

“by George!”

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Hope

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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December 2020

Advent Edition

Hope



We’re in Advent - the season where we look forward to the coming of Jesus. Blue is the colour of Advent and the first candle lit in in our Advent wreath is blue – the candle of hope. Today, hope is so important as we are all wait for safer times.

Please help us connect with all parishioners by sharing your thoughts and experiences and submitting your articles for the next “by George!”. Have a safe Advent and Christmas. Thank you!

Ted Cotton

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE UPCOMING DATES

Within our Parish Church of St. George, Crescentwood:

As the Province has moved the Pandemic Response Level to Code Red, there will be no in-person worship until further notice. Please join us for the Live-Streamed service at www.stgeorges.mb.ca or on Facebook.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 13

10:30am

Livestream Worship ONLY

Wednesday, December 16

7:00pm

Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, December 19

Time: TBA

Tentative date for Christmas Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 20

7:00pm

Virtual Nine Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 24

5:00 pm

Livestream Christmas Eve Worship ONLY

Friday, December 25

10:30am

Livestream Christmas Day Worship ONLY

Sunday, December 27

10:30am

Livestream Worship ONLY

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

7:00pm

Parish Council Meeting – Special Budget Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

7:00pm

Parish Council Meeting – Regular

Sunday, February 14, 2021

noon

Tentative date for the Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

7:00pm

Parish Council Meeting

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

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

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 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 .

Rector: Intentional Interim Priest Jennifer Marlor is on medical leave at this time. If you have an urgent situation please contact either Rev. Canon Dr. Peter Flynn (204) 475-2941 or Rev. Linda G. Parsons 204-488-0047.

Preparations are underway for a **Christmas cookie exchange** just before Christmas. Watch for more information.



In the Broader Community

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

<http://www.rupertland.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.rupertlandnews.ca and then go to "subscribe to RLN Weekly".

THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION

Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite all of the darkness. Desmond Tutu



THE MISSING SERMON

Reign of Christ Sunday, one week before Advent, it was my week to preach at St. George's. Due to an unexpected turn of events, I was unwell and Peter, my colleague, admirably without notes gave a fine sermon with barely time to consider a message.

My intent on that day was to first speak about the Ezekiel reading and the promises of God's

abiding presence with us. Following these few words turn to the liturgical journey the church invites us all to embark upon as we each live our part, ushering in the Reign of Christ on earth. This section was to prepare us for the coming Advent Season, the beginning of the Church year. With the aid of some of St. George's beautiful stoles and at least one of my own, I was ready to walk us through the journey milestones.

The sermon was meant to be a teaching moment for individual members and families to consider. This portion of the sermon was to begin with the removal of the white stole for The Reign of Christ and don a beautiful blue stole denoting Advent, and then white, the liturgical colour, for the three weeks of Christmas. The white would be followed by what? Yes, green. But only for the number of weeks until the liturgical colour of purple which is associated with Lent, is worn. Throughout the many weeks of Easter we continue to wear white until we come to the Feast of Pentecost in mid to late May. At that time we wear our magnificent red stoles. The frontal and the banners change again and reflect the same. During late spring and throughout the summer until the first week of November, All Saint's Day, we wear green almost every Sunday. Like late spring and throughout summer and into fall the primary colour we see is green. It is a time of growth and forming deeper roots and preparing our hearts and minds to complete the journey. This season is referred to as Ordinary Time. We celebrate with the liturgical colour of white for the Feast of All Saints on the first Sunday of November and return to green until The Reign of Christ when for one Sunday again we wear white. The following week will again begin another liturgical year. Advent will have arrived and we are invited into a season of waiting and anticipation. The colour for Advent is blue.

Alas the sermon was not to be heard but I have prepared a synopsis of the missing sermon below.

OUR JOURNEY'S PRINCIPLE MILESTONES

ADVENT Wait in preparation. Blue

We read and sing about God's promises. We tell the stories of Mary, Elizabeth, the John the Baptizer and his family. We strive for God's love to be seen in us and for the preparation of our hearts. We are reminded anew of the hope of the Second Advent when Christ returns in power and glory. The church calls us watch and wait with both anticipation and preparation, to be faithful in the tension between our faith journey, our desires and the call of the world that inundates our sacred time with a feast of fun, food and frenzy and more. In resistance to the world's call we wait for the hope of the ages – the return of Christ the King.

