



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Weekly Newsletter

September 25, 2020

Dear friends,

show up and get turned away at the door. And don't forget your mask!

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

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](#).

future.

“Shout Outs”

Video Morning Prayer Service

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.

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.

- Frank Branker celebrated his birthday on September 18
- Yvonne Temple celebrates her 72nd birthday on September 30

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

Reflection on Last Week's Gospel

Sunday Services

Three in-person services are now under our belt! We have had around 30 people at each one, all with masks on and doing a great job of physical distancing! For these services, the Team put in place measures that followed the evolving Diocesan Covid-19 plan and requirements from public health authorities. This is still a work in progress! We are implementing changes that will help with the comfort levels of attendees, to the extent possible within the regulations. For instance, you will now see that you can choose a seat closer to your favorite pew, and still be physically distanced. And you won't be quite so chilly as last Sunday, with the windows open for ventilation, since we have remembered to request that the furnaces be turned on. The fourth in-person service will be on September 27. With a strict 50-person limit on attendees, we request that you pre-register if you wish to attend, so you don't

Our theological student, Stephanie MacWatt, preached last Sunday morning. For those who were not there on Sunday morning, here is an excerpt from her sermon. Last week's gospel was the story of the vineyard owner, who hired labourers throughout the day and at the end of the day, gave them all the same wage.

The Gospel writer places this parable after an interaction between Jesus and His disciples asking who was the greatest, the parable of the lost sheep, and immediately after the story of the rich young man. This placement I think is really important – it is setting the stage for what this parable is presenting: God's radical generosity and His expectations for us, His children.

Every day when we wake up, we are witnesses to God's unbelievable generosity through His Creation. He has created this world for us, the pinnacle of His creation, to enjoy and to steward. Jesus points out the generosity and

provision of God in Matthew 6 when He points out that neither birds nor flowers toil for their food or 'clothes'. In this parable of the workers, the owner paid all of the workers the same regardless of how long they worked. What were his motivations for this? In this parable, the vineyard owner is representing God – so we can draw a conclusion that he desired that all have enough to feed their families that day regardless of their capabilities to work or the length of time they worked. This is where the conflicting emotions come out – there is a part of me that objects with those hired at the first hour – that's not fair! I worked so much longer and suffered so much more! This, I think, is "human nature" – we want things to be fair, especially if we are the ones being "cheated" (at least in our minds). Perhaps we have been in a situation like the workers hired at the eleventh hour – not expecting to get the same, but hoping for something and then being overwhelmed when we are treated the same as the others. How can we respond to this?

It is from here that we move to the theme of this week – generosity. The vineyard owner acted out of radical generosity. I speak now as a business owner – I would be hard pressed to operate my farm business on a similar basis. Paying a worker for twelve hours of work when they only actually did one hour? I would not stay in business long. This is the reality of today's business – but thank God it is not the reality of our God. A question that I want to pose to us today though is not "are we generous?" but "is it enough to just give?"

Jesus warns His followers during His sermon on the Mount about practising our righteousness before others in a "look at me" kind of approach. Paul admonishes his readers that "God loves a cheerful giver" in 2 Corinthians. Paul further admonishes his readers in Galatia that we ought not to seek the approval of people, but of God. Examining these verses as well as others, points to the fact that God does not just

expect us to give to those in need generously, but to do so with the correct motivations.

God desires us to model our generosity after His generosity towards us. In this creation He has provided for all of our needs and more, however in too many times and situations we have not stewarded His creation in a worthy manner. Instead of safeguarding the resources of this world, we have obliterated them. Instead of nurturing the earth we have neglected it. Where there should be abundance, there is scarcity. This is the heart motivation of the worker who worked the whole twelve hours, when he objected to the landowner's generosity to those who hadn't.

