

“by George!”

Contents

1. Burnt Rubber ...
2. Calendar...
3. Your Parish Priest ...
6. Margaret Writes ...
7. Thought For ..
8. Mission & Ministry
13. Godly Play ...
14. Parish Council...
14. Electronic ...
15. Finance Report
16. Stewardship...

The “by George!” is normally 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!

Ted Cotton, Editor
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JANUARY 2010

WINTER EDITION

Burnt Rubber ...

Have you ever smelled burnt rubber and wished those “guys” with the big engines and big tires had left the evidence of their activities somewhere else?

I could smell the burnt rubber for a few days. It was different, but winter tires and snow would account for that.

Recycling and Garbage Day was Wednesday, so on Tuesday night I gathered up the garbage from the various bins in the house. I opened the back door and lobbed a perfect swoosh into the garbage can. The can moved, but I knew I had put some force behind my lob.

I put on my boots and coat, and went out to take the can to the front street. As I picked up the rather heavy can, I looked down and noticed a big black and white ... skunk staring at me! I quickly fled into the house. I didn’t want any “burnt rubber” on me. I later used a broom to push the can over and the skunk found “his” freedom.

It’s a good idea to collect some facts before placing blame, to keep a lid on things, and to have a broom handy.

The next edition of “by George!” will be in March. Please gather your thoughts and submit your articles by the March 7th deadline.

Remember to come to the Annual General Meeting on Sunday February 21st.

Ted Cotton

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE UPCOMING DATES

Within our Parish Church of St. George, Crescentwood:

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Sun	January 31, 2010	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Family service w/ music	10:30 AM
Mon	February 1, 2010	Baptism for the Baptized Study group	7:00 PM
Tue	February 2, 2010	Corporation Meeting	7:00 PM
Wed	February 3, 2010	Stewardship Committee Meeting	7:30 PM
Sat	February 6, 2010	Baptism for the Baptized Study group	10:00 AM
Sun	February 7, 2010	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Family service w/ music	10:30 AM
Mon	February 8, 2010	Baptism for the Baptized Study group	7:00 PM
Tue	February 9, 2010	Worship Committee Meeting	7:30 PM
Wed	February 10, 2010	Mission & Ministry Meeting	7:00 PM
Sat	February 13, 2010	Baptism for the Baptized Study group	10:00 AM
Sun	February 14, 2010	Transfiguration of the Lord Family service w/ music	10:30 AM
Mon	February 15, 2010	Baptism for the Baptized Study group	7:00 PM
Tue	February 16, 2010	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	5:30 PM
Wed	February 17, 2010	Ash Wednesday Service	7:30 PM
Sun	February 21, 2010	First Sunday of Lent Family service w/ music	10:30 AM
Sun	February 21, 2010	Annual General Meeting	noon
Mon	February 22, 2010	Baptism for the Baptized Study group	7:00 PM
Tue	February 23, 2010	Membership Committee Meeting	7:30 PM
Wed	February 24, 2010	Parish Council Meeting	7:30 PM
Sun	February 28, 2010	Second Sunday of Lent Morning Prayer	10:30 AM
Mon	March 1, 2010	Lenten Study Group	7:30 PM
Tue	March 2, 2010	Corporation Meeting	7:00 PM
Thur	March 4, 2010	Lenten Study Group	9:30 AM
Sun	March 7, 2010	Third Sunday of Lent Family service w/ music - <i>children's homily</i>	10:30 AM
Sun	March 7, 2010	Deadline for March issue of "by George!"	
Mon	March 8, 2010	Lenten Study Group	7:30 PM
Tue	March 9, 2010	Worship Committee Meeting	7:30 PM
Wed	March 10, 2010	Mission & Ministry Meeting	7:00 PM
Thur	March 11, 2010	Lenten Study Group	9:30 AM
Sat	March 13, 2010	Set up for Time & Display	after 11 am
Sun	March 14, 2010	Fourth Sunday of Lent Family service w/music Time & Talent displays	10:30 AM
Sun	March 14, 2010	Choral Evensong	4:00 PM
Mon	March 15, 2010	Lenten Study Group	7:30 PM
Tue	March 16, 2010	Membership Committee Meeting	7:30 PM

