

Volume 11/ Number 3

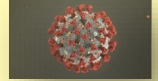
THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Episcopal Church Schenectady NY

September 2020

WORSHIP WITH COVID AT OUR SHOULDERS



An unwelcome congregant entered St. George's in March. Hand sanitizer dispensers now adorn the walls and counters even in houses of worship to force this shadow away; once friendly hugs or handshakes have morphed into threats. In New York Covid-19 has retreated to some extent but we fear it could resurge like the famous pandemic of a century ago. How did St. George's and other churches manage in 1918?

The most recent history of St. George's, written by Harold C. Martin for the 1984 sesquicentennial, ignores the 1918 pandemic. According to vestry minutes of the time, the Great War affected parish life as it meant singing more patriotic hymns, but the pandemic did not cancel Mass. In larger cities like Boston, NYC, Philadelphia, Washington DC, churches suspended services entirely for weeks or months. Sanctuaries and church halls became wards for the ill on Long Island and in other hard-hit areas.

Covid-19 has upended everything at St. George's. Shutting down abruptly in March made us evaluate the importance of parish life and how we can retain our commitment to communal worship. Fr. Matt, Brian Taylor, Alexander Travis, and David Kennison jumped in immediately to bring us FaceBook Live Masses, but now it's becoming clear that what we all thought would last a few weeks may become permanent. We can sit in church again, but even during Mass we may always wear masks, use hand sanitizer before/after touching a common item, sit apart.

We pray for an effective, safe vaccine.

Our beloved worship experience is a sensory-rich ritual; we cannot know which aspect of the Mass will bring someone closer to God. The means by which a worshipper joins the church service is not as important as the fact that they are attending Mass. I emailed random parishioners to ask what they think of streaming vs. live Masses, and from this group a random subset responded. No survey could be a less scientific search for these candid responses.

Even though watching a FaceBook stream doesn't always feel like church because participation is passive, for several members it is the only safe option

whether they join through their phone, iPad, or computer. Until being indoors with others is 100% safe again, this will be their worship preference: even one hour inside with others is too long, and when the sanctuary's outer doors close due to cold weather, the risks will only increase. Young people, precious children, are least likely to stay in front of a computer screen for church. No congregation can afford to lose them. Personal outreach is harder with streaming church, too, as accessible as our Zoom coffee hour is. There is a need to maintain and improve the digital church option as we look to the future of St. George's. Its importance will only increase as much is good about reaching people in their homes through a streaming service. Since not everyone is familiar

(cont'd page 2)



with FaceBook Live, specific instructions for accessing it should be included in the weekly St. George's Update. This could also be done for Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. Zoom came up as a good worship option since it is more interactive, although it too has its complications and limitations. Unfortunately, church on a screen does not feel real enough for everyone who does not feel safe attending Mass, and these members are opting out for now.

Everyone misses in-person church and is waiting for the day when the entire congregation will re-assemble. No on-screen Mass can fully replace St. George's sanctuary for the atmosphere, the incense, and the people — people being most important. Even the best Wi-Fi connection can't transmit incense! Every respondent who feels comfortable with in-person services returned to the sanctuary when they resumed. It is simply much easier to stay engaged with the service from the pews. We are fortunate that St. George's doesn't need a reservation or ticket system to manage numbers, and that our open pew doors are a gentle indicator of socially distanced seating. Everyone appreciates shortening the Mass, opening the church doors for ventilation, and modified communion. No one wants to keep their mask on longer than an hour. When the outer doors must close due to colder temperatures, the service should be shortened further, unless we are protected by a vaccine. The lector, usher, counter, and altar guild schedule will bring us closer to normal as we increase lay contributions to the service and bring variety to the faces "on camera." The church must be cautious about restarting in-person programs, necessary as they are to our vibrant parish life. At every stage of re-opening, the safety and comfort level of the congregation must be paramount.

Both can be improved, and both are necessary. Personal safety and health were the predominant concerns as worshipers decided whether to be in Mass or open FaceBook "live." In the future, community outreach should include both options for worship.

