

The Spirit of St. Mark's

St. Mark's Anglican Church

From the Rector's Desk

'I have decided to follow Jesus...'

St. Mark's does seem markedly quieter in the aftermath of Vacation Bible School. What a week it was, as over 60 children, 19 youth leaders and 14 volunteers came together under Pat McMillan's tireless and enthusiastic leadership to share songs and stories, crafts and games. It is a high point in our life together, the energy of which spills over into so many dimensions of our journey in God. I am so deeply grateful to all those who worked as hard as they did to create such a fun-filled and vibrant faith experience for our children.

We gathered each morning for worship, dancing and singing with a group of energetic youth in the church. One of our songs was 'I have decided to follow Jesus.' Those lyrics nail who we are and what we are about as a people of God at 155 Memorial. Quite simply, we are a bunch of everyday folk who are learning to walk with Jesus. We are his followers, his disciples... his apprentices. Together, as his apprentices we become a sign of this new thing, this new way of being that God is creating in our midst. We are learning to live as a sign, an instrument, a foretaste of God's reign in the midst of a broken world right here in the North End of Brantford. God does that by working through us to grow us, form us, mould us as apprentices of his Son. So to those whom God is bringing into our life, who might ask us what we offer, we can say to them, 'By God's grace, we want to meet you wherever you are at

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From Your Wardens

Throughout the first eight months of this year the wardens have been very busy with a wide variety of tasks including building maintenance concerns and Safe Church. Jody and Christine have both felt blessed to have the expertise that Steve and Vicki have brought to the leadership team.

So far this year we have replaced the fire door in Munro Hall and have had the floors of the halls refinished. In addition, there has been

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September 11, 2016



VBS 2016

A Meet and Greet

We would like you to meet our Syrian Refugee family and welcome them to Brantford.

An Open House will be held on Saturday, October 1st from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Anglican.

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in your walk with Jesus and then help you walk further.' And yes, it requires intentionality and it requires focus: 'I have decided to follow Jesus.' The good news of course is that our apprenticeship with Jesus is not simply an act of will. God is a God of grace who gifts us with the trust, the companionship and the guidance we all need to train as apprentices, to learn as disciples, to grow as followers of Jesus.

So, how exactly does this apprenticeship happen at St. Mark's, a newcomer may continue? We can respond that before anything else it's a work of the Holy Spirit – God is the one inspiring, initiating and empowering our formation. The Holy Spirit is at work in and through our shared life together – each dimension of our community life. It's one of the reasons I am so grateful for the work of the Christian Generosity team over the summer. They have produced a very useful and informative booklet '*Being Involved at St. Mark's.*' It provides a snapshot of our life together, setting down the various groups and ministry initiatives that comprise our response to God's love and grace in our midst. You will find these groups organized under six different practices or habits or patterns of life which the Holy Spirit uses to deepen our life in God, to form us as apprentices of his Son.

Welcoming others – as we provide social opportunities which build and strengthen our life together and invite others into our life

Celebrating God – as we hear and respond to God's Word and celebrate God's presence through traditional and contemporary worship

Growing spiritually – as we offer opportunities to deepen our faith and equip our people to live Jesus' life in the world

Caring for each other – as we share Jesus' compassion with those in need in our parish family

Engaging the community – as we extend helping hands and respond to needs in our neighbourhood and beyond

Cherishing our resources – as we care responsibly for all the gifts God has entrusted to us

It is not only a case of the Spirit training us as apprentices of Jesus through these habits or practices; we may find that in gratitude for all that God has so freely given us, we wish to contribute our own time and talents to various dimensions of life at St. Mark's. To this end, the Christian Generosity team will be providing us opportunity in the Fall to identify



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some of the gifts or skills with which God has blessed us personally; they will also help us to identify those areas of ministry already up and running at St. Mark's where we can invest our gifts and skills for God's glory and for the building up of the sign of his Reign here in the North End of Brantford. Please take time to complete the surveys that the team has put together for us.



Learn and share your
God-given gifts.

'I have decided to follow Jesus.' May those words on the lips of our kids at VBS become this Fall the words on the lips of every one of the St. Mark's parish family as we sign on for another amazing year of apprenticeship with Jesus, without doubt the most exhilarating formation going.

A blessed Fall to you all.

Tim+

From Your Wardens

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maintenance to the parking lot drain.

Throughout the summer our finances have remained quite positive and without a significant drop in givings. We are very grateful for this and for those who have continued to help us meet our needs in July and August. Earlier in the year, the finance committee urged parishioners to consider giving through the pre-authorized debit (PAD) system so we could budget better next year. You may join PAD at any time or change your information when required.

