



# St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

## Weekly Newsletter

May 22, 2020

Dear friends,

Welcome to the tenth edition of our weekly newsletter.

We expect this newsletter to continue as long as

we cannot meet in person. A limited number of paper copies will be placed at the link doors for people who do not have access to email.

### A Message from Fr Julian

*Dear Friends*

*I arrived at St. Mark's Church last year November. The time so far has been nothing short of changes. New people. New liturgy. New choir. New Coffee Hour. New Sunday School. New storytellers. New everything! And now throughout the world we are contending with this plague called Coronavirus or Covid-19.*

*In this time of newness, I was helped by many of you. As a result, wonderful relationships started to bud. Covid-19 came and put a pause in it. Nevertheless, I want to get to know many of you even more. One of my "sins" is impatience. That means, I can't wait until the end of the pandemic to nurture our relationships.*

*Currently, St. Mark hosts a weekly Morning Prayer via YouTube. I want to use this platform to know you a little more through "Shoutout." At the beginning of each service special mention will be made to bring attention to your birthdays,*

*anniversaries, and any other special occasion/s in your life. If you are interested in being a part, you can do the following:*

- 1. Call the office at 613-224-7431  
or Email the office at [stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca](mailto:stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca)*
- 2. Leave your name and the event you wish to be mentioned*

*I will be happy to hear from you all, as we further bond as a community. In the meantime, please remain safe as we continue to pray for each other.*

*Peace,*

*Fr. Julian*

### Next Sunday's Service

We are looking for people who would be willing to read a couple of lines from the first reading next Sunday in a language other than English. You would need to submit a short video by Tuesday of next week. If you are interested, please contact the office in a timely fashion and details will be supplied.

### Sunday Morning Service

Although we cannot attend Sunday morning worship, we have put together a recording for May 24. It should arrive in your inbox on May 23.

Accompanying the recording will be a file which has the complete service including the readings if you would like to read them. Unfortunately, the sermon will not be transcribed and you will need to listen to the video to hear it. Many, many thanks to Alex Dee who is doing the video production for this endeavour.

Because of the method of recording different sections at different times and then melding them together, we are able to follow the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa guidelines on Physical Distancing. There are no more than three of us in the church at any one time and we maintain a distance of 2m between us.

### Update on Sewing for Ottawa

By May 19, all frontline requests had been filled. This was over 20,000 items donated in 6 weeks including 7,048 scrub caps, 7,041 headbands and 5,239 masks. Sewing for Ottawa is now on to Phase 2. It is working with Ottawa Public Health to provide fabric masks to people in need.

### Fabric Face Masks

There is a certain amount of distrust in North America of people covering their faces, even with masks, unless they are in a job which makes it prudent. It may be something we all have to grapple with in the new “normal”. As you may have seen in the news, masks are becoming part of the strategy for re-opening the Province and some stores are starting to require masks for you to enter.

If anyone would like a fabric mask, there are sewers at St Mark's who can make you one. Just let the office know. It has been taking just over a week to fill the orders so don't give up if you have ordered.

### Sharing Coffee Hour

If you would like to share a photo, a recipe of what you would have made for coffee hour and/or a short hello message with a few details of what you've been up to is then you are welcome to do so. The editor will not seek out people but would be happy to receive submissions.

### Coffee Hour with Coralie Sheehan

Hello, everyone. I miss choir very much, but Ariane has been “holding” choir meetings by Zoom so we can chat. We have also learned a couple of new short hymns. When

not ‘zooming’ choir or our daughters, I have been keeping busy with various other activities.

In the past few years I have done a lot of work on my family tree, but have not kept up with other people's research that verifies what I have found. COVID-19 has given me time to do so.....it is satisfying, albeit very time consuming.

Time has been aplenty for reading. I have revisited favourite Jane Austen classics and a wonderful book by ‘Canada's word lady’, Katherine Barber called *Six Words You Never Knew Had Something to do with Pigs*, as well as books I have been meaning to read such as *Planet Simpson: How a Cartoon Masterpiece Documented an Era and Defined a Generation* by Chris Turner. I have also done some relaxing colouring in a Pop Manga book of mermaids and other sea creatures. During fine weather I have also taken walks around the neighbourhood admiring beautification efforts by many. These past 10 weeks, I have spent many an evening watching the Metropolitan Opera streaming of their HD productions from both past and present. It was great to hear some retired singers in their prime. Summer is coming, we hope, so I am preparing by making a new dress and skirt.

