



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



Volume 15 Number 2

St. George's Episcopal Church Schenectady NY

June 2023

ST. GEORGE'S DAY



I love our Patronal Festival! We have the St. Andrew's Society, the Schenectady Pipe Band with their bagpipes and drums, the tartans and banners, hymns special for the day – all to honor St. George, the most spectacular of patron saints. April 23 was a bit wet, but the bagpipes were still clear and the drums crisp.

When Fr. Vang welcomed St. Andrew's Society at the West Doors and led the procession of Tartans and banners into the Church, St. George on his white horse would have fit right in. The Presentation of the Tartans, "Kirkin' O' the Tartans," is an important tradition that connects St. George's with

those of Scots heritage. We were reminded of the long history of our church when David Kennison read the list of Founders and Rectors of St. George's starting with 1708, predating the building in which we still worship. In his sermon, Fr. Vang referenced the movie "How to Train Your Dragon," which is really about how to grow from a meek individual to a heroic adult. George slayed the dragon not from heroism but for his lord and master: he defended his faith. He defended Christ, who fought the dragons of his day. Fr. Vang went on to ask, "How might we be more like St. George?"

For the first time in several years the weather did not allow our congregation to walk through the Stockade, so the final procession around and around the sanctuary had to substitute. The old stones shook from the bagpipes and drums but did not shift, and Georgians emerged energized and smiling for lunch in the Great Hall.

The reception afterwards – helping with set-up and clean-up: Carol Gage, David and Anne Kennison, Meredith and Jon Ewbank, Meg Hughes, Jean Greenspan, Suzy Unger....and everyone who picked up dirty dishes and brought them into the kitchen. As to the food, there was Kevin Decker's "coronation chicken" and dishes from Barb Wengrovius, Meg Hughes, Carol Gage, David and Anne Kennison, Louisa Carr, Jean Greenspan, Lea Crow, Joan Pearson, and Meredith and Jon Ewbank who also provided liquid refreshments. Hospitality chairperson Sandee Hughes also thanks everyone who anonymously dropped off trays of cookies, brownies and sweets, with a BIG THANK YOU to Brian Taylor for keeping the coffee flowing.

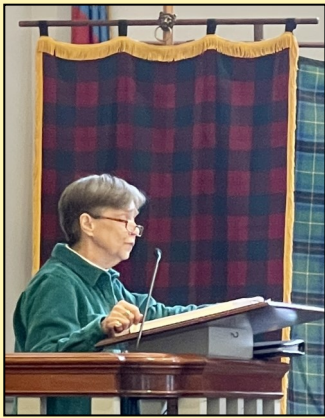


Many thanks to the St. Andrew's Society and the Schenectady Pipe Band for their important part in our celebration!

joan pearson, with hospitality details from sandee hughes

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ST. GEORGE'S DAY





SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO has been the Organist and Director of Music at St. George's since March 1, 2019. In case you didn't know, AAGO stand for Associate of the American Guild of Organists. It is the 2nd highest professional accreditation a person can achieve, equivalent to a Master's Degree.

Brian, who was looking for a traditional Rite I Anglo-Catholic Church, found St. George's. "I served in similar churches on occasions but never one that was Anglo-Catholic. St. George's met my criteria...it's not so traditional that it's old-fashioned," he explained. And, he's very pleased with our choir, "...a wonderful group, small as it is, who do remarkable things together."

A salaried employee, a staff member, but this article is about volunteer work. So, where does Brian fit in? WHERE DOESN'T HE????????? Part of Brian's salary is his housing, and that's where volunteerism comes in! Taking responsibility for campus tasks, he does a security check every night to make sure everything is locked up; he sets up Coffee Hour before Mass each Sunday; he does our sermons on Sundays when no priest is available; he maintains our Facebook page; for the past 3 years he has been manager for our Art Show café.

Apart from volunteering for St. George's, he also serves on the Great Chapter of the Cathedral of All Saints. "It's quite an honor. We meet every three months about Diocesan concerns to the Cathedral."

