



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 143rd Edition - January 6th, 2023



From the Rector

*A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp
The very dead of winter.*

So writes T. S. Eliot at the beginning of his poem "The Journey of the Magi." Today is the feast of the Epiphany, the day when we hear the story of the visit of the Magi—the Wise Men—who brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the young Jesus. In their story we discover and see our own story, namely that we are to give fully of ourselves to Christ so that, little by little, the light of his love will dawn in every human heart and in the midst of every human circumstance.

The world assumes that the season of giving is over. Now all the bills have started coming in and folks need to contend with the fact that they may have given more than they could afford. And if we're honest with ourselves, we have to admit that we've given so much over the last weeks—cards and presents and food—that we have nothing left to give. We're exhausted, and we feel a great need to spend something on ourselves.

But when we look closer at the Epiphany story, we quickly realize that not only is it one of journeying but also one of giving. There's no doubt that the journey of faith can be a wintery and arduous and disagreeable one. Yet if we have the courage to take it, to set out in the cold and the dark and the uncertainty and the fearfulness with the expectation *that at the end of our journey we will give all we have away to the one who himself has given all away*, then we shall not only begin to discover deep and wondrous and precious things about God, we shall also begin to discover profound and astonishing and important things about ourselves. We shall discover that the place we are journeying to is, as Frederick Buechner once memorably said, the place where our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

The cold truth is we've spent too much on things that don't matter, and we're afraid to spend anything more, even on the things that do matter. Yet we also know that there is one great thing that's worth emptying the account of our life for. And so we begin our Epiphany journey anew. One of the great truths of our faith is that when we serve the lowliest and meekest of the earth, we also serve God. We are called to give ourselves to his service—

which is to say we are called to serve the world in his name and for his sake—and to do so in such a way that our service isn't mere tokenism, but is truly costly.

To the world, the season of giving is over. But for you and me it is just beginning. Shall we not consider making our whole life a gift to God, his Christ and his world in the promise that when we do so, what we give away and what we want to get become, through some mysterious and divine bookkeeping, what we really want? The Magi have a message for us: move beyond your comfort zone. Now, more than ever, God needs extravagant givers: extravagant in time, sympathy, and fearlessness. Give, as they say, till it hurts, and even at this coldest time of year we will find our hearts truly warmed.

Grace and peace,

Leighton

From the Wardens

We look ahead ahead to a year of growth at St. Mark's as the pandemic recedes and beloved activities return. We encourage all parishioners to think of their involvement in the life of our church, and how they may help.

A Message from the Rector

Dear Friends,

I am sorry to have to tell you that David Smith died peacefully at home on Monday January 2, 2023.

The funeral is tomorrow, Saturday January 7, 2023, at 11 a.m. A reception will follow in Addison Hall.

Please pray for the repose of his soul, for his wife Gene Anne, and for his family in their grief.

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Wearing a mask is now an individual's choice.

On Duty this Week

January 8, 2023 - Greeter(s) - Chris Bjorgan

January 8, 2023- Reader - Jim Collard,

Intercessor - Larry Bourk

Altar Guild - Virginia Mainprize, Jennifer Smith

Order of Service

The Order of Service can be found on our website: [Order of Service Web Site Page](#)

Church Bells

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play on Sundays at 12:05 pm. Enjoy!

Staying Up to Date!

Click on this link to find this and recent copies of our E-News: [View our recent E-Newsletters](#)

Click on this link to view our Calendar: [Visit our Calendar](#)

[Click here to access St. Mark's Anglican Church Facebook page](#) You can also access our Facebook page when on our website by clicking on the Facebook icon that looks like an "f".

Weekly Prayers

We pray for the sick, especially remembering Jacquie White, Jack and Lynn Taylor, Margaret Stimson, Terry, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Bev Garrett, Jodey Porter, Sean, Joshua, Ben Buholtz and Jason.

We pray for those who have died, especially David Smith.

