



The Georgian View



From the Rector's Desk...



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

Student Minister

Sarah Priebe

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*

The reason I like the Epiphany season a lot is because we celebrate the light of Christ in our midst. The Old Testament reading for Epiphany from Isaiah 60 reads: *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*" It continues; *"Lift your eyes and look around...then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice."* This certainly happened to the shepherds and the Wise Men who came to see baby Jesus. They all left radiant and rejoicing.

I think one of the best spiritual exercises we can practice is to realize that the light of Christ does dwell within us, and we should always be looking for how Christ's light can lead us in our life. Sometimes we see the light of Christ in others, and that is a beacon for us. Sometimes we feel the light of Christ within us, and we are guided by that. At all times it is the light of Christ that dispels darkness from our life, and leads us towards and into light.

During Advent this year I had a special blessing. I was at the altar rail distributing communion and blessing small children. I must say that as a Priest, this is a very precious aspect of my ministry. You might wonder what goes through my mind as I do this. Pretty well all of the time I am moved by the faithfulness of the congregation, I thank God for each and

every person, and I thank God for our community of faith. It is such a blessing to receive communion. And when I bless little children, I always want to squat down to their eye level, look at them and bless them. I give thanks for their parents' faith, and for the gift they are to this world. And it is amazing to watch the children grow.

So here I was distributing communion and blessing, when before I knew it, there was my youngest grandson Shaun Elliot, waiting for his blessing. Suddenly I was overcome with emotion as I thought to myself how precious it is to receive a blessing from God. And this was perhaps the first time I was passing God's blessing on to him. After what felt like a long pause I said: "May the light of Christ shine in you brightly and may God bless you this day and always". The first part was my prayer for him, and the second God's blessing on him. What a privilege it is to be both a Priest and a grandfather!

I reflected on this for several days, and realized anew how lucky we all are that our God's true desire is to bless us. Praise God!

This Epiphany may the light of Christ dwell in your richly, and may God bless you throughout the Epiphany season and forever.

Ralph+

Light

The prophecies of Isaiah and others have been fulfilled: Jesus, the light of the world, has been born. He has come to call us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). He calls us to be lights, to shine as stars in the midst of the darkness that others may see our good works and glorify His Father in heaven.

God lives in unapproachable light, but, He has enabled us to see His glory in His Son Jesus. Am I beholding Jesus the true light full of grace and truth (John 1:14)? Am I allowing His light to shine through me?

To reflect the light and life of Jesus I need to know God's word and obey it in the power of the Holy Spirit. Psalm 119:105 tells me 'that God's word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path'. Verse 130 of the same psalm says 'the entrance of God's words gives light, it gives understanding to the simple'.

Simeon recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior of the world, when he saw Him as a baby in the temple. He declared in Luke 2:32 that Jesus 'is a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles and glory to His people Israel'.

Paul and Barnabas said the Lord has commanded us 'to be

a light to the Gentiles and that they should preach salvation to the ends of the earth'. This commission is ours also. Jesus said in Mark 16:15 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature'.

I pray the prayer that Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:17-18 'that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ the Father of Glory may give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened that I may know (and fulfill) the hope to which He has called me'. I also pray that my light will shine and that others will recognize Jesus and come to know Him. Amen.

Jane Wigglesworth

St. George's Cabaret!

Plans are underway for St. George's Fundraiser Cabaret on Friday, February 24th, 2012 at 7 pm. Tickets are 15\$ for adults, 10\$ for students and seniors, and 35\$ for a family of four. The cabaret will feature our own musical talents including Jon Davis, Amanda Montaque, Tracy Davidson and Celine Giangi. We are in need of volunteers to offer to bring delicacies such as sweets and finger food. There is a sign up sheet in the church hall

for this purpose. Hope to see you all there to share in the excitement! For more information or for all those who would like to be a part of the cabaret in any other way please contact:

Jonathan Davis at:
jdvaisconcert@gmail.com or

Juliet Oppong at:
beautygirl_12@hotmail.com

New Treasurer Wanted!

When I became treasurer 6 years ago, I told our rector I'd be glad to do the job for 7 years. There was something biblical about the number. So, I intend to step down in 2013 when the 7 years is up.

The church will need to replace me and I am hoping one of you will take up this interesting position. It would mean becoming assistant treasurer at this year's Vestry Meeting in early February.

