



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 209th Edition -April 19th, 2024



From the Rector

Let's face it: most of us aren't exactly bursting with evangelical fervor. Yet all of us are called to reach out to everyone with the message of Christ's transformative and liberating love. The great tragedy of contemporary Christianity is that it's in danger of becoming a restricted and closed society that's marked not by love and inclusion, but by fear and exclusivity.

Love and fear: these are the two great motivators of life. When fear is the mainspring of our lives, we become narrow-minded, suspicious, intolerant, and parochial. Our vision narrows until we see only what we *want* to see: a small and distorted slice of life. And when fear is the mainspring of our Church, it becomes dogmatic, apprehensive, fanatical and insular. Its mission contracts until it embraces only those it has *decided* are acceptable: a tiny and homogenous selection of folks "just like us." Fear is a prison that locks us up and keeps us from living deeply and meaningfully.

But when love is the mainspring of our lives, we become non-judgmental, trusting, compassionate, and forward-looking. Our vision widens until we take in the whole, broad horizon of life and possibility. And when love is the mainspring of the Church, it becomes adaptable, confident, tolerant, and approachable. Its mission expands until it's open to receive all people, even—and perhaps particularly so—those who aren't like us at all. Love is liberation that empowers us to embrace the wonder of living.

God's called us to serve him by loving those whom the world fears. God's called us to serve him by being an incarnation of his love in a world that is so often personified by fear. God's called us to go out into the highways and byways of this world and share his love with those who are searching, confused, hurting, and fearful. So, if we believe what we say, if we've known our own lives to have been renewed and transformed by Christ, if what's most meaningful and important to us is the fact that we have been touched by God's unconditional love, we shouldn't be afraid of sharing these things with others.

"Only connect," E. M. Forster famously wrote in *Howard's End*. *Only connect*: that's our task. We aren't called to convert, or condemn or cajole. *Only connect*: that's our technique. We're called to build relationships—and bridges—between people through words about, and actions like, the One who is love incarnate. *Only connect*: and slowly, one by one, all people

will know themselves to be interconnected into that great and eternal social network of love which is the Kingdom of God.

Grace and peace,
Leighton

FROM THE WARDENS

We hope that everyone can be out and about in this beautiful spring to enjoy the flowers and blossoms now in full furl everywhere. Don't miss the magnificent magnolia now in full bloom behind the rectory.

At its meeting yesterday, Parish Council continued to focus on the financial health of the parish, approving the finance committee's proposal of a format for regular financial updates to be made to the parish on a quarterly basis. We are pleased to attach the first update, for the quarter ending March 31, 2024, to this letter. You will note that we are in a significantly stronger position, at this point, than was anticipated in the budget. This is due in large part to a bequest received in the quarter and to some successful parish activities, which included the sale of beef pies, pea soup, lasagna and other foods made in the church kitchen by Gary B. and his team, a concert and the Pancake Supper. In addition, Susan MacLaren has agreed to chair the 2024 Stewardship Campaign and she is in the process of appointing a committee to assist her in this important task.

As Chair of the Cherry Festival this year, Andrea reported that many committees are already hard at work, pies and jam being made, jewelry, clothing and treasures being assembled and sorted. The Cherry Festival will take place on Saturday, July 6.

Plans for a concert to commemorate the Allied landing in Normandy on D-Day, 1944, are proceeding well. Please mark your calendars for June 7, at 7 p.m. Melissa Marie Shriner, accompanied by Michael Bloss, will perform music from the war era, and Jamie Mainprize will be doing some readings. It promises to be a moving and enjoyable event.

Finally, it is a real pleasure to be able to announce that Bishop Bell has appointed the Reverend Dr. Susan MacLaren as an Honourary Associate Priest at St. Mark's. We are delighted to welcome her officially in this capacity.

As always, a reminder to advise the office of anyone who requires assistance, including a phone call, food delivery or some companionship. Even a chat over the fence!

