



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

June 2015

ST. GEORGE'S DAY



Sunday, April 26th was a very good day to be a Georgian, a friend/guest of a Georgian, or a Stockade neighbor/resident....as St. George's Day dawned sunny and a bit cool, but everyone was ready for a glorious time. Visiting clergy included The Right Rev. Daniel W. Herzog and his attending deacons, The Rev. Howard Smith and The Rev. Raymond Rockwell, our supply priest The Rev. Canon Charles B. King, Jr., and his attending deacon The Rev. Frederick L. Curtis. There was an uplifting mass with the St. Andrew's Society and the Schenectady Pipe Band, followed by a parade around the Stockade Area and ending in the Great Hall with a Georgian feast of epic proportions.

(cont'd page2)

St. George's Day cont'd



Applause and a
"thank you" to
everyone who
worked so hard to
make St. George's
Day such a joyous
celebration from
beginning to end.



OUTREACH



There are just two projects in St. George's established outreach year that ask for gifts of time. One of these is participating in the upcoming annual SICM summer lunch program. St. George's has accepted a one-week commitment to help serve lunches at Wallingford Park, 5th and Congress Streets, the week of August 3 to 7. It was very gratifying last year that sufficient Georgians volunteered to make it only a one-day obligation for all. Look for a sign-up sheet soon and please consider spending one hour this summer helping to feed those taking advantage of this worthwhile program.

alice polumbo

DIOCESAN CONVENTION



The 147th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany was held the weekend of June 5th at Camp of the Woods in Speculator, NY. Vestry members attending were: Chris Henry, Jon Pearson, Jeff Wengrovius, and Bob Paska. Our supply priest, Fr. Charles King, and his wife Alice, also represented St. George's.

Convention Weekend included business meetings, guest speakers, workshops, food, swimming, entertainment, and camaraderie with member churches from the diocese.

For our Georgian guys, however, overnight accommodations at Camp Pearson on Sacandaga Lake was the icing on the cake.



MUSIC OUTREACH



The men and women of our own St. Cecilia Choir performed at the Heritage Home for Women on Upper Union Street in Schenectady on Sunday, April 26th. And a good time was had by all, the singers as well as the appreciative audience. Kudos to Andrew for another sterling performance as emcee, choir director, and pianist who started the afternoon off with a rousing version of “Those Were the Days” theme from All in the Family TV.



EASTER EGG HUNT



Under the direction of Barb Wengrovius....Anna Thiessen, Chloe and Joseph Tonneau, and Ava Weakley hid eggs for the yearly Easter Egg Hunt. Participants were Cora and Faiz Wareh, Liam and Trevor Weakley. Congratulations to Liam Weakley who found the Paschal Egg this year.

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

What if we had all Chiefs and no Indians? Or to put it in relation to St. George's, if we only had Chairmen to do the brainstorming and no Volunteers to do the grunt work? Dorothy Dever, a Georgian since the 1970's, is one parishioner who is never too busy to volunteer at church....SICM Lunch Program, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Assisted Living Ministry, food server and/or church docent at the Stockade Art Show. She even helped Jim Williams resurrect The Shop (currently on hiatus.)

When asked to be the subject of this column, Dot said modestly, "I never thought I gave back because I get so much out of my church." Yet without Dot's volunteerism and enthusiasm, there would be a void in many ministries. She also volunteers bi-monthly for two hours at the Whitney Book Corner. And if you think she sits home the rest of the time watching TV....think again!....her hobbies are bridge, curling, and golf.

A physical therapist specializing in infants, Dot worked for the early Childhood Education Center's Home Base Program, doing house calls for the 3-county area. She retired seven years ago when she felt her energy level waning slightly.

Dot and her husband Bill, who is retired from GE, have a son Christopher, a daughter Carolyn (Yetto), and 6 grandchildren. A Massachusetts native, Dot moved from her home state to Vermont for five years then settled in New York as Bill was transferred again and ended up in Schenectady. Bill is Roman Catholic; Dot is Episcopalian. Their offspring, raised and confirmed as Catholics, were both married in Episcopal churches.

A Georgian through four rectors, Dot enjoyed them all: Fathers Kirby, Vang, McSwain and Blanch, stating that each brought something to our church. Dot particularly loves our liturgy and music. "Andrew (Krystopolski) is essential to the Assisted Living Ministry," she said, alluding to the fact that our Music Director is also an accomplished emcee.

