



# THE GEORGIAN REPORT

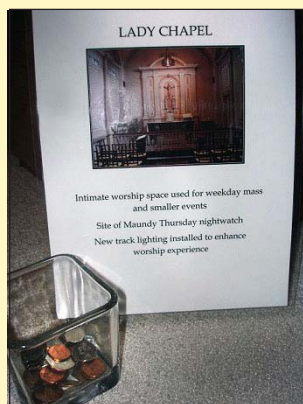


St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

December 2012

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

### COME AND SEE



Stewardship 2012 used the idea of pilgrimage for this time of year when we thoughtfully examine the gifts God has given us and then apportion back to him. Couched within a catchphrase COME AND SEE, that was taken from Matthew's gospel, Georgians were instructed to embark upon their own pilgrimage of our historic campus and examine through prayer and visitation the way in which our buildings serve as a powerful resource for various components of our spiritual development.

The campaign began on October 28th with congregants receiving materials relevant to the COME AND SEE theme and concluded on Commitment Sunday, November 18th. In between, there were exercises designed to underscore and extend our call to be good stewards. Four parishioners: Isabelle Whitehead, Kimberly Furnish, Virginia Manning and Andy Hess volunteered a place within St. George's that has special significance for them. A communal, lay led pilgrimage was conducted, offering participants an opportunity to further deepen their awareness of the gift that *is* St. George's. The Rectory and St. George's House were also open for those to see. In a second mailing that included a pledge card, the practical importance of pledging was explained along with an appeal for generosity.

Georgians joyfully gathered on Commitment Sunday for a joint service at which all present received a scallop shell. Fr. Paul explained that the scallop shell has served as a symbol for those on pilgrimage. Special prayers commensurate with the day's uniqueness were created by Fr. Paul and read by Jon Pearson, Joyce Braun and Alice Polumbo. Afterwards, everyone gathered in the Great Hall for a delicious, catered Indian-themed luncheon, where pledge cards could be turned in.

St. George's seeks to be fiscally responsible while at the same time offering programming that fully complements our rich worship tradition and Christian call. Pledge cards are always gratefully accepted and may be placed in the weekly collection plate or mailed/turned into the office. Thanks to all who embraced this year's stewardship theme and decided to

### COME AND SEE.



alice polumbo

# SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

Acolyte [from the Greek “acolytos” and Latin “acolythus” - companion, attendant, helper] – it’s not a word that easily trips off the tongue, is it? Yet, the dedication of St. George’s acolyte corps is crucial to the beauty of our liturgy. Our acolytes show daily commitment, enthusiasm and love of God that inspires us all.

Why acolytes? – The *Book of Common Prayer*, pg 322 says: *At all celebrations of the Liturgy, it is fitting that the principal celebrant, whether bishop or priest, be assisted by other priests and by deacons and lay*

*persons.* But is it this that stirs people to offer themselves for acolyte service? No, it is the deep desire to serve God at His altar, for that short time suppressing their self to worship and to God’s glory.

Acolytes have an important ministry, which they approach with dignity, humility and care. In all things, our acolytes are aware that the purpose of their labor is “that God may be glorified”. Acolytes are trained in liturgy, sacred vessels and vestments, decorum and prayer. In their duties, they are not sloppy, careless or stiff, but act in the simplest way possible so as to not distract the congregation. Theirs is a proud and honorable ministry, unique in that it involves our youth and adults, working side by side.



(Front row L-R) Chris Henry, Anna Thiessen, Alice Pumbo, Maggie Blanch, Louis Bannister; (center) Jennafer Thiessen; (back row L-R) Charlie Richardson, Peter Braun, David Kennison- Acolyte Master, John Weslowski. Not pictured: Colton Jaquith, Dan Machold, JJ Moran, Kathleen Todt, Jimmy Moore, Ralph Pumbo, Erin Thiessen, Sam Wengrovius.

Acolytes hold St. Vincent, deacon and martyr, as their patron saint. Living in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, St. Vincent is remembered for his love, faithfulness and loyalty to God, his bishop and his Church. We who serve at the altar embrace these virtues as we seek to perfect our offering and to be as steadfast as Blessed Vincent. St. Vincent’s Guild, a worldwide organization of acolytes and lay ministers, has as their motto - *Amori Christi et Ecclesiae* (for the love of Christ and His Church.)

