

# BY GEORGE

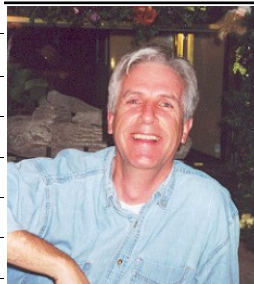
**150 Years**

A MEMBER CONGREGATION OF THE ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA (ANIC)

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## How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him



**Luke 11:13**  
*If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to*

*your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

Whatever the future holds we can know for sure that we will not be able to be the kind of people we need to be and we certainly will not be able to do what needs to be done unless the Lords does a miracle in us and even through us.

This means the Holy Spirit. The amazing news is that we do not need to just "wish it were so". James 4 says: "you have not because you ask not."

Jesus in his wonderful teaching on prayer and of the Father's desire to answer our prayers concludes with the words that are above.

What a promise! The Father promises to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

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These are challenging times. Having said that, they are also exciting times too as we watch and pray to see what the Lord might do in the days ahead.

One thing is clear, however, the pressure of these days is calling forth a deeper commitment to the Lord Jesus, greater holiness and power of life in each of us and as a congregation than perhaps we have experienced in the past.

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We need the Holy Spirit. We need to be filled by the Holy Spirit.

Given Luke 11:13 the invitation seems clear.

This October we are asking all members of St. George's to do four things and they all have to do with Luke 11:13

(1) Would you set your alarm clock to wake you up five minutes early so that you start each day of October by praying in a very focused way each day for a mighty move of the Holy Spirit in St. George's.

(2) Would you join us not just on Sunday mornings, as we continue our series of sermons on faith in Hebrews, but for two consecutive Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm, October 14,21. We are planning to have for these evenings: wonderful worship, teaching on the ministry of the Holy Spirit and opportunities for people to invite the Holy Spirit to fill them. We are delighted our preacher and leader for the final evening, October 21st will be Bishop Malcolm Harding. Bishop Harding is well known across the country as the retired Bishop of Brandon who has been the Ambassador for Anglican Renewal Ministries across the country for the last five years. He has taught countless people of the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit and led many into an experi-

ence of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Please plan on attending both.

(3) Thirdly, again mindful that prayer provides a highway for the Holy Spirit to come and fill us- if you are able Tuesday October 9 through Friday the 12th, each morning 9 am to 10 am and 6:30 to 7:30 pm there will be a time of prayer for our church before we begin this exciting series of services.

(4) Finally, there are plans for a National Day of Prayer and Fasting for All Saints' Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>, sponsored by the Anglican Network in Canada to pray for Canada as we head into an important month of November which will include the Network event at Crossroads Centre, November 22 and 23 entitled, **Building on the Solid Rock.**

If we have learned one thing from faith and ABRAHAM in our sermon series, it is that he understood that the God who made promises is faithful. So let's give God a chance to prove his faithfulness by trying out Luke 11:13 and ask God to pour out His Holy Spirit.

***Charlie Masters***

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## Of Tithes and Tax Returns

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In these past few years, there has been a lot of discussion about the state of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC), and the ever-increasing likelihood of a split taking place. Inevitably as more details are discussed the issue of charitable status, and the ability to issue tax receipts is discussed. The ability to provide tax receipts has been a real benefit to charities, since it can significantly lower the cost to the donor. This has led me to muse about tithes and tax returns.

Based on my limited understanding of the tax system, tax receipts for charitable donations provide the following benefit at tax time. For most Ontario taxpayers the first \$200 provides a \$42 to \$49 reduction in tax, additional receipted donations after that result in 40-46% of that donation being deducted from you taxes. In practical terms for every additional \$1000 dollars a year that you donate you would reduce your tax payable by over \$400. For many that results in a nice tax refund in the spring. Generous donors with tax receipts receive almost half of their donations back from the government each year.

Now let us speak of tithes. In Leviticus 27:30-33 the Israelites are commanded to give a tithe (10%) of everything that their land and livestock produce to God. Being an agrarian society it was effectively 10% of their income, taken off the top. In addition to the call to tithe there are numerous references to freewill offerings in the Old Testament.

