

“by George!”

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Ascension Day

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!

Ted Cotton, Editor
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May 2024

Ascension Day Edition

Since the late fourth century, the Church has celebrated Christ's ascension to heaven on the fortieth day of Easter. This marks the end of his earthly ministry, so the **Feast of the Ascension** is closely connected with the theme of mission. [The Liturgical Year | The Church of England](#) In this sense, mission is to promote faith and continue humanitarian work.

There has been an evolution in Christian art associated with the Ascension. The oldest Ascension art, appearing in the West from the 5th to the 11th century, showed Christ from the side, climbing to the top of the hill and grasping the hand of God in the clouds pulling Christ into heaven. The Apostles watched from below.

In the 6th century, a different version of the Ascension was developed in the Middle East. This version emphasized Christ, showing his face, standing resolute in a mandorla, an oval frame, elevated above the earth and supported by angels. He held a scroll and had a raised hand. This version typically included the Virgin Mary and St. Paul; neither are mentioned in the biblical or other accounts of the Ascension. The reason for their inclusion isn't known but is said to represent what Christ left behind.

By the 11th century, the West had also adopted a frontal representation but with Christ extending both hands to show his wounds. He was usually in a mandorla but is not always supported by angels; so, he was ascending on his own power without the support of angels. By the 12th century, this version of the Ascension held a prominent place in French Romanesque church decoration. Christ displaying his wounds remained important in devotional art of the Renaissance and Baroque periods.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ascension-Christianity>

How do you view the Ascension? The next “by George!” will be in September. Be thoughtful and have a great summer. 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:

Thu – May 9 Crafts and Conversation – Guild Room – 1:00 pm

Ascension Day Service – Eucharist – 7:30 pm

Sun – May 12 Seventh Sunday of Easter – Eucharist – 10:30 am

Parish BBQ – noon – Parish Hall

Tue – May 14 Bridge Luncheon – Parish Hall / Guild Room – 12:00

Bridge Game - Parish Hall / Guild Room – 1:00 pm

Wed – May 15 Mid-Day Eucharist – Noon – Chapel

Parish Council Meeting – 7:00 pm

Thu – May 16 Crafts and Conversation – Guild Room – 1:00 pm

Sun – May 19 Day of Pentecost – Eucharist – 10:30 am

This 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>

The **Parish Office** is open Tuesday to Friday, 10 am to 3 pm; access after hours can be pre-arranged by calling the office 204-453-5642 during office hours.

Our Incumbent, Rev. Fr. Sherpard Gwende, can be reached at: (204) 390-8522 or rector@stgeorges.mb.ca . If you have an **urgent pastoral situation**, please contact him at (204) 390-8522.



For those **attending worship** in-person, masks are recommended but are not required!

If you prefer to attend virtually, Sunday services are live-streamed. You can view from the comfort of your own home, cottage, or Join at <http://www.stgeorges.mb.ca/live>

There is no livestreaming of Chapel services.

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

Sunday School continues in the Guild Room during the 10:30 service.

Please join us for a friendly **chat and a beverage** after the 10:30 service in the Parish Hall. You'll be able to catch up with some and meet others you don't know as well. Thanks to those who set up, serve and clean up. **Anyone interested in helping provide the beverage service and engaging with the parish** is encouraged to sign up for a Sunday on the Wilton bulletin board or contact Ted Cotton at tedcotton@mymts.net. Opportunities to provide this service are available in late May and June. Thanks.

Our **Spring BBQ is Sunday, May 12th**, following the service. Please see the poster near the end of this by George! The menu will include hot dogs, salads, dessert, and beverages. The cost is \$6.00 per person. **More volunteers are needed** to assist with this event; a sign-up sheet is posted on the Wilton Street bulletin board or contact Brenda Cotton at 204 488 3606.

Bridge Luncheon is Tuesday, May 14th. Doors open @ 12:00, Lunch @ 12:30, Bridge @ 1:00-3:00. Tickets are \$20 a person. Please see the poster near the end of this by George! **More volunteers are needed** to help with supplying bun fillings and dainties as well as with food preparation and other duties on the day of the event. For more information contact Donna Dawson 204 475 3051

THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION

Our life is what we make of it. What impact are you having?



