

# **ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH**

**SCHENECTADY, NY    EST. 1735**



## **Annual Meeting**

**January 22, 2023**

### **A PRAYER FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Grant, O Lord, that thy Holy Spirit may preside over us now in all our concerns and deliberations for the welfare of this parish. We thank thee for all the blessings of the past year, and pray that we may go together from strength to strength in the year before us. Help us all to dedicate ourselves to thee, and to be ready to make sacrifice of time and money for the extension of thy kingdom.

Guide us, we beseech thee, in the choice of our Wardens and Vestry members that they may discharge their duties faithfully.

We praise thee for those thy servants who labored and worshipped here before us, and especially for those who have departed this life since we last met together.

Grant to them **☩** eternal rest, O Lord, and let thy light perpetual shine upon them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A PRAYER FOR ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH**

Thanks be to Thee, O God, Who hast given us  
minds that think  
hearts that love  
and hands that welcome.

Inspire us to work with Thee  
that we may be responsible for Thy gifts.

We praise Thee for our homes,  
our friends and our Holy Church.

Bless St. George's in this  
Two Hundred and Eighty-Seventh year  
and in all Her endeavors for  
the propagation of the Faith  
and for the salvation of souls,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our King.  
Amen.

# Saint George's Episcopal Church

30 North Ferry Street, Schenectady, N.Y. 12305  
Tel: 518.374.3163 E-Mail: [office@stgeorgesschenectady.org](mailto:office@stgeorgesschenectady.org)

## AGENDA

### ANNUAL MEETING

January 22, 2023

### THE AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- ❖ The Opening Prayer
- ❖ Appointment of Clerk
- ❖ Appointment of Ballot Counters
- ❖ Introductory Remarks, David Kennison, Sr. Warden
  - Candidates for Election as Warden & Vestry are Presented
  - Ballots Out
  - Voting
- ❖ State of the Parish Report, David Kennison, Sr. Warden
- ❖ Financial Report, Jeffrey Wengrovius, Treasurer
- ❖ Election Results, Meg Hughes, Vestry Clerk
- ❖ Questions and suggestions from parishioners
- ❖ The Blessing
- ❖ Adjournment

## **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

David Kennison - Senior Warden



In popular culture, it is said that the Chinese word for "crisis" is composed of two characters, one representing *Danger* and the other, *Opportunity*. In fact, in most languages words can have multiple meanings and here, although the word attributed to opportunity can have other meanings, opportunity is certainly one of them.

Presently, St. George's finds itself again in an interregnum – a time between rectors. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> such interregnum in 23 years and may be indicative of the short tenure of rectors in modern times. However, these times are not all bad as the people of the parish pick up the slack, do the work, learn how to work together and really make "the church" into "our church". Conflict inevitably arises from time-to-time, but that's always true, interregnum or not. We learn how to resolve those conflicts and how to love each other more deeply. Our faith in God's grace supports us and supports our church.

Some churches fall apart during an interregnum. Danger and Opportunity – we choose Opportunity. So it is today that we take stock of what God hath wrought at St. George's.

The Search process for our next Rector proceeds. The Vestry has completed initial interviews with all 5 candidates and very soon will gather for prayer and deliberation to discern which of those candidates will be moving forward. There will be another round of interviews, possibly by video this time, and then personal visits to the candidates' parishes and candidate visits to St. George's. Ultimately, it falls to us to discern who God is calling to St. George's. It is not an easy task but faith supports us. The current plan for a new Rector's arrival is June of this year, but that could be sooner or later depending on how things go.

In the meantime we continue parish life, worshipping Almighty God with beautiful High Church liturgy. It has certainly not been easy to arrange for clergy and I apologize if we are not always able to offer a Mass and Holy Eucharist. It is our great joy to have The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang with us as frequently as possible. Dean Vang was the 16<sup>th</sup> Rector of St. George's and has a love for this parish as we have a love for him. The Reverend Peter Schofield has also been a stalwart friend, offering himself freely each month. And how fondly we remember The Reverend Richard Lehmann, a priest who loved this parish, its history and its people until his untimely passing last summer. With luck, there may be new faces at the altar as the hunt for willing and available clergy continues.

