



# THE GEORGIAN REPORT



Volume 17 Number 3

St. George's Episcopal Church Schenectady NY

September 2024

## BREAKFAST, FORUM & MINISTRY FAIR

After Mass on September 8<sup>th</sup>, parishioners were treated to a sumptuous hot breakfast and tasty appetizer munchies prepared and served by Bob Falco, wife Meg Falco, and his sister Michele Holmes.

This food feast was followed by Fr. Tom's forum on his experience (as an alternate deputy) attending the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in June in Louisville KY. He also discussed ministry and study opportunities at St. George's. Various Georgians spoke briefly on the ministry they head, and Fr. Tom passed around sign-up sheets for those interested in being a part of this new fall, winter and spring agenda.

*lynn paska*



# STOCKADE ART SHOW 2024



On Saturday, September 7th the Stockade Art Show was in full swing from 10AM to 4PM, with St. George's Café selling food and beverages to the hungry and thirsty. Tours were available in our historic St. George's Church, complete with an organ concert; there also was a sale of Mums with different prices for different configurations. Approximately 28 Georgians were involved, including: Fr. Tom Pettigrew, Brian Taylor, Carol Gaige, David Kennison, Gloria Kishton, Bob Lemmerman, Kim Poiner, Meg Hughes, Wendy Madelone, Sue & Steve Hartz, Jim Wingate, Barb & Jeff Wengrovius, Louisa Carr, Suzy & Rich Unger, Sharon & Jerry Trant, Tarik Wareh, Bob Paska, Bob & Meg Falco, Jon & Meredith Ewbank, Bill & Bonnie Dagget, Sandee Hughes.

Thanks to all who baked and donated food items. It takes a Village and Our Villagers showed up.

*carol gaige/lynn paska*



## SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

Bob Lemmerman volunteers as a Greeter, because he enjoys talking with people and making them feel comfortable. As a Lector, he enjoys reading and speaking the passages and lessons from the Bible. Bob is nothing if not forward thinking, so as his eyesight weakened with age, he improvises by printing out the Sunday bulletin arriving via email on Friday, cutting and pasting the readings onto a larger font document for easier reading.

Bob met wife Gloria Kishton at the Schenectady County Public Library. He was browsing books; she was designing Easter Eggs (a special Ukrainian tradition.) They made eye contact, and the rest is a "romance novel" for the best seller list.

Growing up in the Rotterdam area, they attended different schools: Bishop Gibbons (Bob); Mohonasen (Gloria.) Married in 1977, they moved to the Stockade Area. Bob was raised in the Catholic Church, Gloria in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. As a family they attended church together splitting their Sundays between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. They have two adult children, Dmitri, and Theresa, who have been on their own for many years. After Bob retired, he and Gloria began to investigate various other churches and selected St. George's as it reminded them of their respective religions. "It was in our neighborhood, and we found St. George's very welcoming," Bob said. "We felt we could make a contribution to the congregation." With Gloria being active in historic preservation, it was a no-brainer...they became Georgians.

After college where Bob majored in math, he taught for a year at an Albany middle school, then spent several years in the Army stationed in Germany. This is followed by 38 years at the Department of Motor Vehicles at Empire State Plaza where he was responsible for various computer jobs including programming, systems analyst and supervisor in the information technology (IT) world. His final 15 years were mostly devoted to modernizing the department's file structures.

Retirement hasn't slowed Bob down! He plays the banjo one Sunday at month in a folk band at the First Reformed Church in the Stockade Area. He also "fiddles" with the guitar, piano and violin. Woodworking is another interest...he constructed the back deck in their home, interior staircase, sheds in the backyard, Adirondack chairs, stand-up desk, birdhouses, and a community lending library in the front yard.

Bob also belongs to a group of retired men who Zoom Monday mornings discussing everything from news, science, the pandemic, global warming, elections, wars, AI, you name it...they talk it!

With fond memories of "Mass on the grass" and former organist Andrew Krystopolski's innovative Potato Sale, Bob is also a fan of our current music director, calling Brian Taylor "a wonderful musician."

"Our challenge at St. George's is encouraging new people. We have a beautiful, historic building; meaningful Mass; dedicated congregation; and a youthful rector with a sense of humor and enthusiasm," he said, adding, "Fr. Tom has the right chemistry for us." Spoken like a loyal Georgian and volunteer extraordinaire.



