



Mark This Word

The Parish Newsletter of St Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa
Anglican Church of Canada

Issue number 39

Lent 2016

Thank you for your generous Gifts

Such dedication, such love, such generosity. Thank you to all who contributed their prayers, their love, and their riches during our Advent drive to help us raise over \$23,500.

These gifts have allowed us to enter into 2016 with a manageable debt and allows us to map out a way forward.

The response was absolutely fantastic. Each one of the stars that you have seen surrounding the pews represents a sacrifice, a blessing and a prayer for our future. Each star represents a gift that has helped us virtually eliminate our accumulated debt and provide us with some breathing room to prepare a way forward with our 2016 budget.

Thank you for sharing, your generosity, your love.



God's Blessings!

Penny Miller, Michael Perkin

I invite you to join me as we discover and share the story of the impact of generosity and how God's mission is furthered as a result.

I invite us to consider:

- What is God's mission for us?
- Why are we here?
- How do we make a difference?
- How do we model compassion, provide community, and offer hope?
- How are we responding to our baptismal covenant in our individual and family life and through the mission of our congregation?

I invite you to join in developing a good Stewardship environment:

- Focusing upon the spiritual development of people, not the collection of more dollars.
- Recruiting leaders.
- Developing leaders who are committed and competent.
- Enabling church leaders to talk about money in ways that transform lives.

I invite you to join the St. Mark's Stewardship Team. For more information please don't hesitate to contact me

Michael Perkin (613)224-4626

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We pray:

Almighty and ever-faithful Lord, gratefully acknowledging Your mercy and humbly admitting our need, we pledge our trust in You and each other. Filled with desire, we respond to Your call for discipleship by shaping our lives in imitation of Christ. We profess that the call requires us to be stewards of Your gifts. As stewards, we receive Your gifts gratefully, cherish and tend them in a responsible manner, share them in practice and love with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. We pledge to our ongoing formation as stewards and our responsibility to call others to that same endeavor. Almighty and ever-faithful God, it is our fervent hope and prayer that You who have begun this good work in us will bring it to fulfillment in Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN



STEWARDSHIP
A way of life

Stewardship II

by Michael Perkin
St Mark's Stewardship

I invite you to join with me in a journey of discovery of what stewardship looks like at St. Mark's. I know from direct experience that the people of St. Mark's are generous. Our generosity is our response to God's generosity in our own lives. Our generosity is a way to contribute to God's mission in our world. It is how we make a positive difference as individuals and families, in our own community through the mission of our congregation, and across our country and around the world through the Anglican Communion.

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Outreach

by Laurie Slaughter

Supporting a refugee family should be doable by the St. Mark’s community, according to a recent fact-finding exercise. A small working group has been investigating how we might be a part of this humanitarian effort. You may have seen in the bulletins a request for people to be part of the larger group that would implement the plan. Once we have enough participants, the working group will present the plan to the church membership for approval.

This coordinated approach reflects the Anglican Community’s Five Marks of Mission and, in a very real way, allows us to live our faith together. It is an exciting direction that our parish might take. (See Debra Dynes Family House below for present needs.)

A Welcoming and Sharing Sunday is in the plans of the Outreach and the Vitality Working Groups some time in the late spring or early fall. Start thinking of a family member, friend, neighbour, new acquaintance or even someone that you don’t know, who might share our worship service, and whom we could welcome afterwards at a very special coffee hour. We hope that each one of us could reach out to visitors and show the warmth that is part of our community.

Debra Dynes Family House In our ongoing support of Debra Dynes, we are now assisting the Family House as it works to help Syrian refugees settle into new homes in this part of the city. Their Director, Barbara Carroll, has made an urgent request for donations of kitchen items (pots, pans, dishes, towels, etc.) and other household necessities so they can begin to furnish their homes. Please help if you can by delivering gently used items to Debra Dynes or by bringing them to church. Debra Dynes Family House is still receiving bundles of baby items from St. Mark’s parishioners. They are grateful for all our assistance and interest.

