



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



Volume 15 Number 3

St. George's Episcopal Church Schenectady NY

September 2023

ART SHOW 2023



Could you feel the anticipation building? Stacks of supplies in the Great Hall, deliberations over mums orders, lists of volunteers, worry over the weather ... all culminating in another grand Art Show Day! Chair Brian Taylor inventoried, organized, shopped, assigned, and once again St. George's became the Stockade's oasis with her welcoming café and church.

Jon Ewbank joined Brian at 8:00 to serve coffee to the artists as they set up their booths, with Louisa Carr, Joyce Cockerham, Tarik Wareh, Gloria Kishton, Bob Lemmerman, and Jon Pearson arriving later to complete the transformation of our front lawn into an al fresco café. Sharon Trant, Lea Crow, Suzy Unger, Joan Pearson, and Brian baked the corn bread and brownies that were on the menu, while the chowder, and chili were purchased. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks were once again donated by Jim Wingate (Thank you, Jim.). Thanks to the hot sun, cold drinks were popular items and hats were a necessity! Joyce Cockerham tended drinks and the cash box throughout the morning, while Louisa Carr, Gloria Kishton, and Bob Lemmerman served corn chowder and chili. Tarik Wareh grilled burgers and hotdogs.

In the afternoon Jerry and Sharon Trant, Greg and Sheila Thomas, and Jon Ewbank took over food duties and Geri Moore became cashier and drinks server, sporting her own colorful sunshade. Throughout the day Suzy Unger and Wendy Madeleine distributed pre-ordered mums and sold the extras – many oohs and aahs over these beautiful plants, what Suzy called “Nature’s Art.” Mother Lisa Schoonmaker and Joan Pearson greeted visitors in the church and answered questions about the pews and the age of the church and the Colonial/Tory past of St. George's (“Yes, the organ works.”). Brian and Joan played the organ during the day, and Brian took a few minutes to introduce the instrument to one very excited young boy.

(cont'd page 2)

Many hands make light work. All the afternoon workers plus Bob, Jane and JJ Moran, Jon Pearson, Rich Unger, and Barb Wengrovius cleared the café and cleaned the kitchen in record time. After the cash was counted and bills were paid, net profit for the café was about \$700.00, not including mums.

Every free moment we were checking news updates on the bishop election, via texts from Meredith Ewbank to John and the livestream on Mother Lisa's phone. At times visitors in the church were watching the livestream with us! We were tuned into both election and visitors, but our focus for the day was on our community. Art Show Day is always fun, a day of smiles.

joan pearson





SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

You don't see Halsey Brown in the pews every Sunday but his volunteer works for the church leaves no doubt that he's a bonafide Georgian!

Retiring in 2021 (as a structural engineer for the railroad which, he says was his religion), he wanted to give back to the community...and after talking with Senior Warden David Kennison, that ultimately meant volunteering at his childhood church where he still had emotional ties.

Realizing the church rectory needed help prior to the coming of our 20th rector, he's been mowing the lawn on a regular basis, cutting down trees, and painting some of the wooden deck.

It's not that Halsey doesn't have a life. He does! He plays guitar...old time music every week with a group at a Troy Club on Thursday nights; Honest Weight Food Co-op in Albany on Thursday afternoons; Wednesday nights at the Celtic Hall on Route 155 in Colonie; a Farmer's Market; and the list goes on.



UNOFFICIAL CARETAKER: St. George's Rectory

He has a student pilot license, flying small trips to places like Glens Falls. And, he makes rosaries (5 in the past 10 years), some were blessed by former rector Fr. Paul Blanch.

Born in 1959 at Ellis Hospital and baptized at St. George's in the early '60's, Halsey was active in Sunday School until his teen years but didn't return to church until his 30's. Halsey lives in East Berne, in back of Thacher Park, in the Town of New Scotland. And, yes, he and Mrs. Brown (Gail) have not one but TWO lovely daughters. Owning a large home means lots of maintenance but, as he said, "The older I get, the less I do myself." Case in point: he played tennis until recently, when his arms couldn't do it anymore.