New acolyte candidates are welcome and cherished so if you would like to have fun, learn, enjoy a new sense of being close to God and enjoy the camaraderie of our acolyte team, see David Kennison.

*David Kennison*

# OUTREACH

As Georgians watched the devastating impact of Hurricane Sandy, a collection of cleaning supplies was organized by Dawn Tonneau and delivered to storm-stricken NJ. Donations made to the Red Cross will be directed to those struggling with the long term effects of Sandy.



Centering on the needs within our own community, St. George's recently concluded its annual collection of outer garments. A fantastic 80 coats were hung on the racks located in the Great Hall foyer, and after a blessing by Fr. Paul were turned over to the YWCA (42 women/children) and Salvation Army (28 mens) who will distribute them to those having difficulty keeping warm during the cold weather. Special thanks to Hartz Family Cleaners who gave some unclaimed dry cleaning to this project.



On Sunday afternoon, November 11th, several youths gathered to create homemade pillowcases for *Things of My Very Own*, the organization St. George's supports that assists Schenectady County foster children. Each pillowcase was filled with a new pillow and after a blessing by Fr. Paul, all were delivered to *Things of My Very Own* after Thanksgiving.

During Advent, St. George's will provide threefold community assistance. A collection of Christmas cards/envelopes/stamps will be turned over to St. Stephen's deacon Pat Jones for ministry to women in the Schenectady County Jail. Bell-ringing Georgians took part in the Salvation Army's annual holiday appeal Saturday morning, December 8th, at the Eastern Parkway Price Chopper. Toys for Tots will benefit from donated new unwrapped toys that will be placed by generous parishioners in the box located in the Great Hall.

While these three outreach initiatives (see below) will close out 2012, 2013 will likely present new challenges as well as recurring community needs such as our annual pot luck dinner service of Bethesda House. Georgians will, no doubt, selflessly contribute as called upon in the church's mission to be a blessing to the community.



alice pumbo

# THE RECTOR WRITES .....

Over the last year in particular we have been striving hard to make St. George's Church a place of genuine welcome and warmth for all people on their spiritual journey. No one size fits all! But now with three full years behind me as Rector, I think that I can safely say I am just getting the message loud and clear of why I came to be your priest and Rector.

There are some who criticize us for our openness and liberality. There are others who would say that we have sold out on the orthodoxy of the past. The truth of the matter is that we have grown considerably over these last three years. We have sharpened our focus on outreach, service and the daily demands of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. We see new faces, we hear new voices, and we intuit new callings as a result.

Recently, one of our Church members was visiting St Bartholomew's in New York City and brought back their welcome brochure for me to read. It spoke volumes to me, and I unashamedly offer it to you in this Georgian Newsletter at a time when welcome is key to our mission, but of course I have tweaked it and applied it to St. George's.



EVERYBODY  
NEEDS  
A PLACE

**WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE AT ST. GEORGE'S.**

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

## **WHAT WE ARE FOR**

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children and families.

## **WHAT WE ARE AGAINST**

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid them!)

## **WHAT WE VALUE**

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility as New Yorkers, Americans and global citizens. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus. Sounds like a good fit for us!

However, I am aware that with all this said, we at St. George's still have much to do. Yes of course we need moral and religious authority systems to protect us from the chaos of our passions; but if we give them absolute authority they can become a greater danger to us than the unfettered passions they are supposed to curb. Jesus rendered every code provisional and discardable when confronted with real human need.

With all this said, how do we truly preach the Gospel in this place? Many people tell me that they get confused about which message to believe. It was the great American composer, Charles Ives, who discovered as a boy that he could hear two tunes in his head at the same time and follow them both faithfully. This is how I approach the task of listening to the power of the Christian tradition, but also I listen to the tunes of human change, science and philosophy and ethics and all the struggles of human change and discovery. What an exciting time to be a Christian!