Parish Breakfast Invitation

by Brian Harrison

Please join us for the next parish breakfast on Sunday, March 13. Our speaker will be Sahada Alolo from the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI), an organization that provides affordable housing for low income households in Ottawa. St. John the Evangelist Anglican church had a strong influence on the creation of MHI in 2002, particularly through the work of Garth Bulmer and Gay Richardson. St. Mark’s has been a supporter of MHI for the past ten years.

After listening to Sahada, why not join us as we “tiptoe through the tulips” in May, and support the MHI walk?

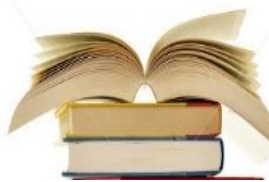
Multifaith Housing Tulipathon May 1

Every year, the Multifaith Housing Initiative raises money through a walk along the Rideau Canal called the Tulipathon. Walkers go from Dows Lake to the Bank Street bridge and back.

This year we are hoping to have a team of parishioners from St. Mark’s participating in the walk, which takes place on the afternoon of Sunday, May 1.

Details are available from
Laurie Slaughter (613-737-9475) or
Brian Harrison (613-248-0854)

<http://www.multifaithhousing.ca/tulipathon.html>



New in the Parish Library

by Betty Caughlin, Librarian

Grounded: Finding God in the World – A Spiritual Revolution by Diana Butler Bass, 2015

Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace by Anne Lamott, 2014

Between the Dark and the Daylight: Embracing the Contradictions of Life by Joan Chittister, 2015

For these books and more, browse the Parish Library on the far wall in Bishop Reed Hall. Usual borrowing period is for three weeks. Borrowing instructions are on the guide hanging beside each unit.

Milestones

June 2, 1956 - first wedding in St Mark’s Church
Joan Kempsey and Don Wilson. Joan was the daughter of Emil and Elsie Kempsey.

February 22, 1966 - first pancake supper held in basement hall to raise funds for the new parish hall

1966 New Parish Hall was built, and blessed on November 6. Building community for 50 years

1996 St Mark’s web page was born – happy 20th!



Church School: Christmas Pageant December 20, 2015

Over the last few years, St Mark's Church School children have put on a special pageant for Christmas. This year was no exception. Written and directed by Cynthia Greer, Nursery coordinator, and assisted by Kate Greer-Close, Church school leader, the pageant follows the lectionary, with the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Malachi foretelling Christ's birth.



Twenty children and youth took part, following the Sung Eucharist on December 20, with readings and singing, and re-enacting the nativity, bringing "good tidings of great joy" to the whole congregation. *Glory to God in the Highest!*

Crèche Sunday January 10, 2016



Crèche Sunday was started in 2015 by the Church School, and returned again this year with a new selection of crèches. Some of the new ones were in metals and pottery. The children also made their own Play Doh crèche too.

choral

Quaversong

a commemoration of

George Herbert

poet, orator and priest

with hymns and anthems on texts by George Herbert (1593-1633)

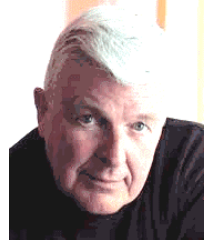
Sunday February 28, 2016
4:30 pm
with refreshments

Dinner & Concert April 23

Spring is coming!!
Don't miss this fun event.

Garth Hampson

The Parish Vitality Working Group is planning an evening of dinner and entertainment on Saturday, April 23. Delicious dinner, and singing by Garth Hampson. Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday is on April 21 and our musical theme is "*a Musical Review of the Queen's 90 Years*".



Details to follow.

April 21, 1926 – April 21, 2016



Happy 90th Birthday your Majesty



St Mark's Golden Pancake Supper – Shrove Tuesday 2016

by Kate Greer-Close

February 9, 2016 – Shrove Tuesday – was a Golden Anniversary for St Mark's Pancake Supper! Pancake suppers have been organized by a few groups over the past 50 years. The first supper was held February 22, 1966 in the basement, a fundraiser for the new upper church hall (later named Bishop Reid Hall) which was built later that year. It was run by Circle 5 with Jean Cobb and June Dale. Then in 1969 their husbands Murray Cobb and Ted Dale took it on with help from the Marksmen, and eventually Lorne and Connie Bowerman took the lead, and now Steve and I are organizing with a whole church behind us.

