



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Volume 5:51

Weekly Newsletter

February 28, 2025

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, we will be more than happy to announce it. However, it must be in to 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.

Palm Crosses

Please bring back your palm crosses on Sunday for burning to make ashes for Wednesday.

Black History Month

Due to the inclement weather February 16, we have extended Black History Month to this Sunday when Yolande Parsons will be our guest speaker. There will also be an extended coffee hour featuring African and Caribbean finger food.

Ash Wednesday Service

March 5, 2025

7 pm

Online links:

[Service](#)

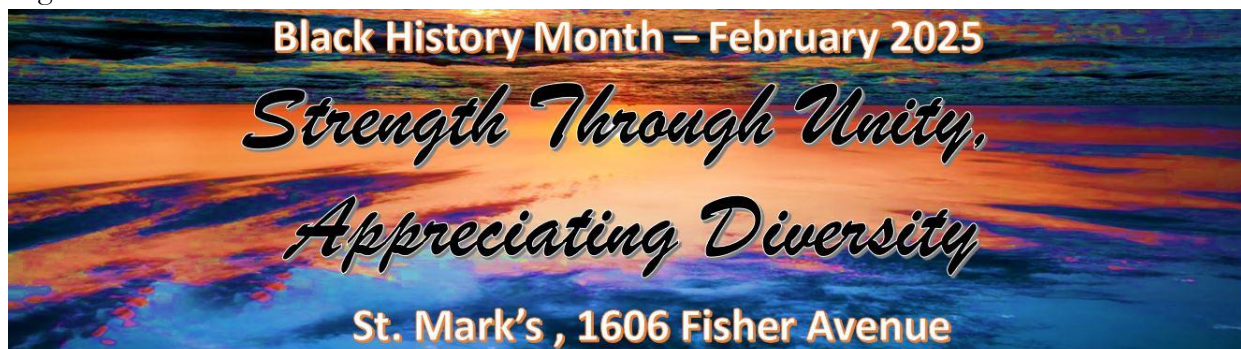
[Bulletin](#)



Yolande is no stranger to the St Mark's community; in fact, she considers herself an honorary member, having developed some dear friendships over the

last few years. It was the generosity of the St Mark's community to Algonquin College Spiritual Centre, where she then worked, that brought them together as they partnered to offer English classes and snacks to Ukrainians who were fleeing the war that began in February 2022.

Originally from St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Yolande immigrated to Canada over forty years ago, and initially settling in Winnipeg. It was there that she honed her passion for community work as she became involved in Winnipeg's vibrant Black community. After marrying and moving east, she and her late husband continued serving the Black community in Montreal and then Ottawa.



February 28, 2025

Yolande is very active in her local church, Arlington Woods Free Methodist Church, where she serves as the Board Chair, leads Women's Ministry and is a lay minister. She is a graduate of Heritage College and Seminary and is tracking for credentialing within the Free Methodist Church in Canada.

Yolande is the proud mother of an adult daughter, and works with the Algonquin Students' Association and teaches part-time at Algonquin College.

Vestry

Vestry was held last Sunday after the 10 am service. [Here](#) is the link to the vestry report.



There were a number of motions of thanks at the end of vestry, which have been listed here.



There was a motion of thanks to Suzanne for acting as rector's warden for 4 years. We showed our appreciation with flowers and our heartfelt thanks for a job well done.



Joy wishes to thank the office volunteers, Gillian Morris, Joan Grayer, Karen Barber, Carolyn Findlay & Lynn Mani for their faithful service.

Karen Roberts for her painstaking record keeping as envelope secretary.

all those who are serving, starting or finishing as wardens. It is a tough job with a lot of responsibility. Thanks for being willing to take it on.

Cynthia for taking on and coordinating a program for the children.

Fr David wishes to thank Joy for everything that she does. She is "joy of all trades".

Suzanne Bisson congratulates Joan Hounsell who is one of the best volunteers.

Cynthia Greer wishes to thank Joy for helping keep the choir together

Judy Life wishes to thank the people who call to check if you are ok and organize the prayer cycle.

Joan Hounsell wishes to thank Joy for setting up our livestream. It is phenomenal.

Margaret Williamson wishes to thank Laurie & Rob for their wonderful work with CCC.

Mike D wishes to thank for Fr Julian and thank to Fr David for his wisdom and insights.

Cynthia wishes to thank Margaret Lodge for e-prayer for over 17 years. It has been very helpful and caring.

Joan Grayer wishes to thank Penny for her work with altar guild and all altar guild workers.

Wes Adams wishes to thank Penny for her work as rental coordinator.

John Hancock wishes to thank to Bill for his availability for checking the church.

Gillian Martin wishes to thank the organists, Elaine & Alexander for their support and enrichment of our worship.

