

# “by George!”

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The “by George!” 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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MARCH 2012

SPRING EDITION

## ZUP GFC SU2NTE L2GFDNR TMB :->

With the continuing advances in technology and social media, a new language has emerged. ‘Generation Text’ views chat lingo and text messaging as faster, easier and more fun than talking on a phone. Although foreign-looking to some, this new language is tailored to the use of the online media.

One shortcoming is the conveying or interpreting of tone and emotion with a message. The smiley face or emoticon attempts to rectify this inadequacy. Text etiquette must also be learned.

Facebook is being challenged by Google+ where friends are grouped in circles and subsets for receiving messages. Why watch TV alone, when you can share your opinion of the show during the commercials? Twitter is the latest news source. Apps and a smartphone give the savvy shopper in-store details and comparison pricing. Social media has changed how friends and family communicate with each other, and it’s changing how media and the business world communicate with us. But ...

Is a Facebook friend really a friend?  
Are people who they portray themselves to be online?  
How long do text users expect their cyber footprint will last?  
If getting away from it all (perhaps to a cabin surrounded by nature) is important, then how do social media enthusiasts escape?  
Are people getting/giving enough face time?

A balance between our virtual and real lives is essential.

Please gather your latest thoughts, and submit your articles by the April 29th deadline for the next edition of “by George!”.

Brenda Cotton

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE UPCOMING DATES

Within our Parish Church of St. George, Crescentwood:

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Mon	19-Mar-12	Confirmation Class	6:30pm Youth Room
Wed	21-Mar-12	Parish Council Meeting	7:15pm
Sat	24-Mar-12	Parish Hall, Kitchen, Booked for Centre for Christian Studies	Noon to 10:00pm
Sun	25-Mar-12	The Fifth Sunday in Lent - Morning Prayer	10:30am
Sun	25-Mar-12	Church and Hall booked for Centre for Christian Studies	1:30pm to 5pm
Sat	31-Mar-12	Altar Guild - Palm Cross Making	9:00am Guild Room
Sun	01-Apr-12	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	10:30am Church
Thurs	05-Apr-12	Pot Luck Supper	6:00pm Parish Hall
Thurs	05-Apr-12	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	7:30pm Church
Fri	06-Apr-12	<b>Good Friday - Stations of the Cross</b>	9:15am
Fri	06-Apr-12	<b>Good Friday - Meditation on the Cross</b>	10:30am Church
Sun	08-Apr-12	<b>Easter Day Service</b>	10:30am Church
Tue	10-Apr-12	Worship Committee Meeting	7:30pm Guild Room
Wed	11-Apr-12	Mission & Ministry Committee Meeting	7:00pm Guild Room
Sun	15-Apr-12	The Second Sunday of Easter service	10:30am Church
Tues	17-Apr-12	to Saturday April 21 Garage Sale Set Up	entire building
Wed	18-Apr-12	Parish Council Meeting	7:15pm in the Naive
Fri	20-Apr-12	<b>Garage Sale Open to the Public</b>	7:00pm doors open
Sat	21-Apr-12	<b>Garage Sale Open to the Public</b>	9:00am doors open
Sun	22-Apr-12	The Third Sunday of Easter - Feast of St. George;	
Sun	22-Apr-12	<b>Confirmation</b>	10:30am Church
Sun	22-Apr-12	St. John's Chamber Orchestra Concert	3:00pm Church
Sun	29-Apr-12	The Fourth Sunday of Easter - Morning Prayer	10:30am Church
Sun	29-Apr-12	Deadline for submissions to the last "by George!" until September	
Sat	05-May-12	<b>Spaghetti Dinner &amp; Time &amp; Talent Auction - Fun Event</b>	watch for notices
Sun	06-May-12	The Fifth Sunday of Easter - Last Children's Homily until October	
Sun	06-May-12	<b>Choral Evensong</b> St. John the Baptist	10:30am Church
Tue	08-May-12	Worship Committee Meeting	4:00pm Church
Wed	09-May-12	Mission & Ministry Committee Meeting	7:30pm Guild Room
Sun	13-May-12	The Sixth Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day	7:00pm Guild Room
Sun	13-May-12	"by George!" delivery today	10:30am Church
Wed	16-May-12	Parish Council Meeting	7:15pm Guild Room
Thurs	17-May-12	<b>Ascension Day Service</b>	7:30pm Church

