



## RETURN OF OUR ST. CECILIA CHOIR



Singing



Socializing

The Ordinary of the Mass refers to those texts in our service which are sung (or said) at all Masses. This includes the Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy), Gloria in Excelsis (Glory be to God on high), the Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit (Holy, holy, holy & Blessed is He) and the Agnus Dei (O Lamb of God). Each of these elements of the Mass are sung at every Sunday Mass. (The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted in Advent and Lent.)

The music for these texts usually come as a set known as a Mass Setting. One will note at the top of our order of service that the Mass setting is always listed.

The setting we use the most often is the *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena* written by Healey Willan. Willan was born in England in 1880 and moved to Toronto, Ontario in Canada in 1913 to teach music theory at the Toronto Conservatory. He began his Canadian church music career as organist and music director at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Toronto before moving in 1921 to St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, Toronto's Anglo-Catholic parish where he remained until his death in 1968. It was here that much of his church music was written. His *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena* was written in honor of his parish but became popular in the United States' Episcopal churches when it was printed in the Hymnal 1940 as the Second Communion Service. While it is not always easy to sing it is a beautiful setting with lovely melodies along with hints of Gregorian chant.

We have made exclusive use of this setting during the last year and a half and it wears well. We will, however, be using some other Mass settings in the near future but will always be returning to Healey Willan's setting. It is an example of music and words fitting together hand in glove.

dr. brian j. taylor

## ST. GEORGE'S GARDENS SANCTUARY OPEN FOR EVENT



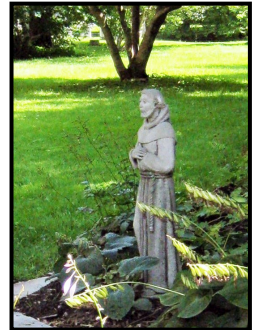
*A bas-relief sculpture of St. Patrick has been refurbished and installed in the Butterfly Garden. It's dated 1948 and was found in the basement of St. George's House.*

St. George's Church was a proud participant in the Stockade Art and Nature Garden Tour on August 7, receiving dozens of respectful visitors who explored the gardens framing the church. Many also took the opportunity to peek inside our historic sanctuary, where Fr. Matt, Meg Hughes, and Jamie Taft offered tours and answered questions.

Members of Garden Ministry...Barb Wengrovius, Debbie Lambeth, Suzy Unger, and Meg Hughes...had spent many hours preparing for the event. But it isn't all drudgery, as Meg explains: "We get plenty of Vitamin D and exercise, not to mention delicious high-test iced coffee from Arthur's Market. That makes it fun."

Meg also noted that Sexton George Soltysiak and his helper Tommy Sarchioto were key in assuring that the grounds were in tiptop condition for the event.

*meg hughes*



*Stockade dog-walkers are now greeted by a St. Francis statue at the entrance to the Memorial Garden.*



## ALL ON THE SAME PAGE BOOK CLUB



The church's book club has pursued a wide array of fictional and factual reading over the past year. At this time, members are reading independently and will meet on October 17 after Mass to discuss what they have learned. Suggestions for the 2022 roster will be welcomed.

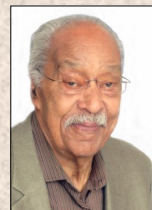
Please see Meg Hughes if you have questions about the club or want reading suggestions.

*meg hughes*

## IN MEMORIAM

*"Rest in Peace"*

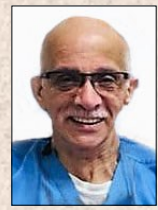
**You are missed by your church family**



**Rodgers Cheeks**  
1932 – 2021



**Shirley Fahey**  
1930 – 2021



**Ralph Fusco**  
1950 – 2021





# ***SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS***

Since our 1<sup>st</sup> Georgian Report in December 2008, we have Saluted St. George's Volunteers....some for a multitude of opportunities; others used their "time and talent" in limited ministries. We still have many to acknowledge. But instead of zeroing on one PERSON or GROUP, I'm urging YOU to look around....check out what interests YOU....and let St. George's utilize your expertise. (It might be so well hidden that even YOU don't recognize it.)