Wed	March 17, 2010	Parish Council Meeting	7:30 PM
Thur	March 18, 2010	Lenten Study Group	9:30 AM
Sun	March 21, 2010	Fifth Sunday Of Lent Family Service W/ Music	10:30 AM
Sun	March 28, 2010	Palm Sunday	10:30 AM
Thur	April 1, 2010	Maundy Thursday Service	7:30 PM
Fri	April 2, 2010	Good Friday: Stations Of The Cross Service	9:15 AM
Fri	April 2, 2010	Good Friday: Mediation On The Cross Service	10:30 AM
Sun	April 4, 2010	Easter Day Service <i>Children's Homily</i>	10:30 AM
Tue	April 6, 2010	Corporation Meeting	7:00 PM
Wed	April 7, 2010	Mission & Ministry Meeting	7:00 PM
	April 16 & 17, 2010	St. George's Annual Garage Sale	

In the Broader Community:

January 27-29 Web Conference with the Archbishop of Canterbury – St. John’s Cathedral

February 3 Youth Ministry Leadership Workshop – Pastoral Centre, 622B Tache Ave

March 5 & 6 Godly Play Training – St. George’s (Transcona)

March 27 Prison Retreat – Stony Mountain Institution

YOUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES ...

Same-Sex Union Blessings – More to Read

If you have not had a chance to read and learn about Same-Sex Blessings yet, then I encourage you to take some time, borrow some articles from me, or borrow some books, or look at some of the weblinks posted in the last few “By George” Issues. The General Synod (National Triennial Meeting) of our Anglican Church of Canada will be meeting in June and discussing Same-Sex Blessings again.

For those who want something more comprehensive **to read** I have several books on my shelf that you may find helpful. Please borrow one listed below.

Peace, Lyndon

Homosexuality and the Christian Faith: Questions of Conscience for the Churches Edited by Walter Wink

Issues surrounding homosexuality threaten to divide the Christian churches and the people within them. This unique resource presents short pieces from some of the nation's most prominent church leaders---Protestant and Catholic, mainline and evangelical---who address the fundamental moral imperative about homosexuality. Together they invite the reader to open his or her heart to the Spirit, to tolerance, and to Gospel values. Through personal testimony, factual clarification, and moral suasion, they provide much-needed clarity on the biblical witness and biblical authority, the nature or character of homosexuality and sexual orientation, and many related topics.

Living Together in the Church: Including our Differences
 Edited by Greig Dunn & Chris Ambidge

The homosexuality issue prompts us to engage in dialogue with scripture and tradition, with contemporary culture and experience, and with academic disciplines such as history, psychology, philosophy and the law. The writers of this book begin by assuming that all gay and lesbian Christians in the church hold their positions sincerely, and that this sincerity deserves respect. They continue by suggesting new avenues along which dialogue might proceed. Anglicanism has been distinguished, since the Reformation, for its ability to embrace a wide range of divergent viewpoints. Differing responses are not cause for division. Instead they offer opportunity for dialogue, enabling respect and reconciliation.

Living in Sin?: A Bishop Rethinks Human Sexuality
 by John Spong

Noted for his liberal stands on sexuality, Newark's Episcopal Bishop argues with "passion and provocation" that traditional Christian views on sex represent patriarchal prejudice rather than God's will and invites readers to "enter the uncertainty of not knowing" and to free the Bible from "literalistic imprisonment" as they entertain possibilities like services blessing divorce, "betrothal" ceremonies (celebrating exclusive but temporary unions), and rituals sanctifying gay and lesbian partnerships. Spong sees all this as supplementing traditional marriage (which he also celebrates), not supplanting it. Bound to be controversial. EC

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***SAME-SEX BLESSING DISCUSSION SESSIONS ON
 A CHURCH AT WAR: ANGLICANS AND HOMOSEXUALITY***

by Stephen Bates

If you would like to get together to discuss then please read Bates' book and we can get together after Easter for four weeks to discuss his book and share insights and experiences. Please acquire your own copy of the book. You can buy a copy at amazon.ca or order it through your favourite book store. There seems to be only one copy to borrow from our public library. To register please call Marion at 453-5642 or email office@stgeorges.mb.ca.

