



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

December 2008

START-UP SUNDAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION



> A Ministry Fair

> A Parish Brunch

> A State-of-the-Parish Review

ST. GEORGE'S CAFE

The best part of the annual Stockade Art Show is that people get hungry and St. George's Cafe is there to feed them. Even a rain delay from Saturday to Sunday did not affect anyone's appetite for corn chowder, hamburgers, hotdogs, Dragon bread, chili, and fried dough. This year, Chris Henry and Joan Pearson organized supplies and workers, most of whom have years of experience.

We were busy inside and out. In the kitchen, we were heating corn chowder and chili, making fried dough and coffee, and delivering ice, drinks, condiments, and anything else customers needed. Outside we were grilling "hams and hots," serving chowder, chili and sides, and collecting money. There was plenty of running back and forth. The Todts, the Thiessens, Barbara Wengrovius, Chris Henry, Will Ottery, Jim Wingate, and Joan Pearson worked through the day, Dot Dever helped set up, Al Robin and Jon Pearson helped take down, Donna made our signs, and Gerald decided how to set us up and keep us plugged in.

We've learned:

1. Our menu is perfect
2. Everyone loves fried dough
3. We will always run out of something
4. We will always have too much of something else
5. 3 & 4 will never be the same two years in a row
6. We won't forget to feed David Kennison
7. The Art Show needs us
8. Donations keep us in business. Hundreds of hotdogs and hamburgers, gallons of corn chowder, pots of chili, and everything that goes with them were gifts from Jim Wingate, the Morans, the Wengroviuses, the Todts, the Pearsons, the Thiessens, Chris Henry, and all who donated funds for supplies.

It isn't all about the money, but after four hours, we made just over \$1,500.

Joan Pearson

FALL COAT DRIVE

St. George's 2nd Fall Coat Drive ended on Sunday, November 16th. 69 donated men's, women's and children's "gently used" coats were delivered to Conifer Park, our partner for this project, by Outreach Chairperson, Alice Pumbo.

Conifer Park is a private health care system that provides quality care to those suffering from alcoholism and chemical dependency and to the many whose lives are affected by the diseases of addiction. Located at 79 Glenridge Road in Glenville, more information is available on their website www.coniferpark.com.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Helping out with the garden restoration project this summer: **Homer Kerr** who donated a hose, hose reel, plants, brass connectors, and offers to water....**Nancy and Johnnie Angus** who planted bishops weed along the northside walkway of the church....**Rick Forshaw** who put down two fertilizer applications....**Jon Pearson** who worked and managed the irrigation system....**Marty's Hardware** who donated \$100....**Sally Cummings** (not a St. George's parishioner) who donated 95% of the rain garden plants. Thank you to all!

The Garden Committee consists of Rosemary Pannone and Barbara Wengrovius and, by default, Mike Thiessen and Gerald Cooper.

PRISON MINISTRY

Between the first and third Sundays of Advent, we will be supporting Pat Jones' St. Stephen's Ministry at the Schenectady County Jail. Each Advent, Pat delivers to women inmates, many

of whom are incarcerated for over a year, mail-ready Christmas cards to help maintain family ties while separated. Anyone wishing to help, should place unwanted Christmas cards (such as those received as part of a solicitation), envelopes, or first class postage stamps in the basket that will be at the back of the church. The collected cards and stamps will go to St. Stephen's on December 14th and then delivered to the jail later that day.

BACKPACK PROJECT



St. George's recently took part in outfitting backpacks in a back-to-school project. These backpacks were delivered to *Things of My Very Own*, a nonprofit organization that is committed helping Capital Region Foster Children succeed in life. *Things of My Very Own* provides transitional assistance and has ongoing programs and services for children in care, such as academic support and scholastic packages.

Thanks to some very generous Georgians, the original goal of 12 backpacks was exceeded by four and a very grateful *Things of My Very Own* received our offering in time for the start of school.

Contributors to the backpack effort included the Macholds, Forshaws, Todts, Anguses, Kennisons, Hughes, Thiessens, Pannones, DeLongs, Szokodys and Dot Dever - along with many additional anonymous donators. Outreach Chairperson Alice Pumbo would like to thank everyone for their participation.

