

## Contents

1. After the ‘Coming’
2. Calendar...
4. Thought For ..
5. Your Parish Priest ...
6. Too Much Paper
7. Margaret Writes ...
7. Mission and ...
9. Pitching our Tent ...
11. Garage Sale ...
11. Parish Council...
12. Finance Report
13. Stewardship...
14. Quiz Night

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!

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JANUARY 2012

WINTER EDITION

## After The ‘Coming’

No doubt, we all did much to prepare for the coming of Christ, in keeping with meaning of the season of Advent.

Family activities involved decorating the tree, deciding on a festive meal menu, shopping for just the right gifts, and mailing cards to family and friends to keep in touch.

Church family activities included adorning the sanctuary and hall with decorations and poinsettias, enjoying a traditional meal at the annual dinner with children receiving gifts from ‘Santa’, lighting the Advent wreath, attending special services, and singing Christmas hymns.

Community activities consisted of contributing to hampers for those less fortunate and possibly making charitable donations or undertaking volunteer work.

During the Christmas Eve service, the Baby was placed in the crèche, the culmination of all the preparation of Advent. Then, parishioners left the Christmas Eve service with this Blessing:

“As we go from our worship this night: May the **joy** of the angels sing in our voices; may the **hope** of the shepherds enliven our minds; may the strong **faith** of Mary strengthen our spirits; and may the **love** of the Baby shine in our hearts.”

How has this blessing impacted your plans for your family, for your Church family, and for your global family?

Please gather your latest thoughts, and submit your articles by the March 4th deadline for the next edition of “by George!”.

Brenda Cotton

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE UPCOMING DATES

Within our Parish Church of St. George, Crescentwood:

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Mon	30-Jan-12	History of Christianity study group	10am or 7pm
Sat	04-Feb-12	Quiz Night (fun and fellowship) doors open 6:30 pm	7:00 pm Games start
Sun	05-Feb-12	<b>The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <i>Children's homily</i>	10:30am
Mon	06-Feb-12	History of Christianity study group	10am or 7pm
Mon	06-Feb-12	Confirmation Class	6:30pm Youth Room
Wed	08-Feb-12	Mission & Ministry Meeting	7:00 pm Guild Room
Wed	08-Feb-12	Membership Committee Meeting	7:00 pm Youth Room
Sat	11-Feb-12	Rupert's Land Caregiver Support Group	10:00 am Guild Room
Sun	12-Feb-12	<b>The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</b>	10:30am
Sun	12-Feb-12	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING &amp; Light lunch</b>	12:00pm Parish Hall
Mon	13-Feb-12	History of Christianity study group	10am or 7pm
Mon	13-Feb-12	Confirmation Class	6:30pm Youth Room
Tues	14-Feb-12	Worship Committee Meeting	7:30pm Guild Room
Wed	15-Feb-12	Parish Council Meeting 6:30 pm for pizza	7:15pm Guild Room
Sat	18-Feb-12	Rupert's Land Caregiver Support Group	10:00am Guild Room
Sat	18-Feb-12	Parish Hall, Guild Room Booked for outside event	1pm to 9pm
Sun	19-Feb-12	<b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b> <i>Commissioning of New Leaders</i>	10:30am
Mon	20-Feb-12	<b>Louis Riel Day</b> office & building closed	
Tues	21-Feb-12	<b>Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Supper this evening</b>	5:30pm
Wed	22-Feb-12	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Noon service
Wed	22-Feb-12	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	7:30pm
Sat	25-Feb-12	Parish Hall, Kitchen & Church booked for St. David's Society	noon to 10:30pm
Sun	26-Feb-12	<b>The First Sunday in Lent</b>	10:30am
Mon	27-Feb-12	<b>Membership Committee Meeting</b>	5:00pm
Mon	27-Feb-12	<b>History of Christianity study group</b>	10am and 7pm
Mon	27-Feb-12	Confirmation Class	6:30pm Youth Room
Sat	03-Mar-12	Parish Hall, Kitchen Booked for St. Margaret's	11am all day & evening
Sun	04-Mar-12	<b>The Second Sunday in Lent - Children's Homily</b>	10:30am
Sun	04-Mar-12	Deadline for submissions to the next "by George!"	
Mon	05-Mar-12	History of Christianity study group	10am and 7pm
Mon	05-Mar-12	Confirmation Class	6:30pm Youth Room
Sun	11-Mar-12	<b>The Third Sunday in Lent</b>	10:30 AM
Sun	11-Mar-12	Threenie Lunch - Mission & Ministry	
Mon	12-Mar-12	History of Christianity study group	10am and 7pm
Mon	12-Mar-12	Confirmation Class	6:30pm Youth Room

