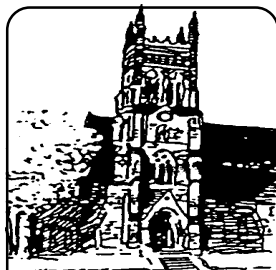


The Georgian

Thanksgiving 2007



*St. George's
Anglican Church
Place du Canada*
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Montreal, Quebec H3B 2S6
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Office Hours

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

Church Open

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

Rector

The Rev. Ralph Leavitt

Wardens

William Raso
Mark Diaczun

**Church School
Co-ordinator**

Michel Gagnon

**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
5:30pm Holy Communion

*Now, our God, we give
you thanks and praise
your glorious name.*

St. George's Newsletter
Vol. 07, No. 5

VIEW

From the Rector's Desk...

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, it is always a good time to take stock of our life and perhaps re-prioritize things a bit. Certainly, it is a time to list all the things that we should be grateful for. In actually taking the time to list these things, we can take a step back, be humble, and give thanks. For instance, when was the last time you gave thanks for the roof over your head? Or for the food you receive every day? Or for your good health? It seems in the rush of life that we often take these basics for granted. We shouldn't. We should give thanks to our gracious Lord who provides everything.

In a recent sermon I outlined three questions that I felt were essential for us to answer if we are to be good disciples. These questions are:

What have you given Jesus lately (this month, this year)?

What could you be giving Jesus that you aren't?

If you were to put Jesus first, how would that change your life?

(What would you start doing, what would you quit doing?)

These questions take the emphasis off ourselves and put the emphasis where it should be, on our Lord. In the context of our faith, we should always be asking these questions to keep us centered. To make sure that we build on a solid foundation, on Jesus Christ himself. Please take the time to answer these questions for yourself.

As you give thanks this year, I pray that your thanks will be centered on our Lord, and that you will listen for how you should advance your faith and your service to God's kingdom.

Here is a Thanksgiving prayer from the Canadian Indigenous Prayer Calendar:
Creator we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us, for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of the Sacred Circle through which all of creation is related. Give us the strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your Spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessings to you all,
Ralph+

Church School 2007–2008

By Michel Gagnon, Church School Co-ordinator

If you have been in Church even once since the last issue of the *Georgian View*, you are aware that there have been changes in our Church School. Melody Simms has resigned as Christian Education Co-ordinator and following that, the Corporation decided to run the Church School and other education programmes with volunteers, at least for the time being. Then, I volunteered and was nominated as Church School Co-ordinator. All that took place in the last part of August.

A New Structure

To get ready for the new school year, we formed a small committee which included the Rector and two other wardens involved in Education and in Christian ministry, Mark Diaczun and Wayne Rannie. We pooled resources, looked at the material that was available and then met with parents and potential teachers to schedule the year. We also asked for volunteers who are willing to serve as “guest speakers” on an aspect of ministry they know well.

As you see from the above, I happen to be the co-ordinator, but the Church School is the work of an entire community. We welcome your input, in the form of suggestions, new material, themes to cover, suggested guest speakers, etc.

The Curriculum: using the Lectionary as a basis and a springboard for our teaching

Our curriculum roughly follows the Lectionary, which means that we are now reading the Gospel according to Luke and that we will read the Gospel according to Matthew in December. We use the Seasons of the Spirit series of booklets which provide a reflection on the readings of the day, as well as exercises to help understand how to apply the teachings in daily life, explanations on the context, etc.

Obviously, our approach is tailored to the people we serve. Practically, this means we need to run three age groups. For instance, to cover the parable of the Lost Sheep on September 16th, the Young Ones looked at the context and learned that having a parental figure (in this case, the Lord) was important and reassuring; the Tall Ones acted out the reading and were questioned on its meaning; and the Teens reflected on the importance of depending on God not only in bad times, but in good times too.

Because we follow the Lectionary, it means that we will go through the New Testament in three years. It means that we will cover the life and ministry of Jesus and of the early Church. Some of the readings are great opportunities to teach about life as it was then or about the travels of Paul, for instance.

(continued on page 3)

The Georgian View

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Contributors

Ralph Leavitt, Michel Gagnon, William Raso, Melody Simms, Sylvia White

Church School 2007–2008 (continued from page 2)

But because we live in the 21st century, we will also use the Lectionary as a springboard to cover contemporary subjects. For instance, the period leading to Easter is a perfect one to learn more about the sacrament of Communion. We will use Baptisms and Confirmations as opportunities to teach about the commitment one makes on those occasions. We will cover the various liturgies, especially Morning Prayer and Eucharist. We will also learn about prayer, looking especially at modern forms of prayer. Why and how do we pray? And more specifically how do *I* pray?

All of this, I hope, will be in a relaxed environment, but without forgetting the word “school” in Church School. In other words, learning is important. At St. George’s, we believe *it is essential to educate children and teenagers as Christians*.

A Team of Dedicated Teachers and Volunteers

As I hope you realise by now, all of this is happening because we have a team of dedicated volunteers. Our teachers are (in alphabetical order) Joanne Bowles, Jacki Brown, Kevin Brown, Protima Nasir and myself. One or two extra teachers may come on board later this year.

Besides that, we asked for guest speakers at the August Parish Council meeting and at a committee meeting in September. So far, six people have shown a keen interest in the project and will be called into duty at some time during the year. One of our first guest speakers this Fall will be David Wigglesworth, and he will talk about Architecture: its evolution and influence on liturgy (note: subject is only partly defined at time of printing).

We Need You!

Right now, we have approximately 10 children and teenagers registered for Church School. And we can welcome many more ! So if you have an unchurched neighbour who is thinking of “transmitting their Christian heritage to their children”, why not invite them along?