Originally from Detroit, Michigan....Brian has lived in nine states: New Jersey, Alabama, Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, and now New York. He has two daughters: the oldest, Amelia Israel, is married to Caleb, lives in Atlanta, and works with autistic children; the youngest, Laura, is a freshman at Center College in Danville, Kentucky where she is studying English and Drama.

In addition to church work and volunteerism, Brian has a 2nd job.... teaching driver's training. "It allows me to meet people from all walks of life, all races, all nationalities, all socio-economic lifestyles. Everyone has a story, and it broadens my perspective to learn about them."

What does he like best about St. George's? The liturgy and the people "not necessarily in that order," and our commitment to Outreach. What does he like least about St. George's? "Is there something NOT to like?" he queried, then answered with, "Not enough families, and no boys and girls choir."

As to the future of St. George's, Brian says, "We need to expand our worship and not cut back on our services. We need to look into a Sunday evening service and more opportunities for weekdays. We need to look to our future and start a nursery." As a volunteer, Brian will do everything in his power to help us achieve those goals.



lynn paska

ACKNOWLEDGING GUEST CLERGY



THE REVEREND DR. JASON R. RADCLIFF (L) our celebrant on April 2, May 7 & 21, June 4 & 18. Headmaster at Augustine Classical Academy in Saratoga County, a K-12 Christian school, he is canonically resident in the Diocese of Albany; on-staff at the Cathedral of All Saints; passionate about and author of 3 books on theology.

THE REVEREND PAUL HUNTER (R), our celebrant on April 16 & 30, gained local fame in 2015 as the “Street Priest of Arbor Hill” who presided over an outdoor Prayer Table on Wednesdays for residents of that area. A Canon for Mission at the Cathedral of All Saints (2014-17), he was involved in the Oaks of Righteousness Ministry in Troy.



THE CROWNING OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

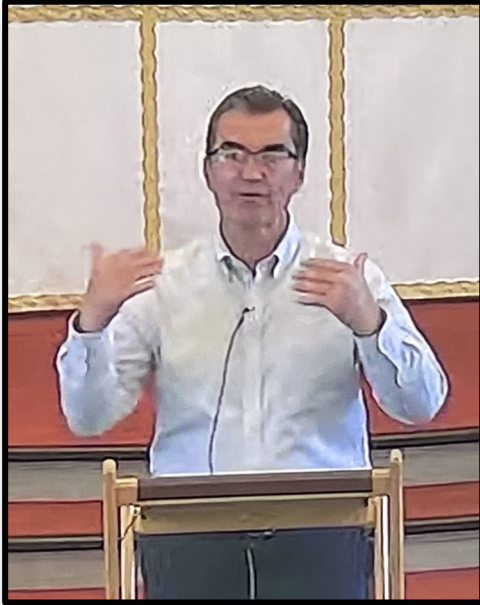


After our Mother’s Day Mass on May 14th, Georgians celebrated the May Crowning in a solemn procession in which a statue of the Blessed Virgin was crowned with a garland of flowers honoring Mary as the Mother of God, Mother of the Church, and Queen of mercy and grace. The “crown” is typically made of locally-grown herbs and flowers as the faithful saw Mary’s attributes in those gardens.

David Kennison

Choral Evensong for Ascensiontide 2023

Choral Evensong on May 21 filled our late afternoon with the joyous sounds of Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995), who composed the lovely opening organ voluntary, *Intermezzo*, as well as the glorious *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* that accompanied the lessons. Dr. Brian Taylor conducted the St. Cecelia Choir through this service of music and readings, including traditional choral responses by Richard Ayleward and the *Phos Hilaron (O Gracious Light)*.