S.E.E.D.L.I.N.G.S.

S.E.E.D.L.I.N.G.S., St. George's Environmental Education Developing Lifelong Interest in Gardening Studies, is a children's gardening group scheduled to begin in January. Consisting of two separate classes, Sprouts (maximum 10) ages 3-6 will meet Saturdays for 1-hour; Saplings (maximum 15) ages 7-12 will meet for 1 & 1/2 hours.

Under the direction of master gardener Rosemary Pannone, the curriculum will offer: basic gardening, garden safety, "Let's Make DIRT," planting seeds for spring, painting pots, starting houseplants, repotting houseplants, planting our seedlings, making a birdfeeder, forcing flower bulbs, and weather tracking tools.

Topics will include: Why Plants Are Important, North South East West, Where Does Our Food Come From?, What's It Doing Outside?, Self-Sustaining Gardens, Chemical-Free Gardens, Rain Gardens, Growing Up Down and Around, BUGS!, and, Growing in Containers.

Cooperative Extension, a Warm Greenhouse, a Cool Greenhouse, Price Chopper, and/or a Country Farm for BIG Compositing are among the pending field trips.

Interested in supporting this project? The S.E.E.D.L.I.N.G.S. "wish list" includes: people to help build the frame for wire shelves; volunteers to assist in the classroom, working one-on-one in activities; and, providing a healthy snack each week for participants. Contact Rosemary Pannone through the Church Office to get in on the ground floor of this new ministry.

WANTED NEW (& OLD) FRIENDS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Imagine there was a perfect Want Ad for you !

What would it say?

Fill in the blanks

HELP WANTED

Must like to

Must know how to

Must want to learn to

We meet upstairs at 8:50 AM on Sundays.

SICM SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM



The SICM (Schenectady Inner City Mission) Summer Lunch Program is a well-run community effort operating Monday through Friday that provides a balanced, nutritious meal to children 18 years and younger. This year, St. George's became a host site for four weeks, July 7th-August 1st.

All volunteers attended a meeting/workshop to learn procedures. The responsibility of serving was minimal and took only a little over an hour out of the day. All Georgian volunteers kept their commitment to serve, with not one "no show" during the four weeks of the program.

While some SICM sites served close to 200

meals a day, St. George's served as little as 5 and as many as 16 lunches per day. Everyone agreed, however, that the one-on-one volunteers were able to give to the children patronizing the location - coupled with good fellowship among the volunteers - were well worth the effort.

A big "thank you" to Georgian participants: Bob/Jane Moran, Amy Machold, Joyce Kapusta, Nancy/Johnnie Angus, Judy DeLong, Dot Dever, Gerri/Jim Moore, Jim Wingate, Bob/Lynn Paska, Dot Kennison, Barb Todt, Barb Wengrovius and St. George's Outreach Chairperson, Alice Pumbo, who was onsite daily to oversee the project.

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

Every member of our congregation deserves credit for helping out while St. George's underwent major renovations this summer. We especially recognize three parishioners who volunteered "above and beyond" and would like to acknowledge the work they did during our various stages of remodeling.



Gene DeLong quickly became foreman on the shed re-siding project in August. Everyone brought tools; Gene brought experience. The shed benefited from his expertise and clear thinking, especially when things didn't quite fit no matter how many times everything was measured. Because of Gene - our shed stands proudly (and straighter.)



Homer Kerr turned his home into a woodworking shop as he offered to, and painstakingly made, brackets for the sacristy. When they were completed, he then delivered them to the church on time and installed them - with a "little" help from senior warden David Kennison. A job well done and well appreciated, Homer.



Stella Schultz has nerves of steel and the patience of a saint, not to mention outstanding eye-to-hand coordination. She singlehandedly painted the wood trim in the sanctuary, Lady Chapel and cedillas - a job that would have reduced most people to tears. Congratulations to Stella, who didn't drip a drop anywhere on the new carpeting or flooring.

