

“by George!”

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The “by George!” is published in September, November, January, March, and May. All articles are welcome; electronic submissions are appreciated.

The “by George!” would not be possible without the assistance of many parishioners. Thanks!

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January 2008

WINTER EDITION

Sunny January

We’re quick to notice January. It’s our coldest month with average temperatures of about -17 C. The heating bills are high, the roads are slippery, and there’s too much snow. We don’t always realize Winnipeg has the sunniest winters in Canada and some places get over four times as much snow.

Winter had no months in the original Roman calendar. January was added so elections and ceremonies could be completed before spring military campaigning began. January is named for Janus, the mythological Roman god of the doorway. January is the doorway to the new year. Our word for caretaker of doors and halls, janitor, has similar roots.

Northern languages tend to give January names with negative translations e.g. wolf month, cold month, the heart of winter, and ice month. January is a little different for our southern neighbours in South Africa, Chile, and Australia. They are often celebrating the success of the grape crops in their warm January summer.

January has many special events throughout the world including Handsel Monday in Scotland, Plough Sunday in England, and the Christian Epiphany and Twelfth Night.

The next edition of “by George!” will be in March. Please gather your thoughts and submit your articles by the March 2nd deadline.

Enjoy our winter sunshine!

Ted Cotton

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE UPCOMING DATES**Within our Parish Church of St. George, Crescentwood:**

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| January 22, 2008 | Worship Committee | 7:30 PM |
| January 23, 2008 | Wed AM Eucharist & breakfast | 7:00 AM |
| January 23, 2008 | Parish Council | 7:30 PM |
| January 27, 2008 | Epiphany 3 - Morning Prayer | 8:30 am & 10:30 am |
| | Anniversary Hymn Sing | 2:30 PM |
| January 29, 2008 | Stewardship Committee | 7:30 PM |
| January 30, 2008 | Wed AM Eucharist & breakfast | 7:00 AM |
| February 3, 2008 | Epiphany 4 - Sung Eucharist | 8:30 am & 10:30 am |
| February 5, 2008 | Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Tuesday | 5:00 PM |
| February 6, 2008 | ASH WEDNESDAY Wed AM Eucharist & breakfast | 7:00 AM |
| | ASH WEDNESDAY Service | 7:30 PM |
| February 10, 2008 | LENT 1 - Sung Eucharist | 8:30 am & 10:30 am |
| February 10, 2008 | Parish Annual General Meeting | 12:30 PM |
| February 13, 2008 | Wed AM Eucharist & breakfast | 7:00 AM |
| February 17, 2008 | LENT 2 - Sung Eucharist | 8:30 am & 10:30 am |
| February 20, 2008 | M & M Volunteer Recognition - tentative | |
| February 23, 2008 | Stewardship Committee Exhibit Set Up | 1:00 PM |
| February 24, 2008 | LENT 3 - Morning Prayer | 8:30 am & 10:30 am |
| | Stewardship Time and Talent Displays | noon |
| February 24, 2008 | Choral Evensong | 4:00 PM |
| March 2, 2008 | LENT 4 - Sung Eucharist | 8:30 am & 10:30 am |
| | <i>"By George"! Deadline Today</i> | |
| | <i>Time & Talent Sunday (Stewardship)</i> | |
| March 9, 2008 | LENT 5 - Sung Eucharist- PASSION PLAY | 8:30 am & 10:30 am |
| March 15, 2008 | PALM CROSS MAKING | 10:00 AM |
| March 15, 2008 | SERVERS Rehearsing | 10:00 AM |
| March 16, 2008 | PALM SUNDAY | 8:30 am & 10:30 am |
| | <i>"By George!" PICK UP TODAY</i> | |
| March 20, 2008 | Maundy Thurs Pot Luck Supper | 6:00 PM |
| | MAUNDY THURSDAY | 7:30 PM |
| March 21, 2008 | GOOD FRIDAY | |
| March 21, 2008 | STATIONS OF THE CROSS | 9:15 AM |
| March 21, 2008 | WAY OF THE CROSS SERVICE | 10:30 AM |
| March 23, 2008 | EASTER DAY - Sung Eucharist | 8:30 am & 10:30 am |
| March 30, 2008 | EASTER 2 - Sung Eucharist | 8:30 am & 10:30 am |
| | Thelma Wynne Baby Shower | Noon |
| April 2, 2008 | Garage Sale Set Up | |
| April 3, 2008 | Garage Sale Set Up | |
| April 4, 2008 | Garage Sale Set Up | |
| April 5, 2008 | Annual Garage Sale | 9:00 AM |

In the Broader Community:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Jan 29, 2008 | Difficult Conversations - St. George, Crescentwood |
| April 11 – 12, 2008 | AFP Diocesan Prayer Conference – St. Stephen's |
| November 6 - 8, 2008 | Synod - opening service at St. John's Cathedral |

YOUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES ...