Reflecting on our chronology of volunteers, you may be amazed at those still active in our "volunteer pool," and find nostalgia in remembering those from the past. Starting with our first issue and going forward:

**Various Workers:** Gene DeLong, Homer Kerr, Stella Schultz.

**St. George's Volunteer Choir** (2008): Wendy Madelone, Kali Rose Moran, Joan Pearson, Ildiko Szokody, Judi Smith, Jeff Wengrovius, Bob Moran, Bob Paska, Gene DeLong, Erin Thiessen, Laure Thiessen.

**Various Workers:** Jack Ericson, Rick Forshaw, Sandee Hughes, Tom Madelone.

**Interim Music Meisters:** Jeff Wengrovius, Aniko Szokody, Don Ingram.

**Feast Masters:** Mike Thiessen, Chris Henry, Amy Machold.

**Christian Education:** Barb Wengrovius, Sandee Hughes, Fr. Paul Blanch.

**Pastoral Care:** Jim Wingate, Joyce Kapusta, Nancy Angus, Wendy Madelone, Joan Bessarab.

**The Lighthouse:** Alice Pumbo, Jim Wingate, Amy Machold, Judy DeLong.

**St. George's Staff:** Donna Vrooman, Gerald Cooper.

**St. George's Financial Team:** Jon Pearson, Bob Paska.

**A/V Room:** Johnnie Angus, Rick Forshaw, Mike Thiessen.

**Altar Guild** (2011): David Kennison, Joyce Kapusta, Dottie Kennison, Ann Stamm, Stella Schultz, Maggie Blanch, Ib Bartlet, Anne Kennison, Nancy Angus, Joy Adams, Amy Machold, Peter Braun.

**St. Cecilia's Choir** (2011): Joan Pearson, Judi Smith, Wendy Madelone, Kali Rose Moran, Laure Thiessen, Bob Paska, Don Ingram, Bob Moran, Suzanne Hartz, Jeff Wengrovius, Gene Delong, Halsey Brown, Andrew Krystopolsk.

**Acolytes** (2012): Chris Henry, Anna Thiessen, Alice Pumbo, Maggie Blanch, Louis Bannister, Jennafer Thiessen, Charlie Richardson, Peter Braun, David Kennison, John Weslowski, Colton Jaquith, Dan Machold, JJ Moran, Kathleen Todt, Jimmy Moore, Ralph Pumbo, Erin Thiessen, Sam Wengrovius.

**Young Adults:** JJ Moran, Kali Rose Moran, Erin Thiessen, Jennafer Thiessen.

**Long-Term Volunteers:** Kevin Grace, David Kennison, Bob Paska. Jeff Wengrovius. Judith Smith. Tom Madelone. Alice Pumbo. Samantha and Whiteman. Rembert Herbert. Gerri Moore. The Todt Family – Barbara, Mike, Connie, Stephanie & Kathleen. Dorothy Dever. Suzanne Hartz. Anna Thiessen. Meg Hughes. The Sherwood-Unger Family - Susanna Sherwood, Suzy & Rich Unger. Jim Wingate.

**Assisted Living Ministry:** Andrew Krystopolski, Joan Pearson, Judith Smith, Nancy Angus, Suzy Unger, Meg Hughes, Joan Bessarab, Pauline Holmes, Jean Greenspan, Dot Dever, Alice Pumbo, Fr. Matt Stromberg. The Angus-DeLong Families – Nancy & Johnnie Angus, Judy & Gene DeLong. Steve Hartz. April Stromberg. Bob Moran. The Wareh Family – Tarik, Pattie, Faiz & Cora. Deborah Lambeth. Allyson Thiessen. Anne Kennison. Rosemary Pannone. Pam Turley. Jimmy Moore. Ann Duff. Carol Gaike.