Kudos for the Zoom coffee hour, Fr. Matt, Brian Taylor, David Kennison, and the Vestry as they all work to re-imagine church.

joan pearson

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION



St. George's Corpus Christi procession on June 11th brought the sacramental presence of Christ through the Stockade neighborhood thanks to Fr. Matt Stromberg, David Kennison and Brian Taylor. The procession started and ended in front of the church on Ferry Street after walking through the nearby streets of Union, Church and Front.



lynn paska

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

Because of medical issues, Rick Forshaw has been absent from church. But that doesn't take away from his perfect record as volunteer for St. George's over the past 5 decades. Whether Junior Warden or heading the A/V Room, he gave of himself selflessly and unrelenting. The results showed in Rectory and sexton's apartment renovations, building maintenance, church grounds, parking lot, cemetery, Great Hall and kitchen, the Shop, our float in the parades (think Gazette Thanksgiving and Niskaday.) Rummage Sales, held twice a year, brought people together: parishioners, Stockade neighbors, the community....realizing \$900-\$1300 each time the doors were open. We never threw anything out; inventory was recirculated; it was profitable; and, most importantly, repeat customers became friends.



When Rick and Karen married in 1971, he was a member at Grace Lutheran and she went to church at St. Stephen's. They decided to merge into one denomination. Because Rick likes historical things and the history of the Stockade Area, they tried St. George's and liked what they tried. Daughter and grandchildren all grew up at St. George's.

During Rick's Georgian years, he served on the former Associate Vestry, 6 and ½ years or two terms as Vestry member and Junior Warden, and operated the A/V room (now-under-reconstruction) since 2010. Rick's strength is his ability to take responsibility and oversee projects from start to finish; finding out the best deals and the best options; working with others to achieve the goals. "I like getting involved and making things look good," he said, adding he strove to "...preserve our buildings for future generations." Bringing parishioners together as volunteers was a successful offshoot of his leadership.

Rick worked at GE from 1969 in Insulating Materials then joined Realty USA in 1990. It was his real estate job that piqued his interest in our church campus, plus his love of history. "Our biggest strength is that we're the oldest church and part of the Stockade. Our historical value to the area is immeasurable."

Rick, assisted by Mike Thiessen, assumed the A/V ministry ten years ago. They delivered discs of our Mass to local public access stations in Albany and Schenectady, which were watched faithfully by those who could not get to church on Sundays. Rick admitted personally getting a lot out of taping the Mass then watching it again at his leisure before delivery to the stations. He also enjoyed giving copies of weddings, baptisms and confirmations to participants.

Rick remembers ministries like providing for the homeless with food drives, small gift bags for Christmas, and backpacks with school supplies for children (to name just a few.) "Everybody got involved. We did this as Georgians, as a church family who cared about our community and did something about it....together."

The name Rick Forshaw is permanently affixed in the annals of St. George's as a parishioner/volunteer/leader who always made us look our very best....for now, for ever.

lynn paska

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY



On September 14 the Episcopal Church celebrates Holy Cross Day. Unlike Good Friday which is a somber day on penitence on which we remember Jesus' death, Holy Cross Day is a joyful celebration of the cross of Christ on which our salvation was procured. In particular, this day commemorates the momentous discovery of what was believed to be the True Cross by the devout mother of the Emperor Constantine Saint Helena (sometimes Helen).

On Mount Calvary, considered sacred by Christians as the location of Jesus' crucifixion, once stood a pagan temple to the Roman goddess Venus. This was

probably erected by the Emperor Hadrian's reconstruction of Jerusalem as a pagan city following the Jewish revolt 70 A.D. Constantine had the Temple demolished under the guidance of his aged mother. Within a rock cistern were discovered three crosses with a plaque reading, "Jesus Nazaranus Rex Iudaeorum." Clearly this was a significant discovery but which, if any, was the Cross of Christ?

According to a legend reported by some Early Church Fathers and historians, a terminally ill woman was brought before the relics. She touched each cross in its turn, but when she touched the Cross of Christ she was instantly healed! Saint Helena believed that this was surely confirmation that they had discovered the True Cross. St. Ambrose preached that when she found the true cross, "she worshipped not the wood, but the King, Him who hung on the wood. She burned with an earnest desire of touching the guarantee of immortality."

