

“by George!”

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Truth

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 2021

Welcome Back Edition

Truth

We hear a lot about “truth” lately. Some of it relates to all of our politicians, and some of it relates to the socialization process parents go through with their children. However, much of it relates to “Truth and Reconciliation” today. The order of the phrase is intentional, so we recognize truth comes before reconciliation.

As I stood quietly on September 30th at the hill behind Red River College’s Notre Dame Campus – the site of sacred fires, I considered Truth and Reconciliation and realized I’m not sure what truth means in this context.

So, what is truth? Oxford defines it as the quality of being true (accurate). Penguin defines it as a statement that is generally accepted as true (in accordance with fact). Webster’s defines it as honesty and in accordance with knowledge.

Definitions including “quality”, “generally accepted as true” and “in accordance with knowledge” emphasize that truth isn’t easy, and I have much to learn.

I’m now listening and hoping to learn. How about you?

Welcome! I hope you had a great summer and are enjoying the warm fall. Please help us connect with all parishioners by sharing your thoughts and experiences and submitting your articles for the next “by George!” in November. I hope the fall gives you an opportunity to do what you enjoy and be safe. Rejoice and be thankful! “See” you at St. George’s!

Ted Cotton

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars With These Upcoming Dates

Coming Up Within our Parish Church of St. George, Crescentwood:

- | | | |
|-----|--------|---|
| Sun | Oct 10 | Harvest Thanksgiving – In-person and Livestream
Eucharist – 10:30 am
- Rev. Judith Whitmore will preside and preach |
| Wed | Oct 13 | Mid-Day Prayer – ZOOM – Noon |
| Sun | Oct 17 | Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost – In-person and
Livestream Eucharist – 10:30 am
- Rev. Aubrey Hemminger will preside and preach |
| Wed | Oct 20 | Parish Council Meeting – On-line – 7:00 pm |
| Sun | Oct 24 | Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost – In-person and
Livestream Eucharist – 10:30 am
- Rev. Judith Whitmore will preside and preach
Choral Evensong – In-person and Livestream – 4:00 pm |

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>

If you are attending **worship** in-person, please reserve a seat in advance, as seating is limited. Seat reservation ensures we can maintain records of those attending each service, in compliance with provincial health guidelines and Diocesan protocols. You can, however, register at the door on Sunday morning. Seats can be reserved at the following link:

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

You can also call Rick Morgan at 204.781.8630 or Christopher Thomson at 204.782.0833. Please leave only your name, number of people attending and your call-back number.

Masks are required for all those attending in-person.

For the purpose of social distancing, the Choir will occupy the last few rows of the Church instead of the Balcony during the service. These rows are roped off until the Choir enters the Church.

For those who prefer to attend virtually, services are live-streamed. Reservations are NOT required and you can view from the comfort and safety of your own home. Join at

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

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

In-person **Sunday School** is underway! If you wish to register your child for the Fall season, please call the Parish Office or contact Jacqueline Thomson at jacquelinethomson97@gmail.com

The **Fall Closet Sale** will be held October 26th to October 31st, Tuesday to Friday, 2:00 to 7:00 and Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Fall and Winter clothing will be featured.

This year the event is a huge undertaking as a lot of clothing has been donated and the last sale was in November 2020. Work has been underway for several weeks already! Donations are still being accepted.

Join us for **Mid-Day Prayer on Wednesdays** at Noon on Zoom. We follow the Mid-Day Service from our Book of Alternative Services and include Intercessions, the Collect as well as the Gospel Reading for the coming Sunday. You are not being asked to prepare. The intent is to approach the text with a fresh mind and heart. The service is finished within one hour.

The study of the Gospel follows a tool, Gospel Based Discipleship, established by The National Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald. The Gospel reading is read three times with a short silence following. After each reading there is a question to ponder within ourselves: What did I hear as though for the first time; What is Jesus saying to me from this passage? Who and what am I being invited to be and do? There is discussion after the first two and silence after the third. There isn't any requirement to share aloud. Participants are invited to be readers and intercessors.

The Zoom invitation and the weekly leaflet will arrive on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning. Committing to weekly participation is not essential. To receive the Zoom invitation and weekly leaflet contact Linda at therevlinda@mymts.net

For more information, please contact Linda at 204-488-0047.

Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, October 10th at the 10:30 am worship service. Anyone wishing to provide vegetables for the harvest decorations should bring them to the church by Thursday, October 7th between 10 am and 2 pm.

