

# “by George!”

## Contents

1. Orange...
2. Calendar...
3. Thought For ..
3. Reflection ...
5. Gallery ...
6. Finance ...
7. Stewardship...
8. Memorial Fund ...
9. Mission ...
9. Furniture ...
10. Worship ...
11. Acknowledgement ..

## Orange

The “by George!” connects all parishioners through electronic or hard copy distribution. It is normally published in September, November, February, 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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September 2020

FALL EDITION

## Orange



While medical authorities have placed a new but needed connotation on “orange”, we should be thankful for nature giving “orange “ a longstanding place in our colourful Manitoba fall. Brent Cotton took this picture at Top of the World near Falcon Lake. A picture is worth a thousand words.

Please help us connect with all parishioners by documenting your thoughts and experiences and submitting your articles for the next “by George!”. Have a wonderful fall. Thank you!

Ted Cotton

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

<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROUP</b>	<b>TIME / PLACE</b>
Sun	18-Oct-20	<b>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</b>	10:30 am Church
Tue	20-Oct-20	<b>Altar Guild Executive Meeting</b>	7:00 pm Guild Room
Wed	21-Oct-20	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	7:00 pm Guild Room
Sun	25-Oct-20	<b>Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost</b>	10:30 am Church
Mon	26-Oct-20	<b>Closet Sale - October 26 to 31</b>	
Sun	1-Nov-20	<b>Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost - All Saints Day</b>	10:30 am Church
Sun	8-Nov-20	<b>Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost</b>	10:30 am Church
Wed	11-Nov-20	<b>Remembrance Day</b>	
Sun	15-Nov-20	<b>Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b>	10:30 am Church
Wed	18-Nov-20	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	7:00 pm Guild Room
Sun	22-Nov-20	<b>Last Sunday after Pentecost - The Reign of Christ</b>	10:30 am Church
Wed	25-Nov-20	<b>Memorial Fund Meeting</b>	4:30 pm Guild Room
Sun	29-Nov-20	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	10:30 am Church

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

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

**Parish Office hours**

The Parish Office is open Tuesday to Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm, and Friday, 10 am to 1 pm; If you don't have a key access, after hours entry will need to be pre-arranged by calling the office at 204-453-5642 or emailing [office@stgeorges.mb.ca](mailto:office@stgeorges.mb.ca) .

REMINDER: With the increased COVID-19 threat level it remains very important that everyone must wear a mask and sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the church including during the week. Hand sanitizer is available at all major doors and masks can be found at the back of the church if you have forgotten your mask. Thank you to everyone for your continuing cooperation!

IMPORTANT CHURCH SECURITY NOTICE: As the weather changes the building is shifting resulting in the exit doors not latching automatically as people leave. To avoid the building being left open when unattended, please ensure that the door you have used is properly closed behind you. This applies to all outside doors including the Birdcage, Wilton and West side doors. Thank you.

Intentional Interim Priest Jennifer Marlor is on leave for a short time. If you have an urgent situation, please contact Mary-Beth Barker at (204) 223-3796 or [mbbarker23@gmail.com](mailto:mbbarker23@gmail.com)

Preparations for the **Fall Closet Sale** are underway. The sale will be held Monday, October 26 to Saturday, October 31. Monday to Friday, 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. COVID-19 "Code Orange" restrictions will apply and details will follow.



### **In the Broader Community**

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

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

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

[www.rupertslandnews.ca](http://www.rupertslandnews.ca) and then go to "subscribe to RLN Weekly".

### **THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION**

Look for the positive in everything you see!



### **IN THIS SEASON OF WAITING. PART ONE**

#### **A reflection from within a letter written by Brandon Barnes, People's Warden**

I have to say, this pandemic is a trial for everybody of course, but it is particularly hard on those who seek organized worship as part of their spiritual fulfillment. I had not realized prior to the pandemic how important it is to me to stand in an actual church building, to say the Creed, to sing (badly, in my case) the hymns, to have absolution, and to take the Eucharist. I suppose the idea of communal gathering has always been a health risk of one kind or another (flu season etc.) and I am certainly aware that the pandemic could be far worse, but it feels like a weight that will only be lifted, in my eyes, when we can go without a mask in church.