The Vestry continues in the temporal affairs of the parish. With a campus such as ours, there is always something that needs attention. Top of mind is our Church boiler, which was discovered to have several significant problems during a preseason inspection. The problems were such that it would be a foolish path to attempt repair. Clearly, this boiler was at the end of its life. The cost of a new boiler was staggering, \$130,000, a sum that no church has lying around. You, the people of St. George's, said "this is my church" and responded brilliantly to a campaign to raise a portion of the cost. That campaign, with a goal of \$35,000, ultimately raised over \$41,000 and eliminated the need to dip into the church endowment principal. It was a loving response by so many loving people.

We have just completed an independent professional audit of our finances, the first such audit in 25 years or more. We weren't looking for any smoking guns and none were found. Our finances are solid, our accounting is accurate and most procedures are appropriate. We really wanted suggestions from the auditor on what we can do better and we received a number of suggestions, which are now being reviewed for implementation. It is a feather in our cap to have an audit like this, as any prospective Rector will want to see that we handle our finances so well.

There is much more to tell, but this gives you an inkling of how St. George's is running – smoothly, carefully, cautiously and with deep faith in God. 2022 was a year of change, yet a year full of action.

Danger and Opportunity – we indeed have chosen Opportunity.

With great affection for you all,  
Respectfully submitted, David Kennison

## **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

Jon Ewbank - Junior Warden

We started 2022 with a laundry list of projects needing attention – some of them minor, some major, and some in between. We spent the first five months of the year whittling away at, primarily, the minor DIY projects.

In June, the Vestry approved the establishment of an Asset Management Committee (AMC) with the aim of improving the process by which we plan and budget for the acquisition, maintenance and disposition of our major assets (buildings, boilers, equipment and machinery). By doing so, we hopefully can break the cycle of having to knee jerk react to crises such as another major boiler repair or replacement. We began that process by identifying our short-, medium-, and long-term needs, followed by developing a plan to actively address the short-term projects, while planning for meeting the medium- and long-range items.

In July and August, the committee proposed a plan, approved by the Vestry, that addressed those most critical short-term projects manageable within the remaining 2022 budget, targeting those corrective actions needed to protect assets from the onset of the winter season, and projects needed to improve our “curb appeal,” as we seek to find a new Rector. The committee also began a study of the individual costs of operation of each of our buildings, with an eye towards determining the most economically advantageous future use of those buildings.

In September, an annual inspection of our various boilers identified potential problems in the two serving the sanctuary and Cranmer House. While awaiting further inspection results and repair estimates, the AMC let contracts for repairs and maintenance to both the Rectory and St. Georges House, while opting to suspend action on further projects until the extent of the boiler repairs was known.

October brought the sad news that the Cranmer House boiler needed significant repairs, and the even worse diagnosis of the need to replace the Church boiler. The silver lining to those grey clouds was that with the repairs to the Cranmer House unit (and a little luck in terms of mild winter weather), that boiler could support both buildings. Also in October, two separate contractors began effecting repairs and repainting on both the Rectory and the front entrance to the church, as well as planned repairs to St. Georges House.

By December, the repairs and painting to the façade of the Rectory had been completed, while the work on the front entrance to the sanctuary and St. George's House were stalled by the onset of inclement weather. To add insult to injury, when the leaves fell off the trees, it was discovered that a significant hole had been developing in the roof of St. Georges House. An emergency temporary patch was applied, with the intent to do a permanent repair when weather permitted.

Not the year I would have preferred, but I firmly believe that St. George's is a resilient church, and that as we continue to worship, pray, work, and play together, we will see better years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jon Ewbank

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dr. Jeffrey Wengrovius - Treasurer

### **2022 Highlights:**

- Income and expenses balanced in 2022: \$295,187 in income and \$267,312 in expenses. Excess income a result of boiler fund giving that has been paid towards the new boiler.
- No money taken from the endowment principal.
- Audit by Cusak & Company successfully completed – 1<sup>st</sup> audit in over 20 years.
- Boiler fund campaign raised over \$40,000!!
- Endowment principal ended the year at about \$2.5M – down \$0.5M due to the stock market.
- Giving about 40% of income.

### **2023 Projections:**

- Budget approved by the Vestry in December: \$337,643 income and expenses (balanced). Anticipate taking \$113,881 from principal endowment to balance the budget.
- Costs of the new church boiler projected to be over \$130,000 – half of which has already been paid.
- Inflation has dramatically increased our utility and other budget items.
- 2023 budget plans for a new Rector to start in June.
- Church bank accounting being moved to First National Bank of Scotia.