PLEASE NOTE THE SCHEDULE SWITCHES AFTER SESSION 2!

Session 1 (Pages 1-58) Thurs, April 8th, 9:30-10:30am **OR** Mon, April 12th, 7:30-8:30pm

Session 2 (Pages 59-124) Thurs, April 15th, 9:30-10:30am **OR** Mon, April 19th, 7:30-8:30pm

Session 3 (Pages 125-179) Mon, April 26th, 7:30-8:30pm **OR** Thurs, April 29th, 9:30-10:30am

Session 4 (Pages 180-227) Mon, May 3rd, 7:30-8:30pm **OR** Thurs, May 6th, 9:30-10:30am

A Synopsis of *A Church at War: Anglicans and Homosexuality* by Stephen Bates

Few issues are as divisive today as homosexuality and religion. Journalist Bates is balanced and measured in his report on how the November 2, 2003, consecration as an Episcopal bishop of openly gay V. Gene Robinson in New Hampshire has divided the larger Anglican community. There are more than 77 million Anglicans in 164 countries, ranging from the church's historic home in England to the U.S., where the Anglican Episcopal Church wields influence disproportionate to its 2.3 million members, to such far-flung corners as Nigeria, where the church is flourishing. Describing the Church of England's position on homosexuality as inconsistent and confused, Bates points out the hypocrisy surrounding much of the argument against fully accepting gays in the church. While presenting both traditional and alternative interpretations, he pointedly comments on biblical references to homosexuality and, with wit, insight, compassion, and common sense, surveys homosexuality and religion through the ages. His own opinion is that the debate is ultimately about not sexuality but control and authority, power and politics. Strong stuff. *June Sawyers*

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“THE NAKED NOW” for Lent Study

For Lent I invite you to LEARN TO SEE AS THE MYSTICS SEE. Let's read together *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See* by Richard Rohr. In this book Richard Rohr, the founder of the Centre for Action and Contemplation and a Roman Catholic Franciscan, helps us to find the enlightenment that many seek in other religions within our own Christianity. Richard will help us to recognize the forces that separate us from our deeper self. Then, drawing on the Gospels and the greatest Christian contemplatives, he shows us what it means to be spiritually awake.

Please acquire your own copy of the book. You can buy a copy at amazon.ca or order it through your favourite book store. There are a few on order at our public library, but they may not be very available when we need them. To register please call Marion at 453-5642 or email office@stgeorges.mb.ca.

PLEASE NOTE THE SCHEDULE SWITCHES AFTER SESSION 1!

Session 1 (Pages 1-66) Thurs, Feb 18th, 9:30-11am **OR** Mon, Feb 22nd, 7:30-9pm

Session 2 (Pages 67-97) Mon, March 1st, 7:30-9pm **OR** Thurs, Mar 4th, 9:30-11am

Session 3 (Pages 98-128) Mon, Mar 8th, 7:30-9pm **OR** Thurs, Mar 11th, 9:30-11am

Session 4 (Pages 129-162) Mon, Mar 15th, 7:30-9pm **OR** Thurs, Mar 18th, 9:30-11am

Peace,
Lyndon

MARGARET WRITES ...**And Up the Back Stairs....**

If you go up the back stairs to the church office, you'll find the heartbeat of this entire organization—our Administrative Assistant, Marion Groce. There is nothing Marion doesn't know about St. George's, from who's in which hospital or care home to the ordering of cleaning supplies.

Marion first came to St. George's as a temporary office assistant in March 2001 when her predecessor Cathy Ayers took a leave of absence for medical reasons. By June Cathy had resigned, and Marion took on the job permanently on June 28, 2001. Because she was an employee of Houston Temporary Services, St. George's had to buy out her contract, a movement that no one has ever regretted.