Visit St. George's website for the most current calendar and event information:

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

**In the Broader Community:**

March 25: Prison Retreat – Stony Mountain Institution  
April 16 to 20: National House of Bishops meeting  
April 22: Confirmation – Parish Church of St. George - Crescentwood  
June 15 to 16: Sacred Circle – St. Peter’s, Dynevor  
June 29 to July 2: National Anglican/Lutheran Conference - Winnipeg  
October 18 to 20: Diocesan Synod

Visit the Diocese of Rupert’s Land website for the most current calendar and event information:

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

**THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION**

Life is an occasion; rise to it!

Suzanne Weyn

**TOO MUCH PAPER?**

If you are reading this “by George!” on paper and have an email address, we can help you reduce the paper you receive and you can help us reduce paper use, copying, postage, and associated costs. Give your email address to the Church office at 453 5642 or [office@stgeorges.mb.ca](mailto:office@stgeorges.mb.ca) and you’ll start receiving electronic rather than paper documents.

For more information about St. George’s, please visit our website at <http://www.stgeorges.mb.ca/>

## **YOUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES ...**

### **What does our neighbour need and how can we help?**

As we find ourselves in the midst of another season of Lent let us work together in order to discern the opportunities, old and new, for serving in our community. At our Annual General Meeting in February your corporation presented a plan for 2012 that is less about action and more about discernment. So this will be a sort of Lenten year. This year we invite you to offer your wisdom about the needs you perceive in our community and in our city and maybe even in our whole world. This year we invite you to offer your connections to the government departments and other organizations in order to get information and insights into the needs of our wider community. This is the first step of our discernment.

As followers of the Way of Jesus we are called to serve the world around us by loving one another, by loving our neighbour as much as we love ourselves. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach always, if necessary use words." In other words share the Sacred Life and Divine Love that you have through your life and actions, if necessary tell people about why you follow the way of Jesus. One of the problems we have as the church, the people of God, in our community today is that we simply look like a building sitting on a street corner that uses up lots of gas to heat just so we can get together on a Sunday morning for one hour. We, the real church, the people of God, do not look very relevant to the majority of people who simply walk by our strange building without even thinking they can step inside. But enough about the building because the church is us, the people of God, and the best way to become relevant to the world around us is to reach out and serve. We can begin by contemplating how we, as individuals, are already serving in the other organizations to which we belong.

I know you are probably saying to yourself right now that you already do lots of work in the church and you probably volunteer outside our parish activities as well. And that's great. That means we are already relevant. So maybe the problem is that we are too humble. Now, as a Franciscan, I am called to cultivate the Christian characteristic of humility, but how does this mesh with the call to evangelism and service? Well, that is for us to try to answer in the next few months. As members of our local community and global village, what do we know about the needs that require our service and love? As people called to love our neighbour, in what direction do our concerns or passions call us? Please share with each other here in our congregation so we can discover how we can better serve the world around us.

There is an email survey, or a hard copy sent to those without email, that you should receive soon. Please take about 20-30 minutes to contemplate the needs of our neighbours, locally and globally. Also, please let us know where you feel a sense of call. Together we can become stronger and we can show the world that we have a purpose and that that purpose is simply to love and give life and hope.

May this season of Lent be a time to prepare for the new life and joy of Easter as we discern and share together.

Peace

Lyndon, Your Parish Priest

## **SABBATICAL? WHAT SABBATICAL?!**

Even though it has been discussed at Corporation and Parish Council for about a year, I am discovering that many people do not yet know that I am going on a sabbatical. A sabbatical for clergy does not last a whole year. A clergy sabbatical can only be a maximum of 14 weeks. My sabbatical will be 10 weeks followed by my holiday time so I will be away for about 4 months. I will be away from April 27th to August 26th inclusive. I am very grateful to be here at St. George's Crescentwood where there is good financial planning so that a supply priest can be paid to guide us while I am away. And we are very fortunate to have the Reverend Canon Peter Flynn as our honorary assistant who will be filling in as parish priest while I am away.

