



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 201st Edition - February 23rd, 2024



From the Rector

Sunday will be our Annual Meeting of Parishioners, that time of the year when the temporalities of the Church—the finances, the governance, and the condition of the building—take centre stage. All of these things need to be attended to, but they're not of primary importance. I remember a mentor, who was the rector of a very large, important parish whose facilities, though grand, were in serious need of repair; years of deferred maintenance had taken their toll. Upon arrival, one of the first things he was told was that they

needed to fix the building. "I'll tell you what," he said, "let's fix the people first. And then we'll be able to fix the building."

I often wondered if the best thing that could ever happen is for the church to get rid of its buildings and just be what it was meant to be: people clinging to the Gospel and to one another, which is all there is anyway.

But then I find myself remembering that church buildings have always been resting places for people who are seeking to make their way through the storms of life. *That* is why you are St Mark's, and that is why I am, too. We're here to be reminded that we're not alone, that though we may get lost, we will never be forgotten, and that when we turn up on God's doorstep, we'll always be taken in. We're here to embody, if only in a halting and all-too-imperfect human measure, the broad and deep generosity and hospitality of God. We're here, not only to find a shelter from the storms of life, but to become—together—pilgrims who give shelter to others, who help to build places of security and tolerance for all who journey the confusing and troubling roads of life.

Baffling as it seems, we learn the truth of the old axiom—the church isn't a building, it's the people—only when we come together in churches. In other words, only *in* church do we learn what it is to *be* church, for church isn't a building any more than it's an idea. It's an experience: the experience of getting phone calls or emails from people you don't really know, aside from seeing them in the pew, but who, knowing you're going through a time of crisis and uncertainty, thought they should check in; the experience of being truly welcomed and accepted by people who have never laid eyes on you and know nothing about your personal journey, your struggles, your isolation, but who have pledged to welcome all people as Christ; the experience of helping those who are less fortunate for no other reason

than the fact you've been awakened to their precious Christ-like humanity and have discovered joy in serving others.

Some churches purport to have all the answers to our deepest and most troubling questions. They claim to have arrived and to know all there is to know about God and his astonishing purposes. But they are inauthentic. Since their outlook is that there is nothing of interest around the next corner, their location on the road of life is unchangeable and their security is that of the straight-jacket. However, there are other churches who know they are on a journey of discovery and discipleship, who know that nothing is certain in human affairs and that to be alive is to be always moving forward into new territory, always searching the vast horizons for new points of light and forever ready to abandon the secure place we call "home" in favour of a new dwelling as yet unfinished. Their members may not speak in certainties, but they do walk with integrity. And though their buildings may be places of surpassing beauty, they will never be as beautiful as those who have journeyed to them and with them: the men and women who, on their pilgrimage of faith, have found the God of the church in the midst of the church of God.

Grace and peace,
Leighton

From the Wardens

Well, it is hard to believe but this is E-News Edition #201! E-News began as a result of COVID. We were able to report church service cancellations, masking requirements, and to communicate with our parishioners to ensure you were kept up to date. We thank the many folks who have responded positively to our weekly E-News and who have suggested that E-News is important. We will continue each week to keep you informed.

Our annual Vestry meeting takes place this Sunday at 12 noon. It is time to review the past year by reading various committee reports. Elections will be held and appointments will be made. Very important is the presentation and acceptance of the 2024 budget — the plan for this year. The Vestry "package" has been emailed to active parishioners. Please take time to read the information before Sunday's meeting.

As the reports show, St. Mark's had a successful year in many ways, with attendance up, wonderful liturgy, several excellent fundraisers, and the best financial results in several years. None of this happened without the support of our parishioners through their contributions and volunteer time, and through the efforts of community volunteers as well.

See you in church!

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

Allan Magnacca
Andrea Douglas

Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

On Duty this Week

February 25, 2024 - Greeter(s) - Douglas and Colleen Hunter

Reader - Donna Belleville
Intercessor -Wendy Steel

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".

