

# “by George!”

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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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WELCOME BACK EDITION

### Dreaming of a Cadillac ...

Do you remember when General Motors was the most important auto maker in the world? When Chevy owners always bought another Chevy but hoped to buy a Buick or an Olds at some time in the future? When everyone dreamed of driving a Cadillac?

Did you see Chevy and Pontiac compete with each other? Buick and Olds doing the same? Did you wonder why acclaimed General Motors vehicles from Opel, Vauxhall, and Holden were usually only available in distant lands? Did you see other auto makers surpass General Motors in image and sales?

How did this happen? One reason is a lack of alignment. To survive and succeed, an organization must ensure all efforts are focused in a consistent direction. This successful alignment energizes, guides, and endures. Alignment must

- Be planned
- Recognize the organization’s vision
- Be built into all activity planning
- Deal with obstacles
- Be updated as changes occur

This fall, we’ll be putting more effort into our alignment. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, parish committees will participate in a workshop to align their 2010 activities with the parish vision. We plan to survive and succeed!

The next edition of “by George!” will be in November. Please gather your thoughts and submit your articles by the November 15th deadline.

Welcome back.

Ted Cotton

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

	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Sun	27-Sep-09	QUIET SERVICE	8:30 AM
Sun	27-Sep-09	FAMILY SERVICE w/Music; Stewardship Speaker #1	10:30 AM
Wed	30-Sep-09	ARCHIVES AT WORK	9:30 AM
Fri	02-Oct-09	Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Meeting	1:30 PM
Sun	04-Oct-09	QUIET SERVICE	8:30 AM
Sun	04-Oct-09	FAMILY SERVICE w/Music; Stewardship Speaker #2; blessing of animals	10:30 AM
Tue	06-Oct-09	CORPORATION MEETING	
Wed	07-Oct-09	ARCHIVES AT WORK	9:30 AM
Sun	11-Oct-09	QUIET SERVICE	8:30 AM
Sun	11-Oct-09	FAMILY SERVICE w/Music	10:30 AM
Mon	12-Oct-09	THANKSGIVING DAY - BUILDING CLOSED	
Tue	13-Oct-09	Worship Committee Meeting	7:30 PM
Wed	14-Oct-09	ARCHIVES AT WORK	9:30 AM
Sun	18-Oct-09	QUIET SERVICE Celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving	8:30 AM
Sun	18-Oct-09	FAMILY SERVICE w/Music Celebrating Harvest	
Sun	18-Oct-09	Thanksgiving	10:30 AM
Sun	18-Oct-09	CHORAL EVENSONG	4:00 PM
Tue	20-Oct-09	MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING	7:30 PM
Wed	21-Oct-09	ARCHIVES AT WORK	9:30 AM
Sun	25-Oct-09	FAMILY SERVICE W/MUSIC Stewardship Sunday	(only service today)
Sun	25-Oct-09	CONCERT AT ST. GEORGE'S Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra	2:30 PM
Wed	28-Oct-09	ARCHIVES AT WORK	9:30 AM
Sun	01-Nov-09	QUIET SERVICE All Saints	8:30 AM
Sun	01-Nov-09	FAMILY SERVICE w/Music All Saints	10:30 AM
Tue	03-Nov-09	CORPORATION MEETING	
Wed	04-Nov-09	ARCHIVES AT WORK	9:30 AM
Fri	06-Nov-09	Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Meeting	1:30 PM
Sun	08-Nov-09	QUIET SERVICE Remembrance Sunday	8:30 AM
Sun	08-Nov-09	FAMILY SERVICE w/Music Remembrance Sunday	10:30 AM
Tue	10-Nov-09	Worship Committee Meeting	7:30 PM
Wed	11-Nov-09	ARCHIVES AT WORK	9:30 AM
Sat	14-Nov-09	TEA & CLOSET SALE	
Sun	15-Nov-09	QUIET SERVICE	8:30 AM
Sun	15-Nov-09	FAMILY SERVICE w/Music; "by George!" deadline	10:30 AM
Tue	17-Nov-09	MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING	7:30 PM
Wed	18-Nov-09	ARCHIVES AT WORK	9:30 AM
Sun	22-Nov-09	QUIET SERVICE Reign of Christ	8:30 AM
Sun	22-Nov-09	FAMILY SERVICE w/Music Reign of Christ	10:30 AM
Wed	25-Nov-09	ARCHIVES AT WORK	9:30 AM
Sun	29-Nov-09	QUIET SERVICE - Advent 1	8:30 AM
Sun	29-Nov-09	FAMILY SERVICE w/Music - Advent 1; "by George!" delivery	10:30 AM
Sat	05-Dec-09	CHRISTMAS DINNER	