Our guest speaker for Evensong was Mike Saccocio, Executive director of the City Mission of Schenectady. Mr. Saccocio's dynamic presentation focused on the work of the Mission, specifically the people it has helped. His point with every client is that a person's path doesn't define their future: God has a plan, no matter where you've been or what you've done. He spoke about the 500 meals per day they serve, the backpack program that helps 970 children every weekend, the 10 rooms of clothing with everything from socks to prom gowns. They have an amazing hydroponic farm in shipping containers that regularly harvests 750 heads of lettuce for the meals program. He spoke with affection of the 40 people who once had no home or future and are now working at the Mission, and the value of the Downtown Ambassadors program. City Mission receives no government funds, relying instead on private donations. Mr. Saccocio asked that we keep City Mission in our prayers. Half of this Evensong's offering was given to City Mission.

The choir offered George Herbert's poem "King of Glory, King of Peace", set to music by T. Frederick H. Candlyn, as their anthem of love and praise. Brian's closing voluntary, *Final, from Organ Symphony no. 5*, by Louis Vierne, was a rousing finish as the congregation exited to the Great Hall for a reception hosted by the choir.

joan pearson

GEORGIAN CELEBRITY

Toni Cilberti is our resident "celebrity." Last year, The Gazette highlighted her passion for ballroom and square-dancing at the age of 97. This year, on her 98th birthday, the Schenectady newspaper followed up with an article on her floor-length wedding gown, made from the nylon parachute her husband-to-be, Nicholas, brought back from the war, that she recently donated to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Toni wore the dress at their St. George's Church wedding on October 5, 1947.

Congratulations to our nonagenarian who reminds us every day of that TV commercial, "Age is just a number....and mine is unlisted!" Hers is not unlisted but it IS a flurry of activity.

lynn paska



EASTER 2023

Lent arrived in a snowstorm this year, the Ash Wednesday observance of "...unto dust shalt thou return" softened by the whiteness blanketing everything outside. On the first Sunday of Lent, Fr. Vang spoke of Jesus' baptism and his 40 days in the wilderness, the temptations, and the inauguration of his ministry. St. George's Lent offered Sunday night potluck suppers with Stations of the Cross, weekday services, and generous collections for the food pantry and the YWCA emergency shelter.

On Palm Sunday we began worship in the Great Hall with The Liturgy of the Palms and then carried our palm branches in procession to the church, re-enacting Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Together the congregation read the Passion Gospel, as we must never forget the long sacrifice of Jesus' last days when he tried to prepare disbelieving disciples for his death, of his agonizing last hours. The Rev. Jason Radcliff, our celebrant, called this "Whiplash Sunday" as it connected the spiritual preparations of Lent with the sufferings of Holy Week and the glories of Easter.

Maundy Thursday recreated Jesus' Last Supper when he tenderly washed the disciples' feet before the meal. Fr. Vang explained that in doing so "He becomes an extreme example of humility... The tenderness of God is revealed in the incarnation of His Son." After Fr. Vang washed congregants' feet, lights dimmed, the choir removed their surplices, the Blessed Sacrament was taken to the Altar of Repose, and servers stripped the high altar to the chant of Psalm 22. The darkened sanctuary was lit only by candles in the Lady Chapel, ready for the silent watchers who would sit in one-hour shifts until midnight.

Good Friday was stark, a manifestation of grief with no lighting, a plain altar, no organ, black robes. We again relived the Passion. This solemn service included collects, veneration of the cross, and a cappella music. Tomás Luis de Victoria's *Reproaches* were offered entirely in Latin, with Tarik Wareh chanting and the choir responding.

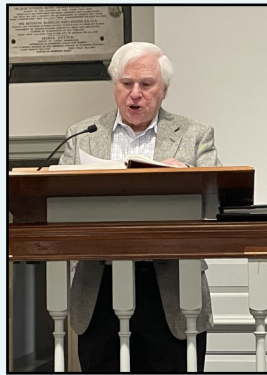
On Saturday night Fr. Vang rekindled the new fire outside and lit the Pascal candle, and we progressed into the sanctuary with our own candles for the Great Vigil. Fr. Vang sang the Exsultet, the great readings were read, then the bells were rung, the lights were turned up, and the first Mass of Easter was celebrated. Afterward the Lenten fast was broken with a celebratory reception in the Great Hall.