*Your friend and priest,  
Fr Paul*

## HELP FOR CAREGIVERS...

### *The Good Samaritan Ministry at St. George's*

According to the National Family Caregiver's Association, family caregiving is a substantial piece of our healthcare system. Services provided by family caregivers represent 80% of all home care services, conservatively valued at \$257 billion per year. This is more than twice the amount paid for home care and nursing home services combined! With figures like these, it is not surprising that in our parish, an increasing number of us are caregivers for sick or elderly parents, spouses, even children.

Caregivers are faced with numerous changes to their own lives, which can have rippling effects. One caregiver compared these changes to traveling uncharted waters....without a compass. Carolyn McIntyre, caregiver and Licensed Clinical Social Worker, writes for the Caring Today website, saying that a good goal for caregivers is to balance their own needs with those of their loved one. She urges caregivers to not give up completely those things which make them happy. Caregivers need both emotional and "concrete" help. Concrete help may take the form of respite, a meal cooked by someone else, a laundry service, in-home health aide services,

or a ride to an appointment. Support and help are critical to a caregiver for maintaining their best possible frame of mind and physical health.

If you are a caregiver, consider the concrete help provided through St. George's Good Samaritan Ministry. This resource is for caregivers seeking a meal delivered or a ride to an appointment. Meals can be dropped at the caregiver's house, stored in the parish refrigerator for pick-up, or delivered directly to the person receiving care. Rides can also be arranged with a few days' lead time. A weekly contact person for this Ministry is posted in the Sunday Bulletin, or a call to the church office can easily link you to these services. To learn more about this program, call Dawn Tonneau (370-5681) or email [dawntonneau@yahoo.com](mailto:dawntonneau@yahoo.com). This Ministry has over a dozen volunteers ready, willing, and able to do something for Georgians and their families.

The holiday season is upon us. Caregivers, consider accepting a gift to yourself in the form of concrete help! It has been said time and again, it is a gift to all of us, as a parish, to be able to help another parishioner in time of need.

*God bless, dawn tonneau*

## - VISITATIONS -

"Joy to the World..." while this seems like an almost too obvious beginning to an article about Joy Adams, it is most appropriate because of the role music has played in Joy's life and connection to St. George's. During World War II, Joy attended a dance in her hometown in England and met a young American serviceman named Les. She became what was known as a Sweetheart Bride as after the war Les went home and sent for her to join him. It took a year to complete the required paperwork, but they were soon to begin a marriage that lasted 52 years.

Joy and Les started attending St. George's when Les became a soloist in the choir. Over the years, Joy and Les had five children: Paul who died in 1989, Michael (Ravena), Keith (New Jersey) and two of St. George's own, Steve Adams and Wendy

Madelone. All five sang in the choir. Joy was active in the Altar Guild, ECW (Episcopal Church Women) and the Shop. She and Les also chaired the Dragon's Den, which provided clothes for the needy.

Today, Joy lives in the Omni complex on Carmen Road where she moved about a year after Les passed away in 2000. She shares a neat apartment with her constant companion Lacy, the blue parakeet. She is pleased with the direction music has taken at St. George's, saying it is much improved of late. Strong in her faith and commitment to her religion, she said, "I was born an Episcopalian and will remain one. I'm not going anywhere." And for that we are all glad!



*jim wingate*

## ***TOUR: HOLY TRINITY MONASTERY***



On a beautiful Sunday (September 15th), some 20 + Georgians drove to Holy Trinity Monastery, a male monastic community of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, in Jordanville. Joining parishioners from Christ Church, Cooperstown, we toured the buildings and grounds, the church, bookstore, studio and school of Russian iconography. Afterwards, Evensong at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in Cullen led by Fr. John Bartle. Dinner at The Lakehouse on Canadarago Lake ended the day.

## ***FENCE DEDICATION***



Following the 9 o'clock mass on September 23rd, parishioners gathered outside for the dedication of our cast iron fence as funded by the Krings family (in attendance) in loving memory of Fred and Virginia Krings.



## ***MINISTRY FAIR***



The Ministry Fair on September 23rd in the Great Hall was a wonderful way to share your special talents through an opportunity to sign up for the various ministries offered. Food and socializing was also part of the annual event.