Another New Beginning

Well, Christmas is past and the baby is born and now all the fun begins. We start losing sleep over the extra work that's involved. We have lots of new skills to learn. There's extra stuff to do and extra things to coordinate with all the other stuff that was already a part of our life. Gee, it sounds like the beginning of our anniversary year. There are special events and there are new dreams and possibilities as we reflect on the last 125 years and look forward to the future. We'll be doing a great job this year of remembering, and reflecting on, the past. We'll celebrate who we have been and who we are in this place - in this parish here in this part of Winnipeg.

Christmas is a time when we remember that the Sacred Life and Love is in us all. Epiphany is a time when we call to mind that we are called to reflect that Sacred Life and Love into the world around us. But how do we do this? How have we done this in the past? And how do we plan to do this in the future? In conversations with some of the members of St. George's I've talked about what it is that we have to offer that nobody else does. What is our basic purpose and where is that to take us into the future? What activities and events and outreach will be the stuff of fulfilling our purpose in the future? WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE? I guess that's the first question?

In all the great work that was done during the interim time, when you were lead by Donna Joy, there were gatherings of people who worked hard at articulating who the parish of St. George is. This work has been very helpful to me and to the whole leadership team of this parish as we get to know each other and begin to discern the needs of the future. There are many aspects of this congregation that are functioning well and there are some that are functioning, but will need some new leadership in the future and there are some aspects that may need to transition into new an exciting ministries and there may be some that are no longer needed. Now, before you get all worried just stop a minute and think about the kinds of things that this parish has done in the past, and the kinds of things that are new, and the kinds of things that are no longer needed. It is very helpful at this important historical milestone that we have done a great deal of work at taking stock of who we are and what our needs are.

Let me remind you at this point of our mission statement which, I am told, has been a part of this parish community for a long time. It is:

To encourage spiritual growth, Christian living, and a sense of belonging so that we can provide a warm and nurturing focal point for worship, Christian education and outreach in our community and the world, all to the glory of God.

This is a pretty good mission statement. It says that we are committed to engaging in spiritual growth exercises. Are we? It says that we are committed to living a lifestyle that intentionally follows the example and teaching of Jesus. Are we? It says that we are committed to creating a community of belonging, a community that is open and welcoming. Are we? This mission statement says that our commitment to these ways of being followers of Jesus will provide a compassionate atmosphere for worship and liturgy, for doing the work of collective prayer and song. Does it? This mission

statement says that our commitment to these ways of being followers of Jesus will provide opportunities to learn, discern and grow together. Does it? This mission statement says that our commitment to these ways of being followers of Jesus will call us out to serve our community and the world, to be compassionate nurturers of peace and wholeness. Does it? And finally this mission statement says that all that we do is for the glory of God. Is it? Is all we do in order to experience the profound Sacred Love and Life that permeates our whole being and is all we do in order to help others to experience that same profound Sacred Love and Life? Yes, this is a pretty good mission statement. But does it direct all that we are and all that we have to offer as members of the body of Christ here in this place?

Anniversaries and new beginnings are opportunities to take stock and to begin to dream again. Please don't be afraid to dream. Please don't be afraid of the future. I'm saying this for myself as much as for you. Let's continue to journey together following Jesus into the future. Let's remember our mission. OK, I know your saying it's too long to remember. So this is what I do. I remember the key activities of the first few phrases. I remember "Growing, Living, Belonging." If all that we do promotes growth, life and belonging, then I think we will be fulfilling our mission as followers of Jesus. So remember "Growing, Living, Belonging." May every decision we make, every action we take and every thought that we have contribute to GROWING, LIVING and BELONGING.

Peace,
Lyndon



ST. GEORGE'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH

THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION

Time is better spent welcoming the new year than lamenting about the old year.

PRAYERS FOR THE BANNERS – JANUARY 6, 2008

On the retirement of the St. George's Sunday School Banner:

Let us pray:

God of the past, the present and the future, we give thanks for the hands that made this St. George's Sunday School Banner many years ago. We give thanks for the work and life of all the people who have gone before, following this banner as a symbol of their journey in life as followers of Christ. As we retire this banner today, and hang it in the chapel, may we continue to build on the foundation that was created in the Sunday School programs and in the whole of the ministry that has happened in this part of the body of Christ over the past 125 years. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus whom we follow from the past into the future, now and forever. **Amen.**

On the dedication of the Anniversary Banner:

Let us pray:

God of the past, the present and the future, we give thanks for the hands that made this new St. George's. We give thanks for the life and work of Rosalind Hudson and Kathleen Thistlethwaite in whose memory this banner is offered. We give thanks for the work and life of all the people who are here today. As we follow this banner in our processions may it be a symbol of our journey in life as followers of Christ, as people filled with Sacred life and love. As we dedicate this new banner and begin our anniversary year, may we continue to build on the foundation of the whole of the ministry that has happened in this part of the body of Christ over the past 125 years. May we become creative visionaries for the future of the body of Christ in this place working to discern how it is that we are called to build a community of compassion and life in our world. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus whom we follow from the past into the future, now and forever. **Amen.**

Peace,
Lyndon

THE 50TH AND 125TH ANNIVERSARIES OF ST GEORGE'S IN 2008

On September 19th 1883 St George's Parish was formed out of Holy Trinity and old Christ Church parishes. The first church building was at Lydia and William and was dedicated by Archbishop Machray. In 1894 the parish moved to Isabel and Bannatyne. In 1916, the site at Grosvenor and Wilton was purchased and a new church building was built. Various additions followed, and in 1954 a decision was made to rebuild the church building.

