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## Flowers

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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May 2021

Mothers’ Day Edition

### Flowers

Whether we’re able to see, talk to, or only think about our mothers, we all know how important they have been to who we are now and to who we will be.

Words are insufficient to express our appreciation, so I thought I’d just say “Thank you” to all the mothers in the parish. As I understand flowers are in short supply this year, I’ve also sprinkled a few images of flowers throughout this “by George!”.



This image was from Bing and was “Free to use and share” on May 9, 2021. The other flower images are photos taken at St. George’s (Crescentwood) in 2021.

Let’s also thank and remember our fathers in June. Please help us connect with all parishioners by sharing your thoughts and experiences and submitting your articles for the next “by George!” in September. I hope the summer gives you an opportunity to relax and be safe. “See” you at St. George’s!

Ted Cotton



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Mark Your Calendars With These Upcoming Dates

#### Within our Parish Church of St. George, Crescentwood:

- |     |        |  |
|-----|--------|--|
| Wed | May 12 | Virtual Mid-Day Prayers – On-line - Noon                                 |
| Thu | May 13 | Ascension Day Choral Eucharist – Livestream - 7:30 pm                    |
| Sun | May 16 | Seventh Sunday of Easter   |
|     |        | - Virtual Sunday School – 9:30 am (Last Sunday School for the season)    |
|     |        | - Live-stream Ante-communion with Guest Preacher Murray Still – 10:30 am |
|     |        | - Special Parish Meeting via Zoom – 1:00 pm                              |
| Wed | May 19 | Parish Council Meeting – via Zoom – 7:00 pm                              |
| Sun | May 23 | Day of Pentecost - Livestream Eucharist – 10:30 am                       |
| Sun | May 30 | Trinity Sunday – Livestream Eucharist– 10:30 am                          |
| Wed | Jun 2  | Worship Committee meeting via Zoom                                       |

As regulations may change, the above calendar is an intentional look only at the short term. For the most current calendar and more information about St. George's, please visit:

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

**Posting for New Incumbent:** The Parish Profile was completed and then approved by the Bishop. The posting for the new St. George's Incumbent is on the Diocesan website. The call for applications closes June 4, 2021. Thanks to Mary-Beth and the Transition Team for their efforts on the Parish Profile.

**Special Parish Meeting Sunday, May 16 at 1:00pm, by Zoom:** There will be a meeting of the membership of the Parish. You are invited to attend. The agenda for the meeting is:

1. Election of the People's Warden
2. Information for the Parish as to the New Incumbent Process
3. Presentation and Questions of the Building Redevelopment Committee

Please register for the meeting at this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UsD6P\\_CvS32ePbLPv47Ldw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UsD6P_CvS32ePbLPv47Ldw)

Note that this link is NOT the same link as for the Annual General Meeting. Once you have registered, you will be sent the link to use for access the Parish meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact the wardens through the Church Office at [office@stgeorges.mb.ca](mailto:office@stgeorges.mb.ca) or 204-453-5642. The Special Parish Meeting ZOOM instructions are available from the email circulated Thursday May 6, by calling the Church Office or [please click here](#).

**Services are livestreamed only.** Until further notice, there will be no in-person worship at St George's. Teams, not exceeding the maximum number of participants permitted by the provincial government, are permitted to record or live-stream worship – it is mandatory that masks be worn by all participants at all times. Gatherings, meetings and functions other than recording or live-streaming worship are not permitted at this time.

Reservations are NOT required to join the live-streamed service at [www.stgeorges.mb.ca](http://www.stgeorges.mb.ca) or <http://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesCrescentwood/live/>. The organ prelude will begin at approximately 10:25 am and the service will begin at 10:30 am.

The final **St. George's Sunday School** class for this year will be held on May 16th. Children aged 5 to 10 are welcome to join the virtual class from 09:30 to 10:30. It is one fun hour! Please contact the church office if your child wishes to participate.

Although a date for **2021 Spring Closet Sale** has yet to be determined, the Closet Sale team is requesting donations of spring and summer men's and women's clothing for this upcoming event. Items can be dropped off at the church from Tuesday to Friday, between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Thank you in advance for your support of this important event!

**Rev. Linda's Virtual Mid-Day Prayer Series** will continue on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon until Pentecost. If you wish to join this popular on-line worship service, please email [therevlinda@mymts.net](mailto:therevlinda@mymts.net) or call her at 204-488-0047.

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 can be arranged by calling the office at 204-453-5642 or emailing [office@stgeorges.mb.ca](mailto:office@stgeorges.mb.ca).

**Rector:** 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.



### **In the Broader Community**

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

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

While there are no events currently posted on the Diocesan site, the suspension of in-person worship is based on the following update from the Bishop:

<http://www.rupertsland.ca/wp-content/uploads/COVID-Update-from-the-Bishop-April-27-2021.pdf>

**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**

Much like our flower garden, we should deal with the "weeds" that interfere with all that's great in our lives.