I remember so enjoying the pancake supper as a child. I would invite friends to come with me to eat pancakes for supper. To this day, one friend thinks of me every time she has pancakes. This was related to my dad's pancake making skills at home as well as enjoying the church pancake supper with us. It was an evening where you would see all of the extended families of the church all together. And so it continues into another generation!

Lorne and Connie had the organizing down to a science and I do hope that we can keep it running as smoothly as they did for so many years. Thankfully the Bowerman family is still in there helping out.

We had a party in 2016! The supper began with a special pancake pass moving from one generation of organizers to another. Many thanks to Jackie Sorfleet and Dorothy Ellacott, representing the Circles, and Connie, representing the Marksmen and the Bowermans, for passing the ... pancake ... to Jeremy and the Close family. They didn't drop it! We even managed to convince someone to eat it at the end ... my son Jeremy!

It was so busy it was hard to keep count. There were children everywhere, but we think we had close to 40 kids and at least 165 attendees.

We offered regular, whole wheat and now gluten-free pancakes and sausages. We also had fresh apples this year, as they had at the first supper in 1966.

Last year we made \$850. This year we made a profit of over \$1200! The proceeds this year were directed to the Capital Reserves fund in honour of Lorne. Thank you to all who helped wherever needed and attended, to make this a great success.



Son of the Parish Rev. Blair Peever appointed Canon

Blair, son of Lawrence and the late Kay Peever, is Rector at Christ Church Catarauqui, Kingston

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Blair Peever as a Canon of St. George's Cathedral and specifically, to the Canonry of St. Barnabas.

*Bishop Michael Oulton,
Diocese of Ontario*



by Penny Miller, on behalf of Corporation

Facing an expected deficit in 2015 and a larger projected deficit in the 2016 budget, Parish Council asked corporation to explore possibilities with the diocese. The Bishop responded by meeting with Corporation and Parish Council on Monday February 8.

He told us that he has been trying to meet more often with church leaders, as it takes 2 1/2 years for him to visit every parish in the Diocese for Sunday services. The Bishop said his remarks were not intended just for our parish but also for many others.

He acknowledged that our demographics have changed dramatically since we were founded, so that continuing as we have always done will be increasingly difficult. From his perspective, he said we are at an exciting time as we look at ways to go forward. He explained what has happened elsewhere in the diocese as some churches have become "niche" churches that appeal to a particular congregation.

The Bishop said we should be very happy that we did such a good job, serving the role of a suburban family church in the past, but those days were unlikely to return. Quoting a study, he told us that, even if the number of Anglicans supporting churches in the Diocese doubled, we would still only need half of the buildings we have.

Asked if it is feasible to consider a part time priest, since our projected draft budget is showing a deficit and salaries account for a large portion of that, he replied that this would not be in our best interest as a parish. He would have to send a retired minister to take Sunday morning services, spend a few hours a week for home and hospital visits and maybe do a funeral here and there, that would be that! The bishop described this as palliative care for a parish.

Rather, we as a congregation have to decide our future role together, he said, and while we are still strong it is time to become creative; this can be very exciting. We should not see our situation as a difficulty but an opportunity. Can we reasonably raise enough funds to continue without change, and if so, for how long? Could we decide on a direction and become a niche church? Could we look at our assets/ buildings and use them to serve/support a particular purpose?

We were encouraged to re-evaluate our needs and mission while always trying to follow our Baptismal ministry.

Pre-vestry Budget meeting

by Suzanne Wilkins, on behalf of Corporation

To help everyone understand St Mark's financial situation and the numbers in the draft 2016 budget, a pre-vestry meeting took place on Sunday, February 14 after the main service.