Hope all of you keep well in these perilous times.

Best wishes,

Coralie

### Coffee Hour with Laurie Slaughter

“From Boomer to Zoomer”

It started out slowly and peacefully. After a late winter cruise and coming home with a cold (not the dreaded virus!), I was told to stay inside and recoup for two weeks. I did and then, just when I had recovered, we all were asked to stay inside and not come out. I thus started to isolate in earnest. I optimistically

created my list – clean out and make new files (and dust my office!); clean out and purge my clothes closet; clean out my kitchen cupboards and front hall closet. I should have known.

My life slowly started to become one of zooming ---.

First our condo board, and I am secretary (what was I thinking at the time!), had to have our meetings online on Zoom, so I learned to join the meeting. It wasn't just our monthly meetings, but meetings about our postponed major building projects, plus other things, as well as numerous meetings about notices to the residents of our 80 unit building about distancing, being alone on the elevator and not congregating in the lobby, keeping them updated about new protocols for multi-unit dwellings and many other things. That was just the start of my transition into being a Zoomer online ( and I thought that I was a Zoomer because I belong to the organization called CARP which refers to all people over 55 as Zoomers ).

Then my friend suggested that four of our original, now defunct book club, meet on Zoom as a revitalized book group. We would still be called "Wine, Women and Words" and still meet, on Zoom!, with wine in hand. We have read and discussed our first book and I recommend, "Albatross" by Terry Fallis. If you have ever read any of his books for which he has received the Stephen Leacock award for humor twice, you might like this one – about a golfing prodigy who would rather be a successful creative writer, its philosophical undertones are thought-provoking.

Then my music teacher suggested that we continue our weekly lessons as I struggle to relearn the flute, by Zoom, what else. It is working very well. I put my phone on the music stand and she says that she is pleased by how well she can see me (hearing what I play is another matter!). I am busy learning to play Morning has Broken by heart.

Finally, my lawyer asked me to meet with him on Zoom so that he and his wife could watch me virtually sign documents (new legislation for wills). That took an hour and a half to complete!

I am now a Zoomer and proud of it.

One more thing I'd like to share – I have been plagued by pigeons on my condo balcony. I seriously thought that they might tip me over the edge. I was chasing them away every 30 seconds and I am not exaggerating. However, my PUPP ( Pick Up Pigeon Poop) Patrol came to the rescue. I want to give credit where it is due. Rob got tired of hearing my frustration and over he went with scraper, scrub brush, disinfectant spray and floor washer and spent three hours making my balcony pristine. In the process we found a nest and baby chicks under my chaise lounge chair cover (you don't want to know). I am eternally grateful. Now I have a device that emits a sound humans can't hear but they hate, so they stay away and I am happy. There are happy moments in all this.

I hope that you all are doing well staying safe and distancing. It is hard not to see everyone on Sundays and like Penny, I miss Coffee, Company and Conversation so much. I stay in touch with some of our regulars and we all look forward to coming together again when it is safe in happier times.

"We'll meet again ---"

Laurie Slaughter

### **Coffee Hour with Wanda Bowman**

Hi everyone:

I do miss our Church Family and Coffee Hour which gives us the opportunity to chat or to browse over the extensive collection of books which one might like to read. This has been a marvelous fundraiser.

I miss CCC as well that has granted ours and the community Seniors a chance to get together once a week to hear a Speaker/Musicians/Games or to just Chat.

Thanks to Laurie Slaughter and her Team who worked so hard to make this endeavour happen.

As for me, I, like many of you who are in lockdown due to COVID 19, am taking advantage of this time to Spring Clean. House Purging, or you might have found some heirloom that had been packed away some time ago, which gave you time to reminisce. Or you may want to redesign your gardens or re-landscape your space outside or whatever you desire. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Wanda.

## Coffee Hour with the Barbers

The Barbers: Karen, Koko (our puggle) and Bill (last in the pecking order) are as most of us spending an inordinate amount of time at home.