**In the Broader Community:**

September 29: Ordination of Donald McKenzie – St. John’s Cathedral  
 October 2 and 3: Faith Horizons – St. Mary’s Academy  
 October 27: Bishop’s Annual Dinner with Fred Hiltz – Caboto Centre  
 October 31: The Great Emergence with Phyllis Tickle – Booth College  
 November 7: Adult Spirituality with Lucy Abbot-Tucker – University of Winnipeg  
 November 14: Local Collaborative Ministry Workshop – St. Mark’s

**YOUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES ...**

**Love, Accept, Welcome, Serve!**

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to many of you who have been away at the lake or in other exciting places for vacation time. We are gearing up with many great leaders in our Sunday School program. Our choir is gearing up and continuing their preparations for a trip to England. We are welcoming a new Sunday School Superintendent, Elizabeth McAdam. We are welcoming a new ministry student, Steven Scribner. Your corporation, with the help of some experienced parishioners, is putting together an up-to-date business plan. We will be continuing the Living the Questions Study Program. We will spend some time reflecting on a vision for the Anglican Church of Canada during the sermon times in Advent. We will also have opportunities to learn more about the issues around same-sex relationships in preparation for the next meeting of our General Synod (tri-annual meeting of the Anglican Church of Canada) next summer.

We are all learning to follow the way of Jesus as a people called by God to love, accept, welcome and serve. Two years ago I wrote in my article in the By George about how the word “Liturgy” means “the work of the people.” I mentioned how “liturgy” initially referred to the work done by the people of the Roman Empire to keep public spaces and facilities in good repair and how this word was adopted by the early church to describe the work that we all do in order to celebrate the Eucharist and serve the wider community. Many people in our parish do great and grace-filled work in our church and in our community to love, accept, welcome and serve. Thank you for the work we all do together to build supportive relationships and share our ministry with our community.

Two years ago I went on to say that as I began my ministry with all of you here at St. George’s Crescentwood I was, symbolically, at the “Greeting” of my time here. Last year I talked about how we have moved into the “Proclamation of the Word” Time. This is the time in our Sunday Services when we all hear readings from the Bible and we hear reflection on those readings in a Sermon. This “Proclamation of the Word” Time in the life of our parish is becoming a time when we need to all become more articulate about who we are as a congregation, as a parish and as a community. This is a time when we will fling wide open the doors and invite people in.

Well, after the Proclamation of the Word, in our Eucharistic liturgy we encounter the many responses to that Sacred Word. We hear me try to say a bit more about the words we have just heard from the bible and how these inspirational words might apply to our

lives. We reaffirm our baptismal promises as we say the creed, thus recommitting ourselves to following in Jesus' Way of Life, Love and Service. Then we have our intercessions, which is a time to call to mind the cares and concerns of the world that need our love and service. In the intercessions we offer our prayers for the church and for the world, and we begin discerning which of the cares and concerns of the world we will address this week in our life. Then we enter into a time of confession as we reflect on the ways we may have not been loving and accepting, not welcoming and not serving. Then we come to the table for the Sacred food that symbolically joins us into one body and sustains us for the work that we are called to do. I'll say more about that next year.

Our primary purpose, as the church, is to gather and support each other in our spiritual growth and development amidst all the changes and chances of life, amidst the cares and concerns of the world. We are called to love, accept, welcome and serve and it is clear that so many people are unloved, unaccepted, unwelcomed and not served in their times of need. Our baptismal ministry is needed. So what will our response be to the Word of God? What cares and concerns of the world have we discerned in our community? What is God doing in the world around us and what part do we feel called to play in that Sacred Activity as followers of Jesus' Way of Life and Love?