March 31st 1958 (Palm Sunday) the first service in the present building was held. Thus in 2008 we are celebrating our 125th Anniversary as a parish and the 50th Anniversary of the present church building.

On January 6th, our new banner was dedicated to Kit Thistlethwaite and her daughter Rosalind Hudson. This banner replaced the old St George's banner, which has been retired to the Chapel. Please plan to attend and to invite friends and former members to other Anniversary events.

On January 27th at 2.30 p.m. we are having a hymn sing when the old favourites will be sung. It will be a journey through the years and through the liturgical year of hymns sung in our church.

In April there will be a display of the vestments produced by our members, culminating on April 20th with an Evensong followed by a sherry reception to commemorate our 50th Anniversary.

Mark your diaries September 20th for our Anniversary Dinner, which will be at the Caboto Centre, and September 21st for the Celebratory Eucharist at the 10.30 service, followed by a light lunch.

Our Anniversary Tea will be held on October 18th. Parishioners will be asked to bring their wedding dresses, baptismal robes etc. - this will be a trip down memory lane.

This year will also see us partaking of the Shrove Tuesday Supper on February 5th, and there will also be Two Bird dinners during the next two months.

It will be a year of celebrations and reconnection with our past, present and hopes for the future.

Friendship Club 1963 Onwards

I moved to St. George's in 1963 when we moved into 261 Harvard Ave.

It was held once a month with many of our parishioners in attendance as well as a group from McKinnon House on Cambridge. Some of the members who came were Shirley Nixon's parents from McKinnon House, Harvey Scrivener's grandfather and father, Jack Stevenson's grandfather, Ruby Buddick, Mary Ledger, Constance Virtue, and many more.

We had tea, coffee, and entertainment every afternoon. The entertainment was varied – school choirs from Grosvenor and Kelvin as well as a special group from Gordon Bell, travelogues given by John Deacon, groups of dancers, and other talented groups.

It was a very happy time for many of us and well worth the effort of driving them.

Jane Frain

The Demise of St. George's Friendship Club

Jim's first volunteer job after retiring in 1988 was to help in co-ordinating the Friendship Club.

O'Dare Gunn and Rowena Cartwright had worked with the group for several years. They continued to help us and act as drivers.

The group met once a month. There was a program, then an afternoon of Bingo. We finally determined many of the people spent every afternoon going from one place to another playing Bingo!

Most of the people that the volunteers picked up were from Osborne Village and other areas. There were only two or three parishioners that attended.

Never having worked with such a group before, we found it quite different. Some of the people weren't comfortable with others in the group. When contacted each month to see if they would be attending, you might hear "I don't want to ride in the same car as so and so!"

After a couple years, we both moved on to other ways of helping out at St. George's.

Jim and Fay Alward

Reflections on the "Old Ways

My father, Frank, was transferred to Winnipeg from eastern Canada in the late 1920s.

Along with my father, my family consisted of my mother, Edith, brother, Frank, and sister, Lenore. Frank and Lenore were teenagers. I was the youngest, a preschooler.

We lived on Yale Avenue for a short time and attended St. George's. After moving to another part of Winnipeg, we still attended St. George's.

My sister, Lenore, taught Sunday School and I was in her class, much to her dismay, I am sure.

I was confirmed at St. George's in 1939. Bishop Martin, who was Canon Martin at the time, conducted the Confirmation classes. He had a good sense of humour, which made the classes enjoyable as well as interesting.

The Confirmation service was held in the "old" St. George's church. It was quite different in appearance from the present church. There was a lot of dark wood. However, the beautiful stained glass window, now in the present church (donated by the Wilson family) dominated the front of the church. It is enjoyable looking at this lovely window during church services.

In the "early days", Mother and I always wore a hat and gloves to church, also our "Sunday best" clothes. It was much more formal than it is now. We always sat in a pew near the back of the church.

The sermons are inspirational and the music and choir have always been so wonderful at St. George's. At least for a while there is respite from some of the bad news surrounding us i.e. another murder in the city or the war in Iraq, etc. Luckily, we can find some peace and tranquility.

Let's hope St. George's church will continue to give service and pleasure for many years to come.

