



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

December 2011

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Stewardship 2011, spearheaded by Alice Polumbo, was a three calendar week campaign designed to make parishioners aware of their importance to St. George's. You are not just another pretty/handsome face....you are the core strength of "We Are the Church," an integral, important part of our church family. Your physical and financial commitment is necessary to making us grow stronger each year.

Four Sundays were set aside for the campaign, which kicked off on October 30th when Fr. Paul sermonized on the essence of our stewardship theme, "We Are the Church, I Am St. George's."

The 2nd Sunday, the choir demonstrated how it takes all four sections (basses, tenors, altos, sopranos) to make the beautiful music we hear at mass....not unlike mass when everyone is not attending.

The 3rd Sunday, parishioners Suzanne Hartz, Kevin Grace, Stan Craig and Chris Henry gave brief but heartfelt testimonies about what St. George's means to them.

The last Sunday was an exercise in assembling all components of our parish life into one pictorial jigsaw. After communion, each person was given a piece of the puzzle to fit into place. When all assembled, 8 pieces were missing....proving that, while we are growing, with even just a few pieces or persons missing, the whole of St. George's is incomplete.

As of December 6th, 47 out of a potential 82 pledge cards (or, 57%) have been returned. We need 100% participation to balance our budget. Please, fill your pledge card out today....drop it in the collection plate on Sunday or the parish office during office hours.

Stewardship 2011 was truly a collaborative undertaking with input and help from many parishioners. They include Joyce Braun, Bob & Lynn Paska, Jon Pearson, Rick Forshaw, Mike Thiessen, Johnnie Angus, St. George's Choir, David Kennison, Wendy Madelone, Marjorie Deubel, Fr. Paul and all Georgians who placed their piece in the St. George's puzzle on Commitment Sunday.

lynn paska



SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS



Front row (L-R) Joan Pearson, Judi Smith, Wendy Madelone, Kali Rose Moran, Laure Thiessen, Andrew Krystopolski; back row (L-R) Bob Paska, Don Ingram, Bob Moran, Suzanne Hartz, Jeff Wengrovius, Gene DeLong; (insert) Halsey Brown.

Named after the patron saint of music and musicians, the St. Cecilia Adult Choir is currently comprised of 3 basses, 4 tenors, 2 altos and 3 sopranos, each an essential part of the group and necessary for a well-balanced 4-part choral sound. Membership is open to *anyone* who loves to sing, is a team player, can match pitch, make a time commitment for rehearsals/performances, and is open to learning. Contrary to popular belief, one doesn't need to read music to be a choir member (although it does help.)

Rehearsals are the key to a successful choir. Our choir rehearses for two hours every Tuesday (7-9PM) in the choir room; on Sundays, the choir arrives at 8:15AM to warm up and rehearse prior to mass. The choir is asked to sing at additional services - weddings, funerals, and most church feast days - and that doesn't include the occasional Evensong, All Souls Day, Lessons & Carols, Christingle, and Holy Week.

The choir season begins after Labor Day and ends on Corpus Christi in June (they take a well-deserved summer break.) This year, the choir was able to kick off the 2011-2012 season with a 2-day retreat at Lake Luzerne. The opportunity to pray, eat, relax and share fellowship in a beautiful setting on the Hudson River was enhanced with a vocal workshop presented by Stephanie Tennill, private vocal instructor for the boy choristers at the world-famous St. Thomas Choir School in Manhattan.

Our volunteer St. Cecilia Adult Choir works very hard to bring beauty and prayer to the liturgies at St. George's through their music. When you see a choir member after mass, be sure to let them know that you enjoy their efforts.

And....if you'd like to join them, please do! New members are always welcome.

andrew krystopolski/lynn paska

OUTREACH

Tropical storms Irene and Lee violently ushered in fall, creating many needs for our community. St. George's worked primarily with City Mission in helping their storm relief efforts by donating a Dawn Tonneau-led collection of cleaning supplies. In addition, three large boxes of leftover backpack school supplies were given. St. George's has also accepted a StormAid collection receptacle to support this stockade-based organization in assisting storm-afflicted families.