Jesus deals indirectly with this issue. When questioned on paying taxes he responds "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" (Math. 22:21b NIV). My favourite verses on this subject are in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:6-7 NIV).

Now when we give our tithes and offerings to God should we get a charitable donations tax receipt? Absolutely if one is available! Now this should not be driven purely by the desire of a nice fat income tax refund, but rather a desire to be good stewards of the money that God has entrusted each of us with. But what if I feel called to support a new charitable organization that does not yet have their charitable status, should I wait until they do? In my humble opinion, you should not wait. Though it would be better to have the tax receipt from a stewardship point of view, God's call to give is independent of tax receipts. I expect that in my lifetime many good charitable organizations will lose their charitable status because they preach an absolute that contradicts the popular morality of our society.

There are times when God may call you to give directly to meet the needs of an individual or family. If so do so generously with no thought of the taxman. Independent of tax receipts, each one of us should give generously, for God loves a cheerful giver.

***Kelvin Loveless***

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## Review of a Book Review

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Over the past three years I have enjoyed reading Michael Burslem's submissions to By George. His book reviews and travelogues have been informative and thought provoking, though often with a slightly different twist. However, his review of Robert Farrar Capon's book, "The Fingerprints of God, Tracking the Divine Suspect through a History of Images" in the September issue left me feeling disturbed, and, I believe, could leave new believers and those investigating the Christian faith confused.

There are three basic problem areas in Mr. Capon's writing: the written word - Scripture; the Incarnate Word - the Lord Jesus Christ; and the doctrine of salvation, which includes hell.

The written word was not birthed by the community but breathed by God Himself, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16). Further, "No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 2:20-21) When we choose to not believe some portions of the written word we are taking scissors to the Manufacturer's Handbook for navigating life's perilous journey and we are left with a lace doily on which to display our man-made theologies. The written word points to the Incarnate Word and it is a good read.

The Incarnate Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, died for us, while we were yet sinners, powerless, ungodly, and enemies of God. (Romans 5:6-10) What love is this! Mankind's sinful state has been a constant since the fall of man, Genesis 3, for we have all inherited, so to speak, the sin-gene of our first parents, Adam and Eve. We sin because we are sinners. Jesus came to save us from that sin and restore us to a right relationship with God because we are powerless to save ourselves. This is all recorded in the written word, to which the Western church has access. But when scissors are applied to Scripture, a theology dependent upon works is created...nothing new...Paul and John had this to contend with in the early church.

"Universal salvation, enjoyed by Muslims, Hindus and everyone who has lived in space and

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time” is not taught by Jesus, as recorded in the written word. In His Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus speaks of the narrow and wide gates and roads. Mr. Capon quotes only the latter half of John 14:6, which in its entirety says, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except by Me” and explains it as “all people come to the Father by Him just as all mammals need oxygen to breath.” Scissors again. What Jesus is saying is that one must believe in Him, Jesus, in order to come to the Father. Muslims and Hindus may acknowledge that a good man named Jesus once lived on earth but they will not tell you that He is God. And no, Mr. Capon doesn’t discuss John 3:16 which says very clearly, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that ***whosoever believes in Him*** shall not die but have eternal life.” (Italics mine) Jesus said those words. Jesus believed in a literal hell, and that hell was eternal death and suffering - it had no end. Check out Matthew 5:22, 29 and 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:33; 25:41 and 46. Then go to Revelation 19:20: 20:10, 14 and 15. Hell is real.



The written word and the Incarnate Word agree that those who live by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ spend eternal life with Him, and those who do not live by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ spend eternal death in hell.

I am not sure how Mr. Capon and Lady Julian of Norwich define “soul-wellness”. My definition would come from Romans 8:1, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Alleluia! The Muslim and the Hindu, the Buddhist and the Unitarian, the Mormon and the Jehovah’s Witness are not “in Christ Jesus” because they do not call Him “Lord”, nor do they bow the knee to Him in worship. They are my brothers and sisters in the sense that we are all sinners descended from Adam, but they are not my brothers and sisters in Christ. Why Michael thinks that Mr. Capon’s book should be taken seriously and studied in groups I do not understand.

