



# The MEMO

*Let's We Forget*



The Newsletter of St. Mark's United Church, 115 Orton Park Rd, Toronto M1G3G9 (416) 439-8623

www.st-marks.ca November 2010

## St. Mark's 2010 Christmas Hamper

Gail Klodt

Hope and nourishment – two things I took away from the covenanting service on September 26, 2010. And what a colourful, lively service it was!

St. Mark's Outreach Ministry Team is planning to deliver Christmas Hampers to 50 local families in need. This is an ambitious project for our Outreach Team as each hamper will contain non-perishable food for one week, a \$50 gift card for fresh food (meat, fruit, vegetables), plus gifts for all family members.

You can contribute by "adopting" a family and purchasing gifts for the whole family or you can "adopt" a child and buy gifts for that child. While our focus is on presents to make the holiday season special for the children, we do like to include a small gift for each adult. Non-perishable food can also be brought for our White Gift Service on December 5. Help will be needed to pack and deliver Hampers. Monetary gifts make it possible for us to purchase food and gift cards. Please make your donations to the Community Outreach Fund and mark it "For Christmas Hampers".

As the Christmas Season approaches and you prepare to enjoy all the blessing you have been given, please consider how you can contribute your time, talent and treasure to help the Outreach Ministry Team bring a little joy to those less fortunate in our community.

Please contact Luella Stephens ([tom.stephens@sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.stephens@sympatico.ca)) or myself, Gail Klodt ([gklodt@gmail.com](mailto:gklodt@gmail.com)) if you can help us in any way.



### November Events at a Glance!

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> - Remembrance Day Service  
- Congregational Pot Luck Lunch  
Nov 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> - War & Peace Retreat  
Nov 20<sup>th</sup> - Turkey Dinner (4:30-7:00)  
Nov 25, 26 & 27 - Photo Directory Pics  
For the detailed SMUC Calendar of events [www.st-marks.ca](http://www.st-marks.ca) > About Us > Calendar

### Congratulations, ...

Congratulations to Debbie Childs and Gord Maunder who were married on November 5th, 2010. May they have a healthy and happy life together.

### ...condolences, ...

Condolences to the families of Arlene McCulloch and Art & Carolyn Nicholson for their recent losses. Please keep both families in your thoughts and prayers.

### ...and thanks!

Dear St. Mark's Family and Friends:

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to so many of you for your cards, phone calls, visits, flowers, and food during this time of my recovery from a double by-pass. The healing process is painful and slow but each day I am able to do a little bit more for myself.

Your support has been wonderful and this is what is helping me through this. What would we do without our St. Mark's family? We are always there for each other through our rough times - we are not alone. Thank you so much.

Sincerely

Diane Chadwick & Family



The United Church of Canada

L'Eglise Unie du Canada

*St. Mark's is a progressive, inclusive, and life-affirming Christian community of faith within The United Church of Canada.*

*Worship services are held Sundays at 11 am. Come early for coffee and fellowship!*

## Juxtapositions

jux·ta·po·si·tion [juhk-stuh-puh-zish-uhn]

–noun

1. an act or instance of placing close together or side by side, esp. for comparison or contrast.
2. the state of being close together or side by side.

Sometimes what we do here feels like juxtaposition.

On October 16th, collectively, we spent \$10,000.00 on stuff... good food... cottage trips... mincemeat... art... services... and then, the next morning, we heard from Heather Urbanski and the work of Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities.

The lists are up for the Turkey Dinner on November 20th where we will have 200lbs of turkey, 80lbs of potatoes and 34 homemade pies. Meanwhile, the Outreach ministry team will be working on 50 Christmas hampers for folks in our community.

Although these examples can be used for ‘comparison or contrast’, I think they are better used as ‘the state of being close together or side by side’ because we do what we do here ‘side by side’.

For 52 years this ministry has been side by side with need in this community, since 1973 this ministry has been side by side with West Hill Community Services and now still continuing with Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities.

This is the month starting the “Triathlon to Christmas”... three major events... running to all the events, swimming through the crowds and cycling through all those favourite recipes. All because of a story about the gift of a new life that brought hope to the world.

Take a moment to compare and contrast the difference between that new life of hope and the hopelessness of trying to get everything perfect...

Take a moment to think about holding those two things close together, side by side...

May each side find a way to affect the other well!

On your mark...



## Chatter from the Chair - Giving Thanks

*Mary-Ethel Morton - Board Chair*

I am so thankful for my association with St. Marks, and the remarkable friendships I have forged here. I am thankful for the support I have found here from it's people & the ministry of The United Church of Canada. I am thankful for people like our Anniversary Award Winners, Luella & Tom, Melinda & Marg, who give so much to our being the church we are, and are an inspiration to us all Thanks be to God.

## Colour Photo Directory



A new Photo Directory is coming to St. Mark's and we would like to include your portrait. The last St. Mark's Coloured Photo Directory is dated 2001.

A picture directory is a great way to put names to faces, and with all the changes at St. Mark's it is very timely. It will also provide a lasting keepsake and provide a historical record.

