



# Mark This Word

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

Issue number 47

Lent 2018



## Journeying into the Future Together

by Rev Jessica Worden-Bolling

On Sunday, January 28, we started our visioning season here at St Mark's. We officially began a time in which we will focus on the future that we want to see at St Mark's. After the 9 am service about 50 parishioners gathered in the hall for our first time of discussion surrounding these matters. Thank you to all who came out to participate in this important first step. Each one of you is a vital member of this community that make up St Mark's church and your voice is important. Each one of you brings your unique gifts and vision to bear on where you feel God is calling us to be as a church.

I want to assure all of you that currently we are in good shape financially as a parish. (*see Financial p5*) We have recovered from our deficit budget and are once again living with a healthy bank account projected for this coming year. That gives us time to make some good, prayerful decisions. We don't have to rush into something that isn't appropriate for our community. At the same time, we need to plan for our future. As our congregation naturally ages we want to be able to decide what kind of legacy we are leaving for future generations. There is time to be intentional, and prayerfully consider how we want to be remembered, how we want to transition into our future as St Mark's Church.

Over the course of Lent we will be using the 5 Marks of Mission as a tool to start thinking about God's call to the church. As disciples of Christ we are called by God to do many things. As a community, we get to focus in on one or two things that we think we do well, whether it is to reach out to the students at Carleton, or help the young families at Debra Dynes. Perhaps it is to expand our music ministry or help isolated seniors by providing social activities. All these things are worthy ways of living out God's call to us. As a community we will listen for God's guidance as we consider where we want to focus our energy.

Here at St Mark's, we are blessed with many gifts and it is important to know what those are so that we build on our

strengths. We also will find some areas in which we need to strengthen our resources. It never hurts to have a growing edge, an area we feel we could do better for God's kingdom.

As a community, we have a lot of passion for this building and this worship space. We are a very tight knit group and have a strong sense of who we are. My hope is that as we surrender our gifts to God, we will be blessed. God will guide us and encourage our growing edges. Our strengths will help us find our future. By coming together to pray for God's guidance, we are trusting that there is a purpose for us. God has brought us to this location, in this community, at this moment in time for a reason. We are God's beacons of hope for those who are in need.

Over the next few months we will take time together to pray and ask God to help us envision our future. It is a very important discussion to ponder what legacy we hope to live out in this community. Jesus is with us as we gather to reflect upon who we are and who God is calling us to be. May God bless us in our discussions over the next few months and bring us to a clear, confident path. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**St Mark's - Vision 2**  
**Making our Mark**  
growing into our future  
**Saturday April 28, 2018**  
**9 am - 4 pm discussion + lunch**  
Guest clinician: Rev Monique Stone

**Sunday, February 18 - Mark 1 + Mark 2:**

Leslie Giddings, Diocesan Child, Youth and Adult Learning Facilitator.

**Sunday, February 25 - Mark 2 + Vestry**

**Sunday, March 4 - Mark 3:** Rev. Linda Posthuma, Chaplain at Cornerstone.

**Sunday March 11 - Mark 4:** Larry Langlois, member of All My Relations Committee of the Diocese of Ottawa. At 9:40 am he will lead us in a smudging ceremony.

**Sunday, March 18 - Mark 5:** Randal Goodfellow, founding Chair of Ottawa Diocese's 'Creation Matters'.

**Saturday April 28 - Making our Mark:** planning session, 9 am to 4 pm with lunch, led by the Rev Monique Stone. We will work to create a 5-year ministry plan.

**September 2018:** we will start implementing the 5 year ministry plan.

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# Lent: 5 Marks of Mission

During Lent this year we will be focusing on the 5 Marks of Mission on Sundays and for our weekly study. The Lenten Study sessions will be held each Wednesday starting February 21 to March 21, in the conference room. Morning study will be from 10 am to 11 am, and evening study from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The evening group will not meet on March 14 (Parish Council), but will find another time to meet. Please sign up on the sheet provided at church or speak to Rev Jessica.