PARISH ARCHIVES

The Vestry is collecting material to create St. George's parish archives. It's incomprehensible that such archives do not already exist, as we are into our 4th century of ministry. But, they do not. We have located a few scattered items - old bulletins, books, photographs and liturgical items - but we do not have a formal archive where this can be safely stored and available for examination when needed. If you have any material in your homes that you feel

should be in the archives, please contact David Kennison. This could include almost anything, as long as it is part of our history.

If you have bookshelves, file cabinets, cupboards or display cases in good condition and could be used for archives, please consider donating them. We wish to create permanent archives that record the history of St. George's through the centuries.

EPISCOPAL EDUCATION

What is a Canon? We see and hear this term used in the Church frequently, but what does it really mean? The word *Canon* has its roots in the Greek *kanon*, a “measuring rod or rule.” The modern term can have multiple meanings.

- 1.) **Holy Scripture.** The canon of scripture is the list of books recognized by the church that comprise the Bible. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament.
- 2.) **Church Law.** Canons are the written rules for the governance of the church and include sections on Organization and Administration, Worship, Ministry, Ecclesiastical Discipline, and General Provisions. The canons of the Episcopal Church are enacted and modified by the General Convention, which is held every three years. Dioceses also may have canons, which set forth their local procedures for governance, these being subordinate to the national canons.
- 3.) **Ecclesiastical Title.** A Canon is also a title conferred on a person, typically a member of the clergy on the staff of a cathedral or diocese. A canon on a cathedral staff assists the dean, and a canon on a diocesan staff assists the bishop. Both clergy and laity have sometimes been made honorary canons of a cathedral in recognition of significant service or achievement. Historically, canons were secular clergy who were connected to a cathedral or collegiate church, sharing the revenues and a common rule of life at the church.
- 4.) **Liturgy.** The Canon of Mass designates the central fixed portion of the Mass. This portion of the Mass does not change with the day or liturgical season, as it includes the most holy portion of the Mass - the Prayer of Consecration. Although it has changed somewhat over the years, the canon of the Mass generally begins from the Sanctus (“*Holy, holy, holy....* ”) to the end of the Lord’s Prayer. The remaining portions of the Mass, both preceding and following the Canon, are known as the Ordinary. The Ordinary does change slightly, as it contains different propers, collects and scriptural passages appropriate to the day.

- 5.) **Church Music.** A canon is technique in musical composition, with a note-for-note imitation of one melodic line by another that begins one or more notes later than the first, also known as a round. Some hymnals include a section of rounds and canons.

ST. GEORGE’S RAIN GARDEN

Rosemary Pannone believes gardening is an act of faith and stewardship - which is why she is developing a Rain Garden at St. George’s, the only local one publicly available for viewing.

“Our Rain Garden, on the north side of the church, is a hand-made depression in the ground that is used as a landscape tool. It improves water quality, collects water runoff from the roof, stores and filters it, and keeps it from running into our historical cemetery and further eroding our very old (circa 1800) stones,” she explained. This area of the church grounds is difficult to improve as it receives little sun and too much water. “It was the perfect weed garden before I started this project,” Rosemary joked.

Also in the midst of this setting was a Glastonbury thorn tree with a rich history that dates back to the 1700’s. “Since I couldn’t move the tree, I decided to improve the surroundings,” she added.

Materials, plants and hard-scape were donated by parishioners and people in the community who heard about the project.

The south side of the church has the same problem. Rosemary and her volunteer gardeners will do additional work next year, including planting beds of perennials and a solar-powered water feature.

“Designing for beauty is easy for me,” explained Rosemary, a Master Gardener with Cornell Cooperative Extension, who attended SUNY Cobleskill for Landscape Design. In keeping with the church history, she has used many antique and heritage plants - hollyhocks, phlox and bishop’s weed - that are historically correct for the area and often much hardier than recent hybrids.

The Rain Garden is destined to be the crown jewel of our church campus by the end of summer 2009.

ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEER CHOIR



(L-R) Wendy Madelone, Kali Moran, Joan Pearson, Ildiko Szokody, Judi Smith, Jeff Wengrovius, Bob Moran, Bob Paska, Gene DeLong. Missing from picture: Erin Thiessen, Laure Thiessen.