***Pamela Bales***

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## Some Thoughts on War

by Michael Burslem, St. George's, Guelph

At this time of the year our minds turn to war, and this year, after four year of a war on terror, we have even greater concern. Will the West invade Iran, or won't they? Recently rummaging through some old papers I came across copies of letters my great uncle Ruff had sent from the battle field in Gallipoli to his mother in Barbados, so remote from the war. He wrote:

...Man alone could be vile in such surroundings and vile indeed was his handiwork. Slowly winding its way down the hill to my left came a stream of maimed and mangled humanity. Some are limping painfully with the assistance of a comrade, others supported by two comrades, others carried on stretchers in every agonized contortions of body, the stretchers steeped in blood so that you could see and smell it. At my feet, their bodies kissed by little waves, lay the stiff bodies of men, gallant fellows who had fought their last fight and lay there, killed on their way to the boats. And with it all, not the sound of a groan.

Behind, doctors plied a busy trade and as each man was bound up he was carried to the waiting boats on which the enemy could turn his shrapnel at will. My God, if only one half of the world could just see five minutes of war, there would never again be any war. Public opinion would stop it and the nations would make any sacrifice to dignity, I had almost said to honor, to avoid such horrible slaughter. My musing wasn't to last long. A screech and a flash and the beastly chorus began again! The rattle of musketry grew louder and I began once more my vile occupation of sending up little things of lead and nickel for my own side to inflict the same suffering which I had seen on a race of men which they had never seen...

My great uncle, although in the British army, had the misfortune to be in Australia in 1914, and accompanied their troops to Gallipoli. Later he saw service in France, but he ended the war in Canada, happening to be in Halifax harbor on a British warship on December 6<sup>th</sup>. 1917, as the Mont Blanc collided with the Imo. The resulting devastation left him more traumatized than the battle-fronts. He retired to Victoria as a Brigadier General, and when I met him there in 1954 he was asking questions soldiers should never ask; what was the point of war, and was the sacrifice really worth it?

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## Who's Who & What's on at St. Georges

### Nursery

Care is available for babies and toddlers at the 10:30am service.

Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

### Family Ministries

Sundays during the 10:30am service

Sunday School Programme for 3 years to Grade 5. Each of the three classes use Bible stories, craft and songs to learn about Christian Faith and grow in their love for Jesus

Ray David Glenn 905 336-3145

### Youth Programme One Way Youth

**Ministries** Activities throughout the week aimed at building relationships with the Lord and bringing these relationships to others around.

**Sunday.** During the 10:30am service, for grades 6 – 8. A teaching time in the youth office..

**Thursday.** 7pm – 9:30pm for grades 9 and up. Worship and discussion at the church.

### Friday C.S.I. (Connect Social Interaction)

7pm to 10pm. A fun night for grades 6 – 8. Games, movies singing etc.

**Saturday** 7pm – 10pm. A fun night for grades 9 and up. Games, movies, singing etc.

### Sunday Unite 7pm to 10pm

Dan Bonham 905-407-4090

### Music Ministry

The Choir sings at the 10:30am service in the Sanctuary  
Church office 905 878-1363

### Prayer Chain

Confidential prayers daily. Please call with prayer requests for yourself or others.

Eileen Phillips 905 681-6850

### Alpha

A series of talks on key issues relating to the Christian faith. Each evening includes a meal and group discussion. Offered in the fall at the church.

Donna Rigo 905 854-0197

### Home Fellowship and Bible Study

**Groups** meet during the week at the church or in homes. Please call to find out about locations, times and study topics

Dave Shantz 905 854-1013

Greg Culver 905 854-1181

### Adult Education (Potter's Wheel)

Events that provide teaching for adults on Christian subjects and issues. As announced.

Ron and Pam Bales 905 827-1097

### Church Library

The library contains a wide range of books, videos, tapes and magazines with Christian themes, for both adults and children.

Gillian Fernie 905 319-2916

### Sermon Tape/CD Ministry

Copies of Sunday sermons are available on audiocassette (\$2.00 and CD (\$2.50). Turn-around time from date of request is two weeks. Request forms are in the Narthex.