## ***THE BLESSING OF THE PETS***



Iris came with her own teddy bear named Lovey. And, Georgians were very proud of Wendy and Tom Madelone's Timmy who recently received his CGC (Canine Good Citizenship) certificate,



which is the equivalent of a human Ph.D. These were some of the 18 dogs, 3 cats and 1 exotic (snake) that gathered with 30 pet owners and pet lovers for The Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, October 7th....with Fr. Paul conducting an appropriate service, assisted by Andrew Krystopolski on the concertina.

## ***POTATO FESTIVAL***



Sunday, October 21st - St. George's Potato Festival, aka Spud Night, featuring "the ultimate baked potato bar," was a tasty time for Georgians and friends. For dessert, two chocolate (choice of white or dark) fountains. The cost was a low \$10 per person with proceeds going towards the Pipe Organ Renovation Fund. From the looks of these happy faces, a good eating time was had by all!!!!!!

## ***POLISH NIGHT***



What was Polish Night at St. George's on November 16th? Stuffed Cabbage, Polish Dumplings, Fresh Kielbasa and Sauerkraut from "the Polish kitchen" (eat in or take out)....lively Polka music by Honky Andy & the Polka Troubadours....50/50 and Raffle tickets....and so much more! \$12 donation benefited the Pipe Organ Renovation Fund.

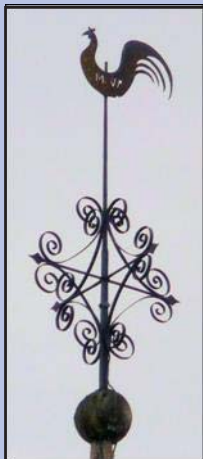
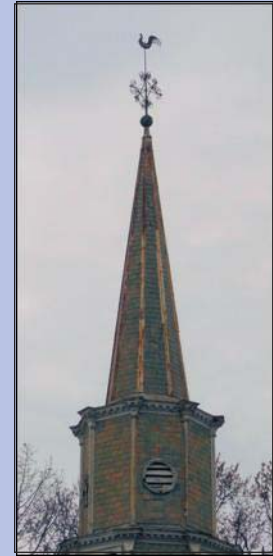
**What's That On The Steeple?**

**EPISCOPAL EDUCATION**

*Have you ever looked up at the steeple on St George's? How about other churches? Do you remember what is on top of the spire?*

**Steeple** Frequently, the most impressive part of a church structure is its steeple. Tall and stately, they were often used as a signpost – when you came into a town you scanned the horizon for the church steeples. The earliest steeples derived from military observation towers, evolving into the steeples we see today – the *tower* and the slender tapered *spire*. Symbolically, they stretch skyward, carrying our prayers and praise to the heavens and to God.

Steeple are architecturally interesting, but it's what tops them that tells a tale. What's that on St George's steeple – a rooster? Yes, it is a rooster.



On St George's steeple, you'll see a rooster, also known as a cockerel, or cock, from the Old English *coc*.

It is reputed that in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Gregory I declared the cock the emblem of Christianity saying the rooster was "the most suitable emblem of Christianity", being "the emblem of St Peter". You will recall from scripture that Jesus said to Peter "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." [Matthew 26:34]

Some say that it was as a result of this that the cock began to be used as a weather vane on church steeples, and a Papal enactment of the ninth century ordered the figure of the cock to be placed on every church steeple.

Pope Leo IV had the figure of the cock placed on the Old St. Peter's Basilica intending it as a religious icon and a reminder of Peter's denial of Christ. Since that time, some churches still have a rooster on their steeple today.



The Denial of Saint Peter, Caravaggio, 1610

Alternative theories about the origin of cocks on church steeples are that it was an emblem of the

vigilance of the clergy calling the people to prayer, that it was derived from the Goths and is only possibly a Christian symbol, and that it is an emblem of the sun. But there is no proof for any of these theories.

Here are some other local church steeples:



St Stephen's has a white cross imbedded within the tower parapet.



