

SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH



Annual Meeting & Election

January 11, 2026



30 NORTH FERRY STREET, SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12305

Ph. 518-374-3163 office@stgeorgesschenectady.org

The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, B.A., M.Div., Rector

The Reverend Abigail Bee, B.A., Parish Deacon

Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO, Director of Music

Mr. David Kennison & Mr. Paul Smigelski, Wardens

A PRAYER FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Grant, O Lord, that thy Holy Spirit may preside over us now in all our concerns and deliberations for the welfare of this parish. We thank thee for all the blessings of the past year, and pray that we may go together from strength to strength in the year before us. Help us all to dedicate ourselves to thee, and to be ready to make sacrifice of time and money for the extension of thy kingdom.

Guide us, we beseech thee, in the choice of our Wardens and Vestry members that they may discharge their duties faithfully.

We praise thee for those thy servants who labored and worshipped here before us, and especially for those who have departed this life since we last met together.

Grant to them eternal rest, O Lord, and let thy light perpetual shine upon them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

Thanks be to Thee, O God, Who hast given us
minds that think
hearts that love
and hands that welcome.

Inspire us to work with Thee
that we may be responsible for Thy gifts.

We praise Thee for our homes,
our friends and our Holy Church.

Bless St. George's in this
Two Hundred and ninety-first year
and in all Her endeavors for
the propagation of the Faith
and for the salvation of souls,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our King.
Amen.

THE AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- The Opening Prayer
- Appointment of Clerk
- Appointment of Tellers for the Election
- Nominations from the Floor
- Ballots Distributed
- Voting opens and remains open for one hour.
- Luncheon is Served.

Reports to the Annual Meeting:

- The Rector, Fr. Thomas Pettigrew
- Senior Warden, David Kennison
- Junior Warden, Paul Smigelski
- Financial Committee Report & Annual Budget
- Questions and suggestions from parishioners
- Announcement of Election Results, Ms. Carol Gage, Vestry Clerk
- The Blessing & Adjournment



The Rector's Report to the Annual Meeting of St George's Church

Dear Georgians and Friends,

Just about every few months this year, I walked into Dr. Taylor's office and said, "It hasn't seemed to slow down like it usually does this time of year!" It's exciting to see new life, new hope, new vitality taking root in our beautiful old parish!

The biggest project we accomplished this year, by far, was finalizing the lease of the Great Hall Building to the YWCA of Northeastern New York for the Early Childhood Learning Center. The YWCA conducted major renovations on the building over the Summer and opened their doors this Fall. I am very pleased to report that our relationship with the YWCA is exceedingly good, and I am grateful for their patience as we learn to share our beloved building with their wonderful staff and children! I want to extend my great thank to everyone in the parish who worked hard to make this project a reality. From the members of the Vestry who pored over the details of the lease, crunching the numbers, and making new proposals; to those who spent countless hours going through every thing in the classrooms, making the tough decision on what to keep and what to get rid of; the work crews who spend hours moving furniture and cleaning out the building. And to everyone in the parish, because you have taken this new way of living in this building in stride.

This year, I am very happy to report that we have seen a 24% increase in giving among those pledgers who have returned a pledge this year! If you haven't filled out a pledge card, please consider doing so.

As we move into 2026, we are also seeing a change in a few of the roles of the Parish Staff. For the last two years, Dr. Taylor, in addition to serving as our Director of Music, has also served our parish as "Assistant to the Rector." He has stepped back from that role to focus more of his time on the music ministry at St. George's. I am grateful to Brian for stepping up to help me as I transitioned into my work here at St. George's. He has been, and continues to be, an invaluable member of the staff.

Taking on a number of the tasks that Dr. Taylor carried out will be our own Jon Ewbank. Jon has served on the Vestry and as a Warden when I was elected. Last year he joined the staff as "Financial Secretary." In addition to that work, Jon will take on many of the Administrative jobs in the office. I'd say welcome aboard, but with Jon's service in the Navy, I feel like that would just be too cliché.

Continuing her service to the parish will be our volunteer Parish Secretary, Carol Gaige. Carol is the welcoming face of the Parish Office, and she will continue to be a valuable member of the staff going forward.

This year, we also welcomed to the Parish, Deacon Abby Bee. Deacon Abby comes to us with a lifetime of service to the Church in various lay roles at St. George's in Clifton Park, and I am grateful that she accepted the Bishop's appointment to serve with us here at (the original) St. George's. After a little time to get settled in, Deacon Abby is ready to begin digging in deeper to serve and minister to our parish family.

As I think about the coming year, I am excitedly hopeful about new opportunities to grow in faith and love together as a parish family. Several projects were put on the back burners this year as we focused a lot of attention on the YWCA project. This year, with our re-focused staff and growing congregation, I truly believe we are poised for many great blessings ahead!

Faithfully,

(The Rev'd) Thomas J. Pettigrew, Rector

Parish Deacon's Report
The Reverend Deacon Abigail Bee

Happy New Year!

It's been about six months since you all first welcomed me into your community, and it has been a wonderful six months! This community embraced me, mentored me, taught me, and you have opened your heart to me in a way that has filled me with gratitude. I thank God for the abundance of blessings.