Respectfully,

Mary Carpenter

Did You Know?

That **Bruce Johnson**, Head Chorister, was awarded the Harold L. Scarth Memorial Trophy at the Manitoba Musical Festival in 1972.

That **Diana Smith** was the first female Warden at St George's. She was elected at the Annual Meeting held in January 1978.

That the **Grosvenor & Wilton site** of St George's was purchased in 1916 for \$8,400.

That the **first service in the present St George's** was held on Palm Sunday March 31, 1958

That **Dr Keith Jones** has had 16 arrangements and original compositions premiered since 1986, more than half at St George's. He is also a Member of the Reviews Committee of the International Trombone Association with more than 100 articles and reviews published internationally.

That **Joan Harland** was a member of the original Design Committee of the present St George's.

That **Margaret Owen** was the first editor of *The Annals of St George* (the forerunner of 'by George!'). The first issue was published in March 1984.

That in 1979-1980 St George's sponsored 14 members of the **Lai** family, refugees from View Nam. The parishioners pledged \$19,000 towards this refugee program.

That the year 1982 saw the introduction of **Female Servers** and **Female Sidespersons** at St George's

That **Josiah Jesse Roy**, Rector of St George's 1886-1918, was a direct descendant of Abraham Martin on whose land the Battle of the Plains of Abraham was fought.

(Compiled by the Church Archivist from personal communications, the Annual Reports of St George's, and *Once More unto the Breach* by Mary Lile Benham)

Organists at St George's Part 2 : 1945 – 1955

1945-47 **Douglas Bodle**. He was born in Winnipeg in 1923. His teachers included Bernard Naylor, Gwendda Owen Davies and Hugh Bancroft. In 1947 he moved to St Luke's, and in 1959 he accepted a teaching position at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. He returned to Winnipeg and taught at the University of Manitoba from 1966-

8. In 1969 he moved to the University of Toronto. He retired from full-time faculty in 1989; and continued in the part-time position of Professor of Oratorio until 2007, when he also retired after more than 35 years as organist and choirmaster at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and at Holy Blossom Temple (synagogue) in Toronto. For many years he accompanied the Mendelssohn Choir. As organist and harpsichordist he gave recitals worldwide, and broadcast frequently on the CBC. His former students include the late Donald Hadfield, Audrey Belyea, and composer R Murray Schafer (piano). During the 1980's he made three very successful recordings for children, *Mr Bach Comes to Call*, *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* and *Mozart's Magic Fantasy*. He presently lives in a care facility in Toronto.

The boys' choir at this time was under the direction of Lucy Dennis, who was music teacher at Rupertsland School, now Balmoral Hall.

1947-48 **Clayton Lee**. The following has been written by his son, Dave and his daughter, Barb Hicks, who is currently Rector's Warden at All Saints' and President of the Resound Choir.

"Clayton Edward Lee was born in Winnipeg in 1921 to Archibald and Eva Pearl Lee. Although he worked for Canadian Pacific and Burlington Northern Railways as a career, his true passion was music. He followed his father's footsteps and studied organ with Hugh Bancroft, a close friend of the family. His first official position as organist was at St. Philips 1946-1947, then joined St. George's 1947-1948. He married Joan and they had five children. The family attended St. Alban's from 1948 to 1972, with Clayton as organist, although he played at St. Aidan's for a brief time in the 60s. This was a special time for the Lee family, as Archibald had been organist at St. Alban's for fifteen years before. One big event during his tenure at St. Alban's was a 'Hymnathon' in 1970. This was a fundraiser for the church where he played the old blue hymnbook, cover to cover, with people pledging so much a hymn. It was a very successful fundraiser, and people still talk about it to this day. In 1972 Clayton was transferred to Calgary, then Edmonton, where he played at various churches, and was a well respected classical music critic for the Edmonton Journal from 1978-1983. He retired and moved to Victoria BC where he played as a substitute organist at Christ Church Cathedral. He was an energetic member of the RCCO for 50 years. Clayton passed away in Victoria October 12, 1994 after a brief battle with cancer".

1948-49 **Richard Carroll**. He was organist at Holy Trinity from 1947- 48, and director of the University of Manitoba Choir and Orchestra. He also conducted the choir at St John's School and the Metropolitan Choir. His last concert at the University of Manitoba, in January 1949, included arrangements of his own for string orchestra. Some of his work is published in *The Sacred Violinist - 5 Hymn Settings for the Advanced Violin* (Lorenz).

The following appreciation has been written by composer and conductor Ronald Beckett, who studied choral conducting with him.

"I met Richard Carroll in 1978 when he was beginning his retirement in his hometown of Tillsonburg, Ontario. During the last years of his life, he was engaged in the writing of an extensive text which dealt with the musical references found in Tudor and Stuart era writings. Musicology was indeed his first love.

