

“by George!”

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

Parish

We use the word “parish” frequently in the Anglican Church. What does it really mean? Penguin defines it as a subdivision of a diocese served by a single church. Webster’s defines it as an administrative division with its own church and members. An older Collins defines it as a district under a Christian minister having the cure (it defines “cure” as healing) of the souls therein.

Here are some other thoughts on “parish”:

P is for **people** as a parish needs them to function.

A is for **aura** or atmosphere as a parish has a distinct setting that surrounds it and appeals to the people

R is for **rally** as a parish has worship, music, outreach, fundraising, and other common interests that help bind it together

I is for **ideals** as a parish aspires for high standards for liturgy, morals, community, and other measures of excellence

S is for **stewardship** as a parish needs time and talent to fulfil its plans but it also needs treasure to provide the setting for the time and talent opportunities

H is for **heart** as parishioners need compassion for important issues and the courage to share their thoughts respectfully

How does that fit with your thoughts about the word “parish”? As we continue with our Parish Plan, understanding our parish is important for our success.

Please help us connect with all parishioners by documenting your experiences, gathering your thoughts, and submitting your articles by the April 24th deadline for the May “by George!”. Have a great winter and a reflective Lent!

Ted Cotton

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

Date	Group	Time and Place
2-Mar-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
2-Mar-16	Worship Committee Meeting	7:00 pm Guild Room
3-Mar-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
6-Mar-16	Fourth Sunday of Lent with children's homily and Threenie lunch	10:30 am Church
9-Mar-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
9-Mar-16	Mission & Ministry Committee meeting	7:00 pm Guild Room
10-Mar-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
12-Mar-16	Rupert's Land Caregiver Support Group meeting	10:00 am Guild Room
13-Mar-16	Fifth Sunday of Lent communion service	10:30 am Church
16-Mar-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
16-Mar-16	Parish Council Meeting with Potluck at 6:30	7:00 pm Guild Room
17-Mar-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
20-Mar-16	Palm Sunday service	10:30 am Church
23-Mar-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
24-Mar-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
24-Mar-16	Maundy Thursday service with Potluck Supper at 6pm	7:30 pm Church
25-Mar-16	Stations of the Cross	9:15 am Hall
25-Mar-16	Meditation on the Cross	10:30 am Church
26-Mar-16	Rupert's Land Caregiver Support Group meeting	10:00 am Guild Room
27-Mar-16	Easter Day	10:30 am Church
30-Mar-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
31-Mar-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
3-Apr-16	Second Sunday of Easter	10:30 am Church
6-Apr-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
7-Apr-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
9-Apr-16	F.Y.I. Hall rented	
10-Apr-16	Third Sunday of Easter with a Threenie lunch	10:30 am Church
13-Apr-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
13-Apr-16	Mission & Ministry Committee Meeting	7:00 pm Guild Room
14-Apr-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
17-Apr-16	Fourth Sunday of Easter	10:30 am Church
17-Apr-16	Rupert's Land Brass Band Concert	details to follow
18-Apr-16	Set Up for Garage Sale starts in the downstairs	9:00 am Crypt
20-Apr-16	Set Up for Garage Sale starts on the main level	11:15 am Hall, Guild Room
20-Apr-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
21-Apr-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
22-Apr-16	Garage Sale open to the public	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
23-Apr-16	Garage Sale open to the public	9:00 am to 1:00 pm
24-Apr-16	Fifth Sunday of Easter Morning prayer	10:30 am Church
24-Apr-16	Deadline for the May "by George!"	

