



The Spirit of St. Mark's

DECEMBER 3, 2017

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

From the Rector's Desk

Preston Pouteaux is a beekeeper, a fan of neighbourhoods and pastor at Lake Ridge Community Church. It's probably not surprising that he would see a connection between beehives and the church. In his recent book *The Bees of Rainbow Falls: Finding Faith, Imagination and Delight in Your Neighbourhood*, he suggests that as beehives are essential for the production of many foods that we enjoy today (take apples and almonds for example), so the church is essential for the health and well-being of our societies. Just as the collapse of hives would have a dramatic effect on our food chain, so the collapse of the church would have a profound impact on our neighbourhoods. He reminds us that we matter to our community, that there is goodness all around us and that God is bringing new life in the places we least expect.

In the face of the considerable transition we are experiencing in the church and in the world, it becomes even more important that we embrace the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany as we wait for the 'appearing' of Jesus Christ, the one who brought and brings new life in the places we least expect. We commence another church year by looking forward in the direction to which all of history is tending – that is the fulfilment of God's plan for the healing and restoration of all creation. During Advent we wait for Christ's appearing as One who presides over a new creation, a reign, a time and a place where God's justice and peace prevail and all of creation experiences the abundance of God's life. Over Christmas, we celebrate the way in which God has accomplished this work in the life, death, resurrection and ascension of the baby born in a barn, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, whose perfect peace enfolds us and transforms us. In Epiphany we praise and thank God for those signs and wonders indicating that God really is at work in his Son and revealing God's glory to us. Advent, Christmas and Epiphany remind us that we find ourselves in the in-between time of the 'already' and 'not yet' of God's new way of being for us all.

What this means is that all that God inspires and empowers in our midst – both in terms of who we are as his people and of what we get out of our life together – becomes a way of pointing to the appearing of Jesus and to this in-breaking Reign which Jesus has initiated and which God by his Spirit will bring to completion. It's why I love to celebrate all that God has accomplished in, with and through in this past year and to take time to open ourselves – heart, mind and soul – and to listen to where God is bidding us move in the coming year. It is as we thank and praise God not only for what God has done and is doing with us, but also in what God intends to do with us, that we live into the growth of God's mission through our life together at 155 Memorial. As we continue to focus on welcoming and nurturing our children, youth and young families through Messy Church and other initiatives; as we

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A Note From Our Wardens



Flower and Candle charts for 2018 will be available on December 10th.

Jesus is the light of our Christmas, the joy of our hearts, and the hope of our world.

Be open and listen to where God is bidding us.



Once again, here we are in Advent and the end of our calendar year. This year has seen many positive aspects in our life together. The Wardens would like to thank the Fundraising Committee for all their hard work and especially for giving us some great fellowship opportunities. The Christian Generosity Team has worked diligently throughout the year and opened our eyes to all the things our time, talent and treasure can produce. Messy Church continues to be a blessing thanks to all the hard work of Pat and her team of volunteers.

This year we added Christine Fournier to our staff as Office Coordinator and we are very thankful for the expertise and skill she brings to this position. She has become the welcoming “face of St. Mark’s” and we appreciate all her effort in also making herself a member of this fantastic parish.

Financially, the Wardens would like to sincerely thank you for your continued support of our mission. We are so blessed to have had the congregation respond to our needs this year. As we look forward to the New Year, we are exploring the possibility of renovating one our washrooms to provide better accessibility for our parishioners and a family friendly environment for our young families.

A Happy & Blessed Christmas,
Vicki, Christine, Steve & Neil

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connect each other through our study and fellowship events and engage with those in need through the likes of Daily Bread; as we care for one another and for God’s creation and share generously what God has entrusted to us, God partners with us in the ushering in of God’s new creation. We become a sign, an instrument and a foretaste of God’s unbreaking Reign. During our Advent and Christmas celebrations, may God gift you each with a sense of the ways in which the Christ child has already been born in your hearts, and a heartfelt gratitude for the ways in which the Spirit is empowering you to make a difference in the lives of those around you. And may God continue to show up in your lives in the places you least expect!