Although we don't have a complete list of those who supplied food for the reception, Meredith and Jon Ewbank provided the liquid refreshment.....and only the Ewbanks, Anne and David Kennison, Meg Hughes, Lynn Paska and Brian Taylor were on the sign-up sheet. Many others brought food, and trays of cookies and brownies appeared on the dessert table. Sandee Hughes, Barb Wengrovius, and (nameless) Georgians were on the Hospitality Team who helped with set-up, break-down and clean-up.

In contrast to snowy Ash Wednesday, Easter was sunny and full of light, blooming spring represented by the wonderful Easter Garden at the pulpit (thanks to Kevin Decker, Barb Wengrovius, Chris Henry, Sean Albert). Brian Taylor welcomed worshippers with Herbert Howells' lovely *Sarabande for the Morning of Easter*, and the music was full of alleluias. Fr. Vang recognized and thanked the altar guild, musicians, readers, cleaners, and sacristans for making Easter observances possible and special. He explained that Easter began Saturday night, when we heard the great readings, the first being the story of Creation. God made the world and it was good, but Adam and Eve didn't obey. Thus they were thrown out of the Garden of the Old Covenant. At Easter, we are welcomed into the Garden of the New Covenant and we can begin afresh. The service concluded with the amazing music of Brian Taylor playing Charles-Marie Widor's *Toccata*.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

joan pearson



What is Ordinary Time?

We have now passed the Day of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. Corpus Christi is fast approaching, ...and then what? There are no more major Feast Days until All Saints' Day on November 1. The Choir is on vacation until September. It's going to be a long summer and fall. Is that why call they call it Ordinary time? Not exactly

The Day of Pentecost marked the 50th day of the Easter season - the last day of Eastertide, and the end of the Easter season. In less than 3 months, we have walked through Jesus' Passion (*Palm Sunday*), Crucifixion (*Good Friday*) and Resurrection (*Easter Day*). We have seen Jesus later walk the earth for 40 days and ascend to heaven (*Ascension Day*), promising his followers that the Holy Spirit would soon come to them and guide them in their faith. As promised, 10 days later, the Holy Spirit did come to the people (*Pentecost*), giving them the ability to speak in many tongues so they could go out into the world and spread the good news of the Gospels and news of Jesus' Resurrection.

Trinity Sunday celebrated the unity of our Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Corpus Christi* commemorates the sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Of course, we also celebrate that at every Mass as we re-present the Last Supper and Jesus's command to "Do this in remembrance of me". And now, we come a long liturgical season that extends all the way to All Saints' Day on November 1st.



In years past, the Church identified the progression through this season by counting the Sundays after Trinity Sunday, e.g., *The First Sunday after Trinity*, etc. With the 1979 BCP revisions, we now count the Sundays after Pentecost, e.g., *The Third Sunday after Pentecost*. The weeks are also counted by identifying them as Proper 1, Proper 2, etc., the term *Proper* referring to parts of the Mass that change daily or weekly, things like the Introit, Collect, Epistle, Gradual, Gospel, Offertory and Communion Sentences. If you look in your BCP, you will see this. There is a lot of counting going on to keep track of this long season. So, when you see "Proper 9", don't imagine there is any special meaning to the

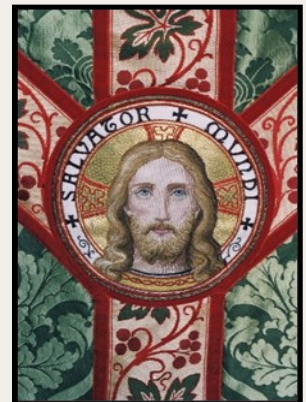
number, it's merely the 9th set of Propers (Collect, Lessons, etc.) in a line of Sundays spanning from May-June into November. There are 29 in all, and we just jump right in to them after Trinity Sunday every year.