Our **outdoor coffee hours on the steps** have been a success! Watch for more news about ways to connect to each other and renew our fellowship in the coming months. If you are not able to join us in person, please know there are plans for virtual connections in our future!

St. George's "Connection Committee": Cheryl Ferguson, Ted Cotton, Heather Hammond, Sally Corby

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 .

Rector: Our Interim Priest, Rev. Judith Whitmore, can be reached at: (204) 799-6756 or judithacreasewhitmore@gmail.com

If you have an urgent pastoral situation, please contact Rev. Whitmore at (204) 799-6756



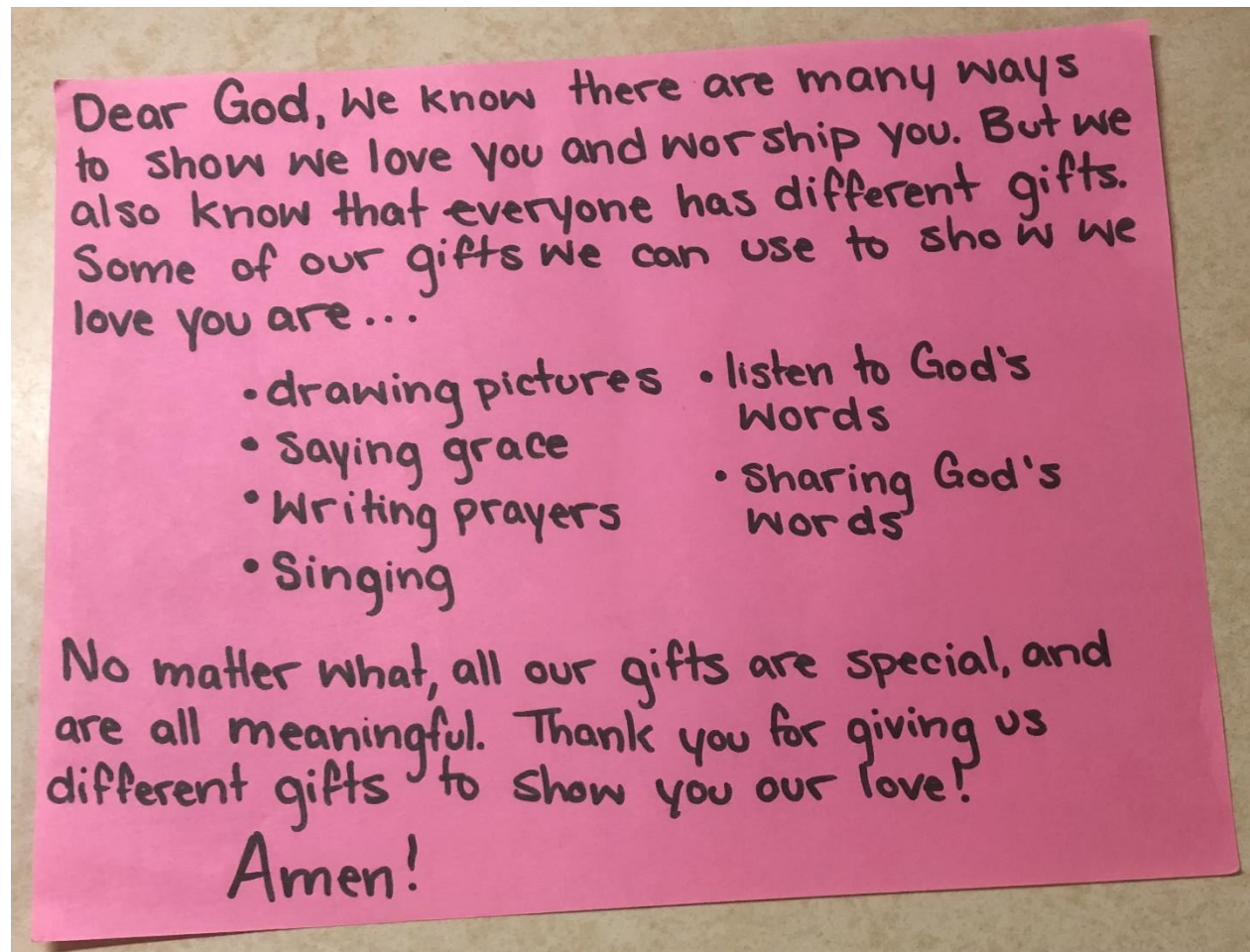
In the Broader Community

There are no events currently posted on the Diocesan site. Please visit the Diocese of Rupert's Land website for the most current calendar: <https://rupertsland.ca/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 and to subscribe.