Felicity, Sophie, Lynn and I wish you all the hope, peace, joy and love Jesus embodies throughout the season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Yours in Christ
Tim+

Advent and Christmas Services

December 10th	2nd Sunday of Advent		
	Holy Communion (BCP)	9:00 am	
	Christmas Pageant <i>The Christmas Star</i>	10:30 am	<i>Soup and Sandwich lunch and a special visitor</i>
December 13th	Senior's Christmas Eucharist	11:00 am	<i>Lunch will follow the service</i>
December 17th	3rd Sunday of Advent		
	A Service of Lessons and Carols	9:00 am	
	A Service of Lessons and Carols	10:30 am	
	<i>(Reserve sacrament will be available following both services.)</i>		
December 20th	Midweek Eucharist	10:00 am	
December 24th	4th Sunday of Advent		
	Holy Eucharist (BAS)	10:00 am	<i>Sunday School class is available</i>
	Christmas Eve		
	Christmas Eucharist	4:00 pm	<i>Multigenerational Service for all ages</i>
	Christmas Eucharist	7:00 pm	
	Candlelight Eucharist	10:30 pm	
December 25th	Christmas Day		
	Christmas Eucharist (with carols)	10:00 am	
December 31st	The Naming of Jesus		
	Holy Eucharist (BAS)	10:00 am	<i>Sunday Brunch following the service</i>
January 7th	Baptism of the Lord		
	Holy Communion (BCP)	9:00 am	
	Holy Baptism (BAS)	10:30 am	<i>Regular Sunday School classes resume</i>

May the Lord grant you and your loved ones love, joy and goodwill this Christmas.

New Greeters Needed

We invite you to start off the New Year by joining a Greeter Team at St. Mark's. It is a great way to meet more of your fellow parishioners. The job description is basically to hand out a bulletin, give your warmest smile, and say a hearty "Good Morning!". We will teach you the rest, but those are the fundamentals. If you wish to participate in this rewarding ministry, speak to Rick or Judy Newson (for the 10:30 service) or Terri Ann or Henry Tabak (for 9:00), or Christine in the office.

We are also looking for persons to sign up to greet at the special Christmas services. Sign up sheets are available at the church.

Christmas Outreach

Christmas Baskets

Donations of new and gently-used, clean toys and canned cranberry and fruit can be dropped off at the church as part of our contribution to this programme to support those in our community who are going through difficult times. Volunteers are also needed at the distribution centre (519-751-0000) on delivery day.

Gift Cards for Daily Bread

It is not too late to make a donation to help provide a \$20 gift card to the clients attending the Daily Bread Christmas Dinner. Your donation can be dropped off on Sunday morning or at the office during the week.



Cookies for Seniors can be dropped off at the church on December 10th, or during office hours on December 11th and 12th, or until 9:30am on December 13th

Join us on the second Friday of each month.



From the Christian Generosity Team

For three weeks in September and October our focus was to provide our wardens and finance committee with an estimate of our givings for 2018.

Prior to the campaign, nine volunteers contacted members of our congregation and found 28 parishioners who volunteered to visit ten families each in our parish to deliver our information package. With the help of these 28 people, we were able to make contact with everyone on our parish role. We are pleased to report that 96 intention cards have been returned to date. We feel very confident that the results of this fall programme will assist the finance committee in their budget deliberations for 2018.

It was also very encouraging to see the strong St. Mark's turnout for the Deanery workshop on Saturday, October 14th that St. Mark's hosted as part of our fall campaign. The workshop was offered by a Diocesan team and was a pilot for a workshop that will be used in Deaneries across the Diocese.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who was involved in our fall campaign. This includes telephoners, deliverers, workshop attendees, those who spoke in church, those who returned intention cards, and all members of the St. Mark's family who welcomed members of our delivery team to their door. Thank you to Father Tim for his support throughout the fall.

Carrie Thiessen, Bob Langfrey, Dan Walker, Rick Newson, and Neil Dunning

Rock Solid Youth

Jody Ogilvie, Youth Coordinator

Rock Solid youth meet every second and fourth Friday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and alternate Sundays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. We started off the year with a *Bigger and Better* event which means going around the neighbourhood with a jumbo paper clip to see what we can trade for. How do you make a bigger and better sleepover? You do it by making a jumbo monopoly, a jumbo battleship and jumbo connect four. In October, we had a Hallowe'en party with a worm eating contest, feet only apple bobbing and the receiving of the coffin awards. In November, we did more community involvement activities like cooking a dinner of ham, mashed potatoes, veggies and ice cream sundaes for Messy Church. We also have been selling poinsettias and helped out at the Holly Jolly Faire.

On December 3rd, we are going to *Flying Squirrel* indoor trampoline park, and then we will be helping with the Sunday School Christmas pageant and planning our Christmas party. After the holidays, we will start back on January 12th for Messy Church.

