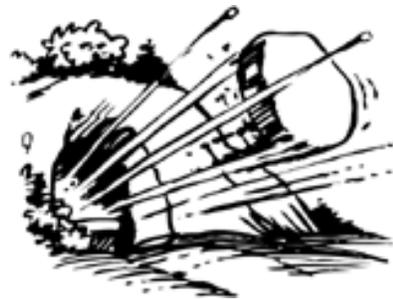


The Bellringer



The Anglican Parish of St. George,
Transcona

Holy Week and Easter Services at St. George's

Palm Sunday (Liturgy of the Palms) - Sunday, April 13th, 10:30 am
Contemplative Eucharist - Monday, April 14th, 7:00 pm
Maundy Thursday Service - April 17th, 7:00 pm
Good Friday Service - April 18th, 10:30 am

Easter Sunday, April 20th:

Sunrise Easter Eucharist - 8:30 am
Breakfast - 9:30 am
Easter Eucharist - 10:30 am

*Come celebrate with us
the Resurrection of our Lord!*

Volume 28

Easter 2014

Number One

If you have email & are getting print copy, we don't have your addy
- please email office <stgeo321@mts.net> to switch & 'go green'!

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The Bellringer is published twice a year. The editor always welcomes suggestions, letters, articles and news items that are not protected by copyright (unless permission to reproduce has been granted). Items may be handed in to the sidespersons on Sunday, to the parish office, or to the editor (mailbox #8). We could use more people to assist with delivery; please contact Liz or Pat if you can help.

EDITOR: Elizabeth Beazley

RECTOR
DEACON
RECTOR'S WARDEN
PEOPLE'S WARDEN
TREASURER
ASSISTANT TREASURER
ENVELOPE SECRETARY
SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR
VESTRY MINUTES

The Reverend Helen Kennedy
The Reverend Deacon Alison Ward-Westervelt
Dan Thagard
Jim Fuller
Theresa Gibson
Penny Single
Penny Single
Rowena Slater
Elizabeth Beazley

MEMBERS OF VESTRY

Debbie Buxton
Lois Hiller
Lynn Findlay

Terry Leah
Peggy Rentz

Penny Single
Doris Termeer

DELEGATES TO SYNOD AND ALTERNATIVES*

Claudine Thagard
Theresa Gibson

Dan Thagard
Penny Single

Barbara Gustafson*
Jim Fuller*

REGULAR SERVICES

SUNDAY

10:30 AM

Holy Eucharist

MONDAY

10:30 AM

Sunday School

7:00 PM

Holy Eucharist

(no Monday service on long weekends)

Welcome to all newcomers to St. George's!

If you wish to be part of one or more of our groups, please check the list on our webpage for the appropriate contact person or let the priest know (or call the office).

From the Rector . . .

Resurrection

Jesus of Nazareth, the leader of a new revolutionary group, a group who were going to change the way the Roman Empire persecuted the underdog, is taken away and killed. Those who follow him are convinced, convinced beyond doubt, that this man, the one who is called the saviour, the messiah, was going to be the one who would turn life around. He talked a very good talk so far. He did things that nobody else could do; he seemed, to everyone around him, to be the real deal, and to have God with him. This man was also getting under the skin of the authorities, so even more reason to think that a revolution was on its way. Yet, very early one morning, the guards come and take him away. Hopes are dashed, dreams of a better life are now imprisoned. Not long after, Jesus is condemned to be crucified. A cruel death, humiliating, seriously painful, you asphyxiate when you are stretched out on a cross like that because your feet cannot hold the weight. This is not how things were supposed to go. There is a level of despair and denial. How can this be happening?

Good Friday was a very bad day. I always encourage people to be part of the Good Friday service in order to think and feel what it must have been like to experience that kind of betrayal, hurt, confusion and disappointment. You may know already what this feels like but on Good Friday we need to put ourselves in the place of those who followed Jesus and saw him do incredible things. We need to understand and experience the gravity of the situation. So easily we live in the redeemed time of resurrection, unaware of the depths that were plunged to before we could be in that redeemed place.

Yet, there is resurrection, however important it is to grasp the sacrifice of the cross; we do live in a time that brought about a revolution, a new way of life. Jesus's followers go to the tomb looking to give honour to their friend, but they are confronted with something they do not expect. The tomb appears to be empty. Is this a trick of the early morning sunlight? No, Jesus is gone. Fear and confusion take hold until... the realization that the most unlikely thing possible can have actually happened. Jesus is alive, God has done a redemptive work in Jesus and he is alive. Breaking the bonds of death, bridging the gap between here and eternity, Jesus is resurrected.

