

The

Georgian

Advent 2004



**St. George's
Anglican Church
Place du Canada**

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

Church Open
Tuesday - Sunday
8:30am - 4:30pm

Rector

The Rev. Ralph Leavitt

Lay Pastoral Assistant

Miss Alison Cole

**Christian Education
Co-ordinator**

Barbara Hill-Bissonette

Organist and Choir

Director

Dr. Erik Reinart

Services

Sundays

9am Holy Communion
10:30am Main Service
(see calendar for details)

Wednesdays

12:15pm Holy Communion
5:30 pm Holy Communion

**That 'Love Thy
Neighbour' Thing
- I meant it
- God -**

St. George's Newsletter
Vol. 04, No. 5

VIEW

From the Rector's Desk...

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which you're Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility...Collect for Advent One, Book of Common Prayer

It is with this prayer that we start every new Christian year. It is the Collect for the first Sunday of Advent, a season of four weeks during which we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. It is a powerful prayer that urges us to do some serious spiritual housecleaning. Before considering what we must do, realize first the situation we find ourselves in. We live in a world where God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. He came, as the prayer says, "to visit us in great humility". God took on flesh. What a humbling act! This humility should greatly comfort us. We must also realize that what we are to do, we do not do alone. This prayer is addressed to "Almighty God", and our request is that God "give us grace." It is our heavenly Father who will not only allow us, but also help us to do this spiritual housecleaning. It is through the grace of God that we will be able to discern God's will in our lives. How reassuring. Also, our request concerns a limited time frame. We are asking for something "now in the time of this mortal life." Thank the Lord that we do not have to worry about what will happen when we inherit eternal life, but just about this time now.

It is with these reassurances of God's humility, grace and timing that we can now look seriously at our Advent petition, which "we cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light." It is time to seriously notice what is taking us away from the light of Christ. Do an inventory; is your prayer life in order? Are you attending worship? Have you done some spiritual reading? What is it that takes you away from God; have you fallen prey to some cultural idol? In other words, where is your spiritual life weak? Another way to look at this is to ask if you are in a time of spiritual consolation or desolation? Take stock of your spiritual self, and cast away what is "dark." In its place this prayer tells us to "put on the armour of light." I love the words in 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Yes, it is Jesus that calls us into the light, into his marvellous light. What light will He bring you to as you start this new Christian year? How can Christ help to clean your spiritual life? Read more scripture? Pray more? Reach out more? Be a better steward? Allow the Lord to lead you into his most marvellous light, and rejoice as you begin another year in your walk of faith. May you and all those you love have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season.

Ralph+

WHAT IS SERVICE? IT IS THE RENT WE PAY FOR OUR ROOM ON EARTH.

by The Reverend Robert Coolidge

Deacons are called to be servants, their ministry is called servanthood, and nowadays vocational deacons are required at their ordination to be already involved in or willing to undertake a ministry of servanthood chosen by them in consultation with the bishop and their colleagues and associates. There was no such requirement when I was ordained in 1967, but as I look back I can see that I have been engaged in servanthood ministry on a fairly continuous basis since 1950, when I received a lay reader's license from the Diocese of Massachusetts at the age of 17.

There will be another occasion for me to provide some historical details and a fuller account of my diaconate and the Diaconate in general. This brief article is about my first introduction to the concept of "service" in a religious context.

How did I get into this? In 1949, my school, a church boarding school in Massachusetts, was visited by an Anglican priest named "Tubby" Clayton. He was the founder of Toc H, a service organization founded in 1919 which once had a chapter in Montreal. He was also a Companion of Honour, a Queen's Chaplain and the Vicar of All Hallows-by-the-Tower in London. His purpose was to recruit young men and women to come to London, originally (in 1948) to help

repair war damage. They were called Winant Volunteers after U.S. Ambassador John Winant, and included Canadians called Osler Volunteers after Sir William Osler. I decided to go, and obtained a lay readers license as a preparation for my ministry.

The following summer I returned to London for a second year as Winant Volunteer working in a youth club in Stepney and staying at a Toc H hostel on Tower Hill. There I saw a lot of Tubby and became his official dog-walker. He took me on a tour of "Flanders Fields" where he had been a chaplain in the First World War. Talbot House was a refuge for soldiers which he started and ran for three years in a small town near Ypres. Toc H was Morse Code for Talbot House, named for an officer killed early in the war. Its attic was an "upper room", where Tubby celebrated the Eucharist for our group. Later, on a trip to Iona, Tubby initiated me into Toc H in the 13th century abbey near the cell of St. Columba.

For six weeks, in the summer of 1950, I lived in the rectory of All Saints, Poplar, in the east end of London. My duties ranged from painting walls and scrubbing floors to shepherding children on train journeys, carrying messages to Lambeth Palace, and door-to-door fund-raising. Much of my work was

with youth groups in the parish including a memorable trip to a seashore campsite. There were six full-time clergy, plus a woman worker but I occasionally got the chance to take services. Once I was even called upon to umpire a tennis match between two hospitals.

The title of this article is from the Toc H initiation ceremony. By coincidence, my school's motto is *cui servire est regnare*, usually translated as "Whose service is perfect freedom". Even before Tubby's arrival I served as an acolyte in the school chapel following my confirmation in 1947.

I am a retired Concordia University history professor, who has been ministering as a deacon in this diocese for thirty-seven years. I came to St. George's as part of the package from the Advent.

Bi-Lingual Christmas Carol Service

Friday, Dec. 17th
5:00 pm

It is a wonderful opportunity to share the meaning of Christmas with your friends and colleagues.

The Georgian View

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GUILD TIDINGS

by Bill Raso

Thanks to so many of our Guild members and non Guild members who helped to make our annual Christmas Sale a great success. Our four hour sale raised just over \$9,000 and we still have a few more receipts to come in! Well done to all who worked so hard to make the sale an amazing fund raiser.

