



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

September 2016

WELCOME! OUR 19th RECTOR & FAMILY



The weekend of August 6th was a busy one for our 19th Rector - officiating at a memorial service on Saturday; celebrating two Masses on Sunday with a reception in-between. As Fr. Matt, wife April, and children Helen (4) and Isaac (1) settled into the Rectory and life in Schenectady, they received warm welcomes from Georgians who are grateful to have a full-time priest again. Whether unpacking boxes, memorizing names and/or putting names to faces, cutting a congratulatory cake, or chatting with Stockade neighbors...Fr. Matt is making himself at home at St. George.



DIOCESAN CONVENTION



The 148th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany was held June 10-11 at Camp of the Woods, Speculator. Representatives from St. George's were: Chris Henry, Jon Pearson, Bob Paska and Jeff Wengrovius.

BOOK CLUB WELCOMES ALL READERS



St. George's book club, "*All on the Same Page*," meets every other month, generally on the third Sunday, during coffee hour in the Great Hall. If you enjoy reading or talking about books, please join in the fun. The current book selection is always listed in your Sunday bulletin.

There is no obligation to read every book. Members have even been known to arrive at a meeting protesting, "I haven't finished it!" This is not a deal-breaker; nobody will judge you. The only downside might be finding out the ending of a mystery, but you can always use earplugs if you don't like the spoilers!

The selection for the next meeting (November 20th) is "*Vinegar Girl*" by Anne Tyler. This witty novel is a modern take on Shakespeare's play, "*The Taming of the Shrew*." If you want to know more about the club or the book, Meg Hughes or Alice Polumbo can advise.

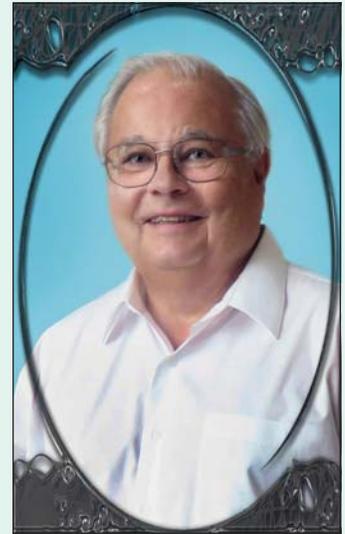
Upcoming, is a church-wide, all-ages reading of the beloved CS Lewis classic, "*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*." Watch for further announcements.

meg hughes

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

The Lone Ranger (Jim Wingate) sits atop his trusty horse Silver (behind the wheel of his trusted old red truck), with Tonto (Joan Bessarab) riding shotgun. "Let's go!" TLR/Jim shouts as T/Joan responds, "I've got your back, Kemosabi!" And off they ride into the next Visitation.

Jim Wingate assumed responsibility of Pastoral Care and Visitations (from the late Charlie King Sr., Fr. King's father) sixteen years ago, a ministry to Georgians who are housebound, recovering from surgery or illness, as well as sending cards to parishioners on birthdays, anniversaries, and "get well/thinking of you." You don't realize how important this is....until you're the recipient of a visitation, able to receive communion at home, or find a card in your mailbox. "For many, we are their only contact with the outside world," Jim explained. "We keep them connected to St. George's and their parish family." Filling out a form after each visit, noting health issues, the condition of the home, etc., is part of the routine. "We notify our priest of any problems and he, in turn, notifies the family. We keep good records. I have two binders, each about 6-inches thick, from the years, with duplicates in Donna's office."



Jim also volunteers as art show cook/donator, lector, greeter, counter, Georgian Report columnist, Lighthouse meals (teamed with Amy Machold), and leaf bag removal (spring, summer, fall.) In the mid-70s when there were enough boys for a basketball team in the Y Church League, Jim was their coach. A past vestry member, he's been asked to re-run but turns it down because of travel. "If you're going to be a leader, you need to be here. I'm away large chunks of time." Jim and Carole have seen the world: Iceland, South Africa, Ireland, England, Scotland, Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, a Viking Riverboat Cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest, Florida for 8 weeks every winter. Next destination: Machu Picchu.

A staunch Georgian who appreciates the parishioners, traditional service, and opportunity to serve in so many different ways, Jim praised our staff, Donna and Gerald, as "....two outstanding people who help everyone in any way they can."

