

The

# Georgian

Pentecost 2009



*St. George's  
Anglican Church  
Place du Canada*  
1101 Stanley Street  
Montreal, Quebec H3B 2S6  
Tel: 514-866-7113  
Fax: 514-866-6096  
www.st-georges.org

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

*Church Open*  
Tuesday - Sunday  
9:00am - 4:00pm

*Rector*  
The Rev. Ralph Leavitt

*Assistant Rector*  
Rev. Robert Bergner

*Honorary Assistants*  
Rev. Canon Dr. Lettie James  
Rev. Fred Tiplady

*Wardens*  
Mark Diaczun  
Richard Lord

*Church School  
Co-ordinator*  
Jacki Brown

*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

*Open our hearts to  
the Holy Spirit.*

St. George's Newsletter  
Vol. 09, No. 4

VIEW

## From the Rector's Desk...

Dear Friends:

Pentecost has always been a favorite time for me. I marvel at the power of the Holy Spirit. I rejoice in the birthday of the church. I give thanks that the Holy Spirit is alive and active in our midst today. Happy Pentecost!

As we approach summertime, I am personally entering a time of great celebration. God willing, around June 12th my daughter Eugenia will give birth to our first grandchild. On July 2nd I will celebrate my 60th birthday. And at the same time I will be 3 ½ years cancer free. To give thanks for these wonderful milestones in my life I want to invite you to participate in two things.

First, the Birthday Party! On Thursday night July 2 at 6:00pm we are going to have a "Jazzy Night" at St. George's. We will have dinner together and then listen to some of the great talent in our Parish sing or play some Jazz. It is, after all, the 30th Anniversary of Montreal's Jazz Festival. The cost is \$60 for two people (I am turning 60!), or \$30 for one person. The proceeds will go to the Restoration Fund at St. George's. I hope you can join me.

Secondly, on July 11 & 12th I will be participating in the "Ride To Conquer Cancer". I will ride my bicycle from Montreal to Quebec City in those two days! I am doing this to say thank you to the Jewish General Hospital where I had my treatment and to raise funds for their Cancer Center.

I should also mention that Amelia, my "medical student" daughter, is going, as well as one of her friends, Kevin, who lost his lower right leg to cancer. We are the PTS Team (Priest, Teacher, Student)! If you wish to support this cause, please visit my personal page at [http://www.conquercancer.ca/site/TR/Events/Montreal2009?px=1806386&pg=personal&fr\\_id=1291](http://www.conquercancer.ca/site/TR/Events/Montreal2009?px=1806386&pg=personal&fr_id=1291). There will also be donation forms at the church.

I give thanks to God for the many blessings in my life.  
May the Holy Spirit bless you fully in this Pentecost season.

Ralph+

## SOME CHALLENGING WORDS

In John 10:10, I learn that JESUS has come that I might have abundant life, but I am warned that there is one who seeks to steal, kill and destroy. How do I enjoy the one and not experience the other? The answer to this question lies in my willingness to obey JESUS' words. JESUS has many challenging words which I need to obey. The following ones from the Gospel of Matthew are some with which I have struggled over the years.

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44) No easy command! How to obey? I try to see people as JESUS sees them, and remember that HE has created them and endowed them with potential for good. I ask HIM to enable me to love them as HE does.

Another difficult saying: ‘But if you do not forgive people their trespasses, neither will your FATHER forgive your trespasses.’ (Matthew 6:15) These are stern words indeed and definitely not easy to obey. Over the years I have often struggled with this issue. How to forgive when I don't feel like it? Really, it is not my feelings that count, but my willingness to obey. My prayer in these circumstances is the following: ‘HOLY SPIRIT make me willing to be willing to forgive. Empower me and enable me to do so from my heart.’ When I am not quick to obey these words, then I find that my health suffers and many of my prayers are blocked.

This third saying is certainly one that I pay special attention to: “Not everyone who says to ME, ‘LORD, LORD’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but the one who does the will of MY FATHER in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21) Is JESUS my LORD? Am I doing the FATHER'S will, or am I more concerned with my plans? I need to constantly consult the HOLY SPIRIT in order to know what GOD wants me to do in every situation. I am aware that GOD has a plan and a purpose for every person who HE has created. My desire is to discern HIS will for me and be quick to obey it.

There are many other challenging words of JESUS and I endeavour to be aware of them, and with the HOLY SPIRIT'S help, be quick to obey them. I am reminded of a line from a hymn – ‘Blessings abound where e'er HE reigns’.

LORD JESUS reign in me I pray. Amen.

Jane Wigglesworth

## THANK YOU

In my experience, the words “Thank You” have never had such meaning to me in saying those words to all those of St. George's, and many others, for their Prayers for my recovery from my recent sickness.

I fully recognise the power of your prayers, which have brought me, by God's Grace, to the present point of my recovery.

I have a long way yet to go and I feel very humble in the face of all your good wishes for recovery, which I am so glad to receive by God's Grace and for which I do most sincerely say THANK YOU.