Alister McGrath says that the resurrection is more than a historical episode; it is something that has far reaching implications for the whole of humanity. Resurrection continues to be about the meaning of our lives, affecting the way we live and think. It has given a new understanding of God, the world and our place in that world. The resurrection is the centre of our faith, the hope that death is not the end, but more of a transition to another place.

For me resurrection is an assurance of God's continuous presence in my life and through my death into whatever eternity looks like. It opens up a fresh way of thinking, existing and being as a follower of one who has already walked along this path. It makes me behave differently because I believe differently; I am not alone; I am not without.

I invite you through the Easter season to think and give serious consideration as to what the resurrection might mean for your life. As a Christian you follow a man who has gone there before you: get to know him, get to be like him.

Have A Blessed Easter

Rev. Helen Kennedy



The Woman Called Veronica

The woman called Veronica had sinned,
Her heart cried out with every burning thought
Of what that passing fancy, fleeting whim,
Upon her mind and heart and soul had wrought.
Had she repented then, 'twould have sufficed
To put an aching, burning soul at rest.
If on God's altar she had sacrificed
Her wilful pride she would have gone forth, blest.
She had not. And her eyes, now wet with tears,
Were lifted to a tortured, bleeding face
That turned to her, amid the crowd's wild jeers,
And pleaded for a sinning human race.
Upon His bloody face her veil she laid,
And wiped away the stains the thorns had made.

Space Matters: Lessons from the Altar Guild

I have a confession to make – I am not a cradle Anglican. I grew up in the United Church and spent my adolescence and young adulthood in a Baptist church. So when I started attending an Anglican church, there was a lot to learn about the liturgy and the worship service. I wanted to participate meaningfully in the worshipping life of the church in a way that I hadn't experienced before. So, I joined the Altar Guild.

For those of you who might not be sure, the primary duty of the Altar Guild is to prepare the space for the worship service. I have to be quick to point out that this doesn't mean dusting the pews or washing the floor. The Anglican worship space is very communicative and so preparing the space means things like changing the banners according to the season, ensuring that the candles are trimmed, and most importantly, preparing the communion elements for the service. Sure, there is dusting and washing involved in these tasks, and these acts of cleaning and polishing all contribute to the idea that space matters. We perform our acts of worship in our space, using physical objects like offering plates and bread and wine to communicate the spiritual transformation that is taking place inside us. The very space itself speaks of spiritual transformation when we change the colours according to the seasons, fill the font for baptism or strip the altar on Maundy Thursday.

Our most potent act of worship is communion. As an Altar Guild member, I felt honoured that I got to prepare the communion elements, to set the Table. I felt more connected to the worshipping community by doing these simple acts of preparation. Preparing the physical space for worship allowed me to connect with God in a way that is meaningful, and reminded me that washing a chalice or trimming a candle wick can be an act of worship.

As a new Anglican, serving on the Altar Guild gave me invaluable insight into our worship. But it also allowed me to connect with people in the congregation that I would have probably never met otherwise. I came to love and appreciate the other members of the Altar Guild, and learned so much from them. They represented so many years of service, and all of the wisdom that goes with that. Besides, they were a lot of fun!

If you're interested in enhancing your experience and understanding of worship, maybe you should consider serving on the Altar Guild. I certainly enjoyed my time as an Altar Guild member and I can honestly say that my service behind the scenes led me to serving in other areas of the church. At the very least, next time you are worshipping, take a moment to look around the church and thank God for the work of the Altar Guild (you could also thank them too!) Remember, space matters.

Kara Mandryk

The Reverend Kara Mandryk is a transitional deacon working at St. George's for a few months as part of her training. She will be ordained to the priesthood in June. She also teaches liturgy and worship at Providence University College.

Here and there

Our **Music Ministry Team** has been busy planning the music for Easter. Perhaps you have heard the choir practising after church? Practices will continue at that time until Easter. Thanks to Debbie and Stephanie we will have wonderful music to celebrate the most glorious day of the church year!

Movie Nights continue every second Friday at 35 Shields Street. The next one will be April 11th. Everyone is welcome.

Anglican Church Women: The A.C.W. continues to meet the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 1:15 pm downstairs in the church. Our next meeting will be April 16th. Thank you to all who made donations to the Thelma Wynne baby shower which was held February 16th. We invite anyone interested to come join us. We share fellowship over tea/coffee and goodies. Cherylle Marciniw

St. George's continues to collect food (especially non-perishable items) for the **Transcona Food Bank** and for Westview School. Items may be brought at any time and placed in the containers provided.