I and your wardens with the help of Ted Cotton and Diane Ives Lewis are putting together a new Business Plan for our parish so we can organize our activities to achieve our mission and make real our vision to be a thriving community of faith that shares its ministry with the world around us. This is a critical plan for focusing our attention of sharing in ministry and service that nurtures our soul and helps us to see God. There will be some detailed planning done over the next few weeks so we can present a comprehensive plan to the AGM in February. It is important for us to be focused and moving in the same direction filled with the Spirit and Power of God.

Also, some of our parish leaders will be attending Faith Horizons 2009 (our bi-annual gathering of the diocese between diocesan synods) October 2-3. This year our guest speaker will be Alan Roxburgh. Alan will help us to think further and take the next steps towards becoming more "missional." To be "missional" is to ask the question "WHAT ARE WE DOING TO BE PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING IN TODAY'S WORLD?" As we come up with a business plan, and as we learn more about the sexuality issues and biblical interpretation concerning the worldwide Anglican Communion, and as we continue to work at nurturing our awareness of the Sacred Spirit in our lives, I ask you all to ask this question in every decision we make in our congregation – "WHAT IS GOD CALLING US TO DO? To reiterate, being Missional means recognizing that God, all that is sacred and divine in our world, is at work transforming our world into a place of wholeness. The Spirit is active. And our job, as followers of Jesus, is to respond and act. We need to continue to discern how we can use our skills and gifts to love, accept, welcome and serve each day and in every place we find our selves with all the people whom we meet.

As members of the church, as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ, we have made a commitment to love, accept, welcome and serve. We all have a vocation as faithful Christians to minister to the world around us and to each other. When you discern a way that you would like to serve or if you have an idea of a way that we can all work together to serve our community to fulfill our mission and achieve our vision, then please talk to

me or one of our leaders. Let's share our ideas and our understandings of the needs of the world and discern ways of fulfilling those needs in love and service together.

Another autumn arrives and we start up again and we continue on our sacred journey together. Come on along and bring your friends.

Peace,  
Lyndon

### **SAME-SEX BLESSINGS, THE BIBLE AND THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION – WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS?**

Let's talk about it. Whether or not to bless same-sex relationship has been a question people in the Anglican Church of Canada have been pondering for about 30 years. As attitudes towards homosexuality have changed we have started asking questions about the inclusion and celebration of people in same-sex relationships. Over the years this issue has polarized members of our churches in the Anglican Communion perhaps more than any other.

Starting a few decades ago individual bishops in the USA and in the UK gave permission for same-sex blessings one at a time and this has never been widely publicized. The climate in our Anglican Communion changed when the Diocese of New Westminster here in Canada put it to a vote at their diocesan synod (diocesan AGM). This was the first time any diocese in the Anglican Communion tried to make the blessing of same-sex unions an official church policy. And so other members of the Anglican Communion started reacting. The loudest reactions were also the most negative. Many people living in countries where their societies did not yet accept homosexuality as permissible were shocked. They cited political and religious implications that were in some cases deadly. And so we have encountered the outcome of being an international church that includes many different kinds of people in many different societies around the world. Others who reacted negatively cited biblical references that outlawed sexual contact between people of the same sex and other people who interpret the bible differently refuted those arguments. As a result an underlying issue that has surfaced is the differences in biblical interpretation that exists in the wide variety of congregations that make up our Anglican Church. The bishop of New Westminster waited for three majority votes in a row over three years before he gave his consent for the blessing of same-sex relationships.

The next event that was most pivotal was the election in the USA of a bishop who was in a committed same-sex relationship. His election was subsequently approved by the General Convention (USA AGM) of the Episcopal Church. Over time a few congregations and a few bishops have broken away from the Anglican Churches in their countries and have formed new churches. This has not yet happened in our own diocese.

A couple of years ago, our own General Synod (Anglican Church of Canada triennial general meeting) voted on a motion to allow same-sex blessings. The laypeople voted in favour, the priests and deacons voted in favour and the bishop narrowly voted against, and so the motion was defeated. Many of you may remember that the last meeting of General Synod was here in Winnipeg just over two years ago. Since then our own Diocese of Rupert's Land Synod has passed a resolution authorizing the rites of blessing

for civil unions of same-sex couples if the Anglican Church of Canada's General Synod, which meets in 2010, passes "an enabling doctrinal resolution" that would allow it. Back in the spring our own Parish Council discussed the possibility of officially declaring ourselves as a parish that affirms and celebrates same-sex relationships, which means we would clearly state that we welcome people in same-sex relationships and we would like to encourage General Synod and our own diocese to allow the celebration and blessing of these relationships. By now I know many of you are wondering, so this is probably the appropriate place to clearly state that I am in favour of the blessing of same-sex relationships. Some of you have known this since my interview. Parish Council decided that we needed to learn more about the issues involved with same-sex blessings and there are several as I have briefly outlined about.