**Sunday Mass Volunteers During Pandemic:** Fr. Matt Stromberg, David Kennison, Brian Taylor, Jeff Wengrovius, Jon Ewbank. Rick Forshaw. Kevin Decker. Sandee Hughes. Jon Pearson. Kudos to every name mentioned above. Here's hoping we'll be adding *YOUR* name to this very prestigious list of volunteers....soon.

lynn paska

# - TREASURER'S REPORT -

Dear Follow Georgians,

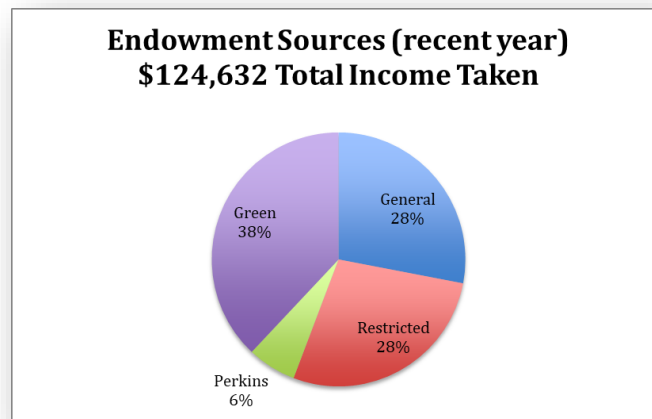
Please know that St. George's finances are in a relatively good condition. Both our income and expenses have been a bit higher than budgeted for 2021, but in good balance. Please contact me if you have any concerns or questions. I'll update our annual status in the December issue of the Journal.



As a summer project, I have reviewed and audited our endowment history for the last 20 years. People frequently ask me about our endowment, thus I am devoting this article to give you as much information as possible. St. George's has an annual budget of about \$250,000. Parishioners provide about 45-50% of these monies, the other 50-55% comes from the income of the following 4 endowment funds:

- 1) General Fund at Royal Bank of Canada: Market value = \$1,200,000
- 2) Restricted Fund at Royal Bank of Canada: Market value = \$1,800,000
- 3) Perkin's Fund at Bank of America
- 4) Green Legacy at Trustco

The proportions of our income from these endowments are shown in the chart below:



Forgive me for giving you a lot of data, but this is the best way to paint a picture of our 4 endowment funds.

## **General Fund at RBC (2000 – 2020):**

- \$729,235 of income earned. \$669,261 taken to pay expenses.
- \$474,674 of principal withdrawn due to annual deficits (\$240,000) and restoration of the rectory (\$240,000). **No principal taken since 2014.**
- Market value decreased from \$1,387,241 (2000) to \$1,142,531 (2020).
- No commissions or fees taken since 2007 when management changed from Trustco to RBC.
- \$25,000 received as “new money” to the principal (a generous gift from the Lou Moravec estate in 2017).

## **Restricted Fund at RBC (2000 – 2020):**

- Restricted fund is composed of 13 individual restricted gifts. Many are decades old.
- \$719,776 of income earned. \$613,732 taken to pay expenses.
- \$385,423 received as new principal money from the Whittingham estate and columbarium payments.
- Market value has increased from \$955,804 (2000) to \$1,724,102 (2020)
- No commissions or fees taken since 2007 (see above).

### Green Legacy at Trustco Bank:

- The Green Legacy is held at Trustco on behalf of St. George's and several other institutions in Schenectady. We receive 4-5 checks per year and are not allowed to have any knowledge on the market value or investment strategy.
- \$710,103 of income received 2004 – 2020.

### Perkin's Fund at Bank of America:

- The Perkin's Fund is managed by BoA and we are not allowed any input into how the money is invested and distributed. \$107,208 of income received 2002 – 2020. We receive 4-5 checks per year.

In summary, during this audit period, our church has taken \$2.1M to pay our bills. This is a lot of money. As a church, small in attendance, we could not survive without the generosity of previous parishioners. We can be sad about needing to spend so much of this money, BUT, I prefer to give thanks to those who gave in the past to preserve our Church in perpetuity. This is WHY they gave this money. As you digest these facts and numbers, PLEASE consider a gift from your estate to the general or restricted funds. I am convinced that St. George's will need all of our gifts to maintain our mission to worship Our Lord God for generations to come.