What qualities does she want in a new rector? "A good shepherd who truly believes that the job is to guide his/her flock, who will encourage unity, and who is unobtrusively religious." She also hopes for reconciliation between St. George's and the Diocese of Albany.

Although Dot Dever feels she doesn't give back that much to her church....she does! In her own quiet way, she is one of St. George's staunchest supporters of "time" and "talent."

lynn paska



BOOK CLUB

Meg Hughes reported that **All On the Same Page**, St. George's book club, is on a three-month hiatus after a year of interesting novels. Pauline Holmes led the May discussion of Tracy Chevalier's "Remarkable Creatures." Recommended summer reading by members include "The Circle" by Dave Eggers (Sandee Hughes), "Blue Orchard" by Jackson Taylor (Kali Rose Moran), and "Marker" by Robin Cook (Janemaire Moran.) When the group

starts up again in September, members will have read "House Rules" by Jodi Picoult, with Nancy Angus leading the discussion on September 20th in the Library between our Sunday Masses. It was also suggested that members read/re-read Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" in preparation for its sequel, "Go Set a Watchman."

"It has been a pleasure heading up **All On the Same Page**," Meg offered, as she looks forward to many more meetings come Fall and encourages participation in this stimulating Georgian activity.

EASTER 2015



Easter at St. George's brought sunny smiles and brass fanfares to a chilly spring day, but there's more glory at Easter than festive music and lilies on Sunday morning. Our preparation started on Ash Wednesday, a spiritual journey reminding us why we're

Christians. During the weeks of Lent everyone had opportunities to hear and reflect on Jesus' message and to be part of the building emotions of Holy Week.

Throughout Lent, Kevin Grace's guided discussions of capital punishment looked at Jesus' trial and execution side-by-side with contemporary cases. On Palm Sunday we joyously recreated Jesus' march into Jerusalem and introduced Holy Week with our congregational reading of the Passion. On Wednesday the choir chanted meditative Tenebrae; at Maundy Thursday Mass Fr. King performed the ritual foot-washing, and then the altar was stripped. Watchers kept the overnight vigil in a candlelit Lady Chapel until Good Friday Mass. A windy evening abated just enough for relighting the sacred fire Saturday evening, followed by the First Mass and our Easter Feast!



Brass and organ together welcomed us Easter Sunday morning. Fr. King's sermon focused on the importance of our baptized names, because Jesus will use them to call us as he called Mary after his resurrection. Howard Helvey's "Awake, Arise" at the offertory echoed as glorious trumpets and trombones accompanied the choir. Andrew, Steve Weisse, Patrick Lorini, Shaun Bazylewicz, and Gerry Zaffuts left us with Charles-Marie Widor's Toccata for organ and brass ringing in our ears. With the rest of Christendom we celebrated, Alleluia! Christ is Risen!



joan pearson

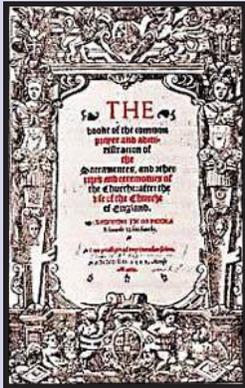


Attending Mass is sometimes known as doing the Anglican Shuffle since people have to juggle the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the Bible and the Hymnal, often even adding a local parish Mass booklet and a weekly bulletin. But nothing else defines the service and the rubrics of the Church like the BCP. It is all that's needed to worship God through the liturgy of the Mass but it contains so much more. We explore a little bit of that book, a work so monumental that it has been called "one of the major works of English Literature" and one which has had an enormous influence on everything written in English.



Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury 1533-1555 and the force behind the creation of the Book of Common Prayer

Beginnings – England, 1533 - Henry VIII was king and Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon had recently been annulled with the support of Thomas Cranmer, Rome's newly-appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. Cranmer's next task was to gain Rome's approval for Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn but when that effort failed, the split of the English church from Rome was inevitable. Backed by Cranmer, Henry became the head of the new Anglican church and in 1549, after some early attempts at prayer books and in spite of Henry's death in 1547, a new prayer book was released, heavily based on the ceremonies of the Roman Rite, but replacing the various Latin rites that had been used in different parts of the country with a single liturgy in English and without traces of allegiance to Rome.



