

“by George!”

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Advent

The “by George!” connects all parishioners through electronic or hard copy distribution. It is normally published in September, November, February, and May. All articles are welcome; electronic submissions are appreciated.

The “by George!” would not be possible without the assistance of many parishioners. Thanks!

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November 2024

Advent Edition

Silent Night

As we see snow and start December, we think of the coming of the baby Jesus. This is a joyous time. The classic hymn, Silent Night, tells the story of HIS coming while leaving us with the promise of redeeming grace. A beautiful message!

[Verse 1]

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

[Verse 2]

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

[Verse 3]

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

[Christmas Songs – Silent Night Lyrics | Genius Lyrics](#)

The next “by George!” will be in February. Be thoughtful and have a joyous festive season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you at St. George's!

Ted Cotton

bG!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars with these Upcoming Dates within our Parish Church of St. George, Crescentwood:

Wed – Dec 4 Assiniboia Deanery Meeting – Guild Room – 10:00 am

Mid-Day Eucharist – Chapel - Noon

Worship Committee Meeting – Guild Room – 7:00 pm

Thu – Dec 5 Crafts & Conversation – Guild Room – 1:00 pm

Sat – Dec 7 Trebles Extra Choir Practice – Choir Room – 11:00 am

Sun – Dec 8 Second Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist – 10:30 am

Adult Education Advent Series #5 – Guild Room – after service

Wed – Dec 11 Mid-Day Eucharist – Chapel – Noon

Parish Council and Potluck – Guild Room - 6 PM

Thu – Dec 12 Crafts & Conversation – Guild Room – 1:00 pm

This will be the last group meeting before Christmas;

we will resume Thursday, January 16, 2025

Sat – Dec 14 Whole Choir - Extra Practice – Choir Room – 12:30 pm

Sun – Dec 15 Third Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist – 10:30 am

Adult Education Advent Series #6 – Guild Room – after service

Tue – Dec 17 Diocesan Executive Meeting – Guild Room – 11:00 am

Wed – Dec 18 Memorial Fund Meeting – Guild Room – 5:00 pm

Blue Christmas – Chapel – 7:00 pm

Sun – Dec 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist – 10:30 am

Nine Lessons and Carols – 7:00 pm

Sun – Dec 24 Christmas Eve Family service – Holy Eucharist – 5:00 pm

Mon – Dec 25 Christmas Day - Holy Eucharist – 10:30 am

The Parish Office will be closed Wed, Dec 25 to Wed, Jan 1, 2025

The office will reopen on Thu, Jan 2, 2025 at 10:00 am

Sun – Dec 29 First Sunday after Christmas – Holy Eucharist – 10:30 am

Sun – Jan 5 Epiphany Sunday – Holy Eucharist – 10:30 am

This calendar is an intentional look 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. Please note: The office will close at 2:00 pm on Wednesdays.

The Parish Office will be closed Wed, Dec 25 to Wed, Jan 1, 2025. The office will reopen on Thu, Jan 2, 2025 at 10:00 am.

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.

Save the date! **The 12th Night Dinner** will be held on Saturday January 4th. We will again be serving a Greek feast! Tickets and additional information will be available in the next two weeks.



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 on Wednesdays.

The organ prelude will begin at approximately 10:25 on Sunday 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 fellowship service are available in late December and January. Thanks.

A **12th Night** is being planned for Saturday January 4. More information will follow.

THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION

Christmas is so much more than a date. It's a feeling of joy and hope.

IN THE BROADER COMMUNITY

Masses for the Healing and Comfort of Bishop Geoff: Sundays at 2:00 pm at St. Michael & All Angels (300 Hugo St. N). You are invited to St. Michael and All Angels for services of Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer with the intention of Bishop Geoff's healing and comfort. Incense will not be used at these services

In consultation with Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson, The Venerable Simon Neal Blaikie has called for **the 120th Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land** to convene on the morning of Saturday, May 31st, 2025 in St. John's Cathedral **for the purpose of electing our next Diocesan Bishop**. The Most Rev. Greg Kerr-Wilson, Metropolitan, will chair this Electoral Synod.