Marion recalls arriving for her interview with Tony Harwood-Jones.

"Houston sent me to 168 Wilton Street, but they didn't tell me that it was a church," she recalls.

This suited Marion just fine, as she wanted to find a different type of employment.

"I wanted to do work that I enjoyed," she says, "and I wanted a job that would last at least a few days. I didn't want to be going somewhere new every day."

Marion had spent 30 years working for CIBC, starting as a teller and working her way up to manager in the data centre. She became a single parent when her son Robert, commonly known as BJ (for Bob Junior) was four years old. He is now 30.

Marion learned office skills as a high school student at Tech Voc, and during her time with the bank she took university courses, leadership training, customer service and negotiating skills, all of which are invaluable in her present position.

Although she had also learned computer programs during her time at CIBC, she says that she was not familiar with the Apple programs that Tony used in the church office. She soon learned, however. Marion is a quick study.

"I learned a lot from Tony," she says. "He's an excellent teacher."

Originally Marion worked part time for us, but gradually she's taken on more and more tasks and is now employed full time, except in the summer. She is largely responsible for property maintenance, including obtaining quotes and supervising workers and organizing rentals.

"I often have to follow up on work not finished," she says.

Marion also provides assistance to the envelope secretary, and keeps track of liturgical schedules. The detailed weekly leaflets are a lot more work to produce than the old ones were, and the weekly list of notices also takes a lot of time to compile.

When someone phones the church, the first voice they hear is Marion's, and she is always upbeat and helpful.

"Some days that phone never stops ringing," she says, "especially on Mondays!"

Other tasks involve typing financial statements, selling tickets to various parish functions, photocopying, and a huge task is the production of the Annual Reports and Tax Receipts.

Marion has been at St. George's through three priests: Tony, Donna Joy and Lyndon. She has enjoyed working with all of them, and still does the books for Heather Dixon's law practice, and has lunch occasionally with Donna.

"Throughout my working life I've prided myself on being able to adapt to different people," she says. "I look for the good in people."

Marion is part of a large extended family, of which she was the baby.

"My sister was 22 years old when I was born," she says, "and my brother was 19. So of course I was spoiled!" Her parents, sister and brother are all dead, but she has three nieces, one nephew, three great-nieces and two great-nephews. She recalls her childhood as a happy time.

"My father was a great joker," she says. "He was like an Archie Bunker." He served in the Canadian army in Europe during World War II, and Marion says she loved to listen to his army stories. She also loved to dance with her parents.

"Mother and Father really enjoyed dancing," she says.

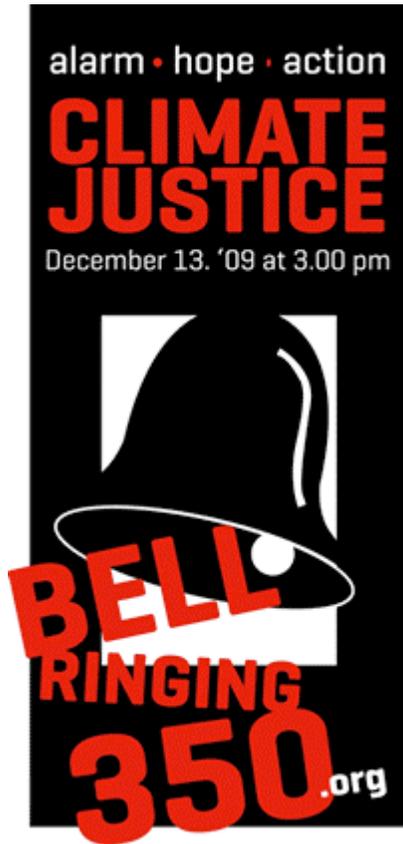
They took her everywhere they went, and she learned to dance by standing on their feet as they whirled about the floor. She later took lessons in ballroom and Latin dancing. She still loves to dance, and to attend parish social functions. "I just wish sometimes," she says, "that when I'm attending a church function that people wouldn't ask me work-related questions. They can call me during office hours, but when I'm out socially I just want to enjoy myself!"