IPC Canada Photo Services is coming to St. Mark's and photo sessions will be held on Thursday, November 25th – 2:30-8:30 PM; Friday, November 26th - 2:30-8:30 PM and Saturday, November 27th - 9:30AM-2:30PM.

You will receive a free directory and will be able to order extra photographs that will be ready in time for Christmas – great Christmas gift.

Enclosed with the MEMO is a brochure that will give you additional information. Call the Church Office to book your time (416-439-8623) or e-mail Carol at [carol@st-marks.ca](mailto:carol@st-marks.ca). Please help up to make St. Mark's photo directory a great success!

## 2011 United Church Calendars



The 2011 United Church Calendars are now available to order. There is a sign-up sheet on Church's bulletin board or you can call the Church Office (416-439-8623) to order your Calendar. The cost of the Calendars is \$5.00

## “SM News” - St. Mark's Weekly eNews Flash!



Each Friday, Carol publishes to SMUC's email distribution list the most pertinent details for the week to come.

If you want to a news/event/reminder out on Friday, contact to Carol no later than Thursday evening at 416-439-8623 or by e-mail at [carol@st-marks.ca](mailto:carol@st-marks.ca).

As always, if you have recently adopted a new technology, acquired or changed your email address, or changed your contact information, let Carol know in the office so we can find you!

# Financially Speaking – St. Mark’s Offering Summary

Finance and Stewardship Team

Local offering givings (our local operating fund) to end October 2010

2010	Jan/Feb/Mar	Apr/May/June	July/Aug/Sept	Oct/Nov/Dec
Offerings Received (total/cumulative)	\$30,972	\$65,385	\$97,385	\$111,253 to end of October 2010
Offerings Budget	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget \$38,625	1 <sup>st</sup> + 2nd Quarter Budget \$77,250	1 <sup>st</sup> + 2 <sup>nd</sup> + 3rd Quarter Budget \$115,875	2010 full year Budget \$154,500
Comments	\$30,972 is only 80% of the \$38,625 budget for the 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2010, so we were 20% or \$7,653.21 under the budget for offerings as of end of March 2010	\$65,385 is only 84.6% of the \$77,250 budget for the 1 <sup>st</sup> + 2nd quarter 2010, so we were 15.4% or \$11,865 under the budget for offerings as of end of June 2010	\$97,385 is only 84% of the \$115,875 budget for the 1 <sup>st</sup> + 2 <sup>nd</sup> + 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2010, so we are 16% or \$18,489.70 under the budget for offerings as of end of September 2010	\$111,253 is only 86% of where we should be at end of October (10 month budget = \$128,750), so we are 14% or \$17,497 under where local givings should be at end October
2009	In 2009, local offerings givings were \$153,551.86 for the year, which is not much less than the 2010 budget \$154,500.			

**Conclusion:** In order to fulfill the mandate from the JNAC report, the local offering situation must be addressed.

Please review your offering contribution to see if you can assist.

Now that October is finished, we start to see the festive decorations in the store and we realize that the year is almost over. The information above shows St. Mark’s financial position as at the end of October. The good news is that the deficit is lower, but that was expected. We had budgeted income of \$10,000 from the GST Auction and once again, this event delivered. However, since those funds were in the budget, they don’t address the fact that offerings are still not meeting the target in the budget.

The Offering Summary chart in this edition of the Memo gives detailed information about the offerings received, compared to budgeted amounts in each quarter this year. The reality is that offerings are \$17,487 below budget. However, many people prefer giving to the church at the end of the year, so offerings may increase during the last two months of the year.

This information is provided to the congregation so that there is transparency about our financial situation. Many people want to know where things stand, so we want to provide the information. We should also celebrate the wonderful things that are happening at St. Mark’s and remember how blessed we are to have such an active community of faith.

	2010 Jan-Oct	2010 Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Fund-Raising Projects	\$13,311.00	17,500.00	76.1%
Membership and Pastoral Care	\$505.00	700.00	72.1%
Offerings	\$113,391.00	157,100.00	72.2%
Property	\$7,615.00	8,500.00	89.6%
Social	\$175.00	450.00	38.9%
Worship Related	\$25.00	1,000.00	2.5%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$135,022.00</b>	<b>185,250.00</b>	<b>72.9%</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Administration	\$10,848.00	19,000.00	57.1%
Christian Education	\$1,184.00	1,800.00	65.8%
Communication	\$423.00	2,000.00	21.2%
Membership & Pastoral Care	\$5,668.00	4,915.00	115.3%
Personnel	\$88,055.00	114,375.00	77.0%
Property Expense	\$36,574.00	39,700.00	92.1%
Worship	\$888.00	2,975.00	29.8%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$143,640.00</b>	<b>184,765.00</b>	<b>77.7%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>- 8,618.00</b>	<b>485.00</b>	

## Greening St. Mark’s

This past week we had an electrician in to change over some of our older T5 Fluorescent lights to the newer T8’s. They replaced the ballast and the bulbs in our fixtures, so there is no visible difference (although it seems brighter), but there is an energy savings. This Toronto Hydro program for small businesses will do \$1000 worth of upgrades to conserve hydro at no cost to us! At St. Mark’s, we updated the 10 internal ceiling fixtures in the offices, Friendship room and main kitchen, plus the upstairs bathroom and the fixture at the bottom of the stairs. The paperwork indicates a saving 1620 watts. Thanks to Bettie MacKenzie for helping us to access this program!

