



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

March 2016

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



St. George's Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 24th started with a prayer by Fr. Paul Hunter and ended with a tasty potluck. In between, there was a business meeting headed by

senior warden Chris Henry which included a rector search update and question/answer time, vestry election (congratulations to Richard Unger), financial report from treasurer Jon Pearson, and an amusing talk by music director Andrew Krystopolski.



A group picture was taken after Vestry elections at the Annual Parish Meeting. Front row (L-R) Jeffrey Wengrovius, Jane Moran, Richard Unger, Louisa Carr. Back row (L-R) Suzanne Hartz, Christopher Henry, Richard Forshaw, Grant Jacquith, Jonathan Pearson, Robert Paska. Missing from picture: James Whitehead.

A GEORGIAN “THANK YOU” TO

....**The Reverend Howard K. Smith**, deacon at our neighboring church, Christ Church on State Street in Schenectady. Christmas Eve 2015 was the 2nd Christmas Eve that Dcn. Howard has been part of our holiday celebration, and it's always our pleasure. He also has been co-celebrant with Fr. Webber at several Sunday morning Masses. Dcn. Howard will continue to be with us as the need arises.



....**The Reverend Richard Lehmann**, former longtime deacon at St. Andrew's in Scotia, has recently supplied at Episcopal churches in Middleburgh, Schuylerville, Rensselaer, Troy and Latham, and will be at St. George's most Sundays through Easter and St. George's Day, including all Holy Week. "I'm delighted to be here," Fr. Richard stated emphatically. And, we're delighted to have him with us.



lynn paska

Chris Henry's Senior Warden Report and Jim Wingate's "Visitations" column will return in June.

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

Meg Hughes likes being a Georgian. "I have always felt welcome since my first visit in the early 1980s when I lived in the Stockade," she explained. Confirmed here in 1983, she added, "I've tried other churches but just kept coming back. I guess St. George's is bound to be my 'spiritual home.' When I worship in that peaceful sanctuary, I am humbled and grateful to be a part of it in my own small way."

And in her "own small way," last year Meg assumed chairmanship of our *All on the Same Page* book club. "The goal is to have fun, make friends, and maybe learn a little bit along the way. I have really enjoyed it. You get to read things you might not otherwise pick, and share our own favorites with others. Everyone brings a different perspective," she said.

Currently there are four to five hard-core members, plus several others who circle in and out, sometimes reading the books, but not always able to make it to the meetings. Everyone takes a turn to recommend a book....the person who does, leads the informal discussion. The group meets monthly between the 9 and 11:15AM Masses in the library of the Great Hall.

Although reading has always been a big part of her life, Meg also enjoys yoga, being outdoors, and gardening "...nothing fancy, mostly veggies."

Working in communications for thirty years, Meg retired last July from CDPHP. Since then, she has done part-time and temporary work, but "...I

sure don't miss full-time employment!" Meg and her spouse Lisa, who will retire in September, hope to enjoy their Guilderland home more and also do more traveling.

Meg alternates between both Masses on Sunday and has been a Greeter at 11:15AM. She hopes our new rector will schedule more adult educational opportunities outside of regular workshop, for example, movie nights during Lent, trips like the one we took to the Holy Trinity (Russian) Monastery, and discussion groups.

Meg's love of St. George's is reflected in her final statement. "Of course, a building is nothing without the people who bring it to life. It's the fellowship, the outstanding music program, and the beautiful liturgy that really makes St. George's special". And, volunteers like Meg Hughes who generously give of their time and talent.

lynn paska



CHORAL EVENSONG 2016

St. George's celebrated a traditional Choral Evensong on January 31, our St. Cecelia Choir and the New York Catholic Chorale singing under the direction of Christian Ritter. David Kennison officiated. After a hymn and Rachael Aarons' "The St. James Responses," the anthem "O How Amiable," by Ralph Vaughan-Williams warmed the congregation. Thomas Tallis composed the intricate and beautiful Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis; the joyful main anthem, "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies," was from Harold Darke. Andrew Krystolpolski presented two favorites for the prelude and postlude: Andante Con Moto by Alexandre Guilmant and Litanies by Jehan Alain. Evensong is all about beauty, and it was an added pleasure to have our friends from the Catholic Chorale with us.

joan pearson

- JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

rick forshaw



The Church boiler sprung a leak in February. The furnace company was called to make the necessary repairs to insure heat for the Church services. Gerald is monitoring the gas valve on a daily basis because it has continued to make more noise.

