



# THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

June 2016

## ST. GEORGE'S DAY

*“A beautiful church.” “A lovely liturgy.”* Georgians overheard family, friends and neighbors speaking glowingly of St. George's during our Patronal Celebration and Stockade Parade on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. A combined 10AM Mass ended with a welcoming buffet for all in the Great Hall. Special thanks to The Reverend Canon Paul Hunter, The Reverend Richard B. Lehmann, and guest clergy The Reverend Jason Catania, as well as the St. Andrew's Society, the Schenectady Pipe Band, music director Andrew Krystopolski and his St. Cecilia Choir with guest trumpeters Omar Williams and Michael Perry.



cont'd page 2



# SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

Remember our 2011 Stewardship Campaign when diminutive Susanna Sherwood stood on a soapbox (figuratively and literally), spoke into the microphone, and told of her journey at St. George's? She called St. George's "our miracle" and ended with "...even miracles have to be paid for." Her passionate plea opened hearts and wallets. We reached our stewardship goal that year!

Susanna, daughter Suzy Unger and son-in-law Richard Unger, are dedicated Georgians as evident by their volunteer work in different ministries. Susanna was on Altar Guild for many years, responsible for the Wednesday Mass at 7PM. She also chaired the Harvest Dinner Walkabout for two years; worked on various church dinners, crafts, and anything else ongoing. Suzy sings soprano in our St. Cecilia Choir and is a member of the Assisted Living Ministry. Richard is the newest vestryman, lector and greeter, and worked on our award-winning float for this year's NiskaDay Parade. Suzy and Richard help maintain our campus grounds and landscaping with Rick Forshaw.

Daughter of a navy man and wife of a marine, Susanna lived "here, there and everywhere" as the two men in her life were deployed every three years. She discovered St. George's while living in Schenectady where she's been a parishioner (sporadically, at first) since 1953. "When Jim retired from the marines in 1966 and was hired at GE, our religious roots were cemented at St. George's," she explained.

Suzy grew up at St. George's from age 3. She sang in the girls choir when there was a girls' choir and a boys' choir but no adult choir. "Andrew has an outstanding music program today," she said, adding that he's adapting his chorister prayer to music for singing next year. Suzy was confirmed (1961) and married (1980) here.



*Susanna Sherwood (seated) is surrounded by her daughter Suzy Unger, son-in-law Richard Unger, and granddog Cody Unger.*

Richard likes the personal history Susanna and Suzy have with St. George's, and his own personal history: his wedding day. An advocate of name tags, he feels it would help parishioners become more readily acquainted with newcomers and vice versa.

Each has defining qualities for our rector search, someone....

Susanna - "...who is spiritual and a healer."

Suzy - "...who is open, spiritual, and promotes leadership. You need solemnity infused with more energy, young people and more families."

Richard - "...who follows the Episcopal Christian Tradition but is flexible. A unifying person able to compromise."

We salute this energetic family for over sixty years of volunteering on behalf of our church life and church family.

*lynn paska*

# CORPUS CHRISTI 2016



Georgians celebrated Corpus Christi on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>....which is *the belief in the body and blood of Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist*. Ava Weakley and Cora Wareh tossed rose pedals as canopy holders James Whitehead, Rich Unger, Mike Todt and Jim Wingate escorted Fr. Richard Lehmann as he carried the Monstrance to the altar. Deacon Howard Smith also participated in this very special and meaningful Mass.

*lynn paska*

Attending the Diocesan Convention (June 10-11) at Camp of the Woods in Speculator, NY: Chris Henry and Jon Pearson (deputies) and Bob Paska and Jeff Wengrovius (alternate deputies.)

Good Wishes go out to Joan Bessarab who is recuperating from a broken leg at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Center in Schenectady.

# OUTREACH

Georgians were very generous in the Spring of 2016.

Food donations for the SICM food pantry overflowed the collection baskets and were delivered to SICM twice. Georgians also gave generously for the Lenten collection of donated underwear and socks for school-aged children in Schenectady public schools, where administrators have identified a lack of these basic necessities in too many of their students.

Outreach at St. George's in Summer of 2016 will feature participation in the SICM Summer Lunch program. The SICM Summer Lunch program (now called "Summer Meals" because it is expanding to provide breakfast to children at some of the most popular Summer Lunch spots), provides meals to almost 2,000 young Schenectadians daily. St.

George's will cover a week of Summer Lunches in August, so stay tuned for more information and sign-up. This is a fun and easy experience that is deeply impactful for volunteers and recipients. Commitment is -2 hours per day, and sign-ups can be for the whole week or just a single day.