Marion, with her intelligence and capability and her outgoing nature is indeed one of the greatest assets of our parish.

Margaret Owen

THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION

Success balances knowing when to advance your opinion and when to keep it to yourself.

MISSION AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE**We were one of them - Canada's Churches Hit The Bell Out Of The Park!!**

Thank You Bell Ringers All Across Canada!!

On December 13 well over 300 churches of all denominations (and let's not forget DR Congo and Peru!) rang their bells as part of a global action timed to coincide with the ecumenical service of the World Council of Churches in Copenhagen. A wave of ringing swept across Canada that Sunday. A Google map showed the locations of the participating churches.

Photos and stories poured in from all across the country and they were pretty amazing! Lots of kids and, in true Canadian tradition, lots of cold!

You can read the Sermon for the Ecumenical Celebration at Copenhagen Cathedral, delivered by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, on December 13, to start the bell-ringing worldwide at:

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/fileadmin/fe/files/PDF/EcoJustice/Climate/Copenhagen-ArchCanterbury.pdf>

Ndoddo Update

Andrew Kafeero is co-ordinator of the Ndoddo Water Project in Uganda and his message of January 5, 2010 is copied below. We are pleased to see that the most recent instalment, and hopefully the last, of funds for the project have reached the Bishop. Also that Rev. Mulindwa is well. He had been ill and in our prayers for some time.

Gordon Spafford, Mission and Ministry Committee

From: Andrew Kafeero
Date: January 5, 2010 8:36:06 AM CST
To: Gordon Spafford
Subject: Re: Ndoddo Water Project Funds

Dear Gordon,

I bring Christian greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let me take this opportunity to thank you so much for the work you have done for us this year 2009.

Here in Uganda it's raining and people are busy enjoying festive seasons .

Am sorry for delaying to reply this letter. We are so thankful for all the contributions towards the extension of water project. Really you have shown us great love may God bless you and reward you richly. About the progress of water project our engineer went for festive seasons. Thank you so much for sending 10,000 Canadian dollars of which I think the Bishop received on the project account. I have not yet known about how much it is in Ugandan currency; hope to know it very soon from Rev. Festus Mulindwa.

We hope to send you the progress report in early next year 2010 when the water project engineer comes back.

Rev. Mulindwa is fine and his family. Their son John is soon graduating in February.

Please brother Gordon, can you send to us some of the photos of the the executive committee Ndoddo water project if its possible so that we can see the type of people who really cares for our lives.

Greet the Rector and our brethren from St George.

For me I will be finishing the course in May-2010 and am happy to inform you that by June 2010 I will be ordained.

NB. help me to forward the attached letter to Brother John Deacom

Yours Andrew.

Prayer Shawls

“With needs and yarn

Knit one, purl one.

In a Prayer Shawl. “

Calling all Knitters! If you would like to make a Prayer Shawl, all it takes is a pattern, needles and yarn; and a love of comfort, warmth and peace. Call 453-1672 for details.

Gail Walker

Campbell's Labels for Education

Campbell's® Labels for Education™ is a school support program with a focus on instilling healthy eating and living habits in children. Eligible registered schools can collect labels from participating Campbell products and redeem them for educational resources ranging from sports equipment and musical instruments to health and wellness videos and books. Campbell's website address is <http://www.labelsforeducation.ca>

Collecting labels is an opportunity for us to help King Edward School save labels for new recess equipment. Thousands of labels are needed to purchase *some* of the merchandise. Depending on the product, we need to save the full label (UPC and front panel), just the lid, or just the UPC (Universal Product Code is the barcode). You can drop off your labels in a bag attached to the poster in Gartrell Hall.