Coming from the "other" St. George's; (or 'outside the walls," as I have learned) gave me a strong spiritual foundation as well as a solid understanding of what community can be and can do with God's help. Coming to this new community has been a true joy. Serving in worship has been a steep learning curve, but I think I'm getting there, even if I am usually the only one who is out of position on the altar during mass!

Fr. Tom graciously gave me these first six months to learn your names (I've gotten most of them!), experience the ministries that you all serve, and very joyfully, share in your fellowship. And wow, you do great fellowship! I'll be working with your Christian education ministry in Sunday School, and I have been able to assist in doing pastoral care work with your team this fall. Your Facebook streamed services are seen by people near and far, and God's Word is reaching beyond the walls of the Stockade. The restrictions brought to so many because of COVID have also brought us the blessing of technology to reach out to people who may never have heard God's word or experienced the transforming power of faith in Jesus. We have all had to stretch ourselves and learn new ways to welcome others into worship while maintaining the worship traditions that you love and cherish.

I am so happy the bishop approached me and asked if I would consider leaving my childhood church home, St. George's in Clifton Park. I was ready to go wherever he was sending me. As Christians, we are commanded to love all. As a deacon my call commands me to be ready to go wherever there is a need in the world. Jesus calls us all when he says, "Come follow me." I am so glad I said YES!

With you in His service,

Deacon Abby

Senior Warden's Report

David Kennison

If there was a Top 10 contest for saints, Saint Francis of Assisi would be right up there. St. Francis (b. c. 1181, d. 1226) is a favorite saint of so many, one of the most "popular" of all the saints. You'll see him in gardens around the world, enshrined on bird baths and bird feeders. His prayer, *"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,"* is one of the most-loved prayers we know. He is the patron saint of animal lovers and peace-makers, associated with works of mercy to the poor and marginalized.

But St Francis grew up as a wealthy young man and lived a high-spirited life of wit, fine clothes and lavish spending until he ultimately became disillusioned with his worldly life and began to show compassion for others. He joined beggars at St Peter's in Rome and, asking God for divine illumination had a mystical vision of Jesus Christ in the forsaken country chapel of San Damiano, outside Assisi, in which the Icon of Christ Crucified said to him, ***"Francis, Francis, go and repair my church which, as you can see, is falling into ruins."***

Initially, Francis took God's command literally. He sold his possessions and physically repaired the crumbling walls of San Damiano and other nearby chapels. In time, he realized the call was not just about masonry, but a mandate for spiritual renewal. He understood he was meant to "rebuild" the institutional Church by preaching the Gospel and living a life of radical poverty, humility, and love. The San Damiano Cross remains the central symbol of this event. It is a Byzantine-style icon crucifix that depicts Jesus not as a suffering victim, but as a regal and triumphant figure of light (at St. George's, there is a San Damiano cross on the front pew, brought back from a 2011 pilgrimage to Assisi.)

What does it mean to "repair my church?" St. Francis understood it, partly, as a mission to restore the Church to a simpler, less ostentatious culture, where the poor would be welcomed and served; where the theological emphasis would be on the love of God, rather than the duty of the baptized to manifest obedience to clergy; where sick and suffering people, including lepers and cast-aways, no matter their faith or their allegiance to God, would recognize in the Church, not a building where they professed their faith but, in the words of Pope Francis, a field hospital where their wounds would be tended.

Here and now, 800 years after St. Francis' death and approaching 300 years after the establishment of St. George's, how are we doing? Are we welcoming the poor, are we keeping our worship of God in the forefront of our parish, are we working for social justice and, are we literally caring for the stones and mortar of God's house?

I could easily make a list of everything we do at St. George's and proudly proclaim that Yes, we are doing all of those things! We greet visitors warmly, we glorify God with in worship at least 5 days a week, on the Lord's Day we worship God with great gusto and ceremony, our parishioners give generously to the upbuilding of the church and our outreach to the poor and hungry in our community, we work to grow the church and spread the Faith and finally, we certainly spend a lot of time and money on our stones and mortar (and roofs and boilers!).

In 2025, we grew our church in numbers and in giving. We brought new people to Christ, part of the mission of any church. With great generosity from so many people, we replaced the failing boiler for Cranmer House, the LAST Boiler campaign we'll need to do in many of our lifetimes.



St. Francis of Assisi, Philip Fruytiers, 1650,
Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp

Most visibly, your Rector, Wardens and Vestry entered into a 5-year agreement with the YWCA to host their Early Learning Center daycare at St. George's. That was a huge undertaking, requiring months of construction to bring the 1958 structure up to current building codes, but our lightly-used building is finally in full-time usage with the sounds of children laughing, learning and playing. Not only does this fulfill our call to be a blessing to the community, it helps us financially by turning an unused building into a revenue-generating enterprise. Yes, it's inconvenient to set up and take down tables and chairs for coffee hour each week, but overall we are blessed beyond belief. St. Francis loved the sounds of little children!

Of course, we can always do more. But lives are busy, the daily round sometimes overwhelms us and we say "Lord, I'm just so tired". That's when it's time to turn to prayer and ask for guidance and for strength. It's then time to put ourselves in God's hands and remember his unwavering goodness and his unconditional grace towards us. Our responsibility to others, our love for each other and the trust - the sacred trust - that has been placed in our hands to be good stewards of St George's.

