



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

June 2012

DELEGATED EPISCOPAL PASTORAL OVERSIGHT

The weekend of March 24th was a very special one in the church life of St. George's, as we welcomed Bishop Skip Adams of the Diocese of Central New York as our celebrant and preacher at a combined 10AM Mass. We also welcomed him as our Pastoral Bishop under the provision of DEPO (Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight) as approved by Bishop William Love of the Diocese of Albany.

We, at St. George's, are grateful to Bishop Love for accepting our decision to seek DEPO as a means of understanding, healing and reconciliation, and to Bishop Skip for his courage in accepting the challenge of this position which is adding new responsibilities to his already busy work schedule.



Bishop Skip Adams

SCHENECTADY HERITAGE FOUNDATION AWARD

Every year, the Schenectady Heritage Foundation honors a select group of owners in Schenectady County for their preservation of historic properties. At a ceremony in the Rotunda at City Hall on May 24th, St.



(L-R) Richard Forshaw, Fr. Paul Blanch, Mark & Alicia Kring Ferri, David Kennison.

George's was recipient of one of five 2012 Preservation Awards in recognition of the restoration of our wrought iron fence on North Ferry Street. Senior and Junior Wardens, David Kennison and Richard Forshaw, accepted the award from Mayor Gary R. McCarthy.

The ceremony was attended by St. George's rector Father Paul Blanch, and Alicia Kring Ferri and her husband Mark (the fence project was underwritten by the Kring family in memory of their parents Fred and Virginia.) Also present at the ceremony were vestry members Chris Henry, Alice Polumbo and Lynn Paska, vestry member/treasurer Jonathan Pearson, and financial secretary Bob Paska.

WHITE DRAGON TAG SALE



It took 15 hours over 2 days to sell \$2,000 + worth of White Dragon Tag Sale merchandise....and 57-minutes to break it all down....so that the Great Hall could be in pristine condition for that evening's Vestry dinner and the next morning's parish-wide bring-and-share luncheon with Bishop Skip Adams. A big "thank you" to all volunteers who sorted, priced, cashiered, bagged, and did behind-the-scenes "grunt" work that make this such a successful annual event. A round of applause to the Dragon lady Rosemary Pannone, hard-working Rick Forshaw, and Chef Michael Thiessen for providing home-cooked meals to the workers.



Are you a frustrated gardener? Do you have a green thumb but no yard? Now, you can maintain your own area - according to your time and talent - while doing St. George's a valuable service. This project has been broken down into 50 segments plus 48 other identified tasks. A detailed "to do" list is posted on the Bulletin Board in the Great Hall. See, phone or email Rosemary Pannone....she will put you to work!

IN MEMORIAM



Katherine (KT) Schmidt

1925 - 2012

Rest in Peace

You are missed by your church family

OUTREACH

On Thursday evening, March 22nd, beautiful daffodills graced a dessert table that welcomed 15 ladies from the YWCA's residential program. In addition to dessert and fellowship, each woman received an Amy Machold-donated CDTA tote bag to pre-shop St. George's tag sale donated clothing and linens for about an hour.



St. George's will be represented by two parishioners, JJ Moran and Olivia Jaquith, in the 2012 SICM summer intern program. As part-time participants their responsibilities will include administration of the summer lunch program, work at the Damien Center, Edible Gardens, SICM's food pantry and a new program, home furnishings.

On Sunday, May 6th, St. George's participated in the annual SICM-sponsored CROP WALK. Ably assisted by canine family member Timmy, Wendy and Tom Madelone completed the 5K walk and turned over \$415 in collected Georgian support for their efforts.

During the summer, St. George's will live its outreach mission through three projects. August 13-17 is the week of the SICM summer lunch program, where we'll be helping at last year's location, Wallingford Park. Things of my Very Own will be on the receiving end of St. George's famously outfitted backpacks in August.

