



Lent 2011

The Georgian View



From the Rector's Desk...

GOD'S MISSION AWAITS YOU; IF YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT.



St. George's Anglican Church
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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

**Lord, sustain us in our
fasting and sacrifice
during these forty days
of Lent.**

This is the new banner that is hanging in the Church Hall. Think about it. God's mission awaits you; if you choose to accept it. Think about it again!

This simple phrase actually tells us a lot. The subject is mission, but there is a qualifier there; we are talking about God's mission. All of us in the church must remember that we are not out to achieve our mission, we are here to discern God's mission in this world. With the verb "await" there is a sense of expectancy, a sense that we have to go out and seek the mission that God has for us. How exciting. Finally, there is the object, and that is us. God's mission is for all of us, both individually and together. The second half of the phrase gives us a conditional clause; "if you choose to accept it". In the end, God's mission means nothing if we do not accept it.

What is God's mission? In a word I would say it is love. Or as Jesus put it; "love God, and love your neighbour as yourself". When we love God, and live in God's presence, we come to know through prayer and action what God's will or mission is for us. We come to know how God wants us to build up the Kingdom at this time and in this place. Suddenly our faith gets legs to walk on and achieve God's purposes.

This year at St. George's we will be spending a lot of time discerning God's mission for us in the near future. At our Vestry meeting we agreed to continue to work on a "Ministry Action Plan", that is to try and discern God's will for us

and achieve it. Janet Marshall, the Congregational Development Officer for the Diocese of Montreal has helped us get started in this process, and I am glad to say that our Council is now hard at work preparing for our Parish Conference that will be held June 10 - 12. Please be sure to mark off these dates right now. The Council has divided itself into 5 Mission Teams to evaluate the following areas: Mission, Outreach and Pastoral Care; New Member Ministry and Parish Fellowship; Buildings, Grounds and Site Development; Worship and Christian Education; and finally Stewardship and Fundraising. These Teams will look at where we are now, investigate "best practices", and suggest possible directions to go in. Their work will be presented at the Parish Conference where everyone's feedback and new ideas will be asked for. Please pray for your Council as they do this work. If you would wish to help any of these Mission Teams, please talk to Candice Young-Rojanschi or Sylvia White, the Chair and Vice Chair of Council.

Our Lenten Study will focus directly on Mission this year. So it will never again be "Mission Impossible" but rather "**Mission Possible**".

Let us all move towards removing the conditional clause from the banner in the Church Hall so that it will read

**GOD'S MISSION AWAITS US;
AND WE HAVE CHOSEN TO ACCEPT IT.**

God bless you as you accept God's Mission in your life.

Born Again

“Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth”

The words above are from the carol “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”. We sing them joyfully every Christmas season, but what do they mean? Jesus was born to give us second birth. Am I born again, and if so, how did it occur? These are questions that Nicodemus asked Jesus in John, Chapter 3. Jesus told him that he must be born again. He declared that without this new birth, no one can see or enter the Kingdom of God. He declares “that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.”

Do I have this new life and if so how did I obtain it? Yes I was baptized and confirmed yet I had no understanding of what it meant to be born again.

In my late 30’s I recommitted my life to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I began attending church regularly, I read my Bible every day and I joined a prayer group. Gradually it became clear to me that I was born a sinner and that as such I was spiritually dead, separated from a relationship with God. I realized that I needed to be delivered from this state and gain new life. I read in 1 John 5:12 “that the one who has the Son has life; the one who does not have the Son does not have life.”

I realized that the answer to be set free from sin and all the curses of the law was to have Jesus living in me; His Spirit joined to my spirit. Only in Him can I have true life.

How did I receive this life? Romans 10:9 declares “that if we confess with our mouth, the Lord Jesus, and believe in our hearts that the Lord has raised Him from the dead, we will be saved.” I took this scripture and confessed it and thanked God that my sins were forgiven because He had borne them all on the cross. Now I am redeemed, set free from sin and sickness, by the precious shed blood of Jesus.

Now, as Corinthians 5:17 states, I am a new creation in Christ Jesus, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new. It goes on to say that Jesus took my sin so that I might become the righteousness of God in Him. Do I ever sin? Sadly, yes, but when I do I am quick to confess and receive Jesus’ forgiveness. My new life in Jesus is a journey and I pray that daily He will change me from glory to glory. My desire is to be His ambassador and demonstrate His light shining through me. Amen.

Jane Wigglesworth

WILL YOU DO WHATEVER IT TAKES?