*lynn paska*

## FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK.....



*Dear Georgians and Friends,*

In our world today, social media has taken over as the information highway. Social media is something which we as a parish church need to engage with: Facebook, YouTube, email, live streaming our services, offering education classes with a Zoom option, and even a website are all necessary parts of sharing our parish story with the world. It gets information out quickly and efficiently. It makes a printed paper newsletter feel a little dated, archaic, behind the times. But there's something I do love about having a quarterly printed newsletter. Social media is all about the here and now, or what's happening tomorrow or the next day. With a printed newsletter, we get to tell the stories of what's been happening. We get an opportunity to reflect, review, reminisce about what we've been

doing. It's such fun even for me to look back at what we've done over the last few months. Sometimes, I get so focused on planning for what is coming next week or next month, I forget to celebrate what we've accomplished. I am grateful to Lynn and Bob Paska for their hard work in remembering, collecting, collating, editing, and publishing the Georgian Report. And even sometimes for reminding the mindless rector to get his article in on time (not this month though! I'm ahead of them for now but I suspect that's because they've been enjoying their R&R on the Cape). I'm grateful too, to everyone who takes the time so tell the stories of our parish in action.

As I write this letter, I am coming up on the one year anniversary as Rector of St. George's. It has been an amazing year, full of meeting new people and learning a new job (yes, being Rector here is a very different job than being Rector of Holy Cross). I am grateful to everyone in the parish, from our Wardens and Vestry to the office staff for their help, support, forbearance, understanding, and counsel as I got my feet wet in this new role.

As hard as it is to fathom that it has been a whole year, it's wonderful to think of all the wonderful things we did in just one year. Perhaps the highlight was the wonderful celebration of the institution we had this past Spring. From the glorious liturgy to the amazing reception, it was truly a wonderful showcase of our parish's excitement and hospitality as on that evening we also welcome for the first time Bishop Jeremiah. We've done so many wonderful things and my hope and prayer is that many more years lay ahead.

As this newsletter goes to print, there are already underway a number of new things at St. George's. We'll have had our first Parish Breakfast and Forum, which will be held every other month on the second Sunday; our Tuesday morning and Thursday evening adult educational offerings have met for the first time (and you can join them any time!); Sunday School planning is underway and will be meeting soon. My challenge to everyone this year is to find one additional thing to get involved with during the week: whether that's one of the study groups or midweek liturgies.

As you enjoy looking back over the last few months excitement, I hope you are as excited as I am about our future endeavors. With God's blessing, we know they will be fruitful for the building up of God's Kingdom in our little corner of it.

*Faithfully in Christ,  
Thomas+*



## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

After a hiatus of several years, a small group of Daughters is reviving the St. George's Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King, an order for women and girls who desire a closer walk with God. We are a sisterhood, bonded together by a Rule of Life, living out vows to pray and serve Christ every day as part of our regular lives. We are at different stages of our Christian journey, having just begun or having been on this path our whole lives, and we may be lay or ordained... but we all seek to know Jesus Christ and spread Christ's kingdom throughout the world.

St. George's currently has three Daughters [Lea Crow, Meredith Ewbank, and Gerri Moore] and one woman in discernment to become a Daughter [Wendy Madelone]. Wendy will complete her period of discernment in a few weeks and will be received into The Order on Christ the King Sunday in November.

When Daughters are received into The Order, they make a three-fold vow of prayer, service, and evangelism. The ways that their service in their parish and in their Diocese plays out varies, but among other ways, examples of their service throughout the world include:

Praying for the clergy; Praying for the members of the parish; Supporting the ministry work of their church through prayer and service; Leading retreats and study groups; Calling or sending notes to newcomers; Providing emergency prayer support; Visiting the sick, elderly, and shut-ins; Assisting in healing services; Comforting the bereaved and the suffering; Supporting or organizing feeding programs, backpack ministries, and other outreach programs; Hosting community meals.

Last spring, The Order hosted a Lenten Quiet Day for men and women, open to the entire Diocese. Our guest speaker was Brynna Carpenter-Nardone, Director of Cathedral Arts at The Cathedral of All Saints in Albany. Using art and scripture, Brynna presented on the topic "Imagining the Passion" to over 20 attendees. A simple bread and soup luncheon was provided between the morning session and the afternoon session.

In late October, Wendy and Meredith will be attending the Daughters' Diocesan Fall Assembly at the Christ the King Center, where Mother Jean DeVaty will be the leader as we consider "What's in Your Cup?"

St. George's Daughters are hoping to offer an Advent Quiet Day in December, similar to the Lenten Quiet Day last spring.

Women who are interested in more information about The Order may contact Meredith Ewbank: (417-989-1256 - text) or ([meredithewbank@gmail.com](mailto:meredithewbank@gmail.com)).