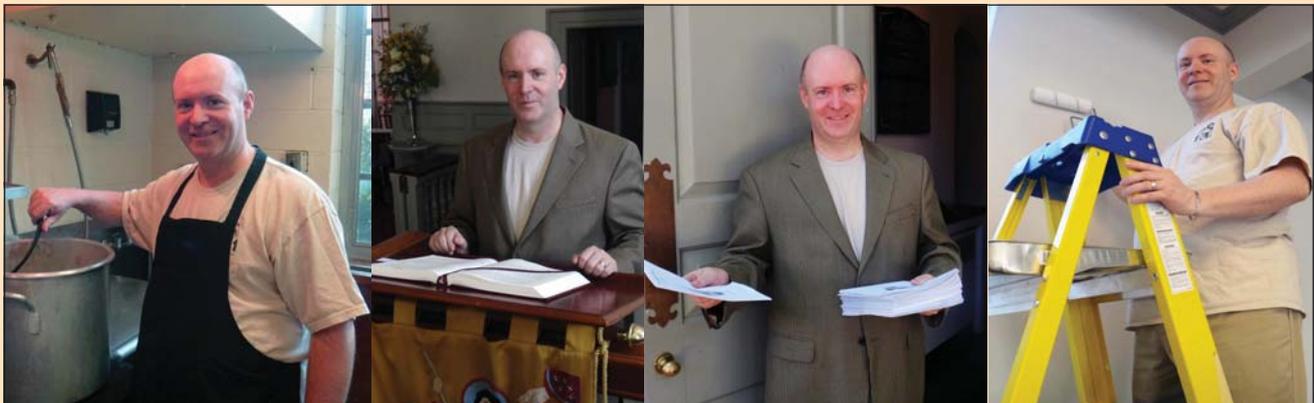


Our third activity will be an enhanced SICM food pantry drive. You may recall that in the past St. George's has made a hill of beans, explored pastabilities and set peanut butter and jelly to war with each other. This summer the "cry" of "Oh Baby!!" goes out as we'll concentrate on collecting a wide and numerous range of baby food products through Labor Day, when the total quantity and variety of goods received will be revealed.

alice polumbo

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEER

Where in the world of St. George's is Kevin Grace?



In the kitchen....
...cooking

At the lectern....
...reading

In the narthex....
...greeting

In the great hall....
...painting

And....anywhere else you need this enthusiastic, multi-talented volunteer. Thank you, Kevin, for "gracing" us with your limitless expertise and energy.

THE RECTOR WRITES

Hospitality Part Two: continued from the last edition.

As the prophets of doom would have us believe, the world is becoming a more secular and anti-religious place, but as we contemplate our theology of hospitality here in St George's, surely we need to assess our credibility in this modern world. The Gospel of Jesus Christ does not give us permission to beat people over the head with our message; we need to prove to the world that we first of all live out the message in our own lives. But perhaps we need to remind ourselves that the message is for all people.



Anglican Tradition has always tried to combine the ancient traditions of Christian faith with local, indigenous expressions of it. Our identity is primarily contained in a vernacular Prayer Book and Bible: *lex orandi: lex credendi* as theologians would say – the rule of prayer is the rule of belief.

Understanding this particular dynamic is I believe the key to understanding why so many in what we call the “Emerging Church” movement are so comfortable in the Anglican tradition, for they see the freedom to grow something fresh and new out of the old tradition.

We need to ask, is the church meant to be an “emerging” experience; or is the Church of Jesus Christ to be a dramatic embodiment of the incarnate Christ? My answer is both! The body gathers for edification, learning, and worship. The body must also scatter to propagate their faith and mission incarnationally as every member is involved in everyday life situations. In this manner, membership and mission are parts of the same process – so the Church and its role is both very familiar to people and yet often very misunderstood. The result is that the theological essence of the church can often be confused with a popular fixation by many folk in its current state of flux or “emerging.” It has always been thus!

This emerging or flux is natural and healthy, for central to the heart of the Christian life within the Church is the idea of growth through genuine hospitality. This is not surprising, since our God is a hospitable God. He is hospitable enough to welcome us all into his presence; he welcomes the sinner, he searches out the lost and the lonely and the hurting.