I'd like to think that every day, we get better at living into St. Francis' Prayer for Peace:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

In almost 300 years of history within these prayer-soaked walls - spanning parts of 4 centuries - much has happened. Those who have gone before have left us a legacy. It is now our job to do the same.

Thank you for being an important part of my life and the life of St. George's.

With great affection for you all,
Respectfully submitted,
David Kennison

A favorite quote of mine from St. Francis:

"The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today."

Junior Warden's Report

Paul Smigelski

The Outreach Ministry is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our community through the good works of the parishioners of our church. We seek to fulfill Jesus's mission of caring for the less fortunate and bringing his message of hope and love. Donations, having traditionally been our strongest mission, will continue to be wholeheartedly accepted for both the Sycamore food pantry and the YWCA. Our focus for 2026 will be to grow stronger with more acts of service and direct interaction with those in need. If you are interested in joining the ministry, feel free to contact Fr. Tom, Deacon Abby, or me through e-mail or in person any Sunday. You can also reach out directly to any of our mission leaders for information.

A year-long emphasis on donations to the Sycamore Collaborative food pantry yielded 5,636 pounds of food. Over the last three years we have totaled nearly 12,500 lbs., a tremendous accomplishment. Thanks to Carol Gaike for continuing to support this mission. We also assisted the Sycamore Collaborative in its annual summer lunch program, distributing meals at approximately ninety lunches Central Park in Schenectady.

St. George's continued to support the YWCA's emergency shelter program for women and children with regular quarterly deliveries of pillows, bedding, children's clothes, and personal care items. The Society of Mary leads this ministry.

Georgians were once again "ringing the bell" in support of the Salvation Army's annual campaign at the Eastern Parkway Market 32. Thanks to all the participants in this St. George's tradition led by Jon Pearson.

The "Loaves & Fishes" outreach is a Diocesan-supported feeding ministry housed at St. Francis Mission in Albany. This is an opportunity for firsthand ministry to the most vulnerable in the community, including children. We volunteer time serving food and distributing care packages quarterly.

A choral evensong was offered by the St. Cecilia Choir on Sunday, November 16th, at 5:00 p.m. The St. Cecilia Choir presented the Evening Service in Bb by Charles Villiers Stanford and the anthem, "The Lord Hath Been Mindful Of Us" by Samuel Sebastian Wesley. Mr. Mike Sacoccio, Executive Director of the Schenectady City Mission, gave an enthusiastic speech to those assembled.

This year \$1000 was donated from the Mission fund to each of the Salvation Army, Sycamore Collaborative, and the YWCA. A special donation to the Pasadena Educational Foundation was made to aid in relief from the wildfires of 2025.

We look forward to an active 2026. All our activities from 2025 will continue in 2026. In addition, we have been working to further our local connection with the Sycamore collaborative to include weekday opportunities for food sorting, packing, and even home delivery. Happy New Year to all who participated in the Outreach Ministry in 2025. I look forward to all the great works and ideas of the St. George's community in 2026.

Finance Committee Report

Dr. Jeff Wengrovius, Chair

2025 – GOOD NEWS:

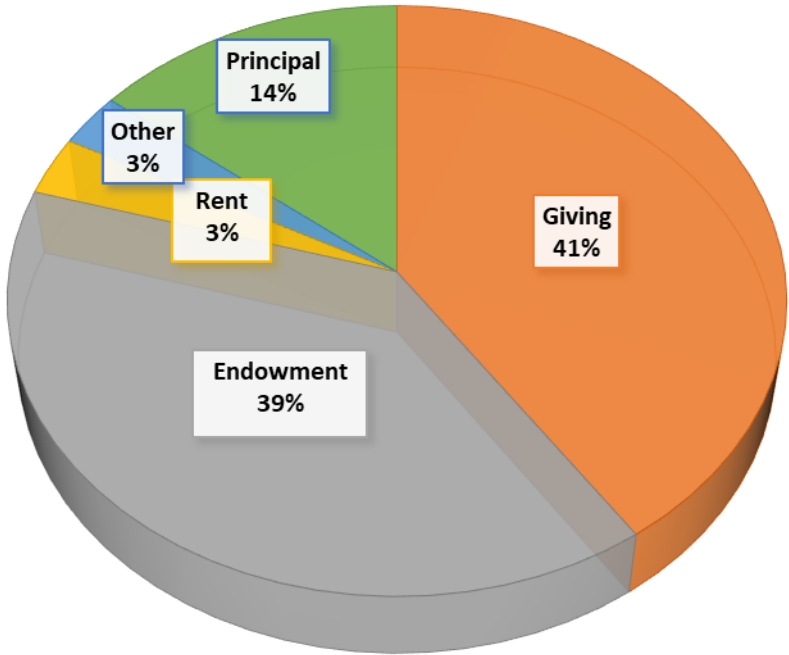
- \$0 taken from endowment principal at RBC.
- Pledge giving was almost \$140,000, significantly over budget.
- Generous giving for building improvements: ceiling, LAST boiler, and other projects.
- Endowment highlights:
 - + 13% growth in endowment principal at RBC. TOTAL is \$3.0M.
 - + First new contribution to principal in many years – The Wengrovius Legacy.

