

St. George's

Due to a file mishap, the November 2017 "by George!" will not be issued. I apologize for that. Here are some extracts from what was to be the November 2017 "by George!".

Thanks.

Ted

### **Diocesan Concerns**

There are many Anglican church carol services, craft sales, vendor fairs, bake sales, and bazaars throughout the diocese prior to Christmas.

The six-week course on Treaty Relations, Resource Sharing, and Reconciliation continues on Tuesdays until December 5 at West End Commons, 365 McGee Street.

### **Finance Report**

#### **St. George's Church – October 2017**

	Actual 2017	Actual 2016	Budget 2017
Revenue	\$203 641.58	\$221 510.14	\$198 590.60
Expense	\$228 865.20	\$230 393.09	\$242 217.45
Net Income (Loss)	\$(25 223.62)	(\$8 882.95)	(\$43 626.85)

Here are the highlights:

The 2017 Net Loss to the end of October is \$25 223. This is unfavourable to last year but favourable to Budget.

Variances of \$700 or more to Budget are:

- Festival Offerings is \$1390 unfavourable as both Easter and Harvest were less than expected
- Fundraising is \$12 870 unfavourable as there have been fewer Special Events and the Garage Sale contribution had not yet been received
- Identified Giving is \$18 174 favourable to Budget and \$729 favourable to last year.
- Sundry Rentals is \$1 011 favourable due to more unplanned rentals than expected
- Assistant's Salary is \$1 950 favourable. This is timing.
- Organ Maintenance is \$1 125 favourable. This is timing.
- General Maintenance is \$1 349 unfavourable. This is mechanical and plumbing repairs.
- Utilities - Natural Gas is \$4 126 favourable. This is timing and a warmer start to 2017.

**Summary Balance Sheet  
As at October 31**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	Change
	Actual	Actual	
Current Assets (chequing, cash)	\$ 2 172.02	53 037.81	(50 865.79)
Fixed Assets (building at cost)	785 030.20	785 030.20	0
Other Assets (investments)	479 089.21	454 678.77	24 410.44
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1 266 291.43</b>	<b>1 292 746.78</b>	<b>(26 455.35)</b>
			(12
Current Liabilities (designated)	\$ 267 860.59	280 523.83	663.24)
Long Term Liabilities (trusts)	7 260.26	7 260.26	0
Equity	991 170.58	1 004 962.69	(13 792.11)
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$ 1 266 291.43</b>	<b>1 292 748.78</b>	<b>(26 445.35)</b>

A portion of the change in Current Assets relates to the timing of transfers from Investments to Current Assets.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of October 2017.

Changes to Designated Funds > \$500 in October:

- Flowers: -\$717 for flowers
- Closet Sale: -\$525 for expenses
- Garage Sale: -\$1 262 reimbursement for float

The auditor's review was finalized in November. The results reflect what was reported earlier at the AGM and as a draft review. This includes:

- Excess of revenue over expenses from operations \$ 2 367
- Realized gain (loss) on sale of investments (9 887)
- Unrealized gain (loss) on investments held 57 187
- Unrealized gain (loss) on foreign exchange (2 763)

If you have any questions about the Finance Report, please contact Ted Cotton at [tedcotton@mymts.net](mailto:tedcotton@mymts.net).

**Stewardship Matters**

Stewardship Sunday was October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Rev David Harrison was the guest preacher and continued his "Stewards of God's Grace" message from Faith Horizons.

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone who has returned their Estimate of Giving card, and encourages everyone who hasn't to return your card as soon as possible. The Estimate of Giving card is an important part of our budgeting process.

Along with your treasure, sharing your time and talent is also important to St. George's. St. George's truly appreciates the time and talent provided by so many parishioners. We wouldn't be St. George's without you. There are always opportunities to share your time and talent. If the choir, Mission and Ministry, serving, administering, reading, church school, nursery school, Stewardship, Hospitality, sidesperson, flower arranging, Parish Council, Worship, Property, Design, or any other parish activity interests you, please have a chat with the chair of that activity (or contact the office if you don't know who to contact).

**Parable of the Talents** - Matthew 25 14-30 - Jesus said, "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless

slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Epistle for November 19<sup>th</sup> starts with “Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.” This being the case it is always a good time to write about Stewardship.

November 19<sup>th</sup> is a very good Sunday for those who wait for stewardship lessons. The Gospel for that day Matthew 25 14-30, better known as the Parable of the Talents. I believe that there are a lot of very good stewardship lessons that can be taken from this. I am going to leave the section of the parable where the servant who buried the talent, had the talent taken away and the servant cast into darkness till the end. Prosperity Theology, the theology based around the concept of the more you give the more you get, may be attracted to the concept of taking talents away from those who don't show results and give them to people who have shown lots of results, but I don't believe this is where Jesus was heading with this parable.

First of all I am glad the new standard revised bible uses the term “talent”. Many modern bibles have replaced talents with some form of financial instrument such as pieces of silver, which drives the conversation to financial stewardship. Talent, although it represents a financial term in the context of this parable is a better term as it can relate to non-financial stewardship, which is what I wish to speak to.