Richard's early education under a private scholarship from the University of Toronto's Conservatory of Music coincided with the tenures of G.D. Atkinson, Leo Smith, Ernest MacMillan and Healey Willan. After the war, he resumed studies at the Conservatory under theorist Eric Rollinson and the Chilean pianist Alberto Guerrero. A varied education was followed by an illustrious musical career in Toronto, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Québec and Sudbury as a consultant, commentator, conductor, and performer for CBC and local radio/TV productions. His largest and longest standing permanent position was as Organist and Master of the Choristers at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Québec - a position he held from 1954-67. He also held a post of music professor at Université Laval while in the city. In Edmonton, he founded the Orianna Madrigal Singers. He was the Edmonton president and provincial councillor of the Registered Music Teachers' Assn. In Winnipeg, he was the founding conductor of the University of Manitoba Choral Society and associated orchestra and was presented the first award for public relations by the members of the students' union. In 1968, Richard founded the music program at Laurentian. In addition, he founded the Dept. of Cultural Affairs and the Museum and Arts Centre. He was also a member of the Education and Extension Advisory Committee, Art Gallery of Ontario; of the Ontario Association of Art Galleries, of the Canadian Museums Assn. and of the Board of Directors of the Junior School of the Arts for Northern Ontario. His personal library comprises some 1000 meticulously annotated rare books and hundreds of accompanying index cards. This collection sits with me. I wish I could indeed find someone who could benefit from this research. After Richard died in 1998, we renamed our performing organization *Arcady* in his memory in honour of his generosity and assistance over the years. To this day, I have never worked with a finer choral educator. He would have been 34 when he was organist at St. George's".

1949-53 **Edith V Paterson.** She was born in 1905 and grew up in Saskatchewan. She studied with Herbert Sadler and obtained the LCTL diploma in 1942 – her examiner was Healey Willan. She was organist at a number of churches in Winnipeg, including St James's (1945), where Don Hadfield, Barry Anderson and Stewart Thomson later began their careers as organists; and she accompanied at the Winnipeg Music Festival.

She joined the Winnipeg Free Press in 1958 and in 1969 began her weekly local history column 'It Happened in Winnipeg'. She published a number of award-winning books on Manitoba history including *Tales of Early Manitoba (1970)*, *100 Years Pictorial History of Winnipeg (1973)*, *Tales of the Early West (1978)*, and histories of the Grace Hospital, the Winnipeg Police, and the Builders' Exchange. She also presented a TV show *Memories of the Past*. She received numerous awards for her work, including the McWilliams Medal of the Manitoba Historical Society. She was President of Penhandlers in 1966. She retired from the newspaper in 1976 and died on May 25th 1995, survived by a large family.

1953-55 **Donald Leggat.** He was born in Portsmouth in 1914. He was an organ scholar at Winchester Cathedral, subsequently obtaining the LRAM & ARCM diplomas. From 1942-52 he was Director of Music at St Edmund's School Canterbury, and from 1952-53 he was music master at St Bees School in Cumberland. In 1950 he was appointed as Special Commissioner for the Royal School of Church Music, and was awarded the Hon.RSCM in 1965. While in Winnipeg he conducted the Philharmonic Choir and the Winnipeg Male Voice Choir, and guest conducted the CBC Winnipeg Orchestra. He

returned to England in January 1956, resuming his former position as Director of Music at St Bees. The following year (1957) he founded the St Bees Festival, which he continued to direct for many years afterwards. From 1972 he taught at Campbell College in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He retired to sheltered accommodation in Winchester, teaching part-time at Winchester College. He died sometime after 1990.

He composed extensively, including incidental music for *Everyman*, *The Deluge*, *Tobias and the Angel* and *The Enduring Stones*. An organ piece, *Redemption*, is published by Oecumuse.

Mary Benham relates the following anecdote: ‘Donald Leggat was plagued with water pistols. So he bought the largest one he could find and had the greatest water pistol fight ever – everyone drenched – the basement aflood. He said, “That’s it”, and there wasn’t another water pistol. He knew boys. He was tough and the boys loved him’.

Conductor Tim Reynish writes: “He was music master at St Edmund's Canterbury when I went there to school in the early fifties. He composed, played piano and organ wonderfully, conducted, was a huge inspiration, and was undoubtedly responsible for me taking up music”.

Donald Leggatt was succeeded by his young assistant, **Stewart Thomson**, who would go on to serve as organist and choirmaster at St George’s for the next 50 years.

I am most grateful to Barb, Dave, Ron and Tim for their contributions, which have given a personal warmth to these necessarily brief biographies.

Keith Davies Jones

Refs. James B Hartman : *The Organ in Manitoba* - University of Manitoba Press, 1997
MUSICAL CELEBRATION COMING UP AT ST. GEORGE'S

Anniversary Year Hymn Sing

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of our building and the 125th anniversary of the parish, one of the events being planned is a Hymn Sing. It will be held on Sunday January 27 at 2:30 pm. We will sing a variety of familiar hymns that have been important to the parish over the years. We will also have some anecdotes to go with some of the hymns - stories connected to hymns which are important. For more information, please speak to Rick Morgan or send an email to rick-morgan@shaw.ca

Plan to attend the Hymn Sing - and invite former parishioners.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the December 12th Parish Council meeting:

- Corporation reported on the Fresh Start program and the Nominating Committee’s schedule.