Betty Pristol 905 873-1918

### BY GEORGE

Monthly church newsletter containing news and views about what is happening at St. George's and about our missionaries.

Richard Myers 905 332-9492  
email: newtonmyers@cogeco.ca

### St. George's Men's Group

Praise, prayer and study over coffee. Held on the third Saturday of the month at the church.

Rick Carpenter 905 690-3086

### Women's Ministries:

**Annual Conference and Vespers Evenings.** Events designed so that women can draw together spiritually, through fellowship, worship, teaching and sharing.  
Karen Wilson 905-659-1775

### Visitation Ministries:

**Congregational Visiting.** Those who wish to have a pastoral visit should call the church office.

### Seniors' Pastoral Care and Institutional Visiting.

A ministry to St. George's seniors and their families. Also to Milton Hospital, and area seniors' residences.

Kathy Powell 905-335-5399

### St. George's Knights

Sports group for those 14 years and older. Softball with the Milton Inter-Church Mixed Softball League in the summer.  
Richard & Ruth Mills 905-878-3849

**Baptism for Children and Adults** Preparation for Baptism includes a visit with the clergy. Held periodically. Rev. Charlie Masters 905-878-1363

### Communion Preparation for Children

Classes for children and their parents are held on four consecutive Sundays after the 10:30am service, usually in Advent or Lent.

Rev. Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

### Marriage Seminar

Five sessions for those about to be married. Led by church members. Held annually.

Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

### The day-to-day operation of the Church

This is the responsibility of the Wardens and the Rector.

**Parish Council** advises the Rector and Wardens on all church matters. All are invited to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings. Please call the church office for more information.

### Property and Maintenance Group

Responsible for the ongoing maintenance and care of the church buildings and parking area.  
Brian Duke 905 689-3897


### Cemetery Group


Responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery and the grounds.  
Wayne Neeb 905 659-0402


## Overheard by the Font (& elsewhere)



### Don't miss out!!!!

 We already have over 80 photos of our church member families. There are still folks that I am missing or that need to have updated photos done. See Donna Denison after the services or you can drop off a photo at the church or email me a current photo at [donna.ps146@gmail.com](mailto:donna.ps146@gmail.com)

 Please help us out as we grow in community its nice to know the faces and the names of our church family--

 Thanks and have a great day!

 Donna



Where do I begin in thanking our St. George's family? When George became ill late in June, people seemed to spring into action to speak, write, or demonstrate loving concern.

Charlie came from his flight from General Synod to read and pray with George one evening. In a few hours George had entered Jesus' nearer presence.

Jerry was a wonderful help in translating George's written wishes into a beautiful service.

In the months since then, you have reassured our family of your care in so many ways. We thank God and we thank you over and over again.

With much gratitude,

MM Margaret (Willoughby)

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff-- including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.

Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see. !

"There will be no official Potter's Wheel/Adult Education program this fall, to enable as many as possible members of St. George's Church to attend the three Sunday evening courses on the Holy Spirit, October 14th, 21st and 28th. Please watch for an announcement concerning a spring Potter's Wheel event.

**Ron and Pam Bales "**





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Years ago, Ellen, my wife, and I visited the memorials at el Alamein. It's still unsafe to walk in un-designated areas because of unexploded mines, but the memorials were safe. The one thing common to all three, the Italian, German and British, is the cross, the emblem of the real cross on which our Savior died. I wondered if only we had listened to him all the carnage that has happened ever since would never have happened. Do we have the right to retaliate in self defense? There was a time when Christians would unanimously have said No. But then they were literally thrown to the lions. After Christianity became legalized Christians seemed to have said, Never again! And so they have taken up arms to defend themselves, and have fought each other ever since, each nation thinking that they were fighting a 'just' war. What an example to Muslims in whose land we were fighting!