Tues	13-Mar-12	Worship Committee Meeting	7:30pm
Wed	14-Mar-12	Mission & Ministry Meeting	7:00pm
Sun	18-Mar-12	<b>The Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>	10:30am
Sun	18-Mar-12	"by George!" Delivery today	
Sun	18-Mar-12	<b>Choral Evensong</b>	4:00pm
Mon	19-Mar-12	History of Christianity study group	10am and 7pm
Mon	19-Mar-12	Confirmation Class	6:30pm Youth Room
Wed	21-Mar-12	Parish Council Meeting	7:15 PM
Sat	24-Mar-12	Parish Hall, Kitchen, Booked for Centre for Christian Studies	Noon to 10:00pm
Sun	25-Mar-12	<b>The Fifth Sunday in Lent - Morning Prayer</b>	10:30am
Sun	25-Mar-12	Church and Hall booked for Centre for Christian Studies	1:30 pm to approx. 5pm

**Quiz Night** at St. George's Saturday, February 4: 6:30- doors open 7:00 games begin.

What is Quiz Night?

Teams of 8 persons compete against other teams, answering questions, related to various categories such as history, current events, geography, music, sports, movies and pop culture. The team with the most points wins a prize. Refreshments and snacks will be served. Think about signing up a team of friends or family, or sign up and be matched with a team. Adults- \$15 Teens- \$10 Purchase your tickets after the service or from the church office. Join the Fellowship & Fun(draising)!



**Annual General Meeting** Sunday, February 12: Following the 10:30 service

*NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the parishioners of the Parish of St. George, Crescentwood will be held in the parish hall (Gartrell Auditorium) on Sunday, the twelfth day of February, A.D. 2012, immediately following the morning service and a light lunch, at approximately 12:30 pm, for the purpose of receiving reports of the ministry of the parish in the year 2011, setting a budget for 2012, and electing various officers of the congregation; at which time and place all members signing the Declaration of Church Membership and who are of the full age of 16 years are entitled to attend and to vote.*

*Dated January 23, 2012*

*The Reverend Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell*

Anyone reaching the age of 16 just prior to February 12th or anyone else who isn't sure if they are eligible to vote, please contact the parish office to confirm.

Audio of the Carols and Hymns sung at the 2011 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols can be accessed through our website- [www.stgeorges.mb.ca](http://www.stgeorges.mb.ca)

Visit St. George's website for the most current calendar and event information:

<http://www.stgeorges.mb.ca/>

**In the Broader Community:**

- February 12: Celebration of New Ministry of the Very Rev. Paul N. Johnson as Incumbent of the Cathedral Parish of St. John and Dean of Rupert's Land, 4 pm at St. John's Cathedral
- March 16 & 17: Lenten Retreat, St. Stephens, Winnipeg
- April 16 to 20: National House of Bishops meeting
- April 22: Confirmation – Parish Church of St. George-Crescentwood
- October 18 to 20: Diocesan Synod

Visit the Diocese of Rupert's Land website for the most current calendar and event information:

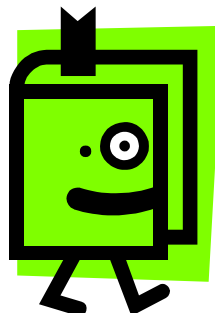
[http://www.rupertsland.ca/diocesan\\_community/upcoming.html](http://www.rupertsland.ca/diocesan_community/upcoming.html)



**THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION**

People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.