So what does a priest do on sabbatical? Well, there are too many variations to name. This will be my first sabbatical after being ordained almost 20 years ago. I will be walking in the footsteps of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi in Assisi, Italy. As many of you already know I have been a life-professed member of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis for over 10 years. The Society of Saint Francis is the Anglican Franciscan Order around the world. And the Third Order is an order of laypeople and clergy, men and women, living "normal" lives with jobs and families who choose to follow the way of Jesus as Francis of Assisi inspired us. I will be renting a room from Brother Thomas Anthony who is a first order friar acting as the Anglican Chaplain in Assisi. I will be walking the hills and valleys to the sites where Francis lived and worked. I will be praying, meditating and contemplating in each of these places. I will be studying and contemplating the life and teaching of Francis of Assisi and other scholars.

My hope is that my sabbatical time will be an opportunity to nurture my spirit through pilgrimage, hermitage, and meditation. These elements of my sabbatical will provide opportunities for me to immerse myself in creation and be nurtured by the Creator and the whole created order. I will seek spiritual reinvigoration to continue to serve as priest and pastor. In my ministry over the past 20 years, and especially in my time in Winnipeg, I have had a growing sense of call to build positive relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in Canada and between peoples of different faith traditions. Our Anglican Church of Canada, our Diocese of Rupert's Land and our congregation here at St. George's in Crescentwood are becoming more acutely aware of the need to learn from and understand the ways of the indigenous peoples of Canada; and there is a growing call to heal and build healthy relationships after over 200 years of unfair relationships. As a follower of Jesus in the way of Francis of Assisi, I feel a growing call to help to heal these broken relationships. Part of this healing process includes becoming open to the pre-Christian spiritual traditions of the indigenous people, which leads me into becoming inclusive of peoples of various non-Christian religious traditions. As a result, I have discerned a call to learn more about people of different faiths and to try to find ways to help us all to live in a respectful peace.

Hopefully, I will come back with new ideas and insights to share in sermons and study groups. I am indeed grateful for this opportunity for vocational growth and spiritual nurture.

Peace

Lyndon

**MARGARET WRITES ...****Jane Frain**

After a year of writing on a variety of topics for “by George!”, I have decided to return to composing profiles of some of our parishioners. Behind every person is a story, and I feel that it is good to learn more about each other. So if I approach you sometime during the next year or so, don’t be shy about sharing your story with the rest of us.

Jane Frain is one of our longest-standing members. Originally from Toronto, Jane arrived in Winnipeg with her husband Bruce, a Rheumatologist who came to Winnipeg to work in the Thorlakson Clinic during the 1960’s. As Jane tells the story, after Bruce finished his residency the two of them decided to travel across Canada to decide in which city they would take up residence. Jane was pregnant at the time with her first child, Marnie, and they drove west from Toronto all the way to British Columbia and back. Bruce, who had a connection with another doctor in the Thorlakson Clinic, was offered a position there, but he and Jane were not sure whether to move here or stay in Toronto. Finally, on a night when the Winnipeg Blue Bombers were playing against the Toronto Argonauts, the Frains decided that they would settle in the city of whichever team won the game. Fortunately for Winnipeg, and for all of us, the Bombers won that night.

Jane describes the early days of their life in Winnipeg as a hectic time, with Bruce on call much of the time. They had four children during the first seven years of their life here. Living on Harvard Avenue, they made St. George’s their home parish, and both were extremely active. Bruce was People’s Warden, and a regular attendee of the early morning service on Wednesdays for many years. Jane has used her talents in various areas of parish life as well as in the wider community. For some years she has been involved in working with adult ESL students at William Osler School, a volunteer position that she says has brought her a great deal of satisfaction.

“We get to know people from all over the world,” she says, “and they are always so appreciative of our efforts and so interesting to talk to. I’ve learned a great deal from them.”

A bacteriologist by profession, Jane has volunteered at the Health Sciences Centre on many occasions. She has also been active in The Women’s Canadian Club, of which she was president in 1967-68.

