



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Volume 4:49

February 23, 2024

Weekly Newsletter

Dear friends,

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

news items or announcements for the newsletter to stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca with the word newsletter in the subject line.

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.

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.

VESTRY NEXT SUNDAY see page 2

Good Will Offering - Black History Month

On Sundays after Service, there will be a basket in the Hall for donations toward our expenses for Black History Month celebrations. As in past years, because of the generosity of parishioners and visitors, donations more than covered expenses. You may also place an envelope on the offering plate to receive tax credit. Thanks to all.



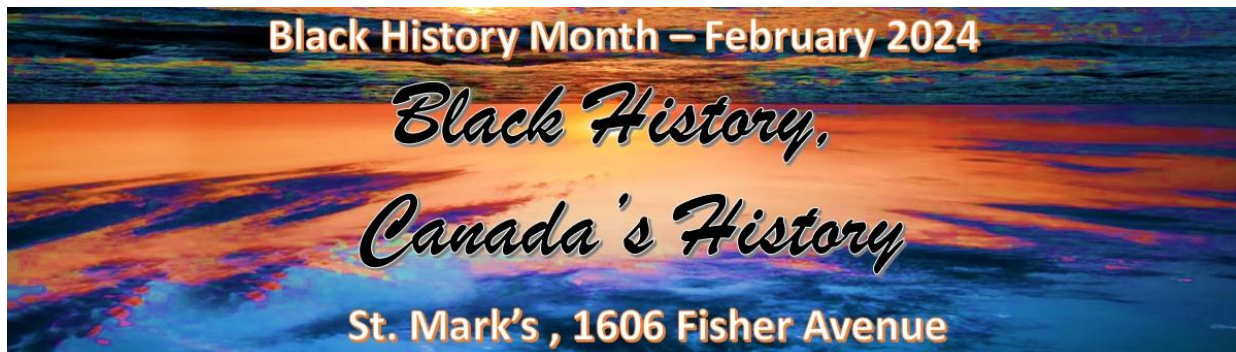
Guest Speaker February 25

Vergeneas Alfred Gray was born in Hard Hill, Acklins on August 5, 1951 to Charles W. Gray and Vera Darling (nee Collie). Mr. Gray was educated at Hard Hill Public School in Acklins, St. Anne's High School, New Providence, The Bahamas Teachers College and The University of Pennsylvania graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management.

He is married to Bessley Eloise Gray (nee Williamson) and they have five (5) children and five (5) grandchildren.

He served a Principal in the Ministry of Education School from 1972 through 1974. He also served as a Family Island Commissioner for Mayaguana, Acklins, Crooked Island, Andros, Exuma, Abaco and Grand Bahama from 1974 to 1981. An Attorney-at-Law, Mr. Gray was called to the Bar of The Bahamas in 1985.

Mr. Gray was served as a member of Parliament 1987 to 1992 and again from 2002 until 2017. Mr. Gray served in the Cabinet of The Bahamas for



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ten years, serving as the Minister of Local Government and Consumer Affairs, and Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government and Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources. Mr. Gray also served as Executive Chairman of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas from 1987 to 1992.

Mr. Gray was appointed as High Commissioner of The Bahamas to Ottawa, Canada in October 2022.

He serves as a Minister at the New Destiny Baptist Church, Nassau, Bahamas. An avid pilot, Mr. Gray's hobbies include flying, reading and fishing.

Last week's guest speaker was Yolande Parsons.



Vestry March 3 at 1 pm via Zoom

Our annual vestry is next Sunday. Please click on [vestry report](#) to view your electronic version. If you wish to receive a paper copy, please let the office know. There are a limited number printed. If you have motions of

thanks to be included, they would be gratefully received during the week.

Please contact the office if you wish to register for our Annual Vestry which will be on March 3 at 1 pm via Zoom. You will be sent the vestry registration form and the link this week, I promise.

Spring Market

Because Easter is so early, the first order form is [HERE!!](#) This order form contains tasty muffins and hot cross buns – available next Sunday March 3. There is also marmalade and lemon curd available. Keep watching for more treats to come.

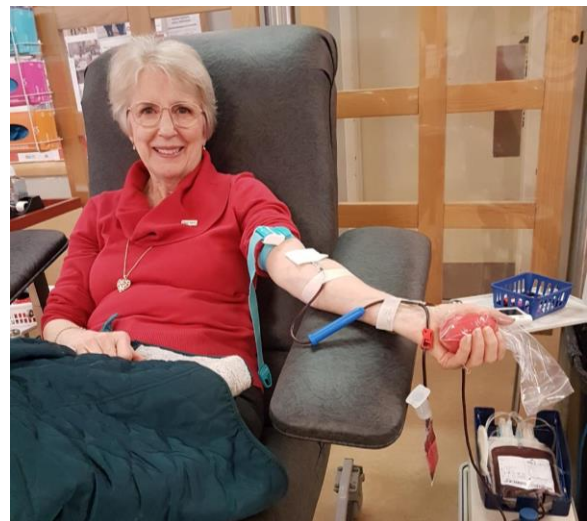
Coffee, Company & Conversation

This week, February 22, there were Cards and Games and conversation in a quiet relaxed morning.

Next week, we are in for a special treat as musicians Chris White and Mary Gick join us for fun songs and music. Thursday mornings make the winter go more quickly, with good company and conversation.

A reminder that if school buses have been cancelled due to inclement weather, CCC will also be cancelled.

Congratulations to Brenda!



Today is a special day for Brenda Zanin as she gave her 100th blood donation, but more importantly a special day and a blessing for all who are helped by donations of blood. Brenda encourages others to do the same, and

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to thank God for this gift of life. Well done, Brenda.



Readers, Servers, Sides & LACs

We are always looking for more readers, servers, sidespeople & LAC's. If anyone feels a calling to any of these ministries, please let the office know. Appropriate training will be provided. Every month, an email is sent asking for your availability and you will be scheduled appropriately.

New Directory

I will soon print a new directory, after vestry. If you have changed your phone number, perhaps by giving up your landline, please let the office know so our list can be accurate. If you wish to receive a copy of the new directory, please contact the office. You are eligible to receive a copy of the directory if you have given permission for your name to be included in the directory. Please be patient. Things keep cropping up.

PWRDF 2024 Lenten Resource

Daily reflections begin February 14!

Throughout the Lenten season, you will receive a daily email with a reflection from Dr.

Sylvia Keesmaat, on what health, well-being and good living require of us in our lives and our relationships with one another, with creation and with God.

And so, on this journey through Lent, PWRDF invites you to join Dr. Keesmaat as she walks with us, meditating on our current climate crisis and the well-being of ALL of creation, human and non-human, and offering us lessons in repair and restoration that are both profoundly ancient and current.

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Office Hours

The office will be open Monday and Friday mornings from 9:30 am to noon and Wednesday morning from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Please call ahead to make sure someone is there.

COVID Status

In his most recent communique, our Bishop announced a revision of the Diocesan COVID restrictions. Parishes can now observe normal social and liturgical practices, with one exception, while following the three main public health recommendations. These are:

- asking people to stay home when sick;
- encouraging mask-wearing in indoor spaces; and
- keeping up-to-date on COVID boosters.

An easy tool for determining whether you are eligible for a new COVID booster, and how to book one, is found at <https://www.ontario.ca/booster-recommendation/>

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.

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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>.

Contacting the Church

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

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