IN THE BROADER COMMUNITY

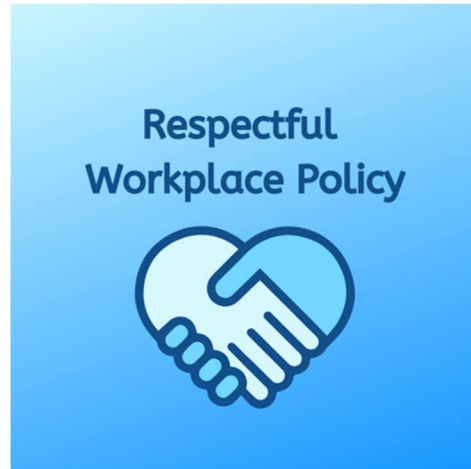
The Rupert's Land News is only electronic. To subscribe to the weekly electronic edition and get the latest news about the Diocese, please use the following link: www.rupertslandnews.ca.

Launch of **2024 Grow Hope Campaign: Support for Drought Affected Communities in Kenya**. For the last several years, the Diocese of Rupert's Land has supported the Grow Hope initiative through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). Last year was a very successful program, with the Diocese of Rupert's Land raising over \$47,000 to support a program in Tanzania to support Congolese refugees - the highest amount of any Diocese across Canada! This year's campaign is focused on a project supporting 330 drought affected households in 4

communities of Laisamis sub-County in Marsabit County in Kenya. More details of the 'Grow Hope Launch 2024' can be found on the Wilton Bulletin Board.



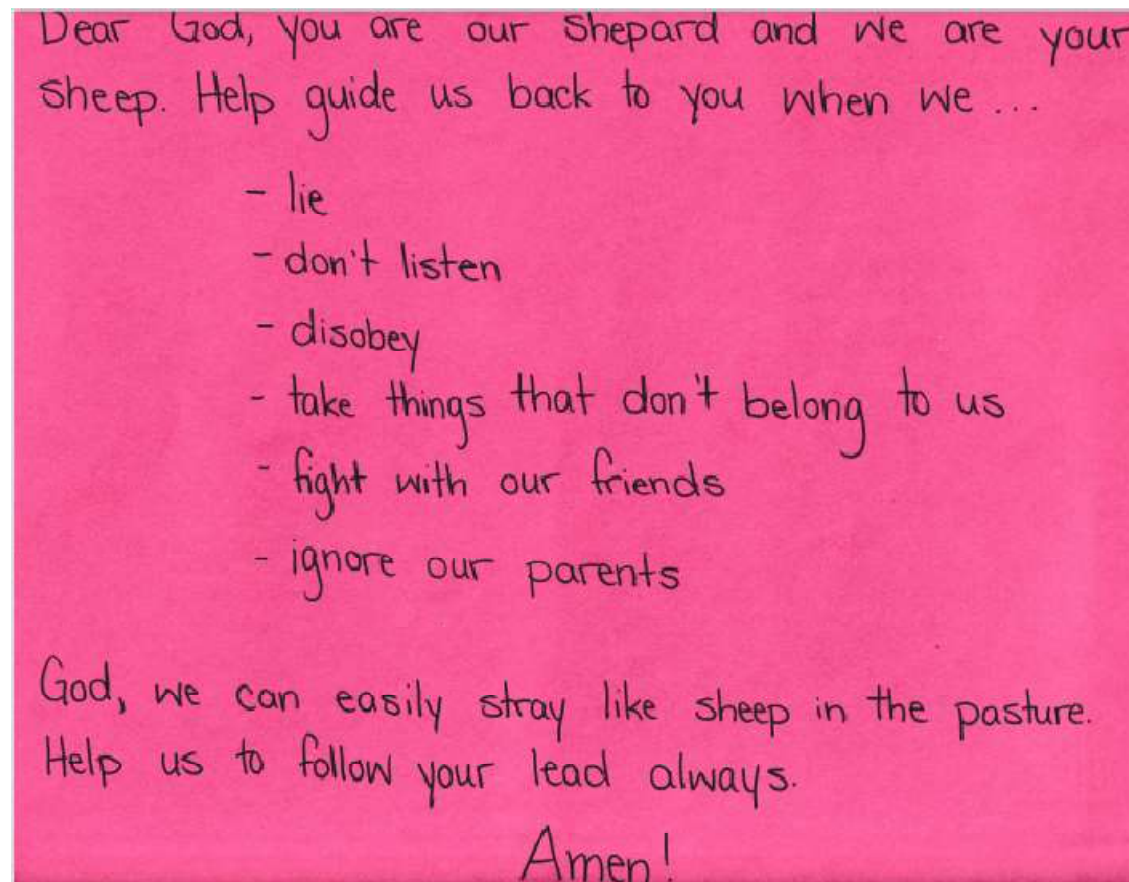
DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND



All parishioners are encouraged to read the of the Respectful Workplace Policy. A copy has been placed on the Parish Council bulletin board on the north wall of the Parish Hall. It is also available at

<https://www.rupertsland.ca/resources/guidelines-and-policies/pages/respectful-workplace-policy>



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRAYER – April 28, 2024

FROM THE DESK OF THE INCUMBENT**Come Holy Spirit: Reflections From The Book Of Acts**

Throughout the book of Acts we encounter the growing forces which we know today as the church and the kingdom of God. From cover to cover of this book we see the systematic expansion of the gospel from Jerusalem to most of the Roman world in only a few decades. This level of achievement is frankly not possible through human might and wisdom alone, there must have been another factor driving this growth. That factor is the Holy Spirit, but exactly what role did the Holy Spirit play in the birth and expansion of the church?

John Stott (1990: 33) is quick to suggest that "Throughout Luke's narrative there are references to the promise, gift, outpouring, baptism, fullness, power, witness, and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It would be impossible to explain the progression of the gospel apart from the work of the Spirit." For it was the Spirit which made it possible for the believers to perform the ministry they did, have the protection necessary to not be immediately wiped out and provided the miraculous confirmations to the words of the gospel. We can look at the

role of the Spirit in Acts and in the early church in many ways, he is both the wind and the fire, he is the ship and the sea, and he is the road and the horse. All these examples demonstrate to us that the Holy Spirit is both the agent of movement and the producer of the means required to be moved. However, In our struggles to fill rosters, find volunteers for different events and ministries, maintain the church building, and serve our communities we can easily forget this. If the Christian life was just a set of rules to obey, religious acts to observe and an institution to maintain, it would not have lasted very long.

In the first two chapters of Acts we are presented with the Holy Spirit which will come in power and immerse Christ's followers into himself. For instance, At Pentecost the apostles experience something entirely different from when they were sent out to the villages two by two in the gospels. Now they were filled with the Spirit who carried the authority of the risen Christ. Immediately they were endued with the ability to speak in tongues and were filled to the point of appearing drunk. It is then that Peter stood up and gave the first sermon of the church, one which was guided by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit spoke through Peter and confirmed his presence among the 120 and at least 3,000 people came into the kingdom. This confirms Jesus' words in Matthew 10: 20, "for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

In many other instances with the likes of Peter, Paul, Stephen, Philip we see the Holy Spirit being upon them and speaking through them for the gospel to be spread. "This implies that the Spirit inspires the preaching itself. This does not mean that the Spirit is only the force behind the proclamation (subjective genitive) as he also proves the validity of the words themselves (objective genitive), illuminating the preaching to the hearers, resulting in faith" (Simo Frestadius, 2011). The Holy Spirit does not only provide the words but also the faith and boldness to proclaim them, as we witnessed with Stephen. He must have been aware that his closing remarks would enrage the Sanhedrin since he was accusing them of many things, but at the same time he saw the Spirit and was given a vision to prepare him for his end.

So, trusting in the Holy Spirit to empower and lead is much safer than seeking to control events ourselves. Periodically in the history of the Church the Holy Spirit has broken through in ways that have upended our conventional way of doing things. It happened in the Wesleyan revival of the 18th century, numerous mini revivals in the church that gave birth to Pentecostalism. This is now the third largest stream in the Church today.