The basic issue is Biblical interpretation and what we continue to follow literally and what we do not. Another major issue is the societal differences that exist in the many parts of our Anglican Communion that make it difficult for some parts of our communion to accept homosexuality. The Lambeth Conference (Meeting of the Anglican Communion Bishops every 10 years) did not do very much to further the discussion last summer. And more recently, the Diocese of Niagara is going ahead and developing a rite for the blessing of same-sex relationships.

Briefly, those are the major events that have brought us to where we are now.

I have been asked by our parish council to provide some resources so we can all learn more about the issues before the start of our next meeting of General Synod in June, which I think is a great idea. I have started by listing some websites below that approach the issues from different theological and sociological perspectives. Over the next year I will offer some opportunities for gathering to talk, discuss and ask questions. As I said earlier, this has been an issue that we have been discussing for about 30 years. People are beginning to ask why we are spending so much time on this issue when there are other important things to deal with. Well, while it is true that there are other important issues that are continuing to be addressed, I believe this is as important as those other issues. The issue of same-sex blessings calls us to discern if we are truly a people who love, accept, welcome and serve. And if so, then what does that mean for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters and how we relate to them? Many Anglicans may wish that this issue would just go away so we don't need to talk about it, but it is important to be able to understand and talk about what we think the way forward may be. So I invite you all to learn more about the issues and become informed as our General Synod prepares to discern next steps. Will we, as a parish, make a statement or will we continue to wait and see? This we can only discern together as we speak the truth in love and follow God's call into this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### Some Official Stuff

Anglican Communion Policy:

[www.lambethconference.org/resolutions/1998/1998-1-10.cfm](http://www.lambethconference.org/resolutions/1998/1998-1-10.cfm)

Anglican Church of Canada Policies and Resources: [www.anglican.ca/faith/hs/index.htm](http://www.anglican.ca/faith/hs/index.htm)  
& [www.anglican.ca/faith/hs/hsrh.htm](http://www.anglican.ca/faith/hs/hsrh.htm)

St. George's Crescentwood Mission: We are a people responding to Christ's call to love one another by accepting, welcoming and serving everyone.

A Couple of Different Perspectives

For Same-Sex Blessings: [www.integritycanada.org](http://www.integritycanada.org)

Against Same-Sex Blessings: [www.anglicanessentials.ca/st\\_michael\\_response\\_jip.htm](http://www.anglicanessentials.ca/st_michael_response_jip.htm)

**STEVEN SCRIBNER**

Steven is our new ministry student. He has provided the following letter and picture to introduce himself to the congregation.

I was born and raised in Saint John, New Brunswick and as a descendant of the United Empire Loyalists have deep roots with the local area and with the oldest Anglican Church in New Brunswick built in part by my ancestors. My wife and I have two sons, Patrick 25, living here in Winnipeg and David 23 living in Saint John. We moved to Winnipeg in the fall of 2006 following moves to Sault Ste. Marie and having spent the previous ten years in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

I was licensed as a Lay Reader in Diocese of Algoma, Northern Ontario prior to moving to Winnipeg and now licensed here in the Diocese of Rupert's Land. I have completed the two-year Diploma of Applied Theology at St. John's College and currently enrolled in the Advanced Diploma of Applied Theology focused on Priestly Ministry.

By day I work as an engineer employed by SNC Lavalin Inc as Manager of Construction Services. In my free time, which is sparse, I enjoy Antique Auto restoration having maintained my father's cars and currently rebuilding a 1965 Ford Thunderbird with my son Patrick, carpentry work and music.

Heather and I are members of the Parish of St. Mark in St. Vital.

I am excited with the opportunity to worship with you this fall and winter, deepen my spiritual journey and explore with you our faith walking together with God as our Father. I welcome your questions and friendship as we get to know each other over the up coming weeks.