Just a final note: Our Finance Committee (Jon Pearson, Jon Ewbank, David Kennison, and myself) has also reviewed the performance of the General and Restricted Funds at RBC. This past week we agreed to change the structure of our accounts from brokerage to advisory accounts. This means that we will pay a small fee in return for active management from our fiduciary, Mr. Peter Gregory at RBC. If all goes well, an improved yield will more than make up for the fee. Also, I wish to thank Jon Pearson for his continued support and advice. I appreciate all comments and questions.

respectfully submitted jeffrey wengrovius



## - PHOTO GALLERY -



**Lammas Day**, aka Loaf Mass Sunday in Britain, is August 1<sup>st</sup>....with the first fruits of harvest breads made for Holy Communion. For Coffee Hour that Sunday, St. George's celebrated with freshly-baked breads (served with butter and jam) provided by Joyce Cockerham, Jon Ewbank, Meg Hughes, Brian Taylor and Tarik Wareh. A big "thank you" to Brian for this delicious idea....and kudos to the very talented Georgian bakers who participated.



**Talented Duo:** Our Director of Music, Brian Taylor, and his youngest daughter, Laura, who was guest soprano at choir on July 18<sup>th</sup>.





# STOCKADE ART SHOW 2021



Don't forget your hat! We Georgians had to be ready head to toe as brilliant sunshine ruled the Stockade Art Show on September 11. After a pandemic hiatus, St. George's was back with the Café, organ music, church tours, sales of mums, and a hat on every head. More artists lined the streets than in several recent years and we all hope they had a good day selling their art. As always, St. George's was the community gathering place for conversations and food.

Brian Taylor, a man of many hats, organized the café this year with chowder/chili cooking assistance from Bob McCloskey plus a small army of volunteers. Jon Pearson supervised the morning setup with Paul Smigelski, Louisa Carr, and Sean Albert. Jim Wingate, Paul, and Moises Avramidis took the first shift on the grills while Barb Wengrovius, Ciera Williams, and Anne Kennison served food, and Gene DeLong ran supplies from the kitchen. John Ewbank collected cash. In the afternoon Jon Pearson, Tarik Wareh and Jeff Wengrovius grilled, Meg Hughes and Anne Kennison served food, and Joan Pearson wiped trays and tables and ran supplies from the kitchen. Jim and Jimmy Moore manned the cash box. Louisa Carr and Sean Albert sold mums throughout the morning with Barb Wengrovius taking over for Louisa during the afternoon. Jamie Taft put in some time at the mums table as well, and Joyce Cockerham helped clean up. For most of the afternoon Fr. Matt greeted visitors to the church while for the entire day David Kennison patiently answered questions about the church and our history. Visitors would arrive in waves, some to sit and listen and others to talk; David estimates 200+ came through.



Brian, Jeff, and Joan took turns at the organ. At 2:00 Fr. Matt conducted a short 9/11 memorial service in the Lady Chapel. About a dozen people attended despite the lack of wide publicity.



Once again the corn chowder and corn bread ran out early. It's a mystery why we run out of hotdog rolls before we run out of hot dogs, and why there are no forks, and why David Kennison didn't get any food or even a break. Always in short supply: people. Volunteers were stretched to the max to cover all the jobs. Every available person helped move tables, chairs, grills, food, etc., back inside starting at 3:00, so the lawn was clear at 4:00. Eventually everyone made it home to put their feet up after a satisfying day's work. Brian took lots of notes for next year so as long as there is enough help, St. George's will be an active part of the Art Show again in 2022.

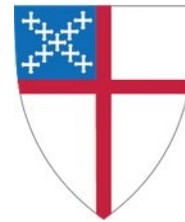
*joan pearson*



## What Are We, Anglicans or Episcopalians?

*It's tempting to just answer "Yes" to the above question and go on. All Episcopalians are Anglicans but not all Anglicans are Episcopalians. Right?*

Anglicans used to be Roman Catholics. Everything was smooth until 1534, when Henry VIII decided he wanted another wife. Not an additional wife, mind you, but a different one. His first wife, Catherine of Aragon, failed to produce a son so Henry wanted an annulment. He already had his wandering eye on Anne Boleyn so Henry, a staunch Roman Catholic, went to the Pope (Clement VII) via the Archbishop of Canterbury and asked for an annulment. The Pope said no, twice actually. Poor besotted Henry didn't take NO very well, so he appropriated the English churches and liturgical tat and disbanded monasteries and convents, for which he was excommunicated by the Pope. So Henry made himself the head of the English church, with all the trappings and liturgy of the Roman church largely retained, except for the Pope, of course.