The Emperess Helana ordered that a church be built on the site where the Holy Cross was discovered, the Church of the Resurrection, which contained a shrine dedicated to the Holy Cross. One-third remained in Jerusalem, one-third was brought to Rome and deposited in the Sessorian basilica Santa Croce in Gerusalemme and one-third was taken to Constantinople to bless and protect that city. Over the centuries, the relics of the cross have been lost and sometimes rediscovered. Fragments are housed and venerated in various churches throughout the world, notably Notre Dame Cathedral. The precious relic survived the recent fire.

Are these stories true? Did Saint Helena really find the True Cross? No one can say for sure. What these stories reveal, however, is the veneration and honor with which Christians have long shown to the Cross. How truly odd and remarkable that an instrument of shameful death has been exalted to a thing of such value and splendor, an object of death as a channel of life, healing, and hope. On Holy Cross Day, and every day, let us give thanks for the Cross on which our guilt was cancelled, sin defeated, and the grave conquered.

grace and peace, fr. matthew stromberg

HOSPITALITY:

Would you like to join fellow Georgians at Coffee House on Sundays following Mass? Here's how: (1) Prepare your beverage of choice. (2) Get your computer/phone/tablet and follow the line that Fr. Matt sends out for a Zoom gathering. (3) Log in and join us.

Hope to see you all soon !

sandee hughes

Wi-Fi COMES TO ST. GEORGE'S



You'd think we were living in the Dark Ages. We're all so accustomed to having Wi-Fi internet access everywhere, it's unthinkable that there's still a place on this planet without it. An escape from ringing calls, chiming texts and emails can be good. Church offers that solace as a place of quiet prayer and joyful worship. But, built in the 1700s, St George's was a Wi-Fi dead zone. We'd talked a lot about how to get internet to the church but the 3ft thick stone walls made sending Wi-Fi from the office impossible.

Covid-19 upended everything – no Sunday Mass, no coffee hour, no parish activities. Now, we needed church internet to offer streaming Mass and Daily Office. There was only one way – run internet cable from Cranmer House to the church. And there was only one possible path – through the underground steam pipe tunnel. With Covid-19-enforced time on their hands, David Kennison and Jon Pearson undertook this little task.



The steam pipe tunnel as it goes through the church foundation underground. No claustrophobia allowed!

Ugh, the Steam Tunnel! Most parishioners don't know it exists, but the church heat comes from massive steam boilers in the basement of Cranmer. The pipes that carry the steam are routed through an underground tunnel that penetrates the foundation walls of Cranmer and the church. This is the only route that cables could be run. And there was only one way to do it – crawl through the tunnel pulling cable and conduit until you reach the other side. Once that was done, the hardest work was behind us!



Victory, as a large tunnel rat emerges. Yikes!-there be spiders, mud and beasts in there!

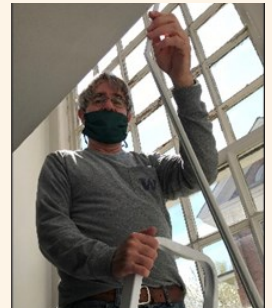


David pulls the cable into the underfloor cavity & routes it up a wall.

Under the Floor, Up the Walls However nice it was to get the cable through the church foundation, it then had to be run to the attic for distribution – no small task. That involved some nasty unfloor work amid crumbling asbestos and a hot, leaky steam valve. Finally, a path was chosen – up a rear wall under the choir loft, through the south organ pipe chamber and through the church ceiling.

Attic Dirt & Dust Historic preservation architects have confirmed that the vaulted ceiling and massive hand-hewn timbers in the church attic are original. That means they date from the 1750s. And no one has cleaned up there in all that time! Fascinating, yes, but filthy.

Cable was run from above the organ to the video room behind the All Soul's Chapel, and to the unused front pipe chamber, where a Wi-Fi access point was installed.