Geoff. Cane

### *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

**Editors:** Marleen & Ron O'Connell

**Office Support:** Carol Johansen

**Mailing Preparation:**  
Robert Chubb, Tracy Davidson & team

### **Contributors**

Tom Burpee, Tony Hadley, Ralph Leavitt,  
Carol Lord and Jane Wigglesworth

## St. George's Treasurer's Report

April 30, 2009

### Financial News

There is not a whole lot of good news financially for the first four months of 2009. Our deficit has grown to \$34,000 compared to a budgeted deficit of only \$22,000. The two principal reasons are first, the \$7,000 net cost of major repairs, and second, the \$9,000 spent so far for the special study on the future use of our church buildings.

The good news, which has really put a smile on your treasurer's face, is that our Parish giving has increased. We received \$43,000 so far this year compared to \$41,000 a year ago. Thank you every body; please keep up the good work!

In the past, the first four months of the year were always bad ones. But then things tended to improve as the year progressed. This year, however, we face a total of \$150,000 in major repairs and we've only just got started on the work. It's going to be a tough year financially. Fortunately, next year, we have not planned any major repairs and this should help us recover.

### Lunch with the Rector

Recently our Rector organized a lunch to thank the staff and volunteers who do the accounting and keep the parish giving records at St. George's. This was a very special occasion for us and much appreciated. We really had a great time. Attending were Ralph, Melody Simms, Alphonse Pierer and me. Unfortunately Mae Wilson and Anne McGuigan were busy and could not join us.

### Open Door Shower – Progress report

Finally I am happy to report that we have raised a total of \$940 in the past month to purchase a new shower for the Open Door Shelter at St. Stephen's Church in Westmount. This organization provides meals and so much more for street people. Their director, Ramon Herrera, spoke to our Men's Breakfast group a month ago. We would like to increase the total amount we give them to \$1,500, so please help us by making a contribution through your envelopes. Keith Morgan is leading this project which is an initiative of the Men's Breakfast group at St. George's.

Contributed by Tom Burpee



Robert  
Bergner's  
Ordination  
May 3rd, 2009

## Visitors to the Holy Land

On February the 12th, a group of 82 from the Diocese of Montreal set off on a pilgrimage to visit the Holy Land, commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Synod of Montreal. The visit lasted 10 days and from all reports was a very moving and inspiring trip.

Parishioners Olga and Murrel Bovell, together with the Rev. Michelle Eason and her husband Lorne, were among those on the pilgrimage. They have shared their experiences both by way of personal conversations and a formal presentation, including slides, given by Michelle and her husband, at the Parish Breakfast held May 9. When Michelle ended her presentation she commented that it will take several months to absorb such a journey, and we the onlookers fully agreed.

A quick overview of the places that they visited in the Holy Land include Jaffa, Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Sea of Galilee, Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Cana, Nazareth, Jordan river, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Dead sea, Masada, Via Dolorosos and so on. The many religious shrines which formed the main focus of the trip provided occasions to meditate on the scriptures and renew sacred vows. Special moments to remember were: the boat trip on the Sea of Galilee (actually a lake) early in the morning where the motor was cut and a small service was held....silence, as some reflected, 'Lord how did you walk on the water?'; the service held in the wedding chapel at Cana, in a beautiful Catholic church where many took the opportunity to renew their wedding vows, while remembering the first miracle of Jesus when he turned wine into water at the wedding feast; the city of Nazareth, now a busy city, where the Church of the Annunciation is located, and where old olive trees, almond trees, a typical carpentry shop and a shepherd tending his flock of sheep were special memories of that city; the Jordan river, where some of the pilgrims, robed in white gowns, (official requirement) dipped in the cold water and where a short service was held.

In Jerusalem they saw the gate Jesus used to enter the city on Palm Sunday, the garden of Gethsemane, and many shrines in modern Jerusalem commemorating Jewish history. A poignant one is in memory of the children who died in the holocaust, where the names are read out, and to hear all the names you would have to stand there for 8 months. A visit to Bethlehem, which is in Palestinian occupied territory, required that the pilgrims disembark from their tour bus, go through border examination before entering Old Jerusalem, then continuing their pilgrimage with a new tour guide and bus provided from within Old Jerusalem. In Nazareth the highlight was the visit to the Church of the Nativity, described as the oldest Church in the world, which is very ornate with silver and gold decorations. Outside of Jerusalem, they visited Golgotha and some of the desert area where agricultural activity can be seen. It was here that they met a Bedouin boy with his camel and many took the opportunity to have a short ride. At Qumran, on the shores of the Dead Sea, they saw where the famous Dead Sea scrolls were discovered.

On the return to Jerusalem, they visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Via Dolorosa where Jesus is said to have carried his cross. The trip ended with a visit to the Anglican cathedral of St. George's in Jerusalem and evensong.

For Murrell, her cherished image is that of the shepherd with his sheep; whereas Olga, as she visited Bethlehem, felt a special connection and describes it as soft, beautiful and familiar. For those of us hoping to go to the Holy Land, let's hope these witnesses bring us closer to making our own pilgrimage.

Contributed by Carol Lord