Blessings

  
Steven Scribner



### **MARGARET WRITES ...**

Michael Bruce

It's not often that a young person from our parish decides to study for the priesthood. The last one I can bring to mind is Charles Ledger back in the 1950's, although some of you may be able to remember others. But now we will be able to follow the career of one of our own.

I remember Michael from my days of teaching classroom music at Robert H. Smith School. I was instantly drawn to this cute little grade one boy with his shy smile and mop of curly blond hair. I can still see him sitting cross-legged on the carpet with the rest of his class singing "Here We Are Together", or chanting "Who Took the Cookie From the Cookie Jar?"

It wasn't long before I discovered that Michael and his family attended St. George's, and I have followed his progress with great interest as he moved through grade school and university, attending Linden Christian School and the University of Winnipeg. When he was in his teens Michael became a server at St. George's, and I got to know him even better as I was chair of the Worship Committee at the time. Michael was always good-natured and willing to help the younger servers learn their role. He was greatly missed when, after his graduation from university, he spent a year teaching English in Korea.

Ever since I can remember, Michael has had his heart set on becoming a priest. It has been his lifelong dream, and he is now off to Toronto to study theology at Trinity College. Our prayers and best wishes go with him, and we will be looking forward to updates on his progress.

**FUNDRAISING CONCERT - WINNIPEG MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA**

On Sunday, October 25 at 2.30 p m St. George's will host a fundraising concert featuring the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra. This orchestra, which performs a variety of music, is comprised of 25 musicians. Do make a point of taking in this event. Tickets at \$10 each may be obtained from Bill Owen (home 475 1848 or office 989 8597) or from the church office (453 5642).

Thanks!  
Bill Owen

## **CLOSET SALE**

Attention all parishioners - we have a brainwave and need your assistance.

**St. George's Is Offering A Community Gathering**

**On**

**Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> From 1:00 To 3:30 Pm**

**To Shop, Eat And Chat**

Here's where we need your help. We are offering a **Closet Sale** of seasonal clothing. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for you to bring in your nearly-new, clean clothing – adult & children to the Wilton entrance starting now!! (as you know we do not accept clothing at our annual Garage Sale)

We'll also be looking for

**Baking & Preserves** – put on your apron and get out your favourite recipes

**Books** – soft covers and children's books – clean off a shelf

**Christmas Treasures** – decorations, gift bags, tableware

**Large Furniture items** that you can't store till our April Garage Sale and we could sell and display them on the stage.

You will be phoned for your help and donations. We anticipate having a children's activity centre. Success of this venture depends on you!!

Committee: Marlene Ramsay, Sandra Hartt, Mary Thomas, Elizabeth McAdam,  
Evelyn Davidson & many others.

## **THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION**

Why do waiters often get 15% but God usually gets less than 10%?

## THE CHOIR AND THE TRIP TO ENGLAND

Choir has started up again for the year. We're glad to be back in the balcony, and are in particular need of more trebles – both boys and girls. If you are in the congregation and have a child age 7 or older who would be interested in singing – please give the choir serious consideration. If you have friends, relatives, or neighbours with children who might be interested in the choir, please let me know and I will contact them! We don't want to see the children's section of the choir disappear. It would be a great loss to St. George's and wouldn't bode well for the future.

Planning for the 2011 trip to England to sing in Lincoln Cathedral (Aug 8 to 14 2011) will seriously get underway this fall – so this is a great time to join the choir and be a part of this trip!

Rick Morgan



## THOU SHALT NOT STEAL?

The attached essay was printed in "by George!" (or whatever it was called then) 22 years ago. Maybe its time to recycle it so our folk can meditate on the progress we've made. Amazingly, in spite of 22 years of inflation, you can still buy bananas for close to 30 cents a pound. That tells us something about progress.

Cheers, Gordon Spafford

The laws of Moses remain an active formula for maintaining a viable human society. So, like others of this society, I occasionally take a run through the ten commandments to see how badly I'm slipping. I wouldn't want to be the one who made that final slip that rendered human society no longer viable. Well, I consistently run into trouble with the eighths.

The eighths commandment, "Thou shalt not steal". Sounds simple you say. Just a case of exerting a little willpower. So, there I was, contemplating the eighth. I was eating a banana at the time and I thought, "where did I get this banana?" Well, it was right there in the fruit bowl looking as if it would go bad if I didn't eat it. My wife probably bought it in the supermarket for about 30 cents a pound, about the cheapest fruit in the store. Why was it so cheap? It came all the way from Mexico or Panama and it's cheaper than apples that we grow right here.