The Search Committee will soon meet to elect a Chair and to start their important work. You are asked you to keep them in your prayers as well as that of our present Diocesan, +Geoff. The Search Committee will communicate with the diocese about their process through emails to Synod Delegates, Wardens and Clergy as well as on the diocesan Website (www.rupertsland.ca) and in the Rupert's Land News.

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 .



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear God, we know that you plan and make everything happen for a reason. Help us to follow your plan even when we are...

- sad
- nervous
- confused
- angry
- worried
- excited
- anxious
- upset

Lord, we know there are greater things to come thanks to you. Help us to be ready. Amen!

FROM THE DESK OF THE INCUMBENT**Advent and Christmas in a Hurried World: A Reflection on Canadian and African/Zimbabwean Traditions**

As the days grow shorter and colder in Canada, and the glow of Christmas lights begins to warm frosty streets, Advent quietly calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Let me begin by addressing some frequently asked questions about the nature of the festive celebrations in my country of origin (Zimbabwe). Particularly, questions like: How do you celebrate Christmas in Zimbabwe? Do you have turkey like we do? Christmas in Zimbabwe is a vibrant and community-centered celebration, focused on faith, family, and togetherness. It typically begins with joyful church services featuring singing and dancing, followed by gatherings where families share traditional meals like sadza (cornmeal porridge), lots of roasted meat, and seasonal treats. Celebrations often take place outdoors, with picnics, barbecues, and communal feasts. Gift-giving is simple and meaningful, emphasizing the joy of connection rather than commercialism, while cultural diversity adds unique regional flavors to the festivities.

This season, for Zimbabweans, resonates as a time of anticipation, joy, and community. But in both contexts, the busyness of modern life can distract us from the sacred purpose of Advent and Christmas. How can we, inspired by the traditions of Winnipeg and Zimbabwe, slow down and rediscover the meaning of this holy season?

Advent is a time of reflection, of preparing not just for Christmas but also for Christ's second coming. This call to wait and hope might feel out of place in Winnipeg's winter rush, where the pressures of holiday shopping and social obligations compete with icy sidewalks and frosty commutes. Yet, Advent reminds us that God often meets us in life's still and quiet spaces. For Zimbabweans, Advent carries a similar tone of waiting, but it is also filled with community gatherings. As the rains of the planting season begin to fall, people pray together for a fruitful harvest—a beautiful metaphor for Advent as a time of spiritual planting and preparation.

Now, how can we practise waiting, drawing from both contexts? For Winnipeg, in winter's stillness, bundle up and take a quiet walk through Assiniboine Park or along the frozen Red River Trail, reflecting on God's presence in creation, even in its dormancy. In both contexts, Advent hymns, like "Uya, uya, Emanueri" (O come, O come, Emmanuel), often focus on the joy of Christ's coming. Singing or listening to music of hope and longing can enrich our waiting.

Both cultures value light—whether it's the glow of Advent wreaths in Canadian homes or the candlelit vigils often seen in Zimbabwe. Set aside time for prayer around candlelight, letting the flickering flame remind you of the hope Christ brings. While Christmas is a deeply spiritual and joyous occasion, there's the risk of getting caught up in the materialism of the season. It often comes with financial pressures for families striving to provide new clothes and celebratory meals.

But the nativity story reminds us that Christmas is not about abundance or extravagance. Christ came into the world in simplicity and humility. In both Winnipeg and Zimbabwe, this message resonates in the quieter, heartfelt traditions that bind people together.

Here are a few ideas for celebrating in a meaningful way. Consider supporting a local food bank in Winnipeg, such as Winnipeg Harvest, our own Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church, or inviting someone in need to share your Christmas table.