In early spring the warden team, together with our treasurer Lloyd, attended a Warden's and Treasurer's workshop at Renison College in Waterloo. It was an interesting and informative day and brought to our attention the need for us to be in greater compliance with Safe Church. The Safe Church document outlines the policies and procedures that are to be followed to reduce risks associated with those who may be vulnerable (eg. children and seniors) but also includes areas of financial risk as well. We are presently developing a policies and procedures manual for St. Mark's. On Tuesday, September 13th at 7pm, we will have Archdeacon Janet Griffith-Clarke at St. Mark's to provide information about Safe Church and its implications. All are welcome! Please RSVP to the church office if possible so we have an idea of numbers.

As always, thank you to all of you as St. Mark's continues to flourish and fulfil our mission statement.



Jody, Vicki, Steve and Christine

St. Mark's Servers' Guild

I would like to welcome everyone back after the summer. I hope everyone had some well-deserved relaxation and time with your families, and enjoyed your holidays! The Servers' group and I were able to enjoy a fun night in July. We travelled to Hamilton to play laser tag, followed by treats at Dairy Queen. It was a good evening and a way to all spend some time together outside of Sunday mornings!

I would like to thank Andrew Hazell for his dedication to serving over the last 4 years. He has decided not to continue with serving this Fall, as he has other commitments. We will miss him and wish him the best of luck! Starting in September, we will be back to having 3 servers for the 10:30 am service.

The Servers' Guild always welcomes new youth who are interested in joining our ministry. The Servers' Guild is a group of dedicated young men and women ages 12 and up, who hold the responsibility of assisting the clergy at all regular Sunday morning services, as well as at all special services throughout the year. The group also holds two annual fundraisers which include selling poinsettias at Christmas and cooking pancakes on Pancake Tuesday.

Letters will be going out to those youth in our congregation who are turning/turned twelve years of age this year inviting them to join the Servers' Guild. We hope to see some new faces join our ministry! If you are interested in serving, you can contact me, Nina Cooper, or leave your name and contact information at the church office.

May God bless you and your loved ones as we head into Fall and back to school!

Nina Cooper, Servers' Mom

St. Mark's Choir Rehearsals

Music and song continue to play a vital role in the life of God's people. Our choirs are gearing up for the Fall and invite you to come and join them for a rehearsal. We're saving a spot for you!

- The Worship Choir rehearsals take place Thursday evenings at 7.30pm.
- The Praise Choir will be back on Sunday, September 18th. We will meet in the Choir Room at 10:00am.
- The Chime Choir begins on Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00pm. You don't need to be an accomplished musician, just be able to count to 6!
- The Children's Choir rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 29th from 4.15 to 5:00pm.



We are enriched by the dedication of our Servers.



St. Mark's Chancel Guild

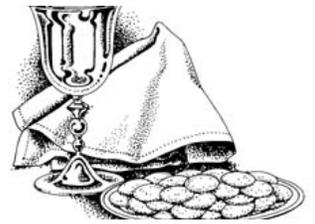
Members of the Chancel Guild prepare the church for worship. Because we have four groups, the time commitment is about 1 hour on Saturday morning and about ½ hour on Sunday morning every 4 weeks. Weddings or funerals add a little bit of time, but this can be very flexible. The duties are to help clean the Chancel, clean brass and silver, set up the Eucharist, clean up after services, prepare the flowers so they can be given away to shut-ins and people who are unwell, and delivering the flowers. Of course, as part of a team, we all share the duties so no one has a lot to do. All the information needed is contained in a manual. Although the liturgical items we use in worship all have official names, we all know what another member means if they call the paten a plate or the chalice a cup! As we all belong to a team, a sense of fellowship quickly is established. Full training is provided. Members of the Chancel Guild feel a great sense of fulfillment knowing they have helped in some way to make the church ready for worship.

As a couple of our teams could use another member, please feel free to ask Diane Nichol, Mary Ogilvie, Enid Robertson or Caroline Shannon about this important ministry.

Some Notes and News

What a gift to our life Kayla Forrester has been over the summer. Kayla was our summer student who worked hard on helping us research need amongst young families at risk and seniors in the North End. Working alongside Adrian and Christine and deploying several volunteers from St. Mark's, Kayla organized interviews with 35 community stakeholders (people with vested interest in our neighbourhood) including 10 participants (those living at Northland Gardens or in the Sifton Townhouses). She has produced a presentation and a report, which she will be sharing with both the 9am and 10.30am congregations in the Fall. Not only has Kayla completed a vital piece of work for us as we seek to engage our neighbourhood; her sparkling manner was a lovely addition to our ministry team over the summer. Best wishes for your continuing studies, Kayla and I hope and pray our paths continue to cross!