Dawn's spontaneous storm relief efforts provided the genesis for the Good Samaritan Book, a pastoral ministry of Georgians helping Georgians in time of need by providing meals and/or transportation.



As the weather grew chilly, St. George's again canvassed for used outer garments. 45 coats were blessed by Fr. Paul on Commitment Sunday, with 28 women's/children's coats donated to the YWCA for their residential programs and 17 men's coats to The Salvation Army for the population they serve.

St. George's once again took a table for the Salvation Army's holiday bell ringer kickoff breakfast. Those attending (Nancy & Johnnie Angus, Pattye & Stan Craig, Gerald Cooper, Lynn Paska, Joan Pearson, Alice Pumbo, Donna Vrooman) enjoyed a delicious breakfast, learned about the Salvation Army's programs, and met new

Schenectady commanding officer Mike Himes.

Two short repeat Advent projects: the collection of Christmas cards with envelopes /postage stamps; and a box to receive new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. The cards/stamps will be given to St. Stephen's deacon Pat Jones who distributes them to women inmates at the Schenectady County jail.

Looking ahead to 2012....St. George's will once again partner with St. Stephen's in providing a pot luck style dinner at Bethesda House on January 29th. Meal service will begin at 1PM and last one hour....in February, parishioners ages 16 to 23 should be on the lookout for information regarding the SICM summer intern program....in March, St. George's will offer a private sale of tag sale donated clothing to women in the YWCA's residence and battered women's shelter....later in spring, St. George's is hopeful in participating in SICM's annual crop walk.

alice pumbo

FOYERS DINNERS

Round 2 of Foyers Dinners started with a wine and cocktail reception in The Shaw Lounge on December 11th. A slight change has been made, with the groupings downsized to six as some hosts found it challenging to seat eight at their table. If the hosts have the capacity for more and would like to invite anyone they think might be interested (parishioners, friends, neighbors, family), they have that option. Who knows who might be introduced to

Georgian life through a Foyers Dinner?

Foyers Dinners are a good way to get to know other parishioners on a one-to-one basis through fellowship and food. Each group operates independently and at the convenience of members assigned to that group. Once all groups have fulfilled their commitment, Round 3 of Foyers Dinners will be initiated.

Everyone is welcome! The more the merrier! For more information, contact Hospitality Chairman Chris Henry.

chris henry/lynn paska

***THE RECTOR WRITES* ... on the pressures of Christian Ministry today.**

When I was a young priest I used to visit an old lady with Holy Communion who would often ask me what on earth a priest did on days other than Sunday. “You must get a bit bored,” she’d say. “What do you do after Sunday Mass?” I would answer, “Well, of course I am here visiting you!” “Well, that just takes a few minutes,” she’d say. “Well, I do have a few other things to do this week,” but my reply never seemed to totally convince her. However, I have often been asked over the last twenty five years what it is like to work only one day per week, and there is no better thing to get my blood boiling. I guess what I really wanted to say to the old lady and to all those others who make reference to a one day week of work is this. What about the other twenty home communions I have throughout the week, and then of course there is the list of things that a priest does all day on all the other days of the week.



1. The nursing homes where I celebrate Mass and visit
2. The evening appointments for marriage preparation, Vestry meetings, Evening Mass and a multitude of other evening commitments.
3. Weekly counseling and confessions sessions with those from within and those from without the parish.
4. Bible Study groups, movie nights and other teaching courses.
5. Hospital/Nursing home calls – day and night.
6. Funerals for both regular members and those who have no one to officiate.
7. Sermon preparation for the daily Mass and two Sunday services at least.
8. I have to remember to prepare class notes for Baptism and Confirmation requests as well as sharing time with new converts.
9. Weekly Staff meeting with Administrator, Director of Music and Sexton, plus every morning at the Office from 7am to 1pm dealing with administration, finance, staff issues and general enquiries.
10. Clergy Chapter meetings,
11. Speaking and talking to outside groups.
12. Youth group meetings and movie nights.
13. Ecumenical Clergy group meetings.
14. Meeting with church contractors about roof problems, electrics, floors and all our plant – regular meetings with Wardens about building and grounds.
15. Daily Morning and Evening Prayer and Mass in Church.
16. Various Diocesan meetings.
17. Families asking for a house blessing or food and financial support.
18. Call out to a sudden death, spending time with grieving families and arrange funeral.