Every Christmas I get Karen a jigsaw puzzle which are now being redone and she is currently working on one dated 1983. They are probably worth a few bucks on e-bay since there is apparently a run on jigsaw puzzles.

Bill has cut out the cryptic crossword puzzle in the Globe and Mail over the years and put them in a filing cabinet. Since I was working I normally only did the Saturday one. Somehow I stopped doing them regularly after retiring. Now I am taking them out of the cabinet and am currently working on one dated Wednesday, November 15, 2000. The difficulty is that some of the clues refer to events and people going back twenty years.

Farmer Bill starts tomato and zucchini plants which are in the process of being planted. We have problems with squirrels which seem to enjoy taking a nibble out of the zucchini. I am sure that they are deeply concerned for

our welfare and making sure we don't eat a poisonous zucchini.

Speaking of farmers I remember reading about a roadside stand west of Toronto, Farmer John's. His prices were higher than at the grocery store but hey you are getting fresh stuff from his farm. This worked well until someone saw Farmer John at the Kensington Market in Toronto loading up with fruit and vegetables.

When I could, I would listen to NPR, (National Public Radio) and they had a morning program "The Writers' Almanac", a program about historical literature events occurring relevant to the day. However, the

program always closed with words which I think is very appropriate for us today:

"Be well, do good works, and keep in touch".

The Barbers

And now, from Karen, a divertissement that she hopes you will all enjoy. It was sent by a friend in the Twelfth Night Society to which we belong.

**These constant prods to do something...are becoming a**

**real irritant**

*Bill Richardson, special to CBC Radio*

At this point in the proceedings — and I say this as someone who is, like, broke — I would cut a highly interesting cheque to someone who could invent an app that would take up residence in my various devices and would act, essentially, as an antibody. It would identify as a pathogen and seek out and fry to a frazzle any reference made for any reason to how William Shakespeare, locked down owing to Bubonic Plague, in 1606, made good use of his time and wrote *King Lear*.

These reminders, unbidden, popped up in the very early days of the COVID-19 crisis and are still coming thick and fast, on Facebook,



on Twitter. And I find them about as interesting and as helpful as hearing from people who, learning that I can invest 45 minutes of sweaty intensity to fret over the placement of a semi-colon, reply by saying that Mel Torme wrote *The Christmas Song* in 15 minutes. I smile, of course, and nod admiringly, but really I'm imagining them as chestnuts roasting very slowly on an open fire.

The only fairy who was present at my christening was the one in charge of nothing. At nothing I have always been, for as long as I can remember, terrific. In fact, I have a kind genius where doing nothing is concerned. If nothing were an Olympic sport, I'd be preparing to go for yet another gold in Tokyo in, as things now stand, 2021. Believe me, I do not celebrate the horrible circumstances that have latterly found us, but nor can I change them, and I am using this unmasked-for time away from time to deepen my connection with nothing. My relationship with nothing is an active one, and these constant prods to do something — Write *King Lear*, why don't cha? — are becoming a real irritant.

I think about Shakespeare. I wonder if he said, "Oh, golly, Bubonic plague, that's nasty, best stay inside for a stretch," all the while rubbing together his hands — slathered with sanitizer — and thinking, "Oh, goodie, I'll write me up that *King Lear* business I've been musing on." Shakespeare had no social media with which to contend, but perhaps he had to put up with an Elizabethan equivalent to the goads to activity, to which we're all now prey. Was Anne Hathaway forever coming down to his Bard Cave, entering without knocking just when the iambic pentameter was primed to boil, and saying, "My God, do you know what I've just heard they're up to over at the Walter Raleighs'? They're making kimchi *and* kombucha. Remember how I told you that fermenting was going to catch on and that we should pick up some Mason jars, crocks, air locks and such like. But no, no, it wasn't as you liked it, and look at us now."

Did Shakespeare go out for his one sanctioned walk a day and pass by Francis Bacon, standing on his porch with fresh baked bread? "Hey, Will, look at this, sourdough, right out of the oven, the starter's been in the family since 1066. What are you up to during your time off?" Did Christopher Marlowe lean from the window and hold up a six-foot muff? "Look! I've been learning to knit! Say, have you heard about Spenser? He's doing a daily poetry reading! And Philip Sidney has started a chain letter! I'm sure it'll be coming your way any day now!"

