Adirondack afternoon? Sitting in the sun? Riding in a boat? Kayaking? Vegging on the porch? The Georgians who brought sunny skies to Lake Pleasant's Camp Pearson on July 18th did all of those things plus ate and drank until we could eat no more. Bob, Jane and Kali Rose Moran arrived in time for lunch. Diane Reed brought her Southern sister, Mary Catherine, who felt right at home chatting with Rembert and the Moores. Judith, Kevin, Joan Bessarab and Jim Wingate basked in the peace and warm sunlight. Rich and Suzy Ungers' dog, Cody, spent as much time in the water as out. Rosemary Pannone's young neighbor, DJ, even braved a tube ride and joined Chris Henry and Jon Pearson in the traditional swim to the raft. Be sure to check out our group picture on St. George's website.

joan pearson



SECOND SUNDAY SEPTEMBER: 1st STEWARDSHIP TOWN HALL MEETING AND MINISTRY FAIR

September 13th was a combined Second Sunday adult form and our first Stewardship Town Hall for 2015, as spearheaded by Jeff Wengrovius. Church leaders were assigned tables to promote their various ministries. Those who spoke were Chris Henry (Worship/Liturgy and Hospitality), Tarik Wareh (Daily Office), James Whitehead (Buildings/Gardens), Andrew Krystopolski (Music), Meg Hughes (Book Club) and Bob Paska (Communications/Website.) Sign-up sheets were available for volunteers. The Vestry provided a tableful of Sweets 'n Savories for the receptive congregation.



Several years ago, we reviewed the history of something familiar - The Nicene Creed. Said at every Mass, the Nicene Creed is a testament of our faith, the foundation of the Church and something we probably all know by heart. But the Church also uses the Apostles' Creed and occasionally the Athanasian Creed. Today, we review the Apostles' Creed which, together with the Nicene Creed, is commonly used in worship. In traditional language:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth;
 And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day he rose again from the dead,
 He ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins;
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.



The rubric above this 13th-century illuminated manuscript translates "twelve articles of faith set out by twelve apostles".

BCP Catechism, p. 851: "The Creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God." - "The Apostles' Creed is the ancient creed of Baptism; it is used in the Church's daily worship to recall our Baptismal Covenant." - "The Nicene Creed is the creed of the universal Church and is used at the Eucharist."

Origins The Apostles' Creed was not written by the apostles. It was written at least 150 years after the apostles had all died and became known as the Apostles' Creed because it was thought to be a record of what the apostles taught - that under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, each of the Twelve Apostles contributed an article of a creed. The first mention of an "Apostles' Creed" occurs in a letter of 390 from a synod in Milan to Pope Siricius: "Let them give credit to the Creed of the Apostles, which the Roman Church has always kept and preserved undefiled".

But what existed then was not what we know as the Apostles' Creed. It was shorter, evolved from simpler texts based on various New Testament phrases and has been argued that it was already in written form by the late 2nd century. It did not include the 7th century phrase "maker of heaven and earth", nor the phrase "he descended into hell", nor "the communion of saints" (i.e., what each one of us has in common with all other believers).



This illumination from a 13th-century manuscript shows the apostles writing the Creed, receiving inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

Because of its original form, the Apostles' Creed does not address some Christological issues as do the Nicene and other creeds. For example, it says nothing about the divinity of Jesus or of the Holy Spirit. Nor does it address theological questions that became objects of dispute centuries later.

Apostles' Creed Today

The Apostles' Creed is widely used by a number of Christian denominations for both liturgical and catechetical purposes, notably by Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Lutherans, but also by Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists.

The Episcopal Church uses the Apostles' Creed as a Baptismal Covenant. Following a series of questions to the candidates or their sponsors, the Apostles' Creed is then recited by candidates, sponsors and congregation, each section of the Creed being an answer to the celebrant's question, beginning with "Do you believe in God the Father (God the Son, God the Holy Spirit)?" The Apostles' Creed is also proclaimed in church twice daily - at Morning and Evening Prayer.

We will always have questions, but in the two foundational statements of faith - the Apostles' Creed used at baptism, and the Nicene Creed used at communion - we join Christians throughout the ages in affirming our faith in the one God who created us, redeemed us, and sanctifies us.

dave kennison

† CLERGY APPRECIATION †

As we work to discern God's choice for the 19th Rector of St. George's, we owe enormous gratitude to three dedicated clergy who support us in this time of pastoral need. Their weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist, combined with excellent preaching and counsel, is enriching our lives tremendously. They will forever be a part of the fabric of St. George's. To them....heartfelt appreciation and thanks from a grateful parish.



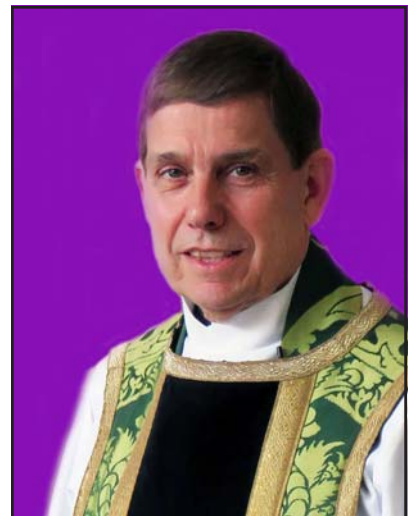
Fr. Charles King grew up at St. George's and has a special affinity for "the church of his childhood." Although his official title is as our supply priest, he has done a seemingly unending list of clerical duties for us since December: Sunday masses (except for a previous engagement and a long overdue vacation), weekly prayer book holy days, nursing home and home shut-in visitations, funerals, baptisms, special celebrations, and other necessary duties. His wife Alice attends our Mass on Sundays, except when fulfilling her Altar Guild commitment at St. Paul's.