CHRISTMAS. Celebrate the One who has been invisible and is now visible in the visage of a child. White.

We worship. We sing. We pray. We are, as are Mary and Joseph, the innkeeper, the shepherds and wise ones, in awe of the incarnate Christ. We celebrate this gift of divine love and we share that love through gift giving and open hearts and homes.

LENT We begin with ashes. Remember O woman/man that dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return. [Purple]

This is a season of holy reflection, penance, sacrificial giving of ourselves. We follow Christ's long winding journey to Jerusalem, the agonizing of his disciples as they face a

journey without Christ. We are called to a sustained reflection on our baptism and our covenant with God.

Holy Week. We begin with celebration on Passion Sunday.

We celebrate the Messiah's entrance to Jerusalem with palm branches and song, Christ's triumphant reception and subsequent rejection. We are encouraged to be in contemplation and worship throughout the week.

THE PASCAL TRIDUUM. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday.

We go with Jesus and eat together on Thursday, the night Christ instituted the Last Supper. We see in our minds eye Judas leave the dinner table, the movement to the garden. We sleep in the garden of Gethsemane, forgetting the task of waiting and praying with the agonized Christ. Jesus is arrested.

On the morrow, Friday, we enter into the deep darkness of the crucifixion; walk with Christ to the cross, stand in the crowd, weep with the faithful. We leave bereft and wanting.

On Holy Saturday, the church, invites us to wait with trembling until the resurrection when we will run with Peter to the empty tomb.

EASTER. Resurrection Sunday. White

On this principal feast day, we greet one another with the triumphant words, Christ is risen and respond with Christ is risen indeed! We celebrate the defeat of death and sin. We worship the resurrected Christ, our Saviour, with joyous songs and acclamations with many alleluias. Easter was the earliest feast day decided upon by the ancient Christian Church. Like the Jewish predecessor Passover, it is a movable feast, based on the lunar calendar rather than falling on the same Sunday every year.

PENTECOST. The coming of the Holy Spirit. Red.

The Comforter has come and we celebrate with a festival of great joy, trumpets and song. The promise of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, has been fulfilled. We mark this day recalling the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the beginning of the church's global mission. The church claims this as the birth of the Christian Church. Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus the Christ, on Easter day.

Note: There are many other important milestones on our journey not mentioned above. These include Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ, the Ascension, the celebration of All Saints, Ordinary Time.

The majority of the work above is my own musings and text. However I relied on other sources to provide and/or confirm additional pieces or details.

Linda G Parsons, Honorary Assistant

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2020

Well, here we are. COVID-19 reared its ugly head last March, and since then the entire world has experienced chaos. Here in Manitoba we seemed to get off lightly, with few cases and deaths. But this fall we have been hit hard, as has most of the rest of the world.

We at St. George's have now missed an entire year of services and events. No Pancake Supper, no Ash Wednesday, no Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Easter services. No Halleluiah Chorus on Easter Sunday. For a few weeks this summer and fall, some of us were able to attend services, but there were many restrictions, and we, who have always been such a musical congregation, were not allowed to sing, even the glorious hymns on Thanksgiving Sunday. Now we are into the season of Advent and Christmas, but there will be no singing at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day.

Not only services, but also our parish activities have been curtailed. No garage sale, no turkey dinner. All the things that have brought us together have been cancelled. No baptisms, no celebratory cakes, no flower delivery to shut-ins and those who are ill or experiencing grief in their lives. And yet, we still soldier on. Gail Walker managed to walk to the church every Sunday that it was open, and it was wonderful to see her smiling face. Hollie Andrew managed two Closet Sales, although the second one had to be shut down early because Winnipeg was declared a red zone by the province. Andrew Thomson spearheaded the most spectacular Thanksgiving decoration this parish has ever seen, helped by some members of the Altar Guild. Our Honorary Assistants Peter and Linda and our wardens are working to keep our spirits up, and no doubt our church will look lovely, as usual, for the Christmas season. I would like to express my appreciation to members of the Memorial Fund, the Parish Council, the Worship Committee, the Altar Guild, and the Transition Team, all of whom are striving, under very difficult circumstances, to keep our parish going. Special thanks to Rick and Geri Morgan who are on duty every Sunday, and to the technical knowledge of Jonathan Morgan and John Kehler who make our services available online. This is an invaluable service. And Kudos to our custodian Darren Klein and our office administrant Mary Smith who are here keeping the place functioning when nobody else is around. It has been decided to keep the bells ringing before every service, and thanks to Christopher Thomson, Geoffrey Owen and Alex Owen who have agreed to do this.