2026:

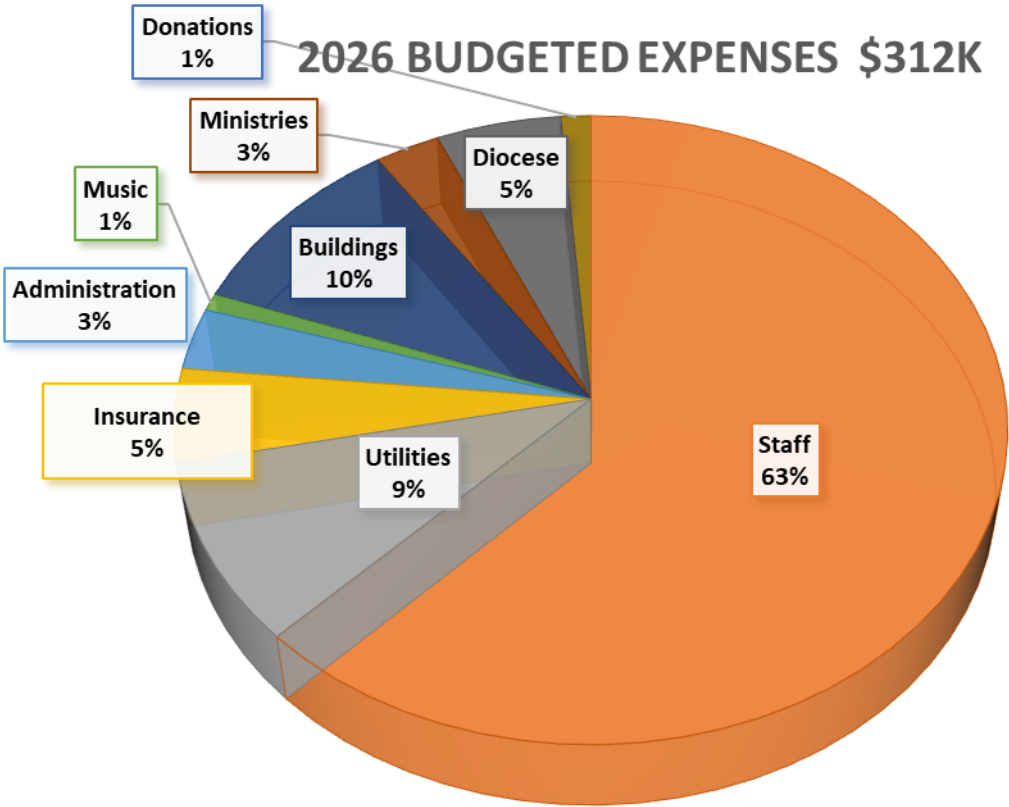
- 2026 budget approved by the Finance Committee and the Vestry.
- We anticipate needing about \$43,600 of endowment principal to balance expenses.
- Projected **income** for 2026 - \$312K (including principal):

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2026 BUDGETED INCOME \$312K



2026 BUDGETED EXPENSES \$312K



Director of Music's Report

Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO,

"He who sings prays twice." So said the great Church Doctor, St. Augustine of Hippo. Prayer and worship are at the heart of the life of St. George's Church, and the music for our liturgies is designed to enhance and illuminate the liturgical texts. Through congregational singing of hymns and service music and through choral selections offered by the choir for meditation, we are able to sing joyfully the praises and prayers offered to God.

The St. Cecilia Choir, the parish choir of St. George's Church, provides the musical leadership for our leadership. In their weekly Tuesday rehearsals they not only prepare the choral selections they will offer but also go over the hymns and service music to be sung in order to give a good lead to the congregational singing. Those interested and skilled in singing are invited to contact the Director of Music in order to join the choir.

The choir continued singing at all the Masses and other liturgies of our church this past year except for the summer months when they took a well-deserved break from their labors. This ensemble offered two Choral Evensong services, four Choral Masses and a chanted Requiem Mass for All Souls this past year. In addition, the choir began a new tradition, one which we continued this past week, and that is offering a Feast of Lights service for Epiphany on the Sunday preceding. This candlelight service included a procession along with lessons and prayers punctuated by hymns, carols and anthems. A second new initiative was offering a chanted Compline service in October. We hope to offer this sung office of Night Prayer again on a regular basis. One other highlight this past year was being invited to join in a diocesan-wide combined choir Eastertide service at the Cathedral of All Saints.

This coming year the choir plans to offer all that has been mentioned above along with a chanted Tenebrae service on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

I remain very grateful for the support of the choir and the congregation for my ministry here at St. George's Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian J. Taylor, Director of Music

Buildings & Grounds

Gloria Kishton, Chair

What do broken boilers, leaking roofs, and peeling paint have in common?

The Buildings & Grounds Committee!

B&G oversees the physical properties of the church. With five buildings ranging in age from 1759 to 1958, St. George's faces a wide variety of challenges. Our goal is to provide safe and welcoming spaces for worship and church activities, along with a comfortable home for our Rector. 2025 also saw the addition of the YWCA's Child Care program as a long term tenant in the parish hall, presenting new challenges and rewards. St. George's is also an important anchor in the Stockade neighborhood, welcoming worshippers, the curious, and visitors from near and far.