That banana had to be grown on someone's farm, picked, carried to market, disinfected, loaded and unloaded several times and it still gets to the supermarket for less cost than apples? Who did all that work? Let's say his name is Pancho. Does Pancho get to eat our apples? I don't suppose so. He probably can't even afford to eat many of his own bananas.

To begin with the farm they grow on probably isn't his and, besides, he needs the meager income from all that work to pay for other necessities.

I can eat both bananas and apples. Did I steal the banana, or part of it, from Pancho? I guess so. Worse still, it's only one of many thefts and I don't even know how to stop. Do you steal? Do we all, those of us comfortably established in what we call the developed world, steal?

Is it theft to exploit the poor populations of what we call the underdeveloped countries by actions that destabilize their governments and economies so that they continue to supply us with abundant goods at low cost? We do that? Is it theft to over utilize and mine our resources and damage our environment so that we consume now what we might have passed on to future generations? We do that. Is it theft to use resources in a way that will create future abandonment and waste disposal problems and leave the cost of remedies to those future problems for future generations while we use the resources? We do that.

Do we want to steal? I guess the answer is no and yes. We don't want the people of underdeveloped countries to be poor and oppressed but we want the product of their labour in large quantities and cheap. We want future generations, our own descendants, to enjoy the freedom and comfort that we repeatedly claim to be our right but we hope they can learn to do so in a desert. We want our affluence to be passed on to our descendants but we also want them to meet the deferred cost of our own affluence.

When and how will we stop stealing? I don't know, but first we will have to open our eyes to the world we live in and want to see it. Then we will have to open our hearts to what we see. Then we will have to say, "Thy kingdom come" without adding the caveat, "but later please".



## **MARBLES**

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes.

Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

'Hello Barry, how are you today?'

'H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good.'

'They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?'

'Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time.'

'Good. Anything I can help you with?'

'No, Sir. Jus' admirin' th em peas.'

'Would you like to take some home?' asked Mr. Miller.

'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.'

'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?'

'All I got's my prize marble here.'

'Is that right? Let me see it' said Miller.

'Here 'tis. She's a dandy.'

'I can see that. Hmm mmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?' the store owner asked.

'Not zackley but almost.'

'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble'. Mr. Miller told the boy.

'Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller.'

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me.

With a smile she said, 'There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever.

When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store.'

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary, we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about colour or size....they came to pay their debt.'

'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho.'

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

The Moral: We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.

Today I wish you a day of ordinary miracles  
~ A fresh pot of coffee you didn't make yourself..  
An unexpected phone call from an old friend ....  
Green stoplights on your way to work...  
The fastest line at the grocery store...  
A good sing-along song on the radio...  
Your keys found right where you left them.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GATHER, BUT WHAT YOU SCATTER THAT TELLS  
WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU HAVE LIVED!



## **RUPERT'S LAND CAREGIVER SERVICES**

Rupert's Land Caregiver Services is a non-profit organization providing services and support to family caregivers of older adults. Their "Ring-a-Ride" transportation program needs volunteer drivers to take clients residing in SW Winnipeg to appointments, shopping and other outings throughout the city. Compensation for gasoline and parking is provided. Please call 452-9491 for more information about this and other volunteer opportunities.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

From the June 17th Parish Council meeting:

- Lyndon will be on vacation from July 10 to August 23.
- There will be opportunities to study the subject of same sex unions prior to 2010 Synod.
- There were four bids on the boiler, but we did not get the government grant.
- Corporation is discussing a strategic plan and hopes to present it to Parish Council in October.
- The May 2009 financial statements shows a Net Loss of \$29 830; this is unfavourable to Budget and last year. Details of the current financial statements are in this "by George!".
- The Stewardship Committee reported on the fall financial stewardship activities (including guest speaker, the Reverend Bob Webster) and "Our Parish 2009" report.
- The Membership Committee is also working on the "Our Parish 2009" report and on a Pub Night for newcomers.
- The calendar of Diocesan events was reviewed.
- Elizabeth McAdam will start as Sunday School Superintendent in September.
- Courtesies were given to Ray Simmons for his work as chair of Pastoral Care, Paul Lampman for filling in for a sick Lyndon, Michael Bruce for his many contributions, Joan Harland for her lectures on women in the Bible, and Ralph Baxter for his lectures on Celtic spirituality.