Cranmer's 1549 Book of Common Prayer

A number of revisions and additions followed, culminating in the 1662 BCP that became the foundational prayer book of the Church of England and is officially still used today although a newer alternative book, Common Worship, is now used in many churches.

A Liturgical Tour de Force – From its start 466 years ago, the BCP attempted to set down the complete and proper forms of service for daily and Sunday worship in English. That was soon expanded and then included the Daily Office (Morning and Evening Prayer), the Eucharist, Ministration to the Sick, Reconciliation of a Penitent, and many others. With the extensive lectionary schedules, it was Cranmer's intent that the people be taken through the entire Bible within one lectionary cycle – either to read it for themselves, or for the illiterate to hear it read every day.

If you've ever pledged to be faithful to someone "till death us do part", mourned to the words "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust", or hoped for "peace in our time", you've been shaped by Cranmer's words, likely without knowing it.

The reach of the BCP is broader than just the Anglican Communion. It has close connections to Methodist and Lutheran worship and even to some Presbyterian prayer books. And the liturgical scholarship that, in the early 20th century, went into possible revisions of the Church of England's 1662 book eventually made its way not only into modern BCPs but also had an influence on liturgical developments in the Roman Catholic Church when vernacular Masses were approved and developed at Vatican II and even more so in the Roman Catholic Church's 2011 revision to the *Book of Divine Worship*. The BCP's rite for Holy Matrimony has spread throughout the English-speaking world in many denominations. All in all, the BCP's influence on Christian worship has been huge.

The American BCP – The path of the BCP within the Episcopal Church begins at its 1789 separation from the Church of England. The 1662 book used at that time, gave way to an American BCP, partially based on the 1764 Scottish Liturgy brought over with Bishop Seabury of Connecticut. The preface to the 1789 Book of Common Prayer says, "This Church is far from intending to depart from the Church of England in any essential point of doctrine, discipline, or worship...further than local circumstances require." Further revisions followed in 1892 and 1928. In 1979, a more substantial revision introduced Rite I and Rite II, preserving the traditional language of 1928 and the adding contemporary language. Many changes were made in the rubrics and the shapes of the services.

Regardless, the Episcopal Church describes the BCP as "the primary symbol of our unity."

ASSISTED LIVING MINISTRY

God Be With You.....

St. George's Assisted Care Ministry continues to celebrate the ancient rhythms of the church year at the various locations it serves. Through June, our uniquely crafted prayer service has been shared with almost 450 Georgians and residents. Homilies and at times personal reflections have been offered on Epiphany gifts, the meaning of Lent, the astonishment of Easter, Mary's wonder, Mothers, the Apostles' fate, and the overpowering presence of the Holy Spirit. As this ministry progresses, we've also welcomed Father Webber's occasional celebration of the Eucharist and his insightful thoughts. At each facility, relationships are forming and we recognize milestones in participants' lives during the prayer portion of our service. Andrew's musical offerings enhance our service immeasurably, and we conclude each service by singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."



Fr. Webber celebrating Mass at Kingsway Community delivering a Pentecost-themed homily



Judith Smith reads the collects



Pauline Holmes listens



Andrew plays a musical interlude



Joan Pearson listens



Suzy Unger officiates at Glen Eddy



Glen Eddy resident & Dot Dever

The Assisted Care Ministry Team will next be visiting Capital Living on July 7th. If you'd like to join, you'd be welcome. You can get visitation particulars from either Judith Smith or Andrew Krystopolski.

.....Till We Meet Again

alice polumbo

- SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -



Since the last report in our March edition, we have experienced the rigors of Holy Week and the joys of Easter, with a solid week of Masses and services. Next our Patronal Festival, St. George's Day, a Solemn High Pontifical Mass, with Bagpipes and procession in the streets of the Stockade. Finally as summer began, the Feast of Corpus Christi and the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, The major feasts attended by over 150. With special thanks to Fr. King; not only have we had a Supply Priest but visiting clergy as well as Deacons and Sub-Deacons and, yes, even a Bishop. The devotion to these liturgies has been accomplished by a small army of Acolytes (many who debuted for the first time) and a committed group of Altar Guild and Sacristans. Last but not least, our steadfast choir and their many friends gave glorious music the greater glory and honor of almighty God. A new level of commitment has come to our worship.