B&G considers best practices, historic preservation, and the church budget when responding to building "emergencies," routine maintenance, and future planning. Our core "Team" consists of **Fr. Tom, Sr. Warden David Kennison, and Jr. Warden Paul Smigelski**, with myself, **Gloria Kishton**, trying my best to coordinate. Reviewing the first year of the committee, I am impressed with our strong team: two engineers (think boilers!), a historic preservationist, and our capable Rector, who all stay in close contact, cooperating with other church ministries and individuals who happily contribute their unique talents. Many thanks to all our cheerful helpers!

B&G welcomes support from those wanting to help preserve our historic buildings and grounds. This might include expertise, knowledge, research, or pricing, on buildings, materials, processes, products, services, and anything else that might affect our properties. Notice something amiss; have a contact for better pricing; a contractor recommendation? We want to hear from you and welcome your constructive feedback and/or help.

2025 in Review

- Inventory and securing of church keys.
- Re-certification of fire extinguishers, auto-renewal. Completion of new boiler installation.
- Temporary repairs to several roof & gutter leaks.
- YWCA parish hall rental - coordination of building/parking lot issues.
- Parking lot - restricted parking, contracted towing company, signage, snow/ice removal, supplies. Grounds - lawn mowing, snow/ice removal, fall clean up, supplies. Coordinate with Garden Ministry. Inspection of Rectory (required by contract, for purposes of maintenance).
- Repair of exterior railing at northeast corner of church. Arranged for new washer/dryer for St. George's House.
- Green St. sidewalks - replacement started. To be finished in 2026.

2026 Plans

- Permanent repairs to several roof & gutter areas.
Completion of Green Street sidewalk.
- Window & door repairs.
- Preventive maintenance: wood doors, masonry areas, painting of church ceiling & other building areas.
National Grid subcontractor will be inspecting gas meters.

Ministry Reports

Hospitality

Sandra Hughes, chair

“The opportunity to show love and care.” Each week we invite parishioners and guests to join us after Mass for refreshments, to enjoy conversation, to learn, to exchange ideas, but mostly to feel welcome.

To that end the Hospitality Committee is responsible for:

- setting up, cleaning up and arranging food for coffee hour each Sunday after Mass.
- Organizing brunch/lunch for the Annual Meeting, Lenten pancake breakfast, St. George’s Day, and the Greening of the Church for Christmas.
- Facilitating the food and beverages for the receptions after Easter Eve and Christmas Eve Masses and many other “elevated” coffee hours and small receptions.

We work to support the luncheon/coffee hours prepared by The Society of Mary and The Daughters of the King. Our budget and the donation jar covers the cost of the coffee and sugar we serve. We rely on parishioner’s contributions for much of the food enjoyed each Sunday.

In anticipation of the construction being undertaken this past summer by the YWCA we met in April and sorted through all of the items in the kitchen and Great Hall closets. Items were packed and stored or donated. In the fall we unpacked and reset the kitchen being mindful of the needs of the Y staff. The kitchen and Great Hall are now shared spaces, the Shaw lounge is ours but needs attention. It is a work in progress.

A sign up sheet for donating food for coffee hour is located in the entrance to the church. Anyone who would like to be more involved can help with any of the lunches or receptions. Speak with Sandee or Carol and you will be joyfully included in the planning process.

Thank you to all who volunteer to contribute food, set and clear tables and man the dishwasher. Thank you to Brian Taylor for brewing the coffee each Sunday. It truly is a group effort each and every time.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Hughes

Acolytes: Acolyte [from the Greek "acolytos" and Latin "acolythus"- companion, attendant, helper] – it's not a word that easily trips off the tongue, is it? Yet, the dedication of St George's acolyte corps is crucial to the beauty of our liturgy. Our acolytes show daily commitment, enthusiasm and love of God that inspires us all.

Why acolytes? – The *Book of Common Prayer*, pg 322 says: *At all celebrations of the Liturgy, it is fitting that the principal celebrant, whether bishop or priest, be assisted by other priests and by deacons and lay persons.* But is this what stirs people to offer themselves for acolyte service? No, it is the deep desire to serve God at His altar, for that short time suppressing their self to worship and to God's glory.

Acolytes have an important ministry, which they approach with dignity, humility and care. In all things, our acolytes are aware that the purpose of their labor is "that God may be glorified". Acolytes are trained in liturgy, sacred vessels and vestments, decorum and prayer. In their duties, they are not sloppy, careless or stiff, but act in the simplest way possible so as to not distract the congregation. Theirs is a proud and honorable ministry, unique in that it involves our youth and adults, working side by side.

Acolytes hold St Vincent, deacon and martyr as their patron saint. Living in the 3rd century, St Vincent is remembered for his love, faithfulness and loyalty to God, his bishop and his Church. We who serve at the altar embrace these virtues as we seek to perfect our offering and to be as steadfast as Blessed Vincent. St Vincent's Guild, a worldwide organization of acolytes and lay ministers, has as their motto - **Amori Christi et Ecclesiae** (for the love of Christ and His Church).

Our acolyte team consists of altar servers, crucifers, torch bearers, banner bearers, thurifers and MCs. Serving God on the altar is a very special as you feel so close to God. New acolyte candidates are welcome and cherished so if you would like to have fun, learn, enjoy a new sense of closeness with God and enjoy the camaraderie of our acolyte team, see David Kennison.

