



# The Georgian View



## From the Rector's Desk...



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**Office Hours**

Tuesday - Friday  
9:00am - 4:30pm

**Church Open**

Tuesday - Sunday  
9:00am - 4:00pm

**Rector**

The Rev. Canon Ralph  
Leavitt

**Honorary Assistant**

The Rev. Fred Tiplady

**Wardens**

Carol Spence Lord  
Muriel Eaton

**Organist and Choir**

**Director**

Dr. Erik Reinart

**Services Sundays**

9:00am Holy Communion

10:30am Main Service

(see calendar for details)

**Wednesdays**

12:15pm Holy Communion

*For we have seen  
his star in the east  
and we are come to  
adore him*

I wish you all a joyous Epiphany season. Since Easter is later this year, we have nine weeks of Epiphany to enjoy. May the increasing light of each day remind you of the light of Christ within you and of your call to bring that light to others.

A while ago I saw a cute "you tube" segment showing five year olds answering questions about Christmas. When they were asked what the Wise Men brought to Jesus there were several answers: a blanket, food and water, something to play with, a rattle, a bottle and some toys, and then finally, gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

I think all these gifts would have been appreciated. In the Spirit of Epiphany it is good to reflect upon what gifts we bring Jesus today. What do you have to offer Jesus in order to build up his kingdom? How will your gift help Jesus do his ministry? I am sure that Jesus will accept any gift you give him if it is from your heart.

Speaking of gifts, last year the Diocese of Montreal hired a Congregational Development expert to help all parishes find ways to strengthen and grow. Janet Marshall is our Diocesan resource person in this area. Janet already has helped the Diocese itself develop a Ministry Action Plan for the next five years.

Your Corporation at St. George's has met with Janet a couple of times and we have agreed to start a process of strategic planning in our Parish. When some more consultation has taken place, the process for this strategic planning will be presented to you at our Vestry meeting in February.

Then sometime in the early Spring we will hold a full Parish weekend with everyone involved where we will write down where we have been, and where God wants us to go. This process will help us focus on specific goals and make sure we accomplish them. I hope you will not only attend the Parish Conference, but also fully support this strategic planning process.

Janet is an expert in this field, and her leadership is most valuable. I should mention also that there is no fee for her ministry as her salary is paid by the Diocese.

I leave you with the wonderful words of Isaiah that we read on Epiphany;

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon  
you.*

Have a holy Epiphany season.

Ralph +

## Peace

“Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.” These are words from a hymn that we sing.

JESUS said in Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of GOD.” The question for me is – how do I become a peacemaker?

JESUS is the Prince of Peace and if HE is living in me and I in HIM, then I should be a living example of the way of peace. Sadly this is not always the case. There are times when negative emotions occur that disrupt my peace and these may cause me to act in unrighteous ways.

I truly do desire to be a peacemaker, so how do I proceed? St. Paul exhorts us in 1 Peter 3:11 “to seek peace and pursue it”. He also says in Romans 12:2 “to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.” This is a challenging scripture. I am trying to obey it. When negative thoughts and feelings come I do my best to replace them with positive promises from the word of GOD.

JESUS constantly proclaimed peace to HIS disciples, but HE warned them that the peace HE gives is not like that which the world gives, and HE tells them not to be afraid. (John 15:27) Again in John 16:33 HE-

says that “in HIM we will have peace, but in the world, tribulation, yet we are to be of good cheer because HE has overcome the world”.

Another scripture I find helpful is found in Isaiah 40 which talks of “mounting up with wings like eagles”. Eagles, I am told, set their wings’ in such a way that they are enabled to soar high above any storm that comes. My daily readings for the past two months have centered on adversity and suggested ways of coping in the midst of difficult situations. I have also been listening to a series on T.V. about peace and am learning of many helpful ways in which

to practice peace.

A good prescription for peace is given in Philippians 4:6 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to GOD”. This is marvelous advice but it is not always easy to follow it. However, if we do follow it, the next verse promises “that the peace of GOD which surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts and minds through CHRIST JESUS”. My prayer is that these two verses may be effective in my life and yours.

Amen  
Jane Wigglesworth

## Around St. George's Church

Have you ever seen the plaque for the Vera Davis Award? I would like to draw your attention to this plaque which hangs on the wall in the Boardroom. It lists the names of all the recipients of the Award since 1995, Vera Davis being the first. It is presented each year to someone who has given special service to the Choir and the Music program. Vera Davis was a long time parishioner who helped with the choir boys and arranged the dinner after the Carol Service to thank the Choir for their hard work.

This past year's co-recipients were Mary Sambrook and Tracy Davidson who were given this honor at a Choir Dinner held in the Spring at the home of our organist, Dr. Erik Reinart. We extend congratulations to them both and look forward to their continuing contribution in the Choir.

Leonora Dowker

*The Georgian View*

is the parish newsletter of St. George's Anglican Church, Place du Canada, Montreal, QC. It is published seven times a year. All material contained herein is copyrighted and cannot be used without permission. Submissions for the next issue can be given in at the Church Office, 1101 Stanley St. or e-mailed to the editor at ronmar@videotron.ca

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