### **2024 Concerns:**

- Expenses will rise due to having a new Rector.
- Need new members to sustain our finances.
- Building expenses require about 50% of our budget. We are building poor.

**THANK YOU** to Bob and the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Wengrovius  
Treasurer

## **GARDEN MINISTRY**

Meg Hughes – Vestry Chair

Garden Ministry garnered a new member, Jean Greenspan, who pitched in to help Meg Hughes, Suzy Unger, Barb Wengrovius, and Gloria Kishton winterize the perennial beds. Joyce Cockerham and Lisa Schoonmaker also supported garden maintenance efforts on a few occasions during the growing season. Longtime member Debbie Lambeth, who has relocated to Florida, is sadly missed as a member of the team.

The club concluded its work on November 8, having met two mornings a week starting on April 22, with rare cancellations due to weather or personal obligations. Notable achievements in 2022, along with routine garden maintenance, included:

- Spearheaded the demolition and removal of the old parade float which had been deteriorating in the southeast corner of the parking lot for several years.
- Took delivery of a truckload of mulch and distributed it on the gardens over the course of the summer.
- Cleared trash and weeds from a neglected gravesite at the rear of Cranmer Hall; righted the toppled gravestone; and replanted the plot with grass.
- Eliminated grass growing up through the brickwork along Ferry Street; treated the surfaces with environmentally friendly Borax to discourage reemergence.
- Assured that the grounds were in respectable shape for the Walkabout on Saturday, September 24.
- Removed ferns and other overgrowth from the flowerbed south of the sanctuary. Specific donations earmarked for the revitalization of this site were pledged by Kevin Decker and Gloria Kishton and Bob Lemmerman. Work will conclude in 2023.
- Performed much-needed organization and cleaning of the toolshed at the conclusion of the season.

Camaraderie also marked the long days of spring, summer, and fall for this crew:

- More often than not, the gardeners rewarded themselves with coffee treats at Arthurs's Market once the day's labors were concluded.
- A field trip to the Berkshire Botanical Gardens in Stockbridge on September 13 gave Meg, Suzy, Barb, and Gloria an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and wish Deb a fond farewell before she headed south.
- On November 4, the core gardeners were treated to festive luncheon by a grateful Dr. Brian Taylor at his home following noontime prayer.

## **BOOK CLUB**

Pattie Wareh – Parish Coordinator

St. George's book club met five times in 2022, discussing:

- *This is Happiness* by Niall Ferguson
- *Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman
- *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead
- *Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall
- *Bloody Mohawk* by Richard Berleth

Membership in this club is open to all interested churchgoers. Reading selections and meeting dates are announced in the weekly bulletin.

## **HOSPITALITY**

Sandra Hughes - Vestry Chair

With Covid rules less restrictive the hospitality committee was able to plan events this past year. We are very fortunate to now have a working dishwasher and a clean kitchen.

Besides Sunday coffee hour treats every Sunday we had a pancake breakfast, a strawberry shortcake Sunday (thanks especially to Meg Hughes and Barb Wengrovius) a pot luck supper, lunch after “greening the church”, and receptions after Easter Eve Mass, Christmas Eve Mass and St George’s Day.

Thanks to Mother Lisa Schoonmaker, we had a forum on Advent; to Brian Taylor for a carol sing “Forum”; and to Jeff Wengrovius for sharing his fascinating collection of rare coins in conjunction with kicking off our pledge campaign. Thank you to Meg Hughes for the very welcoming bulletin boards in the Great Hall entranceway.

Many thanks to everyone who signed up to bring food items to share. Special thanks to Gerri Moore and Jon and Meredith Eubanks for covering many, many Sunday coffee hours.

Also thank you to Brian Taylor for setting up the coffee every Sunday so it is ready and waiting for us after Mass.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Hughes

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Jonathan Pearson - Audit Committee Chair

In February 2022 at the request of the Vestry, a committee was formed to oversee an audit/financial review of St. George’s Church. Committee members consisted of:

Jonathan Pearson  
Ralph Polumbo  
Paul Smigelski

Over the remainder of the 2022 year, the committee had several meetings during which we selected Cusack & Co. to review our books and monitored the progress of that review. We received a Draft Report of the results on December 9, 2022. Our committee had its most recent meeting on January 9, 2023, to discuss the results and make recommendations to the Vestry.