## INTERCESSIONS AND ENCOURAGEMENT

We as a parish are thankful for the ministry of parishioners leading us in the intercessions each Sunday. I know that couched in the beauty of our liturgy, the thoughtfulness of these prayers, and the inclusion of all creation's celebrations and groanings bless us, and lead us to fresh light for our path. Thank you.

I have been reading Psalm 62 recently. It begins with an assurance and determination in the Psalmist's relationship with God under duress. The words provide us an imagery of being battered, ourselves as a tottering fence — an image many parishioners can relate to at this present time. This is just one aspect of the prayers of the people we all bear, in our own vulnerability. Thank you.

After conversation with the Wardens, we have agreed that it was an appropriate time to remove Jennifer, our former interim priest, from our public prayers. I invite parishioners to remember her in their personal prayers when and if the Spirit prompts them to think of her.

In Christ's service, in the church and the world, with you,

Linda

### **Psalm 62 1-3, 12** Attributed to David

For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from him comes my salvation,

God alone is my rock and my salvation  
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

How long will you assail a person,  
will you batter your victim, all of you,  
as you would a leaning wall,  
a tottering fence?

...

Power belongs to God  
and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

...

Note: The above message was originally sent to the intercessors and has been edited to be inclusive of all of us.



### **MID-DAY PRAYER THROUGH LENT AND EASTERTIDE**

Our family came to know the Canadian Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Mark MacDonald when he was on sabbatical at a seminary in California where our son was also studying. At the time, he was Bishop of Alaska. Some time ago we had the privilege of billeting him in our home for several days. It was then I learned about Gospel Based Discipleship.

Archbishop Mark knows through experience that this tool can be used to grow disciples; to grow lay people who can lead others in discovering the good news of Christ, in teaching others of the relevance of the Gospel in everyday lives. In meeting with elders, with Vestries, whenever an occasion arose, Archbishop Mark has begun with the threefold reading of the Gospel of the day thereby placing the Gospel central to conversations and matters of concern and celebration in the Church.

He uses three readings of the Gospel, each followed by silence and reflection. The response to the first reading rests in the essence of the question, “What have I heard as though for the first time/what jumped out at me?”. The second question, attached to the second reading, is “What is Jesus/the gospel saying?”. The reflection on the third reading is “What am I being asked to be/do?”. If you are familiar with Lectio Divina, you may recognize the resemblance.

During Lent and Eastertide, we incorporated this tool, Gospel Based Discipleship. At the time of the scripture reading in the Mid-Day Prayer service from our Book of Alternative services, we followed the threefold reading followed by shared reflection excepting after the third reflection.

Some people didn't know what to expect; some had never studied scripture together with others; some expressed surprise at the impact on their lives. For me, it was delightful to hear someone express surprise in words such as “I've read this many times over and I've never noticed before ....”. It was encouraging when some said, “This bothers me. I don't like this at all”. At these times, I am reminded of the ones Jesus chose, whom Jesus called to be followers and later named them friends, the same ones he commissioned for ministry and breathed into them the Holy Spirit.

As though for the first time, we learned that it is as easy a movement from reflection to discussion as it is from silence to busyness. It is simply more difficult to remain in thought and move to a shared reflective response. Very little in our lives invites us to this. To remain inwardly pointed, the group were called to a discipline of silence, to press back and resist the competing voices of previous experiences, our biases and what we left to sit and pray together, what is waiting for us when we leave the Zoom conversation.

It was a blessing for me to meet each week at mid-day, to experience the fellowship of prayer, in responding, hearing and seeing the Word come alive in our midst. Included in this was the celebration each of us expressed as we heard that another one had a date for their vaccination. May God be praised.

Note: The Mid-Day Prayer in our prayer book is short. I included the Psalm for the Sunday as well as the Collect. Seasonal intercession prompts and additional prayers were taken from the daily Order of Service for the Church of England app (and book), Time to Pray.

### **Personal Reflections from Participants**

I greatly look forward to meeting with my church group by Zoom on Wednesdays at noon. This is a time of togetherness that I cherish when we are forced by the pandemic to spend so much time alone. Praying and meditating together is so important, as is the camaraderie that we share, especially when we can no longer attend church services. We humans need contact with each other, and thanks to Linda for taking the time and effort to make this happen.

Margaret Owen

I am thankful for being included me in the mid-week Lenten Prayer Services. I was not sure what to expect initially, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the discussion and thought evoking dialogue I experience from the Wednesday services. I am finding I enjoy the Sunday services more as well. It's almost like writing a test after preparing with the best study group in the world!

Kim Hooker

Thanks to the Rev. Linda Parsons and her technological skills about 8-10 people have been meeting each Wednesday on line for mid-week prayers and meditation on the gospel reading for the following Sunday.

