

# “by George!”

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The “by George!” connects all parishioners through electronic or hard copy distribution. It 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

## Change

Have you moved, lost a loved one, found a job, started a relationship, bought another vehicle, seen your favourite restaurant close... lately? Then, you're experiencing the ongoing human phenomenon of change. Many fear it, try to avoid it, or fight it. Others accept it as an opportunity and try to work with it. Whatever you feel, here are a few thoughts about change:

**C** is for coping. There will be change in your life! Deal with the uncertainty and move ahead. Communicate your concerns and determine the most beneficial next steps.

**H** is for honesty. Be objective about your current setting. If you're afraid, recognize that and minimize it.

**A** is for anticipation. Be prepared for change. Enjoy a variety of contacts, services ... so a change will have less impact.

**N** is for negotiation. Participate in the change so you can help find a comfortable place for you (and others).

**G** is for gratitude. Be thankful for what you've had but don't dwell on it. Use your past as a base for the future.

**E** is for enthusiasm. Fighting change takes considerable energy and can be stressful. Determine the benefits of the change and look forward to taking advantage of them.

Change can be difficult but we will experience it. Consider **CHANGE** to help you move through each change into a more positive setting. See Brent's writings for more on change.

Welcome back! Please help us connect with all parishioners by documenting experiences and gathering thoughts over the fall. Submit your articles by the November 16th deadline for the next “by George!”. Enjoy the colourful leaves, the stimulating morning temperatures, the warmth of a fireplace, and a bounteous Manitoba Thanksgiving.

Ted Cotton

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE UPCOMING DATES**

Within our Parish Church of St. George, Crescentwood:

<b>M/D/Y</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tue 9/30/2014	11:30 AM	Third Order Of St. Francis	Guild Room
Sat 10/4/2014	11:00 AM	RCCO Meeting Rick Morgan	Guild Room
Sun 10/5/2014	10:30 AM	<b>Feast Of St. Francis Pent 17 Proper 27 BAS 185 Children's Homily</b>	Church-Blessing Of Animals
Tue 10/7/2014	1:00 PM	AFP Meeting	Guild Room
Tue 10/7/2014	8:00 PM	<b>Worship Committee Meeting</b>	Guild Room
Wed 10/8/2014	7:00 PM	<b>Mission &amp; Ministry Committee Meeting</b>	Guild Room
Sat 10/11/2014	10:00 AM	RLCS Support Group	Guild Room
Sun 10/12/2014	10:30 AM	<b>Pent 18 Proper 28 BAS 230 (Long Weekend)</b>	Church-Baptism
Wed 10/15/2014	4:00 PM	RLCSs Board Meeting	Guild Room
Wed 10/15/2014	7:15 PM	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	Guild Room
Sat 10/18/2014	12:00 PM	Booking For Wedding and Reception (St. Margaret's)	Parish Hall, Kitchen
Sun 10/19/2014	10:30 AM	<b>Pent 19 Proper 29 Harvest Thanksgiving BAS 185</b>	Church
Sun 10/19/2014	4:00 PM	<b>Choral Evensong</b>	Church
Mon 10/20/2014	7:00 PM	<b>Start Of Study Sessions "Embracing Emergence Christianity"</b>	Guild Room
Thu 10/23/2014	4:00 PM	RLCS Board Meeting	Guild Room
Sun 10/26/2014	10:30 AM	<b>Pent 20 Proper 30 BAS 185 Stewardship Sunday</b>	Church
Sat 11/1/2014	8:00 AM	<b>Tea And CLOSET SALE</b>	Parish Hall & Crypt
Sun 11/2/2014	10:30 AM	<b>Pent 21 Proper 31 All Saints Children's Homily BAS 185</b>	Church
Sat 11/8/2014	10:00 AM	RLCS Support Group	Guild Room
Sun 11/9/2014	10:30 AM	<b>Pent 22 Proper 32 Remembrance Sunday BAS 230</b>	Church
Tues 11/11/2014	8:00 PM	<b>Worship Committee Meeting</b>	Guild Room
Wed 11/12/2014	7:00 PM	<b>Mission &amp; Ministry Committee Meeting</b>	Guild Room
Sun 11/16/2014	9:00 AM	Altar Guild AGM	Guild Room, Kitchen
Sun 11/16/2014	10:30 AM	<b>Pent 23 Proper 33 BCP Morning Prayer</b>	Church
Wed 11/19/2014	4:00 PM	RLCS Board Meeting	Guild Room
Wed 11/19/2014	7:00 PM	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	Guild Room
Sat 11/22/2014	10:00 AM	RLCS Support Group	Guild Room
Sun 11/23/2014	10:30 AM	<b>A-Proper 34 - 24th After Pentecost - Morning Prayer</b>	Church
Mon 11/24/2014	7:00 PM	Winnipeg Girls' Choir Parent Meeting	Crypt
Sat 11/29/2014	1:30 PM	Winnipeg Girls' Choir Rehearsal	Parish Hall
Sun 11/30/2014	10:30 AM	<b>B-Advent 1 Bas 185</b>	Church
Mon 12/1/2014	5:00 PM	Winnipeg Girls' Choir Winter Concert	Church, Parish Hall
Sun 12/7/2014	10:30 AM	<b>B-Advent 2 BAS 185 - Children's Homily</b>	Church
Tues 12/9/2014	8:00 PM	<b>Worship Committee Meeting</b>	Guild Room
Wed 12/10/2014	7:00 PM	<b>Mission &amp; Ministry Committee Meeting</b>	Guild Room
Thu 12/11/2014	8:30 AM	Tune All Pianos	Various
Sat 12/13/2014	8:30 AM	<b>Christmas Dinner</b>	Parish Hall etc