This parable teaches about not only God's unbelievable generosity but also His unmerited grace – as well as His valuation of all lives. By paying the one-hour workers the same as those who toiled all day, he is declaring that all of the workers have the same value. The danger here is that those who toiled all day would focus on their perception of being "cheaped" instead of rejoicing that all have value – this is the difference between the generosity of the world and the generosity of God. How do we react when we hear that someone has been unexpectedly treated in a manner that is not equal to their perceived worth?

In this parable, Jesus is addressing who belongs in the kingdom of heaven – where even those who "only work one hour" have equal footing to those who have "worked the whole twelve hours". Where there is no special award for those who toiled the longest, where regardless of one's abilities there is a place for all. Jesus is talking here how one cannot earn God's favor – rather it is something that is freely given to all who come to work in the "vineyard".

How can we apply the lessons found within this parable? One obvious way is to examine our motivations of our various generous offerings. Are we giving to gain the approval of people, or because we are responding to

God's generosity to us and we desire to worship Him through our gifts? Are we aware of those around us who might be a "one-hour" worker? Are we concerned for their welfare, that they have enough to feed themselves each day? Do we work to ensure equal treatment of them? Are we resentful when someone seems to be getting more than their share? Where is our heart and what are our heart motivations?

God desires us to model our generosity after His – by within our means, providing for those who do not have the same us, by welcoming those who are newcomers and by having a heart motivation that is first focused on others and not on ourselves.

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, rents remain 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.

Calendars

Calendars have been ordered for the coming year. At last, after a lot of work by Margaret Lodge, our church photo is in for the month of May. Calendars are \$6.00, the same as last year.

They can be ordered from Cynthia Greer, at 613-723-2680 or from the office at 613-224-7431, stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca.



May 2021							2021 mai																						
																													
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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.

Covid 19 and Waste

One of the aspects of the pandemic that may not have received a lot of attention is the impact on the amount of waste being generated. In the early days of the pandemic, waste production rose dramatically. On April 30, CTV news reported that Ottawa had seen a considerable increase in the tonnage of garbage collected. For the week of April 6, there was a 333% increase in the amount of waste in the green bins and similarly, a 25% increase in the amount of garbage left at the curb. This has probably levelled off some after the initial frenzy of cleaning that went on at the beginning of the lockdown.

Medical waste has increased by a staggering amount. The June 26 issue of Science published an article by You et al which found that the medical waste generated in Wuhan during the pandemic had increased from the usual 40 to 50 tons/day to a whopping 247 tons/day on March 1. The staggering increase in the production of waste has been made worse by stresses on the waste collection system due to worker illness and other restrictions in operation.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Website shows several effects of the pandemic on solid waste collection in Ontario. It appears that overall commercial waste is down. Restaurant waste appears down in excess of 70 percent, and manufacturing waste down by roughly 15 percent. However, food processing and grocery store waste is up in excess of 20 percent. Anecdotal information also suggests that biomedical and healthcare waste tonnage has increased considerably as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On September 1, CBC aired a radio program called "the Summer of too much waste", a phone-in show discussing the amount of waste generated during the summer of 2020.

[Ontario Today Summer of Too Much Waste](#)



Some of us have probably seen images showing one of the most visible waste problems of the pandemic: discarded masks and other PPE. An article in The Conversation stated that in March, on Hong Kong's small and uninhabited Soko Islands, a conservationist counted 70 discarded masks on a 100 m stretch of a beach. A week later, he discovered another 30 masks there. On other beaches around Hong Kong plastic pollution from face masks reached similar levels.

In March, the World Health Organization estimated that 89 million additional disposable masks were needed globally per month in medical settings to combat COVID-19. In addition, a recent working paper by the Plastic Waste Innovation Hub at University College

London has put the current domestic demand for the UK at 24.7 billion masks a year. However, the demand for domestic face masks in the UK drops dramatically – to around 136 million a year – if only reusable masks are used.

