



The Spirit of St. Mark's

Summer Edition

June 10, 2018

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Our annual Synod gathering which took place in London from May 27-29 is in many ways like a family reunion. We gather as a Diocesan family to review the year past, reflect on our life together and make any decisions required for our collective life. It is a marvellous opportunity for us to reconnect and I am grateful for the privilege as well as for how ably St. Mark's is represented by Carole Moffat, Charles Ruff and Janet Vickerman.

On Sunday evening we worshipped together in the Cathedral which was sweltering (again!) Rather than read her charge (which I commend to your attention), Bishop Linda preached on the appointed texts. She has recently returned from a trip to Assisi the birthplace of St. Francis and St. Clare. It was there that St. Francis heard God's call in the dilapidated Church of San Damiano to 'rebuild my church.' St. Francis understood the call to mean restoring the physical building, which he did. It later became the home of the Poor Clares, a monastic community founded by St. Clare, until her death. It was only later that Francis realised that God had much more than the building itself in mind. God's call on Francis' life to 'rebuild my church' entailed renewing the life of the people of God, which Francis devoted the rest of his life to. He remains one of the Church's most beloved of saints. It was this call that resonated deeply with Bishop Linda, and which I hope resonates with you as it does with me – it is the call of every baptised Christian. 'Rebuild my church.'

*be the
best
version
of you*

How you might ask? At St. Mark's we are about becoming the people of God, God has created us to be. God is rebuilding us through who we are becoming as much as what we are or will be doing. A colleague recently invited me to imagine the best version of myself I could imagine in five years time – best version husband, best version father, best version son, best version priest, best version friend... you get the idea. How do each of us become the best version of ourselves? God's Spirit grows us into our best versions through our life together, through those practices, patterns or habits that we have identified as core – welcoming others, celebrating God, learning God's story, caring for one another.

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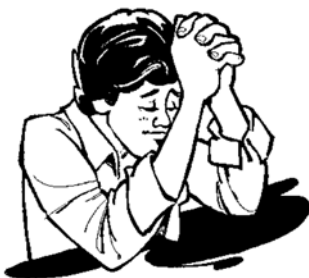
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er, engaging our community and cherishing our resources. It's how we live the life that Jesus would live if Jesus were living our life, as Dallas Willard puts it. That's what it means to grow in faith, to be an apprentice of Jesus, to be formed in Christ. This growth, this formation, this development (we often call it discipleship) remains always a work of the Holy Spirit effected in and through community - our shared life together at St. Mark's. There is nothing that excites me more as a priest and pastor than to witness this transformation in people's lives as we journey together. To this end, when we are making decisions about activities we undertake, it is important that we pause to ask ourselves, 'Is what we are doing or planning to do helping us become the people of God, God is calling us to be?' Do these initiatives help me to live the life Jesus would live if Jesus were living my life?

It's where our prayer life becomes vital. Through intentional time with God, we become more aware of the enormity of love in which we are held, and of God's desire that we become the best versions of ourselves that God has created us to be - kind, generous, courageous, authentic, creative, funny, patient, compassionate, wise, loving... As we allow God to take up more space in our lives by opening ourselves up in prayer, the Spirit of the risen Jesus simply moves us in these directions - almost 'like it or not'! With our schedules more flexible and with more opportunity to rest (I hope), the summer can be a great time to be more intentional about prayer. Can I encourage you to take this God-given time to commit or recommit to encountering our living God in prayer. You may only have a few minutes - it's all you need. Only I would suggest, you keep it regular. If you can manage 15 minutes even better.

Here's a simple plan for example. Begin with a prayer. *'God, here I am. The next 15 minutes is just for you and me. Help me get close to you as you are already close to me.'* Then you may want to read something devotional for two or three minutes - I know some of you already use *Forward Day by Day* available from the church office; *Daily Bread* or Eugene Petersen's *Living the Message* are also useful. It can be helpful to have a pen and pad handy in case any words or thoughts come to mind. You might consider asking yourself, What spoke to me? What questions do I have? What is relevant to my life right now? You can finish with a simple prayer letting God know that God truly is amazing and then using the three words we learned to say even before going to JK - thank you, sorry and please. Anyone who can say these words can have a rich prayer life. *'Thank you for the difference you make in*

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God, Here I am.