## 5 Marks of Mission

### Sundays in Lent

**February 18 - Mark 1 & Mark 2**  
 Children and Youth - guest Leslie Giddings  
 Mark 1 to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom  
 Mark 2 to teach, baptize and nurture new believers

**February 25 - Mark 2 & Vestry**  
 to teach, baptize and nurture new believers

**March 4 - Mark 3**  
 Cornerstone - guest Rev Linda Posthuma  
 to respond to human need by loving service

**March 11 - Mark 4**  
 Aboriginal Issues - guest Larry Langlois  
 to seek to transform unjust structures of society,  
 to challenge violence of every kind and  
 to pursue peace and reconciliation

**March 18 - Mark 5**  
 Greening Churches - guest Randal Goodfellow  
 to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation  
 and sustain and renew the life of the earth

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### Wednesdays in Lent

February 21 - March 21  
 10:00 am & 7:30 pm  
 a time of fellowship, focus and study



STEWARDSHIP  
A way of life

# Our Forty Days in the Wilderness

by Michael Perkin

I was reviewing some of my pictures and came across one of a redwood stump submersed in water. You could see the growth rings. To me our journey with God is like how trees experience growth.



Some years the rings are thin because the tree was suffering from lack of nourishment and water, the essentials to full growth. Perhaps our thin years at St Mark's are when we struggle with ministry and mission, being challenged by poor finances and wrestling with our church buildings or even internal conflicts.

Other years the rings are wide and represent times of abundance. It is a time for growth and strengthening. It represents that the tree and other elements are in harmony. Church is like that when we have good mission and ministry, we feel balance. We create opportunities for spiritual growth and enhancing our understanding of what God is calling us to do. This is a time when we can focus on the needs of others and look for opportunities to fulfill our baptismal covenant.

I was inspired by our Primate Fred Hiltz's announcement of his decision to retire. The following is an extract from his letter:

*On this Sunday, right on the heels of the Feast of the Epiphany we find ourselves at the Jordan River remembering the Baptism of the Lord. We recall how he insisted that John take him into those waters. We hear again that voice from heaven as he rose up from his transitory burial, 'This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.' (Matthew 3:17). We remember that the Spirit descended and rested upon him like a dove, and then within days drove him out into the wilderness beyond Jordan. There he fasted for forty days and nights.*

*The evangelists speak of that time as His Temptation in the Wilderness. Many biblical scholars speak of it as a time of spiritual discernment as to the nature of his mission. It was clearly a time of spiritual wrestling, marked by a deepening awareness of his identity as the Servant of God, The Anointed One who would announce good tidings and publish peace, saying to Zion, 'Your God reigns'. (Isaiah 52:7). From those days in the wilderness, he would come in the power of the Spirit into Galilee proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God, teaching the people in their synagogues and healing the sick among them.*

*So began his public ministry.*

*cont p3*



### Forty Days (cont)

The introduction especially brought to mind our current review of ministry and exploration of new opportunities for ministry.

On Sunday January 28, we started our process of discernment about how we remain vibrant and meaningful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As part of our Lenten Study we will be focusing on the 5 Marks of Mission. We too will be journeying into our own uncharted territory, a modern day wilderness.

This is an exciting time but also a time of apprehension and worry. I pray that in our wilderness we will find streams of living water and manna to guide us on our journey.

*'Where there is no vision, there is no hope'*  
George Washington Carver

## Praying for Christian Unity



by Margaret Lodge

On January 21, St Mark's welcomed clergy and people from two other Christian traditions, the Madonna della Risurrezione Roman Catholic church on Fisher Avenue, and the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Greek Orthodox church, on Prince of Wales Drive, who joined us in a service of prayer for Christian unity. St Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church on Riverside Drive was unable to participate this year.

This annual service takes place around the world during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and St Mark's has been part of it for many years. For 2018, the Caribbean ecumenical team chose the Song of Moses and Miriam (Exodus 15:1-21) - a song of triumph over oppression - as the theme for the service, and specifically the verse *'Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power'*. Caribbean history is deeply marked by colonial exploitation, and today Christians of many different traditions see the hand of God active in the ending of enslavement, and as God's saving action which brings freedom.

The service was in English, with hymns in English, Italian and Greek. Rev Jessica gave the homily, and Fr



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### MTW e-mail delivery in 2018

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Antonio and Fr Alex led different parts of the service. Special guest was Greek Ambassador Dimitris Azemopoulos.

Over 150 people attended the service and reception that followed, including more than 30 from St Mark's. The choir pews were overflowing with choristers from all three churches. The reception followed in the hall, where we shared a great variety of ethnic and traditional food.

Thanks to all who provided food, helped set up, worked the kitchen, and helped clean up. Thanks also to everyone who attended and represented our parish, including 16 senior and junior choir members. This is a very special example of community in action.



