

“by George!”

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JUST

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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February 2018

LENT EDITION

JUST

We use the word “just” frequently; it has a variety of meanings - precisely: "a pepperoni pizza was just what she needed", recently: "I just read Dilbert", narrowly: "they arrived just after the sermon", and only: "he just wanted to dance". Another important meaning is fair – “Canada strives to be a just society”.

We’re often challenged to be just. As Victor Hugo said, “Being good is easy, what is difficult is being just”. Let’s look at the word, just, for some ideas:

J is for Jesus: the best example of knowing what is morally right and fair. The New Testament in the King James Version of the Bible has 35 references to the word “just” including Romans 7:12: “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good”. We can look to the New Testament for guidance.

U is for unite: joining common interests together allows for focus on an important issue: We can build strength together.

S is for stop; bringing inappropriate actions or issues to an end: Recognizing what’s unjust is a first step, stopping it is the implementation plan.

T is for tact: the demonstrated ability to do or say what is appropriate for all audiences. While we may know what is just, we must also take action to be fair.

What can you do about making our society just?

Please help us connect with all parishioners by documenting your thoughts and experiences over the fall and submitting your articles by the April 28th deadline for the next “by George!”. Have a thoughtful Lent!

Ted Cotton

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

DAY	DATE	GROUP	TIME / PLACE
Thurs	1-Mar-18	Adult Study Group at St. George's	1:00 pm Guild Room
Sun	4-Mar-18	Third Sunday in Lent <i>children's sermon and communion</i>	10:30 am
Sun	4-Mar-18	Food Blitz for West Broadway Community Ministry	
Wed	7-Mar-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Wed	7-Mar-18	Worship Committee Meeting	7 pm Guild Room
Thurs	8-Mar-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Thurs	8-Mar-18	Adult Study Group at St. George's	1:00 pm Guild Room
Sun	11-Mar-18	Fourth Sunday in Lent <i>communion</i>	10:30 am
Tues	13-Mar-18	Steve Bell Concert - tickets available at parish office	7:00 am
Wed	14-Mar-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Wed	14-Mar-18	Mission & Ministry Committee Meeting	7:00 pm Guild Room
Thurs	15-Mar-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	18-Mar-18	Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>communion</i>	10:30 am
Sun	18-Mar-18	Choral Evensong	4:00 am
Wed	21-Mar-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Wed	21-Mar-18	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm Chapel
Thur	22-Mar-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sat	24-Mar-18	Palm Cross Making - Altar Guild members	10:00 am Guild Rm
Sun	25-Mar-18	Palm Sunday <i>communion</i>	10:30 am
Wed	28-Mar-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	29-Mar-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	29-Mar-18	Pot luck supper prior to Maundy Thursday service	6:00 pm Parish Hall
Thurs	29-Mar-18	Maundy Thursday service <i>communion</i>	7:30 am
Fri	30-Mar-18	Good Friday - Stations of the Cross	9:15 am Parish Hall
Fri	30-Mar-18	Good Friday – Meditation on the Cross	10:30 am Church
Sun	1-Apr-18	Easter Day <i>communion</i>	10:30 am
Wed	4-Apr-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	5-Apr-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	8-Apr-18	The Second Sunday of Easter <i>communion</i>	10:30 am
Sun	8-Apr-18	Easter Lessons & Carols	4:00 pm
Wed	11-Apr-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	12-Apr-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	15-Apr-18	The Third Sunday of Easter <i>communion</i>	10:30 am
Wed	18-Apr-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Wed	18-Apr-18	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm Chapel

Thurs	19-Apr-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	22-Apr-18	Fourth Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer	10:30 am
Mon	23-Apr-18	Start of set up for Garage Sale in various places throughout the building	
Wed	25-Apr-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	26-Apr-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Fri	27-Apr-18	Garage Sale open to public	7 pm to 9 pm
Sat	28-Apr-18	Garage Sale open to public	9 am to 1 pm
Sun	29-Apr-18	Fifth Sunday of Easter communion	10:30 am Church
Sun	29-Apr-18	Deadline for May “by George!”	
Wed	2-May-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	3-May-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	6-May-18	Sixth Sunday of Easter communion	10:30 am Church
Wed	9-May-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	10-May-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Thurs	10-May-18	Ascension of the Lord service	7:30 pm Church
Sun	13-May-18	Seventh Sunday of Easter	10:30 am Church
Wed	16-May-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Wed	16-May-18	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm Chapel
Thurs	17-May-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	20-May-18	The Day of Pentecost communion	10:30 am Church
Wed	23-May-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	24-May-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	27-May-18	Trinity Sunday communion	10:30 am Church
Wed	30-May-18	Wednesday Communion Service	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	31-May-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	3-Jun-18	Start using the Summer Leaflet for all Sunday services	
		for June, July, August, and September 2	

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

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

Performance

Steve Bell is coming to St. George’s on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Tickets are on sale now for \$20 each. “Steve Bell ... is a Canadian singer-songwriter and guitarist based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He is among the best-known Christian musicians in Canada and is an accomplished songwriter and record producer”. Please see the ad at the end of this “by George!”