We all have a desire to achieve some level of success. For some the desire is greater than that of the average person. Let's face it! It is hoped that everyone wants to be successful but very few are really willing to be a part of a group who pay the price of doing W.E.I.T. ("whatever it takes").

Through attending workshops, seminars, personal coaching and simply learning, I have found there are a few key principles that *assist* us in achieving levels of success that we deserve. Success is an attitude.

For the challenge ahead for each and every one of us, I pray that our parish will come together collectively and will adopt a strong collective attitude. And I pray you will all join in and be a part of W.E.I.T. (whatever it takes) to create a Ministry Action Plan that will increase our numbers, initiate new programs, adapt and make the changes that we need to make for us to become that "successful parish".

Sylvia White

The Georgian View

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Our 2011 Budget

Mea Culpa

Preparing a budget for a church at the beginning of the year brings out all a Treasurer's hopes and fears. When our Rector and I met to review this year's budget, we talked of our hopes as we looked at our revenues and our fears as we contemplated our expenses.

Two things were uppermost in our minds. First we hoped that if we projected a deficit, it would be manageable. Second, we wanted to be sure that our budget would properly reflect our congregation's strong desire to do the Lord's work in our community.

At our Annual Vestry meeting on February 6th, I reviewed the details of our budget. The bottom line was a projected deficit of \$61,046. But this was after two major repairs, being \$24,000 to provide temporary support for the front portico and \$55,000 for a new roof for the Daycare Center. If we didn't have these extraordinary expenses, we wouldn't have had a deficit. That seemed like good news!

But alas, when I subsequently entered this year's budget figures into the computer, I discovered some missing salaries totalling \$33,324. They should have been reflected in the budget. I feel terrible to have made this mistake. Not only will our projected deficit now be \$94,370, but it will still be a deficit even after taking into account the major repairs. Next year I promise to have someone carefully check my figures before presenting them.

I sincerely hope that this puts all the bad news behind us and that things will look brighter in the year ahead for all of us. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our revenues were greater than those contemplated in the budget and I could lift my head again!

T.R Burpee,
Honorary Treasurer

Increase in Our Insurance Coverage

Three years ago, our Church property had an insured value of \$7,500,000 and carried an annual premium of \$17,000. The insurance was arranged through the Diocese and is part of a joint policy for all Anglican churches across the country. This is very much to our advantage.

Just over a year ago, a new valuation was made for insurance purposes, based on replacement cost. The new value is \$15,700,000 and the premium is now \$25,000.

Here are some of the specific valuations included in the above:

\$7,500,000	The main Church building
\$2,743,000	The Church Hall
\$2,016,000	Stained glass windows
\$960,000	The pipe organ
\$370,000	The Church bells

People who walk past our Church building each day must marvel at its exterior beauty. But it is only when they enter, that the complete beauty is revealed. Our plans for this coming year are centered on getting more people to come in to join us in worship and community. We hope that they will like the beauty of our worship and the friendship they will find amongst us.

T. R. Burpee

Thank You Bill!

On behalf of the Guild and the Parishioners of St. George's Anglican Church, we would like to acknowledge Bill Raso's enormous contribution to our Christmas Sale. He is retiring and has participated for over 42 years, quietly providing leadership - thus ensuring the success of our annual Sale. He always brought in a team of students to help out by bringing up the items (many, many boxes from the basement), setting up the tables, and then artistically decorating the Church Hall. He unselfishly took one week of his holidays to ensure the smooth sailing of this important fund raising event for our Church, and he was always there to organize the take-down and clean up. He always said that it was a team event, and it was, but we all know that his leadership helped greatly with its successes.

We are so grateful and we thank you, Bill .

Thea Drummond

“Can a Church Grow in Montreal? Yes!”

As a beginning to St. George’s searching out ‘best practices’ for our Ministry Action Plan, Father Ralph and five parishioners from our church attended a four hour presentation on Saturday, February 19th at St. Peter’s Anglican Church in the Town of Mont Royal.

Rev. Chris Barrigar together with his wife, two parishioners and the Music Director told the story of the process they have been engaged in over the past several years, and its successful outcomes, including a 60% increase in attendance at Sunday services.

Talks were given on ‘Worship’, ‘Music’, ‘Children & Youth Ministry’, ‘Community & Mission’ and ‘Lessons learned about Change’.

Our own approach will differ but the process that St. Peter’s followed should provide many useful ideas for us in the development of our own Ministry Action Plan.

Ron O’Connell

New Council

At the first meeting of our new Church Council held Sunday, February 13th, Candice Young-Rojanschi was elected as Chair of Council, Sylvia White as Vice-Chair and Vlad Rojanschi as Secretary. We thank them very much for accepting to work in these positions.

