



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

June 2017

ST. GEORGE'S DAY



Our Patronal Festival, or the Solemnity of the Martyrdom of Saint George, or as we lovingly call it: St. George's Day, took place on Sunday, April 30th on a day of mixed weather....clouds, sun, rain and cold/wind. Our annual celebration welcomed the St. Andrew's Society (later in our Mass was the formal presentation of the Kirkin' O the Tartans) at the West doors of the church and, for the first time, we also welcomed representatives from St. George's Lodge #6 of Free & Accepted Masons. Mass concluded with the Schenectady Pipe Band leading a parade of participants and parishioners around the Stockade.



OUTREACH

The outreach focus this issue is on the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is a group home located at Van Cortlandt and Norwood Streets run by Bethesda House which provides 24/7 care and adheres to the Housing First principle. Each resident has a history of chemical dependence or disability and has met the HUD homeless threshold at some point in their life. Residents have a fair degree of autonomy, for example, they can own cars and work outside the home. All residents contribute financially to live at the Lighthouse.

Nine years ago, St George's began providing a dinner and breakfast to the Lighthouse residents once a month. For the most part this ministry has continued uninterrupted and has been supported since its inception by Jim Wingate, Amy Machold, Judy DeLong, and Alice Pumbo. Georgians work in teams and the responsibility falls to each team about four times a year.

Depicted below is the most recent delivery of St George's meal. Resident Dave Bopp is usually on hand to assist with bringing the meal offerings inside and Shahmeeka Chaney-Artis is the Lighthouse weekend supervisor. Dave reports that he always enjoys St George's offerings but confesses to a particular fondness for Italian themed or barbecue oriented menus. The Lighthouse staff greatly appreciates that St George's provides nutritious, home prepared meals.

The Lighthouse ministry needs to put a third team in place. If this easy but very rewarding outreach is an area to which you might be called to serve, please speak with either Jim, Judy, Amy or Alice.

alice pumbo



Shahmeeka Chaney-Artis and Dave Bopp inspect some dessert items.



Alice, Jim and Judy deliver May's offerings (missing is Amy Machold.)



The Lighthouse exterior.



Touring the premises and sitting where meals are shared.

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

A Georgian since his 1982 marriage to longtime Georgian Sue, Steve Hartz noticed a waning acolyte roster and volunteered to join those dedicated members (Alice, JJ, Anna, Colton, Kevin) who take it upon themselves to serve God at his altar. It's an opportunity for adults and youth to work together. An acolyte must be 12 years of age to apply....but there is no age cutoff. (Note to Steve: you can sign up for life, if you wish.)

The tricky part, according to Steve, is relearning various altar positions - thurifer, epistle, Gospel. "I want to do it correctly, so I ask questions," he offered. "There's a lot of 'eye contact' on the altar, which makes me more comfortable as a trainee."

When sons Sean, Scott and Sam were growing up at St. George's, Steve was an acolyte; active in Chi Rho; and coached our basketball team which was "fantastic fun!" Currently, he helps with Hospitality; our Thanksgiving Parade floats; delivers donations from our Outreach Ministry to City Mission; and assists with special events like St. George's Day.

Steve and Sue own/operate Hartz Family Cleaners on Upper Union Street. He's the CE (executive) O and takes care of the equipment, production and assembling. Sue is the CEE (executive executive) O responsible for marketing and paperwork. With over 18 years in business, they're "a very good team."

A navy veteran ('84-'88) deployed overseas in the Suez Canal when terrorists surfaced in Beirut, Steve's life today is less hectic. He enjoys their camp at Saratoga Lake and all the water sports that go with it; motorcycling, especially early in the morning; golfing; and dabbles in playing the guitar. A former men's league hockey player, he and Sue are spectators at the Union College games. Hartz Family Cleaners was one of the team sponsors the year they won the national championship (the trophy was proudly displayed at their shop.)

Church is important to Steve. "I grew up Catholic but enjoy the traditions that still exist at St. George's," he said. "Being an acolyte makes me focus on the service, the Gospel lesson, and the sermon. It keeps me more connected." When he saw the need for acolytes, Steve Hartz stepped up to the plate and pitched a home run in his service to God. That is volunteerism at its finest.

lynn paska



A FOYERS DINNER



"Getting to Know You" is the purpose of St. George's Foyers Dinners....Georgians bonding with Georgians over meals at member homes. Those parishioners signing up are assigned a group and group leader(s). The host and hostess of the predetermined evening supply the main course; others bring appetizers, salad, dessert, or wine. We connect through the sharing of good food, good drink, and good conversation.