Altar Guild: At St George's, the Altar Guild is named in honor of St Martha & St Mary. You'll remember in Luke 10:38-42 that when Jesus visited Martha's house, Martha became consumed with the work of preparations to serve Jesus, while Mary sat quietly at Jesus' feet to listen and learn, angering Martha in the process. In truth, both working and learning are virtues that Altar Guild members espouse.

The dedicated group of our Altar Guild, men and women, makes sure the altar area is clean, linens are washed and ironed and all sacred vessels are properly set up for the Mass and washed and properly stored after Mass. A talent for sewing is an asset, as there are always things that need to be mended. Several times a year, there are work days for polishing all silver items, washing chandelier chimneys and other tasks. The busiest time is prior to Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.

As written so beautifully by Josephine Smith Wood in her Altar Guild Manual, 1915, *"Before entering upon work about the Altar, kneel a few moments at the Chancel rail, and, offering your work to God, ask Him to accept and bless it, and enable you to do it worthily as unto Him. It is a great honor and privilege to be allowed to care for the holy things in God's house, and a devout spirit and reverent demeanor should characterize those who are thus engaged."*

If you would like to explore being a member of the Altar Guild, you'll be welcomed with open arms; see Anne Kennison.

Sacristans: To be sure, there is some overlap between Sacristan and Altar Guild. Up until the late 1800s, there was no concept of an Altar Guild, their present tasks being done by clergy and later by the Sacristan of the parish. When Altar Guilds came into being, they were first formed for men and only later were women allowed. It is not surprising therefore that the duties of a Sacristan and those of an Altar Guild do not have a hard dividing line.

At St George's, we enjoy the contributions of a Sacristan team, who normally set up the church for Mass on the Saturday prior. This includes preparing the chalices, cruets, altar frontal, books and vestments.

For special services, such as baptism, additional items and setup are required. All this requires a deeper knowledge of liturgical seasons and requirements of the church year as well as knowing what the Rector has planned for each service. Holy Week is an especially busy time.

Sacristans also manage the sacristies, ensuring there are adequate supplies of everything needed for Mass and other services, also keeping things neat and tidy, including repair and cleaning of vestments.

We're always looking for willing volunteers, who will be trained and scheduled into the Sacristan rota; see David Kennison

As we are all aware, this has been a very busy year at St. George's. We have had several new members join our St. George's Family. We have also had some relocate to other churches.

Membership does not only entail getting new people to join our church, it also has the responsibility of keeping records updated. It is very important to be informed of, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Confirmation, and Baptismal dates, phone numbers and email addresses. Please send an email to secretary@stgeorgesschenectady.org or call the office at (518) 374-3163 . The office hours are : Tuesdays through Fridays 10 - 2., or by appointment.

My hope for the coming year is to get everything updated to ensure better communication and acknowledgement on special dates. Please don't hesitate to ask me to reach out to an individual or someone who needs Pastoral Visits.

Wishing all of You a happy and healthy year !

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Gaige, Membership Chair

2025 was an unusually "normal" year for the Pastoral Care Team. It was normal because we saw basically the same people; the people we visit thankfully had less drama in their lives; until the recent up tick in flu cases, there were no major closing or restrictions on visitation by nursing facilities. We didn't "lose" anyone being caught up in the system.

This allowed us to be very regular in providing visitations and Communion. While this may seem like a minor thing to point out, believe me it is not to those we visit. They are very much aware if we miss a visit.

This year we saw the addition of Deacon Abby Bee to St. George's Staff and we did introduce her to those we visit. She accompanied Ann and I in December and administered Communion for our shut ins. Deacon Abby has a very personable manner and her experience in doing Pastoral Care visits was evident in the way she connected with Jamie and Pat. We look forward to more joint visits as well as her doing visits on her own in the coming months.

Given that we have Deacon Abby as well as Father Tom for leadership, I am hoping St. George's can do more by providing visitations and services with Communion to Nursing Facilities on a regular. While many facilities have chaplains available, some facilities have an unmet need for church services. This would be a great opportunity for members of the Parish to be involved in a very meaningful way. If you have interest and/or musical or other skills please let Father Tom, Deacon Abby or me know so we can add you to our team.

Our team is always looking for help in identifying members of our Parish who could benefit from visitations. We are constantly reaching out to those we think might need or want a visit. But we are always grateful when a fellow Georgian lets us know about someone they know or think would benefit from a visit. As always I encourage you to contact Father Tom, Deacon Abby, Ann, myself or the church office with the name of someone you think we could help.

The Card Ministry is another area where I am grateful for the help of fellow parishioners. Many of you have given me cards that I use every month. As our numbers go up, so do the number of cards that go out so please keep those cards coming. Also if you know of someone, and that includes you, who is not getting birthday or anniversary cards please let me know. We can always do a better job of keeping up with new folks so your input is very important.

I could not end an annual report without thanking Father Tom for his leadership. Nor could I ever forget my faithful companion Ann. She is so important to this ministry and the people we visit. On those rare occasions when Ann is unable to do visits, the first thing I hear is "Where is Ann?"

Finally, I give thanks to God for giving me the opportunity to do this important ministry, I have been so blessed to be able to bring Communion to so many parishioners for so many years.