First Presbyterian has only a simple, gold finial



Surprise! First Reformed also has a rooster



St John the Evangelist has a cross, very common in Roman Catholic Churches



St Anthony's on Nott St, with its old Italian architecture also has a cross.

*david kennison*



## ALL SOULS' REQUIEM MASS

In the early evening of November 2nd, a solemn procession entered St. George's sanctuary to tenors and basses intoning: *Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine; et lux perpetua eis*, "Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may light eternal shine upon them." Thus began All Souls' Requiem Mass, a beautiful communal Requiem when we named our deceased loved ones and lit candles in their memory.

None of us can avoid grief. Fr. Paul's sermon started with a poem from the movie *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, in which a mourner wants the world to stop and just let him grieve: "Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephones/Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone..." But life goes on around us. Bereavement is a time for facing up to death and its consequences. Christianity doesn't minimize death or grief. God understands what we're feeling when we grieve, and as Christians we believe everything can come to good in God.

The musical framework of the Mass was Maurice Durufle's *Requiem, opus 9*, sung by our St. Cecelia choir with the choir of First Presbyterian Church of Troy and directed by Maury Castro. Each vocal section was highlighted during the music, and no singer dared lose their place. Alex Jones from Cathedral of All Saints sang the powerful baritone solos and soprano Paula McNulty of the Festival Celebration Choir sang the delicate Pie Jesu solo. This remarkable Requiem setting transcribed emotion into music, from sorrow through hope.

It is always thrilling to have singers pack the choir loft, led by Maury and accompanied by Andrew. The St. Cecelia Choir takes great pleasure from the opportunity to perform with others who love first-class sacred music.

joan pearson

## AROUND THE CHURCH CAMPUS

Senior Warden David Kennison spent a recent Saturday re-wiring the carillon (chewed up by squirrels.) After installing and testing the new wiring in the flexible stainless steel armor, he decided to clean the inside of the steeple (filthy with dirt, pigeon/squirrel droppings, and other undetermined debris.) Emerging more than a little grubby, he was "shot" on the roof in this photo by our music director, Andrew Krystopolski



CHURCH  
CHUCKLES



**QUESTION** - How many people does it take to move an organ from a house on Ardsley Road to our music director's home on the church campus?

**ANSWER** - Four men and a woman!

## - SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT - Whither Albany?



- \* 2007 - The Diocese of Pittsburgh, PA leaves The Episcopal Church and affiliates with the Province of the Southern Cone. A new diocese was formed from the remaining parishes faithful to TEC
- \* 2007 - The Diocese of San Joaquin, CA leaves TEC and affiliates with the newly-formed ACNA Anglican Church in North America. A new diocese was formed from the remaining parishes.
- \* 2008 - The Diocese of Fort Worth, TX leaves TEC and affiliates with the Southern Cone. A new
- \* 2008 - The Diocese of Quincy, IL leaves TEC and affiliates with the Province of the Southern Cone, later with ACNA.
- \* 2012 - The Diocese of South Carolina leaves TEC, with no new affiliation announced.

Those who have left cry “schism!” saying they “disagree with the doctrine, discipline and worship of The Episcopal Church.” They claim the moral high ground and they predict darkness and doom for TEC, accusing TEC of being non-biblical, heretical, apostate, satanic, everything except the dark side of the force. I know – I read their writings and it scares me.

Adding some perspective, 5 departing dioceses are 4.5% of TEC’s 110 dioceses. 348 departing parishes are but 4.9% of TEC’s ~7,000 parishes. We’re not talking huge numbers here.

But, how far have we fallen when we can no longer talk to each other? Where is the strength in diversity that has always tied Anglicans together? No, we just walk out the door and try to take all our property with us, this issue looming large, as most of the departing parishes and dioceses have lost the property battle in the courts or it remains unresolved, years later.

So, where lies Albany in all this? It is well-known that the Diocese of Albany hierarchy is extremely sympathetic to the cause of those who have left. They have said it publicly. In fact Albany’s Bp Love is one of 7 bishops that have filed an *amicus curiae* brief in support of +Jack Iker of Fort Worth. This has landed them in very hot legal waters. They have been charged with misconduct and it is possible that they could be deposed.