**IN THIS SEASON OF WAITING, PART Two****A reflection from Linda G Parsons, Honorary Assistant**

For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from him comes my salvation.  
He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress. Psalm 62: 1-2a

Waiting well is something I do poorly. As a pastor I have often encouraged people to turn to the Psalms in difficult and tiring times. I go there myself because of the poetry, the prayers, praises, laments and the very human response of railing against life and God. I have found the latter surprisingly helpful. I feel less alone in my anxiety; thankful that the railing, honest words of the Psalmists have been included; hopeful as I sit with them and the God of silence and mercy. Waiting. Poorly.

Margaret Guenther in her book, *My Soul in Silence Waits, Meditations on Psalm 62*, begins with a portion from Mark 6 in which Jesus calls the disciples away to a deserted place all by themselves to rest awhile. Her invitation in writing is to ‘offer the opportunity, without leaving home, to find the time and space to build intervals of reflection and re-creation into our ordinary lives’.

In this COVID-19 season, many of us have already been moved to a deserted place and a simpler life, removed from much of whom and what we love and that which is both familiar and comforting. Is it possible in the midst of these losses and anxiety, that we are also being beckoned to the same ‘restfulness of soul’ which Jesus invited his friends?

In the aforementioned book, Guenther cites three essential pieces to do this – intention, discipline and a prayer place. With the reminder to include personal privacy, a prayer place can be in a garden, as the runner runs, on a bench at Fort Whyte Centre, on a daily walk, in a favourite chair, in the quietness at the end of the day, in the bright light of morning.

She leads the reader through Psalm 62 with eight meditations on waiting and with themes of longing, silence, waiting, safety, enemies, and God as refuge and strength. In our private prayers and reflections, she mentors us to identify short phrases for reflection and prayer such as: for God alone, my soul in silence, my soul waits, God alone is my rock.

Perhaps for such a season as this, we too are called to restfulness.

Linda G Parsons, Honorary Assistant

PS Interested in a copy of *My Soul in Silence Waits* by Margaret Guenther (139 pages)? Please reply to Linda G Parsons at [therevlinda@mymts.net](mailto:therevlinda@mymts.net) or text to 204 799 1261. Books will be ordered mid October from the local bookstore, Whodunit. Cost: about \$14.

## GALLERY

We have some artwork in our house. I would like to think that each piece tells us a story only my partner and I can understand. Some tell us the story again and again of our younger selves, living in London without a clear sense or need of direction and focused on the joys of the moment. The art we collected there is mostly photography: each image a trap of its own, perfect time. Some of our pieces tell the story of the way we live now: they are sensible, and occasionally described as “investments” (the less future we have, the more we are looking to it with expectations of a return). Some of these works speak for their artists, whose names and oeuvres are as much a medium of messaging as the single artwork itself. Yet some others remind me of the sheer fun of buying them. I love an auction. Even though it’s a competition to pay more, somehow placing the top bid feels like winning. Reflecting on the art I see as I walk around my house has kept me mindful who I am, and where I’ve been, and where I’m going. As the COVID-19 pandemic puts us in the unfamiliar position of experiencing change and uncertainty while seated in our own living rooms and dens, the view from inside has been a welcome anchor.

Beyond what I display for myself, I have often thought these days of an amazing artwork belonging to the people of Ontario. It’s called *The Wisdom of the Universe*, by Christi Belcourt. The Art Gallery of Ontario acquired the piece in 2014. It depicts a vast, enveloping arrangement of plants and animals native to Ontario, many of which are at risk or of traditional medicinal value, in vivid colour on a black canvas. The technique involves the careful application of dots of paint – thousands of them – in a systemic way, giving a procedural order to the wild and brilliant chaos depicted in the piece. It’s a work of energy, of ecology, of hope, of concern, of mystery, of tradition, of modernity, of darkness, and of light all at once. Its contradictions give it its life. Something new in its depths appears every time I see it. It’s a masterpiece.

I have also had in mind the canvasses of another artist, David Thauberger, a native of Saskatchewan. His work bears no obvious resemblance to *The Wisdom of the Universe*. He paints tableaux of prairie buildings in small towns, presented as specimens in high relief against their flat, agricultural backgrounds. His best known works are main street storefronts and grain elevators of the old style. The first impulse upon seeing a David Thauberger painting is one of comfort: it’s the West we know as Westerners, replete with the tropes of the farm and the land. Look closer, however, and the sense of comfort fades to one of unease. It’s not always clear what time of day, or what time of century, his works capture. The perfection of the rendering gives one the tingly feeling that there’s something we’re not seeing. There are rarely ever (possibly never) people in his paintings. Shops are unfrequented, churches go unattended, dance halls un-danced. Like now – the people might still be staying at home, in galleries of their own, while the once-beloved town institution sits quietly on a street corner. Whatever century he is painting, he is capturing our experience [today](#). As with *The Wisdom of the Universe*, his works come to life on their uncertainty and tension.