From this current round of Foyers Dinners, a picture was snapped at the home of Grant & Rosemarie Jaquith (standing) with (seated, l-r) Don & Sue Jenner, Nancy & Johnnie Angus, Lynn & Bob Paska. Missing from the evening: Chris Henry.

lynn paska

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY.....



The month of May—sadly—brought us many burial services at Saint George's. Among those services was a Solemn High Requiem that was celebrated for the repose of Father Delos Wampler. We had quite a number of guest from other parishes who were unfamiliar with the way Saint George's does things. Since most churches these days use white vestments at funerals, many were puzzled by our use of black. They asked, "Isn't the burial properly an Easter service and therefore white?" I myself at one time would have had similar misgivings. I have since come to embrace the use of black at a burial service. I want to offer a few reasons why.

1. Black is the acknowledgement that "in midst of life we are in death" (BCP 484). White is the color of rejoicing and resurrection. It is appropriately the color for Easter because we rejoice that Christ is risen

and that he has conquered death. White is worn to rejoice in the fact that the Kingdom of God is at hand and Christ is victorious. White acknowledges the already realized fact of our salvation in Christ, but God's kingdom is "already" but also "not yet." I believe black is a fitting reminder that what we hope for is "not yet." We long for and hope for the resurrection of the dead, the restoration of all things, and the final destruction of death, but we acknowledge that those things are yet to be. We continue to struggle with the reality of sin and death in our world.

2. Black is the color of mourning. It is appropriate to mourn at the death of a loved one. As Christians, we do not mourn as those without hope yet we still mourn. We mourn not because we lack hope in the resurrection but in acknowledgment that death continues to mar God's good creation. Our grief is a fitting symbol that death is the enemy of God and his people. Jesus wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus even though he knew that he would soon raise him to life again. The text tells us that he was deeply grieved and troubled. He was grieved not only at the unbelief of the people but at death itself. The "silver lining" or gold lining in black vestments is also a reminder that, although we grieve, we don't grieve without hope.

3. Black is worn to remind the people to pray for the departed. Prayers for the departed continue to be a part of our tradition. Prayers for the departed are enjoined at each mass as part of the prayers of the people. The burial service of the BCP also consist in no small part of prayers for the departed. We ask God to accept our prayers on behalf of the departed. We plead with him to, "grant them entrance into the land of light and joy." We pray to God that the departed might, "increase in knowledge of thee," and go "from strength to strength in the life of perfect service."

I have come to believe that offering prayers for the dead is important piece of the church's vocation. In recent years this practice has fallen away in many places or if it is practiced its purpose is not well understood. There is also little understanding of the intermediate state. I believe the discontinuation of black requiem masses to be partly responsible for this. We have an overly realized eschatology. People often act as if the resurrection of the dead is something that occurs at the moment of death rather than being something we pray and hope to attain. We have hope based on Jesus' death and resurrection on our behalf and yet—because we are sinners—we do not presume but rather pray for God's grace and mercy. This sober hope—the acknowledgment of our continual need for grace combined with a trust in grace and the victory of Christ—characterizes our prayer book liturgy.

For all those reasons it seems meet and right to wear black vestments at a requiem mass.

grace and peace, fr. matthew stromberg+

EASTER EGG HUNT



Children of St. George's and the community had a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt on our church campus on Sunday, April 15th. 300 eggs were hidden for the youngsters to find. A big "thank you" to April Stromberg for coordinating this event.

ST. FLORIAN DAY



On the afternoon of Wednesday, May 10th, Fr. Matt Stromberg (accompanied by music director Andrew Krystopolski) visited various fire stations in the area, offering prayers and blessings to our hard-working firefighters and their patron saint, St. Florian.

ROGATION SUNDAY



Rogation Sunday is a time set aside for intercession, prayers and praise for God's good creation. This year the day fell on May 21st. Many attending Mass brought garden tools, seeds and plants for a special blessing afterwards and work time in our lovely Memorial Garden.