Could Albany try to leave TEC? Well, they have been slowly moving all diocesan functions to the Spiritual Life Center, far away from the See city and the people. With the recent move of the diocesan business office, this is almost complete. Are they effectively making a Diocese of Greenwich? Could they take the property? – not likely. New York State Religious Corporation Law and settled case law virtually prohibits that. But.... whither Albany?

*With great affection, David*

## - JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

**Cranmer House** - the Cranmer House basement floors were recently painted to lower the humidity levels. Prior to the painting, it was difficult for 2 running dehumidifiers to keep the humidity at 50% or lower. (Many thanks to Gene DeLong for helping.)



**Church** - Exterior painting of the Church windows and soffits has been finished. Glazing, scraping and the repair of some rotted wood was done this fall. One 2-

ft. section remains to be completed by the carpenter. (Cost of this project was \$17,400.)

**Back staircase rear door of Great Hall and 2nd floor** - this door was replaced for safety reasons. The former door was rotted and the mechanism did not ensure that the door would open from the inside.

*rick forshaw*



## HOLIDAY PARADE

Congratulations - St. George's "Magical and Mythical" entry float in the annual Gazette Holiday Parade, the "Jolly Roger," won 1st prize (\$500.) The crew included Chris Henry (Capt. Hook), Erin Thiessen (Tinker Bell), Kathleen Todt (crocodile), Samantha Whiteman (older Peter Pan), Isaac Furnish (younger Peter Pan accompanied by pirate mom Kim), Ava Weakley (Wendy), Trevor Weakley (John), and Liam Weakley (Michael, accompanied by mom Tara Forshaw/Princess Tiger Lily), Anna and Jonah Thiessen (pirates, accompanied by pirate mom Alison.) Mark Furnish, Joan Pearson, Laure Thiessen and Sunday Whiteman escorted our float as pirates. Jennafer Thiessen took pictures. Barb Wengrovius provided many costumes and props. Jean Greenspan loaned the crocodile costume.



*rick forshaw*

## ANOTHER COOKBOOK?

Most kitchens have cookbooks from random organizations, favorite recipes collected, published and sold as fundraisers. St. George's last produced such a book (1980), *Culinary Confessions*. That committee canvassed the entire parish for recipes, and the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) handwrote pages, sent them out for printing, and assembled each book. Every title page was colored by hand. Selling copies was a parish-wide project.

This past February, when the organ committee resolved to raise \$40,000, the time had come to produce a new book. We could add to the organ fund, work together as a parish, and produce a flavorful snapshot of who we are in 2012. Turn the pages of *Culinary Confessions* and it's a journey back 32 years; different names, many recipes with heavy cream or Velveeta, no microwaves. Today we have new favorites, gluten-free needs, more vegetarian preferences, and another congregation.

Please, take a few minutes to jot down your favorite recipes; drop them off in the lobby of the Great Hall or give them to me. We will be sorting, retyping, and sending it all to a printer during the spring. Next fall the books will be ready to sell. Bon Appetit!

*joan pearson*

Winners of the silent auction at the Gala for the 18th Century Dinner, as served and prepared by Fr. Paul (dressed as Parson Woodforde) and Maggie at the rectory, enjoyed authentic food and costume. It is interesting to note



that the Parson's reign in England coincided with the founding of St. George's across the seas in the Stockade Area of Schenectady.



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*The Georgian Report*

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*(L-R) Joan Pearson, Kevin Grace, Andrew Krystopolski, Stephanie Tennill, Rembert Hebert, Judi Smith, Gene DeLong, Wendy Madelone, Jim Williams, Michael Shirk, Bob Paska.*

The 2nd Annual Choir Retreat took place September 21st and 22nd at Johanssen's Camp on lovely Lake Luzerne....with Chef Kevin preparing mouth-watering meals, including Friday night's Knights Feast Dinner of steak, shrimp, clams and all the trimmings; S' mores and more by the Camp Fire; Stephanie Tennill, noted vocal coach, providing an informative and inspiring Vocal Workshop; Compline, Prayer and Reflection; and limitless camaraderie.