27-Apr-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
27-Apr-16	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm Guild Room
28-Apr-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
1-May-16	Sixth Sunday of Easter	10:30 am Church
2-May-16	Winnipeg Girls' Choir Spring Concert	details to follow
4-May-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
5-May-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
5-May-16	Ascension Day Service	7:30 pm Church
7-May-16	Parish Special Event	TBA
8-May-16	Seventh Sunday of Easter	10:30 am Church
8-May-16	Distribution of the May "by George!"	
11-May-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon Chapel
11-May-16	Mission & Ministry Committee meeting	7:00 pm Guild Room
12-May-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
13-May-16	Concert for BOR Women's Resource Centre	details to follow
15-May-16	The Day of Pentecost with a Threenie lunch	10:30 am Church
18-May-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon in Chapel
18-May-16	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm Guild Room
19-May-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
22-May-16	Trinity Sunday	10:30 am Church
23-May-16	Victoria Day - office & building will be closed	
25-May-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon in Chapel
26-May-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
29-May-16	Second Sunday after Pentecost	10:30 am Church
1-Jun-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon in Chapel
2-Jun-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
5-Jun-16	Third Sunday after Pentecost	10:30 am Church
8-Jun-16	Wednesday Communion service (abbreviated)	12 Noon in Chapel
9-Jun-16	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
12-Jun-16	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost with a Threenie lunch	10:30 am Church

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

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

Communion Administrant Refresher

There will be a short refresher for communion administrants after worship on February 28th and March 20th. If you are an administrant, please plan to attend one of these sessions. If you are unavailable, please speak to Simon and alternate arrangements will be made.

Prayers For Healing

For the next few months we will trial the laying on of hands and healing prayers during our worship. Anyone wishing to receive these prayers should indicate so, at the altar rail and after receiving communion by adopting a 'prayer' posture in this manner:



Lenten Study Group

On Monday evenings through Lent, we will host a light supper, at 6 pm, followed by a movie at 6:30 pm (last session March 14). The meal will consist of soup and bread. The movie will be selected a week in advance and communicated to the parish. The documentary, *Scared Sacred*, was watched on Monday, February 22. This critically acclaimed documentary by filmmaker Velcrow Ripper journeyed to the minefields of Cambodia, war-torn Afghanistan, the wasteland of Bhopal, 9/11 New York, Bosnia, Hiroshima, Israel and Palestine. There was stunning footage, inspirational stories, and an evocative soundscape. Following each movie, there will be an opportunity for conversation.

Simon

Garage Sale

This year, our annual garage sale will be held on Friday April 22 and Saturday April 23. It's that time to start looking through your "stuff" and discerning what items you can contribute to the sale. Items should be clean and saleable. Unfortunately, we cannot accept old televisions, old computers and parts, old mattresses nor old suitcases. Also, please save any adult clothing until our Fall Closet Sale and Tea. Thank You.

In the Broader Community:

February 26 and 27: Suffering & Hope (physician-assisted death) – St. Peter's
March 6: Mothering Sunday (gathering of Anglicans) – St. John's Cathedral, 7 pm

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

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

The Rupert's Land News has gone electronic and will no longer be mailing paper copies. 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".

OUR RECTOR WRITES FROM HIS DESK ...

Prayer

I believe that deep within all of us is a yearning for an encounter with the living God who loves us, cares for us and accepts us without reservation. We want to know that God is present in our lives and that our lives matter to God. One of the most powerful ways we can feed this hunger is through the regular practice of prayer.

Contrary to what I was taught as a child, there is no correct or incorrect way to pray. Prayer is a conversation between you and the Divine. Sometimes we speak and sometimes we listen, just like any other conversation. There are various *styles* of prayer, such as Contemplative, Ignatian and Lectio Divina. As well, Anglicans, like our Roman cousins, may use prayer beads in their practice. There are different *postures* for prayer. Some stand others kneel or sit. Some may say prayers while lying down in bed before they go to sleep. A person can pray at any time and place. There has been a lot written about prayer some of which is helpful some of which is not and what I find helpful/unhelpful will not be the same as what others find helpful/unhelpful. The important thing is that we are called to pray and therefore should include the practice in our lives, after all, Jesus prayed.