The St. George's House furnace is having a problem with too much water flow into the lines. There have been false readings with the automatic water feed.



The large area rug in the Shaw Lounge has been cleaned. The floor has been cleaned and waxed.



The library in the Great Hall has been cleaned and rearranged to be more desirable for smaller groups.

- TREASURER'S REPORT -



jon pearson

How do you make your charitable contributions? Do you essentially give cash for all of your contributions? There are alternatives that can be more beneficial when tax time rolls around.

One approach is to send funds from your IRA account directly to your charity of choice (St. George's, of course!) Tax law now permits anyone over age 70 & 1/2 to have withdrawals from their IRAs directed to a charity. This helps taxpayers avoid reporting the withdrawn funds as income. It is better than a deduction, because it helps to hold down your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). This is very important for retirees as it can help them control Medicare Part B premiums and it impacts the rate at which Social Security is taxed. AGI affects your taxes in many other subtle ways that you may be able to control to your benefit with this strategy.

A second approach is to donate appreciated securities. If you own shares of stock that are worth more than their purchase price, selling them incurs a capital gain that may be taxed at rates up to 25% of the value of the gain realized. Alternatively you can donate shares of stock to a charity like St. George's. If you itemize your deductions, you can probably deduct the full value of the shares donated while avoiding capital gains taxes because the shares will be sold by the tax exempt charity, not by you.

If you want to discuss one of these ideas, please call me or see me at church. Alternatively, call your financial advisor or your tax preparer.

OUTREACH

On Sunday, February 15th St George's vestry outreach coordinator, Louisa Carr, chaired a meeting to assess and discuss the status of St George's outreach efforts. Attending were Kevin Grace, Barb Wengrovius, Lynn Paska, Joan Pearson, Sue Hartz and Alice Pumbo. Absent were Tarik Wareh, Amy Machold, and Jon Pearson. The group agreed to continue the following familiar outreach projects for 2016; undergarments collection during Lent for Schenectady Public Schools (Alice Pumbo), back-to-school supplies during the summer (Louisa Carr), winter outer garments during the fall (Sue and Steve Hartz), Salvation Army holiday bell ringing (Jon Pearson) and holiday gift bags in December (Barb Wengrovius). Each project will be handled by the various outreach committee member noted in parenthesis.

In addition, ongoing deliveries to the SICM food pantry will be done by Sue and Steve Hartz while Alice Pumbo will oversee St George's relationship with The Lighthouse. The committee also brainstormed some other ways in which our mission might be fulfilled within the community. There was enthusiasm for supplying St Joseph's Place with homemade cookies during the year and partnering with the YWCA in responding to the immediate needs of battered women coming into shelter by outfitting them with the abundance of donated clothing in our rummage rooms.



Children often come to school improperly clothed or have needs during their school day for additional clothing. Once again, St George's is partnering with Schenectady County School's social worker, Laura DeNifio, in supplying children's undergarments and socks, size 5 to 10, as a Lenten outreach initiative. This project is underway and will conclude Easter Sunday, March 27th. Our goal is to receive 40 each packages of boys' and girls' undergarments. Donations may be placed in the hamper that is located at the back of the church.

The Lighthouse is a ten-person group home operated by Bethesda House. For several years St George's has taken a breakfast and dinner one weekend day per month for the residents. Operating in three teams this is a very easy, flexible outreach that involves only a four times per year commitment. One of our teams is currently lacking a partner; please see Alice Pumbo if you'd like to help out.



St George's intention to serve the community remains strong. Any ideas are welcome and all efforts accepted!

*alice pumbo
louisa carr*

CHRISTMAS 2015



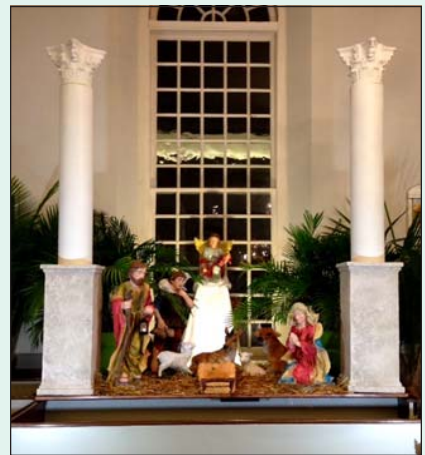
Each year we wonder, what will this Christmas be? Advent 2015 began with a visit from Bishop Love and continued a week later with a lovely service of Advent Lessons and Carols, where Andrew Krystopolski and Julie Panke merged the voices of our St. Cecelia Choir and the choir of First Reformed Church of Schenectady. Judy Moore directed the Klokken Tower Ringers, the bell choir of First Reformed. Music from Palestrina to Poston to hymns of Advent alternated with scripture to tell us "the message of the Angels," that the Lord's birth is near.