Looking forward to working with Fr. Matt, Jim cautioned, "What has been done in the past doesn't necessarily have to be done in the future. I hope there won't be a lot of change in the liturgy, but I also believe a new rector will have to stand on his own two feet. We've been without a rector for 4 out of 10 years, that's 40% of the time! The last two years have taken a toll. We need to be reunified and focused."

We also need volunteers like Jim Wingate....who take church and church volunteerism *very seriously*.

lynn paska

- TREASURER'S REPORT -



Welcome back to school, welcome back to church, welcome to our new Rector.

As we enter fall, St. George's finally has a new Rector. As a member of the Search Committee I have to tell you I am relieved. As a member of the parish, I'm excited! Think of the clean slate Fr. Matt has for building St. George's with the prospect for Sunday School, Bible studies and other events.

There is one small detail that goes with having a new Rector - we have to pay him, and we must fund the new programs he initiates. We have had a year and eight months without a Rector, and although we paid for Supply Priests, the expense was minor compared to paying a full-time Rector. Please keep this in mind as you make your weekly plate offerings, and think very hard about how you can help when we conduct the fall Stewardship campaign for 2017.

jon pearson

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY....



September is a beautiful golden month. It is also a time of transition and new beginnings. In the Church it brings the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels, which has traditionally been known as Michaelmas. This angelic feast falls on the 29th of the month near the Fall equinox and was one of the Old English “quarter days.” In years past, the harvest had to be completed by Michaelmas. It marked the end of a hopefully productive season for farmers and the start of a new one. It marked the beginning of a new term for schools, the time when contracts were renewed between landlord and tenant, and the time when new workers presented themselves for hire. Here at Saint George’s the month of September brings with it the excitement of a new season in our life together as a parish. Jesus said, “Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest” (John 4:35). This month of

harvest presents us with many opportunities to grow in our faith.

First the harvest calls us to mission, it is a time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. On September 18th, our Fall launch, you will hear from representatives of our various ministries and find out about ways in which you can serve here at Saint George’s and advance the mission of the church. I hope you will prayerfully consider to what ministry God might be calling you.

Secondly the harvest is a time of gratitude. Even for us city dwellers, there is something from our ancient agrarian roots that innately responds with joy and thanksgiving during the season of harvest. We want to celebrate. The supermarkets will swell with gingersnaps and apple pies. The cafe will serve up pumpkin spice lattes. During this time it is appropriate to consider the harvest in our own lives. In what ways has God been generous to you? In the Bible, God instructs his people to present a tithe to him, a tenth of all their fields produce in a year, as a way to acknowledge his gracious provision and entrusting their needs to him (Deut 14:22). I hope you will prayerfully consider pledging a portion of what God has given to you towards his work here at St. George’s.

Finally, the harvest is a time to remember the poor. In the Old Testament God commanded his people, “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God” (Lev 19:9-10). Let us be sure that we reserve a portion of our time and our wealth for those less fortunate than ourselves. I hope you will prayerfully consider how you may be of service to the poor among you.

Blessings to you all! I look forward to getting to know you more and serving with you in the year ahead.

*Grace and Peace,
Fr. Matthew Stromberg+*



IN MEMORIAM

**Frank S. Ruota
1951-2016**

“Rest in Peace”

His culinary skills are now being enjoyed by the angels in Heaven.

OUTREACH

Two familiar projects occupied the attention of Georgians during the summer.



During the week of August 8 to 12, 11 Georgians helped fulfill St George's one-week commitment to help SICM in its annual summer lunch program. Working at the MiSci Science Center, those Georgians were Dot Dever, Louisa Carr, Andrew Krystopolski, Alice Polumbo, Jon Pearson, Sue Hartz, Tarik, Faez and Cora Wareh, Meg Hughes and Father Matt.



In just his first week at St George's, Father Matt came by St George's SICM summer lunch program site to help serve lunch and introduce himself to the community. He is pictured here with Cora and Faez Wareh who were also on hand that day to help out.



During August, St George's once again took up a collection of school supplies to aid Schenectady School District children in their studies. Louisa Carr reports she turned over an impressive quantity of items to Laura DeNifio, a social worker within the district, that included notebooks, folders, binders, backpacks, rulers, pencils, pens, markers, colored pencils, pencil boxes, highlights, glue sticks, scissors, a stapler, erasers and many boxes of crayons.

Three fall outreach related projects may be repeated this year in addition to the possible start of an ongoing hospitality partnership with St Joseph's House. As in prior years St George's may do a fall coat collection, ring the bell for The Salvation Army's annual holiday program and compose holiday gift bags.

alice polumbo

45-years ago....