Elizabeth Kubler Ross



## **YOUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES ...**

### **Lean into Lent**

The wind whistled through the thin walls of our 45' residential trailer. The baseboard heaters couldn't keep up with the chill outside. (-10 was considered balmy!) But the combination of two cats, pregnant wife and electric blanket made the nights snug.

Mutton Bay, Quebec. 1992 - in my first parish. Fresh out of seminary in June and straight to the 'last remaining outpost on the Lower North Shore,' at least that's how our archdeacon described it when we finally admitted defeat and asked to leave in February.

I've often joked that it wasn't the snow or the cold, it wasn't the culture shock or the isolation, that finally made us decide that we couldn't remain there. It was actually that we had eaten all of the ice cream in Mutton Bay and Tabatiere (the second point in our three-point mission) and it was only the end of February. The first boat wasn't due until at least April, maybe May!

You see, along the Lower North Shore of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, there are no roads. In the winter you can travel the coast by snowmobile. There are inland trails and, from January – March, the sea ice freezes four miles out and four feet thick. There's lots of movement on the shore in the winter. But supplies must come by plane – very expensive! People order in big bags (50 lbs!) of potatoes, carrots and turnip on the last boat before the freeze-up and hope they will last until the second boat in the spring – the first boat is a semi-ice breaker that only carries beer – just in case it doesn't make it all the way up the coast on the first try! So, ice cream, well it might not even be on the second boat – time to move out! This early experience helps me to understand a little better some of the challenges that our northern Manitoba brothers and sisters encounter while waiting for the freeze up of the ice roads. We live in such a vast country with people living in various ways and conditions.

Remembering that very different lifestyle makes me wonder about the origins of Lent. You see, in the northern hemisphere, Lent takes place as we wait for Spring. Lent – the lengthening of days – we know Spring is coming because the light is coming back. But, at the same time, the supplies used to run out. There was a time when March was the 'lean month' because there wasn't much left in the cold cellar to make even a thin soup. I wonder whether the fasting of Lent was originally a spiritual discipline or whether the spiritual discipline was developed to give meaning to this 'lean time'?

Theological reflection – and liturgical theology – at their best, begin with 'the way things are'. We live our lives, we describe our lives, we reflect on the meaning inherent in our experience. And that is what I suspect happened with Lent. During the 'lean time', with the days lengthening, people reflected on hardship and hope. Well, in these days of the majority of people (at least in the 'developed world') living in cities, it is hard to relate to the cycles of harvest and hunger. Supermarket shelves are well-stocked year-round. I place an order online and it arrives in a few days. The quality and the selection may change slightly (after all, clementines are only available at Christmas), but there is always an abundance. Scarcity comes not because there isn't enough in the store but because some have no money to buy the food that is so readily available. Around the world a

similar plight is shared by all. There is lots of food to go around but how can we manage to share it?

The sharing of resources is one dilemma that we face as a society. There are others. This Lent, rather than giving up chocolate, or desserts, or smoking (although giving up these things could be very good for our health), I invite you to take on a Lenten discipline. You are invited to make a new commitment to reflect theologically on your lives – on your experience – on the issues that lurk in the shadows which you so seldom take time to really contemplate. Read the news or watch the news and try to ask two questions – 1) How is the Holy Spirit moving in that situation? and 2) What is the loving response that I am called to make?

Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22nd, 12:15pm and 7:30pm services) is a time for taking note of the reality of our day. Good Friday is a time for lamenting the darkness – the barrenness – the failures of ourselves and our society. It is a time for acknowledging the longing that pulls us deep into the reality of our existence. And, having experienced and acknowledged the depths of that longing, we are ready to greet Easter morning with hope. The days are lengthening – there is the promise of hope in this new light. The promise of Easter is new life out of death, new light out of darkness, new hope for the world. Let us take the time this Lent to face the scarcity, the longing, the ‘rough waters’, that we may celebrate at Easter the promise of a better world being birthed as we seek to follow the call of the Holy Spirit working in our midst!