*CREATIVE HOBBY:
Making rosaries*

Remember that old adage: you can't keep a good man down? Well, that's Halsey Brown....a Georgian through-and-through...who hasn't let the passing years diminish his love of St. George's nor stop him from volunteering where it's needed.

lynn paska

OUTREACH



Volunteers from St. George's worked the **SICM Summer Lunch Program** at Faith Deliverance Tabernacle Church in Mont Pleasant the week of August 14-18. Kudos to Gloria Kishton, Bob Lemmerman, Jean Greenspan, Meg Hughes, Ann Duff, Joyce Cockerham, Brian Taylor, Tarik Wareh, Lea Crowe, Paul Smigelski, Jerry Trant and Sharon Trant...with double kudos to the Trants for manning the site alone when the SICM site leader was taken ill and hospitalized.



September's **Little Red Wagon** collection of food and personal hygiene products for the SICM food pantry continues to make strides to achieve its goal of 2500 lbs....as the 9th month realized 1867 lbs of supplies. Carol Gaige brings the monthly intake to the Schenectady Inner City Mission site each month, with helpers like Paul Smigelski and his sons James (L) and Ryan (R) helping her load up her car each month.

Pillow Talk is another Outreach undertaking with contributions gratefully received to support women and children who have escaped unsafe environments. Twin-size blankets and comforters may be gently used but pillows and sheets must be new, unopened and in their original packaging. Hand-knit hats and cold-weather items are also needed. Gloria Kishton and David Kennison lead this ministry.

*paul smigelski
lynn paska*

MUSIC NOTES

With the advent of a new Rector comes change. Our new Rector has made one change in our Mass liturgy, and it is a good one. We are going to have the Psalm sung between the first and second lessons. Fr. Pettigrew would like for the congregation to sing the entire Psalm, so we will sing all the verses of the Psalm to a tone - or melody - each week. Each Psalm verse is divided into two parts. Each half-verse has an introductory note or two, a reciting note - single note on which most of the verse is sung - and a cadence or ending. In the following verse are slashes which show where the note changes occur.



Teach me | O Lord the way of | thy statutes: and | I will keep it | unto the *end*.

In the first half of the verse "Teach me" is the introduction. "O Lord the way of" is the reciting note. "thy statutes" is the cadence. Likewise "and" is the introduction, "I will keep it" is the reciting note and "unto the *end*." is the cadence. The reason "*end*" is in italics is because that single syllable is sung on several notes instead of one.

This sounds in print a lot more complicated than it actually is. The Psalm will change each week but the tone - the melody - will remain the same. It allows the words of the Psalm to become our words - our response to the first lesson. In September the choir will sing the Psalm for us. Beginning in October all will be invited to join in singing.

UPCOMING DATES

November 2nd, 7:00 p.m. Solemn Requiem Mass with chants sung by the choir

November 12th, 5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong sung by the choir

dr. brian j. taylor

MARIAN MASS

On August 15th, St. George's observed the Feast of the Solemnity of St. Mary the Virgin, also known as the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, wherein the Mother of Jesus was taken up body and soul into heaven, much as Jesus himself ascended into heaven at the Ascension.

This is a significant Holy Day in the Church Year and included a Mass at 7PM, followed by a festive reception in the Shaw Lounge, hosted by Our Lady of the Snows Ward of the Society of Mary. Thanks to Wendy Madelone and Kevin Decker for the planning and execution of the magnificent feast.

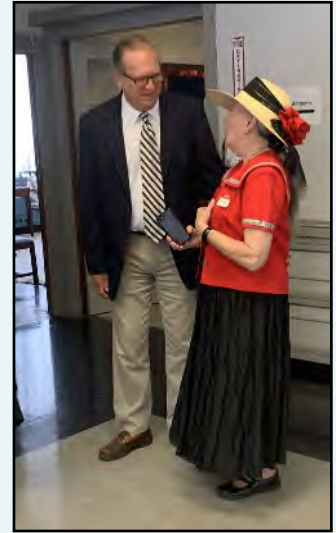
*david kennison
lynn paska*



HOSPITALITY



A lovely reception was held after Mass on Sunday, August 27th to thank **Dean Marshall Vang** for his support and guidance over the past year. Food and adult beverages were provided by Kevin Decker, Chris Henry, Barb Wengrovius, Meg Hughes, Carol Gaige, Meredith and Jon Ewbanks, Gloria Kishton and Bob Lemmerman, and Sandee Hughes.



