



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Weekly Newsletter

Dear friends,

Welcome to the twenty fourth edition of our weekly newsletter. We are continuing the weekly newsletter for the

foreseeable future. A limited number of paper copies will be placed at the link doors for people who do not have access to email.

“Shout Outs”

If you would like some special occasion like an anniversary or birthday acknowledged in the Sunday service, Fr Julian will be more than happy to announce it. However, it must be into either Father Julian or the office by Tuesday noon for it to be included in the service for the following Sunday.

- Carolyn & Peter Findlay celebrated their 14th Wedding Anniversary on September 9.
- Julie and Nathan Pilson, celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary on September 11
- Joy Bowerman celebrates her birthday on September 14
- Madeline and Penelope Close celebrate their 13th birthday on September 17th

Sunday Services

WOW! What a great return to worship. We have been waiting for this event for what seems like forever. Thanks to everyone who joined us. There were 32 people in attendance. There are lots of new instructions, new rules to keep us safe and the lessons learned on how to give a virtual welcome. Thanks to all who pre-registered, it certainly helps us to maintain our 50 person maximum capacity. Thanks also to all the volunteers that made sure of the cleanliness of the church and the safety of all whom participated in our first in-person worship since March.

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Please remember to let the office know if you would like to attend the service. Although walk-ins are allowed, there is a strict limit of 50 people in the building.

The Pandemic Planning Committee has prepared a [Reopening Brochure](#) with [Re-Opening Q & A](#). The Q & A has been updated. These updates can be found later in the newsletter. For those of you who would like to have more information on what we are doing as a diocese, there is a [Re-Opening Summary](#). The full Diocesan Plan is available at [Diocesan Plan - In This Together](#).

Video Morning Prayer Service

Morning Prayer services will continue for the foreseeable future. As usual, you should receive an email with a link to the service and the bulletin on Saturday.

Many, many thanks to Alex Dee who is doing the video editing for this endeavour.

Volunteers honoured by Perley-Rideau Veterans’ Health Centre

This week, two of our members were visited by staff from the Perley-Rideau to honour their long-time volunteer service to the PRVHC. Sheila Pitt was given a certificate and pin to celebrate her 20 years of service.



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Helen McGill was also visited and honoured for her 15 years of service.



Food Donations for the Ottawa Food Bank/Debra Dynes Family House

Please bring your items to Sunday Service. There will be a bin in the link area for this purpose. If you want to donate but cannot make it to the church, please call the office to request pick up.

Items always needed are white rice, dried or canned beans, soups, stews, lentils, pasta and pasta sauces, canned tomatoes, canned fish, peanut butter, personal hygiene products, etc.

The Ottawa Food Bank provides food and supplies for over 39,000 people every month. The number of food bank clients who walked through their doors doubled in April at the height of COVID-19, and has yet to dip back below those pre-pandemic numbers. It is predicted that this trend will continue for the DDFH Emergency Food Bank program (and for most food bank programs across the city) as benefits come to an end, rent remains high, and people struggle to once again find secure work.

Thank you for supporting this worthy cause. Life remains a challenge for those who live in poverty or are the working poor.

If you wish to make an online donation, you may do so at

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13770>

Fabric Face Masks

Face masks are now required in Ottawa at all indoor public spaces.

If anyone would like a fabric mask, there are sewers at St Mark's who can make you one. Just let the office know.

Updates to Re-opening Q & A

Q: Should I wear my mask all the time?

A: Yes, you need to put your mask on fully at all times. The mask should cover your nose, your mouth and your chin.

Q: Am I allowed to talk to other parishioners?

A: Yes, you are allowed to converse but this should be kept to the exterior of the church building.

Q: Why are the windows open when it is cold outside?

A: Ventilation is very important for reducing the risk of COVID infection so we will keep the windows open as often as we can (weather permitting). So please dress warmly when coming to church.

Q: Is the Church building open for renters and other groups to use the premises?

A: Not at this point in time. We are still working on a plan to enable renters/groups to use the church building safely.

Creation Season

Creation Season runs from September 1 to October 4 (which is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi). Following the lead of the World Council of Churches, Christians around the world have added creation season to their calendars. General Synod 2019 passed a resolution adopting the Season of Creation in the Anglican Church of Canada as a time of prayer, education, and action. You may see words from our Primate and the resolution

passed by general synod [here](#). At St Mark's, we have recognized Creation Season since 2015 and for the past two years a series of inserts has been prepared to highlight environmental issues. This year we are looking at Creation Season in our on-line services and the newsletter will highlight an issue week by week. This week we will look at a topic that Fr Julian brought up in his sermon last week – Deforestation.