Prayer is as unique as is each of our relationships with God. I have found from personal experience that *place* is important to me. For example, in the summer I will regularly pray and be present to God in the Leo Mol garden in the Assiniboine Park. Some of you may have a special chair you sit in to pray. The chair, over time, becomes a place where it becomes easy to move into prayerful state of mind. The psalms can be read as prayers. One of my books that I come back to more than many others is titled *The Pastor's Prayerbook*. It is a collection of prayers on numerous subjects that have been collected from other prayer books. The prayers were selected and arranged by Robert N. Rodenmayer. When I cannot find the words I need this resource has helped me many times over the years.

God already knows what is in and on our hearts and minds - there are no secrets. This is a comfort not a concern. It is a comfort because it means we can be completely open and honest. That notwithstanding, I believe that when we pray we enter into God's presence in a profound and special way. So, it's also a little intimidating. When someone says "Let us pray" they should not do so cavalierly, rather with a sense of awe and respect. Therefore, please join me:

Let us pray...O God our Heavenly Father, make the door of our Parish Church wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship and a Father's care; and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and uncharitableness. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, to weak or straying feet; but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. O Heavenly Father, bless every member and worker in our Parish. May all that we do be to your honour and glory and may we continue to be yours forever and daily increase our service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Yours in Christ,
Simon+

MARGARET WRITES ...**Your Parish Council Working For You**

During the recent nominations campaign, I was struck by how many parishioners are not aware of how our parish council functions, or even when it meets. Parish council is made up of the rector, the two wardens (Colleen Silk and Ted Cotton) and nine councillors, each of whom serves a three-year term. They are: Geri Morgan, Ina Mejos, Matthew Thomson, Connor Blaikie, Lynne Unger, Bill Owen, Elizabeth Punter, Gwyneth Jones and Andrew Thomson (who is also the deputy warden). The three synod delegates also attend council meetings. They are David Cooke, Kristin Anderson and Margaret Owen. A parish clerk is appointed to record the proceedings, and the minutes are posted on the Wilton Street bulletin board for all of you to read. Unfortunately, these posted minutes are always over a month late, as the minutes have to be approved by council at the meeting following their recording. We currently have an acting parish clerk in the person of Lynne Unger, as our former clerk, Ellie Buddick, is no longer with us, and our former acting clerk, Cathy Purchase, is no longer able to fill this role. We are looking for someone who would like to attend meetings and record the minutes, so if you are so inclined, please speak to Simon or one of the wardens. We are also looking for one more synod delegate. We'd love to have you aboard—the more, the merrier!

Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month except for July and August. They receive the reports of the various committees, the monthly financial report and the latest diocesan news, and discuss various issues that arise. We are most fortunate to have very effective parish committees that handle worship, mission and ministry, refugee concerns, Christian education and pastoral care.

Each meeting of council begins with a devotional message by one of the members, and ends with Glory to God, said by all. The meetings begin at 7:15 and are usually over by 8:30 to 8:45. A few times a year we have supper together before the meeting, partaking of ordered-in food such as fish and chips, or potluck dishes brought by the members, and of course, wine to drink!

Parish Council is a compatible group, and now that you know what it entails, perhaps you'd like to be part of it. There will be nominations again next winter, and we will be looking for new members, so don't be shy. Let us know if you would like to be part of this very important group.

Margaret Owen

THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION

Don't spend too much time looking ahead when you should be looking back. (It's all a matter of context. The car behind you is more important than your plans for the day when you're backing up).



PLANNING PROCESS

The congregation was given a status report on the Parish Plan at the AGM. Parish committees will now be looking at the relevant themes and ideas, and making recommendations to Parish Council by June. Implementation of approved plans is expected to begin in September. Parish Council will be actively monitoring the Parish Plan. The input of many parishioners and the facilitation of Paula Anderson have been greatly appreciated as we move through our planning process.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the January 27th Parish Council meeting:

- The 2016 Budget was finalized for presentation to the AGM. This budget is less conservative than normal so the congregation must be aware we'll need to maximize revenue and watch expenses carefully in 2016.
- Parish Council supports in principle a plan to sponsor a Syrian refugee family in coordination with St. Peter's. A coordinated parish 2016 fundraising plan will be prepared by the February Parish Council meeting.
- The Parish Plan was discussed and an updated plan with next steps will be presented at the AGM.
- The Nominating Committee and logistics of the AGM were also discussed.
- Designated Funds and the Memorial Fund will be purchasing a new PC for archives and Memorial Fund use.
- Christian Education will include Monday night Lenten session will involve soup, bread, movies, and discussion.
- The calendar of Diocesan events was reviewed. A current calendar is in this "by George!".
- Laminated fire escape plans have been prepared and will be posted.
- Courtesies were given to retiring members of Parish Council. Congratulations were given to Joan Harland for receiving the Order of the Buffalo Hunt and to Connor Blaikie for his coming involvement in planning the October Synod.
- The next Parish Council meeting is March 16.

FINANCE REPORT

St. George's Church – January 2016

One month has too many timing differences for a meaningful report so please watch for comparisons and variance analysis in the next “by George!”.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of January 2016.

Balance Sheet

Changes to Designated Funds > \$500 in January:

- Refugee Fund: +1 535 due to donations and concert

Please watch for the latest **Summary Balance Sheet** in the next “by George!”.

Auditors

The auditors are currently reviewing the 2015 statements and documents. The final 2014 review of the church is expected to be reported in the May “by George!”. If you need anything further, please let me know.

Ted Cotton



STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Time and Talent Opportunities: There are always opportunities for those who wish to share their time and talent at St. George's. Please let Simon or one of the wardens know about your interests. Current opportunities include Parish Council Chair and Recording Clerk, Stewardship Chair, Synod Delegate, and Flower Arranger. Thanks.

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 on the church web site at [Preauthorized Donation Registration/Amendment Form](#) . Thanks again.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Knitters

On Thursday, February 11, we delivered our gift of small light shawls and scarves to the EAL (English as an Additional Language) program, now situated at 2075 Portage Ave. Of the 28 shawls and scarves which you so kindly knitted and donated to new Canadians, four were given to Wahida Ahmadi's family on arrival at the airport on Tuesday, the 9th - a blessing in these cold winter days.

Thanks to Jane Frain, who initiated this gift, after volunteering years ago at Sir William Osler School. Thanks also the Christy Little and Sandra Hartt for seeing the mission delivered and to you – our wonderful knitters!

Sincerely, Gail Walker

Refugees

The refugee subcommittee has made an application to the government to sponsor a Syrian Refugee family. The processing of the application could take time. Any questions that you may have about this application or the work of this committee, please speak to Rick Morgan about it. He is the Chairperson of the sub-committee. If you wish to make a donation, please make your cheque payable to St. George's and in the memo, put "Refugee Fund."

If you have any questions about the settling of the Ahmadi family from Afghanistan or would like to know how to help, please speak to Marlene Pryzner, Chairperson of Mission and Ministry.

Lenten Project - Hebrews

This year our Lenten discipline is to read daily from Hebrews. Upon completing a reading, put a coin into a jar (five cents to \$2.00). Should you not complete the reading, then put double into the jar. At the end of Lent, add up the coins and write a cheque to the church, and in the memo put "West Broadway Community Ministry Alabaster Jar project". If you recall, the community minister Lynda Trono has used this discretionary fund to assist clients of WBCM for exceptional circumstances. As examples, a gentleman was able to take accordion lessons while another gentleman went on retreat to assist him with his alcohol dependency. How disciplined can you be?

West Broadway Community Ministry

On February 10th, 17 bags of **groceries** were delivered to West Broadway Community Ministry. Thank you for your continued support to this ministry.

Spring Food-Drive 2016 for Drop in Centre and Emergency Food Cupboard: Each year, WBCM serves 26,000 lunches to people on disability, people with a variety of mental health issues, people on social assistance, and the working poor. WBCM depends on the generosity of others to be able to run these programs that are vital to the community. The Drop-In and Meal Program not only help to feed people, but enables them to access other services. WBCM have advocates who help with housing and other poverty related issues. They have two counselors, a reflexology therapist, and a chiropractor who comes on a weekly basis. Other services available are laundry, phones, and washrooms. St. Georges continues to serve this ministry and asks for your assistance by bringing non-perishable food items to our March 6th service to help fill the cupboards at West Broadway.