Eligible Products

Campbell's Chunky Soup or Chili	284 ml, 425 g, 540 ml	Full Label (UPC And Front Panel)
Campbell's Chunky bowls	420 ml	Lid or Cap
Campbell's Condensed soup	284 ml, 796 ml	Full Label (UPC And Front Panel)
Campbell's Creations Soup	500 ml	UPC
Campbell's Easy Cooking Sauce	500 ml	UPC
Campbell's Gardennay	500 m	UPC
Campbell's Healthy Request Bowls	398 ml	Lid or Cap
Campbell's Hearty Noodles	55 g	Lid or Cap
Campbell's Ready to Serve Soup	540 ml	Full Label (UPC And Front Panel)
Campbell's Ready to Use Broth	900 ml	UPC
Campbell's Soup at Hand	284 ml	Lid or Cap
Goldfish Crackers	28 g, 168 g, 180 g, 190 g, 200 g, and 1.36 kg	UPC
Habitant Soup	227 ml, 398 ml, 796 ml	Full Label (UPC And Front Panel)
Pace Salsa	428 ml, 642 ml	Lid or Cap
Prego Pasta Sauce	375 ml, 645 ml, 1.75 l	Lid or Cap
V8 Soup	500 ml	UPC
V8 Splash Beverage	473 ml, 1.89 l	Lid or Cap
V8 V-Fusion Beverage	354 ml, 1.36 l	Lid or Cap
V8 Vegetable Cocktail	156 ml, 250 ml, 340 ml, 354 ml, 950 ml, 1.36 l, 1.89 l	Crushed Cans, Bottle Labels, Boxes – UPC

Thank you for your interest in our Campbell Soup Label collection. I will do my best to answer your questions:

1. Since our families rely heavily on food banks, we do not have a set goal for the amount of labels we collect. We have always just accepted what student has brought in thankfully.
2. We are saving the points for new recess sports equipment to keep the students positively engaged in physical activity. Also, if we collect enough points we will be looking into musical instruments for our music program.
3. The labels can be submitted at any time.
4. We have been collecting for 3 years (I think).
5. We have received some smaller recess equipment in the first year, but we are currently banking the points and saving them for larger items.

If you have access to a computer the Canadian website is <http://www.labelsforeducation.ca/english> . It shows all of the eligible products that we can redeem and can be collected. It also shows the possible sports and music equipment that we can get. We would be very thankful if you choose to collect them on our behalf. Any collected labels can be mailed or dropped off at our school office at any time or with enough notice I could stop by and pick them up after work.

If you have any other questions feel free to contact me again. Also, thank you for thinking of us and collecting school supplies on the behalf of our students! Your kindness is appreciated by all the staff and students!

Jennifer G. (Teacher, Grade 4)

King Edward – Grades N – 6, Principal: Spencer Clements, 825 Selkirk Ave., Wpg, MB, R2X 2Y6,
Phone 586-8381, <http://blogs.wsd1.org/kingedward/>

Eleanor Buddick
Mission & Ministry



CAMPBELL'S
CONDENSED

Lions Eye Bank of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario Inc.

St. George's has participated in this unique outreach program for a number of years with the assistance of Diana Smith. This project is now under the umbrella of Mission & Ministry and we will continue Diana's work, helping to provide eyeglasses to children and adults in developing countries.

CLERC
Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre

Provides eyeglasses to children and adults in developing countries

Provides offenders an opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to the global community.

CLERC collects Eyeglasses, safety glasses, lenses, non prescription sun glasses, prescription sun glasses and hearing aids. [Note: hearing aids are disassembled and only the components are used]

Items collected locally are delivered to the Lions Eye Bank offices on Wolseley Avenue. Here, volunteers sort and package the eyeglasses and with the help of Canada Moving [Winnipeg] are shipped to Williams Moving in Calgary. Upon arrival, CLERC is responsible to deliver parcels to the Calgary Correctional Centre. There are no shipping charges involved.

Calgary Correctional Centre Eyeglass Shop Recycling Program.

Inmates at the Calgary Correctional Centre [CCC] are responsible to receive, sort clean, repair, sanitize and read the prescription of the glasses. The glasses are then distributed to programs throughout the world. The centre uses all volunteer offenders and one correction officer to oversee the program.