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my life, sorry for any shortcomings and please help me to stay in touch with you today (or please keep me safe through the night).'

As God called St. Francis, so God calls us by reason of our baptism to 'rebuild my church.' The church is God's people - that's us! - loved, forgiven, restored and set free. God rebuilds us as his people through helping each one of us become the person God has created us to be – the best versions of ourselves. Prayer is a great way to become more effective partners with God in this life-transforming process. May we all know deep refreshment this Summer through committing and recommitting ourselves to spending time with the Author and Perfecter of our lives.

A blessed Summer to you all.

Felicity, Sophie, Lynn and Tim

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR CHURCH WARDENS

2018 has been very busy year so far. The church has had a number of fundraising and fellowship events with a new Spring sale in lieu of the former garage sale. The newly renovated handicap wash-room is almost finished. Thank you to those who have worked to hard to make this renovation a reality. The wardens continue to work on our Safe Church initiatives, new fundraising efforts, budgetary items and the Bishop's plan for the future for the Diocese.

In January we welcomed Jody Ogilvie to the job of sexton. She is working diligently to keep our halls and worship space clean.

Our finances are generally in good shape for the first part of the year. Some of our routine expenses have unexpectedly been increasing. Please be aware that over the summer our expenses continue so we would encourage you to continue your financial support during July and August.

We are looking forward to a fun summer with Vacation Bible School as our August highlight. As always, thank you to all of you as St. Mark's continues to flourish in so many ways and fulfill our mission statement.

Vicki Corke, Christine Hazell, Steve Collett and Neil Dunning

NEED NEW GLASSES?

We have just the place for your old ones. Over the years, thousands of pair of glasses have been donated by St. Mark's and local eye doctors. The glasses are checked and the lenses identified before being sent to a variety of places in Africa and Asia for distribution to people with impaired vision. Keep adding your donations to the box under the mail slots by the parking lot doors so that together, we can help others see more clearly.

Jim and Betty Kelso



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We appreciate volunteer pairs signing up for a 20 minute teaching session with the children during the 10:30 a.m. service during July and August. Lessons are fully prepared with minimum preparation required.

A sign-up sheet is available in St. Mark's Hall for each week during the summer. Lesson folders containing teaching information is also available.

AN UPDATE FROM THE SERVERS' MUM

This year we have a few youth who are graduating from high school and moving on to post-secondary education in the Fall - Tyler Dejong, Sarah Ogilvie, and Nick Robertson. They have been with the Guild since they were 12 years old and I thank them for their dedication to serving at St. Mark's and wish them all the best in the next chapter of their lives. A few other servers have left the group this year - Samantha Hill and Brittanie Reynolds, due to other commitments. I thank them for their years of service, as they started at the age of 12, along with the others. They have all done a great job!

I have spoken with Rev. Tim, and let him know that I will be ending my time as Servers' Mum after the summer. I have other priorities that need my focus and unfortunately can no longer look after the Guild. A big thank you to Rev. Tim for all of his support to me and the Guild – his insights and suggestions were invaluable. I have really enjoyed the last 4 years working with the kids – they are a terrific bunch! It has been so gratifying to see how they have matured and embraced their role as servers at St. Mark's. They have gained self-confidence which will help them in the future. I will miss them!

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. If you are interested in serving you can contact the church office.



..... To all of our servers, past and present and to those who offered their time with this group of young people.

*From whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:15, 21*

Nina Cooper

NEWS FROM OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

A special thank you to everyone who donated gently-used toys for our Marketplace Sale. We raised enough funds to support our Foster Child through World Vision for 2018-19!