Rick and Karen Forshaw "tied the knot" at St. George's Church, with 100+ family and friends attending.

4-5 months ago...



Mike and Michelle Thiessen said "I Do" with Mayor Gary McCarthy officiating at a simple City Hall ceremony.

STOCKADE ART SHOW 2016



Every year brings a surprise. This year we had several with the unexpected postponement of the Art Show from Saturday, September 10th to Sunday, September 11th, and Kevin's absence due to a funeral. But God is full of grace, and He provided endless help from the people of St. George's and a gorgeous day.

Kevin cooked chili and corn chowder Friday morning before the show, and that afternoon Sandee Hughes, Joan Pearson and her sister Marilyn Warner baked cornbread and prepped everything else. Jim Wingate delivered drinks, meats and rolls. We unloaded 180 mums (all pre-sold) into the Great Hall. Gerald and Rick Forshaw lined up the tables and chairs. And then the Art Show organizers, in an aberration of logic, postponed the show to Sunday. On Sunday, Fr. Matt moved the 11:15 Mass to the children's chapel so organ recitals could proceed and everyone simply rolled with it. Gerald and Rick scrambled to set up so we could sell food at 11:00.



Judith Smith, Chris Henry and David Kennison welcomed visitors to the church, who heard organ music from Jeff Wengrovius, Marjorie Voytko, Roberta Rowland-Raybold, Andrew Krystopolski, and Don Ingram. Sue Jenner arrived ready to work, Gene Delong and Jim Wingate grilled, Jon Pearson produced loads of French fries, Rich and Suzy Unger, Judy Delong, and Nancy and Johnny Angus worked the food line, and Joan Bessarab and Ann Duff collected money. Barb Wengrovius and Sandee Hughes took care of the kitchen, and Joan Pearson ran everywhere. Chris Ettles kept the trays and tables clean. Bob Moran arrived to help with the heavy job of taking down and cleaning up at the end. Fr. Matt, April, Susan Stromberg (Fr. Matt's mother) and the children just soaked up the day. Money from the Café plus the sale of 180 mums totaled about \$1,350. There may still be outstanding expenses. Many, many thanks to all who helped!



A Sunday Art Show Café is more frantic for us because we need to set up during Mass. But the customers who visit St. George's are friendly and thankful and love having the Café and church to meet, sit and relax. We must not underestimate the importance of our presence at this event.

joan pearson



An Institution is something that doesn't happen in a parish very often, at least in theory. Oh, but what a cause for celebration in any parish – a new rector brings new hope, new direction and a fresh vision of what God calls us to be as His faithful people. Here's a preliminary look at the service in which we will all participate at the 28 October institution of Fr Mathew Stromberg as the 19th Rector of St George's.



The Ceremony The prayer book calls it “*Celebration of a New Ministry*” and it consists of three separate parts. The service begins with the *Institution* - the Bishop, Wardens and Congregation formally affirm that Fr Matt is the Rector. Then follows the *Induction* - the Bishop, Clergy and Congregation present the Rector several symbols of the varied ministries he will lead us in. We finally move to the *Holy Eucharist*, celebrated by the Bishop and sometimes assisted by the Rector.

SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH



Behemothday, New York

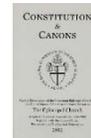
Yet even before the formal Institution service, Fr Matt Rector is already the Rector. This festive service is an opportunity to celebrate the gift of our new rector with the congregation and the community. St George's is part of the greater Episcopal Church. That Church is represented by Bishop Love and many of our diocesan and visiting clergy will be with us to celebrate the beginning of Fr Matt's ministry here.

We are reminded that the Bishop is our chief pastor, preacher and liturgical presider.

Fr Matt is his representative at St George's.

The Institution After reading the formal *Letter of Institution* (the Bishop's signed empowerment and authorization to exercise this ministry) the Bishop asks the Rector a series of questions, confirming the Rector's understanding of his commitment and the Bishop's trust in his new ministry. The people also must respond, affirming their commitment to uphold Fr Matt in this ministry.

The Litany of the Saints follows, a prayer to the Triune God, asking intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the angels, martyrs and saints upon whom Christianity was founded. Finally, we sit to hear the word of God in the Old Testament lesson and the Epistle, Gospel and Sermon.