In the modern Roman Catholic Church, the season of Pentecost is now called *Ordinary Time*. This term has also been slowly creeping into the language of the Episcopal Church and of other denominations. Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church - the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as at Christmas and Easter) or in penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of Jesus' Second Coming. Ordinary Time, Pentecost, is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. There's nothing "ordinary" about that!

Whether we call this season *Ordinary Time* or the *Season of Pentecost*, we take the lessons that we learned during the rest of the church year and we bring them to all people. As it is a time for green, growing things upon the earth, it is also a time for us to spread the word of the Gospels and for the growth of the church. The season of Pentecost celebrates every aspect of the life of Jesus Christ. The purpose is to celebrate Jesus' life, his teachings, his parables, his miracles. The Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is the key element of Pentecost. We celebrate the saving love of God expressed in our everyday lives.



It's called Ordinary Time.
Does that mean it's ordinary?



Green is the liturgical color of Ordinary Time.

With great affection, david

PHOTO ALBUM



A heartfelt and meaningful Georgian blessing and “goodbye” from Fr. Peter Schofield and Senior Warden David Kennison was given to longtime parishioners and friends, Ralph and Alice Polumbo, before their move back to their home state of Pennsylvania. They are missed.



On Sunday, June 11th, St. George’s celebrated Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This included a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, held by Fr. Marshall Vang, through the church. Canopy bearers were parishioners Greg Thomas, Paul Smigelski, Bob Lemmerman and Jim Wingate.



Georgian workers (L-R) Suzy Unger, Bob Paska, Paul Smigelski, Rich Unger, Jon Pearson take a well-deserved “photo break” from their back-breaking job on the grounds of our Rectory.

- SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

Here's an update on several issues that your Vestry is working on and an update on the search for a new Bishop in the Diocese of Albany.



Our Rector Search We are getting closer by the day. After narrowing the field to two finalists, both of those finalists were invited to visit St. George's, celebrate a Mass and preach (a private Mass for Vestry only), meet with the Vestry for in-depth discussions, tour all our facilities and the rectory and enjoy some social time over food and drinks. This visitation step was completed in May. We are now onto the next step of extending an offer to the chosen candidate (a "Call" in church parlance) and negotiating a Covenant Agreement. If that all goes well, the successful candidate must then inform his current parish and together, we set a time for arrival at St. George's. This is an exciting time and I wish we could divulge more details but diocesan protocol forbids that. Have faith – we are hoping for good news soon!

The Rectory A Rector needs a rectory and the rectory of St. George's is a superb property. As most of you know, our rectory is located around the corner at 23 Front St - only a short walk from the church. The rectory was in serious need of deep cleaning and a bunch of repairs. That work was begun several months ago and is continuing. The first floor is almost done; the second floor work has begun. Simultaneously, the extensive back yard has been getting attention by our Garden Committee and teams of Georgians with chain saws, rakes, mowers, and lots of muscle. The back yard is a 3-tiered, sloping from the house down to the bike path and the Mohawk River. It's all quite lovely and will provide a welcome escape for a busy Rector and a good location for parish picnics and other events.

Church Boiler The church boiler saga is a bit of a tale of woe. We nursed that old boiler through the winter, wheezing and leaking, checking it every day, with frequent repairs to patch it up and keep it going. The promised January delivery of a new boiler came and went without a boiler appearing. When pressed, the manufacturer finally said "maybe August", which also meant maybe not August. No delivery date was ever definite. Our boiler contractor located a different brand - a heavier model at higher cost - and then negotiated to get it at the same price we had already paid the original supplier. We cancelled the original contract without fees and ordered the alternate model. Everything has now been delivered and it's all in the basement of Cranmer House awaiting installation. Lemons got turned into lemonade on this one.