Margaret W wishes to thank the ladies who provide the food at CCC.

If we missed recording a motion of thanks, please send it to us.

New Black History Month Vestments.

New Black History Month vestments for St Mark's were blessed last Sunday. The vestments were designed and sewn by Joy Bowerman, with fabric help provided by Janis Perkin and Penny Miller.

Here are my (Joy's) notes on the design of the vestments:

I wanted to capture the beauty, strength, diversity and resilience of Black people and to reflect the Black Diaspora in Canada. In Canada, there is a long history of black quilting, both from the loyalists that came to Nova Scotia and those who came to Canada by the Underground Railway. In Nova Scotia, there are areas where the quilts are mostly strip pieced, which is what I used on the front of the chasuble.



In the fabrics, there are 3 black history month fabrics which Janis had. I found some African prints on line and serendipitously chose a fabric typical of Ghana, and three fabrics which are reminiscent of the Ivory coast. I chose rich coloured solids some of which came from Penny to coordinate with the prints – one of which has tulips on it, in my mind, for Ottawa.

There is folklore which tells of quilts being hung on the line or in windows with particular blocks used as a code for slaves escaping on the underground railway. This has not been verified, and there are many who actively dispute it. However, on the bottom of the stole, you will see a small log cabin quilt block. The log cabin block is a very old quilt pattern and the quilting community at the terminus of the underground railway made a log cabin quilt for their minister in the 1860s. In the stories, this block was used to tell travellers that they were in a safe place.

Black History Month Vernissage

The Black History Month vernissage featuring art work from the students at St Rita's school has been displayed since February 16. Snowstorms and Vestry have made me remiss in publishing photos of some of this marvellous artwork.



Bible Study at St Mark's

Continuing this Wednesday, there is a Bible Study in Bishop Reed Hall for anyone who wishes to come. It will last an hour and there is no preparation needed (and no homework given!)

It's a fruitful time together as we learn from the bible and each other. I hope you can give it a try.

Fr David

The Bible readings for the March 5 are:
Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16,
Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

Coffee, Company & Conversation

At CCC Thursday morning, Bruce Deachman, "intrepid reporter", senior writer and columnist for the Ottawa Citizen, shared stories and personal experiences about Ottawa. His informal talk was entertaining, fun and very informative. He had everyone's attention while he told of newspaper stories he's pursued and written over 30 years of reporting about our city. Notably, he shared about the book that he wrote and curated from Citizen archives, to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the newspaper. "Front Page Ottawa" was put together by Bruce to highlight the many important, routine and

February 28, 2025

sometimes very bizarre happenings that took place in the Ottawa area over the 175 years of the Ottawa Citizen's existence. In 1845 it was called "The Packet", and over the years, the paper reported on such events as the Titanic disaster in 1912, the Ottawa Senators' Stanley Cup win in 1923, Elvis Presley and the Heron Road Bridge collapse among many, many others. His writings of these reports which make up the book, are fascinating. He read several of the more amusing and/or "bizarre" tales to a rapt audience of 50. It was a delightful morning with a warm and engaging "historical" local journalist who had a number of people wanting to talk with him after his presentation.



The morning treats, along with tea/coffee, were delicious - oat squares, raspberry squares, tea biscuits, and other sweets, plus crackers, cheese and fruit - always healthy snacks at CCC. Many thanks to Gillian and Penny, this week's baking duo.



Next week the creative writing group meets while others enjoy the koffee klatsch. (There might a few CCC folks playing bridge as well).



Always remember that if the school buses cannot run (listen to a local radio station), then CCC does not open.

Belong Ottawa

Belong Ottawa is one of our 2 Lenten outreach charities.

I shall be taking things that have accumulated, down to Belong Ottawa in early March.

They can always use toiletries both large and small, for men and women, and new socks and underwear. If you received new tops,, sweaters and so on for Christmas, and feel you could spare some of your gently used ones, please bring them to church to go to Belong. Used jackets or pants are also of use,

February 28, 2025

and continue to bring pill bottles, as they split up large shampoo bottles etc into those.

There is a large see-through plastic tub in the cloakroom. I'll put it where you can reach it.

The people at Belong are in far more need than they were 5 years ago, especially the women. Please help if you are able. Toilet paper is always needed as well.

Thank you,

Cynthia

Stewardship

I don't know anyone who knows immediately what they are going to do with a cash windfall. Well many of us are faced with this conundrum today. This week we received two letters each with a \$200 cheque from Mr. Ford! Now I can figure out what I would like to spend this on but I paused to think "what should I spend it on?" We are fortunate



enough not to need the money so we can be generous with it so do we spend it on ourselves or do we look outside our wants and needs to help others?