I know that this is not a perfect world; that there are Hitlers and Osama bin Ladens out there. But it is still a far more imperfect world if we react to their evil by committing evil ourselves. I realize that there has to be some restraint of evil, but never the taking of life. I've often thought of what would happen if my wife were attacked in the street. I think that my animal nature would rise to the surface to defend her. But if I were attacked I trust I would have the presence of mind to act as Leo Tolstoy's Maria Semenovna in *The Forged Coupon*. Her death was senseless, the culmination of a string of crimes that started with a family squabble over the son's allowance. She asked of Stepan, her assailant, "How can you! Have mercy on yourself. To destroy somebody's soul...and worse, your own!" These words saved Stepan and, through him, brought salvation to many others, ending in reconciliation between son and father. She had lived out her life in such adverse circumstances, but always according to the Sermon on the Mount.

I know too that the comfortable life style we enjoy is because others have fought wars on our behalf. I do maintain, however, that to follow Jesus all the way we should be prepared to sacrifice our ease and comfort. This has begun to weigh upon my conscience. Also, the fact that grains are now being converted into fuel for our cars, driving up the price of bread for those who can least afford it. Meat is not an option for most people on the earth, and now even fewer will be able to afford it. Will we go to war because we in the West want to drive our autos and live in life styles others can only dream of? This also weighs on my conscience. How can we say we've had enough wars fought in our name? My uncle Ruff said that if only one half of the world could just see five minutes of war, there would never again be any war. But we do see it every evening on our TVs, and yet wars continue. If the church were to determine to live out the Sermon on the Mount, would that stop war? Or would we be thrown to the lions?

***Michael***

## From St. George's With Love ...by Kathy Powell

### What support can adult children be in the long term care decision?

*Phil. 2:4 – want to help people in need*

*I Tim. 5:8 – care of family members*

*II Cor. 12:14 – don't do for them what they can do for themselves*

*I Tim. 5:9 – harmful to do too much*

The Long Term Care facilities we have today are wonderful places of activity and fellowship. For the Christian, they provide a safe place where our dear seniors can develop a new sense of purpose - a setting for continued growth and a new area in which our faith can continue to grow and be demonstrated to friends there.

Adult children and their parents may not be used to making decisions together. They can learn from their parents just what this process is like and then be able to make wise decisions for themselves in the future.

Maintain a healthy, affirmative view of aging (Is. 46:3,4) with your parents and accent what they still have to offer. Adult children minister to their parents when we respect their wishes within healthy boundaries.

Don't veto any discussions and allow them to make as many decisions as possible.

If safety is an issue there may come a time when decisions need to be made.

When this is necessary, their doctor can deal with the realities of the needs they have now. Then, the children are not seen as the "one who made the decision" and discussion can flow freely between the parent and their adult children.

We are called to care for our parents. While moving in with us was "the thing to do" in past years, there are many things about our society today that have changed. If it can work – great! However, that arrangement may not be a healthy one for parent or adult child. Examine the facts. Don't confuse your need to give care to them with the real needs of your parents.

"Your caring" can still happen in a facility where they are well cared for physically and emotionally. Adult children can be the overseers of that care and have the benefit of relating to their parents without providing the day-to-day physical care. In many ways, the adult children are the "icing on the cake." They provide links to family and community. They can bring a light-hearted humor in and they can esteem their loved one as still being the head of the family. They can also encourage their parents to see that they have a ministry to others that live in this home and that their hobbies and expertise can bring new interests to those around them here.

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*Blessings! Kathy Powell*

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## **Sunday School Verses October/November 2007**

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### **October 7**

Name the 12 Apostles: Simon, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Peter, Judas and Judas.

### **October 14**

But Jesus answered "The scripture says, 'Man cannot live on bread alone but needs every word that God speaks'" Matthew 4:4

### **October 21**

So then submit to God. Resist the devil and he will run away from you. James 4:7

### **October 28 J**

Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the Good News about the Kingdom and healing people of all kinds of disease and sickness. Matthew 4:23

### **November 4**

My house is a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves. Luke 19:46b

### **November 11**

"I am telling you the truth" replied Jesus. "No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the spirit," John 3:5

### **November 18**

God is spirit, and only by the power of His spirit can people worship Him as he really is. John 4:24

### **November 25**

Jesus said to him "None of you will ever believe unless you see miracles and wonders." John 4:48

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## From our Wardens

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Thanks in good part to your positive response to the Thanksgiving envelopes, as of October 7, the shortfall of parish givings versus budget has been reduced by almost one-third and is (just) under \$35,000. The remaining shortfall is one of the subjects of the October 9-12 parish prayer times. We ask that you include it in your personal prayer times with the objective of getting back on track with two additional special giving Sundays - October 28 and November 25.