It has been a great and new experience meeting on Zoom with others from our church family, some of whom I have known for a long time and others whom I am getting to know better. We look forward to our mid-week prayers and meditation together as we explore and discuss and learn from each other on our journey of Faith. A big thank you to Linda who guides and gently nudges us to think.

Eileen Baxter

PS This meeting and our Church service on line has been a real blessing in this time of COVID.

The mid-day prayer sessions have enriched my spiritual life. The study of God's word using the zoom platform has not only been a source of spiritual guidance, but also a source of great blessing. The personal interaction with the participants in the group has been gratifying. I have been able to see that I am not the only person that struggles with their spiritual journey.

Pat Harding

Submitted by Linda G Parsons, Honorary Priest

## **FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Report to March 31, 2021

- The net loss is \$6081. This is favourable (F) to budget of \$11245 and last year of \$16775.
- Special events is \$1860 F. This is split almost equally between bake less bake sale and the lilies. Thanks to Mary-Beth and the Altar Guild for these initiatives.
- Interest earned is \$1409 unfavourable (U). This is timing.
- Special & designated is \$1350 F. This is funeral donations for operating.
- Identified giving is the same as budget, but \$5610 U to last year.
- Rector's stipend and Payroll benefits are a total of \$988 U. Her STD ended mid-January, but we paid Jennifer to the end of January. Her LTD was not approved, so the insurance did not cover to the end of January. St. George's has no further financial commitment for Jennifer.
- Boiler checks are \$725 F. This is timing.
- General maintenance is \$1476 F. This is timing.
- Utilities – electric is \$798 F. This is timing.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of March.

The auditors continue their work, but a draft of the review is expected by the end of May.

Changes in Designated funds > \$500:

- Audio/visual: +\$625 for the quarterly provision per the budget
- Ndoddo: -\$1245 sent for shoes and tuition less donations
- Relocation: +\$1250 for the quarterly provision per the budget

If you have any questions on the Finance Report, please let Ted Cotton (204 488 3606 or [tedcotton@mymts.net](mailto:tedcotton@mymts.net)) know. Thanks.





## STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Thanks to all parishioners who have been continuing their offerings to St George's when in-person worship hasn't been available.

In addition to mailing to or dropping off offerings at the Church, offerings to the Church can be made by

- **Electronic Offering Program:** If you want to start the Electronic Offering Program or change your monthly electronic preauthorized offering during the year, the form and instructions are always available from the church office.
- Through **e-transfer** from your "bank" account to [office@stgeorges.mb.ca](mailto:office@stgeorges.mb.ca)
- **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 rather than the charity.
- **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.

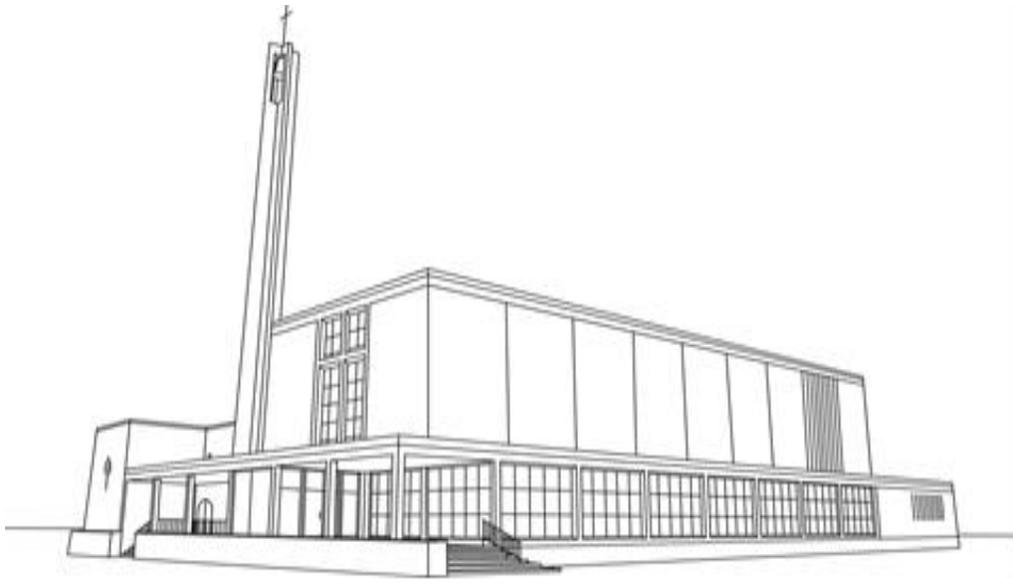
If you have any questions about donation methods, please contact Ted Cotton at [tedcotton@mymts.net](mailto:tedcotton@mymts.net) or 204 488 3606.

## PARISH COMMITTEES

The last "by George!" inadvertently left Mary Thomas from the names of parishioners on Worship Committee. Sorry Mary.

## 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. We can't leave pencil or paper with the Prayer Box. 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.



**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.