I dare say a certain amount of rest has been earned but as the summer months approach I would implore us all to be reminded that our Sunday devotion still continues. Even the most regular members of our parish family take summer vacations and weekend getaways. Please try to remember the commitments we have made to supporting our Sunday worship whether it be through lecturing, greeting, serving as Acolyte or Altar Guild. Please continue to support our efforts by supporting each other to cover all the ministries we have worked so hard to build. Relationships have been built within these ministries. Please remember that if you're unable to be with us, there may not be anyone to carry on if they do not know you will be absent.

*thank you for all the gifts you share.
yours in christ,
chris henry*



- TREASURER'S REPORT -

Online giving - Our vestry is considering a program to facilitate automatic giving. It would permit you to go online to a website where you would set up your bank information and instruct the service provider to transfer funds to St. George's on either a regular systematic basis, or on a onetime special occasion. This can make your giving easier, and ease the Sunday morning rush since you won't have to pause to write a check for your weekly pledge! Please think about how you might use a program like this in your giving. To make it worthwhile we need broad-based support for this change.

On a financial note, you have probably noticed that Mass attendance has been falling off since Father Paul left at the end of November 2014. Unfortunately that is manifesting itself in giving as well. Through the end of April our giving is 24% below the same period of 2014. Although this is discouraging, long-time Georgians can confirm that attendance and giving have gone through similar drops during previous periods when a rector search was in process. The good news is that when the vestry crafted this 2015 budget, we did anticipate this falloff in giving, and planned accordingly for this year. Giving through April is in line with our year-to-date budget. The most critical time of the year for maintaining a budget is the summer months. Please do your best to keep your giving levels up. If you will be traveling, please maintain steady giving by contributing extra money before you go away, or catch back up immediately after your return.

*enjoy your summer,
jon pearson*

ASCENSION 2015

Picture a blue sky overhead, puffy clouds -- and feet. Fr. King described the Chapel of Ascension at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham as what Jesus' disciples saw when he returned to heaven, an event every bit as amazing as the Resurrection. Jesus is waiting for us in heaven with the same scarred body that he had on earth.



We celebrated Ascension Mass on May 14th with a packed choir loft, our St. Cecilia Choir plus the New York Catholic Chorale and the choir of the First Reformed Church of Scotia. Francis Jack's trumpeting *Communion Service in G*, conducted by Christian Ritter, was the musical setting of the Mass. At the offertory, conducted by Andrew Krystopolski, the choir sang exuberant *God is Gone Up* by Gerald Finzi. Who didn't have the urge to snap their fingers during perky *Viri Galilaei* by Frederic Debons at communion? Or smile at the cheerful prelude and postlude played by Justan Foster? These three directors used the voices of organ and singers to announce the message of the day: in Gerald Finzi's words, "God is gone up with a triumphant shout! Sing praise!"

joan pearson

CORPUS CHRISTI 2015



Although the Feast of Corpus Christi is liturgically celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, it can also be celebrated on the Sunday following the official date, as we did at St. George's on June 7th. The Holy Mass concluded with a procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament as displayed in the Monstrance.



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The Georgian Report

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CARR-SMIGELSKI WEDDING



Louisa Carr and Paul Smigelski were married at St. George's on Saturday, May 16th at 11 o'clock. Our St. Cecilia Choir sang as family and friends filled the pews for this happy occasion. Louisa's college friend (Kristine Paulsen Photography) took pictures at the wedding and reception.

Save the Date: Saturday, September 12th is the Stockade Art Show, and St. George's will once again need helpers on the grills, to serve food, take money, and greet visitors to the church as docents. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex in August....or, talk to co-chair Joan Pearson and/or Kevin Grace to volunteer *early* for this annual event that's proven to be both fun for participants and profitable for the church.

Jim Wingate's "Visitations" column will resume in the September issue of *The Georgian Report*.

Rick Forshaw, our Junior Warden, is recovering from knee surgery. Prior to his operation, he made sure that all projects under the umbrella of Buildings & Grounds had been completed.