



Mark This Word

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

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We are planting seeds today for God's harvest tomorrow

The indeterminate spiritual life – the sky is the limit

by Rev Jessica Worden-Bolling

After three summers trying to grow vegetables in our back yard, we finally realized that there is simply not enough sunlight in our back yard for vegetables to grow. Determined to provide the children with an example of where food comes from, we decided to make a garden in the front yard instead. It has been a resounding success. Lots of sunlight all day long provided the perfect place for veggies to grow.

We planted some pumpkins, cucumbers, sunflowers and tomato plants. My surprise came when the tomato plants kept growing taller and taller. I was expecting reasonable plants that don't grow very high. Instead we had chosen the "indeterminate" type of tomato plants by chance. Not realizing it would make any difference at all, we didn't study the packaging too closely. You might realize that indeterminate tomatoes will keep growing taller and taller all summer long until the frost comes. So my front yard garden which was supposed to be very neat and tidy has become a large forest of towering sunflowers and ever-taller tomato stalks!

There is a message hidden amid these plants for us. In regards to our spiritual life, if we were determinate tomatoes, we would expect our faith to only ever reach a certain height or depth or meaning in our life. It is my passionate belief that we are of the indeterminate variety of tomatoes and our spiritual life will grow and strengthen all season long.



Rev Jessica with sons Kyle and Liam in the veggie patch

At St. Mark's we come together to receive a healthy supply of spiritual food and Son-shine. When we seek out spiritual nourishment and support there is no limit on the inner growth and renewal that will happen.

May this fall be a time of markedly high growth rates in our hearts as we stand tall together as a community of faith.



Stewardship Financial Campaign 2018

Sharing our abundance

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity”

2 Corinthians 9:11

The parish will be launching a Stewardship Financial Campaign in the fall. The launch date will be Sunday, September 17, when packages of the documentation will be ready for picking up. This will include a commitment form, together with a revamped talent survey and feedback form.

The return date for responses will be Sunday, October 8, the day before Thanksgiving Day.

Financial commitment forms will be collated, in confidence, by the envelope secretary, who will make the summarized results available to the Finance Committee. This will allow them to begin developing the parish budget for 2018, which they will present at the next annual vestry.

In future, this process will take place every second year.

Bruce Lodge
Rector's Warden



Our harvest of righteousness



2 Corinthians 9:6-12

The point is this:

the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;

for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

The scripture theme of the Stewardship Financial Campaign this fall is from Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 9, verses 6 to 12. It is fitting, as Paul was asking the Corinthians to support a future ministry. Likewise, here at St Mark’s, we are starting a new chapter together. We are planning for a strong, healthy future in which we can provide ministry to our congregation and those in need.

During the Fall Stewardship Campaign we will be asking everyone to prayerfully consider what seed money they can contribute to the harvest we hope to live out in 2018. As Paul explains, “the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully” (2 Corinthians 9.6). We understand that to live out our faith fully we need everyone to contribute generously to the ministry we plan to carry out over the next year. Paul assures us that we will be “enriched in every way for [our] great generosity” (2 Corinthians 9.11).

It is appropriate then, in this fall season of giving thanks, to show our appreciation to God with a thoughtful commitment of financial support to St Mark’s church. God will bless us and “multiply our seed for sowing” and increase our harvest, both in the ministry that we will be able to provide and spiritually in our hearts (2 Corinthians 9.10).

Thank you for your heartfelt generosity as we start this new season of growth and renewal. Everyone is a vital part of the congregation and your commitment will help us plant and reap that bountiful harvest to the Glory of God.

Rev. Jessica Worden-Bolling



St Mark's had a party or two! **HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!**

What a busy Pentecost! What a busy June!

What a wonderful mix of activities, of reaching out and togetherness.

Pentecost Weekend



June 3 - Big Give

June 3 & 4 - Doors Open Ottawa:

The weekend began as we joined with the local community's Big Give, giving away refreshments, plants and books, and then welcoming everyone in during Doors Open Ottawa. Thanks to Kate Greer-Close, who was in charge of both.