Jon runs the cable up the wall under the choir loft. His goal-the attic!

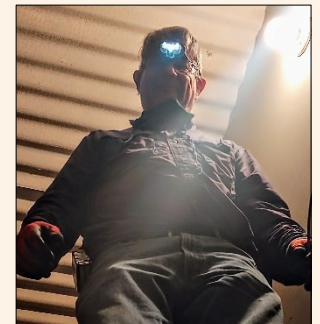
And...., Voila! There are two Wi-Fi access points installed, which take the internet signal from the cable and broadcast it as a Wi-Fi wireless signal. One is on the ceiling in the choir loft and the other is in the former front pipe chamber. Together, they give good coverage and signal throughout the church. A wired signal was run to the video room, as that needs a physical wire for high speed data.

There are 2 separate Wi-Fi signals broadcast:

1. **StGeorge** – this is wider bandwidth for video streaming.
2. **StGeorgeGUEST** – this is the normal signal for personal use. No password is required for this. And, please – no web surfing during the service!



David runs cable through the attic, from the choir



Jon works above the video room, routing the cable to video systems.

david kennison

GARDEN MINISTRY: IT'S NOT ALL BACKACHES AND CRABGRASS

Spring 2020 brought a tidal wave of angst and adaptation for all of us. For a time, I thought Garden Ministry might not even happen this year. But on a chilly May afternoon, in the company of Suzy Unger and Kevin Decker, I finally reentered the church grounds after two months of seclusion. Masked and cautiously distant, we toured the Memorial Garden and were daunted by the mess and neglect. Together we hashed out a general plan of resuscitation and two days later, I returned with garden tools and a sense of purpose.

“We can’t go into the church right now,” I remarked to Suzy and Debbie Lambeth as we knelt in the mud to begin work, “But we can do this. Let’s make this our church.” Suzy and Debbie chuckled, but I meant it. With the world turned upside down, we needed to hang tight and master at least one challenge. Offering St. George’s and the Stockade a peaceful, attractive environment would be our mission. Two mornings a week—Tuesday and Friday, weather permitting—Garden Ministry became our spiritual respite, fitness routine, book club, horticultural thinktank, emotional support group, and more.

Suzy has been a Garden Ministry stalwart for about five years. “I started as a way to help my mother, Susanna Sherwood, who was unable to do the work herself, but wanted to help maintain the beautiful church campus,” she explains. Susanna hired a master gardener to pitch in a few hours each year while Suzy, Jamie Taft, Barb Wengrovius, and a few others battled back the weeds.

Since then, according to Suzy, “Garden Ministry has become a spiritual practice in and of itself. Nourishing a garden nourishes the gardener in return. Working with the earth and watching plants flourish replenishes a weary, worried soul in these uncertain times. I recommend it!”

Debbie, an expert gardener and long-time Georgian, is a faithful Garden Ministry participant except for during the hottest weather when she retreats to her summer home on Lake George. She appreciates the fellowship and team spirit: “The joint effort in accomplishing something, even as small as weeding and mulching around a tree, is so satisfying. I also like being able to bounce ideas off each other, with no wrong answers and no pressure.”

Barb Wengrovius is another horticultural hero who continues to lend her capable hands to the effort as her job schedule allows. Barb’s garden wisdom and calm demeanor are always a blessing. She agrees there are many rewards to Garden Ministry: “They are the simplest gifts and the nicest to receive,” she notes, adding, “I also love finding homes for my orphaned plants, as I still get to enjoy them and watch them grow!”



A Proud History

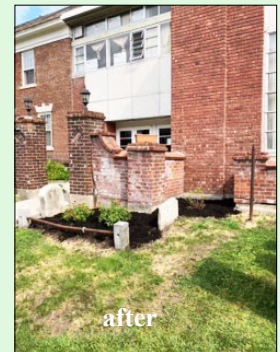
Garden Ministry members are keenly aware that we have big shoes to fill. The gardens at St. George's were originally laid out in the 1970s by Lula Mae "Lou" Moravec, a parishioner and highly regarded horticulturalist of national renown. Plantings were lovingly tended and embellished for many years by an enthusiastic corps of volunteer gardeners led by Rosemary Vanderhoof. In the late 1990s, however, the well-established beds fell into neglect.