Called to Life-Compelled to Love

**Andrea Douglas
Gene Anne Smith
Wardens**

Summary of Income General a/c
for the period ended YTD March 31, 2024

	Budget Operating Account	Actual Operating Account	Variance positive (negative)
Income:			
-General Offering	\$ 44,500.00	\$ 53,629.60	\$ 9,130
-Specified Offerings	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,986.80	\$ 2,687
-Parish Activities	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 4,717.00	\$ 617
-Parish Services	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,645.00	-\$ 1,855
-Other Income	\$ 225.00	\$ 1,795.27	\$ 1,570
	\$ 52,625.00	\$ 64,773.67	\$ 12,149
Expenses:			
-Building & Grounds	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 2,851.84	-\$ 248
-Church Program - Activities	\$ 420.00	\$ 1,652.70	\$ 1,233
-Church Program - Music	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,850.00	-\$ 1,150
-Diocesan Assessment	\$ 12,306.00	\$ 12,303.51	-\$ 2
-Financial Expenses	\$ 1,085.00	\$ 1,239.97	\$ 155
-Parish Activities Expenses	\$ 975.00	\$ 1,114.87	\$ 140
-Parish Office Expenses	\$ 7,350.00	\$ 6,426.12	-\$ 924
-Payroll	\$ 45,300.00	\$ 48,134.80	\$ 2,835
-Utilities	\$ 9,900.00	\$ 8,286.28	-\$ 1,614
	\$ 83,436.00	\$ 83,860.09	\$ 424
Profit/Loss	-\$ 30,811.00	-\$ 19,086.42	\$ 11,725

Mary Jane Davidson (September 17 1934- April 14 2024)
Fred Dixon (November 6, 1935 - April 16 2024)

Dear Friends -

I am sorry to report that two long-time parishioners have died. Mary Jane Davidson died on Sunday, April 14 in Dundas. Her funeral will take place on Saturday, April 20 at 1:30 pm at St. Mark's. A reception will follow in Addison Hall.

Fred Dixon died on Tuesday, April 16 in Burlington. His funeral will take place on Wednesday, April 24 at 11 am at St. Mark's. A reception will follow in Addison Hall.

Please remember Mary Jane and Fred in your prayers, as well as their families and friends.

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 to good purpose of your perfect will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Faithfully yours,
Leighton

LIVE STREAMING OF 10:30 SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY

St. Mark's is happy to announce that 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship services will be live streamed on **St. Mark's YouTube channel**.

Go to the Worship and Ministry page on our website stmarksnotl.org and click on the link under the 10:30 service.

There are also links on every page of the St. Mark's website that take you directly to our YouTube channel. Look for the YouTube icon beside the Facebook icon.

**WE ARE NOW RECEIVING JEWELLERY DONATIONS FOR
ST. MARK'S CHERRY FESTIVAL JULY 6TH 2024**



**Appraising, sorting and pricing of jewellery donations for
Cherry Festival 2024
has begun!**

The jewellery committee starts this process in April as it is a very large undertaking, and will take until June to complete.

Bracelets, watches, rings, earrings and necklaces are now being accepted. We look forward to receiving both fine jewellery and costume jewellery.

A tax donation receipt will be given for articles valued over \$100.00.

Please ask friends and neighbours to think of us if they are cleaning out jewellery boxes!

Donations may be dropped off to the church office.

**The St. Mark's Cherry Festival
Saturday July 6th, 2024**

**HAUTE EMPORIUM'S CATALOGUE WILL BE OUT THE FIRST
WEEK OF MAY.**

We need ***high end, valuable items*** for our catalogue. This includes clothing and sculptures, art, home decor, silverware, and jewellery and purses. If you are able to host an event such as a dinner for 4-6 people in your home, please call Trudi and this too will be advertised in the catalogue, and offered for purchase. We are also accepting **Gift Certificates** from restaurants, spas, nail and hair salons, theatres, museums and wineries.

The Haute Emporium requests your help and support.

We are happy to receive gently used clothing such as men's jackets, coats, sweaters, ties and trousers.

Ladies donations can include hats, purses, accessories, shoes, belts, and gently worn

clothing items such as coats and jackets, sweaters, pants, blouses, skirts, pantsuits, evening gowns, sporting attire and casual wear.

We also hope to receive artwork, sculptures, silverware, China and crystal, treasures, garden statues, small pieces of furniture, lamps and collectibles, blankets, tablecloths, and books.

When you are cleaning out your closets and cupboards please remember us!

Tax receipts will be issued for things valued over \$100.00. Donations will be professionally appraised.

We will happily arrange for pick up closer to the date.

If you require pick up please call one of the ladies below:

Trudi Watson 905 468 3314
Elizabeth Jamison 416 577 0750
Dana Lutton 705 349-0324

Please let your friends and relatives know we are accepting donations!

Be sure to share the date of St. Mark's Cherry Festival - July 6th - with your families, friends and neighbours.

We hope to make this year's Cherry Festival the best ever!