But even with reusable masks, their specific design and how you choose to clean them makes a difference. The University College London team examined the manufacture, use and disposal of masks that were disposable, reusable, and reusable with disposable filters, to calculate their overall environmental impact. They found machine washing reusable masks with no filters had the lowest impact over a year.

As well as having a lower environmental impact, reusable masks are often a lot more fashionable too.

Hand washing masks increased the environmental impact as – while machine washing uses electricity – manual washing uses more water and detergent for each mask. Disposable filters also increase the environmental impact because the small filters are often made from plastic similar to the disposable masks, with a filter discarded after every use.

Perhaps surprisingly, the working paper estimates that hand washing reusable masks with disposable filters had the highest environmental impact overall – higher even than using fully disposable masks.

With all of this in mind, we should take these steps to reduce the impact of wearing a face mask:

1. Use reusable masks without disposable filters. Machine wash them regularly following the instructions for the fabric.
2. Try to carry a spare, so if something goes wrong with the one you're wearing, you don't need to use or buy a disposable mask.
3. If you do need to use a disposable mask, take it home (maybe in a bag if you have to

take it off) and then put it straight into a bin with a lid. If this isn't possible, place it in a proper public bin.

4 Don't put disposable masks in the recycling. They can get caught in specialist recycling equipment and be a potential biohazard to waste workers.

5. Whatever you do, don't litter them!

Sources:

<https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-face-masks-an-environmental-disaster-that-might-last-generations-144328>

<https://www.sustainability-times.com/environmental-protection/the-covid-19-outbreak-is-adding-to-plastic-pollution/#disqus>

<https://www.solidwastemag.com/municipal-waste/ontario-residents-generate-more-garbage-during-pandemic/1003283746/>

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6498/1438.1>

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). 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

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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.

Help the Community Ministries of Ottawa Build a Community of Hope!

Participate in a virtual Fundraiser and Silent Auction, replacing the annual Breakfast of Hope, for our Today 4 Tomorrow partners – The Community Ministries of Ottawa. They are five Anglican social service agencies that serve so many people struggling with poverty, homelessness and mental health issues: Centre 454, Cornerstone Housing for Women, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, St Luke's Table and The Well.

This virtual event and silent auction will feature a panel moderated by our Bishop – The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker – to answer questions about how the Community Ministries are responding to COVID-19 to care for the people who are most at risk. Along with a pre-recorded video from Dr. Vera Etches (Medical Officer of Health – Ottawa Public Health), the panelists are: The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter John Hobbs (Director of Community Ministries), Martine Dore (Executive Director, Cornerstone Housing for Women), Rachel Robinson (Executive Director, Centre 454, St Luke's Table and The Well Day Programs), Sharon York (Executive Director, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre), Kaitie Burkholder Harris (Executive Director, Alliance to End Homelessness), Catherine McKenney (Ottawa City Councillor, Somerset Ward) and Kim Van Herk (RN, Ottawa Inner City Health).

**TODAY 4
TOMORROW**



Please register at this link, www.todayfortomorrow.ca/event-registration, to receive more information about the event, silent auction and how you can help.

WWW.TODAYFORTOMORROW.CA

Hold the date for the Building a Community of Hope Virtual Fundraiser and Silent Auction for the Community Ministries of Ottawa

(Replaces the Breakfast of Hope)

**OCTOBER 15, 2020
12:30pm - 1:15 pm**

Our Community Ministries have done so much to quickly and compassionately adjust their services to help the people who are most vulnerable during this time. Here's how you can support the Community Ministries to take care of people in the midst of this pandemic:

Register for the Building a Community of Hope fundraiser and silent auction at www.todayfortomorrow.ca/event-registration

Make a monthly or one-time donation at www.todayfortomorrow.ca/make-a-gift

Look for the brochure inserted in October Crosstalk and send in a donation in the postage paid envelope

Your event registration will give you access to early bidding opportunities for our extensive silent auction of 40+ items.

Charitable Registration Number: 108084658 RR0030