For the most current calendar and more information about St. George's, please visit:

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

### **Sunday School Program (ages 5 to 12)**

Sunday School has resumed and we welcome back Cheryl and Darryl Ferguson as Sunday School Coordinators for the 2014/2015 season. The first Children's Homily will be held on Sunday October 5.

### **The Feast of St. Francis**

Sunday, October 5 will be an opportunity to bring pictures of your animal friends to the service and place them on the table at the front of the church.

### **Adult Education**

St. George's will host study sessions beginning on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and every Monday after with the last session on Monday November 24<sup>th</sup>. The sessions are called "Embracing Emergence Christianity". It follows from Phyllis Tickle's books on Emergence Christianity. Each session begins with a short talk by Phyllis Tickle followed by a short discussion by a small group of people all lasting about 30 minutes (all on a DVD) and then discussion by us, using questions found in the required work book. Participants will require the work book "Embracing Emergence Christianity". Note: it is the workbook not the DVD that you will need. The workbook is available through McNally Robinson or Amazon for about \$15.00. If you will be attending, please contact the parish office at 204-453-5642 or email: [office@stgeorges.mb.ca](mailto:office@stgeorges.mb.ca) so we know how many will be attending. We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Outdoor Sign**

Someone is needed to change the outdoor sign. Regular services are on the sign now but when we have special things like Evensong we need someone to update the sign. Please contact the parish office at 204-453-5642 or email: [office@stgeorges.mb.ca](mailto:office@stgeorges.mb.ca) if you can take this on.

### **Annual Closet Sale & Tea**

The Annual Closet Sale & Tea is scheduled for Saturday November 1. We're looking for gently used men's, ladies' and children's clothing and accessories. It's time to check out your closet and bring in your clean unwanted clothing that may just well be the thing someone else is looking for. You can drop off clothing etc. anytime from now until October 30<sup>th</sup> between 9am and 5pm in the downstairs hall (if able).