In 2006, a resurrection was spearheaded by Rosemary Pannone, Master Gardener, who achieved many improvements, including the installation of a rain garden on the north side of the church and salvaging the Glastonbury Thorn in the Memorial Garden.

Maintenance is always an issue, however, and without sustained labor we find that the gardens rapidly decline. In 2018, when I was elected to Vestry, I assumed responsibility for Garden Ministry. With volunteer and sexton support, I have worked to safeguard some of the more attractive garden features. This year, with additional time on our hands and a renewed sense of purpose, Garden Ministry began actively rehabbing certain areas of the churchyard that previously seemed beyond help.

2020 Garden Ministry Accomplishments

- Hired and supervised a professional landscaper equipped with power tools and a stump grinder to eliminate weed trees and other unsightly vegetation from a 30-foot section along the southern edge of the Memorial Garden, replacing with white flowering hydrangeas and mulch.
- Obtained Vestry approval for the purchase and installation of a dog waste station, featuring a dispenser for plastic bags and trash receptacle, to help Stockade dog walkers be more responsible about picking up after their pets.
- With assistance from Rich Unger, trimmed and tamed the Finch Memorial rose arbor in time for a glorious showing of blooms in June.
- Eradicated weedy overgrowth in the graveyard nearby the doors to the Great Hall, repurposing the section to grass where appropriate and a neatly mulched bed of Knockout Roses where lawnmowing did not seem feasible.
- Creation of a new border of weed-suppressing gravel and sun-loving sedum alongside the walkway to the Great Hall.
- Cut back and cultivated exuberant herbaceous border between the church and the choirmaster's residence, removing invasive plants and replacing with rescued hostas and daylilies.



New (and renewed) members are always welcomed to Garden Ministry! If you have even one hour a week to contribute to the effort, please see Meg Hughes. You will learn a lot about weeds and get an up-close-and-personal look at the beauty of our prime Stockade location.

meg hughes



How Do You Pray?

Do you pray the way your parents taught you? At the end of the day, just before bed, on your knees, giving thanks to God? Most of us would say yes. This young lad has, perhaps unwittingly, used all the aspects of prayer in his simple bedtime offering.

There are endless ways, times and places to pray. None are wrong and none are more right than another. But our prayers, however simple or ornate, follow a pattern. We praise God, we give thanks to God and we ask God to do things. So our prayers can be categorized into four types: ADORATION, CONTRITION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION, easily remembered as A.C.T.S.

ADORATION-BLESSING-PRaise Adoration and praise acknowledges that God is God. We praise God's goodness and majesty. We laud God for his own sake and give him glory, beyond what he does, but simply because he IS. In the Bible, we find many prayers of adoration in the Psalms, which are often called psalms of praise.

The word "blessing" has a variety of meanings. It can be used as synonymous with praise, thus the psalmist, *"I will bless the Lord at all times; praise shall be always in my mouth."* [Ps 34] The prayer of blessing expresses praise and honor to God and is our response to God's gifts.

In the Mass, we offer prayers of Adoration in the Gloria in Excelsis. The Nicene Creed may also be regarded as adoration, synonymously with being our statement of faith.

CONTRITION-REPENTANCE Contrition and repentance is sincere regret or remorse for sin. We bare our souls before God and resolve to not sin again, asking for his mercy and trusting in his grace. Confession to God is also a model for the kind of mutual confession that believers in the body of Christ are called upon to make to one another. We receive absolution and forgiveness of our sins by Jesus Christ through his ordained priests, according to the words of Jesus to his apostles, *"Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained"* [John 20:23]. Prayers of confession ought to be a regular part of our spiritual lives, as we become transformed into the people God would have us be.

In the Mass, we offer prayers of Contrition in the General Confession.