Developing countries receiving these gifts are Haiti, Cameroon, Zambia, Ivory Coast, Pakistan, Liberia, Ghana, Bangladesh, Samoa, Mexico, Cambodia, Toga, Tanzania, Angola, Burkina Faso, Peru and El Salvador.

In 2009 a total of 371,400 items from Canada were shipped to developing countries, 32,561 from Manitoba alone.

Bring us your old and used eyeglasses, our recycling boxes are located at the back of the church and in the Parish Hall. It is through the combined efforts of many, that together, we are able to "Share a Vision".

Marlene Ramsay
Mission and Ministry

GODLY PLAY TRAINING

Registration

Contact Rev'd Helen Manfield at St George's Church, phone 222 1942, or email revd.helen@mts.net to inform of numbers.

Answering these questions:

Church Name

Realistically, how many do you expect to attend Friday?

Realistically, how many do you expect to attend Saturday too?

This is needed for supplies and lunch arrangements.

Any food considerations?

Looking forward to a great learning experience.



Judy Steers is the director of the Ask & Imagine youth theology program and a lecturer in Christian Education for children and youth at Huron University College in London. She has worked in parish children's ministry, youth ministry and adult education and is a creative and experienced workshop leader and facilitator.

Judy encountered and fell in love with Godly Play at a training event in 2006 and has since become an accredited Godly Play teacher and trainer. She has led workshops in Godly Play in many different parishes and dioceses. In her home parish, she co-ordinates the Godly Play program at the Church of St David and St Patrick in Guelph, Ontario where children, youth and adults all love to wonder together about great stories.



I wonder...

GODLY PLAY TRAINING

5TH & 6TH MARCH 2010



St George's Anglican Church
321 Pandora Ave W,
Winnipeg
222 1942



WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT

Friday, 5th March 2010

7pm - 9:30pm Introduction to Godly Play by experiencing a full lesson and group reflection on the content, process and philosophy of this educational approach. If you have heard of Godly Play and just want to find out what it's about, come for this evening.

Saturday, 6th March 2010

9:30am - 4pm Full day workshop designed to introduce you to materials, storytelling skills, the spirituality of children and the important roles of the adults in the Godly Play space.

You will learn how to create your own materials and practice storytelling. This is designed for people who are interested in beginning to introduce Godly Play in their children's ministry programs (Sunday School or VBS). You have to have come to Friday evening to attend on Saturday.

Early departures can be disruptive to the learning environment. Please plan to be present for the full scheduled time.

Godly Play is a creative and imaginative approach to faith formation that has its roots in the work of Maria Montessori. It was created by Jerome Berryman, an Anglican priest, about 30 years ago and has been used and developed over time by people around the world as a way of both teaching and being with children. Godly Play uses symbols, beautifully crafted materials, rituals, and silence as well as stories to convey biblical traditions and practices of the Christian church.

There are lots of things you can learn from a lecture, but Godly Play must be learned from the inside out. These interactive workshops will enable that to happen. You will experience Godly Play stories, explore storytelling materials, and begin to consider how to utilise Godly Play in your setting. You will achieve greater clarity about the foundations of Godly Play, learn skills and gain a much deeper appreciation of the spirituality of children. Above all, you will leave spiritually refreshed with a renewed sense of wonder. All learning will take place in engaging atmosphere with a creative and experienced Godly Play trainer.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the November 18th Parish Council meeting:

- An insurance inspector checked our building and a report will be issued.
- Input into the Business Plan is being compiled before further review.
- The October 2009 financial statements show a Net Loss of \$2 942; this is favourable to Budget and last year. Details of the current financial statements are in this “by George!”.
- The Stewardship Committee reported that 105 Estimate of Giving cards for \$185 000 had been returned.
- Worship Committee reported that parishioners voted to keep the late Christmas Eve service at 10:30.
- The calendar of Diocesan events was reviewed.
- There are 29 names on the Pastoral Care list. Arrangements are being made for Christmas communions.
- The Ministry of Fun is preparing for our Christmas Dinner, the Bishop’s Dinner, and a tender for catering at the 2010 Synod.
- A motion was passed to send \$10 000 of Mission & Ministry Committee funds to Ndoddo to complete our commitment to the water system extension. A motion was also passed to participate with KAIROS and ring our bell 35 times on December 13th in support of the Copenhagen climate change talks.
- We are providing 12 Christmas Cheer hampers.
- Courtesies were given to the parishioners involved in the successful Fall Tea and Closet Sale, to Jo McCrea for knitting more than 1072 mittens, and to all the knitters for their work for King Edward School.