Having said that, the Holy Spirit played a pivotal role in the birth and expansion of the church. First the Holy Spirit provided inspiration, illumination, recollection, and revelation to the believers so they could preach the gospel and argue from the scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah. Secondly the Holy Spirit would then confirm these words through healings, miracles, and prophetic insights. Third the Spirit acted as the confirmation sign that a person was a believer in Christ. Lastly the Holy Spirit acted as a living blueprint for how the Kingdom of God was to expand, providing the time, place, opportunities, and people who would best respond to the gospel so the local church could be established.

This movement of the Holy Spirit was not a one-generation event. As even today "We need to receive the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our ministries, to the greatest extent possible, in order to serve God well in our world." Both then and now the Holy Spirit is recognized as the living presence of God which is active in the earth to bring about the expansion of the kingdom and the spread of the gospel into the hearts of all people.

I am praying for another (likely messy!) outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Diocese of Rupert's Land and specifically at St. Georges. Given the dwindling numbers and decline in young people's involvement in the Church's ministries, only the Holy Spirit can give us the courage we need for the evangelistic challenge. Only the Holy Spirit can turn the hearts of those currently indifferent to Christian things to help see their need for the Lord. Only the Holy spirit can heal broken relationships within families and within the Church. So, '**Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people, and kindle in them the fire of your love**'. Today, we need that more than ever.

Further Reading:

Frame John M., 2006. *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

Frestadius Simo., 2011. *The Spirit and Wisdom in 1 Corinthians 2:1-13*," ed. Paul Elbert, *Journal of Biblical and Pneumatological Research* 3: 68-69.

Stott J., 1990. *The Message of Acts*. Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press.

Fr. Sheppard Gwende

MEET THY NEIGHBOUR

We may not be able to choose who buys that house for sale along our street.

Sometimes nameless neighbours might have lived there for months before we tried to meet.

We see them come and go from that house and wonder much about the other.

We may wave to them, but walking to their door seems too much of a bother.

We might resist meeting them as we miss the neighbours who lived there before.

Or are we glad to see a new family drive up and step through that door?

We don't have to become close friends just because our houses are side by side.

But simply ignoring neighbours is not a rule by which we should abide.

The young kids on the block would quickly ask the new kids to come out to play.

So why is it that adults can't find the courage to have something to say?

Are we just so apathetic about anyone who lives on our street?

Or are we so busy that we can't take the time for a quick "meet and greet"?

Introducing ourselves to them might help them feel partially connected.

A helping hand or a chat in the yard could make them feel more accepted.

The Bible says we should *love thy neighbour*, but this may not be feasible.

The first step, though, is to **MEET** thy neighbour, and then see what is possible.

Anne Toth

An online parishioner from Calgary

FINANCE REPORT

The Net Loss to March 2024 is \$19479. This is favourable (F) to Budget but Unfavourable (U) to last year.

Interest Earned is \$1338 U to Budget. This is timing and less investments.

Identified Giving is \$973 F to Budget but \$3360 U to last year.

Rector's Living Allowance and Stipend are offsets.

The Music Director is \$710 F. This is timing.

Boiler Contract – Daily is \$784 F. This is timing.

Utilities – Gas is \$5617 F. This is timing and weather.

The chequing account is reconciled to March 31, 2024.

Changes in Designated Funds > \$500: Flowers +\$701 for donations > purchases

On March 20, \$10000 of RBC investments was transferred to TD chequing for cash flow (pay bills). On April 10, a further \$15000 was transferred.

The auditors have started asking questions for the 2023 Review.

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



STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Along with **treasure**, Stewardship is **time and talent**. If you have time and talent available, St. George's would welcome you in one of the many volunteer opportunities in the parish e.g. Stewardship Chair, greeter, choir, beverage preparation, server Please talk to one of the Wardens.

Thanks to all parishioners who make their regular offerings to St George's. More than half of our donations now come from preauthorized donations.

Another easy way to make your offering to St. George's whether you are at church or not is to e-transfer from your bank account to office@stgeorges.mb.ca.

Our Square terminal allows us to take electronic payments at parish events.