We are planning a magnificent display of Easter flowers which traditionally are a donation from the congregation. If you would like to contribute to these, there are envelopes in the church pews. You may give your envelope to one of the sides people, or you can call the church office and speak to Erin to arrange a donation. You may indicate in whose memory or honour they are given.



[Last notice in E-News](#)

Please remember to come to the office to pick up your St. Mark's Anglican Church 2023 Directory.

(A reminder that the office is open Monday-Friday 9 am-2pm.)

You are entitled to receive a directory if you had your photograph taken by Universal Studios.

We have only a few copies for purchase at \$20.00.



**ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH INVITES THE LADIES OF
THE PARISH TO**

JOIN

PASTOR SUSAN MacLAREN

FEBRUARY 29TH 10:00 A.M.

MARCH 7TH 10:00 A.M.

MARCH 14TH 10:00 A.M. and

MARCH 21ST 10:00 A.M.

**Ever wonder how our faith addresses what we see and hear on the morning
news? Let's talk about it!**

The wonderful women of St. Mark's are invited - **encouraged** - to come together for
4 consecutive Thursday morning meetings in Addison Hall. The first meeting is
scheduled for **Thursday February 29th at 10:00 a.m.** Come armed with a copy
of the Beatitudes Matthew 5: 3-11. We will use those as a jumping off point.

Please R.S.V.P. to Erin in the church office.

MEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST

**The next Men's communion Breakfast is scheduled for
Wednesday March 6, 2024
please contact Greg Walker
gregoryfwalker@gmail.com
for details**

**Gary Burroughs' Kitchen
made a fresh batch of delicious lasagna and cottage pies!
Be sure to get yours before they are gone!**

**Delicious items for sale also include
Chicken-Vol-Au-Vent and Pea Soup, Stewed Tomatoes
and
Cottage Pie**

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

SOUPS ARE AVAILABLE - INQUIRE IN OFFICE



In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Greg and Dorothy Walker, Peter Warrack and Bonita Cawker, and Earle Waugh and Trudi Watson and their families.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. Columba, St. Catharines, The Reverend William Alakas, Rector, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Rt. Rev. John Organ, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland, and the Dean, council, and congregations of the Georgian, Huronia and Bay Areas of the Eastern Synod.

Did you know ...

that Hannah Owens Peters was the wife of William Jarvis, the Provincial Secretary of Upper Canada (1791-1817)?

Hannah was born in Connecticut in 1763. She spent several years in England and after arriving in Canada, became an influential member of the "aristocracy" of Upper Canada.

Although uncommon, slavery did exist during the early days of Upper Canada, and the Jarvis family owned several. "Moses and Phoebe, Negro slaves of Mr. Secy. Jarvis" were married in 1797, as recorded in the records of **St. Mark's Anglican Church**.

Hannah was not impressed with John Graves, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, due to her differing opinion on slavery. Simcoe took measures to limit slavery in Upper Canada which ensured the eventual end this institution.

Hannah was also highly critical of John Graves wife, Elizabeth, calling her a "little stuttering Vixen". In other letters, Hannah complained about the difficulty of finding servants, as the best servants would "take up land and work for themselves". Hannah also complained about the prevalence of disease: "Ague and Fever are so prevalent that whole families are confined at once..." She complained to her family in England about the high cost of goods in "this Grim country" and asked for goods to be sent to her. John Graves and Elizabeth Simcoe returned to England in 1796, but Hannah Jarvis remained in "this Grim country" for the remainder of her life.

After the death of her husband in 1817, Hannah moved in with her daughter and son-in-law Alexander Hamilton in Queenston. Mr. Hamilton's death in 1839 reduced the family to poverty and Hannah was forced to take over housekeeping at Willowbrook. Hannah, who once had slaves and servants, spent the last few years of her life cooking, washing, cleaning and ironing.

Hannah was buried in the Hamilton Family Burial Ground in 1845.



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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