SUMMER READING

Looking for a suspenseful, thought-provoking book to hold your interest this summer? Consider picking up a copy of Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize winning novel "*The Underground Railroad*." St. George's book club, *ALL ON THE SAME PAGE*, will be discussing it between Sunday Masses on September 17th.

Be aware that the book is a work of fiction, and the author takes great liberties with the facts. For example, he portrays the Underground Railroad as an actual train, when of course we all know that it was not a vehicle at all, but a network of people dedicated to helping slaves escape the South in the 1850s. Fanciful embellishments aside, there are many hard truths embedded in the novel, which need to be faced and not left buried in the history books.

Comments and reading suggestions for the book club are always welcome. Please see Meg Hughes or any other club member to share your thoughts.

meg hughes

EASTER 2017



Alternating snowstorms and warmth during Lent propelled St. George's toward a summery Easter Day. Fr. Matt's popular Lenten Sunday evening sessions on the Seven Deadly Sins and the Seven Lively Virtues drew us in with lively discussions of pride/humility, envy/kindness, anger/patience, sloth/diligence, greed/charity, gluttony/temperance, and lust/chastity, powerful interrelated concepts and characteristics.



Palm Sunday opened Holy Week in the Great Hall with Hosannas and palms. This service focused on the Passion, each voice in the congregation playing a role. Fr. Matt's sermon, illustrated with one white chair and one black chair, emphasized how God never turns His back on us. And so began Holy Week.



Contemplative Tenebrae on Wednesday evening, men's voices in the darkness, was pure peace. Chanted psalms, chanted lessons, candlelight: total antitheses to our modern world. The next night, at the Maundy Thursday service, Fr. Matt washed the feet of parishioners as Jesus did for his disciples. The altar was stripped. The somber overnight watch began in the Lady Chapel, lit only by candles. Good Friday, in the stark sanctuary with black vestments and no organ, focused on the crucifixion. Again the congregation read the Passion and then venerated the cross. Everyone left in silence.

The Great Paschal Vigil on Saturday night relit the fire, rang the bells, read the historic lessons and celebrated the Resurrection, followed in the Great



Hall by a joyful feast organized by Barb Wengrovius, Kevin Grace and Chris Henry. On Easter morning fanfare from The Signature Brass: Steve Weisse, Patrick Lorini, Susan Wheeler, Shaun Bazylewicz, and Jeremy Pierson, joined the St. Cecilia Choir under the direction of Andrew Krystopolski. Fr. Matt's sermon was full of hope, calling Easter a "Spring miracle, (a) promise that God has not given up on the world." He compared Easter Sunday to a new Creation: "We are partners with Christ in the new creation . . . bringing beauty and truth to a world that has too little of either."



We left to the glorious notes of Charles-Marie Widor's Toccata, energized by the sounds and the day. Hallelujah, Christ is Risen! *joan pearson*



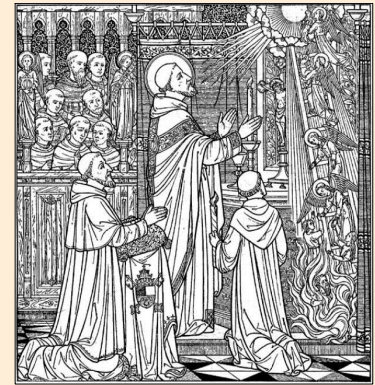
The Role of the Clergy

Last time, we reviewed the role of bishops as the first part in an examination of the catechism's description of the Ministry of the Church. This time, we examine the role of the clergy - both priests and deacons. In the next and last installment, we'll take a look at the ministry of the laity and lay persons' interrelationships with bishops and the clergy and how they are all required to build and grow God's church.

Ministry of Priests and Deacons

From the Catechism - "*The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.*" "*The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.*"

You'll immediately see the similarities and the differences between these roles. Essentially, a priest is the representative of the bishop amongst the people and serves as his representative in the local parishes. The liturgical ministry of a deacon (from the Greek *diakonos*, servant) is a ministry of service, acting under the direction of a local priest and the authority of the bishop. A priest goes where God calls him; a deacon goes where he is sent.