This was our first venture with Doors Open Ottawa, and we had music, graphics, video, a history information leaflet and other materials to tell our story. Most of the graphic displays were left for the Seniors' Lunch and for parishioners to look at. They are still hanging in the hall. More than two dozen people came to visit, and the volunteers enjoyed themselves too, sharing their spiritual home. About 20 people worked together to plan and execute these special offerings. We're ready for next year.



June 4 - Pentecost Sunday:

The Holy Spirit was truly amongst us: prayer shawls were blessed; streamers were waved throughout the congregation; and Junior Choristers were recognized - Anabella Martinez-Bell received her surplice and Jeremy Close received his Junior Chorister ribbon.

June 10 - Church Yard Sale:

Organizers Cynthia and Paul Greer and their team put in a lot of hard work before and during the sale. More than 30 parishioners helped out, making it a very social event. It turned out to be a good fund-raiser too.

Save your treasures for the next one.



On a really social side

June 7 - Seniors' Eucharist and Lunch:

About 50 enthusiastic parishioners and friends filled the hall. The choir entertained them with Canadian folk songs and hymns, and encouraged everyone to join in. Thanks to Georgia Roberts and the Wellness Committee and the event support group.



June 18 - Parish Picnic:

Normally held the last Sunday before summer, the parish picnic, organized by the Mothers' Union, was moved to allow for our Canada 150 celebration. More than 50 parishioners attended.



June 24 - Canada 150 tea party:

More than 100 parishioners and friends packed the pews for the start of our Canada 150 celebrations. Participants started with a resounding rendition of *O Canada*, and tapped their feet to a lively presentation of the full score of Howard Cable's arrangement of *Sing: Sea to Sea* by St Mark's senior and junior choirs, with Canadian folk songs from across the country. It was a great honour to have Barbara Clark as special guest conductor and to have Wesley Warren, with flying fingers, on the piano.

After assembling in the sanctuary for a boisterous group photo, complete with cheers and flags, everyone trooped into Bishop Reed Hall for a sumptuous tea party, featuring Canadian delicacies, and more Canadian music.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA





A snapshot of ministry

by Margaret Lodge

St Mark's is part of Ottawa West Deanery, and for this year's synod in November the deanery was asked to do a visual presentation on ministry. Organizers asked each parish to provide 15-20 photos, so Rev Jessica and I put our heads together to define, in photos, what ministry we do at St Mark's.

In some ways it was not an easy task. 'Ministry' may have a different meaning to each person you ask. At St Mark's our ministries are many, but they're performed without a lot of fanfare. Still, the ripples are felt and we are very active in very many ways. Our visual choices on ministry ended up comprising over 30 photos.

A few examples of our ministries, listed in random order.

- Eucharist at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, and bedside communion at the Civic Hospital
- Weekly Church School – learning our faith and the importance of sharing and giving
- Stewardship – offerings of time, talent and treasure
- Interfaith celebrations with neighbouring worship communities
- Pastoral care within our parish, caring visits, an on-site defibrillator
- Support for seniors
- Outreach - Debra-Dynes, multi-faith housing, food bank contributions
- Annual art show - next year marks 50 years!
- Workers in the kitchen - coffee hour, suppers, funeral receptions and more
- ACW - Mothers' Union, Circle 2 - involved in so many outreach programs
- Big Give - reaching out to the community in our front yard
- Pancake suppers, bazaar, yard and rummage sales
- Church picnic and BBQ – offering fellowship and raising funds for local and international outreach
- Doors Open - sharing the beauty of our church
- Prayer - in so many forms
- Music - senior and junior choirs – Songs for the Soul
- Scouts, Cubs, Beavers – 60 years of shared ministry
- and many others ...

So what is St Mark's ministry? It is so diverse, yet so simple, that it can be anything that YOU or WE do as Christians for someone else - the person beside you in the pew, next door, across the city or around the world.

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,
"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"
Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Isaiah 6:8

**Go out and minister!
Just do it!**

Ministry:

Lending your hands and feet

May 27 was Clean Up Day for our church, in anticipation of Doors Open Ottawa the following week, when we opened our doors to Ottawa. Thanks to Paul and Cynthia Greer for spearheading this and the many who turned out to help, our church was sparkling.