Attending midnight Mass or a Christmas Eve service is a cherished tradition in both Winnipeg and Zimbabwe. The communal singing of carols like “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World” bridges cultures and lifts spirits. Exchange of Stories by creating space at your Christmas dinner to share reflections or memories of God’s faithfulness throughout the year. Despite the geographic and cultural distance between Winnipeg and Zimbabwe, both places highlight the heart of Advent and Christmas: the importance of community and the recognition of God’s presence in our lives. Both traditions teach us something valuable: the importance of sharing our joy, whether through a simple plate of food, a heartfelt song, or a word of encouragement.

This Advent and Christmas, let’s take inspiration from both Winnipeg’s traditions and Zimbabwe’s culture of community. Let’s set aside the busyness and embrace practices that draw us closer to God and one another. Whether you’re lighting a candle in the frosty Canadian winter or singing joyfully under a Zimbabwean sky, may this season remind us that Christ’s light shines in every corner of the world.

As we prepare to welcome Emmanuel—God with us—let’s carry forward the hope, peace, joy, and love that define this holy time, not just for ourselves, but for those around us.

Blessings!

Fr. Sherpard Gwende

A FRIEND

A friend is there to welcome you when others close their door.
Helping to reduce the load when it’s clear you can’t bear more.
Knowing all your heart endured, they believe how hard it was.
Their healing hugs mean so much more when given “*just because.*”
Their kindness and compassion can alleviate your pain.
Sheltering you when cruel winds blow blinding sleet and rain.
Protecting you from those who try to crush your gentle soul.
Defending you from judgements made when harsh words take a toll.
Sensing your moods and knowing when you need to be alone.
More understanding than anyone you have ever known.
Debating pros and cons when decisions are hard to make.
Allowing you the final choice to choose which path to take.
Spreading your wings aloft when you lack the courage to fly.
Rejoicing when the sunbeams catch your spirit soaring high.
Faithful friends are those who support as lightly as a breeze.

They float with you on gentle waves and brave the stormy seas.
Lives are richer simply from the devotion they have shown.
We are so blessed to have a friend who we can call our own.

Anne Toth
Our online parishioner from Calgary

FINANCE REPORT

The Net loss to the end of October is \$80,381. This is favourable (F) to budget, but unfavourable (U) to last year.

Identified giving is \$1337 U to budget and \$7083 U to last year.

The chequing account is reconciled to the end of October.

Changes in Designated funds > \$500:

1. Closet Sale: +\$2368 for clothing portion of Oct 25 sale
2. Garage Sale: + \$4909 for September 27 Art Sale and Oct 25 Fall Sale
3. KEVEN: -\$7987 for return of unused portion of funds held in trust

\$10,000 of investments was sold on October 9 and another \$10,000 of investments was cashed on November 19. As reported earlier, \$15,000 of investments was sold on August 15 and another \$10,000 on September 16. All four of these were transferred to chequing for cash flow (pay bills) purposes.

The auditors have provided a draft of the 2023 review. The results are similar to what was reported at the AGM. As they do every year, the auditors add realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments; for 2023 this is net gain of \$46,128. More information will follow.

We'll soon be beginning the 2025 budgeting process. Our recent cycle of expenses > revenue with cashing investments isn't sustainable, so we MUST change what we're doing.

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, by G! Editor, 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.

The Stewardship package , with 2025 Estimate of Giving Card, to determine what parishioners are willing to give to God's work in the Parish of St. George's (Crescentwood) was distributed starting on Sunday November 24. Your Estimate of Giving card is especially important as we cope with net losses and selling investments to pay our bills. Please return the card as soon as possible. We will look at implementing ideas from the Episcopal Church of America's TENS package in 2025.

The Harvest festive letter and offering envelope was successful – thank you. The Christmas festive letter and offering envelope is currently being prepared for distribution in December.

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

We are collecting for **Christmas Cheer** again this year! Please mark your donations for "Christmas Cheer".

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 prayer 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 or evening, please consider this important ministry.

Community Support: St. George's has supported **West Broadway/1Just City** for many years. Things that are always needed: coffee, sugar, coffee whitener, common spices and seasonings, metal forks/soup spoons (used is fine - no plastic), regular size mugs (used is fine), baking powder, muffin liner cups, shampoos and conditioners. Cupcake papers, cake mixes and spices are always needed at West Broadway. Your empty travel-sized containers are needed too!