Peace.

Lyndon

Your Parish Priest

### **TOO MUCH PAPER?**

If you are reading this “by George!” on paper and have an email address, we can help you reduce the paper you receive and you can 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](mailto:office@stgeorges.mb.ca) and you’ll start receiving electronic rather than paper documents.

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



## MARGARET WRITES ...

### Michael Bruce's Ordination

On the evening of Epiphany, Friday January 6, Michael Bruce was ordained to the diaconate of the Anglican Church of Canada by Bishop Donald Phillips. The ceremony took place in the chapel of Trinity College, Toronto where Michael has been a student for the past three years.

I was honored to be chosen by Michael as his lay presenter. His clergy presenter was Tony Harwood-Jones, and we walked either side of Michael in the procession into the chapel to the singing of the hymn *As With Gladness Men of Old*. The ceremony was very formal, with a large contingent of Trinity College priests and students taking part. The first lesson was read by Rob Walker who was our theological student at St. George's in 2011. Following the homily, Tony and I presented Michael to the Bishop, who then asked Michael many questions, to which he answered, "I will" or "I do".

Basically, Michael promised in the name of Jesus Christ to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely. He also promised to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them and to model his life upon them, to make Christ and his redemptive love known by his own word and example, and to assist the bishop and priests in public worship.

After the litany and the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*, Michael received the laying on of hands, after which Tony and I vested him with his stole and dalmatic. He then received a Bible from the bishop and was presented to the congregation who greeted him with thunderous applause. After his ordination, Michael assisted the bishop with the Eucharist.

Margaret Owen

## MISSION AND MINISTRY

### Prayer Shawls

Mission and Ministry has an urgent need for Prayer Shawls. We have 2 remaining and it's January, the beginning of a cold bleak time for some of us who need the comfort and warmth of a hand made Prayer Shawl. We need at least 6 more shawls between now and April, and at least as many more again throughout the year. We never know when a Parishioner will need a shawl, and last Fall all the shawls were given out all at once!!

If you have one started and need help finishing it, please call me – Gail Walker 453-1672. We can complete it quickly for you.

Michael's and Zellers have good yarns, Lion Brand "Homespun" or "Red Heart" Light and Lofty. Bamboo needles, size 8-10mm are wonderful.

Please talk to me about making a Prayer Shawl! The instructions are easy and, the knitting is relaxing and contemplative!

Gail Walker

### **Prayer Shawl Blessing**

At the morning service on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the number of prayer shawls had appreciatively increased to five. These were gratefully received and blessed with these words:

God of love and care,

You made all things and you connect us all with your Holy Spirit. We thank you for the gift of these prayer shawls, made by loving hands to be signs of your love flowing through us to those in our church who are lonely or sick. As we infuse these shawls with your love, which is in us, may these shawls be blessed and become reminders to all who rest in their warmth that all creation rests in your sacred embrace. Teach us to reflect your love, generosity, and service in our lives each day and, by doing so, reflect your face in all the world. We ask these things through the love and power of Jesus whom we follow, now and forever. Amen.

### **A Message from Camp Phoenix**

Gwyneth Jones provided this email from her son about the package St. George's sent to him and his buddies.

"Hey Mum and Dad,

The Church's package arrived a few days ago, and the dried fruit has been a huge hit, particularly the Mangoes. It's all vanishing very quickly. Most of the other Christmas goodies piled up on the snack table are various flavours of chocolate or candy cane, which people are getting a bit sick of now.

I'll send you a postcard back for them, but let them know that the staff of the Canadian Tactical Ops Center here on Camp Phoenix send their thanks to the Parish of St. George.

Eifion"





## A HISTORY

Christian missionaries came to the indigenous people of northern Manitoba nearly two centuries ago. The people for the most part welcomed the Christian missionaries because they recognized in the Christian Scriptures the same seven values of humility, love, truth, honesty, respect, hope and courage that were taught by their elders. They accepted baptism, built a place for worship, received church membership and welcomed missionary clergy in their communities.