Also, throughout the summer please remember to keep donating nonperishable food on Sunday mornings to the collection baskets at the back of the church. So many school children in our community rely on meals provided through the schools that families often struggle to provide for their kids when school is out. This is a simple exercise for us: simply remember to pick up a few extra cans of food at the store and bring them in for our less fortunate neighbors.

Thank you for your unstinting generosity!

*louisa carr*

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM



Georgians welcomed the Alread twins, Aiden Michael and Kaleb Patrick, into our church family on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.



Georgians welcomed Giovanni Vincienzo Bergami into our church family on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.



# EASTER 2016



From the procession of Palm Sunday through the exuberance of Easter, St. George's observed Holy Week with gravity and beauty. Gathering in the Great Hall, the Palm Sunday congregation received palms from Fr. Lehmann then followed the choir into church as they chanted Psalm 118. This joyful service became somber during our reading of the Passion. The Passion was reiterated in the offertory anthem, *The Way to Jerusalem* by Harold Friedell, with Rembert Herbert as soloist. At Communion, Christina Danley joined Andrew for a gorgeous cello/organ Meditation on *Adoro Te Devote* by Charles Callahan. The Blessing and Dismissal transported us into Solemn Holy Week.



On Wednesday evening we observed Tenebrae, the meditative chanting of psalms. This is what church must have been like before electricity, just candlelight and voices in the dark. Then, on Maundy Thursday, the human side of Jesus was re-enacted as Fr. Lehmann washed parishioners' feet, followed by the bleakness of Jesus' watch as acolytes stripped the altar to the words of Psalm 22. Volunteers kept silent Vigil in the Chapel until the Good Friday Liturgy.



On Good Friday there is no organ, but a capella music led by the choir. The effect is simple, gorgeous, grounded. The congregation revisited the Passion, meditated, venerated the cross, and left in silence, ready for the Resurrection.

The Great Paschal Vigil on Saturday night rekindled the new fire and celebrated the First Mass of Easter, followed by our feast, organized by Amy

and Dan Machold. Easter Sunday, celebrated by the Reverend Canon Paul Hunter and the Reverend Richard Lehmann, also included the Signature Brass: Steve Weisse, Ben O'Shea, Shaun Bazylewicz, and Patrick Lorini. Trumpets ushered in the congregation and the glorious opening procession. Brass and organ combined during Communion for Paul Davis' lovely arrangement of *O Sons and Daughters* and ended the service with everyone's favorite, Charles-Marie Widor's "Toccata" from *Symphony V*. As Fr. Lehmann said, the first Easter is when death moved in reverse. And so we rejoice every Easter — Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

joan pearson

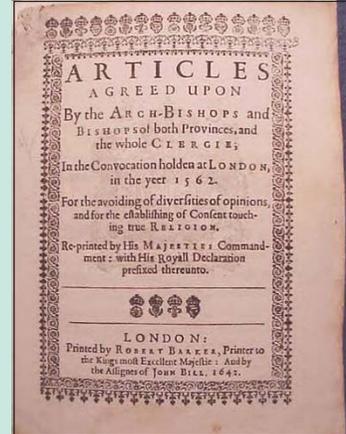


*Chances are you may never have heard of the Thirty-Nine Articles (formally The Articles of Religion) but even if you have, it was probably more of a passing historical encounter than something to study and inwardly digest. Yet the Thirty-Nine Articles are a foundational document that formed the basic structure for Church of England and ultimately the Episcopal Church. It's worth knowing more about them and this is a brief review. So open your BCP to pg 867 and take a fresh look. In future columns, we'll delve deeper into some of those articles.*

It was 1563. King Henry VIII had broken the English church away from Rome and later died in 1547. Martin Luther had nailed his *Ninety-Five* Theses to the door of the All Saint's Church in Wittenberg in 1517, thus ultimately and unwittingly beginning the Protestant Reformation.

In this environment, the Church of England strongly needed to define its beliefs on matters of theological doctrine that would distinguish it from the Roman Catholic Church and the growing Protestant movement.

Doctrinal statements were generated and revised again and again from 1536 onwards. This resulted in successive documents of 6, 10, 42 and finally 39 Articles. Under the firm hand of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer and 45 other "divines and bishops", this finally culminated in the Thirty-Nine Articles of 1563, issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This created the unique English middle way between Roman Catholicism and Protestant concepts. Thus the Thirty-Nine Articles represent an important foundational part of our Anglican tradition.