THANKSGIVING-GRATITUDE Thanksgiving is our thanks to God for what he has given and done for us - our lives, our health, our families and our faith. The apostle Paul told us, *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"* [1 Thess. 5:16-18]. Living faithfully is to live out of a deep sense of gratitude for all that God has done for us. Prayers of thanksgiving help us to do that. They offer thanks to God and shape us into thankful people.

In the Mass, we offer prayers of Thanksgiving in the Post-Communion Prayer.

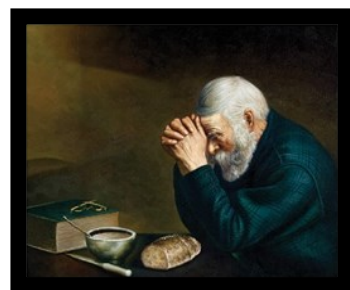
SUPPLICATION-PETITION-INTERCESSION Prayers of Supplication and Petition ask God to fulfill our needs. By these prayers, we acknowledge our dependence on God. We don't tell God what to do, but we appeal to his goodness for the things we need, just as we would do with our parents. At its heart, prayers of petition are an act of faith in that we must believe in the existence of God and believe that God is willing and able to grant what we ask. Jesus said to bring our every need to God in his name and assures that *"whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you."* [John 16:23]. Prayers of Intercession lead us to pray as Jesus did, asking God to intercede for each other. We are encouraged to ask God to care for those on earth and those who have died.

In the Mass, we offer prayers of Supplication, Petition and Intercession in the Prayers of the People.

In the gospels of Luke and Matthew, one of Jesus' disciples said to him: *"Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples"*. Jesus taught them what we now know as The Lord's Prayer. Take a minute and see how The Lord's Prayer fits into our prayer types.



Dear God, This is Michael. Thank you for giving me a good day. I'm sorry I yelled at my mother this morning and will try to not do that anymore. Please help my sister who is sick and make her get well. I love you and your Son Jesus, who died for us. See you again tomorrow. Amen



What could better illustrate prayers of Thanksgiving than saying Grace before a meal?

david kennison

SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN

St. George's outdoor movie night was rained out on September 5th, although two couples (parishioners and neighbors) didn't get the cancellation message and showed up. All returned on September 6th for "Much Ado About Nothing" as viewed on our newly purchased 10-foot screen. Movie-goers came with chairs, snacks, and didn't let a little technical glitch take away from the evening. Social distancing and masks were observed by those gathering on our campus.



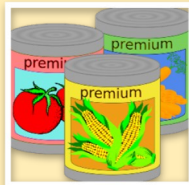
FALL OUTREACH



As St George's cautiously, carefully begins to reopen and resume some aspects of shuttered parish life, the fall collection of gently used outer

garments will take place starting Sunday, October 4th and extend to Sunday, November 22nd. The familiar coat rack will be in place in the Great Hall for you to hang any usable garments you may want to donate. Thank you.

Food insecurity is more so than ever a community concern. Food items placed in the food pantry basket at the back of the church will be periodically collected and taken to the SICM food pantry. However, there are other ways to help in alleviating food shortages that may be more compatible with the way in which you are re-engaging in community life. Monetary contributions can be made directly to SICM, 1068 Park Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308 with "food pantry" noted on your check's memo line. SICM also features a secure donation option on its website, www.sicm.us.



There are many food donation receptacles set up around the Capital District be it government buildings, supermarkets, etc., all of which would welcome your contribution.

alice pumbro

MEMORIAL DAY



Jon playing Taps on his trombone outside the Ewbank's decorated home.

Congratulations to Grant Jaquith who has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans claims. Grant, who has led the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York since 2017, will serve a 15-year term as one of seven judges on the veterans' court.

- JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

This COVID summer has been fairly unencumbered for the church at least on the maintenance side, so nothing significant for me to report has having been accomplished. However, we are moving forward a little faster now as the new church year begins.

We currently have the following maintenance action schedules to take place/begin in September:

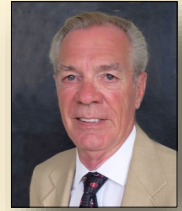
Great Hall Heating – Crisafulli Brothers has ordered the needed replacement valve to repair the erratic heating issues. Incorporated with this installation will be the repair of the radiator steam leak in the north Sanctuary transept.