Any church that wants to reflect the nature of God must, first and foremost, be a hospitable church. Hospitality is a truly Christ-like ministry. To be truly hospitable, is to know how costly yet Christ-like this task may be. But we must become poor by developing an attitude of non-attachment to everything we cling to falsely from the past, everything that stands in the way of true Christ-like hospitality, be it our own attitudes or our possessions.

There are many around us today who tell us that we should be more concerned first and foremost with orthodoxy and right belief, this is what fills churches we are told. People are seeking the truth and need firm faith and strong moral guidance. People still yearn for the church to be in a position of power in society and offer strong leadership in all things. Thus prophets of doom bewail the loss of the Church and its role and influence in the modern world. Yet in my recent reading of Philip Yancey's book “*What's so amazing about Grace?*” I was impressed to see an evangelical writer such as Yancey remind us of the need to let God's grace flow in our church life and thinking, thus making real the concept of warm and genuine hospitality rather than straining for a kind of purity and power of the past. Yancey quotes Mark Galli of *Christian History* magazine as he recalls how Christians at the end of the twentieth century complain about the disunity of the church, the lack of godly leaders in politics, and the dearth of Christian influence in popular culture. He describes how none of these things pertained in the Middle-Ages when the church was allegedly unified. However, lest we get too nostalgic, he reminds us that this was the era of the Crusades that devastated the lands of the East. This was the age of priests and Bishops marching with armies, and converting people at sword point. He recalls the Inquisition, and the many hounded Jews, the hunted witches and even those loyal

Christian folk who were subjected to cruel tests of faith and belief. In those days Yancey says, Grace gave way to power! Sadly, we are seeing a return to these methods in many aspects of religion today. Can we not learn from the mistakes of history?

Ours must be a different way. Ours must be a way that is more Christ-like and compassionate. The Church historian Paul Johnson sums the whole matter up when he states boldly *“Attempts to perfect Christian societies in this world, whether by popes or revolutionaries, have tended to degenerate into red terrors”*. So our way in the Twenty First century must be different. Ours must be the way of learning from the past, treasuring that which is good and noble, but growing something fresh and new out of the old.

This is why St George’s Church is now growing steadily. This is surely why more and more intelligent and thinking people seriously desire to join us here at St George’s. The best of the old and the best of the new should be set forth to all who come searching, and we do this best when we are warm and compassionate and sincere in our hospitality to all

Your friend and priest, Fr Paul

- VISITATIONS -

Sometimes overuse of a word can be tiresome; sometimes it just seems to fit. If you know Roland and Carol Coppola, you cannot help but think of “neat.” They live



in a house on Belmont Avenue that is every bit as “neat” on the inside as it is on the outside. While Roland worked at GE, Carol was a homemaker and still found time to work for the State of New York and later at nearby Sunnyview. They raised four children: Debra, Cindy, Michael (all who live less than two hours away) and Terry (who passed away fourteen years ago.) On a recent visit, son Michael was in the kitchen fixing cabinet doors.

Carol started attending St. George’s when she was in elementary school. After their marriage Roland, raised in the Roman catholic tradition, joined her. When asked what first brought them to St. George’s, both said it was the people and the friendly atmosphere. Roland added that he always felt comfortable here. Asked what they liked best about St. George’s today, almost in unison the answer was the same - the friendly people. That’s “neat.”

Over the years, they have served St. George’s on the Altar Guild, in the Choir, and even weeding in

the garden. Carol said she loved every minute of it, while Roland added that it was wonderful working together side by side. If that isn’t “neat,” I do not know what is.

So the next time you hear/use the word “neat,” think of the Coppolas, the lovely couple who live in the “neat” house and think it is “neat” to be important parts of the friendly atmosphere at St. George’s.

jim wingate

WHAT’S YOUR SPECIALTY?



Culinary Confessions II, the newest cookbook from the kitchens of St. George’s, needs your tried and true recipes, the family favorites of your homes. Think of appetizers, soups, salads, main dishes, side dishes, desserts, marinades, recipes the kids make themselves, foods for entertaining.

The last edition of Culinary Confessions was printed in 1980. We are looking for recipes that reflect today’s tastes plus more traditional favorites. Perhaps you have a go-to meal for a hurried evening after work, or a “lite” update of an older recipe. These personal favorites are exactly what we want.