A 1642 printing of the 1562 edition of the Thirty-Nine Articles.



Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, principal author of the Book of Common Prayer and the 42 Articles.

Upon the establishment of the American Episcopal Church in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the English Articles were incorporated almost verbatim, of course deleting all references to England, kings and princes. And so was born the *Episcopal Articles of Religion* in 1801. John Wesley later adopted the Articles for use in the American Methodist Church, where they remain official United Methodist doctrine.

The Thirty-Nine Articles are not a creed, although they very specifically invoke the Church's creeds (Nicene, Apostles' and to some extent, Athanasian). They are clear statements dealing with the particular controversies of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and stating the Anglican position on those controversies. Generally, the Articles may be divided into 4 groups:

**Articles I–VIII: The Roman Catholic Articles:** The first five articles articulate the Roman Catholic credal statements concerning the nature of God and the Holy Trinity. Articles VI and VII deal with Holy Scripture, while Article VIII discusses the essential creeds.

**Articles IX—XVIII: The Protestant and Reformed Articles:** These articles address sin, justification, predestination and the eternal disposition of the soul. Of particular focus is the major Reformation topic of justification by faith in Article XI.

**Articles XIX–XXXI: The Anglican Articles:** This section focuses on the expression of faith as manifested in the institutional church, the councils of the church, worship, ministry, and sacramental theology.

**Articles XXXII—XXXIX: Miscellaneous:** These articles concern clerical celibacy, excommunication, traditions of the Church, and other issues not covered elsewhere. In the original English Articles,

*(continued on page 9)*

## - VISITATIONS -

While many of the folks the Pastoral Care team visits have been members of St. George's Church almost since birth, for others their journey here is more like the Beatles song "*the long and winding road that leads to my door.*" Such is the case for Dr. Charles Stamm and his lovely wife Ann.

Charles received his MD from Temple University followed by his residency in the US Air Force from 1955-57. He next went to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he specialized in the field of Radiology. Upon completion of his studies in Ann Arbor, his search for employment brought him to Schenectady and a position at Ellis Hospital. 1955 was not only the year he entered the Air Force, but it was also the year he married his lifelong partner Ann. She had been a department head for Hutzler's, a Baltimore-based chain of department stores. Together, they raised four children: Kate (Reston, VA), Jared (Salem, NY), Charles - called Chip (Brooklyn, NY) and St. George's own Martha Weiskotten, a nurse in Schenectady.

The Stamms' theological journey to St. George's also took some time to develop. Charles and Ann were members of the United Church of Christ (then the Union Presbyterian Church.) They joined the First Methodist Church because of their music program. It was Martha that suggested they try St. George's, and here they stayed. Both Charles and Ann said they loved the beautiful, rich, traditional Liturgy and, of course, the wonderful music program. That is not surprising as Ann had been a substitute organist in the area for years and Charles played the bass fiddle.

Aside from playing his bass on special occasions here at St. George's, Fr. McSwain convinced Charles to serve on the Vestry to fill a vacated position. Ann partnered with Lillian McIlwain to do Pastoral Care visits for several years.



jim wingate

Article XXXVII states among other things that "*The Bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this Realm of England*" – a clear statement if there ever was one.

Some of the Articles conflict with church practice, especially that following the Oxford Movement. For example, Article 28, "*Of the Lord's Supper*" rejects the Roman Catholic understanding of Holy Communion which says the bread and the wine actually becomes the body and blood of Christ. Similarly, this Article states that the "*Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshipped.*" Yet today, we reserve consecrated hosts in the tabernacle, we process with the Sacrament at Corpus Christi, we lift it up during the Mass, and we worship it at Benediction and Adoration. But this Article also rejects the Protestant teaching that the Holy Communion was little more than a memorial service - another attempt to walk a "via media" between Rome and the Protestants.

The Thirty-Nine Articles have never enjoyed the status of creeds. Episcopal clergy are required to affirm "... *I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church.*" The "doctrine" to which clergy pledge allegiance is that set forth in the Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty-Nine Articles. But interestingly, the laity is not required to pledge a similar assent in Baptism, Confirmation, Reception or any other pastoral office.



Queen Elizabeth I, in whose reign the Thirty-Nine Articles were issued.