I should probably mention that there are also walk up appointments at the Rectory and Office of people requesting to see a priest urgently for a variety of reasons.

These are just some of the things that fill in my day over a six day working week, so I can assure you that your Rector is not sitting home watching TV. We priests are busy people, but no busier than most other people. Life is full, but also it is very fulfilling, if we can find some boundaries, and love what we do by God’s grace. The life of a priest is rich, and varied. But please understand that, from time to time when you call, I might not be at my desk waiting to answer the phone. But wait, how does this affect you and me as priest and congregation?

According to the New York Times (August 1, 2010) “Members of the clergy now suffer from obesity, hypertension and depression at rates higher than most Americans. In the last decade, their use of antidepressants has risen, while their life expectancy has fallen. Many would change jobs if they could.”

- 13% of active pastors are divorced. · Those in ministry are equally likely to have their marriage end in divorce as general church members.
- 25% don’t know where to turn when they have a family or personal conflict or issue.

- 25% of pastors' wives see their husband's work schedule as a source of conflict.
- 33% felt burned out within their first five years of ministry.
- 33% say that being in ministry is an outright hazard to their family.
- 40% of pastors and 47% of spouses are suffering from burnout, frantic schedules, and/or unrealistic expectations.
- 45% of pastors' wives say the greatest danger to them and their family is physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual burnout.
- 45% of pastors say that they've experienced depression or burnout to the extent that they needed to take a leave of absence from ministry.
- 50% feel unable to meet the needs of the job.
- 52% of pastors say they and their spouses believe that being in pastoral ministry is hazardous to their family's well-being and health.
- 56% of pastors' wives say that they have no close friends.
- 57% would leave the pastorate if they had somewhere else to go or some other vocation they could do.
- 70% don't have any close friends.
- 75% report severe stress causing anguish, worry, bewilderment, anger, depression, fear, and alienation.
- 80% of pastors say they have insufficient time with their spouse.
- 80% believe that pastoral ministry affects their families negatively.
- 90% work more than 50 hours a week.

1,500 pastors leave their ministries each month due to burnout, conflict, or moral failure.

Certainly food for thought!

Your friend and priest, *Fr Paul*

- VISITATIONS -



Born in Canada, Mary Elizabeth Bartlet came south to Schenectady and began searching for a church in the Anglican tradition. In 1967 Canada's loss became our gain as she found what she was looking for at St. George's. Almost

immediately she became an active member of the Altar Guild of which she is still a member. Later, she would add her energy and talent to the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) and a crafts group that knitted, sewed and crocheted aprons, girls' smocks, potholders and the like that were then sold in St.

George's Shop. More recently, she made crosses from palms for the Pastoral Care Committee to take to shut-ins and nursing homes.

Ib raised four children: Mary who sadly passed away a few years ago, Ian and Jane who live in Canada, and Kate who runs a Bed and Breakfast in New Hampshire. Her children visit when they can but distance is an issue. Fortunately, Ib has her two faithful cats to share her home in Niskayuna.

