



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 217th Edition -June 14, 2024



From the Rector

If you're anything like me, you're naturally curious about other people's work. "What's it like to be ..." we often ask ourselves. This is especially true for professions that are frequently depicted on television and in movies: doctors, lawyers, paramedics, actors, priests. Of course the truth is never as interesting as what's depicted.

For example, play rehearsals and movie shoots can be remarkably boring. So can musical ones. I remember being at an orchestral rehearsal years ago in Savannah where the conductor spent much of the morning session working on the tuning of a particularly demanding passage for the woodwinds. The creative process is not without its longueurs.

Folks often ask me, "How do you write a sermon?" Well—I don't know. I mean, I do know, obviously, but the process is difficult to describe. But I'm going to try since I suspect you might be interested in peering into the rectory study to see something of my process.

Let's go back to last week's readings. I began thinking about them probably on the afternoon of the previous Sunday. Not in a systematic way, but this initial read-through allowed them to begin to marinate somewhere in the back of my mind. During the week, I periodically re-read them until there was a kernel of an idea which was workable.

And that kernel was Jesus saying "If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand." At some point, my mind went to a show that's now in previews at The Shaw: *The House That Will Not Stand*, which is based on Garcia-Lorca's masterpiece *The House of Bernardo Alba*. However, even though I know what it's about I haven't seen it, so I couldn't draw on it for an illustration. But since I knew it has an all-female, all-black cast, it got me thinking about "race relations." And that got me thinking about divisions in society. And that made me think about a book I'd recently heard about the subdivisions sometimes called exurbs. And ... a way to approach the gospel slowly came into focus.

It's the actual writing that I find demanding because I think a sermon should be like a good speech: rhetorical without being wooden. It has to sound the way people talk, but it must be written with a linguistic rigour which is absent from spontaneous conversation. Its language must be economical yet evocative. And it must be long enough for a point to be made and

argued yet short enough to keep a hearer's interest. As you can imagine, trying to satisfy all those criteria takes some effort! It's often still happening in the early hours of Sunday morning ...

Very few preachers are *sui generis*. I certainly am not. My dear friend Peter Gomes used to collect sermons wherever he found them—back when copies of previous weeks' sermons were readily available in church narthexes—and would read them with alacrity. "All work and no plagiarism makes Peter a dull preacher," he always joked. But he was right insofar as very few of us are completely original thinkers. Good preaching depends on the preacher both having heard a lot of sermons, and having read a lot of them, too. The shelves in the rectory study are filled with volumes of sermons both new and old.

And there's another element in preaching, the essential one that makes it work—or fail. And that's the congregation. I've been blessed to have served places where good preaching is highly prized—and expected. None more so than St Mark's. Because a sermon is an exchange, not just of thoughts, but of spiritual and psychic energy, of collective engagement with the text, one another, and the God who draws everything together. To be able to share in this exchange with all you, is indeed a great privilege and joy.

But this Sunday I have the rare joy of not having to preach. I will be returning from a wedding in Toronto, so I am delighted that our honorary associate Susan MacLaren will be in the pulpit. She is herself a fine preacher and I know you'll be present in body, mind, and spirit on Sunday as the word is broken open and once again the life-giving gospel is both proclaimed and received.

Grace and peace,
Leighton

From the Wardens

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**

Volunteers are needed to transport 64 pails of Cherry Pies from St. David's storage to the rectory and Addison Hall on **Friday July 5th**.

If you are able to help please contact Diane Turner 289-362-1827

We invite you to explore the great variety of items in our [updated Haute Emporium Catalogue](#) which is now posted on the [St. Mark's website](#).

Click link below to find the catalogue.



[2024 Haute Emporium Catalogue](#)

[St. Mark's Cherry Festival Webpage](#)

Kindly forward the catalogue to your family and friends. If you wish to purchase from the catalogue please contact semitch215@gmail.com. Our catalogue is the presale to St. Mark's Cherry Festival which takes place on July 6, 2024.

Thank you to all who generously donated to our jewellery drive!
We have surpassed our expectations and therefore cannot accept any more pieces.

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

The Haute Emporium requests your help and support.

We are happy to receive summer clothing
and women's purses.

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 with your families, friends and neighbours.**

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

Kindest regards,
Trudi, Elizabeth and Dana



******CALLING ALL BAKERS******

ST. MARK'S CHERRY FESTIVAL BAKE SALE 2024

It is time once again to gear up for the Cherry Festival Bake Sale. Anjulika Chand and Gene Anne Smith are this year's Bake Sale co-chairs.

PLEASE CONSIDER BAKING FOR THE CHERRY FESTIVAL THIS YEAR.

As our congregation ages, the need for new bakers increases.

We welcome a wide range of goodies including **cookies**, **squares**, **tarts**, **muffins**, **loaves**, **brownies** and **cakes** etc.

Pull out your favourite recipe and please help us make this years Bake Sale the best ever.

(Baked goods must be delivered to St. Mark's on Friday July 5th between 1 pm-4pm)

WE ALSO REQUIRE VOLUNTEERS TO WORK AT THE BAKE SALE TABLES

If you can contribute by baking and/or working the tables please contact

Gene Anne Smith
gsmith103@cogeco.ca
289-686-0382

OR

Anjulika Chand
bubbins3@yahoo.com
905-347-1711

Tour
Ontario's oldest burial ground
at
St. Mark's, Niagara on the Lake

Dr. Earle Waugh
will lead tours
followed by refreshments &
informal discussion

2024 tour dates

Tuesday, June 18
Tuesday, July 23
Tuesday, August 13
Tuesday, September 24
Tuesday, October 22
at
3:30-5:00 in the
afternoon

The **\$25 admission** fee will
support our on-going
Monument Restoration
Programme

Tour group size limited

Information & reservation
Phone St. Mark's
905 468 3123

Tickets are available to purchase at St. Mark's Anglican Church office
(10 people per tour maximum)

Prayer Cycles – We pray for:

In St. Mark's parish: Steve Hinchliffe, Marsha Howe, Peter Howe and Judy McLeod, and Doug and Colleen Hunter and their families.

In the Niagara Diocese: St. Christopher, Burlington, The Reverend Canon Dr. Penny Anderson, Rector; The Reverend Hollis Hiscock, Honorary Assistant; The Reverend David Montgomery, Assistant Curate; and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer: The Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land, and The National Indigenous Day of Prayer: for healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

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](#)



St. Marks Anglican Church | 41 Byron Street P O Box 582 | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S
1J0 CA

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!