We will also deliver non-perishable food items to **Epiphany Indigenous Anglican**. Please bring in any of the following canned items: vegetables, juice, soup, fruit, Kraft dinner, pasta, pasta sauce, stews, baby formula/food or boxed cereal/instant oatmeal. Our work with Epiphany is a new initiative, part of our reconciliation activities.

All items can be placed in baskets at the back of the church and, after blessing, will be delivered to either West Broadway or Epiphany. Your ongoing support is very much appreciated!

Mission & Ministry is now supporting a neighbourhood seniors' programs that runs at St. Matthew's Anglican. We are requesting monetary donations to help with the costs of this program. Mark your cheque "**St. Matthew's Seniors**". Tax receipts will be issued for all donations. The program takes place on 3 Mondays per month, for 9 months of the year. It is a drop in which provides coffee, tea, snacks, card games, conversation and some craft activities. Our own Rev. Peter is also involved.



FALL SALE – OCTOBER 25 AND 26, 2024

We have now completed our final sale for the year and it was a success!

Although , the start time for the sale for Friday night was 5:30pm, we had people in line at 4:15pm! It was a bit chilly so we did open the door at 5:00pm and allowed them to line up in the church This gesture was greatly appreciated! We note that many of the people who come to our sales are repeat customers so it is nice to connect with them again.

We scheduled two greeters for each day of the sale who counted the number of people coming in and also handed out a special prepared leaflet with upcoming services times and

events for the next few months. This was a great time to make connections with people who were coming into our building. Over the two days, we had at least 365 people attend.

Again, we had wonderful volunteers who set up, sold and helped with the clean up on Saturday afternoon. The clothing portion of the sale which was held in the lower hall was not cleaned up until Monday morning as we gave our parishioners one last chance to shop after the Sunday morning service.

This particular sale brought in revenue for the church of approximately \$4,300. Thank you again to everyone who had a part in this event.

I thought maybe you might be interested in how this event is put together. We receive donations all years and these are given a preliminary sort and stored in different storage rooms in the building. For example, adult clothing is in one storage room along with all the hangers etc that we need for the sale (and we have hundreds all sorted by kind and in plastic bins to make set up easier). Children's clothing and toys are in another storage room along with Christmas items, Housewares is in another storage room and so on. We are very fortunate to have many storage rooms.

At least a month before the sale, advertising begins, sorting begins and we put out a call for volunteers. Closer to the date, each department starts doing a more thorough sort of their items and pricing begins. For the week of the sale, tables are put out and merchandise put out for display. For those who haven't been involved, this is a lot of work! By the day of the sale we are all ready, bags for packing sold items are set out, price lists are made, all necessary instructions are posted on the walls, money floats are distributed and we are ready to meet our customers. It is always exciting when the doors open and the first rush of eager buyers flood through the doors!

One of the most rewarding aspects of the sales is the chance to "visit" and get to know all the volunteers who help at the sale.

Next sales will be our Spring Clothing Sale early April and the Garage Sale early May. We already have lots of items for both these sales in storage waiting to start the process all over again!

Geri Morgan
Coordinator of Sales



Christmas Poinsettias

Donations are requested towards Poinsettias for the Christmas Season, in memory of loved ones. Names of those being remembered will be placed in the leaflets for Dec 22nd, 24th, 25th and 28th. This year proceeds will go to the operating account.

A receipt will be given for your donation with your year-end tax receipt.

Name of Donor: _____

Amount of gift: _____

Names of those being remembered:

**** Please place your application and cheque on the Sunday Collection Plate or send your cheque to St. George's Anglican Church, 168 Wilton St., Winnipeg, MB R3M 3C3 by Monday, December 9, 2024.**





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 1 LAND

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 Nation. We recognize the mistakes and harms of the present and past and commit to the work of healing in a spirit of reconciliation and respect, trusting in God's guidance and love.