Another reception to welcome **Father Tom Pettigrew** was held after Mass on Sunday, September 3rd. It was hosted by parishioners who live in the Stockade. Trays of sandwiches made with ingredients from Kevin Decker's garden, Rosemarie Jaquith's delicious flan, and an array of beverages made for a delicious celebration. Thank you to Kevin, Rosemarie, Gloria Kishton and Suzy Unger for their efforts. Coffee hour will never be the same!





The sign up sheets for bringing food for Sunday coffee hour were filled by a variety of parishioners all summer. Thank you to everyone who made at least one Sunday a priority. New sheets for fall months will be available soon.

sandee hughes

The Bishop's Election Convention

Occasions like this don't arise very often. Of course, we're talking about the election of a new bishop. The Diocese of Albany was formed in 1868 and since that time, we've only had 9 bishops. The task set before us this day was to elect the 10th.

We thought we'd arrived in plenty of time, before 8am. As we entered that cavernous and magnificent space, it became clear how naive we were. The Cathedral of All Saints was heaving with people, all of whom were eager and energized to get on with it! At 8:30am, we began the day with a Mass for the Discernment of a Bishop, reminding us all that our day ahead was centered on God and His will for our diocese. Your St George's Delegation was well-prepared. We had all attended at least one of the stops of the Albany Bishop Candidate Tour and had remotely watched the presentations and Q&As at several of the other stops. We had listened to parishioners who had done the same and were willing to share their thoughtful observations. We had met as a group, in prayer and in discernment for who we thought was the right candidate for Albany at this time and indeed who we believed God was calling.



The St George's Delegation - Lay Deputies
David Kennison, Anne Kennison, Bob Paska,
accompanied by Fr Thomas Pettigrew

A hush descended on the nave as the Convention was called to order, immediately electing a President Pro Tempore, Fr Thomas Malonek, to guide us in our deliberations, along with a diocesan staff that proved flawless throughout the day. Delegations from 88 parishes were in attendance, as were 115 canonically-resident clergy. The candidates were introduced, each giving a short video introduction as they were not with us in person at this point. There were 4 candidates: (1) Rev. Geoffrey Ward, rector of St. Christopher's Church, River Hills, WI, (2) Very Rev. Neal Longe, rector of Saint Ann's Church, Amsterdam, (3) Rev. Scott Garno, rector of Saint Stephen's Church, Delmar, (4) Rev. Jeremiah Williamson, rector of Grace and Saint Stephen's, Colorado Springs, CO.

The 1st ballot was cast, easily and quickly thanks to a slick electronic system. Fr Garno received 49 clergy votes and 22 laity votes, while Fr Williamson got 30 clergy & 37 laity. Fr Longe & Fr Ward got fewer votes in each order. On the 2nd ballot, Fr Garno got 50 clergy & 22 laity, while Fr Williamson got 42 clergy & 52 laity. On the 3rd ballot, Fr Garno got 55 clergy & 21 laity, but Fr Williamson got 47 clergy & 63 (72%) laity.

By now, it was clear that the laity wanted change and was strong for Fr Williamson, but a majority was needed in both orders. At this point, a convention rule kicked in that specified any candidate receiving less than 5% of the total number of clergy & laity votes would be eliminated. Sadly, this knocked out Fr Longe & Fr Ward and made it a 2-person race. On the 4th and final ballot, Fr Garno got 54 clergy & 22 laity and Fr Williamson got 56 clergy (50.9%) & 65 laity (74.7%) – a majority in both orders! We had elected a new bishop! But it's not yet official until the vote is approved by a majority of the bishop in the Episcopal Church and also a majority of the diocesan Standing Committees, this taking up to 120 days.

In remarks delivered via Zoom after the election, Fr Williamson gave thanks *"for trusting me to be your shepherd, your bishop,"* and said he was a *"man consumed by hope,"* including hope for the future *"that I know in my bones God is writing for us."* He said further, *"I believe God has called us together to be one body, to spread the gospel of Jesus, to witness to the power of love to transcend our differences, to hold our hearts together. I believe that God has called us together to dream with our God into the future. I am so excited to hear your stories, to build trust, to allow our relationship to blossom."*



Bishop-elect Jeremiah Williamson greeted the Albany convention after the election, along with his wife, Jennifer, and their sons Oscar and Isaiah

Welcome, Bishop-elect Williamson!