Chief William Kede-keak in front of church at Spill Lake, circa 1929

## A TRAGEDY

Many of the missionaries lived exemplary lives in the indigenous communities. They learned the local languages, created the syllabic alphabet, and translated the Bible, prayers and songs into these languages. They enlisted the help of elders as assistants, with the titles of catechist and lay reader, to pass the Christian teachings to the next generation. Tragically however, these missionaries were not able to recognize truth in the indigenous teachings. They did not see God's Spirit at work in the native culture. They equated Christianity with their own Western culture, and condemned most of the traditional way of life as heathen, and even demonic. From this emerged the tragedy of the Residential Schools, where indigenous people suffered the loss of their language and ways of life. In recent years the Church has apologized for these wrongs. But today many still see the Church as a barrier to their identity as indigenous people.

## A NEW VISION

A new vision of what the church can be has begun to emerge amongst the people themselves. Churches in aboriginal communities can find ways to better serve their communities. The Word of God can become more visible when a grassroots church takes forms that grow out of indigenous languages and culture. This is not to reject the church as it has come to us today, but to help it become truly a church of the people. Faced with the global ecological crisis, Western culture is recognizing that much can be learned from the values of the indigenous peoples, such as respect for creation and partnership with the Creator in the stewardship of Mother Earth and all her creatures.



The new church will also re-unite the Anglicans of northern Manitoba. With the blessings of our bishops and elders, grassroots gatherings in northern Manitoba have crossed the old administrative boundaries created by the colonial church, setting in place one Area Mission for all.

# THE SPIRIT IS BLOWING THROUGH NORTHERN MANITOBA



## OUR MISSION

Our quest in the days ahead is to live a church life that is attractive to those of our people who have in the past turned away in frustration, anger or pain. We will work to heal and reconcile the wounds of past injustices. We will invite our young people to a church that values the identity they still learn from their elders. Without cutting ties to the larger Anglican Church, our church will be one throughout all of northern Manitoba. It will be self-determining and led by clergy and lay leaders. It will seek to set along side the still honoured ways from the missionaries, new forms of worship, prayer and song that reflect our culture and grow up amongst our people. It will help bring individuals and communities to that social and spiritual wholeness that is a sign of God's reign in our midst.

## THE WAY AHEAD

Lay people and clergy have been meeting to ask how to bring about a new form for the Christian church in northern Manitoba, one that will be truly self-determining.



We call our vision Pitching Our Tent, in Cree, Echemahtahyahk Pwahkwayneka mehk.

To make our vision a reality we need to secure financing to launch the work of the Area Mission. We are asking you to help us. Help us with the means to become a church in northern Manitoba that truly reflects the best of our diverse Christian cultures. Help us bring our wounded communities to social and spiritual healing. Please join us in our mission to contribute to the spiritual, mental and physical well being of people we both serve.

Donations can be sent to:

**Northern Manitoba Area Mission**  
c/o P.O. Box 122, Head Office  
Split Lake, MB.

R0B 1P0  
(204) 342-2247

Area Mission Coordinator: [lijbeardy@hotmail.com](mailto:lijbeardy@hotmail.com)

Tax receipts will be issued on request.

**PITCHING OUR TENT**

"Pitching our Tent" is an image that comes from the Bible story of the journey of the Hebrew people from slavery to freedom. At each new stage on their journey the people pitched the tent where they worshipped God, then made camp around it.

A New Area Mission for Northern Manitoba



## **ST. GEORGE'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE**

Please bring in those clean, saleable items now for the next St. George's Annual Garage Sale in April.