Kindest regards,

Trudi, Elizabeth and Dana

Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist [Watch the livestream on YouTube](#)

On Duty this Week

April 21, 2024 - Greeter(s) - Colleen and Douglas Hunter

Reader -Penny-Lynn Cookson

Intercessor - Gary Burroughs

Server - Virginia Mainprize

Altar Guild - Eve Wylie, Gene Anne Smith and 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".

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help keep the cemetery tidy. This includes trimming around the church building and memorial garden, branch and twig clean up after high winds, watering newly planted trees and assistance with shoveling earth into holes around the cemetery. Periodically we do require help laying sod in certain areas of the cemetery as well as the removal of large tree limbs after heavy winds.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sally Mitchell [here](#).

CHERRY PIE MAKING

Pie makers are needed for three sessions from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon on

April 22nd, April 29th and May 6th.

If you are interested in joining a pie making team, please come to **Addison Hall** on the dates listed above. Please bring an apron and a rolling pin.

We also require **volunteers** to transport cherry pails and frozen pies to and from St. David's storage.

If you can help please [email Kathy Taylor here](#) or call 905-468-2536

NEWCOMERS WELCOME



MEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST

****DATE CHANGE****

The next Men's communion Breakfast is scheduled for

Wednesday May 8, 2024

please contact Greg Walker

gregoryfwalker@gmail.com

for details

**St. Mark's Kitchen
offers:**

**Hunter's Chicken with Rotini, Beef Cottage Pie,
Regular Meat Lasagna and Chicken Vol au Vent**

Introducing

Kathy Taylor's Chicken Lasagna

(selling out fast - get in to get yours before they are gone)

****Pop into the office to get your meals****

SOUPS ARE AVAILABLE - INQUIRE IN OFFICE

Pea Soup

Curried Butternut Squash

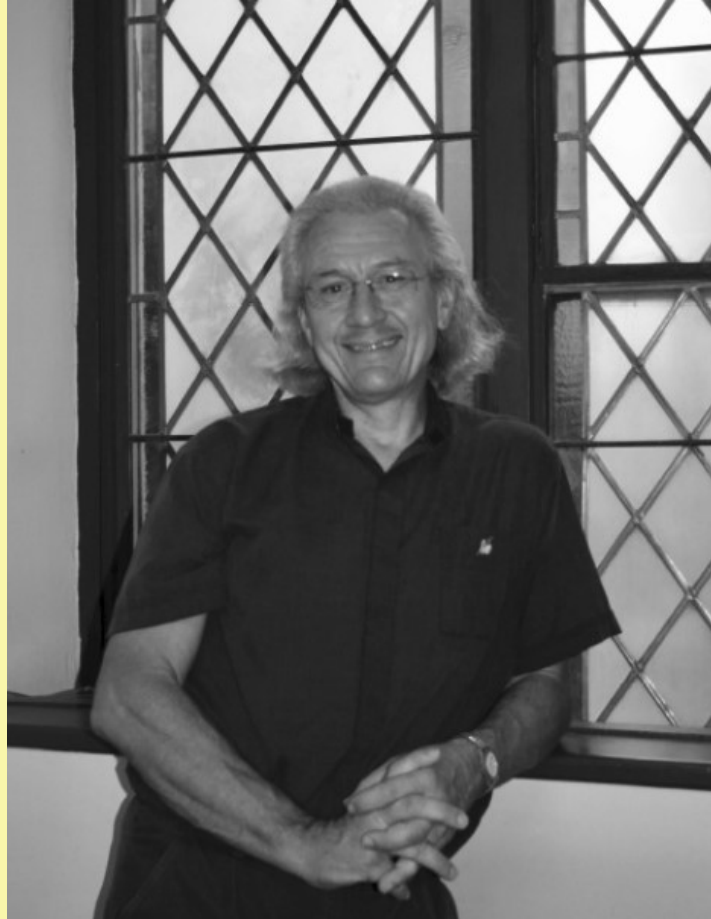
In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Keith Bullen and Mary Webster, Gary and Sarah Burroughs, and Anjulika Chand and their families.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. James, Dundas, The Reverend Canon Leslie Gerlofs, Rector; The Reverend Deacon Ann Vander Berg, Deacon; The Reverend Canon Peter Davison, Honorary Assistant; The Reverend Carol Overing, Honorary Assistant; and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Huron, and the congregations of the Western Manitoba area of Manitoba of the Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod.

Did you know.....

that Rev. Robert Wright was on sabbatical at Trinity College in Dublin in 2007, where he focused on the relationship of theology to the language of dance?



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

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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