### Crèche, Tableau, Nativity, Crib

Whatever name you call it, it is a scene representing the birth of Jesus in a stable.

During Advent we had the empty stable in the church. The shepherds were tending their sheep. The wise men were far away being led by a star – to what? An empty place for cattle. A simple shelter, until the stable was transformed on Christmas Eve to the place where Jesus was born.

St Mark's children took part in the annual school pageant on Christmas Eve (with a little help from a few extra 'angels').

At Epiphany the wise men came bearing gifts, and the children made their own nativity scenes from pasta.

### Church School

by Kate Greer-Close

The Sunday school spent a very exciting morning a few weeks ago talking about Christmas and giving gifts. Not to give to themselves though! The children pored over catalogues looking for the best gifts to give to help children across the world. They wanted to encourage them to learn and go to school, they wanted to feed them and keep them warm. The children have chosen to support learning by sending money for books.

They have also decided to send money to help grow Moringa trees in Africa. These are called miracle trees because they grow in sub-tropical areas where malnutrition is widespread and the leaves of the Moringa tree contain incredible vitamins, minerals and protein! They have also decided to send money for bees (beekeeping) and goats to support PWRDF's All Mothers and Children Count program.

Our children are very fortunate to have loving families and their parish supporting them and they are so thrilled to be able to help others, thanks to you.

We will again focus on acts of love during Lent and will have collection boxes for the children to work to fill at home. This will be an opportunity for the children to support St Mark's outreach, with Cornerstone's new housing project. As we spoke about the 5 Marks of Mission at our parish meeting on January 28, I realised that the children are busy working on Marks 3 and 4 both at home and abroad.



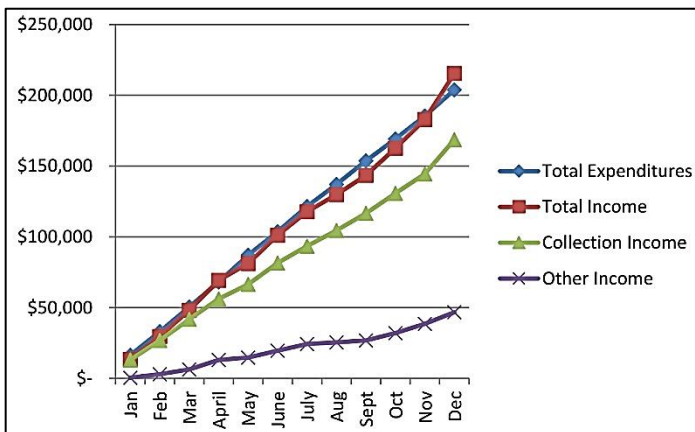


## Financial Update: We finished 2017 'in the black'

by Georgia Roberts  
Treasurer

In the November 2017 newsletter I reported that, up to the end of October, expenditures for the year had hovered a little higher than income. However, by the end of December, income surged ahead of expenditures so that, at the end of the year, we finished 'in the black' by approximately \$11,500. This is far ahead of the \$8,000 deficit that had been budgeted for the year.

As can be seen in the graph below, the major reason for total income surpassing expenditures by the end of December was a surge in collection income in both November and December, with expenditures staying very close to budget. Higher-than-budgeted income over the year from other sources, such as fund-raising events, also contributed to the good results.



We are now in a much healthier position for preparing a budget for 2018. Plan to attend Vestry on February 25 to contribute to the discussion and decisions for the year ahead.

And keep up the good work!



## VESTRY February 25

9:00 am Eucharist  
followed by Vestry Meeting

This will be the first Vestry under the leadership of our new Rector Rev Jessica Worden-Bolling.

Please plan to attend  
and support our new ministry together

# 50 St Mark's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show

by Georgia Roberts  
Art Show convenor

## Put April 7 on your calendar to attend St Mark's Annual Art Show

It is a very special year for this event – the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! As always, there will be a great display of art from more than 40 artists – both old favourites and new. But plans are afoot to make some changes so that this anniversary show will be extra special. Come out and see!

The annual art show has been a long-time fund-raiser for Circle 2. This year, Circle 2 has voted to direct the art show profits to Cornerstone Housing for Women, to help to furnish a room in a new 42-unit affordable safe housing community on Princeton Avenue.