What I draw from these very different artistic expressions is that comfort can actually be unsettling, and what is wild and chaotic is also eternal and elemental. The pressure of change never recedes, and the appearances of certainty are deceiving. All of those thoughts have been useful to me since I became a warden: the role so far has involved balancing the past and the future, in a small scale, in so many ways. I am perhaps uniquely unqualified for the

function as I am such a newcomer to our parish and even the City. I am the interim People's Warden, and as such, I want to be open to every change and every idea you, the people, have. Other than candour, I cannot guarantee you that I can deliver on anything: one of the perils of navigating uncertainty is that promises are harder to keep. But I'll do what I can. You have welcomed me into a very grounded and trusting spiritual community; it is my hope that I can thank you all by this service as warden.

In my too-long announcement about stewardship in church recently, I stressed the potential upsides of living in a liminal, uncertain time. We are dealing now with uncertainty piled on uncertainty: as a particularly eloquent friend of mine once said of her time in Afghanistan while serving in the British Army, the future feels near to us and yet never seems to arrive. I know many among us now yearn for a return to what we feel is solid and foundational. For me, our faith provides that succour and fills that need. It frees me to embrace, as best as I can, the benefits that change can bring. Discomfort is a sign that we are witnessing something novel to us, and that an opportunity to know more has presented itself. Let's grab hold of that sentiment and make the most of it in how we worship, how we commune, and how we offer our service. The time will one day come when we look upon something in our own personal galleries, whatever that thing may be, that will recall in our minds this strange and uncertain time. We will want to have made the most of it. We will want the story we tell ourselves then to be a good one.

Brandon Barnes Trickett

## FINANCE REPORT

St. George's Church – August 2020

The net loss of \$33,390 to the end of August is favourable to last year of \$35,246 but unfavourable to Budget of \$32,867. We will again have a significant loss in 2020.

Variances to Budget of >\$700:

- Festival Offerings is \$1,900 unfavourable to Budget as the Easter envelope was postponed to later in 2020.
- Fundraising is \$18,328 unfavourable as there have been no Special Events or Garage/Closet Sales.
- Interest Earned is \$1,307 favourable due to timing.
- Identified Giving is \$4,113 favourable to Budget but \$8,305 unfavourable to last year
- Special & Designated and Open Plate are a total of \$2,000 unfavourable due to COVID-19 limitations.
- Rentals is \$4,060 unfavourable due to COVID-19 limitations.
- Admin Assistant Stipend and Payroll Benefits are \$6,763 and \$1,677 favourable due to less hours worked.
- Stationery is \$900 favourable due to less activity during COVID-19 period.
- Rector's Living Allowance is \$3,143 unfavourable as CRA allowed Simon more than expected; the offset is in Rector's stipend which is \$3,365 favourable. Payroll Benefits are also \$1,312 favourable as they are based on stipend.
- Music Director is 3,196 favourable due to less hours worked.

- General Maintenance is \$849 unfavourable due to timing.
- Insurance – Property is \$974 unfavourable due to timing.
- Utilities – Gas is \$773 unfavourable due to timing.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of August 2020.

While \$12,000 was transferred from investments into chequing account to pay bills in July, no further transfers were required in August.

Changes to the Designated Funds > \$500:

- Closet Sale: +\$4,725 net proceeds from sale
- PC/Printer: - \$1,863 for two new office PCs

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

Ted Cotton (tedcotton@mymts.net)



## STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Fall 2020 time, talent, and treasure activities including the distribution of 2021 Estimate of Giving Cards will soon begin. Returning the Estimate of Giving Card helps Finance prepare the budget for discussion at Parish Council in January and the AGM in February.

**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.

A “**pew**” card is available for parishioners on preauthorized donations. As the offering plate passes, parishioners on preauthorized donations can show their commitment to St. George’s by putting a card in the plate. Cards are available at the back of the church.



**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. Other choices are e-transfer from your “bank” account to [office@stgeorges.mb.ca](mailto:office@stgeorges.mb.ca) and online at the church website or Facebook account.

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

**Shares:** Some parishioners donate shares or other financial instruments. Financial advisors can explain the capital gains or other advantages of these donations. Any parishioner interested in donating shares to St. George’s should contact Ted Cotton about the process.