*meredith ewbank, president*



*Quiet Day photo from Spring 2024*

# SYCAMORE COLLABORATIVE

As most of you know, a monthly donation of non perishable goods are taken to the Sycamore Collaborative (formerly SICM). This is under St. George's Outreach Ministry as chaired by Vestry member Paul Smigelski.

I have had the pleasure of meeting the staff who are there for this wonderful organization. I am greeted on a monthly basis by a woman named Patricia, (in a photo with me). Patricia meets me at the dock and gets other staff to unload the car. From the car, to a cart, that is then weighed. Usually through your generous donations we average approximately between 200 and 300 lbs . The month of August, St George's weighed in at 312 lbs. giving us a total of 2001 lbs. so far this year.

The Manager for Pantry Operations, Kelvin Garcia, oversees a staff of 20 +. The goods are bagged and handed out to approximately 125 + families. This month back packs were also being handed out.

This organization counts on your generosity and others like you. Many thanks to all. Keep up the good work.

*carol gaige*





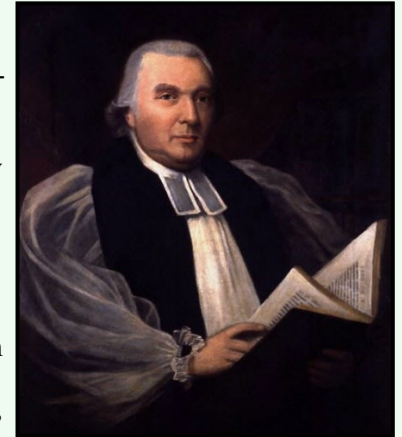
# EPISCOPAL EDUCATION

## Samuel Seabury - the First Bishop of the Episcopal Church

*In the first 6 months of 2024, we have seen the Institution of a new Rector (Thomas Pettigrew), the Consecration of a new Bishop of Albany (Jeremiah Williamson) and the election of a new Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (Sean Rowe). With such unparalleled progress, it seems appropriate to reflect on the very first bishop of the Episcopal Church, Samuel Seabury. His name may not trip off the tongue, but his legacy in the history of our Church is enormous.*

It was 1783. The American Revolution had been won, the rule of England was broken and the former colonists walked down the road of forming a new republic, underpinned by freedom from the rule of aristocracy. Heady times, these, and it was now time to taste a bit of the newly-secured freedom of religion. People wanted their church back, but that could no longer be the Church of England as no one would vow loyalty to the English king.

A native of Connecticut and a graduate of Yale, Samuel Seabury was a clergyman of the Church of England, serving several congregations in the colony of NY and was a Loyalist during the Revolution. He wrote pamphlets denouncing the rebellion that caused him to be imprisoned for six weeks. Once freed, he took refuge behind British lines in NYC and was chaplain to a Redcoat regiment. Loyalty to the British crown came naturally to Anglican clergymen; when they were ordained (always in England, for there were no bishops in the colonies) they took an oath of obedience to the Church and to the King as head of the Church. Breaking with England was breaking that oath.



The Most Reverend Samuel Seabury,  
First Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Not an obviously controversial figure, Seabury fought the good fight against odds that would have made most men retreat. When the war ended, Anglican clergy and parishioners - now citizens of the new United States of America - found themselves in a difficult position. The theology and practice of the Church required clergy, who must be ordained by bishops. But bishops in the Church of England were legally barred from ordaining anyone who had not sworn fealty to the king. It was clear that the American church must have their own bishops to continue in the unbroken line of succession from the first bishops, the apostles of Jesus, and to assure a supply of clergy for their new Church.

A group of clergy in Connecticut elected Samuel Seabury – a former Loyalist, but “a man of great good sense,” - to become the first bishop of their diocese. Samuel Seabury sailed to England to seek ordination, but since he could no longer swear the oath of allegiance to the King, the English bishops refused his application. To the rescue came the ever-rebellious Scots, via the Scottish Episcopal Church, whose bishops were not bound by any such political oath. Three bishops of the Episcopal Church of Scotland ordained Samuel Seabury at a church in Glasgow on the condition that he study the Scottish rite of Holy Communion and work for its adoption, rather than that of the 1662 English Book of Common Prayer.