TREASURER'S REPORT

During September, St. George's received a surprise \$4,338.21. The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) had two accounts that were listed in a Daily Gazette legal notice that were about to be turned over to New York State as abandoned property. When told about it, former member and treasurer of the ECW, Beverly Noxon, had the accounts closed and delivered a check to the church office. At our September Vestry meeting, we voted to use the funds toward the tree trimming work that had been done the week of September 15th.

Remodeling has begun at the Rectory, starting with interior demolition of the kitchen and bathrooms. This project is going to be a substantial expense that will require a draw down from the church's endowment funds. Please consider any way in which you might be able to help such a project financially.

Stewardship - we are rapidly approaching the annual time period when St. George's traditionally conducts its stewardship campaign in which we ask you what you can give for 2009. Please start thinking about your pledge. We know you are experiencing budgetary pressures with high food and energy prices. The church is feeling the same impacts. Your generosity can make a big difference.

Jonathan Pearson



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

What an amazing year it has been!

Honestly, a year ago I wasn't completely sure how we were going to do without a rector. Who was going to oversee the day-to-day running of the parish and deal with all the issues? How were we going to find clergy to celebrate Mass each week, especially ones who love our traditional liturgy? Who would interface with the diocese? What role would Albany play as we set out on our journey? Many sleepless nights!

I suppose I should have had more faith that God, in His love, would provide. Certainly, we had the capability within the congregation to run this church, but much lingering apprehension remained. My mind raced as I tried to get a handle on all the things that had to be done. There were endless lists, remade again and again, always adding more as I thought of things. If we had a month of two to prepare, a transition might be easier, but two weeks??!!

That all seems like a long time ago. Look at us now! This parish has come together like no other. Strong in spirit, active in pray and worship and with love for each other, we have prospered, not merely survived. Together, we are forming a new St. George's - one with strong leadership and strong laity, ready to undertake the task of rebuilding our beloved church. St. George's is God's house, but it is our parish home. It will be all that we can make it - no more and not one bit less. No one is called to do it all, but we are all called to do a little.

As I look back on what we have accomplished this year, I am astounded. This year has been the most vital, fun-filled and exhausting time I can recall. Of course, we have renovated the inside of the church and done much other deferred maintenance, but more importantly, we have reopened the door to the spirit that has been bottled up inside each of us.

We now have a wonderful volunteer choir from the congregation. Led by Jeff Wengrovius and Aniko Szokody, and with Ildiko's help, they

are doing an outstanding job. I had forgotten how much I missed a choir on Sundays. More good news - by the end of this year, we hope to have in place a funded endowment for sustaining the choir and music program.

The church yard is also getting its share of attention, as Rosemary Pannone and the gardening committee work their green magic. All the gardens around the church are being renovated and restored. By next year, we should be ready to show off to our neighbors.

We are compiling a new St. George's parish directory under the direction of Mike Thiessen. With everyone's name and address - and most people's photos - we will be able to have a current list of our members. Since we are doing this ourselves, it can be updated periodically with new members. I rely on my dog-eared old directory, so this will make it easier to keep in touch.

With many thanks to Jon Pearson, we have reinvigorated the parish web site with up-to-date calendars, weekly bulletins and photos of parish activities. All our rector search material is available here. Web sites are vitally important today for prospective new parishioners and clergy, and we have continuing improvements planned. We are committed to keeping our site fresh and full of content.

We have succeeded in developing new visibility in the local press, so we are no longer the best-kept secret in town. Under the guidance of Alice Pumbo, we have reestablished our outreach ministry to the community with a children's summer lunch program, weekly food collections, a fall coat drive and more. I am now attending Stockade Association meetings and other neighborhood functions to re-bond the parish with our neighbors.

We have increased our pledge giving in 2008, cut our operating costs and maintained a close watch over our endowment. Right now, we are in the midst of the 2009 Stewardship Campaign, giving thanks to God by our gifts and seeking to gather the means necessary to continue the holy work of this church.

Progress toward this goal will be reported in each week's bulletin.