We plan to have another **St. George's Neighbourhood Barbeque** in September. To make a success of it, we need your ideas and your help. Please watch your Sunday bulletin for dates and more information. And please plan to attend – we had a really fun time last year!!

C.L.A.Y. (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth) Conference <http://claygathering.ca/>

August 11-19, 2014 at Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC

Registration Deadlines: Early Bird: March 31st, 2014; Final Deadline: May 15th, 2014

Registration Cost: Early Bird: \$385; Regular \$400

Accommodation Cost at TRU: \$65/night

Please contact Rev. Helen for further information

Memorial Board

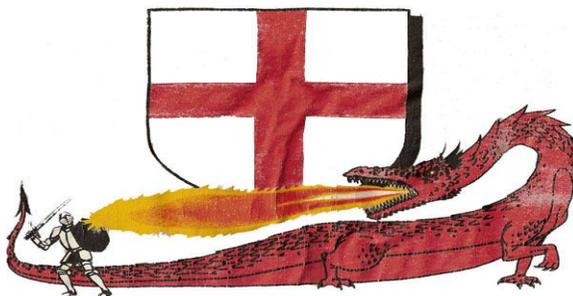
At the back of our church, there is a large board that has small brass plaques attached to it. On those plaques are the names of many of the saints of our church who have left this world and moved into the next. It is a good reminder of the people who have made St George's Anglican Church Transcona what it is today. It is also a comfort to those who are left here to know that their loved ones are, on occasion, remembered.

To have a plaque on this board there needs to be a request from the family. The plaques are purchased once per year after All Saint's Day and Dan Thagard meticulously places them on the board. These plaques are purchased through the Memorial Fund, and although there is no expectation, any donation to that fund is appreciated.

Rev. Helen Kennedy

Reminder: the **April vestry meeting** will be on **Tuesday, April 29th**.

Vacation Bible School: July 14-18 (half days) at Transcona Memorial United Church.



Soup, Sandwich & Super Hero - is a **Lenten series** on the spirituality of the Super Hero genre of entertainment. It begins on Thursday, 13th March, at 5:00 pm, and runs for five weeks at Transcona Memorial United Church. After a small supper we look at different Super Heroes each week and discuss their spirituality, view of humanity and impact on our society. Join us, it should be fun!

Park Manor Personal Care Home

Providing church services is very important for all the residents and we see many each month who aren't Anglican. Church services are held there various days of the week by many congregations with St. George's covering the second Wednesday each month (at 9:45 am) and the three Catholic parishes in Transcona covering the other Wednesdays. Dan Thagard usually handles our service, with a few others assisting (transporting residents, with hymn books & singing), but our numbers are dwindling so more help would be welcome!

Transcona churches take turns hosting a tea there the first Friday each month (at 2:00 pm) excluding July, August, & January. St. George's does June - this year it will be the 6th.



I'm the liaison between St. George's & PM-PCH, so please contact me if you can assist with either.

Park Manor is also in need of volunteers in many other areas, at various times ... please contact Bernice Middlestead 204-222-3251 (228) at Park Manor for more details.

Pat Allan

St. George's Women's Dinner: we hope to have a women's dinner one evening in May, perhaps Wednesday, May 14th, but nothing has yet been definitely planned. Please watch your Sunday bulletin for more information. As well, later in April, there will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church with definite information.

Habitat for Humanity: Once again, St. George's will be helping to provide a lunch for those working at building homes for Habitat for Humanity. This year the build is on Nairn Avenue near Sam Steele School. Our day will be Saturday, July 19th and there will be about 250 volunteers to feed. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for more information.

Men's Breakfast: the next one will be April 26th at 9 am. **N.B.:** Thank you, men, for doing the pancake breakfast held just before Lent began. It was delicious!!! And \$150.00 was raised for Gifts of Grace!

A big thank you to **Chad Wheeler** for twice sending someone to clear the snow off our parking lot and for paying for it, too!

Social Events to Raise Money for Outreach: if anyone has a good idea for a social event to raise money for our outreach, and/or is willing to help put it on, please let us know by contacting Rev. Helen or Rev. Alison.

LOVE

Love is enduring
And patient and Kind,
It judges all things
With the heart not the mind.

Remembrance is the rose that blooms
Eternal . . . year by year;
Sweet mem'ries clinging to the heart
Keep loved ones ever near.

The tender thoughts that linger on
Are links that ever bind
The loved ones who have gone ahead
With those they leave behind.

There is a gate in this garden
Through which each must go alone,
And there by a light which we cannot see,
Our Master claims His own.
Beyond the gates our loved one
Finds happiness and rest.
And we find comfort in the faith
That a loving God knows best.