Outreach Dinner

St. George’s will hold the annual Outreach Dinner, for disadvantaged and homeless men and women, on Friday, March 11 at 6 p.m. Anyone wishing to make donations of cash, clothing or other items can do so through Sylvia White or the Boutique. All gifts will be appreciated and the Boutique will also make clothing available to our visitors that evening.

Ministry Action Plan

Defining Change

Our Mission Statement; Empowered by the Holy Spirit, **we** the congregation of St. George’s Church, commit ourselves to **extending** Christ’s Kingdom, through worship, witness and service. Mindful of God’s particular gifts to us, we strive to meet the need **not only** of our congregation and community, but also of those beyond.

The Ministry Action teams (see Rector’s Letter on Page 1) have been formed and the first step for developing plans is under way. **You** are encouraged to participate. **You** have an opportunity to influence the direction of our future.

In the first step, the teams will compile a profile of what is being done in their area of ministry; identify and describe the people we want to attract or serve with this ministry; and complete an analysis that involves identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as it applies to each of their areas of ministry. The target date for this step is March 20th.

In the second step, the teams will research the best practices for their area of ministry and from this develop a set of options for the parish to consider; the potential to bring people into relationship with Christ and each other, the potential to bring people to faith; and the potential to invite people into our community to grow and deepen their faith. The target date for this step is April 17th.

In the final step, the teams will make recommendations for the parish; identifying what is going well and needs to be continued or modified to be more effective, identifying new projects that need to be developed and, if applicable, identifying anything that should be discontinued to make room for the new initiatives. The teams will also determine the budget implications of their proposals. The target date for this step is May 22nd.

If you would wish to help any of these Mission Teams, please talk to Candice Young-Rojanschi or Sylvia White.

Ron O’Connell

MISSIONS SUPPLEMENT

This supplement outlines the various agencies supported by the parish and individual members of the congregation in 2010. We continue to encourage parishioners to give to the missions they are interested in, through the line on the envelope marked "Other Mission Giving". In this way, the whole parish receives a broader view of what God is doing around the world. Donors are receipted directly through the church.

A portion of our giving (40%) comes through the efforts of the Guild through its fund-raising projects (Christmas Sale, and Boutique St. Georges {also the Connie Kalder concert in 2009}).

All of the amounts noted here are for missions beyond St. George's and do not include the amounts we disburse within the parish on social assistance, bursaries and the like. In 2010, this came to \$1,011 (\$1,525), paid out of regular giving and Christmas Cheer contributions. (Figures in brackets are for 2009.) Please continue to give to these very worthwhile ventures both within and beyond our parish.

**This was the Parish Mission Commitment of \$15,000 accepted at the Annual Vestry Meeting in February, 2009.

This was the last year that the Parish Mission Commitment appeared in this report. At Diocesan Synod 2009, new financial rules were announced stating that, from now on, the compulsory administrative assessment and the voluntary mission commitment have been combined. Consequently, although we are still making a contribution to the Diocesan Mission Commitment, we are no longer able to record the exact figure in this analysis.

SUMMARY OF 2010 MISSION GIVING

Sources of Funds	2010	2009
Parish Budget	5,000	18,500
The Guild	4,950	3,237
Personal Giving	2,245	2,682
Other	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>
Total	\$12,445	**\$24,669

Distribution of Funds	2010	2009
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A. Diocesan and National Outreach

1. Parish Commitment	-	**15,000
2. Anglican Journal	550	350

B. Local Missions and Agencies.

1. Tyndale-St. George's	*6,785	*6,967
2. Diocese of the Arctic	30	55
3. St. Michael's Mission	580	100
4. Auberge Madeleine	680	100
5. Emerge	-	100
6. Fulford Residence	610	50
7. Mile-End Mission	265	100
8. Hockey Ministries	-	320
9. L'Abri en Ville	800	-
10. Old Brewery Mission	90	-
11. Chez Doris	585	-
12. St. Margaret's Home	550	-

C. Other Missions Overseas

1. P.W.R.D.F	920	1,327
2. Cuban Support	<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>

Grand Total	\$12,445	\$24,669
		**-15,000
		\$ 9,669

2010

*\$5,000 from the Parish budget, \$550 from the Guild, \$250 from the Carol Service, \$985 from personal giving.

(2009

*\$3,500 from the Parish Budget, \$2,367 from the Guild (Connie Kalder Concert), \$250 from the Carol Service, \$850 from personal giving.)