St. George's Choir

The Choir is looking for new members – aged 7 and up! Contact Rick Morgan
At rick-morgan@shaw.ca if you are interested.

Parish Planning

The top four priorities for St. George's coming from the 2017 "Ideas" meetings are:

- seek more revenue-generating uses of the building
- explore the needs of the community through contacts with nearby schools, the City, and the Province
- foster diversity in the parish
- simplify our services further in the context of our traditional worship

Parish Council and the chairs of related committees will be taking the next step on these four priorities in March. The results of their discussions will be provided to the appropriate committees, so implementation plans can be developed. Watch for more information later in 2018.



In the Broader Community:

Lenten Organ Communion Services

February 21 - March 21

St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Woodhaven, 2700 Portage Ave.

Reclamation & Reconciliation: Indigenous Literary Voices Today

Advancing Hope and Healing: Completing the Clinic

March 10 @ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

\$40; St. James Civic Centre, 2055 Ness Avenue

Mothering Sunday

March 11 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

St. John's Cathedral, 135 Anderson Ave

Provincial House of Bishops (Tentative)

April 18 - April 20

MNO Synod Convention – Lutheran Bishop Election

April 26 - April 28

49th Provincial Synod – Edmonton

May 3 - May 6

Sabbath Retreat for Young Adults

May 10 - May 13

St. Benedict's Retreat Centre

\$80 with speaker: Laura Funk, Spiritual Director

Residential Clergy Conference

June 4 - June 7

Southport, MB R0H 1N1

Registration Deadline is May 2, 2018

115th Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land

June 16

St. John's Cathedral, 135 Anderson Ave

Threads – Clay Gathering 2018 – in Thunder Bay

August 15 - August 19

With Rev. Steve Greene

116th Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land

October 11 - October 13

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

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

The Rupert's Land News is now only electronic. To subscribe to the weekly electronic edition and get the latest news about the Diocese, please use the following link:

www.rupertslannews.ca and then go to "subscribe to RLN Weekly".

THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION

We may all be busy, but we should always have time to have an open mind.



OUR RECTOR WRITES FROM HIS DESK ...

Hearing Scripture Vs Reading Scripture

In the very early days of the Christian Church, people would gather to hear Scripture read to them. The readings came from the Tanakh, Epistles from Paul and others, the Revelation to St. John and before the end of the 1st century AD the four Gospel accounts were added. The Tanakh is an acronym. It refers to what we now call the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament. It consists of the Torah or ‘Teaching’ which was the first Five Books of Moses; the Nevis or ‘Prophets’ and Ketuvim or ‘Writings’ –hence TaNaKh.

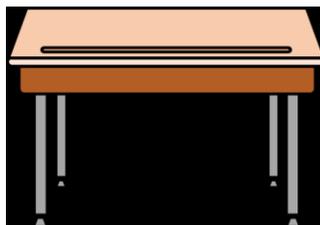
The texts were usually written originally in Hebrew and Koine Greek and subsequently Latin. Though scholars of the day could read the texts the vast majority of people depended on the texts being read to them. Thus, the texts were originally written to be transmitted orally to their audience. This oral tradition continued for centuries. It wasn’t until the invention of the printing press that Bibles, written in the language of the day, that most people had the opportunity to read scripture rather than listen to it being read aloud.

The invention of the printing press was instrumental in changing how Christians interacted with their primary text. As the oral tradition began to fade the need to memorize scripture began to wane as well – after all, the text could be easily reached for. Unfortunately, Biblical literacy in the last 400 years has generally declined, though this is not the reason I am writing this article.

Neuroscientists tell us that listening to something being read affects a different part of the brain than reading something does. Respecting the intent of the original authors, as much as one can, is the reason we are taking this important step. The texts were written to be heard and I suspect that Sunday morning is the only opportunity most of have to hear texts being read.