Fr. Michael Webber has been a mainstay at St. George's ever since Fr. Delos Wampler retired to an assisted living facility in Saratoga. He is responsible for our weekly Friday 12:15 Masses, he and his wife Katherine are almost always in the pews for Sunday Mass, and he makes sure to participate in as many of our social functions and parish meetings as possible.

Fr. Peter Schofield, assistant priest at Christ Church to Fr. Brad Jones, is our good friend and neighbor who takes Sundays off from his own church, to fill in for Fr. King on those Sundays that he must be absent due to other commitments. His wife Sylvia, recovering from knee surgery, has been unable to accompany him but her thoughts and prayers are with us.

lynn paska



- SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -



Welcome back!

The summer has been quiet at St. George's. Despite our summer lull, we have maintained our summer liturgies with the help of some very devoted servants of the parish. A special "thank you" to Fr. King and Fr. Webber for also maintaining our prayer book holy days, ministering to our shut-ins and nursing home residents as well as our core of volunteers from our Outreach ministries and our choir.

We also managed to come together for a fantastic parish picnic hosted by the Pearsons. The Stockade Art Show was its usual success, bringing in \$1,500, receiving over 400 visitors to the church....with superb organ music on the mighty Moller from Andrew and friends.

yours, chris

- JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -



There have been three projects on my agenda. (1) The boilers have been serviced. (2) The church boiler valve kit is on back order. (3) The fee for plowing the parking lot is the same price as it was in 2014.

rick forshaw

- TREASURER'S REPORT -



As we enter the final stretch of 2015, St. George's finances are looking okay. Our pledge income is slightly over our budget as of the end of August. By year-end it will probably be very close to budget. That is not to suggest that pledge income has been high this year: our 2015 budget anticipated a falloff in giving of approximately 12% from what we received in 2014.

Our spending has been restrained this year because we haven't had to cover the salary of a full-time rector. A full-time rector would also have been likely to bring in outside speakers with related expenses that we have not incurred. Of course, the savings from not having a rector is a double-edged sword. Having a full-time rector is likely to raise giving levels as everyone feels better about the future, so you will never hear me say that I like saving money during a period without a rector.

Please keep up your pledges. We did budget for a \$3,289 deficit this year. It will help our recruiting efforts if we can tell prospective candidates that we anticipate a surplus, and it won't take much to get us there!

jon pearson

Mark your calendar: the 3rd Annual Vestry-sponsored Parish-wide Fun Dinner will take place on Saturday, November 21st, in the Great Hall. Come and bring your appetites....it's always a monumental feast.

"All on the Same Page" Book Club resumes its monthly meetings on Sunday, October 18th between the 9AM and 11:15AM masses. The book for discussion is "House Rules" by Jodi Picoult. First-time members are encouraged to join.

- VISITATIONS -



IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR....

As I walked down the hall at the Glendale County Home, part of me wanted to break into a chorus of WE ARE FAMILY. Fortunately for the residents, the more rational part of me said “no.” The song seemed very appropriate as I had an appointment to visit resident Janice Todt and her sister-in-law and longtime friend Barbara Todt. Janice was the only sister of Barbara’s deceased husband Robert, and the family had moved her to Glendale in the late spring to allow for better monitoring of her care.

Janice, who will have a milestone 90th birthday in November, had lived in Hicksville on Long Island where she was a librarian at the local junior high school. Janice never married but had a very busy life and was involved in many organizations including the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her parish priest was Fr. Geminder, a name very familiar to those at St. George’s who remember the Fr. Kirby era.

When Janice would visit at Easter and Christmas, she would insist on attending St. George’s where Fr. Geminder had begun his career in the priesthood. While Janice enjoyed the music, it was the traditional liturgy that kept bringing her back. Barbara says that it was Janice’s connection to

St. George’s that brought the rest of the Todts to our parish. When it was time for Stephanie to be baptized, Connie and Mike chose St. George’s. And as they say, the rest is history.

Janice is very lucky to have the Todt family to care for her welfare, and St. George’s is just as lucky to have the Todts as members of our parish family. You know, I just might sing that song after all.....

jim wingate

WENGROVIUS - BAKER WEDDING



Jeffrey and Barbara Wengrovius are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter Erin to Alex Baker. The wedding and reception took place at The Mansion Inn at Rock City Falls on Saturday, August 15th.



St. George's Episcopal Church
 30 North Ferry Street
 Schenectady, New York 12305
 Telephone (518) 374-3163
www.stgeorgesschenectady.org

The Georgian Report

Editor: Lynn Paska
Layout: Bob Paska

Contributors:

- Louisa Carr
- Richard Forshaw
- Kevin Grace
- Christopher Henry
- Sandee Hughes
- Andrew Krystopolski
- David Kennison
- Joan Pearson
- Jonathan Pearson
- Alice Polumbo
- Barbara Wengrovius
- Jeffrey Wengrovius
- James Wingate

The Vestry

- Louisa Carr
- Richard Forshaw, Jr. Warden
- Suzanne Hartz
- Christopher Henry, Sr. Warden
- Grant Jaquith
- Jane Moran
- Robert Paska
- Jonathan Pearson, Treasurer
- Karen Perka, Clerk
- Jeffrey Wengrovius
- James Whitehead

Office Staff

- Donna Vrooman
 Administrative Assistant
- Andrew Krystopolski
 Music Director
- Gerald Cooper
 Sexton
- Dawn Tonneau
 Financial Secretary

STOCKADE ART SHOW PICTURES



**GOOD
 COOKS**



**GOOD
 FOOD**



**GOOD
 FUN**