Treasurer Gillian Martin went over details of our income and expenses in the draft budget for 2016, and below are some of the questions raised:

1. **Since we are in a financial crisis why was work done on the boiler and furnaces and did we get quotes from other companies?** Quotes were sought after an inspection in the spring revealed that if the furnaces were not brought up to code, we would be "red tagged" and would have to shut down the church. The funds for this expenditure were taken from capital reserves and not St. Mark's operating budget. The new furnaces are high-efficiency units and we expect our costs to go down in the coming years.
2. **Was it reasonable that only \$400 is budgeted for repair and upgrade costs?** It may not be advisable over the long term as deferred maintenance would build up, but for one year it shouldn't present a huge problem.
3. **Forward Day-by-Day costs seem high.** The Parish is going to order fewer copies this year and perhaps people could put a little more into the pot when they pick up a copy. The Forward Day-by-Day program should be entirely self funded.
4. **Can a reduction be made to our Diocesan Fair Share portion?** This amount is set by the Diocese, and supports the work of the Diocese. It is based on the previous 3 years' income of a parish, plus a formula that determines its "fair share" of the Diocesan budget. If we didn't pay our full amount it would be counted as a debt against us.
5. **Why do the user fees appear so low?** We are only budgeting user income from St Mark and St Mary of Egypt for 3 months as they are looking for a church of their own. If they do stay with us, we could look at increasing the rent or come to some sort of cost sharing agreement. One suggestion was to strike a committee to look at rentals. One of the working groups looking at the questions raised at last year's meeting regarding SMSM was going to recommend raising rental rates for all users. There has not been an increase for at least 3 years.

Our stewardship chair reminded us about the special Advent appeal, when everyone dug deep into their pockets. We need to consider carefully what we are giving to; do we have a common vision; can we increase our giving; can more people use PAR.



BUDGET *continued*

We need to re-invent ourselves and everyone has to be involved in how we do this, setting goals for ourselves as a church and community and achieving them. Some suggested a specific event or events; increasing fundraising activities; increasing our rental incomes by advertising our building as a performance venue. Everyone was reminded to bring any suggestions to members of Corporation and Parish Council.

Parishioners were asked about their willingness to vote on a 6-month interim budget to allow Corporation and Parish Council time to explore possible solutions to the proposed deficit, but no motion for a vote was made.

Sunday Worship Request from SMSM – Where are We Now?

by Georgia Roberts and Janis Perkin

Last November, parishioners met to discuss the pros and cons of sharing and not sharing space with St Mark and St Mary of Egypt (SMSM) on Sundays and formulated several questions for Parish Council.

Two working groups were formed - one to address the questions about the building and finances and one to consider the impact on congregational life and mission. While Parish Council has not yet received formal reports on the research done, some of the groups' findings and opinions, if we chose to share our space on Sundays with SMSM, are given below.

Both groups made the following assumptions:

- SMSM would use Bishop Reed Hall (BRH) for both its worship space and fellowship;
- SMSM would not grow to more than 65 families in their first year;
- SMSM would follow the same time pattern on Saturday and Sunday as they now have on Friday and Saturday. It would look like this:
 - Saturday 6-9 pm: setup for worship in BRH
 - Sunday 8:30 am: arrival of SMSM parishioners
 - Sunday 9-11:30 am: worship in BRH
 - Sunday 11:30 am - 2:00 pm: fellowship in BRH, kitchen and at least two Church School classes elsewhere
- When SMSM grows to more than 65 families, our facilities might not be able to accommodate them without major modifications. They may, at that point, choose to go elsewhere.

One important question was what could be the nature of our partnership with SMSM. On a religious level, our partnership would be an ecumenical one. A factor to consider is SMSM's use of the Alexandrian calendar,

with feast days etc. that differ from our church calendar. Also we do not have permission to receive communion in the Egyptian Orthodox Church. Our tradition of hospitality at St. Marks's, however, makes us open to new and diverse opportunities, and challenges us to be creative in a long-term relationship.

Because of the factors raised above, and also because SMSM could quickly outgrow our facilities, we could start with a rental agreement with SMSM and explore a more complete financial partnership later on, if we continue to live together.

Another important question was the maintenance of our Sunday morning time and space. Based on the assumptions given above, the time and location of both our 8 am and 10 am services can continue. However, our fellowship space after each of our services would need to be adjusted since SMSM would be using the kitchen and BRH at those times. Our occasional Sunday morning activities such as the Parish Breakfast would also be impacted. There would, however, be opportunities to share evening meals, such as potlucks and fellowship, and we can explore other creative possibilities for these different situations.