A priest celebrating the Mass.
Origin unknown

Priests in the Bible

"*You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek*". So said the Lord to Melchizedek in Ps 110:4. Earlier, in Genesis 14:18, we see that Melchizedek is a king of Jerusalem and priest of God Most High, making offerings of bread and wine. In Hebrews 7:17 we see that this term is applied to Jesus and we understand that the Mass' Eucharistic offering of bread and wine is Jesus' offering of His Body and Blood. So the enduring title of a priest really has the connection to Jesus as priest, with Melchizedek as the first representative of this line. It is for this reason that only a priest can celebrate the Mass and consecrate the elements of bread and wine with the Words of Institution, "*Take, eat, this is my Body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*" And "*Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.*" As Dom Gregory Dix said in his classic work, *The Shape of the*

Liturgy "*Was ever a command so obeyed?*"



Saint Stephen, one of the first seven deacons in the Christian Church, holding a Gospel Book.

Deacon as Servant

Biblically, the role of a deacon is less defined than that of a priest. It is assumed that deacons originated with the selection of seven men by the apostles, among them Stephen, to assist with the charitable work of the early church as recorded in Acts 6. Canonically, deacons serve directly under the authority of and are accountable to the bishop. In the diaconal ordination service, the candidate is charged "*to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments and ... to carry out other duties assigned ... from time to time.*" - very broad, somewhat undefined and yet vital to the church. Historically, a deacon has duties which used to be done by the chief steward or servant in a household, primarily *preparation* and *proclamation*. Such ministers prepare provisions (a deacon sets the altar table) and serve as cupbearers (chalice); transmits proclamations to the people (Gospel and dismissal) and coordinate the ministry of others. Thus, deacons assist others to carry out their own individual responsibilities. Deacons can also preach a sermon with appropriate preparation and guidance. Occasionally, we encounter a deacon performing a so-called "deacon's Mass", with modified and abbreviated liturgical prayers and without consecration of the bread and wine. However, a "deacons Mass" does not really exist, although the BCP does make provision for a deacon to administer Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament in an emergency, only when a priest is unavailable and with the consent of the bishop.

Priests and Deacons Today

As with bishops, the life of a priest and deacon can be hectic. Modern life has affected every parish's attendance - people are often "too busy" to go to church. Parish income shrinks, balanced budgets turn into deficit budgets and many churches cannot afford more than a single priest, if even that. The lucky few may have a non-stipendiary retired priest in the congregation who can assist from time to time, but the major load still falls on one person - the rector or the priest-in-charge. The laity can be a blessing here, but sometimes a priest has to do administrative and clerical work, altar guild work and even clean the buildings. It can seem as if a priest has to be all things to all people, all the time. As priests get overloaded, deacons are often called upon to extend their roles. Truly, priests and deacons sacrifice themselves to do God's work!

david kennison

ASSISTED LIVING MINISTRY

ALM Ministry Incorporates LEM Into Its Service

The Assisted Living Ministry is on hiatus in June and will resume worship with those it serves in July. During this service break the ALM group met June 1st to reflect on this year's efforts to date, enjoy a delicious potluck lunch and strike a new course for the way in which future ALM services will be conducted.

On those occasions when Father Matt is unavailable to celebrate Eucharist, a very lovely afternoon prayer service has been offered that includes hymns, scriptural readings, a lay prepared homily, prayers and collects. When services resume in July, the ALM group will now be celebrating a modified Eucharist using previously consecrated elements in the tradition of Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Father Matt gave all present at the June 1st meeting proper instruction for laying the table and the way in which to administer communion.

Everyone present agreed that this step reflects the growth within the ALM ministry and how this new adaptation will surely enrich the worship experience of our congregants.

If you would like to learn more about ALM, please speak with any ministry member. *alice pumbo*



Just Before Lunch

ALM members (back row, l-r) Andrew Krystopolski, Pauline Holmes, Joan Pearson, Meg Hughes, Nancy Angus, Suzy Unger, Debbie Lambeth; (front row, l-r) Fr. Matt Stromberg, Joan Bessarab, Judith Smith. Missing are Dot Dever, Jean Greenspan.



Joan and Judith like the new format.



Andrew and Fr. Matt examine the new template.



Nancy, Sue, Debbie, and Meg going over the new service.

- SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT-

Time sure flies when you're having fun! It's hard to believe that our new Rector has been with us for almost a year. In that time we have seen revitalization in our ministries, a few new faces in our congregation, an even further renewed relationship with our Diocese and best of all, children in our midst. Our future.