Shield of the Episcopal Church

VS



Shield of the See of Canterbury



Henry VIII

VS



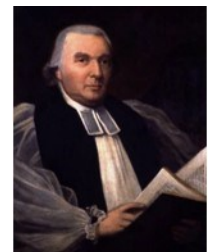
Clement VII

That went over pretty well amongst some of the English but was fiercely rejected by Catholic loyalists. Those who rejected Henry's church were sought out and killed or escaped, many to France. Wars came and went, as did kings and queens. Heads were chopped and treachery was all around but Henry's church, the Church of England, CoE, survived.

It is from these roots that the Episcopal Church was formed. Without getting into who actually "discovered" America, the European colonization of America began with the Dutch and the English, with the English finally prevailing by whatever means.

"The Colonies" ended up as English. Churches in the colonies were chartered by the king on the throne at the time and they were under the authority of the Lord Bishop of London. So it was with our parish, St George's, whose building was built as St George's Chapel and whose design was laid out by Samuel Fuller, an artificer to the King, following an English pattern book. Worship services always included prayers for, and allegiance to, the King. We were part of the CoE.

The American Revolution changed all that. English churches up and down the east coast closed for a time during the war. St. George's was used as a barracks. The rector, a loyalist, escaped to Canada in the dark of night. When the war was over and the English routed, churches were re-opened. But they couldn't be part of the CoE anymore. No more prayers for the king. The American church formally separated from the English church in 1789, thus officially forming the Episcopal Church. As with Henry VIII, 250 years prior, this new church used the same buildings, same liturgy, even essentially the same *Book of Common Prayer*, albeit with some changes reflecting the political environment. And as Henry VIII disavowed the Pope, the Episcopal Church was no longer under control of the king.



Samuel Seabury,  
First American  
Episcopal Bishop

Bishops were a problem in early days. The English church refused to consecrate any American bishop candidates so the first candidate, elected by the clergy of Connecticut, Samuel Seabury, travelled to Scotland where he was consecrated in 1784, making him the "first Anglican bishop appointed to minister outside the British Isles".

So, are we Anglican? The Latin name of the CoE is *Ecclesia Anglicana*, and so Anglican describes members of the CoE and by extension, members of other churches in communion with this Church that have essentially the same worship, doctrine and discipline. Yes, we are Anglicans and we are Episcopalians.

Sometimes, we see church signs that describe themselves as St. Swithin's Anglican Episcopal Church. What does that mean? It is usually an attempt to make a statement that they adhere to traditional values in the midst of today's ongoing crises of morality and sexuality. They are still an Episcopal church.

david kennison



# THIS OLD SHED: ANOTHER EPISODE



A team effort rescued the church's faded gray tool shed this summer, extending the structure's life and making it much prettier to look at. Bob McCloskey and George Soltysiak started the job by power-washing off the worst of the grime.



Next, a team of willing workers led by Meg Hughes (including Jeff Wengrovius, Alice Pumbo, Paul Smigelski, Jon Ewbank, and Rich Unger) prepped the building for painting.

Rich also supported the effort by filing an application with the Historic District Commission for approval of the new



color. (A commission of interested Georgians had scrutinized several paint samples before selecting "Mayflower Red," a brick-red Benjamin Moore tint, favored for its historic aesthetic and ability to blend with nearby brick buildings). Application of stain was done in two sessions (July 24 and 26). Sandee Hughes assisted in putting the finishing touches. The efforts of all involved are greatly appreciated.

*meg hughes*



## SUMMER OUTREACH

With its September contribution to the SiCM food pantry St George's donations have exceeded the 1,000 pounds marker with 1,107 pounds delivered year-to-date!

Georgians were ready to don their masks and assist SiCM in its yearly summer lunch program the week of August 16<sup>th</sup> to August 20<sup>th</sup> at Wallingford Park. Unfortunately an untimely COVID exposure forced closure of the program city wide during St George's assigned week.

Thanks to Ralph Pumbo, Ann Duff, Brian Taylor, Fr. Matt, Meg Hughes, Laura Dacus, Dianne Reed and Alice Pumbo for their willingness to help out in this worthwhile endeavor.

*alice pumbo*

## - SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

There are two things I'd like to discuss with you in this issue.