EXAMPLE OF A SUNDAY SCHOOL PRAYER



FROM THE DESK OF OUR INTERIM

In the words of Senator Murray Sinclair:

In the past months, over a thousand unmarked graves have been uncovered on the grounds of former residential schools.

With each discovery, Survivors and their families experience trauma all over again. For Survivors, it brings up painful memories of friends being injured, disappearing or dying. For families, it is a constant reminder of the missing children who never came home. The residential school system was rife with abuse, neglect, and violence. Over generations, these schools systematically dismantled the connection of children to their families, communities, cultures, languages, and traditions.

These memories and conversations are painful for Indigenous Peoples from coast to coast to coast. For non-Indigenous people in Canada, it is necessary to confront the truths about the history of this country, residential schools, and colonialism.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation presents us with a moment to look forward to what this country can be, and a renewed opportunity to put Reconciliation into action. Education is the key for all people in Canada to walk the path of Reconciliation. To honour the memory of every child taken from their home, we must continue this truth-telling process and the honest conversations about the legacy and impact of colonialism in Canada. We must also listen to the voices and experiences of Survivors, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. Confronting the truth is difficult, but it is vital to keeping the process of Reconciliation alive and to creating a community where every child matters.

Take this new National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to set aside the impact of the untruthful version of history that has long been presented and to learn from Indigenous voices.

As I reflect on Senator Sinclair's words what leaps out at me is the sentence, "we must continue this truth telling and the honest conversations about the legacy and impact of colonialism in Canada. We must listen to the voices and experiences...Confronting the truth is difficult.

As I reflect, I keep coming back to the word "listen." I have heard many stories of the pain and heartbreak of our indigenous people. I am ashamed of our Colonial history. I have at times wept. However, I confess I think my pain is superficial. The stories I hear on the radio and T.V are one dimensional. The pain does not penetrate my soul. I have not fully integrated the impact of the violence and abuse.

I then think about a young man I met while hiking in Turkey. We had hiked many miles one day up a long ascent in the Taurus Mountains. It rained most of the day and we slogged through usually dry creek beds that were flowing with a reddish mucky water. You can imagine our relief when we came upon a yard where a young man was boiling water for tea. Mehmet invited us to sit under a picnic like shelter as he made us tea. We visited for two hours, sharing stories. A story Mehmet told us was of his engagement to a French woman.

As he told the story tears ran down his face. The woman broke the engagement because her mother would not allow her to marry a Muslim man. Tears ran down his face as he implored, “what is wrong with me? I am not an extremist?” Tears soaked my face as well.

I will never forget Mehmet. God, Allah was with us that day and wept as well. Listening to the T.V. or radio allows me to maintain a safe distance. It is in the intimacy of sitting down, face to face, hearing the pain and weeping together that my heart will hear, the pain will be felt.

What I experienced with Mehmet is the sense of the Holy. God’s Grace was revealed that day. It is a journey. We travel in different ways, we process differently. My prayer is that we will discover God in unexpected places, and know God is with us as we weep with our sisters and brothers who we have so deeply hurt.

As it is written in our Baptismal Covenant, “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?” I pray “we will.”

Faithfully,

The Rev. Judith Whitmore

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report to August 31, 2021

- The net loss is \$10554. This is favourable (F) to budget of \$36096 and last year of \$33390.
- Festive offerings: \$1375 unfavourable. An Easter envelope wasn’t sent out.
- Special events is \$1840 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.
- Special & designated is \$1370 F. This is funeral donations for operating.
- Identified giving is \$9982 F as budget, but \$6881 U to last year.
- Administrative Assistant Stipend is \$1270 F. Less hours worked than budgeted.
- Administrative Relief is \$850 F. No relief has been used to date.
- Software is \$1197 F. No significant purchases made.
- Honorary Assistant Stipend is \$11978 F. Less time worked than planned.
- Rector’s stipend is \$11990 U. An interim wasn’t budgeted for.
- Music director is \$1017 F. This is less hours worked than planned.
- General maintenance is \$6377 F. This is timing.
- Insurance – Property is \$977 U. The 2021 invoice was higher than expected.
- Telephones is \$1027 F. There isn’t a Rector’s cellphone.
- Utilities – Natural Gas is \$1984 U. This is higher rates and use than expected.
- Utilities – electric is \$7643 F. This is timing.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of August.