St. Mark's looked particularly beautiful this Christmas. Our thanks to everyone who so generously provided funds for the floral arrangements. They were given to the Glory of God by:

Anthony and Elisabeth Fischer and Andrew and Ruby McKee from Megan McKee

Murray and Betsy Lister from their daughter Lynne Heaman

Altar Flowers in memory of Margherita, Norm and Michael Howe from Marsha Howe

Chitty Drope, Mary and John Drope and Sarah Drope from their loving family

Joy Rogers

Loved ones of Chris Morgan

Freda and Arthur Masters, Elizabeth Masters and Fred Masters from Dorothy and Enid and William Lees, Barbara and Donald Lees and Mary and Percy Lees from Beverley Lees and Dorothy Lees

Kelly James from Janet James

Florence and Jack Bennett from their daughter Candace Walker

Betty Magnacca and the Finch Families from Allan Magnacca and family

Peter Wylie from Eve Wylie

Ian Bongard from Nancy Bongard

Dick Lewis from James and Virginia Mainprize

John Steel from Wendy Steel

In memory of the Smith & Clarke families from Jennifer Smith

Bible Study via Zoom

We are sending Zoom invites via Constant Contact to those who regularly join the Bible Study group. If you would like to attend Bible Study via Zoom, please contact the Rector to have your name added to the distribution. rector.stmarks.notl@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**The Rector will be away January 9th to January 19th inclusive.
There will be no 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Eucharist on
January 11th or January 18th, 2023.
10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Eucharist will resume on
Wednesday January 25th, 2023.**

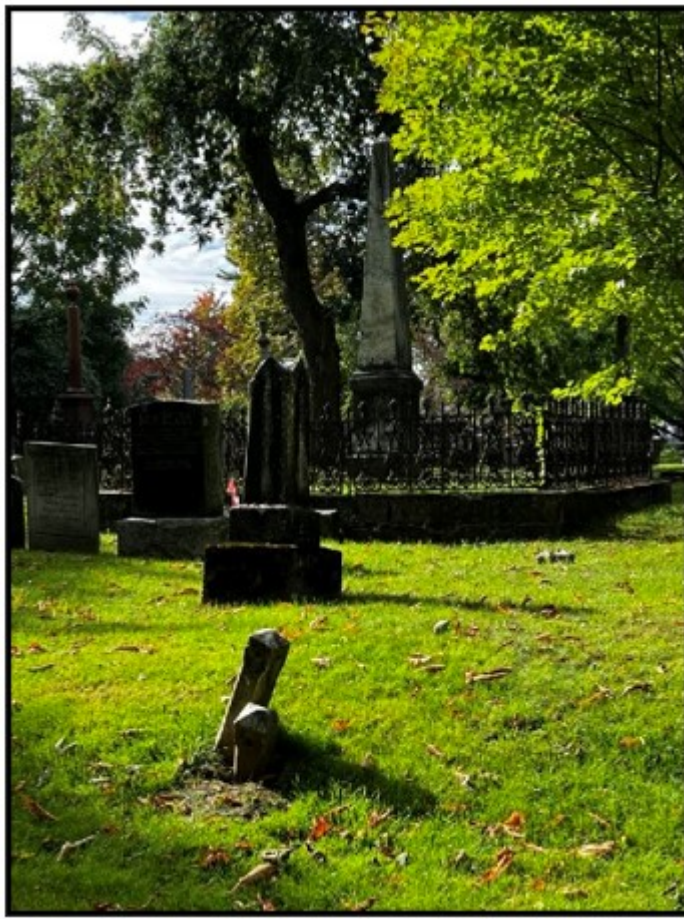
Men's Communion and Breakfast

Next date January 11th, 2023.

On the first Wednesday of each month men of our congregation and their guests will participate in a quiet spoken Eucharist service in the church at 8:00 a.m., followed by breakfast at 8:45 a.m. If you would like to join us, please contact Greg Walker by email or phone (905) 262-6605 by Noon on Tuesday prior so that we can confirm numbers for breakfast.

Did you know...

...this fenced enclosure is the Hall Downs family plot and that the family once lived in the large house on north side of Queen Street at Simcoe?



Volunteers are required to work in the Winter Kitchen.

If you prepare a bone in ham, please consider donating the bone and any leftover ham to "St. Mark's Winter Kitchen". Those who donate will receive a 1 litre container of pea soup. St. Mark's Winter Kitchen will be preparing pea soup, tomato sauce, cottage pies, pickled beets and lasagna.

Please call the office if you are interested in volunteering.

PIE AND JAM MAKERS REQUIRED

**Cherry Jam makers are required for two sessions in February and March.
Jam makers are required on Wednesday February 22nd and Thursday March 2nd
9 a.m.**

Cherry Pie makers are required for four sessions in April 2023.

**If you are interested in joining a jam or pie making team please contact
Diane Turner**

at

19ab39@gmail.com

289-362-1827

Newcomers are welcome!



Please note if you unsubscribe from any email sent from St. Mark's Church via Constant Contact, you will no longer receive any emails or information from us. If you wish to unsubscribe from a specific mailing list (ie, Bible Study, E-News), please email the office at stmarks@cogeco.net Thank you.

[St. Mark's Anglican Church Website](#)



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