So, sad as this pandemic is, we are all in this together, and we do what we can to offer our support to those of our parish family who go out of their way to keep this place functioning. The candles on the Advent Wreath represent Hope, Preparation, Joy and Love, all of which are present in the members of our beloved parish. As we hear of the development of vaccines for the COVID-19 virus, we look forward in hope for the future, preparing ourselves for the redevelopment of our parish under a new priest, and joy in knowing that God's love is always with us.

This will be a very different Christmas season, but as I look back to World War II, when my father was a prisoner of war in Hong Kong for four Christmases, with absolutely no communication, I can manage to spend one Christmas alone in my cozy apartment, watching the service from St. George's online and keeping in touch with all of my family by Zoom.

My wishes to all of you for a happy holiday season, and my condolences to those of you who have experienced grief in the past year.

In Christ,
Margaret Owen

THE PANDEMIC AT ST GEORGE'S.

The first cases of COVID infection were reported in China in January, and the first case in Canada on January 25th; this was a man who had travelled from China. The first case known to have been contracted in Canada was reported on March 5th, and on March 11th, the WHO declared a pandemic. Our last choir practice was on March 12th. The virus began to have an effect on our services on March 15th, when Evensong was cancelled, and until mid-May, the church was closed. There was a limited re-opening on Mothers' Day, May 10th, and from then until Ascension Day, May 31st, there was some participation by the choir. At Evensong on that day, I joined Rick in the choir loft to play a trombone solo, a chorale setting by Samuel Scheidt - 'Wir glauben all an einen Gott' (We all believe in one God). This was the last day of Simon Blaikie's incumbency at St George's.

On June 1st, we welcomed our intentional interim priest, Rev Jennifer Marlor, who had moved to Winnipeg from Tofino. We continued to attend church during the summer months, observing social distancing rules: about 30 people at most, scattered throughout the church, sitting in alternate pews, conversation 'not encouraged', and of course no 'coffee hour'. Each hymn is played through on the organ. I cannot begin to tell you how frustrating it is for me to stand and listen to 3 or 4 verses of Cwm Rhondda, and not be able to sing! I do not take communion, because I feel I have been 'excommunicated' by being excluded from the music. I cannot even 'hum' my part because the hymn books have been removed from the pews.

After suffering some injuries in a fall during September, the Rev Marlor went onto extended sick leave; our Honorary Assistants, Peter and Linda stepped into the breach and provided leadership and inspiration during this most difficult time. Since November 1st, with stricter 'lockdown' rules imposed by the Provincial Government, for most of us it has meant being 'outside' again. On Thanksgiving Sunday, October 11th, Charles Conway and Sarah Morgan sang Maurice Greene's anthem 'Thou Visitest the Earth', and it was good to see two of our young people participating in the Remembrance Day Service on November 10th, Nate Ferguson playing the 'Last Post' and Michael Brown reading Lawrence Binyon's moving elegy, 'They shall grow not old'. Rev Linda Parsons delivered an inspired and deeply moving sermon.

What will be left of us when this is over? For those who have been able to tune in at home and follow the services 'on-line', there is an obvious and faithful commitment to continue, and we owe a deep debt of gratitude to Jonathan Morgan, whose commitment and technical expertise makes this possible. What of those who have for now of necessity 'lost touch'? We will rise again!

Keith Davies Jones

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report to October 31, 2020

The Net loss is \$33934. This is favourable to budget of \$36940 and last year of \$41113.