Changes in Designated funds > \$500:

- There were no changes > \$500 in August.

Review of the Auditors

The auditors completed their review of 2020 was completed, and summary information was provided to the parish. See the end of this “by George!” for more information.

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



STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

At the beginning of October, every household on the Parish list will receive a mailing. It contains

- A Stewardship message and a 2022 Estimate of Giving card. All contributions of time, talent, and treasure are appreciated. Your generosity helps us do God’s work.
- A Thanksgiving/Harvest message from the Rev Judith Whitmore and a Thanksgiving/Harvest festive offering envelope. We missed sending out the Easter festive offering envelope, so this Thanksgiving/Harvest and the upcoming Christmas festive offering are important to the parish.

Thanks to all parishioners who have been continuing their offerings to St George’s.

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
- **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 or 204 488 3606.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

The Prayer Box is an integral part of our ministry and has a presence in our worship on Sunday morning. We recognize that during this season of COVID-19 the box is not accessible for people to share their confidential prayer requests as usual. Please use the following email to send your confidential prayer requests to the coordinator, John Kehler: prayerbox@stgeorges.mb.ca. For those without email access or who prefer to not use email for this purpose, please contact our Interim, Rev Judith Whitmore

Let Justice Flow **West Broadway Community Services (1JustCity)** is offering a course on exploring discipleship and mission through learning in community, biblical study, theological reflection and volunteering at 1JustCity sites. Each church is being asked to sponsor one person from the membership to participate in the course and share their learning by planning a project for their church. Full details and cost of the program are available on the bulletin board or by going to www.1justcity.ca/letjusticeflow. Registration closes October 15th

Food blitz for West Broadway Community Ministry (1 Just City). We would like to have many non-perishable food items brought to the church for West Broadway. The need is always great for the emergency food which West Broadway provides, and some of what we collect is also used in the kitchen to provide meals during the week. Please remember it is not just pasta that is required! Our support for this ministry has remained strong throughout the pandemic - but let's make an extra special effort this **Thanksgiving**. Cheques are also accepted made payable to St George's and marked for WBCM (1 Just City) (tax receiptable!). Bring your donations **Sunday** if you are worshipping in-person. If you are worshipping on-line, the donations can be left at the church during the day, during regular office hours. Call to be let in as doors are locked.

Thank you for your on-going support!

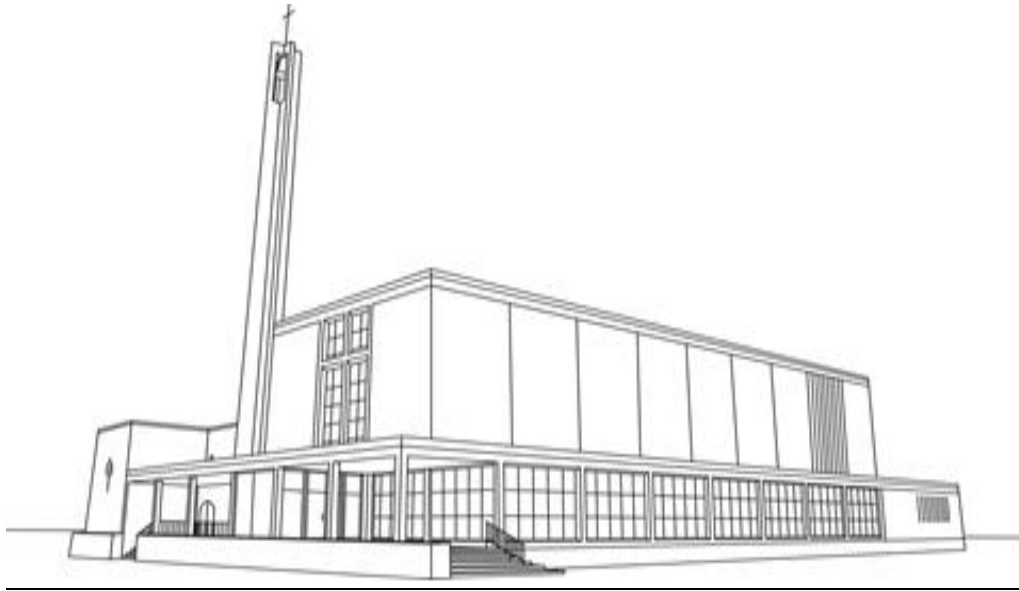
PICTURES FROM THE OCTOBER 3, 2021 COFFEE PARTY



THOUGHTS FOR THIS EDITION

If you want to help others, tell the truth.