**In the Broader Community:**

October 16: Diocesan Synod, St John's Cathedral

October 17 to 18: Diocesan Synod, North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church

November 2: St. John's College Convocation

November 8: Multi-Faith Forum on Utilizing Faith Property to Meet Community Needs

November 13: The Annual Bishop's Dinner, Viscount Gort Hotel

November 30: Service of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Cathy Mondor, St Mary Magdalene

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

<http://www.rupertsland.ca/category/events/>

**YOUR INTERIM PRIEST WRITES FROM HIS DESK ...**

It's fall again and by the time this letter goes out to you I will be celebrating my first year anniversary with our parish. It is amazing how much has happened in the last year so full of life and poignancy. Remember when we were young and time seemed to drag along. A week seemed like a long time and a month seemed like forever. A friend of mine was commenting on this aspect of living a few years ago. She stated;

“When we were young everything was brand new and we had so much to learn - all of the time. It was like living life with a great big funnel. By the time we reach adulthood much of our early learning is done and life becomes more routine. So by the time we have reached our forties we have also entered into a stage of boredom where the routine becomes a way of life and the excitement and newness of living is no longer there”.

I have been struck by that comment particularly when we are given that passage “you must be like children to enter the kingdom of God.” Matt 18:3 I have been reflecting on that passage for some time now as it has profound implications for us.

As most are aware I have been studying using a discipline called Core Energetics. Doing that work requires each person involved to face themselves. As I have been doing the work I have been discovering that as I face my fears, my own projections, judgments, unwillingness to change, my lack of openness I have found myself being much more aware of what is going on inside me. As I do that I find that life becomes much more poignant and the impact of simple day to day activities much more meaningful. Doing that work created an experience of life slowing down or perhaps it's that I am seeing more that life has to offer.

I was reading up on the Buddhist understanding of “enlightenment”. They talk about a process by which we open up a place at the bottom of our spine. As we do that the energy begins to flow up through our body; that flowing of energy is described as a Kundalini experience. The description seems to describe what I have been experiencing and also fits from an experiential level when I look at our scriptural heritage. Our experience will always reaffirm scriptural truths if we are willing to take the time to learn what they mean for us.

I am always fascinated by is the dovetailing of spiritual disciplines amongst many of the great spiritual teachers throughout the world. Each tries to describe an experience of spirit using the disciplines they have adopted for themselves. Yet the outcome is very similar when we take the time to look.

The Anglican tradition has been a tradition of great success in the past and is now facing some of its greatest challenges in its history. Churches are closing across Canada at an unprecedented rate and dioceses are being realigned simply because they can no longer afford to carry on the ministry of the church as it is currently defined. Rural ministry is seeing this impact far faster as the congregations are already small. Urban parishes have a few buffers simply because of their size and financial successes of the past allowing this impact to be slowed somewhat.

What I am coming to believe much more deeply is that we need to embrace the learnings that are currently available to us and learn the skills of being in the secular world in our faith communities. 'Doing what we have always done is a guarantee that we will continue to get what we have always got'. Continuing to do what everyone else is doing with the same limited success guarantees an outcome that we do not want.

Change happens whether we want it to or not. People get sick, people die, people move, the buildings get older and more expensive, the models of ministry that used to work no longer have the same impact etc. All of these changes are true and universal. We can continue to hang on and be afraid to change or try new things. Or we can face our fears, face the reality of change and look to an uncertain future with the knowledge that we are completely reliant on God. If we choose a new path, a new hope, we also face the possibility of reinvigorating our own understanding of God. We are called to try. It's about having 'hope' even when there is so much to fear. It's about saying yes when our insides are saying no. It's about opening ourselves to the 'yes' as the yes is about choosing to trust that we profess to be true!

Be like little children and come unto me!  
With deep respect and blessings

Brent



**THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION**

If you see the fall leaves as flowers, you'll appreciate your yard more.

**MARGARET WRITES ...****Prayer Shawl Ministry**

*You created every part of me,  
Knitting me together in my mother's womb.  
For such handiwork I praise you  
Awesome is this great wonder*

*Psalm 139, 13 and 14*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 1998 in Hartford, Connecticut. It was the brainchild of Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of Professor Miriam Therese Winter's program of applied Feminist Spirituality. These two women love to knit, and through this gift they were inspired to reach out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as those who wish to celebrate joyful events in their lives. This faith-based, ecumenical ministry is now worldwide. There are groups in every Canadian province as well as in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The ministry reaches into every continent, bringing comforting shawls to the families of fallen soldiers and to victims of natural disasters as well as to the sick and the bereaved. Shawls are also presented to women giving birth, to nursing mothers, and to people celebrating birthdays, marriages, anniversaries and ordinations. I have given them as "thank you" gifts in appreciation of the kindness of friends.