Please remember 5pm on the second Friday of the month. That's the start time and date for Messy Church. All those involved with the running of Messy Church gathered in August to reflect on 2015-2016 and to look ahead to the coming year. There is so much to celebrate. I would never have believed a year ago that one year hence we would already have another



Serving the Lord by assisting the clergy and preparing for worship.



Messy Church is designed for those who cannot attend formal services on Sunday mornings

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congregation meeting in St. Mark's with an average attendance of around 60. And we are having a blast! Support amongst the volunteers for the continuation of Messy Church was unanimous – the community is already more than paying for the cost of the meal and crafts. I was overjoyed to learn recently that one of our members is interested in being baptized – yes, at Messy Church! We discussed ways in which we can make what is happening here more widely known. The short answer is that each one of us is the answer to that question. Please let your family, your friends, your neighbours, your colleagues, your hairdresser – whomever! – know about Messy Church – an evening of crafts, stories, songs and a yummy meal together. There's no cost. Everyone is welcome – kids need to bring an adult; adults don't need to bring a kid. My heartfelt thanks to all those who are working hard to make Messy Church the awesome night that it is.

One of the many things that struck me during Vacation Bible School was the involvement of our youth. They were just phenomenal – engaged, helpful and having fun themselves (well, so it seemed!) I value deeply too their support at Messy Church and on Sunday mornings as servers. They bless us as a parish. I am grateful for Adrian's investment in their formation and for the parents who support the activities. I am especially thankful for Nina Cooper's oversight of the servers. Adrian is working on a curriculum for the Fall as I write and is looking to make some changes that will help us give them a richer experience of life in faith.

At St. Mark's we take seriously our relationship with our sister and brother Anglicans in the city, and especially during this time of transition. It is important we look for opportunities where we can get together. We are planning to worship together on occasion and to study together. Please keep an eye out for shared worship events: Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 2nd; Blue Christmas on Tuesday, December 13th; New Year's Eve on December 31st; Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 15th and a combined summer service in 2017. Following the positive response to previous studies, Rev. Brad Johnson and I will be hosting film nights and a study series at St. Mark's beginning in the Fall. Please watch this space for further details.

We have so much to look forward to as we celebrate God together: Sunday School launch happens on Sunday, September 11th; in response to growing ecumenical momentum to mark a 'Season of Creation' in our liturgical calendar, our worship on Sunday, September 25th will be creation-themed; Harvest Thanksgiving falls on Sunday, October 9th; All Saints on Sunday, October 30th at which service we celebrate especially the life and witness of those who have entered God's nearer presence in the past year; Remembrance Day on Sunday, November 6th and the Reign of Christ with baptisms on Sunday, November 20th (please be in touch with the office at



Spread the word about Messy Church. Everyone is welcome.



© Creating the Word of God
Season of Creation Service on September 25th.

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your earliest convenience if you are interested in baptism).

Neil Dunning has kindly taken on leadership of the Environment Committee and is doing stellar work. The Committee is hosting a workshop here at St. Mark's on Saturday, October 1st from 9am-noon on ways in which faith communities can green their buildings. We are not only cherishing our resources, we are engaging the community – great work, guys! I know the Committee would value your support.



You may or may not be aware that the Province of Ontario has designated the first week of November as *Treaties Recognition Week* beginning this year. As I have indicated already, our Primate is challenging every parish in the country to engage with the 94 Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report. A small cadre of Lutherans and Anglicans are working on a programme for that week here in Brantford. We will be hosting a Blanket Exercise on Wednesday, November 9th at 7pm and some presentations at Woodland Cultural Centre on Sunday, November 13th at 2pm followed by worship at the Mohawk Chapel.

What a privilege it was for us to take Walid shopping for his back-to-school supplies as he prepares to enter JK at Central. Walid brought with him his Dad Khaled, his Mum Nour and our translator Nawra. His grandma Nawal and sister Alisar stayed back at their 3 bedroom apartment in Centennial Towers at 150 Darling. They are a remarkable family – resilient, resourceful and enterprising – and are settling into their new life in Canada. There is a lot for them to process as you can imagine. Khaled's immediate focus is English classes – he is already talking about college courses he wants to take. Thank you to all those who have contributed to their support both in practical and financial ways. I know that Brantford will be the richer for their presence, and they now have opportunities which they would never had had in Syria. I do wish to acknowledge Mieke Schroeder's sterling leadership in coordinating our sponsorship team.