Thank you!

Here are a few suggestions when shopping for WBCM:

Drop-In Centre	Emergency Food Cupboard
Canned Meat: Ham, Turkey, or Chicken, Tuna (in water)	Canned Stews, Beans, Chili
Peanut Butter	Canned Vegetables and Fruit (in juice)
Jam, Honey	Kraft Dinner
Cookies, Juice	Soup and Crackers
Mayonnaise	Dry Pasta and Sauce
	Cereal
	Coffee, tea, coffee whitener
	Baby Food



ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT ROLES AND COMMITTEES

Here are a few of the announcements we've recently had:

Wardens

Today, we're beginning a series of short messages about the various roles parishioners have at St. George's.

The warden

- Promotes unity, peace, and the Anglican religion in the parish through cooperation with the incumbent, staff, Parish Council, and other members of the parish.
- Has signing authority for all matters of church business including human resource and financial matters.
- Interacts with committees to understand the needs of the congregation, assist where required, and promote consistency.
- Listens to the needs of all parishioners and promotes progress to the greater good of the parish.
- Participates in Corporation, the legal body responsible for the church on an ongoing basis.
- Reports to every Parish Council meeting and AGM but may report to the parish at other times too.
- Participates in the Nominating Committee and Canonical Committee to ensure the parish has the appropriate people in all positions
- Supports parishioners in key roles and provides assistance when needed
- Reflects on issues from the broader community and acts when appropriate
- And more.

The roles of the people's warden and rector's warden are the same, so Ted and I have similar duties. The difference is in how the two people come into the role - people's warden is elected and rector's warden is appointed by the rector.

The time commitment includes monthly meetings of Corporation and Parish Council, although this varies quite a bit depending on time of year and if there are any issues. There is regular email communication on day to day issues.

Ted Cotton and Kristin Anderson

Parish Council

Good Morning. Last week, during announcements Ted Cotton and Kristin Anderson provided the congregation with information on the duties and responsibilities of the Wardens. (Rector's Warden & People's Warden).

This week, it gives me great pleasure to provide you with information on the duties of Parish Council and the role of the Chair of Parish Council. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Todd Trueman and I have been the Chair of Parish Council at St. Georges since February of 2013.

The Chair is one of the few positions that is appointed by the Priest. The Chair only has voting rights, if there is a tie. Regarding voting, when time is of the essence, discussions and voting are carried out by email.

The Chair is on the nominating committee.

The Chair of Parish Council helps to put together the agenda with direction from the corporation. The chair runs the meetings, trying to keep them on topic and moving them along at a good pace.

Regarding Parish Council, Parish Council is the Governing body of the Parish and is elected and/or appointed and helps oversee the general business of the Parish.

Parish Council receives and discusses reports from various Parish Committees.

Parish Council is responsible to assist the Rector and Wardens to conduct Parish affairs so that the Parish will be able to carry out its mission as a Christian Community. To this end there are a number of responsibilities. However; if I was to name everything that Parish Council did, I would probably be up here for a long time, so I will only list few things.

- ensure Parish Properties are duly cared for
- ensure finances of all organizations within the parish accurately reflect the financial state of the Parish
- the financial well-being of the Parish is maintained
- the safety and well-being of persons and Church property are adequately protected and insured.
- newcomers and visitors are welcomed and encouraged to join in the life of the Parish
- the standards of the Anglican Church are upheld

Parish Council meets the third Wednesday of every month, except July and August, and we also meet the fourth Wednesday of January to work on the budget. Our meetings start at 7:15 p.m. and end by 9:00 p.m.

We have a great group of people on Parish Council who work together very well and make the Chair's job quite easy. Our meetings really are great and we always finish on time or a bit early....

