

Upcoming Events in Brant

Treaties Awareness Week in Ontario

Blanket Exercise

Location: St. Mark's Church

Date: November 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

This is an interactive learning experience that teaches the Indigenous Rights history and covers over 500 years of history.

Presentations

Location: Woodland Cultural Centre

Date: November 13, 2016

- **The Crown and It's Role in Reconciliation**
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Speaker: Nathan Tidridge
- **Reconciliation and Land Rights**
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Speaker: Phil Monture

Talking Circle

Location: HMR Chapel of the Mohawks

Date: November 13, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Film Nights

Location: St. Mark's Church

Dates/Time: December 7, 2016, January 11, 2017, February 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Combined Worship Services

Blue Christmas - St. Mark's on December 13th at 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Service - Grace Church on December 31st at 7:00 p.m.



What's Happening at St. Mark's This Fall

September 25, 2016

St. Mark's
Anglican Church

155 Memorial Drive
Brantford, Ontario
N3R 5S5

519-752-6451
www.stmarks.on.ca

From the Rector's Desk

So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me' (Deuteronomy 26.10).

As a people of God we have been thanking our Lord for our harvest for some time. This writer from Deuteronomy describes the harvest festival, an occasion in the life of the people of Israel for celebrating and giving thanks for God's gift of the fruitfulness of the earth. The passage tells us that the worshipper was to come to the sanctuary with a basket containing 'some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest..' (26.2). This gesture was one of returning to God a small portion of what God had freely given. So too, we in the church set aside time in our life to celebrate the harvest, and particularly to give thanks for God's goodness – God's goodness, God's abundance, God's provision in blessing us with what we need not only to live, but to thrive in this extraordinarily beautiful corner of God's creation.

What issues come out of our gratitude? What does our appreciation lead us to? Well, I pray that as we give thanks, we might too grow in our

sense of responsibility for what God has so freely given us. These good gifts come from the earth, God's earth. And God cares for all his creation. God's provision is not just for us. Harvest Thanksgiving is a time when we recall that God's gracious care and concern is not only for human persons. It extends to all of God's good creation. Our pets, indeed all animals, too go about their lives under God's promise to meet their needs. God's covenant extends to all the earth. The whole creation is the object of God's love. God desires that the entire cosmos should flourish. May our thanksgiving lead us into a deeper love for the earth which has borne this fruit – the earth which God loves, and on which we depend. And may the love impel each of us to care as best we can for the particular corner of creation entrusted to us – and if you need some ideas, we'll see you at the Greening Sacred Spaces workshop at 9am here at St. Mark's on October 1!

A blessed Fall to you all.

Tim+

Special Services at St. Mark's

Sunday, October 2nd

- Community Engagement Feedback

Sunday, October 9th

- Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, October 30th

- All Saints Service

Sunday, November 6th

- Remembrance Day Service

Sunday, November 20th

- Reign of Christ (Baptisms)

Sunday, December 11th

- Christmas Pageant at 10:30 a.m.
- Soup and Sandwich Lunch at noon

Sunday, December 18th

- Carol Services at 9:00 and 10:30

Saturday, December 24th

- Christmas Eve Services at 4:00, 7:00 and 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th

- Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 1st

- Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Brunch following the service



Deanery Children's All Saints Holy Day

Learning to Be the Light is the theme of this fun-filled, activity based day for school-age children (K-Gr. 6). Kids will discover what it means to be a modern day saint by sharing gifts of love and compassion for others.

This special day, hosted by St. Mark's, takes place on Tuesday, November 1st from 8:45 - 3:30 p.m. Snacks and a pizza lunch will be provided. The children are asked to bring a donation for the Food Bank.

Registration packs are available from the church office or the Sunday School staff.

Come join us as we make our light shine!

Operation Christmas Child

The shoe boxes have arrived! To date, Operation Christmas Child has distributed over 135 million shoebox gifts worldwide. In 2015, Canadians donated more than 730,000 shoeboxes for hurting children around the world. Show God's love to a child - pack a shoebox today!

Special Days for Children

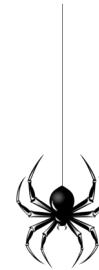
Peek-A-Boo Party

Toddlers and preschoolers are invited to join us on Saturday, October 29th from 10 - 11:15 a.m. for a costume parade, games, songs, stories, snacks and a take-home craft.



Hallowe'en Haunt

Children ages 5 - 11 are invited to a Hallowe'en Haunt on Saturday, October 29th from 4 - 6:00 p.m. There will be a costume parade, a take-home treat, dinner and age-appropriate games.



Please register for these special events by calling the church office at 519-752-6451.

Messy Church

Messy Church is a form of church that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. Plan to join us on the second Friday of each month from 5 - 7:00 p.m. for crafts, stories, songs and a meal. The next Messy Church is on October 14th and the focus is *Joseph and the Coat of Many Colours*.

Holly Jolly Faire

This year's Faire is scheduled for Saturday, November 26th. Our committee chairs, Vicki Corke and Laurie Murray, are looking for your help to make this year's event a success. Popular items for the Faire include:

- Hand-knitted items, hats, mitts, etc
- Jars of homemade pickles, sauces, jams and jellies
- New or re-gifted items
- Handmade craft items

A new initiative for this year is *Gifts in a Jar*. Large glass containers, similar in size to a cookie jar, will be needed.



As part of St. Mark's Christmas outreach, 10% of the proceeds from the Faire will be donated to the purchase of gift cards for the Daily Bread dinner.

Adult Christian Formation Series Spirit of Invitation

Are you eager to go on a journey with the Lord? Join us for a 6-week series beginning on October 5th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's and learn what God is doing in the lives of all his children.