Deforestation

Deforestation is the permanent removal of trees to make room for something besides forest. This can include clearing the land for agriculture or grazing, or using the timber for fuel, construction or manufacturing.

Forests cover more than 30% of the Earth's land surface, according to the World Wildlife Fund. These forested areas can provide food, medicine and fuel for more than a billion people. Worldwide, forests provide 13.4 million people with jobs in the forest sector, and another 41 million people have jobs related to forests.

In North America, about half the forests in the eastern part of the continent were cut down for timber and farming between the 1600s and late 1800s, according to National Geographic.

Today, most deforestation is happening in the tropics. Areas that were inaccessible in the past are now within reach as new roads are constructed through the dense forests. Check out this video that shows LandSat images of the Amazon from 1975 to 2012 [Amazon Deforestation](#).

Natural fires in tropical forests tend to be rare but intense. Human-lit fires are commonly used to clear land for agricultural use. First, valuable timber is harvested, then the remaining vegetation is burned to make way for crops like soy or cattle grazing. In 2019, the number of human-lit fires in Brazil skyrocketed. As of August 2019, more than 80,000 fires burned in the Amazon, an

increase of almost 80% from 2018, National Geographic reported.

Many forests are cleared to make way for palm oil plantations. Palm oil is the most commonly produced vegetable oil and is found in half of all supermarket products. It's cheap, versatile and can be added to both food and personal products like lipsticks and shampoo. Its popularity has spurred people to clear tropical forests to grow more palm trees. Growing the trees that produce the oil requires the leveling of native forest and the destruction of local peatlands — which doubles the harmful effect on the ecosystem.

Forests can be found from the tropics to high-latitude areas. They are home to 80% of terrestrial biodiversity, containing a wide array of trees, plants, animals and microbes, according to the World Bank, an international financial institution.

Forests provide more than a home for a diverse collection of living things; they are also an important resource for many around the world.

According to a 2018 FAO report, three-quarters of the Earth's freshwater comes from forested watersheds, and the loss of trees can affect water quality. The UN's 2018 State of the World's Forests report found that over half the global population relies on forested watersheds for their drinking water as well as water used for agriculture and industry.

Deforestation in tropical regions can also affect the way water vapor is produced over the canopy, which causes reduced rainfall. A 2019 study published in the journal *Ecohydrology* showed that parts of the Amazon rainforest that were converted to agricultural land had higher soil and air temperatures, which can exacerbate drought conditions. In comparison, forested land had rates of evapotranspiration that were about three times higher, adding more water vapor to the air.

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Trees also absorb carbon dioxide, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activity. As climate change continues, trees play an important role in carbon sequestration, or the capture and storage of excess carbon dioxide. Tropical trees alone are estimated to provide about 23% of the climate mitigation that's needed to offset climate change, according to the World Resources Institute, a nonprofit global research institute.

Deforestation not only removes vegetation that is important for removing carbon dioxide from the air, but the act of clearing the forests also produces greenhouse gas emissions. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations says that deforestation is the second-leading cause of climate change. (The first is the burning of fossil fuels.) In fact, deforestation accounts for nearly 20% of greenhouse gas emissions.

Developing alternatives to deforestation can help decrease the need for tree clearing. For example, the desire to expand the amount of land used for agriculture is an attractive reason to deforest an area. But if people adopted sustainable farming practices or employed new farming technologies and crops, the need for more land might be diminished, according to the UN's Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox.

Forests can also be restored, through replanting trees in cleared areas or simply allowing the forest ecosystem to regenerate over time. The goal of restoration is to return the forest to its original state, before it was cleared, according to the U.S. Forest Service. The sooner a cleared area is reforested, the quicker the ecosystem can start to repair itself. Afterward, wildlife will return, water systems will reestablish, carbon will be sequestered and soils will be replenished.

Everyone can do their part to curb deforestation. We can buy certified wood products, go paperless whenever possible, limit our consumption of products that use palm oil and plant a tree when possible.

(Source: <https://www.livescience.com/27692-deforestation.html>)

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, then you are welcome to do so. The editor will not seek out people but would be happy to receive submissions.

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. 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.