Speaking of our future....your Vestry has been working hard to secure our future. There has been a renewed vitality particularly with our financial future. Through the vacancy period our finances were in line with our income. Without a full-time Rector to support, our finances were much easier to manage but not much else. With the year half over we find ourselves playing "catch up" to help support a working parish. We still have a large deficit to overcome with our budget. There are plans to raise funds with our newly established fund-raising committee and our Rector is certainly earning his keep. Over the next few months there will be activities and events planned to reduce this deficit but it will not be erased overnight.

I would ask that we all take a personal involvement in any way we can to help support these efforts. Whether it be with "time, talent or treasure," we will need to actively support our parish if we wish to keep all that we have worked so hard to put in place.

I'm reminded of the promise we made at Fr. Matt's Institution: to be a faithful flock in supporting our new Rector to spread the good news of Christ. The best way we can do that is to build a strong and healthy parish, working together.

yours in Christ, Chris

Rich Unger's Junior Warden's Report and Jon Pearson's Treasurer's Report are on hiatus this issue. Both columns will resume in September.



ST. CECILIA CHOIR



Our full St. Cecilia Choir is flanked by Fr. Matt Stromberg and Andrew Krystopolski. Front row (l-r) Diane Nemer-Reed, Joan Pearson, Suzy Unger, Kali Moran, Julie Decker, Louisa Carr; back row (l-r) Bob Paska, Bob Moran, Jeff Wengrovius, Sue Hartz, Gene DeLong. Congratulations for a job well done this year...now, take the summer off and rest your vocal chords.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

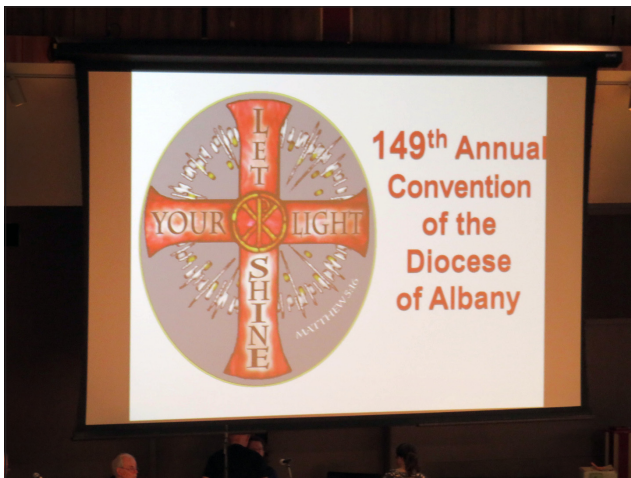
June 9 - 10 - 11, 2017



Pre-convention get-together and overnight accommodations at the Pearson's camp on Sacandaga Lake (l-r) Chris Henry, Bob Paska, Fr. Matt Stromberg, Isaac Stromberg, Jon Pearson, Helen Stromberg, April Stromberg, Rich Unger.



Camp of the Woods in Speculator, New York was again the site of the 149th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. A lovely setting for camaraderie and informative workshops.



The Convention is appropriate for all ages with sessions for youth, teens, young adults and their parents and grandparents. Interesting guest speakers round out three days of inspiring presentations, exhibitions and vendors.



During the Convention, Fr. Matt was nominated for and elected to The Greater Chapter of the Cathedral. Our congratulations to Fr. Matt....we know he will be enthusiastic and hard-working in this position.

Rev. Canon Delos Wampler

1923-2017



IN MEMORIAM

"Rest in Peace"

**You will be missed by
your church family.**



Barbara L. Todt
1933-2017



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BABY SEARS BAPTISM



Sunday, May 14th - Fr. Matt had the honor of baptising young Allison Karoline, daughter of Karoline and Ben Sears. Welcome to our newest Georgian!

Jim Wingate's "Visitations" column will return in September. An error in the March issue....it was Bishop BARRY not Bishop BALL who ordained Fr. Wampler to the priesthood.

Congratulations to Rick Forshaw and his "crew" for another very successful Rummage Sale on June 9th and 10th!



A REMINDER: Our Sunday 9AM Mass is videotaped by Rick Forshaw and Mike Thiessen. It is then telecast Sundays at 4:30PM, Thursdays at 10AM and Fridays at 2PM on SACC-16 TV as well as Sundays at 2PM on Channel 18, Albany and Guilderland.