It is important to me that we take time on an annual basis to reflect on the year past and to discern together those priorities we believe God is laying on our hearts for the coming year. Marilyn Malton is a faithful and gifted friend to St. Mark's who will facilitate that conversation with us after Sunday worship in November. We will gather for a light lunch first. Anyone interested in the direction of our life together is welcome to attend.



A blessed Fall to you all.

Tim+

Child and Young Families

An exciting, adventuresome time was enjoyed by all at VBS Cave Quest where children discovered the joy of following Jesus, the light of the world. Many thanks to members of St. Mark's for the amazing response towards contributing supplies for VBS 2016; with your contributions we were Ready, Set, Go! Special thanks to Jim Learn and crew for working diligently to prepare effective 'cave' scenery for our young spelunkers. Heartfelt thanks to adult and student volunteers for giving our sixty-one participants a safe, happy week!



VBS 2016

Our Summer Sunday School teacher volunteers did an amazing job in keeping students engaged in meaningful Christian education activities. We averaged approximately 10 children per session this summer. Regular Sunday School staff are grateful for the volunteer support to keep our Sunday School programming active and vital throughout the summer months.

Excitement is growing toward the introduction of a new Sunday School curriculum for 2016-17 entitled 'Deep Blue'; we're about to dive deeply into God's Word through exciting Bible stories, songs and creative activities, as we learn to live as disciples of Jesus in life today.

We welcome back Deb Dejong to our teaching team. Deb will join Pat McMillan and Samantha Hill to assist K-Gr 1 students. Lynn Dempsey and Jody Ogilvie will continue as instructors for Gr. 2-3 and Vicki Corke will be teaching Gr. 4,5,6. We welcome assistance in our Sunday School programme; please see Pat McMillan if interested.

Sunday school programming begins at 10:30 each Sunday in Munro Hall with whole group introductory activities. Children then disperse into individual classes for instruction and will later join their families in church for Family Eucharist .

Our Nursery in St. Mark's Hall, for infants and preschoolers, is available during the 10:30 Sunday service; caregiver Rebekah Stone provides a safe, caring environment for young children in a cheery, welcoming setting.

Many thanks to St. Mark's for your continued support of our Messy Church endeavours. A turnout of twenty-one volunteers was appreciated at our first planning meeting for the new year on the evening of August 23rd.

Our Messy Church Congregation gathered on Friday, September 9th for an awesome introduction to our biblical ancestors Abraham and Sarah; through this story we discovered that God's promises may start small but can



Nursery care is available at all 10:30 worship services.

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become incredibly large: we are part of a Christian family whose numbers compare to all the stars in the sky! With crafts and story telling, songs and dinner, an exciting evening was enjoyed by all, where 'stars were born'.

We welcome St. Mark's and Messy Church congregants to join our volunteer team. We presently have over twenty members who are called by core team leaders at times during the year to volunteer in a particular area of choice at Messy Church services. The more volunteers we have, the more effectively job distribution can be handled.

Children in our Sunday School and Messy Church congregations can look forward to *Meaningful Giving* programmes this Fall that continue to promote awareness and gestures of friendship towards our neighbouring Six Nations community and outreach within our city community. Our church website will keep families up to date on projects planned by students and staff.

Parents and Grandparents can look forward to celebrating Hallowe'en with their little ones at our *Peek-a-Boo Hallowe'en Toddler Party* on October 29th at St. Mark's from 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. Please check out our church website in early October for more details.

A Deanery All Saints Holy Day for children will be hosted by St. Mark's on Tuesday, November 1st from 9:00-3:30 p.m. Our theme, '*Learning To Be The Light*' will help children to discover the joy of living their life in the glow of Jesus' ways, through reaching out to others. Further information will be available to parents in mid-October.

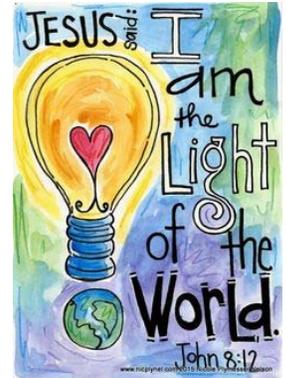
Senior and Junior Youth

The youth group kicked off the Fall season with the annual Soccer Baseball game at Greenbrier Park.

Beginning Sunday, September 18th, both the junior and senior youth will meet every Sunday from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. More details will follow.

Updates to Our Parish List

We have noticed in our church records that we are missing birth dates for some of our parishioners. Like most families, we want to recognize those we care about on their special day. If you would like to have your name published in the bulletin and be remembered in our prayers on your birthday, please call the church office and provide us with that information.



Let us celebrate with you.