Blessings to all,

*Your wardens*



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### Operation Christmas Child.

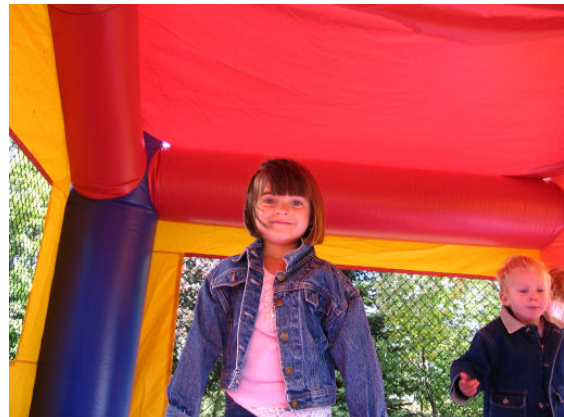


We have been privileged at St. George's to participate in the Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoe Box Program for many years and this year will be no exception. The boxes, with instruction sheets, have arrived and are waiting for you to pick up and fill.

The Sunday School have committed to filling 5 boxes leaving 95 boxes for you to help with. Please pick up your boxes this Sunday and return to the church by November 1<sup>st</sup> for delivery to the shipping depot at Crossroads. Invite your extended family and friends to take a box and fill as well.

A child, somewhere in the world, is waiting to receive your box around Christmas time. I wonder where yours will be delivered to?

F5 Pix...









## PRAYERFULLY SPEAKING



### “... And All Other Benefits of His Passion”

We have been in a season of great angst in the Anglican Church. You probably don't need (or, perhaps, want) me to remind you of that fact. But the turmoil, confusion, disappointment, and grief that we all have been experiencing have been both starkly real and unprecedented. No manner of denial or wishful thinking will make it all go away. So, we have been seeking the face of God on behalf of His Church with intensity and urgency, and after months of such prayer, many intercessors have been left weary and deeply burdened.

Although vigilance is important, lest we be caught unprepared by the evil one's wiles, it is also vital that we step back from the front lines periodically for some times of spiritual refreshment and rest. For me, the snare I have frequently fallen into when I am weary is to want to take a vacation from God, rather than with God. Somehow, I think, He is why I'm weary, “doing all this stuff for Him”, so if I'm really going to get rested, I'd better not include Him in my down time.

I have come to see this as a giant mistake because there is no place more refreshing, revitalizing and restful than in the presence of our Lord. Rather than taking a vacation from God, I'm beginning to learn that what I need is a break from the current challenges in the Church and the Communion – not from the Lord of the Church.

These times of refreshing need not be a month's sabbatical or a 60 day cruise. Sometimes, circumstances and our responsibilities may only allow for a few hours, or even moments. But we can still find that rest and revitalization we so desperately need. How? By consciously shifting our focus off “the issues” and on to the Lord Jesus in all His beauty and majesty; by moving into a time of personal worship and thanksgiving.

Let me share how I am personally seeking to achieve this. In the Prayer of Consecration in our Communion service, there is a wonderful phrase that frequently catches my attention: “...that by the merits and death of thy Son, Jesus Christ, and through faith in His blood, we and all thy whole church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.” I often would like to pause the service for a few moments right there in order for us to reflect on all these other benefits. What are they? Have I been missing something? Yes, the remission of our sins is absolutely paramount, and from that incredible gift all others flow, but we can find real refreshment in giving a few moments to meditating on these other benefits. By no means will this be an exhaustive list, and as we celebrate the Thanksgiving season, you may want to compile your own list of “other benefits”, but here are three with which to begin:

#### **Rest**

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

*Matt. 11:28-30 NIV*

This remarkable invitation from the Master, partially quoted in the “Comfortable Words” of our

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Communion service, is the very quintessence of what our weary souls require. It's as if Jesus were saying, "Stop what you're doing for a few moments. Come soak in my love for a while. Let me teach you to be gentle, humble and free from anxiety. Rest is available if you'll stop long enough to embrace it. We share this yoke together, and I will not make it hard for you." An invitation to rest from the only One who can truly provide it – one of those other benefits of His passion.