We have decided that in addition to our planned Lenten giving that we will include the money received and donate it to St. Mark's and to the Lenten outreach. I encourage you, if you are able, to consider donating your windfall in a similar manner. (Just remember that this will result in an additional tax benefit for 2025.)

Rev Canon David Clunie

Our interim priest is the Rev Canon David Clunie. You may reach Fr David at 613-224-7431 or David@stmarksottawa.ca For Pastoral Emergencies, please call 613-867-7027.

LENT+MADNESS

Welcome to Lert Madness 2025. Once again this year we will be dancing with all the candidates for the Golden Halo.



Those of you who have participated in the past, or if you are new to this online devotion, here's how Lent Madness works: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the Golden Halo.

Every day I will be posting on my Facebook page (Michael Perkin) the two Saints that are up for election. This is a fun and enlightening event and in the process we journey through the Lenten season with a new appreciation for our Saints. You will notice the Lent Madness poster in the church hall, we will be updating this on a regular basis so keep track of your favourites as we journey through Lent.

For more information or if you wish to participate directly please click on [Lent Madness](#)

Alongside Hope(PWRDF) – Lenten Study

This Lent, Alongside Hope invites you to explore the intersections of faith and international development.

Weaving scripture, reflection and prayer together with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Anglican Marks of Mission, the Rev. Jonathan Rowe of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador presents a rich tapestry. Titled

“Living into God’s Dream,” the resource also offers the reader opportunity to reflect on questions, both personal and corporate and to learn more about Alongside Hope’s partners.

Subscribe to receive a daily message in your inbox, including a Bible reading, a reflection and a prayer. On Saturdays during Lent, you’ll receive an Alongside Hope story that relates to the theme of the week to come. Your introductory email will arrive March 4, the day before Ash Wednesday.

[Learn More & Subscribe](#)

A Lenten Journey in the Holy Land

St George’s College, Jerusalem is one of our two Lenten Outreach charities.

Violence and uncertainty have created a major crisis for St. George’s College Jerusalem, an integral part of the ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

The College normally draws many pilgrims to the Land of the Holy One, and many local Palestinians provide services and goods to pilgrims. The College enables pilgrims to see, feel, and understand the biblical and contemporary richness of the land and the Christians, Jews, and Muslims who live there. It is wholly committed to building awareness and dialogue through pilgrimage, education, and by arranging encounters between different groups of people to promote reconciliation.

The College’s earned revenue from pilgrims’ fees, gift shop sales, and other lodging fee has been totally disrupted, and there are insufficient funds to provide already-reduced salaries for the College’s staff and essential operations in 2025. The situation is dire for the remaining staff and their families, and for the future of the College itself.

Let Light Shine: The Canadian Campaign for St. George’s College Jerusalem is an appeal to friends of the College in Canada. It will run until the end of April 2025. The Campaign objective is to raise \$250,000 from Canadian friends of St. George’s College Jerusalem, to provide funds for paying reduced staff salaries and related operations in 2025.

In this time of alarming tension and restrictions, the College has adapted with creativity and resilience. The Dean and remaining staff have produced videos for virtual pilgrimages, developed future curricula, and continue to maintain the facility.

During Lent, we invite parishes to benefit from an excellent six-week video/study program prepared by the Staff of the College, called [A Lenten Journey in the Holy Land](#). As you enjoy this wonderful Lenten Resource, which is free, please consider making an offering for the Canadian Campaign for St George’s College Jerusalem.

The Canadian Campaign for St George’s College Jerusalem

Kiwanis Music Festival Front of House

St Mark’s is hosting Junior Piano from April 21 to May 1. We are looking for Front of House Volunteers to assist with registration. If you are interested in volunteering for a few sessions, please contact Janis or Michael Perkin and they will be happy to provide more information.

Forward Day By Day

The Forward Day by Day for February, March and April is now available at a cost of \$3 per copy.

Dollar for Dollar Coupons

We still have some dollar for dollar coupons from before the pandemic. We will be selling these at coffee hour until they are gone. They can be used at participating Loblaws, Dominion, No Frills, Real Canadian Superstore, Maxi, Provigo, Extra Foods, Your Independent Grocer, Atlantic Superstore, Zehrs Markets, Valu-mart, Fortinos, Wholesale Club and T & T Supermarket. Please talk to Joy about purchasing coupons.

Office Hours

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

Emails Addresses for Key People

The wardens, as well as the paid staff (Fr David, Joy and Elaine) all have email addresses in the StMarksOttawa domain. They are:

Fr David David@stmarksottawa.ca

Joy: stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca

Elaine: Elaine@stmarksottawa.ca

Janis Perkin : Janis@stmarksottawa.ca

Joseph Amuah : Joseph@stmarksottawa.ca

Mike Duval : Mike@stmarksottawa.ca

Gillian Martin: Gillian@stmarksottawa.ca

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. Email is faster.