If you have any questions about Stewardship or donation methods, please contact Ted Cotton at tedcotton@mymts.net or 204 488 3606.



MISSION AND MINISTRY

West Broadway serves dinners to 100 people from 4:00pm to 5:30 pm, Monday through Thursday. Most of the food needed to prepare these dinners comes from Winnipeg Harvest. The Winnipeg Harvest donations also fill the food bank for the monthly distribution at West Broadway which is done about mid-month. Emergency food is no longer provided at West Broadway.

West Broadway always needs donations for food preparation and for the shower program:

- coffee, tea bags
- sugar
- coffee whitener
- common spices for meal preparation - garlic, salt, pepper, etc.
- metal spoons and forks - not plastic. Used is fine. No knives
- regular size coffee mugs - used is fine. Not large size ones.
- kitchen rags and cloths
- baking powder, baking soda
- muffin liner cups. Many cupcakes are served weekly!
- shampoo and conditioner - both large and travel size

M&M was made aware of the monthly Food Bank at **Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church** and has decided to direct the food donated each week at St. George's to Epiphany's Food Bank. The Food Bank serves 15-20 Indigenous families in its neighbourhood and more support is needed. This is a further activity for our reconciliation efforts.

We deliver food directly to Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church. The current needs are:

- Kraft Dinner (yes, it is a needed donation!)
- pasta
- canned soup/stew
- rice
- instant oatmeal
- pasta sauce
- canned tuna, chicken, ham, etc.
- peanut butter
- canned fruit and vegetables
- baby formula and baby food

1 JustCity Summer Kick-off Fundraiser: Enjoy an evening of delicious food and live entertainment in support of 1JustCity's programs and services. Together, there can be hope and essential services to the vulnerable within our community. Please see the poster below for more information and scan the QR code to purchase tickets.

SUMMER KICK OFF FUNDRAISER

An evening of food and entertainment in support of 1JustCity's programs and services.

Tuesday, June 4, 2024
Trans Canada Brewing Co.
 1- 1290, Kenaston Boulevard
Doors : 5.30PM

Music by **Baltimore Road**



Scan QR Code For Tickets

\$50

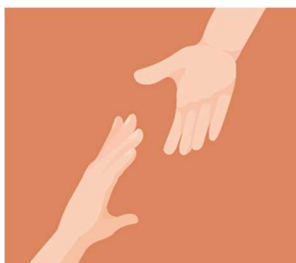
***Buffet including gourmet pizzas, salads, shareables and coffee/tea**

***Celiac, Vegan and Seafood Allergy Friendly**

TCB beer and wine available for purchase



The Prayer Box: We pray weekly for some people who need those extra prayers, and we call out their names. Just to remind you, we also have dedicated parishioners that say extra prayers for those who may not want their names made public. When requesting prayers, it really helps if you fill out a prayer request form and let Marian know if the person being prayed for has given permission to you to be on the public prayer list or if they prefer to be on the private prayers only. We are also looking for a few more people to pray for those on the private prayer list. If you have some moments during the day, please consider this important ministry.







Bridge Luncheon

In Support of St. George's Operations

Tuesday May 14, 2024

St George's Anglican Church

168 Wilton Street

Wheelchair accessibility off the lane

This is not just an event for ladies – men are welcome as well!

Doors open @12:00; Lunch @12:30

Bridge 1:00-3:00

\$20 per person

Please purchase your tickets by Thursday May 9

Bring a table of 4 and your own cards.

Scoring Rules of the Day available on request, or at the event

Door Prizes!!

Prizes for top scores!!

Contact: Donna Dawson

204-475-3051 for tickets and more information



IT WAS BUSY AT THE GARAGE SALE





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 1 LAND

Thanks to the work of a committee, Parish Council, and Corporation, this updated version of the Acknowledgement of Treaty 1 Land has been implemented:

We acknowledge that we meet and worship on Treaty 1 Land, the traditional territories of the Ininiwak, Anishinaabe and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Métis. We recognize the mistakes and harms of the past and commit to the work of healing in a spirit of reconciliation and respect, trusting in God's guidance and love.