Autumn is the second spring where every leaf is a flower. Albert Camus



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.

Auditors' Review of 2020

Here's the Income Statement (called Statement of Operations in the Review) and the December 31, 2020 list of Designated Funds (funds that can only be spent for something specific).

I'll provide a Comparative Balance Sheet based on the Auditors' Review separately.

Ted Cotton

PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, CRESCENTWOOD

Statement of Operations - Operating Fund

Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Budget (Note 6)	2020	2019
REVENUE			
Electronic offerings	\$ -	\$ 102,340	\$ 99,258
Envelopes	192,000	89,782	97,471
Donation from St. Georges Memorial Fund Inc. (Note 5)	-	27,649	34,576
Investment income	18,540	20,444	21,259
Fundraising	27,035	11,268	30,782
Rentals	14,875	8,549	11,393
United Way	500	8,276	5,225
Festival offerings	3,700	2,353	4,228
Miscellaneous income	1,020	626	962
Open plate	3,100	523	3,255
Outreach donations	1,200	350	1,446
Initial/Designated offerings	1,300	50	1,439
	263,270	272,210	311,294
EXPENDITURES			
Ministry (Schedule 1)	89,711	78,636	89,912
Music (Schedule 2)	29,950	17,151	28,968
Church Maintenance (Schedule 3)	94,144	109,543	128,411
Program (Schedule 4)	8,060	3,889	8,274
Administration (Schedule 5)	46,072	38,340	54,619
Outreach (Schedule 6)	35,178	34,328	34,494
	303,115	281,887	344,678
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS	(39,845)	(9,677)	(33,384)
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)			
Realized (loss)	-	(594)	-
Unrealized gain (loss)	-	17,677	63,235
Unrealized gain (loss) on foreign exchange	-	5,598	3,891
	-	22,681	67,126
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ (39,845)	\$ 13,004	\$ 33,742

Designated Funds at December 31, 2020

2303 · Designated Funds-Audio Visual	83.54
2304 · Designated Funds-Hymnbook (N)	191.66
2306 · Designated Funds-Choir Products	10,618.56
2307 · Designated Funds-Choir Music	300.48
2308 · Designated Fund-Mem.Tables (W)	666.03
2309 · Designated Funds-Contingency	102,495.73
2310 · Designated Fund-Two Bird Dinner	730.00
2311 · Designated Funds - Facelifters	5,400.49
2312 · Designated Funds-Flowers	10,758.78
2314 · Designated Fund - Garage Sale	
2314 A · Design Fund - Closet Sale proc.	293.61
2314 B · Designated Fds-GarageSale-G...	4,045.37
Total 2314 · Designated Fund - Garage S...	4,338.98
2315 · Designated Funds-M & M	
2316 · Designated Fds M & M General	1,020.06
2323 B · Designated Fds Alabaster Jar ...	200.00
2323 E · Designated Funds-Refugee Fu...	4,696.82
2323 F · Designated Fund-Norquay Sch...	331.84
2323 G · Designated Fds-Christmas Ch...	195.78
2323 H · Designated Fund-Thelma Wyn...	917.84
2323 I · Designated Funds-West Broad...	396.51
2323 K · Designated Fds Eritrean Family	1,392.89
2323 L · Designated Fds Ndoddo Supp...	1,418.75
2323M · Designated Refugee KEVEN	15,000.00
2331 · Designated Funds Lenten Project	4.27
Total 2315 · Designated Funds-M & M	25,574.76
2319 · Desig. Funds Relocation	2,000.00
2320 · Desiganted Funds-Organ Upgrade	579.49
2321 · Designated Fds Highest Priority	540.15
2322 · Designated Funds-Sabbatical Pro	9,706.34
2326 · Designated Funds-Church School	637.96
2328 · Designated Fund-PC/Print Equip	739.99
2330 · Designated Funds-Young People's	543.41
2332 · Designated Funds-Organ,Bible,Ot	10,283.07
2333 · Designated Funds - Operations	49,215.02
2339 · Designated Funds-Choir Trip Eng	2,411.84
2340 · Designated Funds-Rector's Discr	150.00
2345 · Designated Funds - Altar Guild	1,413.05
2348 · Design.Fd - Operations-BLDG	33,400.00
2349 · Designated Fds - Celebrations	49.44
Total 2300 · Designated Funds	272,828.77