The Guild had occasion, along with the parish, to celebrate a real milestone - the 65th wedding anniversary of Andrew and Ruth Stevenson. At our last general meeting Mrs. Doreen Lussier prepared and read a moving tribute to this wonderful couple while William Raso presented a photographic triptych of Ruth and Andrew prepared by Mrs. Betty Infilise.

The day before the Christmas Sale Guild members celebrated another important occasion - Andrew's ninetieth birthday. Well done! We are so fortunate to have Andrew and Ruth as very committed members of our Guild and as true friends!

The day of our sale brought a pleasant surprise with a visit from Mme. Marcelle Gagné. Marcelle was accompanied by her daughter, Concordia professor Hélène Gagné. Marcelle, who is the Guild's most senior member, has been recuperating from a nasty fall which broke her hip and a second fall which broke her elbow. Marcelle has been greatly missed in the boutique.

Also attending the sale was Mrs. Vera Davis's great granddaughter. Many will remember Vera's jams and jellies table which was a major booth at the Christmas Sale for decades. This sort of continuity makes the sale more than just a fund raiser.

At our next general meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 24 our guest speaker will be professor of music, Hélène Gagné who will present a video of her experiences in Japan. The General Meeting begins with the business portion of the meeting at 11:00am in the parish hall followed by our guest speaker at 11:30am, with lunch at 12:10pm. Non-Guild members are invited to contact William Raso or the church office if you would like to attend.

It was mentioned in the last 'Guild Tidings' that the Guild was challenging the parish to raise \$10,000 for the restoration of the nave windows. The Guild will match dollar for dollar what the parish raises up to a maximum of \$10,000. We await further developments.

Our Boutique St. George has had several phenomenal weeks with sale setting records. Do take advantage of our second hand shop which is open Thursdays from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

We welcome Fred Dowker who has officially become a member of the Guild.

As 2005 closes we can look back on a wonderful and most successful year. We wish all a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2005

Our campaign is drawing to a close and we will be publishing a final report in the next edition of the Georgian View. If you have not as yet sent in your pledge for 2005 there is still time. Please address it to Susan Madden in the church office or place it in the offertory plate on Sunday. The reason we are stressing pledging this year more so than in the recent past is that we must plan for a realistic budget in 2005. With an anticipated deficit for 2004 of over \$20,000 and increasing costs for 2005 we must have a more accurate idea of what can be expected from the parish in the way of financial support. Thank you to those who have already responded. To those who have not sent their forms in, please do so. Members of the Stewardship Committee are ready to answer your questions: Michelle Hakel; Nelson Mitchell; Victoria Netten; Betty Infilise; William Raso.

REVEREND FUN WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM



Congratulations to Our Newest Layreader!

Our newest Lay Reader, Amanda Foster, was commissioned by Bishop Barry Clarke and received a one-year Parish Lay Reader license this past weekend. The service took place on Saturday, November 13th at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Lachine. For the next year, Amanda will fulfil the training requirements of the Lay Reader program and upon successful completion, she will be



commissioned with a three year Diocesan Lay Reader licence and receive her scarf this time next year.

St. George's now has a record number of five Lay Readers, including the youngest Lay Readers in the Diocese. This past September, Michel Gagnon and Laughlin Taylor joined Victoria Netten and Joel Hardy as Lay Readers when the Church of the Advent became a part of the church family here at George's.

Photo credit: Tony Hadley

ALTAR GUILD & FLOWERS

by Bill Raso

As with most parish organizations the Altar Guild is seeking new members to assist with the preparation of the altar for Holy Communion and the care and maintenance of the vessels and textiles. We also need volunteers who would be interested in working with flowers and assorted decorations for the major festivals. Of course we also have the flowers for regular services which, when available, need to be suitably arranged. The time commitment would be once every seven or eight weeks, training would be provided. If you are interested in either of these responsibilities, or, if you require more information, please contact Bill Raso at 514-937-0200. In order to decorate the church for Easter and Christmas we usually appeal to the parish for contributions to defray the cost. This Easter will be no exception. If you would like to help please place your donation

in an envelope and place it on the offertory plate marked "Easter Flowers". Should you wish to send your cheque directly to the church office please make sure to clearly mark it "Easter Flowers".

You may wish to indicate that you are making the donation in memory of a loved one, or as thank offering so that we can publish the name or event in the Easter Day bulletin. Please remember that many of the potted Easter lilies will be sent to people in the parish who are sick or shut-in. So your donation will be a double blessing.

Our regular Sunday flower schedule has many openings available should you wish to place flowers on the main altar, the chapel altar, or the war memorial tablet. Please speak with Bill Raso if you would like to make arrangements or if you have any questions. Flowers add so much to the beauty of our Anglican liturgy.

CALENDAR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH EVENTS

Children's Events:

Sunday, November 21:
Church School (initial practice for Christmas Pageant)

Sunday, November 28:
Confirmation with Bishop Barry (younger elementary group practicing for pageant)

Sunday, December 5:
Church School (practice for pageant)

Saturday, December 11:
10:00 a.m. Dress rehearsal for Christmas Pageant

Sunday December 12:
Family Christmas Eucharist and Children's Pageant Followed by Christmas party in parish hall.

Friday, December 24:
Family Carol Service - 4:30 pm
(at St. Stephen's Westmount)

Youth Events at St-George's

Sunday, November 21:
Crossroads Youth Service - 7:00 pm

Friday, December 17:
Carol Service - 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 19:
Nine Lessons and Carols - 10:30 am

Sunday, December 19:
Christmas Crossroads Youth Service at 7:00 pm