One of Jane’s greatest loves is traveling. She and Bruce traveled the world together as he attended medical conventions, and after his retirement they continued to take at least two trips a year to satisfy their wanderlust. After Bruce’s death, Jane still has a yearning to discover new places, and she is intrepid about taking off by herself to exotic locales. She enthuses about a cruise she took that was sponsored by the Globe and Mail, during which they toured the Mediterranean for three weeks, starting in Istanbul and ending in Vienna. Many of the Globe and Mail correspondents were fellow-travelers, and Jane says there was never a dull moment. Last year Jane took a Pacific Rim cruise from Alaska to Vietnam, and this year she is embarking on another cruise throughout Dubai, Oman, Muscat, and Egypt, ending in Athens. Among other adventures, she plans to go snorkeling in the Red Sea,

From Antarctica to Siberia, Jane has truly seen the world. When at home, she keeps active playing bridge, volunteering, and attending aerobic classes three times a week. She continues to stretch her mind by taking courses as a mature student at the University of Winnipeg.

Margaret Owen



## **MISSION AND MINISTRY**

### **Lenten Project**

For the Lenten Project this year, we are asking parishioners to read Luke and The Acts, a chapter each day. Should you do the reading, place some money (the amount of your choosing and affordability) into a container. Should you not complete the reading, place the money into a second container. At the end of Lent, tally up the amounts from both containers and make a cheque to the Mission and Ministry Lenten Project.

The proceeds will be forwarded to the Northern Manitoba Area Mission. They are currently working towards forming a Christian church that meets the needs of the diverse cultures. For more information about the Northern Manitoba Area Mission, read the January "by George!".

For further information about the Lenten Project, speak to a member of Mission and Ministry.

### **Breaking Down Barriers**

The following message was received by Mission & Ministry Committee from the Principal of Norquay School in the Point Douglas Area. Mission & Ministry hopes to support this project in some fashion.

*Breaking Down Barriers: transportation proposal to assist Grade 7 Students successfully transition from elementary school.*

*We are seeking \$7700.00 in total funding to supply monthly bus passes to students who have finished grade 6 at Norquay School are continuing to live within North Point Douglas and who*

*are attending feeder schools within the Winnipeg School Division. Each of the identified children will be required to pick up their monthly bus passes at Norquay School and show proof of excellent attendance in order to receive their monthly bus passes. Students who do not show excellent attendance will be flagged for further follow-up.*

### *Background*

*Currently, there are 23 students who will complete grade 6 at Norquay School in North Point Douglas in June 2012. Three of these students qualify for bussing within the Winnipeg School Division because they are children with special needs and require assistance with transportation. The remaining 20 children typically attend three different feeder schools: St. John's High School, Elmwood High School and David Livingstone. While there are other choices, these are the closest to North Point Douglas and remain the most common choices for our students, with St. John's being the main choice. Each of these feeder schools require children from North Point Douglas to either find the funds to take public transportation or walk through areas that the children themselves have identified as 'unsafe'. Were these children in rural communities transportation to their school—outside of 1.6 km. distance would be fully funded. Our children are not only asked to walk that distance they must walk through some of the highest crime areas in the province.*

### *History*

*During the 2010-2011 school year it became evident to school administration that not all children were successfully transitioning to 7th grade. When school officials questioned parents and students an interesting and alarming reality was exposed. One of the barriers was transportation to their new school from the North Point Douglas area. In grades Nursery to 6 families rely upon either the walking school bus, the regular school bus or close proximity to school to be able to ensure good attendance at school. Once the children enter grade 7 the closest schools involve crossing Main Street near hotels and pawnshops or walking fairly significant distances where, again, safety would be a concern along with distance.*

*Walking times and Distances from Norquay School to feeder schools.*

*Norquay School - St. John's High School: 24 minutes/ 2 km (first choice for most)*

*Norquay School - Elmwood High School: 38 minutes/3.1 km*

*Norquay School - David Livingstone: 10 minutes/1 km (Many children do not choose this because they can only attend DL for grades 7&8)*

*To be sure, these distances are not entirely accurate because the address of Norquay School was used to determine distances and students live either further from, or closer to their schools of choice. The fact remains, they also reside in an area of very high crime and safety remains another variable for consideration.*