Did Shakespeare just nod and wave and preserve a social distance? Did he ever think, as he hurried home, that future bright lights, members of the Modern Language Association, would impute authorship to all his neighbours, the ones who made good use of their time during the shutdown? I think of Shakespeare now, as eager to get back to Lear as I am to my own primary business, the cultivating of nothing. I think of him giving up, going home, head down, muttering, working out a sonnet that would be among the many used for sandwich wrap. Did it go like this?

*Shall I continue with this bummer play?  
Or learn to throw a pot, or else to tat?  
Shall I relax and loosen up my stays,  
And set aside this royal family spat?  
Who cares if old men rage upon a heath?  
I'll buy a brewing kit, and make some beer!  
Far better that than that I should bequeath  
Posterity the story of King Lear.  
But wait! This plague shall pass, the world resume.  
Perhaps I'd best ferment my yeasty rhymes;  
In future troubled times, then, they'll exhume  
The tale of how Will Shakespeare spent his time.*

I end this, in Vancouver, with contrition:  
Bill Richardson for the Sunday Edition.

### Nepean Neighbours Helping Neighbours

We offer the following services; Grocery Pickup & Delivery (pre-ordered online is preferred), Pharmacy/Prescription Pickup &

Delivery, Dog Walking and Pet Supply Pickup & Delivery. Individuals can fill out a "Service Request Form" letting us know how to best support them at the following link:

<https://airtable.com/shrvf9b0dXVSI4Wne>

or, if preferred, reach us by phone at 613-212-0054. We can also be emailed directly at [nepean.neighbours@gmail.com](mailto:nepean.neighbours@gmail.com). More information along with our contact details and links to the form can be found in our Facebook group "Nepean COVID-19 Neighbours Helping Neighbours". We also have a donations fund that can be used to help subsidize groceries for those who cannot afford them.

Thank you,

Sheridan

The Nepean Neighbours Team

### **Lenten Outreach – It's not too late!**

As part of our Lenten programme since 1999, St Mark's has suggested various outreach initiatives to which parishioners could consider making a donation. For 2020 there were 2 projects proposed: PWRDF's *Gifts of Food Security and Livestock* and Multi-Faith Housing's *Veteran's House project*.

For PWRDF's *Gifts of Food Security and Livestock*, donations would go toward supporting farmers from countries like Tanzania, Uganda and Columbia by providing farm animals, seeds, organic farm supplies, or farm tools.

Donations to the Veteran's House project would go toward the building of Canada's first community house for homeless veterans, which will combine safe housing with essential on-site rehabilitation services. It was announced on CBC this week that the completion of the project has been moved from November 2020 to early in 2021 due to a slowdown in anticipated donations.

As of the end of April, Lenten Outreach donations sat at \$400 for the PWRDF project and \$450 for the Veteran's House project.

And although Lent is now behind us, these donations have not yet been passed on to PWRDF and Multi-Faith Housing. Thus, it is not too late for you to make a donation to either or both of them through St Mark's.

### **Donations to the Church**

We are extremely fortunate at St Mark's that there are a number of people who use Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). That gives us some source of income during this time that there is no public worship. If you are not on PAR, we would encourage you to continue your donations. Of course, putting a cheque in the mail is always a great option for getting your donation to us. If you wish to make a donation by credit card, you may do so at CanadaHelps.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47820>.

You will have to remember when you go to do your taxes for 2020 where you have put your receipts from CanadaHelps. If you cannot find them, contact CanadaHelps and they will be happy to issue duplicate receipts. All money donated will be put in to the appropriate income category when it comes to us.

### **Contacting the Church**

Contacting the office has actually not changed at all. You may contact the office at 613-224-7431 or [stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca](mailto:stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca).

Messages are being monitored and the business of the church is continuing, albeit remotely.

### **Comments and Suggestions**

If you have anything you would like to see in next week's newsletter, please email the church at [stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca](mailto:stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca).

May 22, 2020

We will end with some beautiful tulip pictures from Dow's Lake supplied by Joanne Pagani.