Reminder:

- We are no longer accepting old TVs, computers, and computer printers due to e-waste disposal issues.
- You may donate children's items and clothing, but we are not accepting adult clothing. THANK YOU.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

From the December 14<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting:

- Parish Council was asked to consider key Business Plan initiatives for 2012. Those responsible for budget lines were asked to submit 2012 estimates by December 31.
- Michael Bruce's ordination gift was discussed.
- The November 2011 financial statements were discussed. The Net Income of \$14 424 is favourable to budget and last year. Current financial information is in the Annual Report.
- The Stewardship Committee reported on plans for 2012 including fall guest speaker (Rev Geoff Woodcroft from St. Paul's) and for a database of Time and Talent Inventory Card data.
- Christian Education reported on plans for the children's Christmas pageant and the "History of Christianity" adult education.
- Worship Committee reported on plans for Christmas worship and prevention of sexual abuse.
- The calendar of Diocesan events was reviewed.
- The Ministry of Fun reported on the Christmas Dinner as well as plans for the Bishop's Dinner and Quiz Night.
- Mission and Ministry reported on the opportunity to donate to the rebuilding of St. Jude's Cathedral in Iqualuit.
- Membership reported on December advertising.
- Courtesies were given to Sandra Hartt, Hollie Andrew, Mary Thomas, Marlene Pryzner, Wayne Milson, and the Ministry of Fun.
- The next Parish Council meeting is February 15th.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

### **St. George's Church – January to December 2011**

The preliminary Net Income is \$16 465 before unrealized gains or losses on investments held and auditor's adjustments (usually late accruals). Please see the Annual Report for more information on the 2011 Net Income.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of December.

### **Designated Funds**

Our Balance Sheet includes about 32 Designated Funds. These Funds range in size from less than \$100 to over \$100 000. The key aspect of each Fund is the money can only be spent on what the money was donated or raised for. For example, the Designated Fund – Christmas Cheer can only be used for the Christmas Cheer. Some Funds have ongoing activity and some don't.

Significant (>\$500) changes to Designated Funds in December 2011:

- Flowers: \$515 one day of Poinsettia donations
- Sabbatical Provision: \$513 quarterly transfer from operations
- West Broadway: \$500 Christmas donations
- PC/Printer Provision: \$750 transfer from Designated Fund: Operations as planned in 2011 Budget

### **Ethical Investing**

We monitor our investments to ensure they are "ethical". RBC provided Sustainalytics reports on our SNC Lavalin and Suncor investments.

SNC Lavalin is just below the middle of their industry group. Although it appears SNC Lavalin doesn't do the best job of disclosing their ethical policies and programs, there's nothing to suggest they have unethical practices.

Suncor is near the top of their industry group and is in some "ethical funds".

Ted Cotton





## STEWARDSHIP

Planning is underway for fall 2012 financial and non-financial Stewardship activities.

Please see the Annual Report for the highlights of 2011 Stewardship activities.

If you want to change your monthly electronic donation or start the Electronic Offering Program during the year, the form and instructions are always available on the church web site at [Donor Registration/Amendment Form](#).

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

St. George's Stewardship Committee

Allan Silk (Chair)

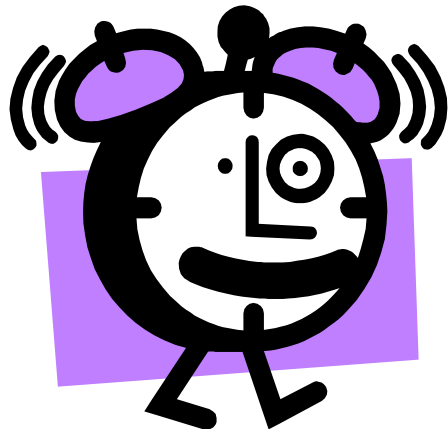
Ted Cotton

Roger Dennis

Sue Hollingsworth

The Rev. Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell

Karl Purchase





- WHERE ?** The Parish Church of St. George-Crescentwood  
168 Wilton Street
- WHEN ?** Saturday, February 4, 2012  
6:30 pm doors open, 7:00 pm fun starts
- WHO ?** Adults - \$15  
Youth (ages 11-17) - \$10  
Teams of 8 people  
(Organize your own team, or be matched with others to form a team)
- WHAT ?** Each QUIZ NIGHT team works together to solve trivia questions in a variety of categories. What team will be the winner?
- WHY ?** FELLOWSHIP & FUN(DRAISING)!