Wearing a shawl, which may also be called a peace shawl, or a comfort shawl, feels like being wrapped in a warm embrace. Many recipients have told me that when the weather is too warm to wear their shawls, they keep them by their sides so that they can stroke them with their hands. The shawls are decorative as well as useful. They look lovely draped across the back of a chair or sofa, or spread over a bed.

The shawls are knitted from washable yarn and are simple to make. Just cast on a multiple of three stitches, usually 57 or 60. The number three is symbolic of the Trinity. Then knit three, purl three on the first row, and reverse the procedure on succeeding rows to produce a seed pattern that symbolizes planting the seeds of peace, healing, love, comfort and hope into the knitting of the shawl. The shawls are usually about 57 to 59 inches long, and are fringed at both ends. They may also be crocheted. Full instructions may be found online at [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com).

The important thing about these shawls is that their creation is an exercise in spirituality. They are made with love and compassion. The shawl maker begins with prayers for the

recipient, and these prayers are continued throughout the creation process. As one of our Prayer Shawl Ministry members said, “there is love and prayer in every stitch”. When the shawl is completed, it is given a final blessing before being passed on to the recipient. We at St. George’s discovered the Prayer Shawl Ministry through a member of another parish who attended our Bible Study group. There are several parishes in Winnipeg who carry on the ministry. While many groups meet regularly to work on the shawls together, beginning each session with prayer and meditation, members of other groups, such as ours, prefer to work on their own at home. Wherever the knitting takes place, the creating of these shawls remains a labour of love and prayer. Our group has been making shawls for the past five years now, and dozens of them have been given away by our Pastoral Care Committee to bring comfort to members of our parish who are suffering.

In the words of Prayer Shawl Ministry founder Janet Bristow: “Shawls are symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles.”

Margaret Dennis Owen

### **Shawl Ministry Knitting Instructions**

Supplies:

3 skeins chunky yarn (e.g. Bernat Illusions, Lion Brand, Red Heart)  
Knitting Needles size 8mm to 10mm

Instructions:

Cast on 54, 57 or 60 stitches (a multiple of three).

Knit 3, Purl 3 to end of row.

Turn and knit the purl stitches and purl the knit stitches. If you have 54 or 57 stitches you will begin every row with knit stitches)

A weave pattern will develop. Keep going until the shawl is about 57 inches long. Cast off with a knit row.

Use leftover yarn to make a fringe.



## **MISSION AND MINISTRY**

### **Shawl Ministry**

Dear Prayer Shawl Knitters!

The best way to knit a Prayer Shawl so that the stitches become the Seed Pattern (see Margaret Owen's description above), is to cast on a multiple of three (3) stitches, usually 57 or 60.

The 3 stitches are symbolic of The Trinity. Knitted as **seeds** – Knit 3, Purl 3, Knit 3 and continue this stitch patten to the end of the row – your last 3 stitches should be Knit 3 and then start at the beginning of the next row – Knit 3, Purl 3 and ending with a Knit 3 at the end of that row. You can therefore see that you Knit the Purls, and Purl the Knits!

I hope this message is clear. Once started . . . you are planting “seeds” to blend into the shawl, peace, healing, love, comfort and hope. Try it and believe it! From the Hand, to the Mind to the Heart with Warmth.

See me in the Parish Hall after the service on Sundays. I'll be knitting by the Mission and Ministry bulletin board and can show you and give you printed instructions.

By the way – as of this week, we received 125 shawls in total since 2006!

Thank You!

Gail Walker

### **Update on Norquay School Bus Pass Project**

The staff of Norquay School created the Bus Pass Project to assist students in their transition to Grade 7 in a new school and encourage them to remain in school. The project has been in existence for two years and the Norquay School staff feel the project has been successful in meeting its objective. In May 2014, the following update was received from the Vice Principal of Norquay School.