The following day Rev Jessica and a small group of parishioners, and especially our children, represented the parish at the Madonna Festival parade.



What will you do ?

You can be part of St Mark's Ministry in Action by filling in the Time and Talent section in the Fall Stewardship package.

Extra help and new ideas are always needed, and the Fall line-up of events is FULL, with a mixture of spiritual and fun activities. A little bit of something for everyone. Support our activities.

Breakfasts, BBQ, Bazaar.
Church School. Thanksgiving. Welcoming and Sharing.
Singing and a Concert.
Special Note: Rev Jessica's Induction September 27



Vitality - thank you, Brian

The Vitality Working Group has been actively involved in the parish since January 2015. Its mandate has been to ‘... initiate and improve on activities and events that will enhance the sense of community at St Mark’s ...’

In June we received the resignation of Brian Harrison from the Vitality group. He had been the leader for the first two years, but has taken on a new project dealing with housing for adults living with developmental disabilities. As Brian said in his resignation, “Since we started meeting in September 2014, we have accomplished a lot. We have brought parishioners together for many events and I think that we made considerable progress toward meeting our purpose of enhancing parish life at St Mark’s. We helped to build a stronger sense of community in the parish as people spent time at our events, got to know other parishioners better, and had a lot of fun. It was great to see the success of our events”. Thank you, Brian for your leadership and support.



Fall Concert on October 28: Our final event for 2017 will be the October concert by **The Valley Men**, an amateur male choir of about 20 – 24 members from the Ottawa area. They perform a varied repertoire of traditional songs, hymns, anthems and novelty numbers. Each fall since 1994, they have gone on tour, performing mostly in small rural towns throughout the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario. The choir is directed by Keith Bailey.

A non-profit group, they sing because they enjoy it, raising funds for various charities along the way. Do come and be entertained and have some fun too! Tickets will be available in October.



The Gift of time

by Michael Perkin, Stewardship

The summer has slipped by like sand through a child’s fingers on the beach. We are entering into the season of doing, the lazy days of summer behind us. Fall puts us back into the scheduling mode, back to routines, getting ready to harvest and preparing for winter. Many of you will look forward to this time of year as it has structure. For me it means more planning, more commitments and struggling to balance all that is on my agenda.

When I retired I thought that time would be something I would have to fill in with stuff because I would have so much

time on my hands. Somewhere along the line I fell back into the “doing habit”, do this, do that, I risked becoming a retired workaholic. I needed to be organized. Time, even in retirement, needs to be managed. I still do quite a bit in the way of meetings, doctor appointments for my parents, babysitting the grandkids, but I also recognized that there needs to be balance. One of the first things we give up in managing our time is our personal time, our time to be alone with a good book, music or a favourite craft. And we also need to allow time for peace, contemplation and listening to what God is asking of us.



This fall put time with God on your agenda.

Outreach

by Laurie Slaughter

Once again, on October 22 we will be having a **Welcoming and Sharing Sunday**, where we welcome others and highlight all that we do in our church. Last year we displayed our many outreach and other activities that indicate a dedicated commitment to both our own members and people within our community and beyond.



This year we hope that St Mark’s parishioners will participate by coming on that Sunday to help welcome any family or friends that some of us may bring to church. We want to share with others both our worship service and our after-service gathering in Bishop Reed Hall over food and coffee/tea, where our many church groups will have displays how they contribute in so many ways.

Please keep the date for this special Sunday service and sharing time and be part of our welcoming atmosphere for any guests that we may have.

New Ministry Initiative – supporting seniors: The group plans to meet with community service organization representatives early in the fall. When they have indicated in more detail what the needs of the community’s seniors are, we will know better how we might support in the delivery of those needs, utilizing both our space and also our experience in assisting older members of our church. Then the committee will bring to Parish Council and St Mark’s parishioners proposals for consideration as a new Ministry within our community.



Thank you, Grace

by Joy Bowerman

Grace Bryan is moving to the Toronto area at the beginning of September, although we may still see her while she travels between cities, wrapping up her business in Ottawa, she will no longer be in the office on Friday mornings. Grace has staffed the office on Friday mornings for several years and is always cheerful and happy to help with whatever needs doing. We will miss her presence and we thank her for her dedication.