Variances > \$700 (where F – favourable and U = unfavourable)

- Festival offerings is \$2315 U as we had no Easter or Harvest envelope.
- Fundraising is \$23721 U as there were no Special events or Garage/Closet sales contributions to October
- PWRDF donations are \$765 U and PWRDF remittances are 765 F (an in and an out) from fewer donations
- Identified giving is \$8015 F to budget and close to last year
- Special & designated and Open plate are \$3110 U in total due to less activity at St George's
- Rentals are \$8002 U due to closure of the building and less activity (\$3000 is coming in early November for rental of the Parish Hall to a movie crew)
- Admin assistant is \$3284 F due to less time
- Admin relief is \$900 F as there's been none
- Equipment rental is \$783 U due to timing
- Assistants' salary is \$4000 F due to timing
- Rector's Living allowance, Payroll benefits, and Stipend are a total of \$698 U due to the change from Simon to Jennifer along with Simon's vacation payout
- Allowance Boys and Girls is \$967 F due to less choir time
- Music director is \$6096 F due to less choir time
- Sunday school superintendent is \$1339 F due to less time
- Boiler contract daily is \$752 F due to timing
- General maintenance is \$5324 F due to timing e.g., waiting for JCV boiler invoices
- Utilities electricity and natural gas is \$2580 F in total due to timing

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of October.

Our Balance Sheet includes about 37 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 e.g. a Sabbatical Provision. The current total of all the Designated Funds is about \$280,000.

October changes to the Designated Funds > \$500:

- Memorial Fund: +\$2,500 This was an estate donation that will be transferred from the Church to the Memorial Fund
- Closet Sale: +\$929 Proceeds greater than costs from October closet sale

We're reviewing the Manitoba Bridge Grant to see if we're eligible for a one-time grant of \$5000 due to the impact of COVID-19.

If you are responsible for a revenue or expense amount in the **2021 budget**, please send Ted Cotton your 2021 estimate and your explanation for any changes from 2020. Also, anyone with suggestions on how to improve our 2021 revenue and decrease our 2021 expenses, please let me know. All comments are needed by December 31.

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

Ted Cotton (204 488 3606 or tedcotton@mymts.net)

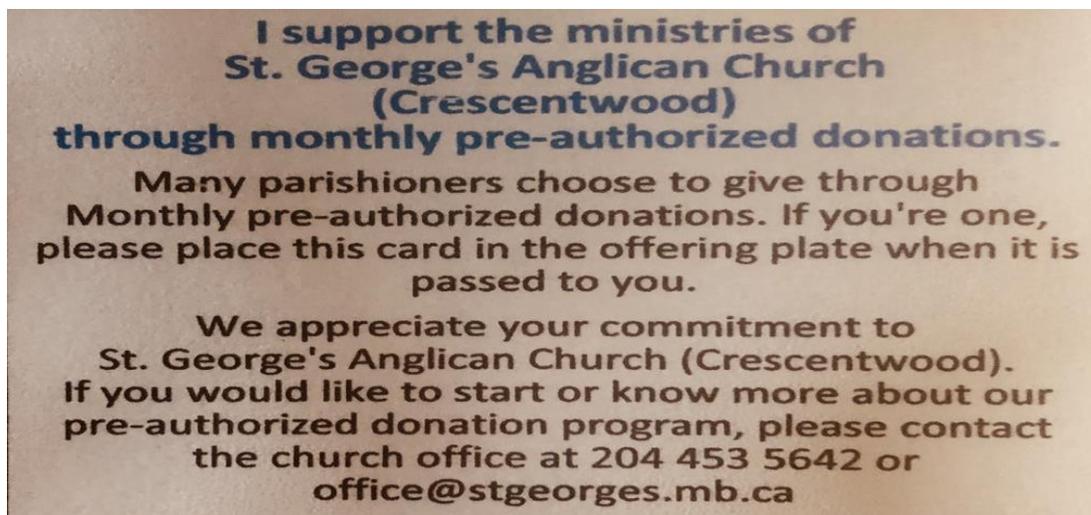


STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

The Stewardship package was mailed to parishioners in early November and parishioners received it soon after that. Thanks to everyone who has already returned their **2021 Estimate of Giving card**. Parishioners are encouraged to return their card as soon as possible. Returning the Estimate of Giving card will help Finance prepare the 2021 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 preauthorized donation during the year, the form and instructions are always available from the church office.

When there is in-person worship, 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.

Donations can also be made through **e-transfer** from your “bank” account to office@stgeorges.mb.ca , and **online at the church website or Facebook account**.

Parishioners should be aware that about 3% of some online credit card donations to a charity go to the credit card company and provider of the credit card donation system.

Shares: Parishioners can 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 share their **time and talents** with St. George’s. If you’re interested in sharing your time and talents at St. George’s but don’t know who to contact, Mary-Beth Barker, Brandon Barnes, Ted Cotton, or the church office can help you.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

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. 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.