Attending Mass right now is not an option for Ib, but she keeps up with what is going on at St. George's. During visits she always has questions about our various programs, especially the one nearest and dearest to her heart: music. She says she has seen the music programs have its highs and lows over the years and is quick to say it is much improved of late. All of us, and especially Andrew, are glad this stalwart soul who has given so much to St. George's is pleased.

jim wingate

KATERI SHRINE TOUR



Twenty Georgians met in the church parking lot at 1:15PM on September 18th....for a drive to the Kateri Shrine in Fonda. There were 4 cars in the carpool and 1 motorcycle (with Jane Moran hanging on for dear life as hubby Bob zoomed up and down the Thruway at 65+ mph.) A guide welcomed us, explaining the story of this Mohawk Valley attraction and the inspiring tale of Kateri Tekawitha. There were woodland trails to explore, a Native American museum and gift shop onsite. Another visitor, Joseph, led the Angus' and the Paskas to the virgin spring where people bring their own containers and fill them with the clear, delicious water that is rumored to have wonderful healing properties. At 3 o'clock, everyone gathered for Stations of the Cross. The afternoon concluded in the main indoor chapel at 5PM with Fr. Paul leading us in Evensong and a reading by Andrew Krystopolski.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY



On “Back to Church Sunday” (September 18th) parishioners invited family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to our masses (9AM, 11:15AM.) Between the services, everyone enjoyed a humongous “pot luck” brunch. From David Kennison greeting people at the buffet....to Bob Moran deftly doing kp duty after everyone was sated....it was a time of great food from great Georgian cooks, and stimulating conversation between all attendees.



START-UP SUNDAY



On “Start-Up Sunday” (September 25th) parishioners sipped coffee/tea and munched on pastries while perusing the updated storyboards identifying our numerous ministries. It was an opportunity to get involved and sign up for participation in those of interest.

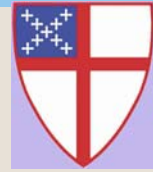


Remember, it’s never too late to join a ministry in-progress.

EPISCOPAL EDUCATION

The History of The Episcopal Church, Part V – The Church of the 20th Century & Today

In the first four chapters, we saw the beginnings and growth of the Episcopal Church – its rise from the Church of England, a shaky and uncertain start that grew to over 400 churches, yet almost failing during the Revolution. With the eventual consecration of American bishops and the organization of the first General Convention in 1785, the church eventually began to stabilize and it continued that growth throughout the 1800s. More changes followed in the 20th century.



The arms of the Episcopal Church includes both the cross of St. George and a St. Andrew's cross.

New Prayer Book The 1928 Book of Common Prayer was introduced after 20 years of work, this being the first new American prayer book since the 1789 edition that was issued during the formation of the Episcopal Church. Some changes were made in 1892 and many more in 1928. The 1928 edition lasted for 50 years, it being replaced in 1979, which allowed rites in both traditional and contemporary language and included many changes in the rubrics and shape of various services.



Barbara Harris was the first female bishop consecrated in the Episcopal Church.

Equality for Women Along with changing societal norms, women began to play a more prominent role in the church. Women were first admitted as delegates to General Convention in 1970, which first permitted women's ordination in 1976 and consecrated the first female bishop, Barbara Harris, in 1989. That said, the 2006 election of Katherine Jefferts Schori as Presiding Bishop continues to be a source of conflict within dioceses that identify themselves as "conservative". Eight dioceses have rejected her authority and formally requested another leader.



1979 Book of Common Prayer is the latest Authorized Version.

Equality for Homosexuals If women's equality was controversial, a move toward equality for gays was much more so. The 1976 General Convention affirmed that homosexuals are "children of God" who deserve acceptance, pastoral care and equal protection under the law, while the 1991 General Convention affirmed the need for monogamy. The dissension over the 2003 election of the first openly homosexual bishop, Gene Robinson, resonates to this day and has caused dioceses to attempt to leave the church. Despite warnings from the 38 Anglican primates that the consecration would "tear the fabric of the communion at its deepest level", the 2009 General Convention took steps to develop theological and liturgical resources for same-sex blessings. The resultant worldwide controversy threatens to split the Anglican Communion.