In spite of their orientation from another time, the Thirty-Nine Articles are regularly cited and interpreted to clarify doctrine and practice. The Articles remain part of our Anglican tradition, part of the evolution of thought and expression which has made us as Episcopalians what we are.

david kennison

## - SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

Your Search Committee has been working diligently on the rector search. We have advertised in numerous publications and on-line, have been in close contact with the Diocese of Albany, and processed inquiries from potential candidates. We have had both Skype and Teleconference calls with several priests, and we feel we are getting closer to the end of this journey. Our objective is to be able to call someone within the next few months to be Rector #19 at St. George's Church.



*Yours in Christ, Chris*

## - JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

Congratulations, and thanks to the following for making our float, a replica of a Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass CD cover, #1 in the 2016 Niska-Day Parade on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a first prize float created by a first prize group of volunteers: Richard and Suzy Unger; Chris Henry (aka Herb Alpert); Tara Forshaw; Jason Benoit; Ava, Trevor and Liam Weakley; Karen Forshaw; and Douglas Bartholomew.



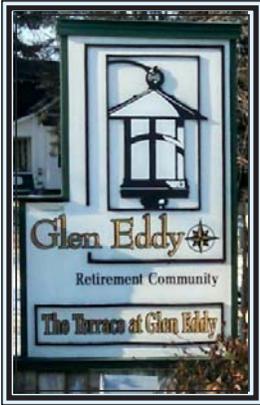
Thanks also to Bob Garbellano of G&M Auto Tech for towing our float in the parade.

*rick forshaw*

*Jonathan Pearson's Treasurer Report will return in September.*

***SAVE THE DATE*** - our popular St. George's Cafe will be open for business again for the Stockade Art Show on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Look for a sign-up sheet in August for volunteers to serve food, work the grills, serve drinks, and clean up. See Joan Pearson or Kevin Grace for more information.

# ASSISTED LIVING MINISTRY



The second stop on the Assisted Living Ministry monthly schedule of services is The Terrace at The Glen Eddy, located at 1 Ascot Lane in Niskayuna. This facility consists of 42 one or two bedroom private apartments with a wide range of living amenities such as assistance with daily activities, licensed nursing staff, 24 hour resident care, health and wellness assessments along with lifestyle enhancements.

The Glen Eddy service is customarily our smallest congregation which affords an intimate setting for worship and we've come to know our congregants well.

ALM services are suspended for June and will resume July 5<sup>th</sup>. During this hiatus, the ALM group has been meeting to assess our program and work out the next few month's schedule. All aspects of the ALM experience plan to be addressed such as our current service format, special service adaptations, musical offerings all of which will be interspersed around lots of anecdotal stories and observations shared in the last year.

ALM has been blessed to have Father Webber celebrate Eucharist at one facility each month but he has realized that it is time for him to step away from the program. We'll be honoring his dedicated service along with wife Katherine at Persian Bite on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

ALM has proven to be a flexible and meaningful experience for those taking part. If you would like more information please see Andrew Krystopolski or Judith Smith.

*alice polumbo*



## MUSIC NOTES



Ten-year old Faiz Ware is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Craig Elementary School in Niskayuna. Faiz is also a music student with our own Andrew Krystopolski.

He made all Georgians proud as he demonstrated his musical "chops" on our Moeller on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

The son of Tarik and Patty, and brother of Cora, Faiz played the prelude and postlude at the 9AM Mass to a stunned and proud congregation. His love of music began at the young age of 6....with Shape Note Singing ...and continues on today with regular organ lessons from our own "master" Andrew.



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**ASCENSION 2016**

St. George's observed the Feast of the Ascension on May 5 with Mass celebrated by Fr. Lehmann. Musically framed by Barrie Cabana's *Mass in the Dorian Mode*, the medieval tones evoked the apostles' wonder as they watched their Lord ascend into heaven.

Every aspect of the Mass glorified this wonder, from the words of the first hymn, "... day when the Christ ascends, high in the heaven to reign!" through scripture readings and sermon. After the blessing the congregation departed visualizing Jesus in Heaven, seated next to God, adored by angels. And now we Christians await His return: as we are assured in every Mass, "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again."

Joan Pearson

**"ALL ON THE SAME PAGE" BOOK CLUB**

St. George's book club "All On the Same Page" is on summer hiatus and will resume meeting on September 11th. In preparation for that meeting, members are reading "The Boys in the Boat," a #1 New York Times best-seller by Daniel James Brown.

New members are always welcome, so grab a copy and read along! It is an inspiring book on the 1936 American gold-medal-winning Olympic rowing team, perfect summer reading to coincide with the 2016 Games in Brazil. Please see Meg Hughes or call her at 694-1550 if you have any questions.

*meg hughes*



**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.