THE NUMBERS

Visitations- 26

Communion Received- 24

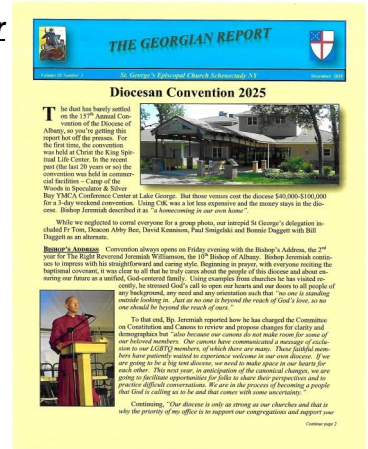
Phone Calls- 15-20

Cards Sent- 390-400

As we begin our 19th year of The Georgian Report, we remind you that it's published four times a year: March, June, September and December.

We couldn't do it alone! Our regular contributors, for both articles and photography, include: Meredith Ewbank, Carol Gage, Sandee Hughes, Meg Hughes, David Kennison, Gloria Kishton, Joan Pearson, Jon Pearson, Brian Taylor, Fr. Tom Pettigrew, and Jim Wingate. And a separate and *BIG THANKS* to David Kennison for his Episcopal Education column and his proof-reading skills which are invaluable to producing a quality newsletter with few – if any – (NOTE – the editor takes full responsibility for those.) Lynn Paska is writer and editor, and I am responsible for the photography and layout end of this ministry.

The Communications Committee is appreciative of articles, pictures and ideas. Don't hesitate to call or email with your suggestions. *THANKS* to *everyone* for another news-filled year of The Georgian Report.



All readers are welcome to participate in the church's "All on the Same Page" Book Club. There is no obligation to sign up in advance or to attend every meeting. If you are interested in the current book, please come.

In 2025 the club's theme was mysteries, and we learned there are many variations within that genre.

In January, the club hosted a parish-wide gathering as Father Tom's friend and fellow history enthusiast Anne Clothier provided a fascinating presentation on Colonial maternal health. The event was in conjunction with the club's reading of *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon, a mystery novel based on the diary of an actual 18th century midwife.

Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone by Benjamin Stevenson, the March selection, was a funny take on the mystery genre itself.

In May, *God of the Woods* by Liz Moore was up for discussion. Readers enjoyed this page-turner inspired by some true-life local events.

A spirited meeting in July gave animal lovers an opportunity to parse the messages offered by the quirky novel *We'll Prescribe You A Cat* by Syou Ishida.

The year concluded in November with a review of *Chilbury Ladies Choir*, a World War II tale crafted by Jennifer Ryan.

Looking ahead to 2026! The club is currently reading *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. Curious to know more? Ask Meg Hughes and please keep an eye on the Sunday bulletin for future announcements.

Respectfully Submitted,
Meg Hughes

From late April to early November 2025, volunteer Garden Ministry members—Jean Greenspan, Meg Hughes, Sue Jenner, Gloria Kishton, Kim Polner, Suzy Unger, and Barbara Wengrovius—met for work sessions two mornings a week. Sometimes it rained, often the sun scorched the earth. The ladies worked anyway. For an hour or two. Maybe five!

The only rules: 1.) Leave it better than you found it; 2.) Have fun.

The focus was garden cleanup, planting, weeding, watering, and trimming, yet somehow these industrious parishioners also found time to:

- Serve on the front lines of St. George's temporary exodus from the Great Hall
- Repair and maintain two popular community amenities (a dog waste station and Little Free Library) on Ferry Street
- Pot up and sell dozens of day lilies
- Oversee the work of professional arborists in the Memorial Garden
- Begin rehabilitation of St. George's neglected southeast fenceline (formerly known as "No Man's Land" and now renamed "The Dell")
- Re-plant two problem areas to hardy micro-clover
- Restore the archeological dig site in the Memorial Garden to a green lawn
- Replant Father Tom's herb garden
- Clear a jungle of vines from an unused alleyway just west of Great Hall

The gardeners are proud to say they use 100% environmentally safe practices, as we share the property with beautiful butterflies and other pollinators. Resident mammals include rabbits, squirrels, and the occasional stray cat, not to mention the humans of the Stockade who appreciate the churchyard's parklike aspects.

Firmly believing that service to the church and community should be enjoyable (not a chore to be endured!) the group made celebrations a priority, too:

- With temperatures splashing into the 90s on many days, meetings were frequently accompanied with iced chai lattes in the shade of a patio umbrella at Arthur's.
- On May 2 the group traveled to Glens Falls to view a collection of rare medieval paintings at the Hyde Collection, followed by lunch at Cooper's Cave.
- Jean Greenspan hosted the club at her lovely Clifton Park home August 27, where horticultural advice was shared over mocktails and luncheon on the screen porch. An inspection of Jean's extensive garden concluded the event.
- September 9, Jean, Kim, Suzy, and Meg were among the very first eager lunch customers flocking to the newly reopened Slick's 1804 Tavern on Ferry Street.
- Another field trip on October 4 saw Meg, Suzy, Kim, and Gloria taking lunch at Antimony in Lenox, MA, followed by a tour of Chesterwood, the summer estate and studio of Daniel Chester French, noted sculptor responsible for creating the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.
- Garden Ministry's busy 2025 calendar ended on a high note as they were treated to a luncheon hosted by Brian Taylor at the Rectory on November 21. This festive event was made even more enjoyable as Father Tom Pettigrew, Deacon Abby Bee, and Parish Secretary Carol Gaige joined the party.