The consecration of Seabury depicted  
in stained glass at All Saints Church,  
Jodanhill, Glasgow

Back in the US, Seabury met further resistance from some former Anglicans, who refused to accept his ordination since it did not come directly from the Church of England. But the 1789 General Convention of the new Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America affirmed his consecration. Eventually, the Church of England persuaded Parliament to drop the loyalty oath. This enabled the consecration of additional bishops, including William White, Bishop of Pennsylvania, who was the new church's first Presiding Bishop, serving for one year in 1789. He was followed by Samuel Seabury, who led the Church from 1789 to 1792.

Samuel Seabury faced the challenges of a church in transition and had a great influence on its structure and polity. He helped establish the House of Bishops. He preached, taught, and wrote books. He actively advocated for an American prayer book based on the Scottish rite. He is said to have confirmed 10,000 Episcopalians during his years in the episcopate. He also continued to serve as rector of St. James' Church, New London, Connecticut, and was buried in a chapel there upon his death on February 25, 1796.

*Historical information from the Episcopal Church*

*With great affection, david*



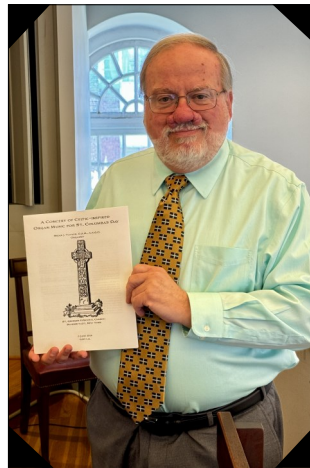
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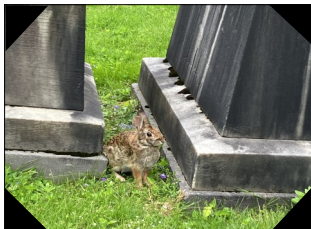
Georgians witnessed the solemnity of the Feast of Corpus Christi honoring the Eucharist at the 10AM Mass on June 2nd. This was followed by a luncheon in the Great Hall as a gift from parishioner Kevin Decker.



Fr. Tom and Jon Ewbank "in costume" for our Mass celebrating Independence Day.



Brian Taylor performed a Concert of Celtic-inspired Organ Music for St. Columba's Day on June 9th....with his family proudly attending.



A summer visitor at Sunday Mass.



A bountiful feast at the Rectory after Mass celebrating The Feast of St. Mary the Virgin on Thursday night, August 15th.



Faiz, son of Tarik and Pattie Wareh, played the prelude and postlude at our Sunday Mass on August 25th. In his sophomore year at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, Faiz is also Organist for All Saints Episcopal Church in Northfield.

## - SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT -

It's a real joy to report that it has now been a full year since Fr. Thomas Pettigrew's arrival at St George's! It's so good to have a Rector again and what a year it has been. He hit the ground running and hasn't stopped. Starting from his beautiful celebration of a sung Mass each Sunday, Fr. Tom has also restored weekday Masses, held adult education classes, gotten a firm grip on our finances and parish to-do list, led Vestry meetings, re-organized the parish office administrative function, and has quickly absorbed and overseen the long list of on-going ministries that so many parishioners undertake as their contribution of time and talent.



Fr. Tom served as a vital member of the diocesan search committee for a new bishop (a nearly 3-year effort), culminating in the bishop's election last September 9<sup>th</sup> and the Consecration of Bishop Jeremiah Williamson on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Williamson had barely caught his breath before he found himself at St George's for his first pastoral visitation and the Institution of Fr. Tom as the 20<sup>th</sup> Rector of St George's on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Tom was then elected to the Standing Committee of the diocese at the Diocesan Convention on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Whew! It's been non-stop since Fr. Tom's arrival and I'm sure you will all agree that God has chosen well in bringing him to St George's.

On to other things, there has been a lot of action on many fronts over the summer. No doubt, you have noticed the appearance of Ring video cameras on some of the parish doorways. That's the result of an intruder that visited us in late June, inadvertently locking himself in an unused room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Great Hall and spending the night, unbeknownst to anyone. We're still uncertain how he got in - probably through an unlocked door - but he wasn't discovered until the next morning and he wanted to get out as much as we wanted him out. No one had a key to the room he was locked in, so we put an extension ladder up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor window and got him down that way. After we took his name, address and photo, he took off. It certainly made us re-think our building security. The cameras that you see are a first step, so we know who is coming and going and have a record. We plan also to replace locks and latches on selected doors, the Great Hall being at the top of that list. If you are around the campus during the week or have a need to be in a building, be sure to check that all doors are secured when you leave.