Holly Jolly Faire Update

What a wonderful day we had for Holly Jolly, 2017. The weather cooperated and it was a great event. The weeks and days leading up to Holly Jolly were extremely busy for all. To date, we have made \$6,357.33. There are so many that need to be thanked.

For those who organized an area:

Men's Café	Neil Dunning
Knitting/crocheting and Sewing	Sylvia Learn
Chocolate	Janet Vickerman
Treasure Chest	Wynn Allen
Bake Table and Pies	Mary Ogilvie and the Ladies Guild
Penny Table	Brenda Cochrane
Basket Creation	Vicki Corke and the Basket Babes
Basket Sales	Judy Newson
Craft Table	Enid Robertson
Silent Auction	Pat Murray and Alice Chisholm
Hourly Draws	Vicki and Jamie Corke
Youth Group	Jodi Ogilvie
Preserve Table	Christine and Dave Hazell
Cemetery Toppers	Bob Strople
Signs	Olga Collett
Set up	Brian Ryder
Setting up the items for sale and spending three days at the church waiting for items to arrive:	
Enid Robertson	

Also a **HUGE thank you** to those who sewed, crocheted, knitted, baked, created, donated, worked on sales and greeted on Saturday! Many of those who contributed, we will never know. This is truly a St. Mark's family event and we came together to provide the community with a wonderful shopping and lunch experience.



The community also donated to our Silent Auction. Please support them if you can as they generously supported us:

Bulk Barn - King George Road; Food Basics - Lynden Park Mall; Lococo's Fruits & Veggies Fresh Meats; M & M Meat Shops - 595 West St. Suite 7; Metro - St. Paul Rd; Strodes - 403 Fairview Road; Wine Kitz - 358 King George Rd.; Zehrs at Fairview and West Street

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Treaties Recognition Week

Kathy Dunning



On Sunday, November 5th, several members of St. Mark's attended a meeting at Woodland Cultural Centre to listen to a presentation from two women who lived at the residential school during the fifties and late sixties to early seventies. The session was deeply moving. Dave Levac (MPP and Speaker of the House) was there and said that he walked across the lawn of the residential school each day on his way to school and had no idea about what was happening at the residential school.

For one woman who was born into a happy family, the residential school was a place of loneliness and learned helplessness. She was separated and isolated from her siblings. Fighting amongst residents was common because the children were left on their own with no direction or care; there were only two 'officers' (house mothers) to oversee 60 students. She didn't even learn to read when she was there, instead the children performed menial tasks for half of the school day. She also related a report by her sibling who later told her of her own sexual abuse. Finally she left the school and went to live with a foster family and eventually became an elementary school teacher.

Another woman arrived at the school because of the drunken turmoil in her mother's home and she said the school was a safe place from the rest of her life even though she was surprised to be hit there for the first time in her life. She eventually learned to forgive her mother. She found out that her maternal grandmother had attended the residential school and had never learned how to be in a happy family; her grandmother had only the fear of punishment to guide her life.

Each woman gave us a picture of how complex each story and family situation was and how the residential schools were tied into the children's aid and foster home programmes.

Through their stories it was encouraging to see that both women had reconciled much of what had happened in their lives; the latter through extensive counselling, relearning the Mohawk language and attending longhouse; the former through reconnecting with family members and through her faith in the protection of Jesus. One message to all of us attending was "do whatever you need to do to reconcile any trauma you have experienced in your life."

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Culligan - Beachcomers; Home Hardware - 10 King George Rd.; J & K Grohn Building Supplies Ltd. Home Building Centre; Mayfair Paint N Paper - 44 Charing Cross St.

J.D. Hill Jewellery - 427 St. Paul Ave.; J.H. Young - 126 Lynden Rd.; Pat Alonzo Music Shop - 139 Charing Cross St.; Patricia's Ladies Wear - 126 Lynden Rd; The Gospel Lighthouse - 265 King George Rd.

Emporio Hair Studio & Aesthetics - 274 King George Rd.; Forest of Flowers - 265 King George Rd Unit 112B; Kidtastic - 625 Park Rd. North

Brantford Honda - King George Road; Nissan Brantford; OK Tire St. George; The Bicycle Shop - 228 Clarence St.; Dundson Auto - 435 West Street

Al Dente - 250 King George Rd.; Montana's - Lynden Road; Mothers Pizza - King George Rd.; Red Lobster - King George Rd.; Stillwaters Plate & Pour - 61 Grand River St. N. Paris; Joey's Fish and Chips - West St.; Zanders Restaurant - King George Rd.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Murray