### **Peace**

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*  
*John 14: 27 NIV*

Once again, the words of our Lord are offering us a gift; this time it's a unique kind of peace. It's the peace that He demonstrated as he slept in the stern of the disciples' fishing boat while they dithered and panicked. Jesus is not offering us the promise of a problem-free life that is always comfortable and serene. No, it's the kind of peace that flows out of an unshakable confidence in God's sovereignty. Jesus knew he was totally safe in the Father's will. And so can we – another benefit of His passion.

### **The Holy Spirit**

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*  
*Acts 1: 8 NIV*

This benefit of his passion is also a gift, but in this case, it's the gift of a Person – the Holy Spirit! Our Lord told His followers that it was good for them that He withdraw His physical presence from them (John 16), so that He could send the "Comforter", the Holy Spirit. I'm sure there were times when they doubted His statement and would have preferred Him to always be physically in their midst. But Jesus knew that the Holy Spirit, resident within the hearts of all true believers, would empower the fledgling church in a way that He could not, confined to a physical body.

Ponder it for a moment – God the Holy Spirit, true and equal member of the Trinity, described by some as God exercising His divine power and prerogatives in our time/space world – this God, dwelling in you and empowering you for obedience and filling you with joy and a passionate love for Jesus beyond anything you could muster on your own! This Holy Spirit took a frightened group of fishermen and social outcasts and transformed them into the most influential humans of all time. He's equally willing to transform a frightened group of Anglican followers today.

Do you see what's happening here? As we briefly meditate on just these three benefits, our hearts are lightened, our souls are beginning to be refreshed, and our perspective restored. Take the time to be refreshed. Step away from battle of intercession and leadership for a few moments. Reflect on your list of "other benefits of his passion", and allow thanksgiving and praise to well up within you. We need to apprehend all that Jesus has provided for us if we are to endure through these days and be able to say with the apostle Paul, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* (2 Tim. 4: 7 NIV). Amen.

**Garth Hunt**

*This article was originally written for the September 2007 Essentials 1<sup>ST</sup> Friday Call to Prayer*

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## **Constancy**

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Dear friends of St Georges

At a recent prayer time, we were exhorted to 'be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is Gods will for you in Christ Jesus: Thessalonians 5 v 18 N.I.V.

Clear and concise instructions from the pen of St Paul, three directives to live by, not laws certainly... not even great commandments which our Lord gave us two... but directives none the less, from a wise and learned Apostle, who taught us by a power much greater than we can possibly imagine.

So let us come daily to our Lord with these positive attitudes: Faith leading the way, trust in a Holy God for our needs, joyful anticipation in how He might address these needs... and prayer. Abiding constant prayer through all circumstances, even affliction, anger or frustration, difficulties of any kind, bring them to our Holy Father, hallowed be His name, He is constant.

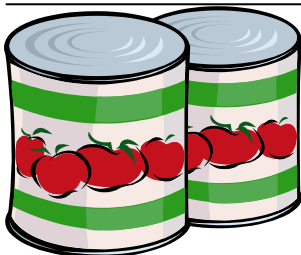
Remember to give thanks and praise, as we have been directed through the beloved Son, our Lord. A huge lesson to us, a message delivered two thousand years ago by a faithful witness, pray that we too will be faithful in our witness, and constant in faith.