St. George’s is collecting money again for the **Christmas Cheer Board**. The needs are greater than ever this year and we need generous cheques marked “Christmas Cheer Board”. Tax receipts are issued for all donations.

Once again St. George’s is collecting **toiletries for men and women** at Christmas. This is an annual appeal from West Broadway Community Ministry and our church has been very generous in the past! Soap, shaving items, personal products are all very welcome! Items can be dropped off at the church from Tuesday to Friday between 10am and 2pm but you would need to phone the office. As it may be difficult at this time to purchase items in stores a cheque or a donation on-line at our website marked ‘Toiletries’ would be gratefully received. Contact George Bush at (204) 885-3259 if you have any questions. All money donations will of course receive tax receipts.

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 and we have funds for about another 100

pairs. This will be sent once children in Ndoddo are back at school. 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 towards the final 150 pairs will make a huge difference to children's health and education. All donations are welcome and will get an income tax receipt. If you have any questions, contact Rick Morgan.

Mission and Ministry forwarded \$250 CAD collected for **thermometer guns to Ndoddo** parish. Four extra thermometer guns have now been purchased, along with batteries for each. This means that All Martyrs parish and each of its 4 "mission parishes" have a thermometer gun to check for COVID-19, and Rev. Noah Kabuye has an extra one that he is taking with him to use when he is going to different people's homes. St. George's purchased 4 guns, the Diocese of Rupert's Land purchased 1 gun, and another donor bought them one gun. There is about \$63 CAD left over which will be used to buy cement for the Ndoddo parish church floor.



This is a photo from the **confirmation at All Martyrs Ndoddo** on November 22 with Bishop Michael Lubowa). Fifty kids in total were confirmed.



POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Donations are requested towards **Poinsettias** for the Christmas Season, in memory of loved ones. Names of those being remembered will be placed in the leaflets for Dec 20th, 24th, 25th, 27th and Jan 3rd. This year proceeds will go to the operating account.

You will be given a year-end tax receipt for your donation.

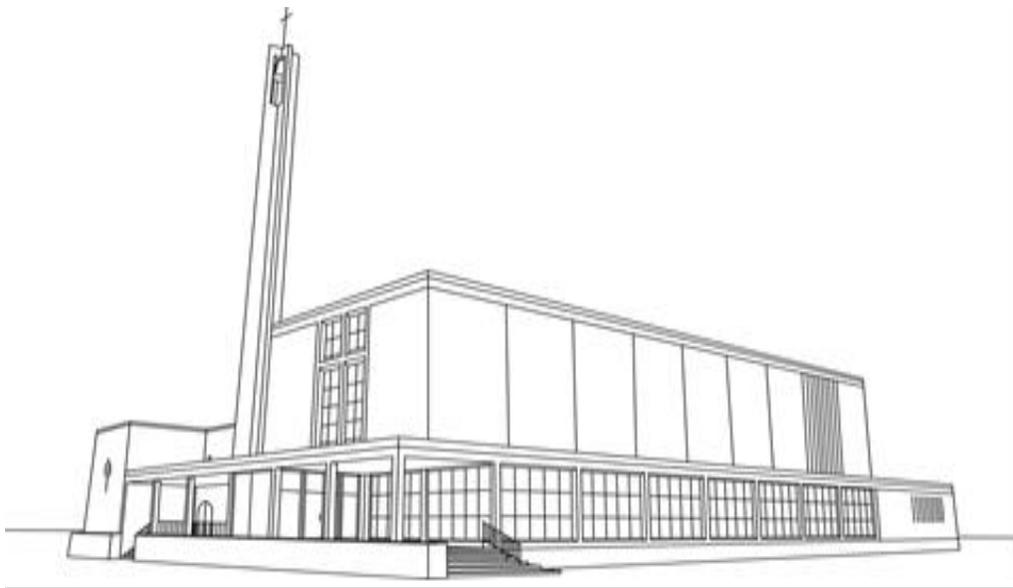
Name of Donor: _____

Amount of gift: _____

Names of those being remembered:

- *
- *
- *
- *

Please send your cheque to St. George's Anglican Church, 168 Wilton St., Winnipeg, MB R3M 3C3 by Monday, December 14, 2020 or e-transfer your donation using online banking to office@stgeorges.mb.ca



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.