Respectfully Submitted, Meg Hughes

The Order of the Daughters of the King

Meredith Ewbank, President

The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is a lay religious 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.



After a hiatus of several years, a small group of Georgian Daughters finally saw the reinstitution of the St. George Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King on Christ the King Sunday, 24 November 2024. Three Georgian Daughters, Lea Crow, Meredith Ewbank, and Gerri Moore, welcomed Wendy Madelone, as she professed her vows and was received into the Order after a 12-week period of discernment. In addition to these four Daughters, we now have two Georgians who are in discernment.

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

On 25 October, Wendy, Lea, and Meredith attended the Annual Daughters' Diocesan Fall Assembly at the Christ the King Center, where Mother Christina Hunter invited Daughters to ponder "The Year of Mary—Sitting at Jesus' Feet."

Currently, Daughters meet approximately monthly for fellowship and a business meeting. Women who are interested in more information about The Order may contact Meredith: 417-989-1256 by text or meredithewbank@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Ewbank, President

Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament **Christopher Henry, Ward Secretary**

The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament (CBS) USA is a devotional society, founded in 1862, dedicated to promoting reverence for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist through prayer, proper Communion preparation, confession, and supporting poor parishes with vestments/vessels, aiming for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It's part of a broader tradition in the Anglican Communion, with its own prayers and practices, encouraging members to live lives that honor the Eucharist, with its own prayers and practices, encouraging members to live lives that honor the Eucharist. The Eucharist has been an essential part of our worship at St. George's for close to 300 years sometimes in varying degrees but, within the last almost 100 years practically climactic.



St. George's is currently establishing a ward within the Confraternity as a further outlet for our parish to connect with the greater good within the National Church, and even the Anglican Communion, to share our love for, and be enriched by, that same love that others share for the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of Communion.

We applied for Ward formation early last June and were accepted with a small band of our own faithful but **membership is open to all**. Anyone considering should speak with the Rector, myself, David Kennison, Dr. Brian Taylor or Kevin Decker or follow the link below.

<https://confraternityusa.org>

While we introduced the Confraternity to the Parish early last June at Coffee Hours and a light luncheon on the Feast of Corpus Christi I'm afraid the rigors of summer took us all in different directions . It would be nice to reinvigorate our membership and bring others to the cause.

This coming June, the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament (USA) will hold its 2026 Annual Mass and Meeting at St. George's Episcopal Church, Schenectady, NY on the Feast of Corpus Christi.

St. George's has been honored to host the Annual Mass and Meeting which brings together the Confraternity General Assembly and Associates from around the country.

Thank you all for your consideration!

Yours+

Christopher Henry, *Ward Secretary*

Our Lady of the Snows Ward

The Society of Mary is dedicated to the Glory of God. It was founded as an Anglican society with the object of loving and honoring Mary, Mother of Jesus. We currently have 13 members.

We celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary on the third Sunday of every month at 9:15 a.m. with a recitation of the Holy Rosary in the Lady Chapel before Mass. This is a wonderful time of prayer and we welcome all parishioners who are interested in participating!

We also celebrate the Marian Holy days, honoring Mary, while also supplying assistance to the parish. We have hosted several receptions and dinners in the past year.

February of 2025, St. George's had a lovely Candlemas service, also known as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. The parish was gifted a beautiful banner in honor of Our Lady by member Kevin Decker. It was blessed at the altar and carried during the procession. The Society of Mary offered a luncheon for all after Mass.

We celebrated the Crowning of Mary in May, providing a lovely breakfast for the parish.

In June, the Society of Mary participated in the Stockade Sidewalk Sale led by Suzanne Unger, with generous donations from the parish. The money was presented to the YWCA which is our Ward's pastoral commitment. Each quarter we also collect many bags of children's underwear and women's personal hygiene products donated by the parish.

In August, the Bishop King Society joined us at St. George's for the Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin, followed by a special dinner at the home of Kevin Decker.

On Gaudete Sunday in December, we welcomed Bishop Jeremiah Williamson for his first official visit. After Mass, a wonderful luncheon was provided by the Society of Mary and friends. We want to thank all those who helped make the Bishop's visit and reception so successful! In addition to the Society members, many thanks go to Grant and Rosemarie Jaquith (who provided special refreshments in honor of the baptism of their grandson, Quincy Parseghian) and members of the Hospitality Committee for their invaluable support (particularly Barbara Wengrovius and Sandra Hughes). Kevin Decker generously arranged to donate all the leftovers to the First Reformed Church for their weekly lunches. They were very appreciative and sent a note of thanks to the Society.

Members of Our Lady of Snows are pleased to enhance the life of the parish. By conservative estimate, material contributions by the Ward in 2025 could be valued as high as \$10,000 or more (as compared to the cost of such festivities if obtained strictly through the commercial marketplace).

We pledge to continue praying and working together for the good of the parish in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Madelone, *Ward Secretary*