I wish to extend my personal thanks to the other office volunteers who make my life so much easier. Gillian Morris comes in on Mondays (sometimes Tuesdays) and tidies up from Sunday, taking care of the bulletins and setting up for the next week. Karen Barber is a cheerful presence in the office on Wednesday and I know that if there is anything that requires meticulous attention to detail and great organizing skills, I can count on her.

Calendar of Events

WELCOME BACK
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:00am Sung Eucharist
Church School

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

NEW DAY 9:00 am Slim & Trim - Hall
6.15 pm Junior Choir
7:00 pm Senior Choir

Fridays

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

Parish Breakfast
September 17, 2017
good food,
good fellowship,
8:45 am

St Mark's BBQ
Sunday September 24, 2017
12 noon

Induction Eucharist
Rev Jessica Worden-Bolling
September 27, 2017 - 7:00pm
Bishop John Chapman - presiding
Venerable Chris Dunn - preaching
followed by light reception

Rev Jessica's Induction

Since May 1, 2017, Rev Jessica has been our incumbent, our rector, our priest. Following a priest's appointment to a parish by the Bishop, there is a service of Induction.



For Rev Jessica, this will be on September 27. It will be a very special day in her life and that of St Mark's, as St Mark's is her first incumbency, and Bishop John Chapman will preside. Arch-deacon Chris Dunn will preach and Diocesan priests will be there to support this ministry.

During the service Rev Jessica will be "officially" welcomed. She will be presented with items that typically symbolize the ministry and leadership of the ordained: water, bread and wine, bible, keys, oils, prayer books and Canons and Bylaws of the Diocese.

Join Rev Jessica for this special service.

SONGS
for the SOUL 2
a choral workshop for the whole parish
Sunday October 1, 2017 12 noon - 1:30pm



October 8, 2017
Thanksgiving Stewardship Sunday
sharing our abundance

Parish Breakfast
November 12, 2017

*good food,
good fellowship,
8:45 am*



Fall Bible Study
Book of Acts
Wednesdays 10:00 am
October 11 – November 22
except November 15 – Seniors' Eucharist and Lunch

Seniors' Eucharist & Lunch

a celebration of fellowship
and entertainment

Wednesday November 15, 2017

Eucharist: 11:00 am

followed by lunch and entertainment

Fall Bible Study

Come join us for a 6-week bible study as we explore the Book of Acts together. The study will be every Wednesday from October 11 to November 22, except November 15, which is the Seniors' Eucharist and luncheon.

The Book of Acts is full of adventure from the birth of the church at Pentecost, when God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit, to Paul's missionary exploits as he spread the Gospel to the Gentiles. We will learn about the church's past and find inspiration for our lives today. Please speak to Rev Jessica if you are interested or have any questions.

St Mark's Fall Bazaar

1606 Fisher Ave. Ottawa

Saturday November 18, 2017

10:30am – 2:00pm

Baking, Knitting, Sewing, Crafts, Preserves, Café, Books,
Attic Treasures, Jewellery, Rummage, Toys, Scarves
Information: 613-224-7431

NOTE: New date for the Bazaar. If you would like to make preserves, bake, sew or help out on the day, please contact Joy Bowerman.

WELCOME to St MARK'S
Welcoming and Sharing Sunday

October 22 – 10:00 am service

in concert

THE VALLEY MEN

October 28 – 2:30 pm

Next MTW Newsletter: deadline November 15

St Mark's Roll Call

Births Maxwell James Lennox (Perkin) Bordman
William Elliot (Roberts) Bawden

Moves Grace Bryan and Edward

Deaths Thelma Armstrong
Reg Harrison



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Mark This Word is published 3 or 4 times a year.

It is available in various formats:

- you can have it in hard copy – in black and white
- you can have it sent direct to your e-mail – in colour – contact the office
- you can also view it on-line at

www.stmarksottawa.ca/annex/newsviewsindex.html

Mark This Word is also a blog at

www.stmarksottawa.wordpress.com/

This gives you weekly/monthly updates, and allows you to add comments, or even opt for delivery to your inbox.