The Assisted Living Ministry made Lessons and Carols their December service, getting lots of smiles from the residents at every visitation. They, too, loved hearing the familiar Bible passages and singing some of their favorite carols and hymns. By the time we were hanging the greens on December 20, it was clear that we wouldn't have a white Christmas. Rick Forshaw, Jeff Wengrovius, Johnny Angus, Chris Henry, and Dan Machold moved the crèche to the more central north windows, while Anne Kennison, Judy DeLong, Amy Machold, Barb Wengrovius, Karen Forshaw, Sue Jenner, Debbie Lambeth and Nancy Angus arranged window candles, greenery and poinsettias. Jon Pearson and Gene DeLong decorated the balcony. For the first time we had candelabra lighting the aisles, thanks to the efforts of David Kennison and Grant and Colton Jaquith.

On an unseasonably balmy Christmas Eve we entered our candlelit sanctuary and heard organ plus the strings of Sarah Becker, Sean Jones, Joshua Whitehead, and Christina Danley playing two sonatas by Mozart. The Reverend Canon Robert F. Haskell and The Reverend Mr. Howard Smith celebrated Mass with an augmented choir singing Joseph Haydn's joyful *Missa Brevis St. Joannis de Deo*. Rosanne Hargrave and KaliRose Moran were soloists. By the final hymn, "Joy to the World," there was no doubt that Christmas Day had arrived! Amy Machold and her crew arranged a tasty Sweets and Savories reception for everyone who was too excited to sleep.

The Kings arrived at Epiphany Mass on January 6, celebrated by Fr. Webber in the Lady Chapel. And now we ask, what will 2016 bring to St. George's?

joan pearson



Stations of the Cross? Isn't that just a Roman Catholic thing? Well, yes and no. Yes, every Catholic church has them, but so do many Episcopal churches and also many Lutheran and Methodist churches. The thing is – do they just hang there on the wall or are they used? And what do you do with them?- here's a little help...

The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man and are synonymous with Lent. Also known as the “Way of the Cross”, “Via Crucis”, “Via Dolorosa” and “The Way of Sorrows”, the 14 stations focus on specific events of Jesus' last day, beginning with His condemnation and focusing on His walk through Jerusalem carrying his Cross.

Not merely church decoration, the stations are commonly used to help the faithful make a spiritual pilgrimage as we move from station to station and contemplate His suffering. At each station, we recall and meditate on each specific event of Christ's Passion. We offer prayers at each station and sing as we move to the next station until all are completed.

The Stations of the Cross are commonly found in churches as a series of 14 small icons or images, carved from wood or stone or created in paintings or other media. The material is unimportant but each station must include a cross – pictures alone are not enough – and they must be blessed and installed with specific ceremony. The devotion we offer is to the cross, not to the images that serve to focus our prayers. Stations can also appear in church yards arranged along paths. The stations are most commonly prayed during Lent on Fridays, reminding us of Good Friday - the day upon which Jesus walked this path to His crucifixion on Mount Calvary - but any day is acceptable.

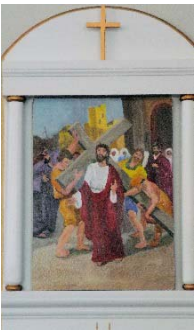
The Stations originated in medieval Europe when wars prevented Christian pilgrims from visiting the Holy Land and the Via Dolorosa. European artists created works depicting scenes of Christ's journey to Calvary. The faithful installed these sculptures or paintings at intervals along a procession route - inside the Parish church, or outdoors along a roadway.

From the earliest days, followers of Jesus told the story of His Passion, death and Resurrection. When Pilgrims came to see Jerusalem they were anxious to see the sites where Jesus walked. These Sites became important holy connections with Jesus. Eventually, following in the footsteps of the Lord, along the Way of the Cross, became an important part of every Pilgrimage Visit, and is still true today for those who visit the Holy Land.