Share your recipes by sending them to Joan Pearson (jpearson@nycap.rr.com) or leaving them with the greeters. Recipe forms can be downloaded from the church web page (calendar section) or obtained at church. Starting in January we will be sorting and testing, so we must have your recipes by then. If you’d like to work on the cookbook, email Joan or call her at 399-9002. Bon appetit!

joan pearson

LENTEN SERIES 2012

“HOW THE OTHER HALF WORSHIPS”



March 7th: Schenectady Quakers Anita and Tim discussed their Silent Worship and Quaker Values (aka SPICES....Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship) at St. George’s Church. Dame Judi Dench, Jimmy Dean and Daniel Boone are among well-known Quakers.



March 14th: Georgians attended a Healing Meeting at First Church of Christ, Scientist on Union Street with eight testimonies from Christian Scientists led by reader Jeanne Place and congregant James Pennington. The evening ended with refreshments and fellowship in the church foyer.



March 21st: Georgians celebrated Compline at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church on Nott Terrace with Rev. Shawn Dugan, followed by a workshop in which we learned about the German background of Lutheranism. Assisant pastor. Rev. George Carstensen also provided in-depth insight into their religion.



March 28th: Love, Serve and Grow are the core values at Calvary Tabernacle of the Assemblies of God on Albany Street. Praise music preceded bible study with Pastor Noel Cromhout, one of the church’s four pastors. (Lead pastor is his son-in-law Lorenzo Agnes.) Calvary is an active global and local church.



April 23rd: Over twenty Georgians participated in the Feast of St. George the Trophy-Bearer at St. George’s Holy Orthodox Christian Church of Antioch in Albany, with Fr. Gregory-Francis DesMarais. An informal Question & Answer period discussed Anglicanism versus Orthodoxy. This was followed by a Lebanese buffet prepared for us by welcoming parishioners of the church.

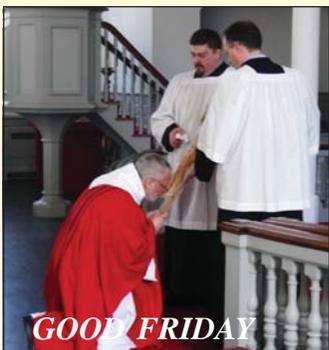
HOLY WEEK 2012



PALM SUNDAY



MAUNDY THURSDAY



GOOD FRIDAY



HOLY SATURDAY



EASTER SUNDAY

With the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday we began another season of Lent. During our Lenten course we focused on learning about worship in other churches, their paths to God. The joyful procession of Palm Sunday introduced Jesus' Passion and the solemnity of Holy Week. Few acts reminded us of Jesus' humanity as clearly as the Maundy, when Fr. Paul washed the feet of twelve people. Stripping the altar, keeping watch, meditating during Good Friday mass, all prepared us for rekindling the holy fire and celebrating Jesus' resurrection with bells and singing and a traditional Georgian reception. At the First Mass of Easter we formally welcomed Mark, Kimberly and Isaac Furnish as members of St. George's. Easter Day resounded gloriously with preaching, brass, organ and Gerre Hancock's stunning *Missa Resurrectionis*, all proclaiming Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

joan pearson



Bishop Skip Adams gave a blessing to Anna Thiessen prior to receiving her white cotta as a symbol of full membership in the St. Nicholas Youth Choir. As part of the Royal School of Church Music "Voice

for Life" Program, Anna has trained, tested and demonstrated a basic knowledge of proper singing technique, reading music, music theory, and teamwork.

Once again, Colton Jaquith shaved his head for St. Baldrick's cancer charity on March 24th. This year he was joined by Fr. Paul. The two Yul Brynner lookalikes showed off their new 'do's. Sponsors were solicited and, collectively, Colton and Fr. Paul raised over \$2,000 locally for this organization that funds cures for childhood cancer.