Over the next year, I will continue as treasurer and would be happy to work with you as you learn the role. A basic knowledge of accounting is required.

If you are interested, please speak to me and I will let you know what is involved.

Thank you.

Tom Burpee,
Treasurer

<p><i>The Georgian View</i></p>	<p><i>Editors:</i> Marleen & Ron O'Connell</p>	<p><i>Contributors</i></p>
<p>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</p>	<p><i>Office Support:</i> Carol Johansen <i>Mailing Preparation:</i> Robert Chubb and Tracy Davidson</p>	<p>Tom Burpee, Leonora Dowker, Ralph Leavitt, Juliet Oppong, and Jane Wigglesworth</p>

A Visit With Gordon White

Recently, a group from St. George's Church, composed of clergy, organist, choristers and friends, visited Gordon White at his new home, The Vista on Côte St. Luc Road.

With Erik Reinart at the piano, we sang Non Nobis Domine, the piece that Gordon used, as Choir Director, to begin choir practice. Gordon sang with us and it brought back many memories.

Ralph then presented Gordon with the Vera Davis Award to honor him for his years of service as Organist, Choir Director and Organist Emeritus. He is remembered fondly for his Hymn-Sings and willingness to support music at St. George's. Gordon's name has been added to the plaque in the Boardroom.

We toured his new home and enjoyed refreshment which he kindly offered, and we reminisced with him. His contribution to church life is truly missed.

If one is visiting Gordon and would like to take him something, I have a few suggestions of edibles I know he would appreciate.

Leonora Dowker



Heidi Selby

We were sad to lose our faithful parishioner Heidi Selby in December. Heidi was born in Verdun, and her leadership qualities were soon recognized when she won the top honour in Canada in the Girl Guides organization.

Heidi was a teacher by profession and taught all over the world including Australia, the far east, and our far north. She loved to see children achieve their potential.

Heidi was a very strong Christian who never stopped encouraging people in their faith. Even in her hospital bed Heidi would show doctors, nurses and guests a Teddy bear card that had a Gospel message in it, and she would ask them if they were a Christian. Conversation always ensued.

One day when a Doctor came and asked Heidi if she was afraid of dying. Heidi, even in a weakened state, sat bold upright in her bed and said; "Of course not, I am a Christian!"

Our prayers are with David, her husband, and her family. Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Ralph Leavitt

Envelope Giving At St. George's

In 2001, the average monthly envelope giving was \$7,667 per month versus \$8,285 in 2011. Some people worry (like your treasurer) that people may not be as generous today as in the past, but as these figures show, this isn't true. Here are some statistics for the first 11 months of the year:

	2001	2010	2011
Jan.	\$5,787	\$9,718	\$5,800
Feb.	\$6,565	\$7,908	\$7,715
Mar.	\$6,690	\$6,970	\$9,082
Apr.	\$12,181	\$9,419	\$8,285
May	\$5,525	\$9,788	\$8,550
June	\$6,159	\$6,586	\$6,433
July	\$6,319	\$6,582	\$8,143
Aug.	\$7,316	\$8,916	\$5,152
Sept.	\$10,318	\$7,994	\$14,330
Oct.	\$7,030	\$10,334	\$8,967
Nov.	\$10,448	\$6,253	\$8,686
Total	\$84,338	\$90,468	\$91,943
Average	\$7,667	\$8,224	\$8,285

Parish envelope giving represents only 40% of the church's revenues. The rest comes from rentals and investment income. In the past, there was a surge of giving in December each year. The amount we receive from our PAR programme is \$1,300 per month. This is the programme that allows parishioners to make their weekly donations to the church by automatic monthly transfers from their bank accounts.

So far, only a small number of our parishioners have joined the programme which is too bad as it has been so successfully adopted in other parishes. If you are interested, please speak to your treasurer for details. A number of our parishioners support special areas of activities and outside charities through their envelopes. This would include contributions for the choir, the altar flowers or major repairs. Examples of outside charities would include PWRDF, Tyndale St. Georges, St. Michael's Mission, Mile End, the Fulford Residence and Auberge Madeleine.

Donations to the Church or through the Church allow us and other organizations not only to survive but hopefully to reach out into the neighbourhood and be a blessing to God's people. Thank you all for your generosity.

Tom Burpee,
Honorary Treasurer