The review found no serious errors or omissions. It did, however, recommend several steps that would reduce the risk of bookkeeping errors and ensure the integrity of the financial reports issued by our Treasurer, Jeff Wengrovius and the Financial Secretary, Bob McCloskey.

At the conclusion of our January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, our committee recommended that the Finance Committee convene to oversee the recommended changes and, in turn, report back to the Vestry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Pearson

## **COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Lynn Paska - Vestry Chair

Our very first issue of The Georgian Report saw the light of day in December 2008. It was ten pages, and “Saluting St. George’s Volunteers” highlighted Gene DeLong, Homer Kerr and Stella Schultz. Our articles included Start-Up Sunday and Sunday School Registration; a Parish Brunch; reports from our Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer; the informative Episcopal Education; St. George’s Rain Garden (a project headed by Rosemary Pannone); the SICM Summer Lunch Program; a Backpack Project; and our Fall Coat Drive (to name just a few.)

Even with that very first issue, there were Georgians who were “ready, able and willing” to get our fledgling newsletter off the ground: Johnnie and Nancy Angus, David Kennison, Joan and Jon Pearson, Rosemary Pannone, Alice Polumbo, Michael Todt, and Barb Wengrovius. Most of those initial contributors are still contributors today.

We grew to twelve pages in March 2010, and today David, Joan and Jon, Alice, and Barb are joined by Jon and Meredith Ewbank, Meg Hughes, Sandee Hughes, Brian Taylor, Jeff Wengrovius, and Jim Wingate. Bob Paska is the layout person and main photographer, while I do double-duty as editor with a smattering of photography thrown in. Everyone chips in with articles, pictures and suggestions, and David Kennison continues to be our proofreader extraordinaire. We have a newsletter (4x a year) that we ALL can be proud of.

We also support St. George’s website. Photography mainly by Bob Paska, captions by Lynn Paska, and responsible for getting it all up on the website are Jon Pearson and Paul Smigelski.

It’s a collaborative effort, and everyone who is mentioned above has been and is an integral part of the Communications team. All I can say is: thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Paska

## ARCHIVES REPORT

Sean Albert –Vestry Chair

In 2022, the work done with archival materials at St George's has been a team effort. Debbie Lambeth, Bob Paska, Mother Lisa Schoonmaker, David Kennison, and Richard Unger have given of their time in various undertakings related to clean-up and conservation of historic materials. Old (stale) financial records and pledge envelopes (1999 – 2011) were shredded after consultation with the Senior Warden, among others, and the archives room was cleaned and vacuumed. Historic books were brought to the library.

We also had several consultations with Lara Lee, an archivist from First Reformed Church about:

1. the need to find storage for documents in a place that is shielded from sunlight and extremes of heat and cold. (The purchase of archival boxes was suggested as one potential solution. The donation of a set of map drawers was another idea.)
2. the need to routinely shred stale financial records in accord with state and federal law and in consultation with the auditors and others.  
(The savings of time and energy lugging records up and down stairs will be significant.)

The church archival and historic materials are sparse despite a thorough search. The archive room in Cranmer House contains architectural drawings, photographs, video tapes, and duplicate bulletins going back to the 1990s. The bulletins have been privately archived in digital form by the Senior Warden. It has been suggested that we:

1. discard the hardcopies of the bulletins but for a few examples which might be saved for posterity and
2. consolidate all digital bulletins on a St George's i-cloud account.

Lara Lee's suggestions and the creation of a Church i-cloud account have been brought to Vestry for consideration.

In the upcoming year, we need to:

1. Resolve the storage of flattened architectural drawings in archival boxes and the fate of the many boxes of old bulletins.
2. Evaluate the value of the Audio-visual materials in the archives. The video tapes may be beyond salvaging, or they may be worth conserving. The value of these materials is presently unknown.
3. Remove unused furniture (e.g., empty filing cabinets) from the archive room.
4. Evaluate the historic value of old light fixtures and wooden pieces.
5. Explore the church vault for archival materials.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Albert

## **OUTREACH**

*“What is Faith without Works?”*

Alice Polumbo – Parish Coordinator & Paul Smigelski – Vestry Chair

St George's vigorously embraced its Christian mission throughout 2022. A year-long emphasis on donations to the SiCM food pantry located at 839 Albany St yielded 2,073 pounds of food and personal care items (over a ton!) contributed. 280 cans of soup were turned in during a special Lenten focus on that product category.