- The Property Committee will be leading activities for a new heating system; alternatives range from about \$100 000 to about \$300 000. Digital photographs now support inventory and inspections. Revised Property Committee Terms of Reference were approved.
- Although the meeting was too early to review November 2007 revenue and expenses, information was distributed after the meeting. Current details are in this “by George!”.
- The Stewardship Committee reported on the receipt of 125 estimated of giving cards for \$182 000, follow up activities, T-shirts, and planning for a multi-week Time and Talent schedule in the spring.
- Christian Education reported on the need for more teachers and leaders.
- Pastoral Care reported on Christmas plans.
- The Ministry of Fun reported on the Christmas Dinner and plans for the Bishop’s 12th Night Dinner.
- Mission and Ministry reported on prayer shawls and the need for a variety in casseroles.
- The Membership Committee reported on Christmas leaflet inserts and letters to inactive parishioners, and received suggestions for further action.
- The 125th /50th Anniversary Committee reported on Hymn Sing, the new banner blessing, and datebooks.
- Courtesies were extended to those who helped with the Christmas Dinner, the Property Committee, and Wayne Milson and Marlene Pryzner for delivering hampers.

The next Parish Council meetings are January 16 (budget) and January 23 (regular).

STEWARDSHIP

Estimate of Giving Cards

As of the most recent count, we have received 127 Estimate of Giving Cards for \$184 714 and an average of \$ 1 454. Last year, we ended with 135 Cards for \$185 534 and an average of \$1 374. The average is almost 6% higher than last year.

The Stewardship Committee thanks parishioners for participating in financial stewardship activities.

Ted Cotton
Stewardship Committee

Time and Talent Schedule

For 2008, the Stewardship Committee is planning a multi-week schedule to highlight our time and talent (non-financial stewardship).

The schedule is similar to financial stewardship and includes:

- February 17: a time and talent speaker
- February 24: a time and talent speaker and committee displays
- March 2: a time and talent message, and completion of time and talent inventory cards prior to the offering at the 10:30 service.

If you have any questions, please contact Ted Cotton at 488 3606 or tedcotton@mts.net.

Ted Cotton
Stewardship Committee

FINANCE REPORT

St. George's Church – Preliminary Twelve Months to December

| | Actual 2007 | Actual 2006 | Budget 2007 |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Revenue | \$296 881.52 | \$269 783.45 | \$279 925.00 |
| Expense | \$303 994.87 | \$283 839.48 | \$298 364.00 |
| Net Income (Loss) | (\$7 113.35) | (\$14 056.03) | (\$18 439.00) |

Here are the most significant variances between Actual 2007 and Budget:

- Fundraising: favourable \$2 070 due to Rummage Sale
- Regular Offerings: favourable \$15 167 due to a one time gift of \$10 000 and higher identified giving
- Rentals: favourable \$1 904 due to Winnipeg Girls' Choir and Sundry
- Administration: unfavourable \$5 414 due more office hours and office computers
- Ministry: favourable \$2 778 due to no Rector in August offsetting new Rector selection costs
- Program: favourable \$1 188 due to lower Christian Education costs
- Property: unfavourable \$5 232 due to higher General Maintenance (boiler and alarm repairs, and carpet cleaning) and Utilities – Natural Gas costs (use was estimated based on a new boiler).

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of December.

The **Summary Balance Sheet** shows what we have accumulated over the life of the church.

Summary Balance Sheet As at December 31

| | 2007 | 2006 | change |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Current Assets (chequing, cash) \$ | 24 170.97 | 22 593.06 | 1 577.91 |
| Fixed Assets (building) | 785 030.20 | 785 030.20 | 0 |
| Other Assets (investments) | 355 280.94 | 359 878.48 | (4 597.54) |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Total Assets | \$ | 1 164 482.11 | 1 167 501.74 | (3 019.63)) |
| Current Liabilities (designated) | \$ | 155 785.07 | 151 624.79 | 4 160.28 |
| Long Term Liabilities (trusts) | | 7 260.26 | 7 260.26 | 0 |
| Equity | | 1 001 436.78 | 1 008 616.69 | (7 179.91) |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | \$ | 1 164 482.11 | 1 167 501.74 | (3 019.63) |

There will be more details about the preliminary financial statements to December 2007 and the draft 2008 budget in the AGM report.

If you have any questions about our finances, please let me know.

Thanks.