If you are interested in being a part of Parish Council please see Simon as we are always looking for volunteers.

Have a great week, and please don't forget to do something nice for someone today.

Todd Trueman

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee can be one of the most exciting committees in the church. Although most people associated it with asking for money, and if you haven't had the chance please do fill out a pledge card, it is much more than that. It is developing an education program that delivers the message that everything we have comes from God and we are here to manage God's portfolio. This is really exciting when you realize that what we do in our professional lives, what we do in our private lives is governed by our Christian thoughts. If we keep to the Stewardship message that our talents, both professional and personal, are gifts from God and we should be using them as God intended, it makes those tough decisions that we make every day a lot easier to understand and deal with.

The Stewardship Chair, arranges the meetings for five dedicated parishioners who rarely missed stewardship meetings. A lot of time at these meetings were spent on what some might consider the mundane task of encouraging parishioners to give more, but that only scratches the surface of what we really need to do. Yes, we need to find the resources to not only pay the bills but grow outreach programs. We have to ensure that the volunteers that we need to provide the talents to make this parish run are in place. But we also need to find the speakers that can preach Stewardship message. We need to support the challenges that this church faces. We need to understand why some parishioners are willing to provide so much financial support to our parish while others give none. Likewise, we need to understand why some give so much of their time to parish while others do not.

We heard on Stewardship Sunday about the plight of refugees. Canada's response to the Syrian refugee crisis is something that seems to draw a lot of people from all backgrounds and views together. But to sponsor one family could stretch the financial and talent resources of a church this size to its very limits. But it is mission, it is challenges such as this that we are called to do. To take the many gifts that God has given us and direct them to the challenges that God has given to us. In other words, to be good stewards.

The Stewardship Committee meets once a month. We would be overjoyed to see new members.

Allan Silk

Memorial Fund

Every year, those of you who attend the Annual General Meeting will hear the following statements in one form or another:

“The mandate of the St George's Memorial Fund is to preserve the Church and Parish Hall in their original state.” And “At the point we generate sufficient income to address all maintenance and repair work, excess income can be used for alternative purposes, such as operating expenses, outreach and development of the buildings... However the list of work needing to be done continues to exceed our investment income.”

Some of you may have heard this at the last 40 AGMs!

In practical terms, all members of the parish are members of the fund.

At our AGM we will review the ways in which the fund has assisted the church, most frequently in the form of roof repairs, we'll also go over our numbers for the year and you will be asked to vote on various practical matters, including the election of one director each year.

Our fund has grown over the decades to over \$800,000 entirely through donations, as the repairs and maintenance each year cost more than the fund can make. We follow best practices for investing the funds in a mix of high quality bonds, and stock based mutual funds.

In more general terms, the Memorial Fund, as its name suggests, is an opportunity for us to leave something behind to benefit our community and the walls and roof that we come together within.

The passing of time, and of people, is a difficult subject for everyone, but the Memorial Fund is meant to be there for all of us who give so much to our parish and church throughout our lives.

Whether it is part of our own planning, or as an expression of remembrance for others, the Memorial Fund has grown slowly but surely since it was first created in 1975.

This building around us was constructed by a great and loving community that has changed enormously over the decades.

The Memorial Fund exists to help ensure that it remains to house future generations of our community, and, should we be so blessed, to grow enough that it can eventually do even more.

If you might like to consider including the Memorial Fund as part of your planning, or if you would like to make a gift to the fund in remembrance of someone or to help us with our mission, you may speak with me, Brian Kirk, Matthew Hudson, Simon, Kristin Anderson or Ted Cotton.

In the end, we work with Parish Council to help fund work that is needed, but if you are aware of repairs or maintenance of the original building that are needed, please remember to talk to us about it as we're always here to help.

For those who might like to be more involved with the fund, there are opportunities to assist in tasks ranging from fundraising through to the review of potential grants, and building walk-throughs.

Hopefully this has been helpful, and I look forward to speaking with those of you who are interested in our mission.

James Kirk