Across the parking lot from the SiCM food pantry is St Joseph's Place, a center of hospitality, refreshment, prayer and conversation. St George's provided 21 dozen home baked brownies to be served to guests at St Joseph's Place in June.

Once again, St George's assisted SiCM in its annual summer lunch program. Georgians helped prepare, distribute and interact with those seeking breakfast and lunch at Wallingford Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Congress Streets, the week of August 15 to August 19.

During the fall, St George's took on a new service opportunity in support of the YWCA's emergency shelter program for women by providing always needed pillows and bedding. An initial delivery in December of several pillows, comforters, and sheet sets was warmly received. This will hopefully evolve into regular quarterly deliveries.

Georgians were once again “ringing the bell” in support of the Salvation Army’s annual campaign at the Eastern Parkway Market 32 on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Union College reached out to St George's also in December asking for help to aid students unable to return home over the holidays. Georgians had the opportunity to take part in a post-Thanksgiving pot luck on the campus or compose grocery supply care boxes.

In October, outreach Vestry liaison Paul Smigelski chaired a post worship forum regarding outreach opportunities at St George's. It was well attended with many ideas suggested and lively discussion leaving no doubt that St George's commitment to outreach is strong and integral to our parish identity.

~  
Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Polumbo & Paul Smigelski

## **PASTORAL CARE**

Ann Duff & Jim Wingate – Parish Coordinators

Like all of us, Pastoral Care is slowly returning to pre-pandemic status. Yes we have been able to return to in person visits both in homes and health care facilities but we still have to get tested and wear masks.

We also have to deal with the losses that come along with the passage of time. 2022 saw the passing of longtime parishioners Aileen Caruso-Smith and both Homer and Shirley Kerr. All three had been in failing health for years during which Ann and I visited them in their homes and then various health care facilities as that became necessary.

We would like to thank David Kennison, Brian Taylor and Fathers Vang and Schofield for all their efforts to provide for fitting final farewells to our beloved Georgians.

We have continued to reach out to parishioners who have not been in attendance at Mass to check and see if there is anything our committee can do for them. In two cases, members of the congregation asked us to check on specific individuals which led to adding one to our visitation schedule while the second to a long, pleasant phone call. We also placed a call to the son of one woman because we could not get any response to our repeated calls. The son who lives near Philadelphia was glad to hear from us and pleased that St. George's cares.

The statistics for 2022 were down across the board and that is simply due to our losses particularly in the last two years. Ann and I want to thank the congregation for helping us identify those we should contact and especially David Kennison, and Brian Taylor for keeping us informed. We are also so very fortunate that Father Schofield and Father Vang have made themselves available to provide services only a priest can. Once again I to thank Ann Duff for her steadfast commitment to this mission that I have been so blessed to be part of.

Statistics: Visits-40; Communions Administered-35; phone calls-50; cards sent-340.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Duff & Jim Wingate

## **COMMUNITY LIAISON**

Richard Unger – Vestry Chair

The purpose of the Community Liaison ministry is to strengthen St. George's position as a religious institution within the Historic Stockade Neighborhood. This year has been a continuation of past years' objectives.

These included:

- Remaining involved as a member of the Stockade Association;
- Placing regular St. George's advertisements/ service schedules in the Stockade Spy (free);
- Offering complementary meeting space for Stockade Association Board and/or committee meetings;
- Improving the visual appearance of the church property (thank you Garden Ministry and Asset Management Committees;
- Welcoming/introducing guests at church services and offering them a permanent place of worship if they are new residents of the area;
- Participating in the Stockade Christmas Tree Lighting celebration at the Stockade Circle near the Church; and
- Inviting neighborhood residents to participate in the St. George's Day Parade and brunch.

Once again, we have succeeded in meeting our objectives.