Bishop Search The Diocese of Albany has been without a seated bishop since Bp. William Love left in January 2021. Since then, the diocese has been operating under the ecclesiastical authority of the Standing Committee and with part-time help from an Assisting Bishop, Michael Smith. But a diocese needs a seated bishop. Priests hesitate to come to a diocese without knowing who the bishop is, and what that bishop's policies are, all of which complicates rector searches. The diocese formed a Profile & Search Committee over 1½ years ago, which has recently released the names of 4 nominees:

- ☪ **The Reverend Geoffrey Ward**, Rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, River Hills, WI (Diocese of Milwaukee)
- ☪ **The Reverend Jeremiah Williamson**, Rector of Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Colorado Springs, CO (Diocese of Colorado)
- ☪ **The Very Reverend Neal Longe**, Rector of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Amsterdam, NY (Diocese of Albany)
- ☪ **The Reverend Scott Garno**, Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Delmar, NY (Diocese of Albany)

There is also a 30-day Independent Nomination Period, ending June 8th.

Candidates will be introduced throughout the diocese in a series of "Meet and Greet" sessions. One candidate will be elected at a special Convention on September 9th at the Cathedral of All Saints. The expected Consecration of the 10th Bishop of Albany is planned for February 2024 at the Cathedral of All Saints.

With great affection, david

- MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT -

June 11th, Corpus Christi Sunday, will be the last Sunday the choir sings at Sunday Mass this season. The choir returns in the fall to resume its ministry of music. During the summer cantors will continue to sing the proper chants and offer occasional solos. I am extremely grateful to the choir for its dedicated work in glorifying God at our liturgies.



Among the many highlights of the year were our two mission-focused Choral Evensong services in which we had a representative of a particular community speak to the congregation during the service. This was also an opportunity to raise money for these organizations. We supported Things Of My Very Own in February and Schenectady City Mission in May.

We are very pleased to announce that Assistant Organist Joan Pearson successfully completed the Service Playing Certificate from the American Guild of Organist officially certifying her competence as a church service organist. (We already knew that, of course.) She now will have the letter SPC next to her name when functioning as an organist for our parish. Congratulations Joan Pearson, SPC. *dr. brian j. taylor*



OUTREACH



Carol Gaige delivered 209 lbs of food and hygiene products to SICM on Monday, June 12th...which brings our year-to-date total to 1206 lbs. Remember, our goal in 2023 is to exceed our 2022 total # of 2073 lbs. Georgians can do it!!!!!!

Gloria Kishton reported approximately \$400 worth of pillows, quilts, sheets and blankets of Pillow Talk items she also delivered on Monday, June 12th to the YWCA emergency shelter. *lynn paska*



HOSPITALITY

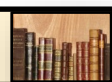


Warm weather is here! Coffee Hour continues after Mass every Sunday throughout the summer months. Coffee, tea, iced tea will be provided. Please consider signing up to provide a tray of treats to share. Thank you!

sandee hughes



BOOK CLUB



All On the Same Page Book Club will meet to discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks after the Mass on July 16th. Suggested by Suzy Unger and Meg Hughes, *Horse* is a highly acclaimed, fast-paced work of historical fiction that alternates between the present and the 19th century to take on topics such as art, the legacy of slavery, and horse racing. All are welcome to join us! *pattie wareh*



Dorothy (Dot) Dever IN MEMORIAM

1935-2023

Rest in Peace

You are missed by your church family





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The Vestry

David Kennison, *Sr. Warden*
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 Sean Albert
 Carol Gaige
 Margaret Hughes, *Clerk*
 Sandra Hughes
 Gloria Kishton
 Marilyn (Lynn) Paska
 Paul Smigelski
 Richard Unger
 Jeffrey Wengrovius, *Treasurer*

Administrative Assistant
Financial Secretary

Robert McCloskey

Director Music Ministry

Brian Taylor



Georgians pitched in to help tidy the Rectory grounds this spring. In addition to Meg Hughes and Halsey Brown, thanks to: Sean Albert, Jon Ewbank, Jean Greenspan, David Kennison, Gloria Kishton, Bob Paska, Jon Pearson, Paul Smigelski, Rich & Suzy Unger, and Barb Wengrovius. The churchyard is also in full bloom and the sidewalks in front look the best have in years....thanks to Gloria, Suzy and Barb.

meg hughes