Many of us, myself included, prefer to read things. I once believed that was the only way I could effectively understand things. However, when I challenged myself on this belief, I began to consider that I may have deceived myself. After all, I am capable of listening to the radio; indeed, I prefer talk radio to music channels. I enjoy several podcasts. As well, when I was a student I seemed able to able to understand the professor without the typed notes being handed out ahead of time. So, all that to say, if you find yourself in a similar situation – I encourage you to give this a chance.

Simon+



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – January 31

Property Committee is reviewing restoration of the bell and the service contracts for boiler checks.

Corporation reported on a \$5 000 donation made to the Parish to be designated to the highest priority of the church; Simon is taking a sabbatical from May to July with vacation in August (Rod Sprange will be covering in May and Peter Flynn in June-August); and Marion will be on sick leave for approximately two months starting in June.

Parish Council approved a 2018 budget with a net loss of \$39 793 for submission to AGM and received the statement for 2017 with a \$3009.55 net loss. Details are in the attachment to the AGM report.

The River Heights/Crescentwood session on the ALIGN project was launched and was well received.

A “monthly” schedule of Threenie Lunches is being established. Dates/months will be offered to Committees as fundraisers for the church.

Courtesies were given to Colleen for her time as Warden, Gwyneth Jones and Margaret Owen for their time on Parish Council, and all PC members for their participation and good work.

The next Parish Council meetings are February 21 and March 21.

Approved Parish Council Minutes are posted on a bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

**FINANCE REPORT****St. George's Church – January 2018**

As a one, month statement has too many timing differences for meaningful reporting, there are no details of the January statement in this “by George!”. Watch for details in the next “by George!” and in the posted Parish Council minutes.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of January 2018.

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 – Norquay School can only be used for Norquay School. Some Funds have ongoing activity and some don't.

Changes to Designated Funds > \$500 in January:

- Flowers: +\$687 from donations

If have any questions on the Finance Report, please let me know.

Ted Cotton



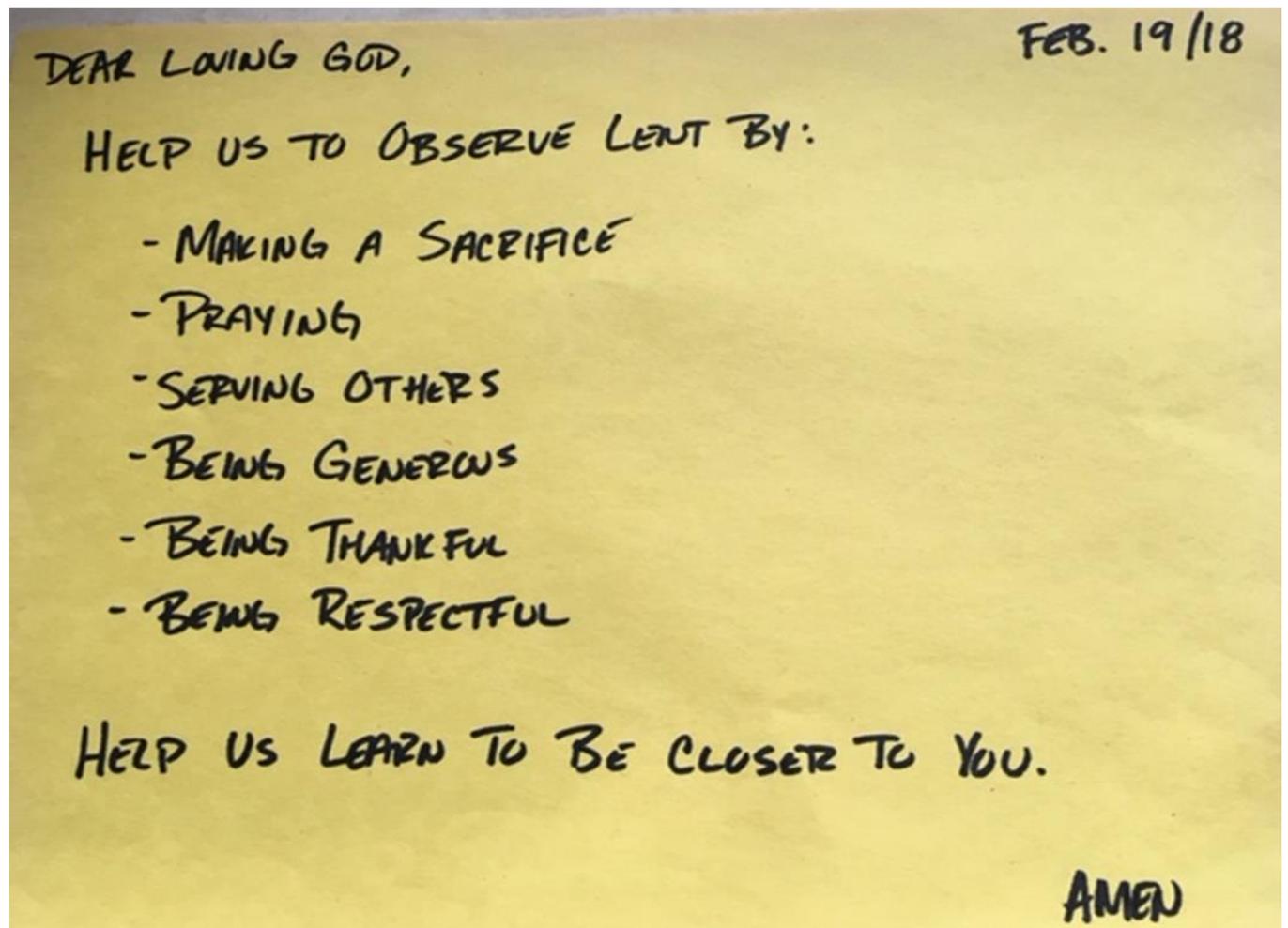
STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Electronic Offering Program: 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 from the church office or on the church website at [Preauthorized Donation Registration/Amendment Form](#) .