1. The church continues to offer the Great Hall for the Stockade Association bi-monthly General Meetings, and in exchange, the Stockade Association Board of Directors continues to provide St. George's Church free advertising space in the Association's publication, "The Stockade Spy." The Spy is published nine times per year. The cost of ad space is normally \$250 per year. However, fewer General Meetings are held in the Great Hall, as wi-fi internet is not available and it often needed for presentations. St George's Church, Dr. Brian Taylor, Gloria Kishton, Bob Lemmerman, and Rich and Suzy Unger are members of the Association. In addition, Suzy Unger serves as President of the Stockade Board of Directors.
2. The Vestry has continued the program of specifically welcoming church service visitors and providing guest welcome packets in the pews for our guests.
3. This year's St. George's Day parade and the following brunch was a success, as in the past.
4. The Vestry would like to thank everyone from St. George's who did yeoman's work to get our gardens ready for the 2022 Stockade Walk-About on September 24, when several Stockade homes were opened to the public for house tours. St George's opened the church for viewing. Members of the church and volunteers from the Stockade neighborhood worked to prepare the church gardens. We will be looking for volunteers again, come spring, to continue maintenance and improvements to the church gardens. This will include weeding, seeding, shrub and tree trimming, and other potential improvements.
5. We should all be proud of our continued success in support of the Annual Stockade Art Show and mum sale, held this past September. We owe many thanks to the St. Georgians who helped provide the Art Show "Outdoor Café" on our front lawn for Art Show participants and visitors. Not only was the food service a great fund raiser for St. George's, but it was also a tremendous showing of support for our Stockade Neighborhood. A special thanks needs to go to Dr. Brian Taylor for organizing and directing the group fund-raising effort.
6. For both the Walk-About and the Stockade Art Show, Dr. Brian Taylor, Joan Pearson and Dr. Jeffrey Wengrovia conducted organ concerts for the visitors.
7. Finally, St George's opened the Great Hall to the neighborhood and church members for a gathering after the Stockade Tree Lighting Ceremony, December 5. Over 50 people attended the reception and enjoyed refreshments and Christmas season cheer. Dr. Brian Taylor provided appropriate Christmas music for the guests on the small electric organ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Unger

## **MUSIC AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH**

Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO - Director of Music Ministry

The music within the liturgy at St. George's Church is always focused on giving praise and glory to God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. The hymns and service music are designed to help the congregation give voice to its faith. The chants and other choral offerings allow the congregation to contemplate the Triune God at worship. It is our goal to offer the finest music possible with the gifts and resources that we have.

One of our major resources is the St. Cecilia Choir, the parish choir of St. George's Church. We all recall how much the choir was missed during the pandemic and how pleased both the choristers and the members of the congregation were at the choir's return in 2021.

We had two unfortunate COVID pauses of the choir's ministry this past year. The first was in January. While we were otherwise able to offer our Sunday Mass, we were not able to enjoy the choral offerings we ordinarily have. We were also unable to plan a winter Choral Evensong as we ordinarily do. The choir resumed its ministry in February, singing for all the Sundays and Holy Days up until May. A spring Choral Evensong was planned for that month, but at the last minute another COVID outbreak, primarily in the choir, resulted in that service having to be canceled. We had planned to invite a representative of the YWCA to come to the Evensong to address the congregation, and we planned to give them half of the offering received at that service. The Vestry, however, graciously sent a check to the YWCA that would make up for what this organization would have received from the offering.

After the summer break the choir returned this fall and has continued to faithfully provide the musical leadership for our Masses and other liturgies through the fall. Highlights of the year included a Choral Mattins Service, our annual chanted Requiem Mass for All Souls and our Christmas Eve Carol Concert and Solemn Choral Mass. In 2023 the choir plans to offer two Choral Evensong services, each with a mission focus.

The organ is regularly maintained and is doing well except that it needs one major repair outside the bounds of regular maintenance costs. We have also had an offer extended to us for a "free" small pipe organ for possible use at the front of the church. We are looking into this to see if we can accept this gift.

I am very grateful to the singers for their faithful service in the choir, and I am very grateful to the members of the congregation for their continued support of my ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian J. Taylor, Organist & Director of Music

## **A BLESSING FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**P**our out, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Spirit upon thy Church, that to all its members may come new visions, new life, and new fellowship with Christ, its living Head.

**S**end us out, and through us send out many others to work for the extension of thy Kingdom throughout the world.

**O**pen our hearts that we may receive thy power; open our eyes that we may see Christ with hands outstretched to bless.

**D**o with us what thou wilt and as thou wilt.

**S**o shall the earth be filled with the knowledge of thyself as the waters cover the sea.

**A**nd to thee be the glory and praise, now and for evermore.

Amen

**G**od Almighty, bless us with his Holy Spirit; guard us in our going out and coming in; keep us ever steadfast in his Faith, free from sin and safe from danger; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