St. George's and Transcona Memorial United Church

In September of 2013 a small group from St. George's met with the council of TMUC to discuss the possibility of sharing worship space. In November a congregational meeting was held at both churches to decide if there was enough interest in this proposal to form a working group to explore the potential of this proposal.

The first meeting of the combined working group took place at TMUC on January 25, 2014. A conversation around mutual concerns took place and suggestions for worship times were made. Both groups took the results of this first meeting back to their congregations and at the Annual Meeting a vote was taken to decide if the conversation to share space should continue. TMUC voted overwhelmingly to continue. St. George's voted overwhelmingly to stop.

Following is the statement that was made to the people of TMUC regarding our decision not to proceed with the conversation .

"St. George's had a prayerful discussion about the possibility of sharing a building with TMUC. A congregational ballot vote was taken and St. George's decided NOT to proceed with the conversation about sharing a building.

Some of the concerns (in no particular order) that led to this decision were:

- *Concern for maintaining St. George's distinct congregational identity*
- *Hesitancies about sharing a building with another denomination due to past experience of doing so*
- *St. George's has been in their current building for 13 years and are still coming to appreciate the blessings of being there*
- *Concerns about the lack of an ample parking lot at TMUC."*

A final meeting was held to bring closure to this issue and it was made very clear by both communities that there is a desire to continue to share and support each other in community ministry as we have done for a number of years.

Rev. Alison Ward Westervelt



Messy Church

Messy Church??? Do its floors need washing? Is there stuff lying around?

No! Messy church is a far cry from something that needs cleaning up. Although after a session of Messy Church, there may be bits of whatever scattered on the floor. Messy Church is a concept developed by an English Anglican named Lucy Moore. It has grown out of the fact that church and society are 'messier' than they used to be, that is, the church is far more egalitarian now and society no longer has hardened class structures, etc.

Here are some characteristics of Messy Church:

- ❖ It is missional and reaches out to the community.
- ❖ It is for all ages, that is, it is intergenerational.
- ❖ It does not take place on Sunday morning; it is not Sunday School. It's all about creating a different community which is missional, evangelistic and Christ-centered.
- ❖ It is centered on Biblical themes.
- ❖ It includes crafts, activities, celebration and a meal.
- ❖ It has a team working together to incorporate all the aspects of the values and aims of Messy Church.

The aims of Messy Church are

- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Worship

The values of Messy Church are

- ❖ Creativity
- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Celebration
- ❖ Christ-centeredness
- ❖ All ages

Messy Church is **not** a source for weekly giving!

The 'agenda' of a Messy Church session will include:

- ❖ Welcome, with everything well set up (or welcome and then those attending do the set-up)
- ❖ Crafts, games, etc. – the ideal number is seven of them, but usually there would be two or three of them geared to the theme of the day. Each craft has a leader who talks about the theme. An example could be making fridge ornament sandals which signify following Jesus.
- ❖ Celebration – songs, story, prayer, grace.
- ❖ A prepared meal – nutritious, child friendly, one vegetarian option. Food can be prepared ahead of time or prepared by those attending, children and all.

- ❖ Take-home – a Messy news flyer, an object related to the theme, an invitation to bring others, a reminder of the next Messy Church which is usually held once a month.

Ideas for Messy Church:

- ❖ Make a candle at each meeting and use it in the worship.
- ❖ Try a theme like pirates.
- ❖ Food - either free or a basket for donations.
- ❖ Have a baptism – everyone pours water into the font.

Other possibilities of Messy Church:

- ❖ Faith in the home – sort of Messy Church at home using, more or less, the same 'agenda.'
- ❖ Rent-a-mentor – someone in the congregation links with a family.
- ❖ Messy Munch – have a meeting at a local pub or café.
- ❖ Dot.com discipleship – let people know of good web sites.
- ❖ Run a 'course' to transition Messy Church into Sunday morning worship.

Debbie, Alison and Liz attended a workshop at Transcona Memorial United Church recently on Messy Church. Several other, mostly United, churches were represented. Some of them already have their own Messy Churches. TMUC has had it for several years. Rev. Carol Fletcher, one of the ministers at TMUC, will be taking a sabbatical this summer and will go to England to visit Lucy Moore and learn first-hand more about Messy Church. She will also attend a Messy Church at Ely Cathedral.

Messy Church could work very well at St. George's. Should we try it?

ENB

Did you know? . . .

L'Arche Tova Café

**is now open on Sundays
from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Come and enjoy an 'after-church' brunch !

Why Bother to Bring your Children and/or Grandchildren to Sunday School?

In fact, why bother with Sunday School at all?