The next Parish Council will be January 27th.

ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

If you are reading this “by George!” on paper and have an email address, please help us reduce paper use, copying, postage, and associated costs. Give your email address to the Church office at 453 5642 or office@stgeorges.mb.ca

For more information about St. George’s, please visit our website at <http://www.stgeorges.mb.ca/>

Ted Cotton

FINANCE REPORT**St. George's Church – January to December 2009 (Preliminary as of January 20)**

	Actual 2009	Actual 2008	Budget 2009
Revenue	\$311 933.00	\$278 530.00	\$310 222.00
Expense	\$303 547.57	\$305 927.91	\$310 222.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$8 385.43	(\$27 397.91)	\$0

The preliminary Net Income of \$8 385 is favourable to Budget and last year.

Variances of \$700 or more to Budget are:

- Festival Offerings is favourable \$1 919. This is Harvest and Christmas.
- Fundraising is favourable \$11 636. This is Special Events/Dinners, the Dragon Ladies, and the Garage Sale.
- Interest Earned is favourable \$884. This is better returns later in the year.
- PWRDF donations are unfavourable \$2 900. This is an in and out.
- Regular Offerings is unfavourable \$10 962. This is lower Identified Giving more than offsetting higher Open Plate and Special & Designated. Identified Giving is unfavourable to Budget but favourable to last year.
- Rentals is unfavourable \$922. This is reduced rent for Kinderschule during the boiler interruptions, and one less Danceaerobics payment.
- Miscellaneous Income is favourable \$2 006. This is more income from the Altar Guild, Photocopying, and Calendars.
- Ministry is favourable \$1 302. This is lower Altar Guild and Mileage offsetting higher Payroll Benefits.
- Program is favourable \$2 397. This is less time for the Sunday School Superintendant and lower Christian Education costs.
- Property is favourable \$1 937. This is lower Utilities Gas from lower rates, warmer weather, later start, and the new boiler.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of December.



While the **Net Income (Loss)** shows how we are doing this year, the **Summary Balance Sheet** shows what we have accumulated over the life of the church.

Preliminary	Summary Balance Sheet As at December 31		
	2009 Preliminary	2008 Actual	change
Current Assets (chequing, cash)	\$ 33 553.94	20 063.29	13 490.65
Fixed Assets (building at cost)	785 030.20	785 030.20	0
Other Assets (investments)	311 426.98	325 913.31	(14 486.33)
Total Assets	\$ 1 130 011.12	1 131 006.80	(995.68)
Current Liabilities (designated)	\$ 154 200.28	163 633.18	(9 432.90)
Long Term Liabilities (trusts)	7 260.26	7 260.26	0
Equity	968 550.58	960 113.36	8 437.22
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 1 130 011.12	1 131 006.80	(995.68)

STEWARDSHIP

We've begun planning our 2010 non-financial stewardship events including:

- Sunday March 7: speaker #1 on the value of participating
- Sunday March 14: speaker #2 and displays from the various Parish Committees
- Sunday March 21: collect "Inventory Cards" from parishioners

During the year, the Electronic Offering Program form and instructions are always available on the church web site at [Donor Registration/Amendment Form](#). Paper forms are usually available at the back of the church too.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Stewardship Committee.

St. George's Stewardship Committee

Ted Cotton (Chair)
 Roger Dennis
 Peter Fairclough
 The Rev. Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell
 Marlene Ramsey
 Karl Purchase and
 Allan Silk.