Jesus teaches us how God wants us to live; we learn from Jesus' stories and can follow His example. The first of the summer teaching units began on June 3rd and end on June 24th. The children will explore *The Lord's Prayer* and *The Golden Rule*. On June 10th, certificates and tokens were given out to each child for their amazing efforts in Sunday School this year. On June 17th, we will be making loving gifts for Dad /Grandpa for Father's Day. The Sunday School barbeque with games and prizes will be held on June 24th.

Join us for an indoor family service followed by a barbeque, games and prizes on June 24th beginning at 10:30 a.m.

If you enjoy working with children and would like to join our friendly teaching staff, please see Mrs. McMillan. We have openings in the primary areas beginning in the Fall. A staff meeting will be held Thursday, September 6th, with regular 10:30 Sunday School beginning Sunday, September 9th.

MEANINGFUL GIVING: NORTHLAND GARDENS

Thank you again to our Parish families for your support in providing prom dresses for preteens and teens at Northland Gardens on Memorial Drive and two other Brantford Community Housing townhouses. The outreach was amazing!

During the summer months barbeques and outdoor sports and games will be organized for Northland Gardens families. St. Mark's will be helping out at these outdoor events. Donations of sunscreen for children and pick-me-up snacks (preferably non-gelatin gummy treats and granola bars) would be gratefully accepted throughout July and August. A basket to accept items will be located in St. Mark's Hall. Pat McMillan, our Child and Young Families Co-ordinator, will deliver these as they are received. Thanks for this neighbourly gesture!

CALLING ALL TODDLERS AND JK'RS

Please bring a grown-up and meet us in Munro Hall with your Teddy or favourite stuffy on Saturday, June 16th! We're having a PICNIC, rain or shine! Watch your e-mail for an invitation for songs, stories, a craft and a yummy picnic lunch! Please have Mom call the church office (519-752-6451) by June 11th to let us know that you are coming! Mrs. McMillan will be at the picnic with her favourite Teddy!



Join the fun on Saturday, June 16th from 10:00-11:15 a.m.



Student help would be appreciated on Sunday, August 19th, to set up scenery from noon-1:00 p.m. A pizza lunch to meet-and-greet will follow with Mrs. McMillan!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: SHIPWRECKED

Imagine being 'SHIPWRECKED' and surviving on an uncharted island with a 'boatload of friends'! Our Vacation Bible School theme helps kids become anchored in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. Kids from JK-GR.6 will enjoy a daily 'catch' of worship, music, crafts and games! Mark the week of August 20th on your calendar. Please watch for registration forms to be sent home from St. Mark's, check the Information Table or go to St. Mark's website for forms.

Adult congregation members are welcome to volunteer in any key area outlined on the poster at the V.B.S. display in St. Mark's Hall. A Meet and Greet for adult leaders will be held on Thursday, July 19th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in St. Mark's Hall.

Students in Grade 7 and up are welcome to volunteer as crew guides or helpers. There is a sign-up sheet at the V.B.S. display in St. Mark's Hall. All student helpers will need a filled-in registration form for emergency purposes. For high school students, being a V.B.S. volunteer will help you gain community hours.

MESSY CHURCH

Thank you to our amazing volunteers who have worked so hard to make every Messy Church evening a special one. If you would like to join our volunteer team, please see Pat or Tim or add your name to the sign-up sheet in St. Mark's Hall.

We are having our annual Messy Church Volunteer Meet and Greet meeting to discuss plans for 2018-19 on Tuesday, August 28th from 7:00 -8:00 p.m. in St. Mark's Hall. We welcome your presence and fresh ideas!

ROCK SOLID YOUTH

Our Youth Group is planning a year-end trip to Niagara Falls on Friday, June 29th. Those interested in attending are asked to meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. on that day, but should contact Jody Ogilvie for further details.

At the end of the summer, this group is once again challenging members of the parish for the Annual Soccer-Baseball game. Mark Sunday, August 26th at 3:00 p.m. on your calendar and watch the parish website for updates.



The challenge is on!