The next Parish Council will be October 21.

## **ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS**

If you are reading this "by George!" on paper and have an email address, please help us reduce paper, 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)

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 August

	Actual 2009	Actual 2008	Budget 2009
Revenue	\$185 608.46	\$167 252.99	\$188 060.69
Expense	\$203 680.64	\$197 889.25	\$208 494.16
Net Income (Loss)	(\$18 072.18)	(\$30 636.26)	(\$20 433.47)

### January to August 2009

The Net Loss is \$18 072. This is favourable to the Budget of \$20 433 and last year of \$30 636.

Variances of \$700 or more to Budget are:

- Fundraising is favourable \$10 526. This is Special Events/Dinners and the Garage Sale
- Interest Earned is unfavourable \$1 945. This is timing, rates, and principal.
- PWRDF donations are \$1 647 unfavourable. This is an in and out.
- Regular Offerings is unfavourable \$10 122. This is lower Identified Giving and Open Plate more than offsetting higher Special & Designated. Identified Giving is about 7.6% unfavourable to Budget but about 13.1% favourable to last year.

- Ministry Payroll Benefits are \$767 unfavourable. The Budget was underestimated.
- Sunday School Superintendant is \$750 favourable. This is less time than budgeted.
- General Maintenance is favourable \$2 190. This is the boiler project taking care of minor boiler expenses.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of August.

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 August 31		
	2009	2008	change
Current Assets (chequing, cash)	\$ 69 289.98	24 472.18	44 817.80
Fixed Assets (building)	785 030.20	785 030.20	0
Other Assets (investments)	314 630.89	356 562.26	(41 931.37)
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$ 1 168 951.07	1 166 064.64	2 886.43
Current Liabilities (designated)	\$ 219 392.13	164 281.54	55 110.59
Long Term Liabilities (trusts)	7 260.26	7 260.26	0
Equity	942 298.68	994 522.84	(52 224.16)
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	\$ 1 168 951.07	1 166 064.64	2 886.43

\$

**STEWARDSHIP****Stewardship Sunday - October 25, 2009**

Thanks for your support during our difficult financial times. You have provided the inspiration to continue our ministries.

We're beginning the fourth year of encouraging personal growth through supporting the church's mission and ministry. This approach to financial stewardship focuses on giving for spiritual development rather than for paying bills.

Financial stewardship will continue to emphasize the biblical principles of generous and unselfish giving. Though a series of thoughtful messages, parishioners will be encouraged to reflect on the question, "What portion of my wealth is God calling me to give?"

The 2009 financial stewardship events include:

- Sunday September 27: listen to parishioner #1
- Sunday October 4: listen to parishioner #2
- Sunday October 18: listen to guest speaker, Bob Webster  
complete reservation card for Celebration Threenie Lunch
- Sunday October 25: listen to sermon on Christian stewardship  
complete Estimate of Giving Card  
make offering to God  
enjoy Celebration Threenie Lunch

The Stewardship Committee encourages all parishioners to attend all stewardship events and ... to welcome Stewardship Sunday - October 25, 2009!

For those wishing to change their monthly donation or start the Electronic Offering Program, the form and instructions are always available on the church web site at [Donor Registration/Amendment Form](#). Complete forms and information will be included with your Estimate of Giving card (see below) in an October letter and the November 2009 "by George!"

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

St. George's Stewardship Committee

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

**Estimate of Giving for the Ministry of**

**St. George's Anglican Church for 2010**

You are encouraged to support St. George's by undertaking regular financial contributions. This estimate of giving can be amended at your request.

God willing, I /We wish to support the Ministry of St. George's during the year 2010 with a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Payable in installment as follows: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week, **OR**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per month, **OR**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per quarter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*For those who are enrolled or wish to become enrolled in the Monthly Electronic Offering Program please complete the following:*

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of the \_\_\_\_\_ Please

(month) Start or Amend my electronic offering

\_\_\_\_\_

My monthly donation will be as follows:

Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a Voided Cheque for New enrolments or change to Bank account information.

No cheque required for amount changes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date