Our beautiful Anglo-Catholic liturgies have not suffered in the slightest. From candle-lit Christmas Eve to the majestic triumph of Easter and the Resurrection, our services have been maintained at the highest level of traditional worship, in a style that distinguishes St. George's.

Now, we are beginning a major rebuilding of the rectory, under the close direction of Mike Todt and Rick Forshaw. Past rectory projects have kept up appearances, but the bones of this historic 1750 home needed much work. It falls to us to make this a comfortable, secure refuge for a new rector and we are doing it right - complete new kitchen and 3 new bathrooms (all gutted and rebuilt), new wiring and new plumbing throughout, closets rebuilt and much more. We will have a rectory we can be proud of to attract the rector we need.

At this writing, we have had 19 candidates for rector, all from various backgrounds and all on their own life's journey of faith. One of them will intersect our life at St. George's and be called to this parish as the 18th rector. That candidate will be strong in liturgy, active and energetic, warm and engaging and be a wonderful preacher. God, the Holy Spirit guides our hand in this decision. We ask your prayers for the Vestry.

Finally, Lynn and Bob Paska are launching this first edition of *The Georgian Report*, which will be issued periodically to keep everyone informed of events in the parish and be fun to read. A professionally executed presentation, this newsletter is the product of much effort - a striking product that is in a style that befits St. George's.

On December 31st, we'll be ushering in the new year with an evening Mass at St. George's with Bishop David Ball as celebrant. Please join us.

Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1Cor 16:13-14

God bless you all.

With much affection,

David Kennison



JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

By now, everyone should have had an opportunity to tour our Rectory. I think we can all agree that in its current condition it is not a house we would want to live in ourselves - let alone offer to our next Rector and his/her family. The kitchen is in need of a complete renovation, and none of the 3 bathrooms are completely functional. The floors and walls are showing signs of severe wear and tear that merit serious attention. We need to take this opportunity, while the house is vacant, to return it to a livable condition.

Rick Forshaw and I spent a great deal of time developing a list of needs for this project. We then spent hours working with several contractors to give them an opportunity to assess for themselves what was needed and to allow them to generate proposals for the work. In the end, four quotes were provided to us. The Vestry reviewed each one carefully and decided to award the contract for the bulk of the interior work to Bellamy & Sons of Scotia. Work is underway as you read this and will, hopefully, be completed well before our 18th Rector is called to St. George's.

Depending on the condition of the building, there will be opportunities for parishioners to walk through and see how things are going. Look for weekly updates in the regular Sunday announcements!

Michael Todt





St. George's Episcopal Church
30 North Ferry Street
Schenectady, New York 12305
Telephone (518) 374-3163
www.stgeorgesschenectady.org

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SCHENECTADY, NY
PERMIT NO. 152

The Georgian Report

Editor: Lynn Paska

Layout: Bob Paska

Contributors:

Johnnie Angus
Nancy Angus
David Kennison
Joan Pearson
Jonathan Pearson
Rosemary Pannone
Alice Pumbo
Michael Todt
Barbara Wengrovius

The Vestry

Joyce Kapusta
David Kennison, Sr. Warden
Daniel Machold
Rosemary Pannone
Marilyn (Lynn) Paska
Jonathan Pearson IV, Treasurer
Alice Pumbo
Aileen Smith-Caruso, Clerk
Michael Thiessen
Michael Todt, Jr. Warden
Barbara Wengrovius

Office Staff

Donna Vrooman
Administrative Assistant
Robert Paska
Financial Secretary
Gerald Cooper
Sexton

*Welcome to the 1st issue of **THE GEORGIAN REPORT**, the official newsletter of St. George's Church in the historic Stockade Area of Schenectady. We plan to publish four times a year - fall, winter, spring and summer.*

*In keeping with our theme of "**We Are the Church**," we encourage you - the parishioners - to be an active part of this endeavor. This is your publication. Help us keep it fresh and up-dated. Work on an idea, or give us your idea(s), and we'll consider them carefully. All contributors will be duly noted in each newsletter. Your input will be gratefully received by any member of the Vestry and passed on to The Georgian Report staff.*

Without your eyes, ears and ideas, we are just another piece of paper that will quickly end up in the circular file.