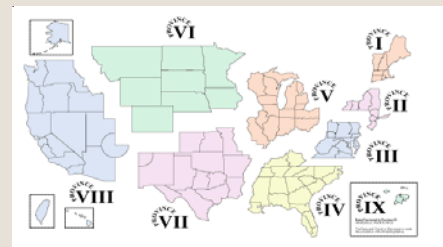


Gene Robinson was the first openly homosexual bishop consecrated in the Episcopal Church

Episcopal Membership As of 2009, the Episcopal Church had almost 2.2 million baptized members, with a majority in the United States. This is a decrease of 50 thousand (-2.5%) from 2008. Average Sunday attendance (ASA) for 2009 was 725 thousand (-3%) from 2008. In the Diocese of Albany, the 2009 ASA was 6,600 (out of 18,400 baptized members) or -18% over the previous 10 years.

All mainline churches in the US (including the Episcopal Church) grew rapidly during the post-war baby boom. However, these churches also saw their rates of growth begin to slip during the late 1950s and by the mid-1960s most began a slow but inexorable decline.

Episcopal Structure & Polity The Episcopal Church is hierarchical in structure with authority resting in bishops. The bishops authority is based on an unbroken, personal Apostolic Succession from the Twelve Apostles of Jesus.



The nine Provinces of the Episcopal Church

The church's 100 dioceses are divided into 9 provinces which have some autonomy in activities, structure and discipline. The Diocese of Albany is in Province II., which includes all of NY, NJ, Haiti and the Virgin Islands.

david kennison

ST. GEORGE'S HOUSE BLESSING



Fr. Paul presided over the Blessing of St. George's House on September 25th, the renovated home to our music director Andrew Krystopolski, chef extraordinaire Kevin Grace, their dog Millie, and two cats. Afterwards, a party worthy of Episcopalians and an impromptu sing-a-long with Andrew on the concertina.



WEDDING BELLS

*One happy groom, Peter Braun +
One happy bride, Joyce Kapusta =
“...and they lived happily ever after.”
Georgians watched their relationship blossom
and bloom into love everlasting.
Best Wishes....Mr. & Mrs. Peter Braun.
October 1, 2011*

BLESSING OF THE PETS



The 2nd Annual Blessing of the Pets took place at St. George's on October 2nd. People came with various pets for this special Franciscan celebration of “all God's creatures.” An appropriate service by Fr. Paul, and hymns sung by all human participants, accompanied by Andrew on the concertina.

- SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

My bookshelves groan and sag under the weight of volumes and the years. My desk looks like a professor's office with great stacks of paper everywhere. I just like being surrounded by great books and with some luck, I can put my hand to the one I am looking for. So today, here is a smattering of a few favorites, old and new:



Corpus Christi, E L Maschal - a densely packed masterwork of eucharistic theology and sacrifice and liturgical practice. It once took me an entire trip to China to do this justice.

Liturgical Piety, Louis Bouyer – a wonderful treatise of the essence of the church's prayer life, especially as it centers in the Mass.

Worship, Evelyn Underhill – Evelyn Underhill's timeless study on the nature and principles of worship and the main forms in which those principles find expression in Christianity

Ye Are The Body, Bonnell Spencer – "A People's History of the Church", an easily-read discussion of the history of the Episcopal Church. A great place to start a course of study.

Catholicism, R P McBrien – a thorough summary of Roman Catholic theology, history, and moral values, which forms what it means to be a Catholic Christian, even an Anglo-Catholic one.

Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense, W H Vanstone – a small but dense reflection on how individuals and communities respond to the love God has for creation; a work of practical theology and spirituality. Also from Vanstone, Stature of Waiting, discusses the need to eliminate busy-ness and grow spiritually as we quietly wait.

Holy Women, Holy Men, Celebrating the Saints, Church Publishing – a revised and expanded version of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, which provides histories and collects for saints throughout the entire liturgical calendar.

Brightest and Best: A Companion to the Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Sam Portaro – thought-provoking meditations on the lesser feasts and fasts of the church calendar. Sam Portaro asks

the question, "What do these saints and commemorations have to say to Christians today?"

The diocese also has a recommended book list at this link: <http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/ministries/resources/mission.html>, but alas, with one exception none of our books are the same. I wonder why?