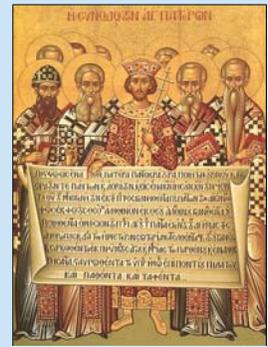


EPISCOPAL EDUCATION

The Nicene Creed – Part I

At every Mass we stand and say the Nicene creed. In the Daily Office, we say the Apostle's Creed. These creeds have become so familiar that we know them by heart, but we probably don't think much about what they really mean or how they came to be. Here is the beginning of a short review of the Nicene Creed, the foundation of our church. In traditional language:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Emperor Constantine (center) and the fathers of the **First Council of Nicaea** of 325 holding the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed of 381.

Book of Common Prayer, Catechism, p851: “The Creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God”, “The Nicene Creed is the creed of the universal Church and is used at the Eucharist”

Dissent in the Early Church When Emperor Constantine became the first Christian leader of the Roman Empire in the 4th century, the empire was a hodgepodge of beliefs and religions. There was also dissent within Christianity with one major question hanging over their heads - Was Jesus divine, and how?

Early Christian doctrine was muddled and inconsistent, especially when it came to the central question of Jesus' relationship to God. Jesus was as eternally divine as the Father, said one camp led by the Archbishop Alexander of Alexandria. Another group, named the Arians after their leader Arius the preacher, saw Jesus as a remarkable leader, but inferior to the Father and lacking in absolute divinity.

Supporters on both sides scrawled graffiti on town walls in defiance while bishops from across the empire entered into a war of words as the controversy simmered to a head in 324. There were riots in the streets and Constantine had to move quickly to restore order

The Council at Nicea That summer, 318 bishops from across the empire were invited to the Turkish town of Nicea, where Constantine had a vacation house, in an attempt to find common ground on what historians now refer to as the Arian Controversy. It was the first ever worldwide gathering of the Church.

The Christianity we know today is a result of what those men agreed upon over that steamy month, including the timing of our most important holiday, Easter, and Jesus' rising from the dead.



The **First Council of Nicaea**.

The compromise proposed by Constantine was vaguely pleasing: Jesus and God were of the same “substance,” he suggested, without delving too much into the nature of that relationship. A majority of the bishops agreed on the compromise and voted to pass the language into doctrine. Their statement of compromise, which would come to be known as “The Nicene Creed,” formed the basis for Christian ideology.

Next Time – Part II, The Nicene Creed, The Message Within the Words

david kennison

ST. GEORGE'S DAY



A Solemn High Mass - a parade with St. Andrew's Society Banners, the Schenectady Pipe Band, clergy, acolytes, choir and parishioners - a final blessing. Everyone looks forward to St. George's Day in the Stockade Area, celebrated this year on Sunday, April 22nd.

- NYC BUS TRIP -

Quite a cheerful group gathered at St. George's early on March 10th, all looking forward to a beautiful day in Manhattan. After a food-filled bus ride entertained by a 50/50 raffle, we arrived at Lincoln Center and melted into the city, some for retail therapy, some to see family, some to sight-see, and many for the 1:00 performance of Cinderella at Avery Fisher Hall.

Well before 5:00 mass we were settled in the pews of St. Malachy's R.C. Church, "The Actors' Chapel," awaiting the Broadway debut of the St. Nicholas Youth Choir (Kali Rose Moran, Elizabeth Petta, Renee Russo, Lili Sanchez, Anna Thiessen, Chloe Tonneau, Ava Weakley, Sam Whiteman)

joined by youth choristers from St. Peter's Episcopal church in Essex Falls, NJ (Andrew's former parish.) The children sang "And All Thy Children" by Vincent Edwards during the offertory, and "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley," arranged by Hal Hopson, during communion. Their voices soared and echoed in this gorgeous space filled with candles and worshipers, and the entire congregation delighted in their music.

By the time we stepped off the bus in Schenectady it had been a very long day, but we didn't care. It was fun. Andrew promises more road trips to different churches with new opportunities for the choirs, all in exciting cities.

joan pearson

- SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -



Many of you ask about the current status or developments in our DEPO Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight relationship with the Diocese of Central New York and its ramifications. So I'm going to step back a bit and briefly summarize where we are and how we got here.