There will also be a recommendation at Vestry for parishioners to direct their Lenten Outreach to this Princeton project. You can learn more about Cornerstone and Princeton at

<https://www.cornerstonewomen.ca/>



**Cornerstone-Princeton** is a new 42-unit housing community that will provide a comforting home for women who need moderate support. The women who move into this new space in Westboro will be transitioning out of crisis, but will still need some help living in the community.

The Sisters of Jeanne d'Arc have entrusted Cornerstone with the residence they had used as their 'Mother House' for many years. This allows the Sisters to continue their legacy of helping women in need.

Cornerstone-Princeton needs to raise \$1.5 million to make this residence a reality.

St Mark's Parish Council has agreed to support this project, by sharing the cost of furnishing one room with Julian of Norwich church. The cost will be \$3250 to each parish. This will be a proposal at Vestry. Please support it.

Stay tuned for various opportunities throughout the year to contribute to this worthwhile cause.



## Outreach

by Laurie Slaughter

**Debra Dynes Family House:** St Mark's faithfully gives to DDFH during the year. The pre-Christmas giving consisted of the regular weekly donations for their food bank (one of the biggest and most used in the city), and an Outreach donation for unexpected Christmas needs. This was much appreciated as there is always a need at Christmas. The Food Bank will continue to need our donations through the winter, when the Family House gardens are not providing fresh summer produce.

**Multi Faith Housing Initiative - 'Tulipathon Walk':** Although the walk for affordable housing will not take place until May, please think about whether you might like to support our parish contribution by joining our regular walkers, who proudly carry the St Mark's banner which has twice won the prize for best banner in the walk. If that is not something that you can do on the day, then please consider giving a monetary donation to support our walkers on behalf of St Mark's. The very pleasant walk along the Canal includes many churches and faith groups, all coming together to assist the MFHI, who work to help create safe and affordable housing for those less fortunate than us in our city. More information will be given at services closer to the date of the Walk.



**Bales for the North:** Coming in the late spring is Bales for the North, a Diocesan drive for clothing and household items which are sent from our churches to communities in the far north.

**Mother's Day:** Traditionally we donate small gifts to be made available to the children at Debra Dynes so that they may give to their mothers on their special day.

If you see things that might be appropriate for either or both outreach activities, please buy and put away for our spring giving. St Mark's has a reputation for being faithful and generous in our support of these causes. We are a giving church.



## St Mark's Breakfast Heads to Jamaica!

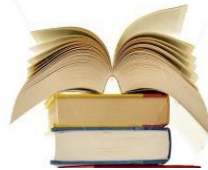
by Brian Harrison

It was a cold January morning and what better time to hear a talk about the warmth of Jamaica. About 30 parishioners braved the weather on January 14 and came out to hear parishioner Audia Barnett talk about her native country.

With a doctorate in chemistry and a masters in food science, Audia has been head of the delegation in Canada for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture since 2010. Audia told us of the fascinating work that she is doing, as a delegate from Jamaica, here in Canada.

When talking about Jamaica, Audia told us about the political system, the economy, cultural activities, religion and sport. Most of the audience was aware that the fastest man in the world, Usain Bolt, is Jamaican, however, few would know that dozens of other world class sprinters have also come from Jamaica. The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer period that reflected the audience interest in Jamaica.

With the January breakfast behind us, we look forward to warmer weather and our next parish breakfast on March 18.



## Parish Library

by Betty Caughlin  
Parish Librarian

**A note from Betty:** Rather than suggest a book from our Parish Library, I recommend that as many people as possible participate in the 2018 Visioning Season at St Mark's. It began on Sunday, January 28 with a significant group discussion about the 5 Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion. It continues, through Lenten Study groups and worship and onward. Details are outlined in other parts of this newsletter. It is an important time in the life of our congregation and worthy of our participation.

*Please note that you are always welcome to browse through our Parish Library. To borrow, simply sign the 'Sign-Out' card that you'll find inside the front cover and place this card in the 'Sign-Out' box found in the center unit. When you return the book, find the 'sign out' card, replace it in the book and put the book back on the shelf. The recommended borrowing period is three weeks. Thank you.*



## Vitality

by Margaret Lodge  
Membership/Vitality

In the previous newsletter I noted the second year of FUND-raising had been another success. The group had thought it would make 2018 more of a FUN-raising year, but we were asked to do a little fund-raising during the year, so we agreed to raising \$2000 for 2018.