We are grateful for the many parishioners who are sharing their **time and talents** with St. George’s. Some of these ministries can use more time and talent including:

- Sidespeople. Contact Dean Melnychuk
- Servers: contact Geri Morgan

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

The full Memorial Fund 2019 Report is completed and available on request to the office.

## MISSION AND MINISTRY

**West Broadway Community Ministry** has an empty “Alabaster Jar” and they hope to replenish it. The Jar is used for “gifts in exceptional circumstances” driven by compassionate concerns for people who are really hurting. You can write a cheque to St. George’s and mark it “Alabaster Jar” or donate directly to WBCM on-line.

**The Prayer Box** is an integral part of our ministry and has a presence in our worship every Sunday morning. We recognize that during this season of COVID-19 it has not been accessible for people to share their confidential prayer requests as usual. Although people are in church again, we cannot leave pencil or paper with the Prayer Box before worship. However the Prayer Box continues to be checked as usual. A new email address has now been created for people to send their confidential prayer requests to the coordinator, John Kehler. The email address is [prayerbox@stgeorges.mb.ca](mailto:prayerbox@stgeorges.mb.ca). For those without email access or prefer to not use email for this purpose, they may contact one of our Honorary Assistants, The Rev. Linda Parsons (204-488-0047) or The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter Flynn.

We are raising funds to get 350 pairs of **shoes for children in our partner parish in Ndoddo, Uganda**. Please consider making a donation so we can reach our goal of 350 pairs. So far we have purchased about 100 pairs of shoes — so we have a way to go. These children walk long distances to school each day on very poor roads and trails, with no shoes. Cut and infected feet result, there is no money for antibiotics and there are few doctors to care for the children. Your donation will make a huge difference to children’s health and education. The parish church of All Martyr’s in Ndoddo is getting a new roof after the old roof collapsed in high winds. This is costing \$15,000. Consider donating to this project also. All donations are welcome and will get an income tax receipt. If you have any questions, contact Rick Morgan.



## FURNITURE/MINI GARAGE SALE SEPTEMBER 10, 11 AND 12, 2020

It soon became evident over the past 6 months that we had lots of furniture donations which were taken over the parish hall, so we decided to go ahead with a furniture sale! We still had some extra space so set up tables along the north side of the hall and put out some pictures, towels, linens, small kitchen appliances and large ornaments as well as lamps and shades to make the sale more interesting. We were pleasantly surprised to have a small line- up of

buyers when our sale opened at 4pm on Thursday, Sept10th. We really had no idea how many people would come. We followed all COVID regulations, registering all people who came to the sale, hand sanitizing and limiting buyers to 20 at a time in the hall. We also had volunteers in the hall encouraging people to keep social distancing. After the first few hours of our sale on the first night, we had so many empty spots on the tables that we had to go to all our storage rooms to find more items to put out for sale! The same thing was repeated on Friday night when we ran the sale from 4 to 8 again. Saturday morning's sale from 10 until 2 brought in a steady stream of buyers as well. We were so thrilled with the amount of people who came to the sale, we had repeat buyers from previous sales as well as many people who were out walking and saw our signs. People were so happy just to come to a sale again!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up, clean up, greet, sell, do cash and take part in the many runs to our many storage areas searching for items that we thought might sell. We also took "orders" from buyers looking for specific items, a bike, a rice cooker, pots etc.

This wasn't as big as our annual garage sale but we were very happy with the large number of people who came out and our financial outcome of approximately \$3,500!

Geri Morgan  
Chairperson – Closet/garage sale Committee

## **WORSHIP**

We are very excited to have **in-person worship**! For those attending in-person, please help us by ensuring you reserve your seat every week (on-line or by phone) This is very important because seating is limited and to ensure we comply with provincial health guidelines and Diocesan directives. It also allows us to assist us in tracking parishioners that attend in person. Seats can be reserved for each week's service at:

<http://www.stgeorges.mb.ca/worship-service-reservations/>

Or you can also call Rick Morgan at 204.781.8630. Please leave only your name, number of people attending and call-back number. Thank you for your cooperation!

For those who prefer, services will continue to be **live-streamed** so you can view from the comfort of your home at:

<https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesCrescentwood/live/>

The prelude will start at approximately 10:25 am and the service will begin at 10:30 am.

The full policies for worship during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here:

[Parishioner Handbook of Policies for Resumption of Worship](#)

We look forward to seeing you, either in-person or virtually!



### **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.