With great affection, david

ALL SOULS MASS 2011

On November 2nd, All Souls Day, our choir was joined by members of the Festival Celebration Choir, a volunteer community choir based in Loudonville, to perform the Faure Requiem. Andrew Krystopolski is the Assistant Director and Accompanist to Director Maury Castro. This was a huge, challenging undertaking, sung in Latin for our All Souls Requiem Mass. Andrew feels that it is important for our choir to reach out and sing with other groups because, "while singing can be a personal offering, it is also a social experience. It is important for singers to spread their wings beyond our group and meet other people who share the same joy for singing as our choir members do."

Rather than being overwhelmed, we were energized by joining this large group. They, in turn, welcomed us into their numbers and loved our practice room and worship area. Andrew made the combined group fit into a choir loft that is designed for about 25; we filled the loft with bodies but our voices filled the church with beauty. It was an honor to hear Kali Rose Moran sing the exquisite Pie Jesu solo - we Georgians felt like her proud parents. Baritone solos sung by Alex Jones from the Cathedral of All Saints (Woody Bynum, Choir Director) invoked the gravity of the mass. This requiem mass for All Souls Day was transformed by Faure's music, as music is meant to speak to our hearts during mass. Every person in the St. Cecilia Choir wants the Festival Celebration Choir to return to St. George's and, of course, bring Maury. No doubt listeners heard beautiful and difficult music, but we singers experienced simple joy.

joan pearson

PILGRIMAGE: ROME AND ASSISI



When is it possible to be exhausted and energized at the same time? When 16 Georgians and friends of Georgians disembark from a whirlwind pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi....bleary-eyed, but oh! so happy for this experience. *It was the best of times*, well-organized with limitless options.

The “pilgrims,” were: Fr. Paul & Maggie Blanch, Christopher Henry, Anne & David Kennison, Annette McDonald, Kali Rose Moran, Joan & Jonathan Pearson, Marguerite Pileggi, Celeste & James Shear, Aileen Smith-Caruso, Jennafer Thiessen, and Barbara & Jeffrey Wengrovius.

What did the participants have to say about their journey? The beauty and majesty of Rome was awe-inspiring; everywhere the eye turned was another outstanding building, sculpture, historical artifact or *something*. The Vatican was breathtaking; the Vatican museum, astounding. As much as Rome was grand, Assisi was equally inspiring but in a quieter way. The city is built into the side of a hill with ancient Roman walls and gates all around.

It was mind-boggling....witnessing thousands of years of history in five days; walking through the catacombs and feeling a connection to early Christianity; learning about St. Sebastian and the fearlessness of early Christians; visiting the tombs of St. Paul and St. Francis; celebrating Mass in a cata-



comb chapel with Fr. Paul and Fr. John; the splendor and graciousness of the various old churches; and the unexpected mixture of “ancient” and “modern.” On the lighter side....there was Italian guide, Gorgio, who was so knowledgeable and so much fun; wonderful camaraderie and fellowship among this small group; lots of wine, macaroni, and other good food so that no one went thirsty or hungry.

They returned to Schenectady tired in body, exhilarated in mind.....refreshed in spirit.

joan pearson/lynn paska



IN MEMORIAM

*Rosemary VanDerhoof
1920 - 2011
Rest in Peace
You are missed by
your church family*



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The Georgian Report

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Current Resident or

1st ANNUAL CHOIR RETREAT



Amid steak, shrimp and s'mores....the 1st Annual Choir Retreat was held in Lake Luzerne on September 23rd and 24th. Chef Kevin was responsible for cooking and cleanup. Through informative workshops, noted vocal coach Stephanie Tennill was able to give choir members the tools to help them utilize their voices to fuller potential. The group endured steady rain with its accompanying mosquitos, choir rehearsals, and good old-fashioned socializing. Do they want to do it again next year? **YES!** Music Director Andrew Krystopolski is already working on a game plan for the 2nd Annual Choir "blast and feast."