Out of 12 students involved this year: All are still in school.

One is a Grade 6 student whose mom is sick and is not able to drive her school. They live too far to walk. Six are achieving average and above average grades and attending regularly. Four are achieving almost average grades and attending fairly regularly. Two are struggling with academic and behavior issues. I have been in contact with both schools, met with families and with the students.

In the spring of 2014 the school received a request from the provincial Dept. of Education requesting a report on the Bus Pass Project. In their report, the school asked for \$8550

annually to cover the cost of the bus passes. For the full report, please see the posting on the School Bulletin board in the parish hall.

The school is actively seeking donations from various sources and to date have enough funds to cover until the end of December 2014.

This year two schools have been involved in supporting the project. One is a school in Toronto and the other Balmoral Hall School in Winnipeg, where two students raised \$200 in an outreach project they initiated.

Currently for the 2014/2015 school year, the school is providing bus passes to 13 students at a cost of \$58.90 monthly per student. The vice principal has met with all the families who have expressed their thanks for this support. St. George's parishioners have been very generous in their contributions to the project. Anyone wishing to continue to support this worthwhile endeavor may do so by making their cheque payable to St. George's Church with a memo indicating "Norquay School Bus Pass Project".

### **West Broadway Community Ministry**

This month there has been a big demand on the emergency food cupboard at WBCM and St. George's received a request for high protein foods i.e.: beans, stews, chili, salmon and tuna (in water), as well as canned vegetables and fruit (in juice). Mission and Ministry responded by purchasing equivalent of 32 bags of groceries, St. George's parishioners contributed another 23 bags of groceries. In addition to groceries WBCM is in need of diapers size 3, 4 and 5, shampoo and a gently used two-drawer file cabinet that locks. THANK YOU to Everyone for their continued support of this ministry.



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the June 18<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting:

- The proceeds of the 2014 Garage Sale will be distributed to operations (\$8000), Mission & Ministry (\$1000), dump run (\$400), and youth (\$300). New chairs will be needed following the April 2015 Sale.
- The Canonical Committee began the process to select a new priest on June 16.
- Resumes for the position of Children's Program Director are being reviewed.
- The basic fee for a wedding will be \$600 with additional fees for music etc.
- Roof repairs will be done after Kinderschule is finished for the summer.
- The highlights of the May 2014 Finance Report were discussed. (The August 2014 report in this "by George!").
- Parish Council will consider recommendations for spending Facelifter funds over the summer.
- The Episcopal Network for Stewardship conference in Atlanta, GA provided considerable inspiration for discussion at upcoming Stewardship Committee meetings.
- Mission & Ministry highlighted West Broadway Community Ministry's need for staple food items over the summer and Maylanne Mabee (Centre for Christian Studies) being the guest speaker on September 21 with funds raised at the Threenie Lunch going to the Pikangikum Project.
- The calendar of Diocesan events was reviewed. A current calendar is in this "by George!".
- Courtesies were given to Sandra Hartt and Marlene Ramsey for their work as co-chairs of the Garage Sale, and to Brent Neumann for his pastoral care work.

The next Parish Council meeting is October 15th.



**FINANCE REPORT****St. George's Church – January to August 2014**

	Actual 2013	Actual 2014	Budget 2015
Revenue	\$181 517.25	\$172 965.93	\$173 625.32
Expense	\$196 706.90	\$190 838.36	\$201 423.75
Net Income (Loss)	(\$15 189.65)	(\$17 872.43)	(\$27 798.43)

The 2014 Net Loss to the end of August is \$17 872. This is favourable to Budget but unfavourable to last year

Variances of \$700 or more to Budget are:

- Special Events is \$3405 unfavourable as there were less events.
- Garage Sale is \$3000 favourable as the donation was larger than budgeted.
- Interest Earned is \$744 unfavourable. This is timing.
- Identified Giving is \$8975 favourable to Budget and \$11771 favourable to last year.
- Open Plate is \$5816 unfavourable due to timing of United Way etc. donations.
- Special & Designated is \$1900 unfavourable due to less weddings and funerals.
- Assistant's Salary is \$4028 unfavourable. More time was needed than budgeted.
- Rector's Living Allowance and Rector's Stipend are \$10000 offsets. The church is waiting for information from Brent.
- General Maintenance is \$1387 favourable. This is timing.
- Payroll Benefits – Verger is \$1008 favourable due to less time than budgeted
- Relief Caretaker is \$1706 unfavourable due to more use than expected.
- Verger's Stipend is \$6508 favourable due to less time than budgeted.
- Utilities - Electricity is \$896 favourable to Budget due to timing.
- Utilities – Natural Gas is \$2690 favourable to Budget due to timing.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of August 2014.

In early September, \$15 000 was transferred to chequing from TD Waterhouse investments.

**Balance Sheet**

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.

Changes to Designated Funds > \$500 in August:

- Operations: \$535 airfare payment for a candidate for priest's travel

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:

<b>Summary Balance Sheet</b>			
<b>As at August 31</b>			
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	change
	Actual	Actual	
Current Assets (chequing, cash)	\$ 36 476.31	15 408.05	21 068.26
Fixed Assets (building at cost)	785 030.20	785 030.20	0
Other Assets (investments)	475 671.72	487 792.34	(12 120.62)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1 297 178.23</b>	<b>1 288 230.59</b>	<b>8 947.64</b>
Current Liabilities (designated)	\$ 254 371.42	257 550.60	(3 179.18)
Long Term Liabilities (trusts)	7 260.26	7 260.26	0
Equity	1 035 546.55	1 023 419.73	12 126.82
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$ 1 297 178.23</b>	<b>1 288 230.59</b>	<b>8 947.64</b>

Ted Cotton

## **STEWARDSHIP**

### **The Future of Stewardship**

The Stewardship Program we have now is based on the program “Consecration Sunday”. A fairly good summary of this program can be found at <http://www.episcopal-ne.org/stewardship/consecration-sunday.html>.

This program started under the guidance of Donna Joy when she was the interim at St. George’s. At the time it gave new life into the stewardship program by utilizing guest speakers that would speak to us on stewardship and why it is a personal mission for them, congregational talks where parishioners would give a two minute talk on what stewardship means to them, and by providing tools like the Grow a Step program, that helped the Stewardship Committee explain to the parish the state of our giving and tried to lead the parish to a great level of financial commitments by taking relatively small steps over a number of years.

Our program has had a lot of success but like but it hasn’t dealt with the reality of attrition within our Parish. Many stewardship experts have stated that one of the hardest financial realities of losing a parishioner is that even if they are replaced on the very same day with a new parishioner it will take, on average, 3 years to get that person giving at a level that the parish needs to sustain itself. Even if this fact is true, it is apparently from my perch in the last row of the choir loft, that we are losing ground in attendance and are too few instances where a lost parishioner is being replaced.

We had guest speaker recently talking about developing water projects that would ensure safe drinking water and adequate waste water management on First Nations Reserves within Canada. This is a topic that is near and dear to every engineer's heart as it is something that should be easily obtainable and something that should be in place today. It is also a potential mission project that would require a lot of financial stewardship, as this problem is not one of lack of technology; it is one of lack of resources. In discussing this at the Threenie lunch after the service with others at the table I was sitting at, I questioned whether it would be more successful to walk up Grosvenor to Rockwood and then back down Dorchester knocking at each door asking the people to join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 am or to ask each person to become a financial partner with us in this worthwhile project. Most thought neither would be overly successful but that the later would be the more successful of the two. In my recent study of stewardship, it has become apparent to me that capturing the heart and then working on the wallet does not work today. What does work is developing mission projects that are worth investing in and then capturing the heart when the person who is in partnership with us by donating to that project follows their investment in that project to church.

It is a new way of looking at financial stewardship. With cheap and easy to use social media tools, our target isn't just Crescentwood, it is a very large geographic area attracting a very large demographic. This has been a very impressive tool to many very successful parishes where success is not only measured by the amount of funds raised, but by the more important measure of how many souls they have helped.