And finally, the Church School is the work of an entire community. It is our School. We most welcome your input, in the form of suggestions, new material, themes to cover, suggested guest speakers, etc. And I ask that you keep the School and its teachers in your prayers, because it is with God and only with God that we will succeed in this endeavour.

In Christ,
Michel Gagnon,
Lay Reader and Church School Co-ordinator.

You will find enclosed our official 2007–2008 Church School brochure with this issue of the Georgian View. I invite you to read it and after that to pass it along to a friend. It is also posted in English and in French at <http://st-georges.org/school>

A Note From Melody

It is a privilege to write to you, not as your Christian Education Co-ordinator, but as a member of St. George's Church. My thoughts and prayers are with the church school and the youth group and I miss you all very much. I am however still around during the week as part of the finance team and will be singing with the praise and worship team at the Family Services, so hope to see you then.

I came across my favourite poem yesterday while searching through computer files. I am in the process of completing my certificate in Family Life Education at Concordia University and last year my leadership professor included this poem in one of her emails.

I have always loved it and apparently it was my grandfather's favourite poem as well (interesting as I never knew him since he died when my mom was 13years old). The poem is one by Rudyard Kipling and I would like to share it with you:

IF

"If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it all on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master,
If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings – nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And – which is more – you'll be a Man, my son!"

This poem reminds me of the beatitudes in Matthew 5. Like the beatitudes, this poem is inspirational, and motivates me to live a life that is in some way a reflection of my Creator and Saviour and which honours the Holy Spirit that dwells within me. I hope, that as we begin a new school year and say goodbye to the beauty and rest of summer and embrace the colourful display of autumn, that this poem and God's word will inspire you as much as they inspire and motivate me to think and do the right things and live the right way, God's way.

Faithfully His,
Melody Simms

"The Aging Hymn"

Sung to the tune of "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

submitted by Sylvia White

We've reached the age of sixty five
Our golden years are here
We're told that with these golden years
begins a new career
For now the Federal Government
Is our permanent cashier
So we can go bravely aging on.

We're not sure how we make it
But we live from pay to pay
With revenues fixed and prices up
There's always more to pay
And considering our arthritis
We can't get on our knees and pray
That we'll be able to continue on

Glory, glory, alleluia...

Our fantastic old age pensions
From Ottawa are sent
We buy a little food and
With what is left, we pay the rent
After that we're stony broke
And left without a cent
And we're expected to bravely age on

But first of all, we thank you Lord
That we are still alive
These dreams we've had, we really hoped
Would some day come alive
We'll just keep on a struggling
To the age of 95
Yes, we go bravely aging on.

Now as for our great medicare
Will someone tell me how?
The bills we sent for payment
You're right! They are disallowed.
Dental costs as most people know
They really disavow
Yet we struggle and go along.

So please dear Lord
give us the strength
our troubles to survive
For up to now we've had a good life
and we try to stay alive
With our medicine it's so difficult
but to you we give high five
Please give us the grace to continue on.

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS SALE

COME ONE! COME ALL!!

Our annual Christmas Sale takes place on **Thursday, October 25 from 11:00 to 3:00 pm**. Visit the Gifts Table, Book Nook, Food Gourmet (fresh & frozen) table, Plum Puddings Place, Couture Corner, Treasures Table, Paintings Palace, Linens & Lace, Crown Jewels Tower, Toys n' Things and Boutique St. George. After an exhausting tour of our GREAT CHRISTMAS SALE why not stay and have a delicious lunch – good food, good service, good time!

There is still time to prepare food items for our fine food table. Frozen food containers are available by speaking with Mrs. Sheila Brehn or William Raso. Baked goods are also needed and should be brought to the church on Wednesday, Oct 24 if possible.

Mark the date in your "must do" calendar: the Christmas Sale – Thursday, October 25. See You There!

FLAME 2007

The Diocese of Montreal's 2007 FLAME Conference will be held Nov. 2nd – Nov. 4th. This conference/retreat has been run annually in Montreal since 1988. The venue is the Manoir d'Youville, on Ile St Bernard in Chateauguay. The bedrooms accommodate one person and the excellent meals (buffet style) and snacks are provided at the centre's dining facilities.

The activities focus on prayer, music, and a series of talks, followed by small group discussions. All activities are built around an easy timetable designed for us to share and discover more about life with one another, in the brotherhood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The presenter this year will be the Reverend Dean M. Brady. His talks will focus on the **radical** nature of the call to Christian discipleship and the **communal** nature of that call. It is easy for us to underestimate the forces that influence us to conform to the patterns of the culture around us and so to have a rather limited grasp of the exciting call to be holy in Christ and to be agents and ambassadors of the Kingdom of God. Dean will share something of the vision of the church as a community which features relationships of trust and vulnerability that is a powerful instrument of human transformation, healing and empowerment.

Every year there is a time set aside for sharing how Jesus Christ is working in our lives. Once again, last year, the witnessing was incredibly awe inspiring.

There were four of us who attended that weekend and we had a great time! We encourage the men of St. George's to join Ralph, the Wardens and others who have already indicated that they will attend.

If you want to know more, please talk to Wayne Rannie or Ron O'Connell.

FESTIVAL of GIFTS



A Festival of Gifts
Archbishop Hambridge

Saturday, October 13, 2007
 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

St. George's Parish Hall

Cost: \$5.00
 Lunch included

Sunday, October 14, 2007
 10:30 a.m.

The entire parish of St. George's will be gathering together to give thanks for its many blessings. On October 13th Archbishop Hambridge from British Columbia is the lead speaker for the day as we celebrate a "Festival of Gifts". Archbishop Hambridge is an enthusiastic speaker who will also preach on Sunday, October 14th. Tickets for this event are available. If you wish to volunteer to help with this exciting day, please speak to Bill Raso.