With great affection, david

PHOTO ALBUM



A dream garden takes shape: Gloria Kishton is always thinking of ways to beautify our grounds. With support from St. George's Garden Ministry members, she has been putting the finishing touches of a beautiful border garden between the church and Cranmer House.



Always weeding: Joyce Cockerham can be counted to help out!



Former parishioners Pam and Jim Turley joined us for Mass one Sunday this summer.



Garden Ministry members, Jean Greenspan and Meg Hughes, removing trash from the alleyway on the north side of the Great Hall.



Gloria Kishton and Suzy Unger, ready to plant a Quick Fire hydrangea, carefully selected and sponsored by Gloria. Watch for more flowering shrubs to come!

- SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

We knew this day would come. We prayed fervently and we had great faith. Some of us bore great burdens, but even those were borne with an abundance of joy. You already know what I'm speaking of – we are thrilled to welcome the Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew as the 20th Rector of St George's Church!



Fr Pettigrew (aka Fr Tom) is everything we hoped a rector might be. Theologically strong, liturgically skilled, captivated by history, a warm and welcoming personality, a hard worker, a strong administrator, a deep knowledge of the Diocese of Albany, not scared away by winter snows, well-connected in the diocese - he ticks all the boxes.

During the interregnum, great thanks is due your Vestry who have worked tirelessly to keep the parish running smoothly, keep the budget balanced and simultaneously – no small matter – search for our next Rector. Vestry meetings that were normally held once a month were expanded to twice a month. Our Rector Search process took great gobs of time, with evening interviews, trips to candidates' parishes and lots of preparing documents – Parish Profile, Parish Survey, Transition Profiles, letters, evaluations and much more. There wasn't much glory but there was a lot of effort. Warm and loving thanks to them all: (A-to-Z), Sean Albert, Carol Gage, Jon Ewbank (Warden), Meg Hughes, Sandee Hughes, Gloria Kishton, Lynn Paska, Paul Smigelski, Rich Unger, Jeff Wengrovius. They are truly warriors and I am humbled to have had the chance to work with them.

If one transition (our Rector) was not enough this year, two should fill the bill. We also have a new Bishop, the 10th Bishop since the formation of the Diocese of Albany. On September 10th, the delegates to the Bishop's Election Convention voted to call Fr Jeremiah Williamson to be our next Bishop. Fr Williamson, from the Diocese of Colorado was the overwhelming choice of the laity delegates and the majority choice of the clergy.

Fr Williamson has been rector of Grace and Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, since 2016. Before that, he served churches in Youngstown and Toledo, Ohio. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Drew Theological School and a diploma in Anglican Studies from the General Theological Seminary in New York City. He was ordained a priest in 2009. He and his wife, Jennifer, a United Methodist pastor, have two sons, Oscar and Isaiah. Bishop-elect Williamson will be moving to our area as soon as possible and eagerly awaits the challenges of healing the divisions and leading our diocese into its next glorious chapter.

With great affection, david

- JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

According to my computer files, the last report I submitted to The Georgian was for August 2022. So, either I have failed to save any subsequent report(s), or (as is most likely) I have been remiss in providing them and the editor just plugged in my reports from the Vestry Minutes. I assure you that I am NOT going to cover everything that has occurred in the Physical Plant and Maintenance bailiwick since last August in this issue! However, I will hit the high points of this past summer.



We (empirically) spent a lot of time, effort and money in two distinct areas – resolving issues mandated by an insurance inspection and getting ready to receive our new rector.

Most if not all of the items on the insurance inspection were in issues affecting safety in and around the church, such as new handrails on stairways, non-functioning Exit signs, potholes in the parking lot, etc. All of these have been corrected, or the needed materials are on hand awaiting installation.

David (our Senior Warden) and Fred (our cleaning person/sexton) have fixed, cleaned, repaired and painted the Rectory to make it ready for our Rector. There are still a few minor or nice-to-do things to finish up, but as with all homes, it's a never ending process.

(cont'd page 11)

We also dealt with roofing issues which came to light when a hole was discovered in the roof of St. George's House, above the vacant sexton's apartment. On the basis of our claim for that, our insurance company required an inspection of the roofs of all of our buildings. The good news there was that there were no issues with roofs of the Great Hall, Cranmer House or the Rectory, and the repairs needed on the Church and St. George's House were covered by insurance.

