



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Weekly Newsletter

October 2, 2020

Dear friends,

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

foreseeable future. This week Suzanne Bisson is our guest editor while Joy takes a week off. Many thanks, Suzanne.

“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.

- Erin Bordman celebrated her birthday on September 27th
- Julie St Jean celebrated her birthday on September 29
- Owen Pilson celebrates his 17th birthday on October 3rd
- Joshua Pilson celebrates his 19th birthday on October 4th
- Alison Peatt, a member of our online congregation, celebrates her birthday on October 5th

Sunday Services

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. Because Joy is away this week, the closed captions may not be available until Sunday.

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

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.

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.

Caring for and about biodiversity

Biodiversity = Nature

Biodiversity is a word that scientists use to describe nature. Biodiversity includes all living things. There is biodiversity in the fine scale, for example differences between backyard Robins where each bird is slightly different. Biodiversity is also reflected in the variety of different species in an area, for example Loons, Black Bears, Monarch Butterflies and Sugar Maples. Biodiversity goes beyond species to include ecosystems which are complex communities of species, including their physical environment.

Whether we name it “biodiversity” or “nature”, the variety of life is of vital importance to people. Biodiversity is linked to food security, human health, political stability, water quality and many other social, economic and environmental features and services that support life, including human life. For example, we have learned recently that the mental and physical health of people is strongly tied to time spent in nature. Because of the importance of nature, there has been a united effort across the world to measure, track and develop laws and targets designed to conserve and protect it.

Some biodiversity facts

We have learned that biodiversity is highest near the equator, in places with lots of water and warm climates like the rainforests of

Central and South America. Biodiversity is also higher where there is less development and human use. Thus, Canada's biodiversity is significant due to its extensive natural land.

Beyond these general trends, biodiversity is not uniformly distributed within countries. Biodiversity tends to be associated with areas of varied topography and climate. The parts of a country with highest biodiversity are sometimes clustered along the border closest to the equator. In Canada, our highest concentrations of biodiversity tend to be in places like Ontario (e.g. Niagara region) and British Columbia (e.g. Okanagan and coastal regions), but important rare ecosystems and species at risk are found across Canada in all the provinces and territories (e.g. Northern Canadian Boreal forests).

Biodiversity and Species at risk

Discussions about biodiversity often include discussions about species at risk. A key strategy to protect biodiversity is ecosystem conservation, but some species need special individual attention because of unique or significant risks to their survival. For example, the government of Canada has a Species at Risk Act (SARA) that prescribes a process for examining, listing and protecting species at risk.

Brundtland Commission Report: Our Common Future

An important early step in biodiversity protection was the Brundtland Commission Report of 1987. Frequently seen as the beginning of global efforts to understand and protect nature, this report introduced concepts that would later be addressed and ratified in the first United Nations Convention on Biodiversity, signed by 150 countries in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. Based on these two important meetings several key ideas were discussed and adopted by many countries, creating an international momentum to protect biodiversity. One key idea was the concept of sustainability and sustainable use, discussed at the time as the

concept of "Sustainable development". Another key idea introduced by scientists was the concept of "precautionary principle". Finally, the convention encouraged countries to commit to tripling the number of protected areas worldwide to help ensure biodiversity conservation. There have since been other updated international agreements aimed at strengthening and improving effectiveness of biodiversity conservation world-wide.

Definition of Precautionary

Principle: where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat.

The status of nature in Canada

While the news headlines tend to emphasize the challenges and failures, there is also positive progress with biodiversity conservation. Significant progress has been made to conserve ecosystems. Canada exceeded the original United Nations targets for protected areas and has set new higher targets, based on new scientific findings indicating that earlier targets were too low. The current targets call for Canada to protect and conserve 25% of its land area and 25% of its oceans. In 2019, Canada reported it had protected 2 million square kilometers including 12.1% land and freshwater areas conserved (11.4% in protected areas) and 13.8% marine territory conserved (8.9% in protected areas).

Canada and some of its provinces including Ontario have Species at Risk Acts. Provincial laws are particularly important as most of Canada's land is managed by the Provinces. Leadership and participation of First Nations is also vital with important efforts being made to make room for Indigenous perspectives and knowledge.

There are significant challenges as well. Iconic species that have deep cultural and ecological

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importance in Canada are in trouble. These include Caribou, Polar Bear, Killer Whales, various populations of Salmon and many others. Bird numbers are declining significantly in Canada including common species.

More than 500 species at risk are federally listed (i.e. Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern). More species are being listed each year and while few have been reported as extinct or extirpated (gone from Canada, but remaining elsewhere), few are successfully protected and removed from the list.

How can you participate?

Each of us has a role in biodiversity conservation. The challenges are too broad and complex for government to do everything. There are many opportunities to act and many kinds of environmentally-friendly actions with positive impacts to species and ecosystems. Seniors can play an important role by sharing with young people what they remember about nature in the past. Describing the past helps more people understand what has changed and what could return, if we all made biodiversity conservation a priority. To protect nesting birds, property owners can retain trees and vegetation, especially near rivers, lakes and wetlands, and manage trees that become safety hazards by removing these in the fall, when nesting is not occurring. We can all manage our pets to limit their interactions with birds and other wildlife. Cats are a leading cause of death of birds, together with birds hitting windows. We can all read more about nature and biodiversity.

To learn more:

Brundtland Commission Report: Our Common Future

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987_our-common-future.pdf

Canada's Conserved Areas

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/conserved-areas.html>

Nature offers serious benefits to our mental health <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/nature-health-1.5128482>

Protecting our Nature: Canada's Story

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/about.html>

Reversing Wildlife Loss in Canada

<https://wwf.ca/living-planet-report-canada-2020/>

Sustaining Life on Earth: How the Convention on Biological Diversity promotes nature and human well-being

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-sustain-en.pdf>

"I used to think that top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation and we scientists don't know how to do that..."

—Gus Speth,

US Advisor on climate change and Yale professor

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.

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.

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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 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.

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.



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), Kalte Burkholder Harris (Executive Director, Alliance to End Homelessness), Catherine McKenney (Ottawa City Councillor, Somerset Ward) and Kim Van Herk (RN, Ottawa Inner City Health).



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