The Induction At various points around the church, the Bishop, Wardens and people present the Rector with various symbols that represent his obligations to the parish and to God - a Bible for proclaiming the Word, a vessel of water for baptizing, a stole or symbol of the new minister's order, the Book of Common Prayer, olive oil for healing and reconciliation, the keys of the church, the Constitution and Canons of the Church and the Diocese, and bread and wine for the Eucharist.

At the end, the Rector says a very moving individual prayer that confirms his devotion to God and which asks God's help in developing his understanding, faithfulness, love, gratitude and preaching to those souls entrusted to his care. The Bishop presents the new Rector to the congregation, along with his family. Applause is very appropriate!

The Mass As Dom Gregory Dix so eloquently said in his classic *The Shape of the Liturgy*, “*Was ever a command so obeyed?*” For century after century, we have followed Jesus' command to represent the Last Supper in the Mass as we partake in His Body and Blood in celebration of His death and Resurrection. Today, we celebrate the ministry of our new Rector. What joy, what hope, what love! Vestments at this service are white – the color for festivals, representing purity, joy and truth. Gold can always be used.

- VISITATIONS -



Dottie Stevens

It seems like every year we read of someone buying an ordinary looking barn only to discover inside a priceless classic car. Approaching the Joan Nicole Prince Home in Scotia provides a similar scenario. On the outside, the building appears to be just another very nice suburban house. However, once inside one meets another type of priceless classic: Dottie Stevens. You see Dottie started attending St. George's in 1947, the same year that a young priest named Darwin Kirby became the Rector of St. George's.

Dottie's earliest memories of St. George's was as a child whose British Grandmother was a member of the congregation. She remembers being fascinated by having to open and close the door to the pew. As a young girl, her family did not live in the Capital District so her membership here would have to wait. During WW II her Dad was involved with the Manhattan Project and she recalls meeting Enrico Fermi and others working on that super secret program.

Once Dottie and her husband Harry returned to the Capital District, she became active in many of the activities at St. George's. She joined the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and she was a fixture serving at the breakfasts, lunches and dinners that were hallmarks of our church at that time. This was what people refer to as "the good old days" when St. George's growth was aligned with the expansion of GE in Schenectady. And of course it didn't hurt that we had a dynamic Rector in Fr. Kirby. Dottie speaks fondly of her friendship with him and trips taken to Rhode Island, Canada, and even a ride on the supersonic Concorde. She cherishes the memory of his last call to her only hours before his passing.

In 2010, Dottie was the recipient of the Bishop Howard Hubbard Humanitarian Award for her decades of efforts on behalf of Living Resources and the neediest in our community. For many years, she was on the Board of Directors for the Joan Nicole Prince Home where she currently resides.

Dottie has five children: Harry III (Capital District), Sherry (Mississippi), Jacquie (Niskayuna), Cynthia (San Diego), David (Albany.)

She is fortunate to have family in the area, and we have met some of them during our visits. Recently they helped Dottie celebrate her 91st birthday. That celebration was clearly evident at our last visit as there were floral bouquets on every flat surface in the house. And although it is belated, everyone in our Parish Family wishes a Happy, Happy Birthday to this Georgian Classic - Dottie Stevens.

Jim Wingate

STOCKADE GARDEN TOUR

St. George's made a tremendous showing at the Stockade Garden Tour on Saturday, July 21st. Preparation of the gardens took several months with a lot of loving labor going into the planting, weeding, trimming, cutting, mulching and fretting. James Whitehead was in charge of the project with Rick Forshaw, Rich Unger and Suzy Unger laboring long and hard to "Make the Gardens Great Again."

Special thank you's to volunteers who gave generously of their time and talent: Ava Weakley, Meg Hughes, Jamie Taft, Olivia Jaquith, Shu (Sue) Huey Y Jenner, Jim Wingate, Jim Moore, Barb Wengrovius, Louisa Carr, Josh and Sam Whitehead.

James Whitehead

FELLOWSHIP + FUN + FOOD = FOYERS

If you've never hosted a Foyers Dinner before, this is your opportunity to become involved in a social-fest like no other. Georgians (8-10) are assigned to a group that shares dinners at each other's homes. Those who cannot accommodate a group this size are encouraged to "be creative" and either reserve the Great Hall, a restaurant, or co-host with someone in their group. After each person or couple has hosted a dinner, the groups are reassigned. What a novel way to get to know your fellow Georgians better! Jeff Wengrovius and Sue Hartz are co-chair of this round of Foyers Dinners.