For all of us who regularly attend church on Sunday, I hope you have noticed something. Give up? I'm talking about a new sparkle to the church. As we have endured a time of pandemic, Vestry members have received many requests for extra cleaning in the church. No worries about the air quality - our large ceiling ventilators and wide open doors ensure we all breathe 100% fresh air, nothing filtered and recycled. But there are still many nooks and crannies where grime can hide.



Cleaning at this level takes more time and isn't as easy as it looks. We've always had our sexton do the cleaning but the Vestry has decided it's better to break out the cleaning task for a specialist.

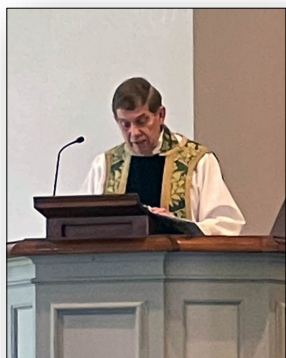
We have hired an independent cleaning contractor, Liz Catalan, to do our cleaning. Liz has the experience, the right equipment and great references. She is first focusing on the church to get it into shape but has also started on the offices in Cranmer House and the Great Hall and kitchen. Eventually, we'll have all areas in all buildings up to a higher level of cleanliness, which will then be easier to maintain.

The other topic for today concerns an audit of our financial systems and procedures. The Canons of The Episcopal Church (Canon I.7.1, Title I) require an annual audit, to wit: *All accounts of Parishes, Missions or other institutions shall be audited annually by an independent Certified Public Accountant, or independent Licensed Public Accountant, or such audit committee as shall be authorized by the Finance Committee, Department of Finance, or other appropriate diocesan authority.* The Canons of the Diocese of Albany invoke a similar requirement, as does the Episcopal Church Manual of Business Methods. However, there are no records that indicate this level of audit has ever been done and no memories of such an audit, either.

The diocese is very strict about having an annual audit of their finances. Some parishes do an annual audit, while others have an audit every few years. Regardless, an audit of St George's is long overdue and the Vestry and Finance Committee have voted to budget for an audit in 2022. This will take work and it is not cheap, but a professional, independent CPA audit will ensure that our finances are accurate, reporting is timely and our systems of records, reporting and checks and balances are running smoothly and correctly. An audit helps us all and often has the added benefit of suggesting areas of improvement and how things could be done better. Stay tuned for more on this as we enter next year.

*With great affection, david*

## SUPPLY PRIESTS



**June 20<sup>th</sup>**—The Reverend Peter Schofield (L), associate priest at our neighboring Christ Church, on State Street in Schenectady, was our guest celebrant/preacher.

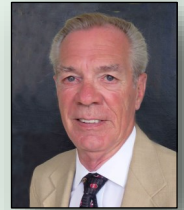
**July 11<sup>th</sup>** —The Reverend Paul Hunter (R) who serves at Holy Trinity Classical School in Beaufort, SC where he teaches Classics and Latin, was our guest celebrant/preacher.





## - JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

It has been a slow summer on the church maintenance front! Primarily because replacing the Great Hall boiler exhausted the funds budgeted for maintenance. What has been accomplished since the June Vestry meeting were projects that had been previously funded, including a major plumbing repair and installation of the dishwasher in the Great Hall, and repair of plumbing issues in both Cranmer House and the Rectory.



With a campus the size and age of St. George's, there are always things that must be done, things that should be done, and things that it would be nice to get done. Of course, each of these "things" comes with a cost – both monetary and physical. I would like to develop a list of all those "things," along with an estimated cost. This list could then be prioritized and used as tool in setting the 2022 maintenance budget. I am aware of a number of the "things" that belong on that list, but probably not all. If you have a "pet" problem that you would like to see addressed, please let me know about it (preferably via email, as I tend to forget things that I am told unless I can get it written down quickly!) I will research it, get an estimate on what and how much, and prioritize it on the list. (BTW, my email is [jsewbank@gmail.com](mailto:jsewbank@gmail.com)).