### *Equity Issue*

*Ironically, children who live in rural Manitoba are afforded free school bussing all the way to grade 12 so long as they are over 1.6 km from their school and yet children as young as 12 years are asked to walk more than that distance in areas of our province with the highest crime rates.*

#### *What We Need*

*We would like to be able to afford to give each of our graduating students a bus pass for at least their entire first year of grade 7 in order to support the transition to a new school. We will administer the distribution of the passes to students each month so that we can maintain supportive contact during this challenging first year.*

#### *Budget:*

*A monthly student bus pass currently costs \$38.50. We would require 20 each month (\$38.50 x 10 months of school= \$7700.00)*

*Should there be movement out of the community that student would become ineligible for the bus pass and the monthly cost for that student would be folded back into the budget. We would track their attendance through the school division and work cooperatively with the feeder schools to ensure that these students successfully 'attach' to their new school.*

*We require a total of \$7700.00 for the 2012-2013 school year in order to buy student bus passes for each of the current 20 children currently in 6th grade at Norquay School. This is solely for the purchase of student bus passes. There are no administrative fees.*

*Please consider our request.*

If you have any questions, please direct them to a Member of Mission and Ministry Committee or Sandra Hartt 489-9250.

## ST. GEORGE'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

This year the Annual Garage Sale is open to the public on Friday, April 20, from 7pm to 8:30pm and on Saturday, April 21, from 9am to 1pm.



Please bring in those clean, saleable items now. Reminder:

- We are no longer accepting old TVs, computers, and computer printers due to e-waste disposal issues.
  - You may donate children's items and clothing, but we are not accepting adult clothing.
- THANK YOU.

## ERNIE'S BOOKSHELVES BRANCH OUT!!

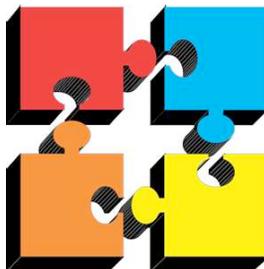
Ernie's Bookshelves, long the source of St. George's summer (and winter, and bedtime, and ... ) reading, is now going to host a jigsaw-puzzle component. How to keep the puzzles tidy is a work in progress, but we shall do our best, and where else could you get a 1000-piece puzzle for only two bucks! ((Nowhere, that's where.)

However, the success of this venture will depend mainly on three things: (1) a bunch of people who want to buy jigsaws; (2) a supply of donated puzzles from those avid 'doers' who are finished with ones they have done; and (3) those donors not giving us puzzles with pieces missing. Every puzzler knows the frustration of not finding a piece because it really isn't there (as opposed to not finding it because it didn't have as much red on it as it should have, or some other legitimate reason).

Number one has already shown itself to be the case. Even in the couple of weeks we've been in business, people have clustered around the table at coffee time, exclaiming over the puzzles available. Numbers two and three are up to you. Keep the puzzles coming in, and don't let the dog (or the vacuum cleaner) eat the pieces!

Happy puzzling.

Mary Thomas



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the February 15<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting:

- Parish Council discussed three key Business Plan initiatives for 2012... becoming more relevant to our community, discerning members' interests and passions, and matching up interests and needs to priorities. The last initiative, developing an action plan to address needs, will follow.
- Everyone was encouraged to complete the survey when it is distributed.
- About 50 people enjoyed Quiz Night on February 4<sup>th</sup> and about \$300 was made.
- The January 2012 Finance Report was distributed after Parish Council and is in this "by George!".
- The calendar of Diocesan events was reviewed.
- The Ministry of Fun and Mission & Ministry/Refugee Group reported on the plans for the Pancake Supper on February 21st. Proceeds will go to supporting a refugee family that just arrived.
- Mission and Ministry also reported on the West Broadway Community Ministry and the Lenten Project.
- Membership discussed potential plans for advertising at events, postcards for neighbours, and Welcome Wagon. Membership will also be looking at producing a photo directory in house.
- Keith Jones received approval to put on a St. John's Orchestra concert as a parish fundraiser.
- Courtesies were given to Kristin Anderson, Peter Fairclough, and the new members of Parish Council.
- The next Parish Council meeting is March 21st.