I hear all the time that taking what we say with our lips and believe in our hearts on Sunday and applying it to Monday thru Saturday is one of the hardest things to do. If you examine this parable, you have a master, who is God giving talents to individuals, with that surprising statement in this parable “each according to his ability”. The master asks each to do something to bring value to the gift. In other words he asked his servants to be good stewards of his property.

We go out every day to watch over some a part of God's world. From our professional work to volunteer work, the attitude that we take in how we watch over these gifts that we receive from God is very important. Unfortunately, it seems even with our best effort; we seem from time to time to fall short of our goals. It is important to realize that God realizes this; this is why he asks us to use our gifts to the best of our ability realizing that in some situations the task at hand do not play into the best of our abilities.

What I find interesting in this parable is that Jesus talks about the first slave returning 10 talents, the second slave returning 4 talents while the last slave only returning the original talent that he was given much to the disgust of the master. What is never broached is the situation where there is failure, for example what if the second slave worked as hard as he could but only came back with a portion of the two talents that were originally left in his stewardship. That omission in this story was obviously purposeful and I can only think that

story was designed to not put value in the talents but into the effort of stewardship of those talents. When we are out of our comfort zone our abilities may be degraded, but the effort that we put into the task should be the same. When we are out of our comfort zone there is no such thing as failure in God’s eyes if the effort and principles used are Godly. Only in earthly terms can we fail.

We are asked to be good stewards of this world, and although we may wish that this responsibility came with a step by step guide, sometimes we are put into situations that we know little about and those situations normally do not play into our strengths. The only thing we can rely on are the spiritual lessons that we learn and the joy of knowing that if our efforts are true, not only will God be pleased with us, but God will reward us with more challenges, that is the third servants talent.

This leave us with the third servant, the slave who was thrown “into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”. This may be speaking to accountability. But as in so many things in Jesus’ message it is the honest and forthright effort that we put in to our stewardship activities that is the measure of success. If God intended that our success’ should be measured in earthly terms the challenges that we face would all play to our strengths.

We are into the stewardship season at St. George’s. Sometimes the challenges look so large that success seems to be a fantasy. God recognizes this. He knows that the challenges of our community may not play into our strengths. But we should realize, that if we look to God for guidance and put an honest effort into these challenges relying on the teachings that we receive in worship, that we will not be thrown darkness. In fact, God will have more “talents” for us.

Allan Silk

**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 from the church office or on the church website at [Preauthorized Donation Registration/Amendment Form](#) .

**Envelopes:** If you prefer regular donations by cheque, the church office can provide you a box of envelopes. If you need an occasional envelope, there are multi-use envelopes in the pews.

Note: parishioners should be aware that about 3% of a credit card donation to a charity goes to the credit card company and provider of the credit card donation system.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

DAY	DATE	GROUP	TIME / PLACE
Wed	6-Dec-17	Wednesday Communion Service <i>communion</i>	12 Noon Chapel

Thurs	7-Dec-17	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	10-Dec-17	<b>The Second Sunday of Advent</b> <i>communion service</i>	10:30 AM
Wed	13-Dec-17	Wednesday Communion Service <i>communion</i>	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	14-Dec-17	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	17-Dec-17	<b>The Third Sunday of Advent</b> <i>communion service</i>	10:30 AM
Sun	17-Dec-17	<b>FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS &amp; CAROLS</b>	7:00 pm Church
Wed	20-Dec-17	Wednesday Communion Service <i>communion</i>	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	21-Dec-17	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	24-Dec-17	<b>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <i>communion service</i>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Sun	24-Dec-17	<b>Christmas Pageant</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
Sun	24-Dec-17	<b>Late Christmas Service</b>	<b>10:30 PM</b>
Mon	25-Dec-17	<b>Christmas Day Service</b> Carols and communion	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Tues	26-Dec-17	<b>Boxing Day Building Closed</b>	
Wed	27-Dec-17	<b>NO Wednesday service today - Building Closed</b>	
Thur	28-Dec-17	<b>Building Closed</b>	
Sun	31-Dec-17	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b> <i>communion service</i>	10:30 AM
Mon	1-Jan-18	<b>New Years Day Building Closed</b>	
Tues	2-Jan-18	Open 9am to 5pm Tues to Fri	
Wed	4-Jan-18	Wednesday Communion Service <i>communion</i>	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	Jan 5-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	Jan 7-18	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b> <i>communion service</i>	10:30 AM
Wed	Jan 10-18	Wednesday Communion Service <i>communion</i>	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	Jan 11-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	Jan 14-18	<b>The Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <i>communion</i>	10:30 AM
Wed	Jan 17-18	Wednesday Communion Service <i>communion</i>	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	Jan 18-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	Jan 21-18	<b>The Third Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <i>communion</i>	10:30 AM
Sun	Jan 21-18	<b>Choral Evensong</b>	4:00 PM
Wed	Jan 24-18	Wednesday Communion Service <i>communion</i>	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	Jan 25-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room
Sun	Jan 28-18	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	10:30 AM
Wed	Jan 31-18	Wednesday Communion Service <i>communion</i>	12 Noon Chapel
Thurs	Feb 1-18	Prayers for Peace & Justice	9:00 am Guild Room

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10