Great Hall Kitchen – Plumbing repairs to the drain lines to both of the kitchen sinks are being addressed. The main sink (on the dishwasher side) drain began leaking when a crack developed in the P Trap. This will require braising a new drain connection onto the copper drainpipe. The drain on the stove side of the kitchen is still backing up, but a decision on how to address this issue has not been made. We are going ahead with the previously approved purchase of a new dishwasher for the Kitchen.

Cranmer House Maintenance – A contract has been signed for the repairs and painting to the dormers on Cranmer house, as well as repairing the front steps.

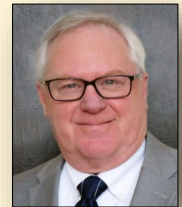
Boiler Inspections – Certification inspections on all three of our boilers are scheduled for September 10. As ever, please feel free to advise me of things you feel need to be addressed!

respectfully, jon ewbank



- TREASURER'S REPORT -

Once again I am happy to report that St. George's Church has a financial surplus year to date. We are likely to finish 2020 on the plus side, our 3rd year in a row. As of Sept. 2, we were about \$20,000 over budget for envelope offerings, this includes the proceeds of our PPP loan. We also have over \$50,000 of income in our endowment that is available to use. As a result, we will be spending more funds on maintenance of our buildings, buying a new dishwasher, improving our audio/video equipment in church, and other long awaited improvements. I'm sure Jon Ewbank will provide more details in his Jr. Warden's report. On the expense side of our church's ledger, we are under budget by almost \$20,000. This is due to lower administration costs during the Covid19 crisis.



Having reported the above good news, I am concerned about these annual surpluses being sustainable for the long term. Thus, I am trying to initiate some organized discussions about how to better secure our beloved church's future finances. When I try to talk with church members or at Vestry about our future, I sense a shared concern, but almost always a discomfort to continue the conversation. As you heard me say at our annual meeting in January, we have 5 major buildings; 1) Church, 2) Cranmer House, 3) St. George's House, 4) Parish Hall, and 5) our Rectory. BUT, we have only about 15 giving church members to support each of these buildings. Approximately 40% of our budget is devoted to utilities and keeping our infrastructure maintained, and this does not include required major renovations.

There is no doubt that we have a wonderful church campus. I love to sit with Dr. Brian on his front porch, with a drink in hand, to look at the wonderful symmetry of our Church in between Cranmer and St. George's Houses. The magnificence of our Rectory speaks for itself. Bottom line, it is our joint responsibility to look to the future and preserve our physical assets.

THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS on how to better manage our buildings! However, there are many options that we could systematically evaluate. Several of us would like to start a "save our buildings" committee to focus on this topic. Please contribute by joining this discussion. We owe it to future Georgians. We appreciate all concerns and comments.

respectfully submitted dr. jeffrey wengrovius



MUSIC AT ST. GEORGE'S



THE ESSENTIAL MUSICAL ELEMENTS OF THE MASS

The tradition of worship at St. George's Episcopal Church has been known as the Anglo-Catholic tradition. Hence we call the Holy Communion service the Mass, and we follow the order of service in the Book of Common Prayer but also include certain elements that are part of the ancient Western Catholic Tradition. The essential musical elements of the Mass are divided into two categories: Ordinary and Proper.



The Ordinary elements are those texts that are sung (or said at Low Mass) at every Mass. This includes the Kyrie Eleison, Gloria in Excelsis (omitted in Advent and Lent), sometimes the Credo or Nicene Creed, the Sanctus with the Benedictus, and the Agnus Dei. Traditionally the ordinary elements are all sung to the same musical setting. That is, the same composer or set of chants is used for all the elements. Currently, all of the Ordinary sung at our Mass were composed by Healey Willan who served at Organist-Choirmaster of St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in Toronto, Ontario from 1921 until his death in 1968. He was a giant in the world of church music and offered the wider Church some outstanding sacred music for its worship. The setting of the Ordinary is known as the *Missa de Sancte Maria Magdalena* in honor of his parish.