Envelopes: If you prefer regular donations by cheque, the church office can provide you a box of envelopes. If you need an occasional envelope, there are multi-use envelopes in the pews.

Note: parishioners should be aware that about 3% of a credit card donation to a charity goes to the credit card company and provider of the credit card donation system.

Ted Cotton

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRAYER – February 18, 2018**MISSION AND MINISTRY****West Broadway Community Ministry**

• **Loblaws/Superstore Bread Refunds:** If you are considering getting a \$25 grocery voucher from Loblaws/Superstore for bread purchases overcharges, please consider giving the grocery voucher to St. George's. We will use the vouchers to purchase additional food for West Broadway Community Ministry. The vouchers can be put in the offering plate, or handed in to the office. Thanks for considering this.

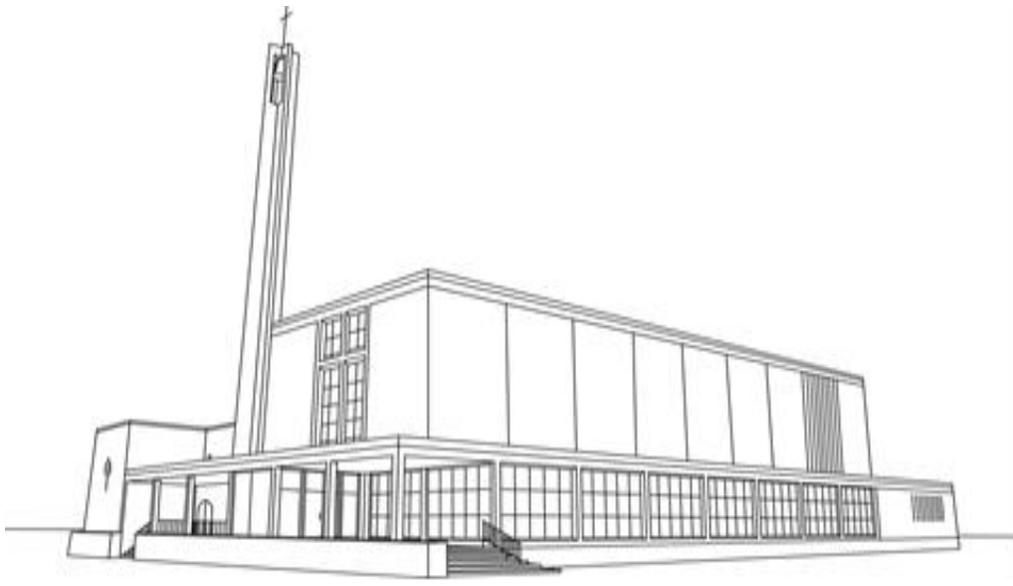
• **The Lenten Project:** Plan to read the 23 chapters in the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah in the Old Testament this year. As you know, you read a bit each day, then you put a coin aside "for the things you have done". If because of "life getting in the way" you forgot, or couldn't read anything, you still put a coin aside "for the things you have left undone". At the end of Lent you add up all the coins, write a cheque for the amount to St George's, and in the memo line write "Lenten Project" This money will go to PWRDF to help with their work

Ezra and Nehemiah were chosen because last year we read Kings, which ended with the captivity of Judah by the Babylonians. Judah (now called Israel) was a nation state with its institutions and theology before captivity; now after Babylon fell to the Persians, Judah was just an outpost to the Persian Empire. King Cyrus, the Persian King, called on Ezra, a Jewish Scribe, to return to Jerusalem and to re-build the Temple, he would fund the building. Persia is now called Iran. So, the rebuilding of the Temple was done with Iranian funds.