All the parts required to build the new boiler for the sanctuary are in hand awaiting assembly. Jack Guarnari, our go-to boiler guy, has assured us that as soon as demands on his time by emergency air conditioner repairs abate, he will be back to complete the boiler assembly and hook up.

Still outstanding are repairs to St. George's House, the Sexton's apartment ceiling, and repairing/repainting the sanctuary ceiling.

respectfully submitted, jon ewbank

- TREASURER'S REPORT -

Dear Georgians

I am pleased to report on the status of St. George's finances. Let me first say THANK YOU to all for contributing your talent and treasure to our church. We are blessed to have many volunteers and congregants who give in abundance. I also want to say thank you to the Vestry, Jon Pearson, and our admin Bob McCloskey for their tireless work to stay the course financially.



Let me comment on our year-to-date income. As you may remember, we receive about 45% of the necessary money to pay our bills from pledging and other contributions such as rent. The rest comes from the income of our endowment. Our income was budgeted to be about \$337,000 for the year. However, we are over budget due to the need to take money from the principal of the endowment to cover unexpected building repairs. Unfortunately, we have taken \$133,000 from endowment principal. This money is paying for the new boiler for the church, roof/ceiling maintenance, rectory repairs, and a variety of other expenses. Pledging year-to-date is on budget. I expect that we will meet our 2023 budget for pledge income of \$95,000 by year end. Interest income from our endowments is also on budget.

Let me now comment on expenses. Our 2023 budget for spending is \$337,000, balanced with the income. It has been a tough year regarding spending. We have suffered from much higher utility costs compared to previous years and unexpected building repairs. We have had an unlucky run of building problems. Our Vestry has worked diligently to address these issues. We are very hopeful that 2024 will be a much better year, in this regard, due to the progress we are now making.

For the December Georgian Journal, I will prepare a graphic presentation of our 2023 income and expenses. At that time, we'll have an almost complete view of the 2023 fiscal year. I wish to make 2 other comments: 1) we are in progress prepping the 2024 budget, and 2) we are almost complete in addressing the recommendations from our successful financial audit. This audit was completed in January by an outside firm.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Wengrovius



ALL ON THE SAME PAGE BOOK CLUB

On Sunday, November 19th the book club will meet after the 10AM Mass to discuss "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver. This Pulitzer-prize winning novel is a page-turning adaption of "David Copperfield," set in contemporary Appalachia. All are warmly welcome!

pattie wareh



St. George's Episcopal Church

30 North Ferry Street

Schenectady, New York 12305

Telephone (518) 374-3163

[email: office@stgeorgesschenectady.org](mailto:office@stgeorgesschenectady.org)

www.stgeorgesschenectady.org

Editor: Lynn Paska

Layout: Bob Paska

Contributors:

- Jon Ewbank*
- Meredith Ewbank*
- Meg Hughes*
- Sandee Hughes*
- David Kennison*
- Gloria Kishton*
- Wendy Madelone*
- Joan Pearson*
- Jon Pearson*
- Fr. Thomas Pettigrew*
- Paul Smigelski*
- Brian Taylor*
- Pattie Wareh*
- Jeff Wengrovius*

The Vestry

- David Kennison, Sr. Warden*
- Jonathan Ewbank, Jr. Warden*
- 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

June 18th, 2023

Dear People and Friends of Saint George's,



It's truly a delight to send my greetings to you today. I am humbled and honored to be called to serve as the 20th Rector of Saint George's Church. I want to thank the Wardens and Vestry for the great and tireless work of discernment that it takes to seek and find a new rector. While I am full of all sorts of emotion in leaving Holy Cross, my first cure and home for ten years now, I am truly excited to be joining you at St George's.

I am grateful that in our time together the vestry shared their hopes and dreams for the future, as well as their insights on the challenges which may be lying ahead. I am mindful that St Paul tells us that "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..." So, I am confident that God has many good works prepared for us to walk in and an abundance of joyful blessings in store for us as we seek to walk the path he has set before us.

While I won't officially start until September 3rd, I will be in close touch with the Wardens to work out all those things which make for a smooth transition. Please keep me in your prayers as I will be keeping you all in mine. I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

*Faithfully yours in Christ,
Thomas+*