Lynn Paska

LET THERE BE LIGHT



The lantern adjacent to the parking lot steps was refurbished by David Kennison. New parts were fabricated where necessary. The body of the lantern was completely re-welded. Stainless steel spacers were fabricated to separate the various parts and eliminate further corrosion. All other hardware was replaced with stainless steel. The lantern was re-wired to support a low-energy LED bulb in a different orientation to improve lighting on the ground. New glass was installed in all 12 panes, with the lantern pole stripped and re-painted. A tedious job, but it's completed....thanks to a hard-working volunteer!

LET THERE BE PAINT

Thanks to Gene DeLong, many of the iron railings around our campus....which had fallen into disarray.... have been refurbished and look as good as new! Gene wire-brushed them, primed them, and re-painted them.

How long did this volunteer project take? "Too long," quipped Gene. Then he admitted that it probably took him a total of two days.

Look around at our railings, particularly the two going from the parking lot to the lower level (see picture #1), the two leading into the church offices (see picture #2), and one at the back door of the church offices. Then go up to Gene and thank him.



- JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -



A tree specialist was brought in to access the severity of a fallen limb in the front yard. He reported that it was filled with carpenter ants and suffered irreparable damage. The limb has since been removed.



Remember this? Many thanks to Rich Unger for spending two days working on making the sidewalk, between St. George's House and St. George's Church, safe again.

rick forshaw

ASSISTED LIVING MINISTRY (ALM) UPDATES



After suspending ALM visitations in June, ALM services resumed in July. During the June “hiatus”, the ALM group met several times to assess the state of this ministry with special concentration on the worship booklet used during services. The slightly revised booklet and service adaptations debuted in July and all felt the changes to be beneficial, making it easier for congregants to participate and follow along.



The third customary location the ALM ministry visits each month is Scotia Mansion, 39 Wallace Street in Scotia. This is a two-step assisted living facility offering basic assisted living services and amenities in its adult home program, the group with which ALM worships, and then its ALP phase that provides additional levels of care. All residents benefit from 24/7 on site staff, help with medications, meals and activities. In addition, transportation services are provided for scheduled outings and to medical appointments. Georgians are always warmly received at Scotia Mansion, and on occasion, Scotia Mansion residents have worshipped at our church.

Last month, Father Matt, observed and participated in the ALM Kingsway service by offering a closing blessing as Pauline Holmes, officiating services for August, looks on.

alice polumbo

MUSIC OUTREACH



Some 40 + residents of the Kingsway Community were treated to “live” entertainment in their dining room on Sunday, September 11th at 2PM. Our own Andrew Krystopolski brought a repertoire of music for the accordion and piano. His selections on the accordion included “Roll Out the Barrel,” “The Baby Doll Polka,” “Johnny’s Knocking Polka” (sung in both Polish and English), and “The Clarinet Polka.” On the piano he encouraged a sing-along to “Amazing Grace” then went into a rousing version of “The Old Piano Roll Blues,” segued into Italian favorites “That’s Amore” and “Santa Lucia,” followed by “Sentimental Journey” and “My Way.” He ended with another sing-along to “God Bless America.” Toes were tapping and voices were humming, as Andrew performed as only Andrew can!

lynn paska



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GEORGIAN BAKERS ALERT: On Saturday, October 8th at 1PM....the Great Hall kitchen will be a flurry of activity as volunteers “bake the afternoon away.” All you need for participation are the ingredients to bake 3 dozen (or, more) of your favorite cookie recipe while spending time with your fellow Georgian Bakers. Mixing bowls, baking trays and measuring cups will be provided. Come, join the fun! Recipient of this ministry will be St. Joseph’s Place, a drop-in center of the Hamilton Hill neighborhood that encourages residents to stop in for some respite, a quiet place to talk and pray, with cookies and coffee provided. Contact Kevin Grace, chairman of this new community outreach, for more information.

PET BLESSING: One of St. George’s most popular community events is the Pet Blessing, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, which takes place on Sunday, October 9th at 2PM: in front of the church, weather permitting....or, inside the church, if inclement weather. All pets must be on a leash or in a crate. All God’s Creatures are welcome!



A REMINDER:: Our Sunday 9AM Mass is videotaped by Rick Forshaw and Mike Thiessen. It is then telecast Sundays at 4:30PM, Thursdays at 10AM and Fridays at 2PM on SACC-16 TV as well as Sundays at 2PM on Channel 18, Albany and Guilderland.