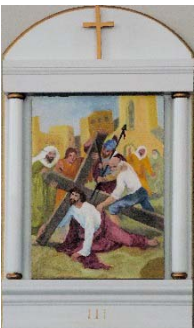
During the 15th and 16th centuries, the Franciscans began to build a series of outdoor shrines in Europe to duplicate their counterparts in the Holy Land. Villages all over Europe started creating replicas of the Way of the Cross, commemorating the places along the route Jesus took through Jerusalem. The number of stations varied between 7 and 30, eventually becoming the set of 14 Stations we know today.



I - Jesus is
Condemned to Death



II - Jesus Receives
the Cross



III - Jesus Falls
the first time



IV - Jesus Meets His
Holy Mother



V – The Cross is
Laid on St Simon of
Cyrene



VI – St Veronica
Wipes the Face of Jesus



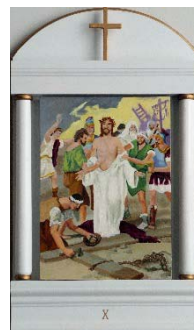
VII - Jesus Falls the
Second Time



VIII - Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



IX - Jesus Falls the Third Time



X - Jesus is Stripped of His Garments



XI - Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



XII Jesus Dies on the Cross



XIII - The Body of Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross



XIV- The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

In some newer churches, there is often a 15th Station added; representing the Resurrection, but this was not the traditional practice and is not often found outside of the United States.

Today, the Stations (or even simple crosses representing them) serve as a powerful focus for Lenten prayer and as a constant reminder to us of the price Our Lord Jesus Christ paid for our sins. The devotion may be conducted personally by the faithful, making their way from one station to another and saying the prayers, or by having an officiating celebrant move from cross to cross while the faithful make the responses.

The Stations are often also prayed in connection with the traditional Seven Sorrows of Mary (the prophecy of Simeon; the Flight into Egypt; the loss of the child Jesus in the Temple; Jesus meeting His mother on the way to Calvary; Mary standing at the foot of the cross; taking Jesus' body down from the Cross (The Pieta); the burial/entombment of Jesus.) The Stations or the Devotion to Our Lady's Seven Sorrows do not have to be prayed in church; they can also be prayed privately at home at any time of the year.

The most important reason for praying the Stations of the Cross is that it is a personal way to contemplate and enter into the mystery of Jesus' gift of Himself to us. It takes the reflection of the Passion and Death of Jesus out of our head and puts it into our heart. It involves our senses, our experience, and our emotions. We all experience the love of Jesus in our lives and this deepens our sense of gratitude to Him. Deep gratitude leads to true generosity and a desire to love as we are loved.

If you have never made the Stations before, it's a good time to start. This can be as meaningful as you'd like. One of our common human struggles is to realize that we are not alone – God is with us always. Jesus became human and entered into our life's experience completely – knowing his own suffering and death, so that our suffering and death have no lasting hold on us. That can be deeply consoling.

So try the Stations, and experience the consolation they offer. With each devotional journey along the Way of Sorrows, you will be renewed in Jesus' solidarity with all humanity.

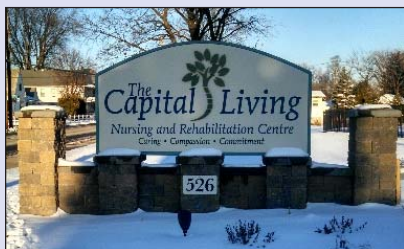
david kennison

ASSISTED LIVING MINISTRY

Beginning in 2015, we were committed to St George's Assisted Living Ministry but perhaps slightly unsure of its future as a lay led ministry, it was with joy and relief that ALM's first year ended successfully. As 2016 has begun, the ALM team has grown and monthly visitations at our four various locations see many Georgians present and participating in the services.

In 2015, ALM worshipped with 915 congregants on a once-a-month basis at Capital Living, The Glen Eddy, Scotia Mansion and Kingsway Community. Under Andrew's guidance each prayer service is overseen by an officiant who coordinates worship and offers a brief reflection. Last year homilies were offered on topics such as Epiphany gifts, Jesus's presentation in the temple, Lent, new beginnings, Mary, Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene, the Ascension, Mother's Day and the origins of familiar hymns. In our service, hymns are sung, special prayers offered and during each month ALM benefits from Eucharist celebrated by Father Webber at one of our locations.