I attended an Episcopal stewardship conference this year. At the Eucharist, I was surprised to find a card with a QR (Quick Response) code on it. A quick response code (an example show below) is something that your smart phone can read and will direct the internet browser on your smart phone to a specific page. The QR code in the bulletin at the conference would take you directly to the giving page at the Diocese of Atlanta. How convenient.

I found that a lot of Episcopal churches are using this technology. Instead of donating the open offering or the proceeds from a threenie lunch, people can scan the QR code in the bulletin which will take them to a donation page that will make donating money easy and get a charitable donations receipt heading their way. To see how easy it is, try scanning the code below.

Social media is easy use and is very inexpensive to invest in. St Georges needs to utilize this as one of the methods of becoming Stewardship leader in Crescentwood and Rupert's Land.



Allan Silk

### **Stewardship Sunday**

Watch for news about Stewardship Sunday, October 26.

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

St. George's Stewardship Committee

### **AN ANIMAL FRIEND STORY FOR THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS - CINNAMON**

“Quiet Ginger”....I said quiet Gin...you’re not Ginger! Who are you?” That is how Cinnamon, otherwise known as “Little Cinnie” (or because Jennifer, our younger daughter was in Immersion French at the time, Le Petite Cannelle), came into our lives in the late summer of 1994. Ann had just sent me out to retrieve something from her car and as I was leaning into the car I had a orange coloured cat meowing at my ankles. Because we already had an orange cat named Ginger and this young man was a darker orange, it was natural that he would become Cinnamon. Cinnamon enjoyed life and liked being who he was. He was never a lap cat, until the last few weeks of his too short life. What he did do, was snuggle up to as we sat on the chesterfield. One day shortly after he joined us, Ann wasn’t feeling well so she sat down on the chesterfield for a few minutes. Cinnamon immediately got up from where he was, hopped up beside her, put his hand on her leg and purred. She could almost hear him say “it will be alright”. This he did for all of his life. He always sensed when one of us had had a bad day, or were just not feeling great and he would hop up beside us, put his hand or his head or both on our leg and purr up a storm. It was amazing how much that helped.

One evening while I was watching TV, he joined me on the chesterfield and started to fuss. It took a few moments for the coin to drop, fortunately he was very patient, and I finally realized that he wanted me to move over and make space for him between me and the armrest. From then on, this is how we spent most evenings, with him between me and the armrest. Sometimes he even watched the TV. He was very selective in what he chose to watch and only watched good quality programmes. As you might expect his favorite programme was David Suzuki and the “Nature of Things”.

He loved the outdoors and even on very cold days in the winter he would go out for a few minutes first thing in the morning. He would then come in, tear upstairs, run up and down the upstairs hallway to warm up and then come down and have his breakfast. The sound of his feet running back and forth started our days with a smile. In the spring, after the melt had started we had a large pond form near the back door. In the morning this was frozen and became a rink that he would run on, to build up speed and then slide, just the same way that we did when we were kids. He would also find a chunk of hard snow and bat it around as though he was playing hockey. He loved to play and no matter what the season he found something to have fun with. He entertained himself, but in doing so also entertained us.

He was a gentleman of routine and if we were late going to bed he would come and get us and then wait at the top of the stairs, peeking around the corner, watching us come up. Unfortunately, when he was only ten he was diagnosed with cancer, a tumor in the bladder, and given no more than six weeks to live. Our vet told us of a new, experimental treatment that they were having some luck with and had managed to extend the life of some of their patients to four months. Naturally, as our vet assured us that he was in no pain, we went for it. In consultation with our vet, Ann monitored his condition on a daily basis adjusting the dosage accordingly and managed to extend his life to almost eight months. Eventually we had to release him to kitty cat heaven. His last night with us he knew that the end was near and so spent time in bed with each of us.

Ann and I frequently comment on how a small ball of fur can so wrap itself around our hearts, but then we look at the love and joy they each bring us.

David Cooke