We have also continued to fight roof leaks over the summer. The church roof has been repaired several times, starting with storm damage that was covered by insurance, but non-insurance repairs were required beyond that. Those leaks caused ceiling damage in the church. Those who were around this summer certainly noticed the scaffolding on the north side of the nave, that job now being done well and complete. Yet, more is required as the vaulted ceiling and south ceiling is also in need to repair and painting, this not covered by insurance, so quotes are being prepared.

More roof leaks have appeared on St George's House, again partially covered by insurance due to storm damage, but the remaining repairs were paid from the church budget. Ceilings in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor sexton's apartment were extensively damaged and have now been repaired, although further work is necessary as soon as we can find the money.

The Vestry has been on these tasks and many, many more - a small taste of what summer has been like. There's no summer vacation at St George's, although we've all found a way to take a few welcome days off here and there. Autumn is almost upon us and we're all looking forward to the startup of our choir, return of our traveling parishioners and a new, busy and God-centered church season. We sing together as we work together!

*With great affection, david*



## - MUSIC NOTES -



The choir season resumed in September, and our small but mighty choir will provide musical leadership for all principal liturgies beginning Sunday, September 8th. The highlights of the fall season include a Festival Mass for St. Michael and All Angels (Michaelmas) on Sunday, September 29th, a Choral Mass for All Saints Sunday, November 3rd, a chanted Requiem Mass for All Souls on Tuesday, September 5th, at 7:00 p.m. a Choral Evensong for Thanksgiving on Sunday afternoon, November 17th, at 5:00 p.m. a Carol Concert and Choral Mass on Christmas Eve at 10:00 p.m. (music starting at 9:30 p.m.) and something new this year, A Feast of Lights for Epiphany on Sunday evening, January 5th, at 5:00 p.m. followed by a Twelfth Night party. We look forward to an enjoyable season of music within our beautiful liturgies.



peace, dr. brian j. taylor



## BOOK CLUB



St. George's book club will revisit a familiar author, Anthony Doerr of *All the Light We Cannot See* fame, in November. This time the work to be discussed is *Cloud Cuckoo Land*.

Louisa Carr, who suggested the read, describes it as "a story about a story." Readers will meet a wide-ranging cast of characters as the narrative weaves together dramatic tales from the 15th century, current times, and the future. What ties them together is a quirky fable written in the first century AD.

Stories matter, and help humans retain some perspective and grace. Whether we travel in an oxcart, a fossil-fuel car, or a sleek interstellar spacecraft, we all seek connection and the wisdom of the brave souls who preceded us. Pick up a copy of *Cloud Cuckoo Land* and join the discussion on November 17. Meetings take place after church in the Howe Library at the back of the Great Hall.

pattie wareh /meg hughes



## HOSPITALITY



Summer months gave us the opportunity to hold coffee hour directly outside the entrance to the church. Coffee, lemonade and light refreshments were served, the sun and warm weather enjoyed by all. We began September with a breakfast forum on September 7<sup>th</sup> and then continued our traditional coffee hour in the Great Hall.

A sign-up sheet for sweets and savories for September-December has been placed by the coffee cups. Thank you to all who continue to support coffee hour fellowship.

sandee hughes



### Church Chuckles



## HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS

## TEXT WHILE DRIVING IF YOU WANT TO MEET HIM



*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](http://www.stgeorgesschenectady.org)*

*Editor: Lynn Paska*

*Layout: Bob Paska*

*Contributors*

- Meredith Ewbank
- Carol Gaige
- Meg Hughes
- Sandee Hughes
- David Kennison
- Gloria Kishton
- Fr. Thomas Pettigrew
- Brian Taylor
- Pattie Wareh

*The Vestry*

- David Kennison, Sr. Warden
- Jonathan Ewbank, Jr. Warden
- Kevin Decker
- Carol Gaige
- Gloria Kishton
- Marilyn (Lynn) Paska
- Paul Smigelski
- Jerry Trant
- Richard Unger
- Jeffrey Wengrovius, Treasurer

*Rector*

*Fr. Thomas J. Pettigrew*

*Administrative*

*Brian Taylor, Assistant  
Carol Gaige, Volunteer*

*Financial Secretary*

*Robert McCloskey*

*Director Music Ministry*

*Brian Taylor*



## **OUTSTANDING IN THEIR FIELD**

The ladies of Garden Ministry (left to right: Barbara Wengrovius, Jean Greenspan, Kim Polner, Meg Hughes, Gloria Kishton, and Suzy Unger) take a moment to enjoy the loveliness they have created. Their twice-weekly efforts will continue until first frost. Many thanks to these devoted Georgian women for maintaining the grounds as a place of welcome and peace.

*meg hughes*