Gift Cards for Daily Bread

Thanks to the generosity of the parish family of St. Mark's, we are able to give a gift card to each client at the Daily Bread Christmas dinner held at Grace Church. Our goal is to purchase 225 \$20 gift cards for FreshCo. We have always been blessed that donations received have allowed us to reach our goal.

Last year we were down to crunch time, but after a special appeal people responded and we were able to give each guest a \$20 card. If you are planning to donate to this outreach and are able to do so by the end of November it would really help us as we have to place the order a few weeks prior to the dinner.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for supporting the less fortunate in our community.

Pat Perkins

Christmas Basket Programme

Fall is here and things are gearing up for the Christmas Basket programme. St. Mark's participates in many ways with this project. It is our way of helping the many families in our community who need additional support at Christmas. Our aim is to see that every child feels special and cared-for during this wonderful time of year.

It's never too early to think about how can you help.

- Time to start knitting! A Christmas Tree will be set up to collect mittens, toques and scarves for children and adults. This project will begin at the Holly Jolly Faire in November. Knitted items may be purchased at the Faire or from local retailers and added to the tree.
- A huge basket by the Information Table is available throughout the year to collect colouring books, activity/puzzle books and crayons.
- Boxes will be available to collect new and gently used toys for children from newborn to age 14.
- A box will also be available to collect cans of fruit and cranberry sauce.
- Volunteers are needed to help with toy repairs, packing, distribution and more beginning in November.

We hope that the people of St. Mark's will consider taking part in this city-wide programme and make this Christmas a time of sharing, a time of friendship and a time to celebrate for everyone in our community.

Jim and Betty Kelso



Helping to bring hope and smiles to our neighbours.

10th Annual Holly Jolly Faire

It's hard to believe that autumn is just around the corner which means it is time to get ready for the Holly Jolly Faire. This is one of our events that takes the whole congregation to make successful.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2016

The Ladies' Guild is busy making pies that we all enjoy. If you have an idea for the Faire, please see one of the committee members to share your idea. Here are some ideas and ways you can help:

- We are looking to change up the baskets this year so we are needing nice large glass containers (check the bulletin for a list of supplies that we will need for these containers)
- Create something for our Craft Table
- Knit/crochet/sew items for our Stitch in Time Table
- Closer to the date, plan on baking for the Bake Table
- Look for new items to re-gift, either to the Silent Auction or to the Sales Table
- Look through your jewelry box for jewelry you may not want
- Create preservatives, jams, pickles, relishes

These are just a few ideas as we are just starting to think of things now. Check the bulletin and e-mails for more information in the coming weeks. It won't be long before the day is here!

Holly Jolly Committee: Vicki and Jamie Corke, Laurie and Pat Murray
E-mail or call:

Soup and Sandwich Lunches

Beginning at the end of October, we will once again be offering Soup and Sandwich lunches. Sign up sheets are available at the Information Table for those to sign if they are able to make soup, help make sandwiches in the kitchen or clean up after the meal.

The Fall dates include: October 30, November 27 and December 11.
Winter dates include: January 29, February 26 and March 26



Coming together is a beginning; working together is success.



The ultimate lunch combo on the last Sunday of the month.

An Urgent Message from Bishop Bob

In April of this year, Erin Dance, daughter of retired Bishop Terry, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. After three months of aggressive treatment, doctors said they were out of options. In an effort to battle this virulent cancer, she went to MD Anderson, the top-rated cancer treatment centre located in Texas, for treatment that was not available in Canada. Ultimately, she needs a stem cell transplant (with brother Jason being a perfect match) within 10 days to survive. The treatment will cost more than \$800,000. Erin still needs to raise \$355,600 CDN.

Your generous support over the next few days could save Erin's life. Donation options include a donation to the '*Clergy Family Wellness Fund*' (tax receipts provided):

- By Visa or Mastercard: Call Ms. Sjouk Lynch at 519-434-6893 ext. 236
- By Cheque: Payable to The Diocese of Huron. Contributions can be delivered by mail, courier, or dropped off to 190 Queens Avenue, London ON N6A 6H7.

Donations may also be made through a GoFundMe page started by her family:

www.gofundme.com/helpforerindance.

Please keep Erin Dance, her partner JW, Bishop Terry & Diane and Jason & Ashley in your prayers.



St. Mark's Anglican Church

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Phone: 519-752-6451
Fax: 519-752-1432

Mark Your Calendars for Bishop Bob's Retirement Dinner

On Friday, October 14th in the evening, we will be having a retirement celebration for Bishop Bob Bennett at the London Convention Centre. All are invited to attend. Further details will be forthcoming shortly and be available on the Diocese of Huron website.

Reaching Up Reaching Out