## FINANCE REPORT

### St. George's Church – January 2012

Here are the highlights:

- a one month comparison of revenue and expenses has many timing differences, so the results aren't a significant indicator of our 2012 financial situation.
- in addition, we don't have the results of the audit which could impact January.

- January 2012 shows a net loss of \$8 042, the January 2011 net loss was \$5 100, and the Budget for January 2012 was a net loss of \$13 132.
- we always start the year with a net loss as we pay the property insurance bill in January. The 2012 bill was \$11 206.
- variance: Identified Giving (envelopes and electronic offering) is unfavourable \$927. We received \$18 273, we budgeted for \$19 200, and last year was \$19 403.
- the chequing account is reconciled to the end of January.

## Designated Funds

Our Balance Sheet includes about 32 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. For example, the Designated Fund – Christmas Cheer can only be used for the Christmas Cheer. Some Funds have ongoing activity and some don't.

Significant (>\$500) changes to Designated Funds in January 2012:

- West Broadway: +\$500 donations
- Vestments: -\$1040 for purchase of stole etc for Michael Bruce

The May 2012 “by George!” will return to the typical Finance Report format and also should have the audited 2011 statements.

If you need anything further, please let me know.

Ted Cotton

Did you decipher the message at the beginning of the editorial?

**ZUP GFC SU2NTE L2GFDNR TMB :->** means

What's up? Going for coffee. See you tonight. Like to go for dinner?

Text me back. Big happy grin



## STEWARDSHIP

Planning continues for fall 2012 financial and non-financial Stewardship activities.

One step in this planning is a meeting in the Guild Room with all committee chairs (or their delegates) on March 18 following the 10:30 service.

As a result of earlier consultation with the Parish committees, the Stewardship Committee has changed the timing for Time and Talent Sunday. The reasons for this change were to take advantage of a fall campaign when committees are just starting their years' work and address the problem of a very busy spring calendar.

The March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting will advise the committee chairs of our plans, and more importantly, seek assurances from the committees that what we are planning will meet their needs.

We encourage all committee chairs (or their delegates) to attend.

If you want to change your monthly electronic donation or start the Electronic Offering Program during the year, the form and instructions are always available on the church web site at [Preauthorized Donation Registration/Amendment Form](#).

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Stewardship Committee.

St. George's Stewardship Committee

Allan Silk (Chair)

Ted Cotton

Roger Dennis

Sue Hollingsworth

The Rev. Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell

Karl Purchase



## CHARLIE

Ann and I live on a small acreage just north east of the city. Over the years we have had numerous dogs and cats arrive at the back door saying that they needed a home, so naturally we said, “come on in, which chair would you like, oh, the chesterfield , there, ok I’ll move. This hasn’t happened for a while now so that as of a few years ago we were down to one senior cat (he is still with us and even more senior).

Then one day towards the end of August, just as if we were supposed to, we found a kitten in a dumpster. After a quick trip to the vet to determine that he was in good health and safe to bring into a home with a senior cat, home he came. As it was near the end of August he was named “Augustus”. (And an Augustus he is). Ann then tried to find where he came from so that either he could be restored to his former home or we could adopt one of his siblings as a play mate. In that, she was unsuccessful, but she did learn of a place that had an over abundance of kittens and wanted to rehome them. So there we went, and adopted the runt, and named him “Charlie”. When the vet checked Charlie over we were told that he was in terrible shape and if we hadn’t rescued him, he wouldn’t have lasted more than a few more days. Two days later Charlie had a seizure and we returned to the vet who set him back on the road to good health. We were told that he would have sustained some brain damage, but because he was so young (about 4 weeks) other parts of the brain would take over, so that there would be no lasting effect.

While Charlie possibly isn’t quite as smart as Augustus he is smart enough to watch and emulate Augustus. Charlie’s real gift to us is his attitude to life. For him the cup isn’t just half full, it is overflowing. It’s “Hi, I’m Charlie, What’s your name? Isn’t life great”. When we talk to him, he looks up to us with an enquiring face and you can see that he is trying hard to understand what we are saying. Isn’t this the way we should all live our lives:- enjoying life to its fullest and looking up with enquiring minds, trying to understand what the Holy Spirit is saying to us.

David Cooke