Ted Cotton
Finance Chair



MISSION AND MINISTRY

Mitten Tree

St. George's provides hundreds of pairs of wool mittens each year for children in inner city schools. To celebrate this ministry, Mission and Ministry Committee has placed a Mitten Tree in the parish hall. Some of the mittens can be displayed before going to warm children's hands.

West Broadway Community Ministry

WBCM struggles to provide enough lunches during the cold weather and is asking parishioners of St. George's to provide peanut butter, tuna, ham, eggs, and mayonnaise. Your donations are always appreciated.

OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

Anniversary Banner

Joan Harland

LENTEN REFLECTIONS FROM 2007

I have been asked to speak briefly on what has been entitled Lenten Reflections. My Lenten Seasons have had many variations, but my theme remains the same - a period when I try to enrich my relationship with God.

One of my most memorable Lenten encounters was at St Albans [sic] Cathedral in Hertfordshire. There has been a church on the site since 998. I have never felt so close to God as I did at St Albans. I could almost hear the prayers of the faithful - chanted down the centuries. Lent is a time of thankful prayers for the life of Jesus - and I shall always cherish that Holy Place - St Albans.

There is more to Lent than prayers. It is also a time when I try to immerse myself in the study of my faith. One of my most valued Lenten studies was six lectures on the Psalms. I had previously avoided them, but that was because of my biblical ignorance. The Psalms have much to teach me. Now I read them on a number of levels as I try to understand the hopes, and aspirations of the early Jewish people and their relationship with God.

During one of my Lenten Seasons I was in a predominately Roman Catholic country. For my Ash Wednesday worship I attended the only Anglican church in the city. As always, I received the imposition of ashes. I left the church and entered the sun-filled streets and noticed that my Roman Catholic brethren had also been at church. There we all were with the Cross of Jesus Christ on our foreheads. I felt spiritually uplifted and bound to a great band of pilgrims.

Every Lenten Season brings its solemn thoughts culminating in the joy of Easter. This year again I am trying to learn more about that great teacher and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who in three years changed the minds and hearts of men and women and continues to do so. He had no Army but fortunately for the world he had his 12 devoted Apostles. Amen.

Shirlee Anne Smith

Lent has been different for me this year. This is partly because of what I've been hearing about how other members of the congregation have been thinking about Lent.

As I've understood it, Lent is about reflection and mindfulness, taking an intentional look at day to day life, and making a noticeable change or two as a daily cue to remembering what Lent is about. So maybe Lent can be an antidote to passivity.

This year Shelley and I have given up television for Lent. Not that we actually watch a lot of TV normally: we make a point of watching a few shows during the week, I'm big on eating sandwiches in front of talking heads or sports highlights., and of course there's Law and Order. Seems like we're always so busy, running from the time we get up in the morning until long after the kids are in bed at night. Law and Order on Bravo at 10:00 p.m. has gradually become the way we've started to wind down time at the end of the day. We've seen all of the episodes, and have no business staying up until 11:00. I've been a bit passive about ending days that way.

A few weeks into Lent, the evenings are different. We're reading more, I'm doing more Sudokus and Shelley's doing more crosswords. We're spending more time talking to one another, having fun together, getting to bed earlier. Everyone's heard about how getting rid of the TV is good for a marriage, and now I know that first hand. I expect we'll both start watching some TV again after Palm Sunday, but I'm going to try to be more mindful about it when I do.

Neal Anderson

In my many years as an Anglican and a fairly regular church attender I have not given a lot of thought to Lent and the prelude to Lent, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday and how they affect my life. Shrove Tuesday was pancake supper and Ash Wed I thought was observed mainly by Roman Catholics. Lent was a time to give up something you enjoyed, perhaps little too much or with doing more good things than usual. Although I liked the idea of observing lent in this way I did not usually get too far with my plans and I did not think of lent as something that could be important and meaningful to my life.

Two years ago I attended the Ash Wednesday service and I attended last year as well. I found the service humbling. When I heard the words of the service, " we begin our journey to Easter with the sign of the ashes an ancient sign speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life and marking the penitence of the community as a whole" it was like a release to me and a sense of peace. I like some others perhaps spend much time and energy trying not to think about how fragile I am physically and emotionally , how little control I have over the what happens and how I long to not feel alone with this knowledge. Lent to me is an invitation to strip away the distractions, rationalizations and to acknowledge before God my full humanness. K.C. Hanson in writing of lent has put it so simply and beautifully "without false modesty we face our limitations, our weakness

and our failures--not with the intention of humiliation, but to become who we really are_ both individually and communally.” We live in a society that fears weakness and not being in control and I believe looks with contempt on any sign of weakness or insecurity. I believe and it has been my experience that the basis of true compassion lies in acknowledging our frailty and weakness before God and receiving God’s mercy and forgiveness. Again I am inspired by K.C. Hanson who said: We pray with twelfth century monk Bernard of Clairvaux “Lord I am sad and poor, but boundless is your grace; give me the soul transforming joy for which I seek your face.” I believe it is only in recognising my own brokenness that I that I can reach out to another with shared humanity and true compassion and for me it is compassion born of acknowledging our own need for compassionate forgiveness that transforms lives. Although I may not get too far in giving up sweets or wine I do now see lent as a chance to try to give up a little more of my hard heartedness , a little more of my indifference and to endeavour with God’s boundless love and mercy to become in thought, word and deed a more compassionate human being . When I think of lent an old hymn comes to mind that for me sums up the essence of how I experience Lent. “Just as I am without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me and that thou bidst me come to thee oh Lamb of God I come, I come.