I also request that when, and to the extent you can, you join me in what I am calling my Secret Service program. I am aware of several minor projects that would be easy, and relatively inexpensive to complete. And you collectively will probably come up with bunches more. I will publish a list of these, along with the required materials, and estimated costs. If there is project on that list that you feel you could be a Secret Service Agent on (i.e., provide the funds for, buy the materials for, do the labor on, or all of the above), contact "M" (for me)! If you wish to do it anonymously, I will honor that request. If you want the credit (and the tax deduction), I will honor that as well. Examples of needs that I am aware of that fit nicely into this category include repainting the front doors of the church (Agent Gene DeLong has already volunteered to take care of this one), repairing the rear door to Cranmer House, replacing any one of the three room air conditioners in the church offices, replacing the buffing wheel on our floor polisher, repairing the Rectory garage door opener, and replacing light switches in the Rectory downstairs bathroom, and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bedroom. Interested in any of these? Let's talk!

And thanks in advance for all *YOU* do for St. George's!

*respectfully submitted, jon ewbank*



## HOSPITALITY



Coffee Hour: Paying attention to CDC guidelines, Diocesan regulations, and with fingers crossed we are planning on resuming indoor coffee hour Sunday mornings this fall. We have a high-powered coffee maker donated by Bob McCloskey. A brand new dishwasher that can both clean and sanitize dishes has been installed. Training sessions for operating this machine will be scheduled soon. Our kitchen is being cleaned and readied for use.

Food items will once again come from parishioners. Sign up sheets will be available soon. To all volunteers: While home baked goods are always appreciated they are not required! "Store bought" baked goods, cheese and crackers, fruit, bagels etc. are all happily consumed. Feel free to sign with a friend if that is easier.

Once coffee hour gets going (and depending on Covid's path) we are considering bringing back Forum. This would be a once a month (every other month?) coffee hour focus. It would perhaps be a discussion, a short lecture, sharing a collection, a focused conversation, music, a craft activity etc. If you have thoughts or a topic you think would be interesting please let me know.

A huge THANK -YOU to Brian Taylor for volunteering to host coffee hour all summer. Thank you also to anyone who made food contributions, especially Jon and Meredith Ewbank. Your hospitality and efforts were very much appreciated.

*sandee hughes*



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*The Vestry*

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Jonathan Ewbank, *Jr. Warden*  
Sean Albert  
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Deborah Lambert  
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Paul Smigelski  
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*Financial Secretary*  
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*Directory of Music Ministry*  
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## PASTORAL CARE UPDATE

The Corona 19 pandemic has had enormous effects on our world, country, state, Capital District and ourselves. Your Pastoral Care Mission is no exception. What follows is a survey of the pandemic's impact and what the committee did in reacting to it.

**The Past:** In March of 2020 we had to stop visitations as nursing facilities and hospitals closed to visitors and home visits became unsafe for both committee members and those we visited. Fortunately we had just completed our March visitations one week prior to the shut-downs. For months we kept in touch with our parishioners by phone, checking their health and giving encouragement. As 2020 extended into 2021, we suffered losses. We were saddened by the loss of Dottie Kennison, Bill Schultz and Ann Stamm.

Slowly hospitals and nursing homes began to allow visitations. But the openings were uneven with restrictions and rules that kept changing : visits by appointment only; outside visits only; visits only with direct permission of the family; vaccination proof and /or on site covid testing. In May we started visitations adjusting to each new requirement. Unfortunately we lost two more parishioners Shirley Fahey and Rodgers Cheeks in these early months of re-engagement. In both these cases committee members and Fr. Matt were able to visit and bring Communion and administer the Last Rites.

**The Present:** Our visitations and phone calls continue. The number of people we visit is in flux. We of course still feel our losses but we do have a couple of new individuals who we hope will benefit from visitations. We still have to adjust to the pandemic as the Delta variant has caused facilities to again close or alter rules of visitation.

**The Future:** We know there are some St. George's parishioners who could/should be on our visitation list. We will continue to reach out to them and offer our services. The committee once again is asking for your help in identifying others who you believe we should contact. Please give the names of individuals you think we should be seeing to Fr. Matt, Ann or me. Do not assume we know.

We all hope and pray for the end to this terrible pandemic. Meanwhile your committee will do our best to provide Pastoral Care and our Lord's message of Love.

*Faithfully, ann duff & jim wingate*