The ALM group which consists of Judith Smith, Andrew Kyrstopolski, Joan Pearson, Suzy Unger, Nancy Angus, Jean Greenspan, Pauline Holmes, Dot Dever, Joan Bessarab and Alice Pumbo, meets periodically to plan out several months. The calendar is reviewed and subtle adaptations are made in our service to synchronize it with corresponding occurrences in the Christian year. In 2015 for example, special prayers were crafted for November to remember All Souls and in December a beautiful lessons and carols service was celebrated for Advent season.



The first stop in ALM monthly visits is Capital Living, located at 526 Altamont Avenue. It is a 240 bed nursing and rehabilitation center that offers traditional long-term, skilled nursing care for people who can no longer care for themselves in their home setting. Short term rehabilitation services are also provided to those who cannot return home after a hospital stay. A wide array of therapeutic services is offered to patients and residents.



Joan Pearson asks a resident about special prayer considerations.



Father Webber prepares for the Eucharist.



Andrew offers a musical prelude before the Mass.



Suzy, Nancy, Joan and Joan (seated) at a recent Capital Living Service.



An Assisted Living Ministry "selfie" taken in the elevator while exiting Capital Living. And, as you can see, a good time was had by all participants.

ALM at St George's is thriving. If you would like to be part of this vital ministry or would like information, please contact any team member.

alice polumbo

ALL ON THE SAME PAGE BOOK CLUB

St. George's Book Club invites members and non-members to read *"The Wright Brothers"* by David McCullough, and attend a discussion of the book in the Library of the Great Hall following the 9AM Mass on April 17th. Meg Hughes can be reached at (518) 694-1550 with questions and comments.

Launched in 2013, St. George's Book Club, **ALL ON THE SAME PAGE**, has one basic rule: "It's not about church books!" The group has consumed fiction, fantasy, humor, and history. We even broke our old rule and read a book based on stories from the Old Testament. I'm glad we did, as it introduced us to an amazingly talented author, Geraldine Brooks.

Ms. Brooks, born in Australia, moved to the US to complete her education and serve as a foreign correspondent for the Wall Street Journal. She reported on conflicts in Bosnia and the Persian Gulf. In 1994 she became an author of international renown, publishing *"Nine Parts of Desire,"* a nonfiction book based on her experiences among

Muslim women in the Middle East.

She has written several award-winning books, her most recent, *"The Secret Chord,"* a richly imagined chronicle of the rise of King David in ancient Israel. Recommended for readers enjoying getting lost in a story and learning things along the way.

Her other four novels have been critically acclaimed best-sellers. I will be hitting the library soon to check out these gems: *"Years of Wonder"* - one woman's battle to save lives during an outbreak of bubonic plague in rural England in 1666.

"March" - an imaginary account of the Civil War service of the absent father in the Louisa May Alcott book *"Little Women."* *"People of the Book"* - tracing the lives of people who succeeded in preserving a rare Jewish prayer book despite genocide and war. *"Caleb's Crossing"* - inspired by the true story of a Native American convert to Christianity who graduated from Harvard College in the 17th century. Happy reading!

meg hughes



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The Georgian **Report**

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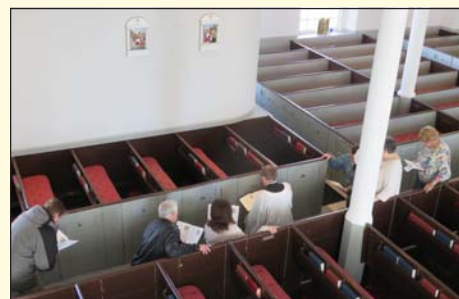
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PREPARING FOR EASTER: STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Prayerful



Poignant



Powerful

For the 8th consecutive year, Colton Jaquith will be looking suspiciously like Yul Brynner after participating in the St. Baldrick's "head shaving event" to raise money for research and support for kids with cancer on April 16th. You, too, can support Colton and this important project by making a donation to the cause. See Colton or any member of his family (Grant, Rosemarie, Olivia or Isabelle) to contribute or contribute online at <https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/845770/2016>.

A reminder: St. George's Day will take place on Sunday, April 24th, a week earlier than normal. Please mark it on your calendar and get ready to celebrate this very festive occasion with your church family.