Sharon Rae-Powell

In following our tradition of Lenten reflections, I’d like to share some personal thoughts on the season and, in particular, Palm Sunday...

This might sound a little odd, but as a young child of 4 or 5 years old, Palm Sunday was easily one of my favourite days in the Church year. Now I’ll readily admit that my enthusiasm had nothing to do with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, nor that it meant Easter was merely one week away. No, in fact it was my infatuation with the Palm crosses themselves which made this day so special for me.

I thought these little guys were just about the greatest thing since sliced bread. No sooner had I received my cross would I then proceed to unfold it and try to put it back together again (failing miserably). I have no evidence of this, however the practice may actually have been encouraged by my parents to keep me from fidgeting in the pew, but I digress...

I would then have to wait until the service was over and we had returned home before making off with the rest of the family’s crosses and having another go at them. Adding to the allure was that I had absolutely no knowledge of the Palms’ origins. It was as if they magically appeared out of thin air, almost like a coin under my pillow following the loss of a tooth.

As I grew older and entered what might best be described as the “dark years” of my late teens and twenties, my appearances at Church became less and less frequent. At best I was a holiday Christian who passed through the doors at Christmas & Easter almost like a phantom or shadow. In truth, I couldn’t have told you if it was the 1st Sunday in Lent or the 2nd weekend of Festival du Voyageur.

In spite of my waning interest in the Church there was always one thing I could count on; I knew that every Palm Sunday my father would bring a Palm Cross home to me. Even after I had moved out and it became less convenient to do so, he would still knock on my door every Palm Sunday to make his delivery. I have to add that my appearance on some of these Sunday mornings likely appalled him, and probably left him wondering what on earth I'd been up to the previous evening. Upon opening my door I would steel myself for the biting comment my condition warranted (or that my guilty conscience was anticipating). But he would always reserve judgment and simply say, "I've got your cross, it's Palm Sunday."

Now that I'm older and – hopefully – wiser, I'd like to think that I have a better understanding of the importance of this day and the symbolism of the Palms. But in addition Palm Sunday will always bring to mind the simple joys of childhood, as well as the unconditional and everlasting love of a parent.

Colin Dennis

Diane: Like most people, Lent is a time that is especially meaningful for our family, with some services that are especially rewarding.

I was able to be here on Ash Wednesday and while no one else from my family was able to be with me, I was glad to be surrounded by my church family for this sobering but beautiful service.

John Christian: The service that I like most is the Stations of the Cross because it reminds me of the pain and suffering that Jesus went through in the last hours of his life - which He did for *me*.

John Henry: I've got this friend I speak to frequently. I listen to him every week drone on about something I should be doing. I frequently don't take his advice. He asks me to do a lot of things. He's been telling me things like this for years and He's been doing the same journey for years. A few days ago He said to me the same thing he has said every year to me around this time. He asked me to "remember that I am dust and to dust I shall return". Well it seems to have hit a note this year. I'm going to follow Him through on this year's journey. I'm going to pray a little more and fast a little more, and more importantly, I'm going to be there when He has supper with me and some other friends and he's going to wash the feet of some of my friends and asks me to serve others. And the next day I'm going to listen to a bunch of kids tell me the story of His last days.

And this time I hope I've heard a little better. I know I'm going to go through another year not listening to him as I should, and not serving him as I should, but I know that these next few weeks and the very special services that are coming up, will help me do it better next year.

Thank you.

The Lewis Family

Every Good Friday, I remember back in the Philippines there was a carriage that carried the body of Jesus around in a 3 kilometre procession. The carriage was beautifully decorated with freshly picked flowers. Those flowers came from the church people, mostly from their gardens. I remember myself joining my cousins and friends going house to house to pick flowers from their gardens. I remember carrying a huge basket around, with my not-too sharp scissors on hand. I experienced a lot of bites and thorn pokes. There were bees that would make us run away and dogs that would run after us, never mind the heat that made us really soaked in sweat. In the Philippines, we get the hottest weather during Lenten season. When our baskets are finally full, we would walk back to the church, have a drink of cold water, then off we'd go again. When the carriage preparation was done, I felt proud of myself for doing something good. I was 10 years old at that time and as a kid, it was not an easy task for me to do. Lent reminds me of penitence, hoping to make myself cleaner.

Kristianne Drapete