*Annette Harris*

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## **ST MATTHEW'S HOUSE - FOOD AND CLOTHING DONATIONS**

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### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ON GOING SUPPORT.**

Just a reminder: non perishable suggested food items of need are:

- Peanut butter
- Pasta
- Macaroni/Kraft Dinner
- Canned fish and meats
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Cereal
- Similac and S.M.A. baby foods
- Soups (all kinds)
- Tomato Sauce
- Pork and Beans
- Canned spaghetti
- Powdered and canned milk
- Baby food
- Diapers (all sizes)

**PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS ARE URGENTLY  
NEEDED**

**Who is the Holy Spirit?  
What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit  
in the Church and in my life?**

**Two Sunday Evening Services**

**Sunday October 14th and 21st  
Beginning at 6:30p**

**Biblical Teaching  
Testimonies  
Prayer**

**Bishop Malcolm Harding will be leading  
preaching and leading the service on  
October 21st**

**Calling All Parishioners.**

**It's finally here!**

**If you have been coming to St. George's  
for 15 weeks or 15 years, you are invited  
to**

**St. George's 101**

**Thursday November 1st, 8th, 15th  
6:30p**

**Who are we?**

**What do we do?**

**What can you expect from St. George's?**

**What does it mean to belong?**

**Dinner and child care will be provided.**

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## A Letter from Edie Rittenger

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Dear friends at St. George's:

Thanksgiving season has always been a very favorite time of year for me. Some of my most treasured memories of my years at St. George's are of the crisp, autumn days; the apples falling from the trees in the orchards; the geese flying overhead; and especially, the drive along the escarpment with all the brilliant colored leaves of autumn. I also miss the Thanksgiving services of worship which we held together. I thank God for these memories, and I especially thank God for all of you who still so faithfully pray and support me and my ministry here in Vancouver. I trust you all had a happy and blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

I have just returned from a weekend away with a group of women from downtown Bible Study groups. We go annually to the home of a dear friend on the Sunshine Coast - a ferry ride and an hour's drive away from the hubbub of Vancouver. As usual, it was a wonderful time of opening God's Word together. This year, we studied "pain and suffering - why does God allow it?". We all agreed it was one of the most meaningful times we have had together.

Last week we held the Kick-off presentation to the larger Vancouver Christian community of our official partnership with VANOC (the Vancouver Olympic Committee). They have graciously entered into an agreement with us, and we, the Christian community, have been given responsibility for home stay for the athlete's families; chaplaincy and ministry; transportation; and volunteering at the more than 80 venues of the Games. This is truly an exciting opportunity for all the denominations to work together to ensure that God be glorified in the 2010 Games. You will be hearing more from me on this as time goes on.

Now, I have a big prayer request for all of you. On Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, I leave for Kabul, Afghanistan for a 4-day Official Visit on behalf of Health Partners International (of which I am Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors). At the request of the Canadian Government, we are undertaking a 5-year programme of providing all the medicines and equipment for a new Womens & Childrens Hospital in Kabul which has been built by a Canadian Foundation. This will entail meetings with the Minister of Health, the World Health Organization, and almost certainly President Kharzai (briefly). Please pray for the safety and success of our Mission. We return to Canada on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

I continue to thank God for you in my prayers,

With love, in Christ

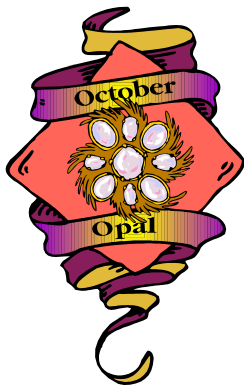
**Edie**

# October 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	<p>Because of the numerous and constant changes made to our schedule we are discontinuing the calendar in <b>by George.</b></p> <p>If possible please refer to the St. Georges Website for full details of our timetable.</p> <p><i><b>alternatively</b></i></p> <p>Details will be published on the weekly bulletin insert.</p>					
14						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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*"I was glad when they said unto me,  
"Let us go into the house of the Lord" Psalm 122:1*

### Some Upcoming Dates



*Contact Church  
Office for further  
details*

**Services are for the  
whole family and  
everyone is  
welcome.**

#### Sunday Morning

8:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion

10:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion

10:30 am (Downstairs)  
Family Service

#### Nursery and Sunday School

for children up to age 11 and  
Youth Program for grade 7 to  
12 during the 10:30 service

#### Sunday Evenings:

As announced – call the office  
for information

October 14th Sunday	Who is The Holy Spirit? See page 20
October 21st Sunday	Who is The Holy Spirit? See page 20
November 1st, 8th & 15th - Thursdays	All about St. George's See page 21