



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Volume 3:26

September 16, 2022

Weekly Newsletter

Dear friends,

Welcome to our weekly newsletter. We are continuing the weekly newsletter for the foreseeable future.

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 Wednesday Evening for it to be included in the service for the following Sunday.

- We wish every blessing on Laurie and Rob as they begin their married life together on September 17.

Live Streaming

The service will be streamed at 10 am on Sunday. Here are the links for the [service](#) and the [bulletin](#). The link is also available on the home page of our website: <http://www.stmarksottawa.ca>

Organists

This Sunday we welcome Dr Deirdre Piper who will be with us until the end of September. Our new director of music will be Dr Carl Bear, who will begin on September 26. His first Sunday with us will be October 2.

Slim & Trim

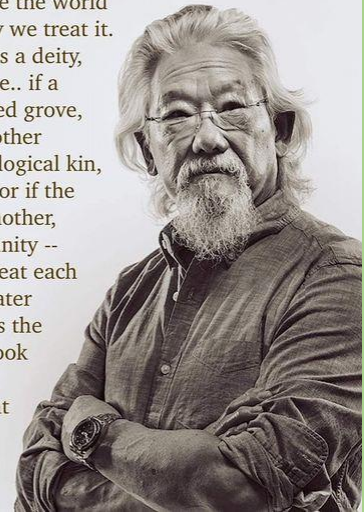
Slim & Trim begins on Monday, September 12 at 9:00 am. This is an exercise program which works on strength and flexibility and runs Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings from 9 to 9:30. See Jenny Morphew for more details.

Office Hours

The office will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 to noon.

The way we see the world shapes the way we treat it. If a mountain is a deity, not a pile of ore.. if a forest is a sacred grove, not timber; if other species are biological kin, not resources; or if the planet is our mother, not an opportunity -- then we will treat each other with greater respect. Thus is the challenge, to look at the world from a different perspective.

- David Suzuki



Creation Season

Christians around the world are invited to give particular attention to praying and caring for God's creation as part of the global Season of Creation, observed from September 1 to October 4 every year. 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 and encouraging dioceses and parishes to participate.

Musings on Creation Season

I have an educational background of Ecology. I did my Masters at UBC looking at zooplankton communities in one of the freshwater lakes in the UBC Research Forest. I started a PhD at the University of Toronto but parted ways with my supervisor before I finished. I am also a cradle Anglican who has sung in a church choir since I was 13, except for the 3 years when I was in Toronto. For several years, a field course from Carleton University was using Patterson Lake, where the Bowerman family cottage is located, as part of their field course. I was asked by the Lake Association if I would be willing to go out on the lake with the students in the field course to be their "local guide", so to speak. I would always introduce myself and ask each of the students to introduce themselves and tell me why they were taking the course, so if there was something of particular interest to

them, I could make sure that they saw it. One of the questions I was often asked when they found out what I did was, how do you reconcile your background with your job? Isn't the church against all that sort of stuff. The last time I went out with the course was 2019 and I was very pleased to answer that the head of the Anglican Church of Canada had just made Creation Season a national priority and even before then, care of creation had been added to our baptismal vows.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

The greatest threat to creation at this time, I think, is the shift in paradigm required to go forward. What is a paradigm? A paradigm is a widely accepted example, belief or concept. In the case in point, the paradigm we were brought up with is that the earth is there for our use. It is an infinite resource and we can take what we want without consequences.

There are certainly biblical references that have reinforced this belief. In fact, this mindset comes from the Judaeo-Christian tradition. In the story of creation, we are told:

"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so."

GENESIS 1: 28-30

This theme is echoed in the psalms:

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You made them rulers over the works of your hands;

you put everything under their feet:
all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
PSALM 8:3-9

To a people where the world was a hostile and threatening place with vast expanses of land, this would have seemed very comforting and sustaining. But, as with many things from that time, perhaps the time has come to put it in a modern context. While God is always with us, how we understand our heritage changes as the context of our lives change. Certainly, we no longer think we should be sacrificing in our temples. Yet the paradigm that the earth is ours to subdue informs our thinking to a large extent.

In searching the internet for creation collects, it was difficult to find a collect which truly reflected the vow "*safeguarding the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth*"

It is not difficult to understand why. People who enter the priesthood have a deep spiritual connection to God and a great desire to help and guide people. In general, most do not have a background in science or environmental studies. Some of the collects tie care for creation to the welfare of people in a causal relationship, ie we need to care for creation so that all people can be fed. Others talk about caring for all living things, which is great as far as it goes, but care for creation also means caring for the water and the air and the rocks, which are not living things. I realized that these collects were grounded and rooted in the belief that the earth is there to serve us.

What role can the church play in creation care? If we want to continue as a human race, loving and serving God, it is time to shift our view of creation. We must regard ourselves as stewards of creation, not lords over creation but part of creation. The quote from David Suzuki above, spoke deeply to me about this shift in thinking. We must realize that the way

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At St Mark's, we will stay in modified yellow (status quo) during the month of June with some gradual changes throughout the month.

- Masks are still required until further notice.
- No Proof of Vaccine required to enter the church as of June 5
- The table at the front of the nave will be removed June 12 and Communion will be administered at the rail. Distance must be maintained.
- The Peace is status quo until further notice.
- ¼ of the nave will remain with "distancing tape" until further notice.

E-Transfers to the Church

We can accept e-transfers to the main church account. We cannot do autodeposit because of the type of account but you may e-transfer money to stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca. You will be required to give a question. Please either make the answer obvious or email the office and let them know the answer to the question. This option has no cost to the church.

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>.

Contacting the Church

You may contact the office at 613-224-7431 or stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca. Messages are being monitored.

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

St Mark's Anglican Church
FALL & WINTER 2022
a weekly gathering for seniors in the community
SENIORS - COME & JOIN US
September 8 to December 15
Thursdays at 10:00 am
St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church
1606 Fisher Avenue, Ottawa
For more information contact: St Mark's at 613 224 7431

WE ARE BACK! THURSDAYS AT 10AM
UP-COMING ACTIVITIES

September 8	Welcome Back: renewing friendships over coffee & snacks
September 15	Coffee and Conversation
September 22	Roxanne McGahey on the piano
September 29	Cards and Games
October 6	Coffee and Conversation
October 13	Shelley Crowley, a well-known speaker representing the Canadian Women's Sex Based Rights Organization ("caWsbar"), on Women's Issues: Rights, Protection and Security – a very informative discussion on current concerns
October 20	Coffee and Conversation
October 27	"Halloween Hijinks" – a fun morning
November 3	"Aged in Harmony" (a male harmony chorus) a very popular and entertaining group of wonderful singers
November 10	Coffee and Conversation
November 17	"Share a Book (or TV/Netflix series)" a casual sharing of favourites, facilitated by Ruth Latta, our accomplished resident author of note
November 24	Coffee and Conversation
December 1	Cards and Games
December 8	Coffee and Conversation
December 15	"Christmas Joy" – songs and carols with Joy Bowerman on piano, a joyous way to celebrate the upcoming season

Christmas Break until January 2023