PLANNED GIVING

The St. Mark's Christian Generosity Team has been investigating options for parishioners that would like to find different ways to contribute to their church and/or favourite charities rather than making weekly or monthly contributions from their working income. The following story is about Aunt Emma, a 60-year-old parishioner at St. Mark's.

Aunt Emma has been a faithful parishioner at St. Mark's for quite a while. She believes in the vision and the church plan that was passed at Vestry and wants to help by giving more to the church. The problem is that she is on a fixed income and can't afford to take any more out of her spending money.

So, she asked her nephew, a Certified Financial Planner, if he could help her with a Charitable Giving Plan. He explained to her that any financial planning follows a process the same as the one the church uses when determining its budget.

- 1) set a goal;
- 2) gather the information and facts;
- 3) analyze the information;
- 4) determine the plan;
- 5) implement the plan; and
- 6) review the plan periodically and set new goals as required.

Aunt Emma's nephew examined all of her papers and discovered a \$5000 insurance policy that her mother purchased for her when she was a child. She thought that it was worthless but her nephew discovered that the policy had been converted to shares in a company. She initially felt that she would cash in \$1000 in shares and write a cheque to the church and another to her favourite charity, but her nephew recommended that the shares be transferred directly to the church. Rather than cashing them in and paying capital gains tax and then writing her cheques, the entire amount was given to the church. By transferring these shares (or mutual funds) into the church's investment account, the entire \$1000 was moved tax free. Otherwise, depending on her tax rate, she would have received less than the \$1000.

After transferring the shares to the church, St. Mark's was able to transfer some of the shares to her other charity anonymously. The tax receipt will come from the church so Aunt Emma's plan allows for all of her charities to receive her donation once and she will receive one tax receipt from the church. Aunt Emma's nephew (the CFP) plans to meet with her annually to monitor things and see if she wants to implement her other plan to set up an endowment to fund the Vacation Bible School.

If you are interested in implementing planned giving, you may need to work with a Certified Financial Planner, your lawyer and your accountant to ensure that you are using the best approach to your donation.

Your Christian Generosity Team

PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND PROGRAMME

PWRDF collaborate with church-based and secular development and relief organizations globally. Our Primate, Fred Hiltz, is our lead person in this pursuit. They work with many agencies around the world in Asia, Africa, Latin America and offer humanitarian response to refugees.

In Canada, PWRDF supports the refugee sponsorship work carried out by Anglican parishes and Dioceses across the country as well as support advocacy work as a member of the Canadian Council for refugees. When you give to the PWRDF, you are improving the quality of life for vulnerable populations while promoting global justice and sustainability.

Your commitment in prayer and contributions transform lives and communities around the world. Working together, we can become a powerful force for all that is good and right in the world. The New Zealand rendition of the Lord's Prayer says it simply:

*Abba Amma beloved, your name be hallowed,
your reign spread among us, your will be done
well, at all time, in all places on earth as in
heaven.*

As a Christian family, we pray for peace, equality of all peoples, love in the world and to live the life that Jesus wishes us to live.

We will keep you connected with the work of the PWRDF and hope that you will hold them in your prayers.

Jim and Betty Kelso

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

If you wish to receive future St. Mark's newsletters electronically, visit stmarks.on.ca, click on the 'Subscribe' button and complete the form.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Although Christmas may seem like a long way off, we are asking you to take a look for the huge basket in the hallway and help fill it with colouring books and crayons for the Christmas Basket programme. When you are out shopping, if you see these items on sale, remember our basket and pick up one or more items. With your help, every child registered in this programme will receive the gift of a colouring book and crayons.

The Kelso's

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Apostles

One member of our parish with a car is needed to deliver our contributions to the Food Bank on only one day during the year.

Hospitality

If we had 3 more parishioners to act as coffee hosts following the 9:00 service, each volunteer would be on duty only once every two months.

Sound System

An additional three volunteers to turn on the sound system before the 9:00 service would provide the opportunity for more people to be involved in the service. Training is provided.

If you are interested in any of these roles, please speak with Jim or Betty Kelso after the service.



Save
the
Date

Holly Jolly Faire 2018
November 10th