Ezra took back to Jerusalem 50,000 Jews. Ezra was the second Moses; he insisted that the people put 'The Law' and the Temple first; they who chased after foreign gods before captivity were now a covenanted people who believed in Israel's God. This is what saved these people from being absorbed by the conquering nations: unlike the Moabites, Ammonites, Arameans, Hittites, Midianites etc., who have all disappeared into Egypt or Syria or Iran.

If Ezra accomplished the spiritual establishment of the new community of Israel, Nehemiah succeeded in giving it physical stability. He was governor of Judah and built the Wall. It is interesting reading.

Gwyneth Jones



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 1 LAND

We acknowledge that we meet and work in the Treaty 1 Land, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, and Dakota people and the homeland of the Metis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and serve God the Creator here.

GERALD STANLEY TRIAL

Saskatchewan farmer Gerald Stanley was found not guilty in the 2016 shooting death of Colten Boushie.

The jury had been given the options of finding Stanley guilty of second-degree murder, guilty of manslaughter, or not guilty of any crime. They began deliberating on Thursday afternoon and announced Friday night, February 9, they had reached a verdict.

The following link to the Saskatoon Star Phoenix provides the context for the trial:

<http://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/gerald-stanley-trial-jury-delivers-not-guilty-verdict-in-murder-of-colten-boushie>

Joint Statement on the Stanley trial verdict from:

Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta
Department of Indigenous Studies, University of Saskatchewan
Department of Native Studies, University of Manitoba

Like most people, when we heard the not guilty verdict in the Stanley trial, we struggled and continue to struggle to understand how it could have been reached. However, though we are shocked and angered, as scholars and staff who teach and research in Indigenous studies units and who provide support for our units and our students, few of us are surprised. Most Canadians believe deeply in the image of Canada as a fair and tolerant nation. It is the predominant lens through which Canadians view themselves and indeed, through which most of the world views Canada. This verdict gives lie to that myth but we feel it important to remember that little about the Stanley investigation and verdict is exceptional. It needs to instead be understood as yet another link in a centuries-long colonial chain of injustices that Indigenous peoples - and in this instance, prairie Indigenous peoples - are well aware of. Indeed, from the official starvation policies, territorial dispossessions, the hangings following the 1885 resistance and residential school origins of the nineteenth century, to the current overrepresentation of our people in Canada's child welfare system, jails and prisons, as well as the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous people in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, Indigenous peoples continue to carry the weight and suffer the effects of these intergenerational policies and the traumas they produced.

As Indigenous studies scholars and staff who stand in resistance to this unjust verdict, we will continue to research and teach about the ways that colonial structures envelop and constrict the possibilities for justice in nearly every instance of injustice as they occur: the incidents themselves; how policing agencies and the justice system responds; how jurors are selected and excluded; the manner in which such incidents are talked about, publicly and in our homes; the eventual (and often, as in this instance, all too predictable) outcomes; and the fact that as Indigenous people, we continue to be forced to seek justice from institutions whose track record demonstrates how ill-equipped they are to offer it. We will continue to research, to teach, to learn, to support our students and to encourage our institutions to do better and to be better. But ultimately, it is up to the rest of Canada to educate themselves: to learn, to unlearn, and to take action to ensure that these incidents are viewed in the full light of day and held up against the same moral compass Canada uses to evaluate other countries.

Finally, we would like to extend our support and condolences to not only the Boushie/Baptiste family, but to the other youth in the car that day who will, undoubtedly, be scarred by this event and succeeding trial for the rest of their lives. We echo the calls to mobilize and to use our voices – and we do so not just in hope of a better Canada (which has never seemed more distant than it does today), but in recognition of the possibilities beyond what Canada seems to be willing to offer Indigenous peoples now.

Dr. Chris Andersen, Dean, Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta
Dr. Robert Innes, Head, Department of Indigenous Studies, University of Saskatchewan
Dr. Cary Miller, Head, Department of Native Studies, University of Manitoba

STEVE BELL
IN CONCERT

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*The genre that is Steve Bell never ceases to provoke and inspire. —
Diane Gibbs, Sante Fe*