DEPO was conceived and approved by the House of Bishops at the 2004 General Convention. Their action, taken in response to the consecration of Bp Gene Robinson was intended to help those who didn't feel able to receive appropriate pastoral care from their local bishop, who may have supported Bp Gene's consecration. Nationally, a number of conservative parishes in progressive dioceses requested DEPO and for the most part, it has worked well. DEPO allows a parish to receive pastoral care and visitations from a bishop in another diocese, one who shares the same theological and societal views or at least is open to discussing them. DEPO intends to continue communication and communion within a framework of reconciliation.

DEPO is only granted with the permission of the local bishop (for us, Bp Bill Love) and this relationship must be renewed each year. DEPO does not move a parish into another diocese; it is oversight, not jurisdiction. St George's remains in the Diocese of Albany and must pay its full annual

assessment to Albany. Bp Love further requires that the parish and visiting bishop abide by all diocesan canons. St George's is encouraged to attend diocesan events and its convention.

What we have gained with DEPO is a new pastoral relationship with a good and godly bishop, Skip Adams. During his visit in March, many of you remarked at his warmth and openness, yet he was still very careful to not violate the trust placed in him by Bp Love. With DEPO we open a window into the wider church, into activities of Province II, and a path into the many activities of an adjacent, like-minded diocese. Fr Paul has attended a clergy conference in Syracuse and was energized by the breadth of thought and the depth of the discussions. Our Vestry has been invited to Vestry Day in Syracuse, full of discussion and guidance on issues that confront us.

St George's is not alone. Several other parishes are right behind us on the path to DEPO. They also yearn for the freedom of thought and expression that is a hallmark of Episcopalians and is so prevalent in the wider church.

As I write this, the Albany Diocesan Convention is only a week away, so it will be interesting to see if the subject of DEPO arises during business deliberations. I will let you know. We live in interesting times.

With great affection, david

- JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -



(1) The back hall has been painted. It's now brighter and cleaner, and new tile was installed. A new exit door and crash bar has been ordered. The work will be completed shortly. (Cost \$750)

(2) Church doors are in need of restoration. To save the doors, we need to replace and relocate hinges, patch and fill where rotted. Also, the window over the doors is in need of glazing and paint. (Cost \$4,150)

(3) You may have noticed the new signs and the addition of more extinguishers. The Church just went through an inspection from Albany Fire Extinguisher. We are in compliance. (Cost \$1,016)



(1)



(2)



(3)

rick forshaw

IRISH NIGHT



Bill o'fare: corned beef, cabbage & all the trimmings



The beveragemeister



A happy customer



Fun....no strings attached



Leprechauns at work



O'Friendship

ITALIAN NIGHT



Eating In



"Take Out"



Great food, music and fun for all

PROCEEDS FROM BOTH NIGHTS TO BENEFIT THE ORGAN REFURBISHMENT FUND



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- Christopher Henry
- Grant Jaquith
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MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Our Moller Organ, formally blessed and dedicated on October 10, 1982, still provides music for Sunday worship and other feast days. It is frequently used by organ students at SCCC. In February, the American Guild of Organists presented "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza," a hands-on introduction to the pipe organ for children. Our Moller organ is used on a daily basis and has become a practice instrument for approximately 6 different organists in the community.

A 30th birthday marks a milestone and, to celebrate, St. George's plans to give our organ console a much-needed facelift. The proposed plan will add many useful features including 100 levels of memory; a Midi capability; a transposer to allow the organist to play in different keys; and a playback system. (None of these features will replace the organist altogether, so I will still have a job!)

These renovations are expected to cost just under \$40,000 and the Organ Anniversary Committee has a wonderful year of fundraising events planned including - piano recital and concert (both by Elizabeth McFarland), bbq with takeout available, Gala Dinner at Stockade Inn, 30th Birthday Organ Recital, Polish night, Cookie Walk. Interested in supporting the organ refurbishment? Come to these events! Interested in seeing and hearing our pipe organ? Stop by St. George's, and I'll be happy to demonstrate our Magnificent Moller.

andrew krystopolski