We learned early on that one part of Vitality's program is to try not to put too many events close together. With this in mind we always look at the whole year and try and plan around regular parish events. We did this last August, but by November some events had been changed. When we met in January to expand plans for the first 6 months, it was noted that we have an even busier year ahead than we did last year. The result is that some parish events have been moved, some possibly removed as new ones are added.

Check the full list of Calendar events for the next few months. More details will be available closer to the time. A few events that Vitality is directly involved in:

- Card Party for the Ottawa area on March 7. This is a fund-raiser.
- St Mark's Patronal parish lunch Sunday April 22. This requires some funding, so as in the past we will ask for a freewill offering, with a suggested \$10. The surplus proceeds will go to our parish sponsor-a-room project for Cornerstone-Princeton. (see *Cornerstone* p5)
- There will be a Parish Clean-up day May 26, to prepare for the following weekend.
- Big Give and Doors Open Ottawa will be June 2/3.
- In the Fall we hope to have a parish dinner and concert.
- In December we are bringing the Stairwell Carollers with their Christmas program.

We have a new member for 2018, Suzanne Bisson. We look forward to working with her, and welcome new ideas, and people willing to help organize events. If you are interested in helping, contact Cynthia Greer, Penny Miller, Maria Padin, Kate Greer-Close, Suzanne Bisson or Margaret Lodge.

## Advent Giving Tree

Mothers' Union reports that Advent Tree 2017 was an even greater success than 2016. You donated hats, mitts, scarves, socks, underwear, toiletries, special seasonal foods and small gifts. These were shared out among Hope Outreach, the Mission, Centre 454, The Well, Cornerstone, Operation Come Home and St Luke's Table, plus a few Women's Purses went to the main police station.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

## Calendar of Events

**St Mark's Annual Pancake Supper** Shrove Tuesday  
February 13, 2018  
continuous sittings from 5-7pm

**ASH Wednesday**  
February 14, 2018 services: 10:00am & 7:00pm  
remember you are dust and to dust you shall return

Wednesdays in Lent  
the 5 Marks of Mission  
February 21 - March 21, 2018 10:00 am / 7:30 pm

## Annual Vestry Sunday February 25, 2018

9:00 am Eucharist Service  
10:00 am Vestry Meeting

**Lunch & Card Party**  
Wednesday March 7  
12 noon - 3:00 pm  
\$60 per table (ie \$15 per person)  
Contact: Carol Russell 613-224-9403

**Parish Breakfast**  
March 18, 2018  
8:45 am  
a time of fellowship

## HOLY WEEK

**Palm Sunday March 25**  
Sunday of the Passion  
8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am Sung Eucharist /  
Liturgy of Palms

**Maunder Thursday March 29**  
Institution of the Last Supper  
7:30 pm Sung Eucharist  
Altar of Repose  
Stripping of the Altar  
9:00 pm Overnight Vigil



## March 25-April 1

**Good Friday March 30**  
1:30 pm Celebration of  
the Lord's Passion

**Holy Saturday March 31**  
9:00 pm Great Easter Vigil

**Easter Day April 1**  
Sunday of the Resurrection  
8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am Sung Eucharist




**St Mark's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual  
art exhibit and sale**  
**Saturday, April 7, 2018**  
**10:30 am to 3:00 pm**  
 adults \$2 children under 12 free  
 1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa K2C 1X6



**St Mark's Patronal Lunch**  
**April 22, 2018 - 12 noon**  
 freewill offering - supporting the  
 Cornerstone-Princeton project  
 watch for details




**St Mark's - Vision 2**  
**Making our Mark**  
 growing into our future  
**Saturday April 28, 2018**  
**9 am - 4 pm discussion + lunch**  
 watch for details



**BIG or small  
lend a hand**  
 St Mark's  
**SPRING  
CLEAN-UP DAY**  
 coming in May  
**Parish  
Cleanup**  
 stay tuned  
 for details




June 2, 2018  
 10am - 12 noon  
**DOORS OPEN  
OTTAWA  
PORTES OUVERTES 2018**  
 June 2: 10am - 4pm + June 3: 12 noon - 4pm



**Seniors' Eucharist & Lunch**  
**Wednesday June 6, 2018**  
 Eucharist: 11:00 am  
 followed by lunch and entertainment

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

**St Mark's Roll Call**

**Moves** Jackie Sorfleet

**Deaths** Ted Dale Dena Burley  
 Sinclair Volk Flo Clarke  
 Vera Mackin



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