The topic of rents was raised. In 2015 we received \$12,330 in rent from SMSM. Using our current rental rates, the annual amount would be similar if SMSM were worshipping on Sunday. This could be a time to review these rates. There are other reasons for discussing money with SMSM. On a spiritual/mission basis there may be opportunities to work together in enriching mission, such as funding an initiative that is of interest to both congregations. There could be joint outreach where our values match up or we could create opportunities to explore our faith together. One area that would be of interest to both groups is support of refugees.

This article just touches on a few of the important questions. Stay tuned for more information from Parish Council!

St Mark's Roll Call

Births

Eric Michael Zacour (Michelle and James)

Baptisms

Eleanor Bordman Zoey Joly-Holmes
Madyson MacKenzie Faith MacKenzie

New Parishioners

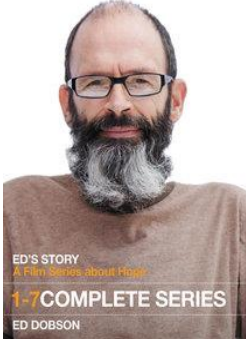


Mark Abdelnour, Heather Archibald, Kate & Magnus
David Gikaru Mary Scott

Deaths

Judith Maragh Donald Gibson



Calendar of Events

 <p>ED'S STORY A Film Series about Hope 1-7 COMPLETE SERIES ED DOBSON</p>	<p>February 17 – March 16 Wednesdays in Lent 10:00 am Ed's Story: a film series featuring Dr Ed Dobson, an author and pastor emeritus of Calvary Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ed, diagnosed with ALS in 2000, wrestles with the issues that suffering brings, but in the midst of his disease he finds hope.</p>
<p>February 24 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Grief Support Session support group meeting led by Janet Helmer, Parish Nurse</p>
<p>February 28 NOTE 9:00 am 10:30 am</p>	<p>VESTRY SUNDAY <i>Time changes</i> Joint service Vestry</p>
<p>4:30 pm</p>	<p>Evensong commemorating George Herbert poet, orator and priest</p>
<p>March 13 8:45 am</p>	<p>Parish Breakfast following 8:00 am service guest Sahada Alolo from the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI)</p>
<p>HOLY WEEK</p>	<p><i>see announcement >>></i></p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>St Mark's 48th Annual ART EXHIBIT and SALE</p> <p>April 9, 2016 10:30 am – 3:00 pm</p> </div>	
<p>April 23</p>	<p>St Mark's Patronal Dinner and Concert a musical review of Queen Elizabeth's 90 years with special guest Garth Hampson</p> 
<p>June 1 11:00 am</p>	<p>Seniors' Eucharist and Lunch Service followed by lunch and entertainment</p>
<p>June 26 12 noon</p>	<p>Annual Church Picnic following the 10:00 am service</p>

Weekly Schedules

Mondays

9:00 am Slim & Trim - Hall
6:30 pm Cubs - St Rita's

Tuesdays

6:30 pm Beavers - St Rita's
7:30 pm Prayer & Praise - Choir Room
third Tuesday Prayers for Healing - Chapel

Wednesdays

9:00 am Slim & Trim - Hall
7:00 pm Scouts - St Mark's or St Rita's

Thursdays

6:15 pm Junior Choir
7:00 pm Senior Choir

Fridays

9:00 am Slim & Trim - Hall
10:30 am Eucharist - Perley Rideau

Monthly Schedules

1st Sunday 12 noon Prayer Shawl meeting
1st Monday 12 noon Circle 2
1st Thursday 7:00 pm Scout Group Committee
2nd Wednesday 7:30 pm Parish Council
4th Tuesday 1:00 pm Mothers' Union



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday March 20

Sunday of the Passion
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist /
Liturgy of Palms

Maundy Thursday March 24

7.30 pm Sung Eucharist
Institution of the Last Supper
Altar of Repose and
Stripping of the Altar
9.00 pm Overnight Vigil

Good Friday March 25

1.30 pm Celebration of the
Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday March 26

9:00 pm Great Easter Vigil

Easter Day March 27

Sunday of the Resurrection
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Sung Eucharist