Running a Sunday School is not cheap for the church – there are programs to obtain, materials to purchase. And then there's the cost to the Sunday School teachers. They don't get to sleep in on Sunday morning. They have to prepare lessons on their own time (of course, they're not paid anyway!). They get upstairs to church with the adults for only a few minutes on Sunday morning. They are continually having to think of innovations to keep the children interested – which in this day of hand-held devices isn't always easy. And sometimes they may feel left out, ignored or taken for granted by the bulk of parishioners. But – guess what????!! Here at St. George's we have people who are willing to put up with the above shortcomings. We see the fruits of their endeavours in the happy faces of the children and in the things they accomplish – witness the wonderful wallhanging featuring the Stations of the Cross that the youth sewed for us last Easter. Mind you, these dedicated teachers could use a little more help.

So if we decide that we should have a Sunday School, why would you bother to bring your children or grandchildren to it? Now, some parents claim that they won't be taking their children to church because the children will decide for themselves – later in life – whether or not they wish to belong to the church. But how, for goodness sakes, can anyone make an informed choice to belong or not to belong if they have never ever attended a church or learned anything about it?! So there's one reason to bring your children – so they have the ability to make a good decision. Related to this issue is that of education. Attending Sunday School is or can be part of a child's education. Therefore, just as a child has to go to school, he/she should have to go to Sunday School, because Sunday School sort of takes up where school leaves off. In Sunday School, children learn 'lessons' which will benefit them all their lives: how to reach out to others, how to be more selfless, the joy of giving instead of always receiving. They will learn to think before they act, to consider the wisdom of what they may be tempted to do. Hopefully they will learn to say to themselves before deciding on a direction, "What would Jesus want me to do?" Attending Sunday School helps to form a child's character as well nourishing his/her spiritual being. They will gain a sense of community, the security of belonging to a church family – and not only the security – they will gain another haven where they can feel comfortable in a group of people who have the same beliefs, the same ethos as they do. They will also gain a sense of their own spirituality, for all human beings have a spiritual side to them whether they know it or not.

Please consider these reasons for bringing your children or grandchildren to Sunday School. Please also think about volunteering in the Sunday School. The church is, or should be, a community of all ages which enrich each other; it needs the gifts that children and youth can contribute, their vitality, their differing perspectives, their enthusiasm.

Oh, and by the way, Sunday School can be a lot of fun for them, too!

ENB

Future Events

2014 Holy Week services

April 13	Sunday	10:30 am	Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms
April 14	Monday	7:00 pm	Monday Eucharist
April 17	Thursday	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
April 18	Good Friday	10:30 am	Good Friday Meditation
April 20	Easter Sunday	8:30 am	Sunrise Eucharist
		9:30 am	Breakfast
		10:30 am	Easter Eucharist

April 26	Saturday	9:00 am	Men's Breakfast
April 29	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
May ??			Women's Dinner
July 14-18	Monday-Friday		Vacation Bible School
July 19	Saturday		Habitat for Humanity Lunch
September ??			St. George's Neighbourhood Barbeque

From the editor

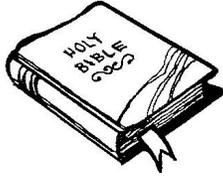
Once again, many thanks to all who contributed in any and all ways to the production of this issue. What would I do without your help? Special thanks to Pat who is always so helpful and to Jeannie who has taken on the job of delivering *The Bellringer*. More special thanks to Rev. Helen and Rev. Alison for their articles and to the Rev. Kara Mandryk for her thoughts on the Altar Guild.

I wish you all a **Joyous and Blessed Easter** and a wonderfully hot summer (if it ever gets here!).



Even Now

Gentleness in the air speaks of spring,
Of fragile leaf, unfolding bloom, and fluttering wing.
Soft as a petal's touch, light as a feather's flight,
Spring whispers in the air and spring's delight.



Parish milestones

Baptisms

Roman Kazmir Perkins

Abigail Margaret Bernice Buxton

In Memoriam

Elsie Northcliffe

Judith Leach

Winnifred Peterson

“Eternal peace grant unto them, O Lord,
“And may light perpetual shine upon them.”

Closing thought: by Bishop Ken, 1637-1711

Heaven is, dear Lord, where'er Thou art
O never then from me depart;
For to my soul, 'tis hell to be
But for one moment void of Thee.

Help us to . . .

Knock Down the Debt!

**Buy a Lego Brick and Help
Eliminate the Deficit**

At the end of February our deficit stood at -\$15,417.42.

The net loss for 2014 at the end of February was -\$3,695.00.

Let's buy those bricks