The Proper elements are those assigned to a specific liturgical day. These include the Introit, Gradual, Alleluia verse (replaced by a text called the Tract in Lent), Offertory verse and Communion verse. Every Sunday and Holy Day has a set of Propers assigned to it along with the Collect and Lessons of the day. The texts are mostly drawn from the Psalms or other scripture verses, and they reflect the themes of the lessons.

In our parish a singer called the Cantor sings the propers either by themselves or with the choir. The congregation sings the Ordinary. (On certain occasions the choir may sing a choral setting of the Ordinary.) Even with our Solemn Mass slimmed down for the pandemic with no choir anthems and fewer hymns, we still retain these essential musical elements that are part of our distinctive liturgical tradition.

dr. brian j. taylor

When “**CBS This Morning**” did a segment on Lin Manuel-Miranda’s opening of his play “Hamilton” in Puerto Rico a few months ago, they surprised him by including a brief appearance by his former teacher and mentor, Rembert Herbert. A little known fact is that LMM wrote some of the music for his musical, “In the Heights” on a piano in a house in South Carolina owned by Rembert’s cousin. The interview was conducted at the other end of the same room where Lin had worked on the piano.

Goodbye to our friends Pam and Jim Turley who are moving to Indiana. Pam was an enthusiastic worker on Altar Guild, the “Gardening Gang,” and ALM. Jim was a Vestry member. Both have been supportive parishioners. When seeking a local church for worship, they attended St. George’s and said they were welcomed enthusiastically by staff and parishioners alike. “Please know you are fulfilling the spirit of the faith,” said Pam. “If we can ever be of assistance, we are only a phone call/email away,” Jim added.



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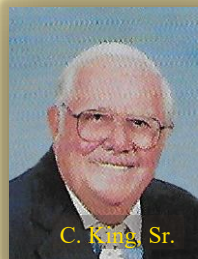
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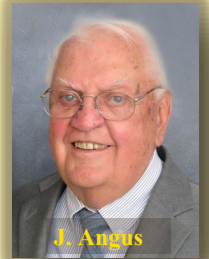
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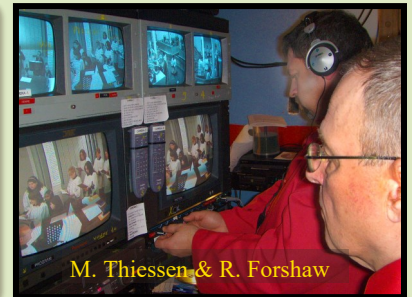
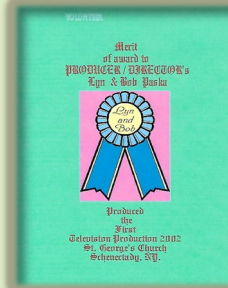


C. King, Sr.



J. Angus

In January 2002, a check was written to Albany Visual Sales & Service in the amount of \$19,077 for start-up equipment for our Audio/Video Room. The brainchild of the late Charles King, Sr., it came to fruition with the help of Jim Lewis Productions who supervised the installation, and Johnnie Angus who headed the operation for eight years, with an assist from Bob and Lynn Paska. A long-standing, active Georgian and father of Fr. Charles King, Jr., Charlie was Production Manager at GE Broadcasting (WRGB-WGY-WGFM), with technological expertise that was the backbone of this project.



M. Thiessen & R. Forshaw

By the time the A/V torch was passed on to Rich Forshaw and his assistant Mike Thiessen, they had their work cut out for themselves in upgrading to keep up with the changing times.

Another ten years have gone by, and today our A/V room is once again in the throes of being updated, its bareness a far cry from the large screen, monitors and audio equipment of the past. We must keep reminding ourselves that it is almost 2021 and technology has come a long way since the inception of our modest little A/V room.

“Live” streaming our Sunday Mass for Facebook keeps parishioners and the community joined during this pandemic. But our A/V room, with its limitless capabilities for taping Sunday Mass for local viewership, must be resurrected to reach an even greater potential.

lynn paska