# Y & CE

## Youth & Christian Education News

*A Message from Jeffrey Dale  
Minister of Christian Education and Youth*

*As mentioned on the 31<sup>st</sup>, we have new books in the St. Mark's Library!*

*Titles include::*

- *God Is...by David Adams Richards. One man's journey of faith in a secular world*
  - *The Armageddon Factor by Marci McDonald. Harper's government and the rise of Christian Nationalism*
  - *GreenTOpia edited by Alana Wilcox. Writings on creating a sustainable Toronto*
  - *GreenTOpia edited by Alana Wilcox. Writings on creating a sustainable Toronto*
  - *The Edible City edited by Alan Wilcox. Toronto food from farm to fork*
  - *The Sharing Circle by Theresa Meuse. Stories of First Nations People for children.*
- ...and many more ! Drop by the library in its new location—inside the Fellowship Room. Peace.*

### November

#### War and Peace: A Retreat

On November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> between 7 pm to 12 pm , Grades 6-12 are invited to "War and Peace: A Retreat".

Together at St. Mark's, we will explore our fascination with war and why as human beings we continue to participate in war. We will also have a visit from members of our local Legion. Come and explore the conversation and the dialogue about war. Permission forms and more



### Next Month (December)

#### What's Up With Christmas?

Ages 11 – 18

December 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

7 pm – 12 pm

"Happy Holidays?" "Have Fun on Winter Break?" "Merry Christmas?" What do we say now? This retreat will be a place to discuss and debate, what Christmas means to us. More information to come!!!!

### Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas Pageant will be a shadow play, titled, "Christmas Then and Christmas Now". Practices begin on November 28<sup>th</sup>, with a presentation on December 12<sup>th</sup> during the Christmas Service.

### Intergenerational Advent Learning

#### Arts and the Spirit

Throughout the season of Advent Jeffrey will be hosting an intergenerational learning opportunity for people of all ages:

November 28<sup>th</sup> – Storytelling at Christmas Time

December 5<sup>th</sup> – Visual Arts through the Christmas Season

December 12<sup>th</sup> – The Music of Christmas

December 19<sup>th</sup> – Gingerbread Houses, with Julia Peck

### REVIEWER'S CORNER

*Karen Mackay – Contributor-at-large*

*DVD Review: Killers (PG13)*

I saw the movie 'Killers' with Katharine Heigel, Ashton Kutcher, Tom Selleck and Catherine O'Hara. It was about a guy [Ashton Kutcher] who WAS a hired killer and gave it all up when he met Katharine Heigel. They get married and a few years pass. Ashton Kutcher's old boss contacts him and he finds out there is a 20 million dollar price tag on his head. All of his neighbours and anyone he knows is trying to kill him! Katharine Heigel learns about Ashton Kutcher's past and must decide whether she REALLY loves him or not. It was a very funny movie that I quite enjoyed!



*St. Mark's United Church: We are called to be a progressive, inclusive life-affirming Christian community of faith within The United Church of Canada.*

*An "Affirming Congregation" is one that has intentionally reflected upon what it means to be inclusive and that has evaluated its openness to the ongoing work of being intentional about how it welcomes and includes others within the life and work of the church. All barriers to those wishing to be*

# St. Mark's Anniversary Award Winners

A special anniversary tradition continued on October 24<sup>th</sup> (and belatedly the 31<sup>st</sup>) with the presentation of St. Mark's annual Anniversary Awards.

The 2010 winners of the Anniversary Awards were Melinda Calway, Marg Mooney, and Tom and Luella Stephens. Each was presented with a beautiful framed print and their letter attached.

This year's presentations were again as moving as the awards themselves, and many thanks to all those that keep this special St. Mark's tradition a wonderful experience for all.



## ST. MARK'S UNITED CHURCH

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www.st-marks.ca; office@st-marks.ca tel: 416 439-8623; fax: 416 439-2279

### Anniversary Award - 2010 Melinda Calway

Lyrics of 'Angels Among Us' by Alabama:  
'I believe there are angels among us  
Sent down to us from somewhere up above  
They come to you and me, in our darkest hours  
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give  
To guide us with the light of love.'

These words perfectly describe this year's Anniversary Award recipient.

You may know this person by her volunteer work on St. Mark's committees or her leadership of the Youth Group. Perhaps you've been inspired by her artistic talent that shows up in the murals & hangings in our church. I know her best, however as an angel who came to me in my darkest hour at Sunnybrook and at the Rehab Hospital and who still comes to my home each week. She is a model of Christian life and inspires me to live, give and love as she does.

I am so very pleased that the Anniversary Award is going to Melinda Calway.

Karen Mackay

Rev. Paul Hutchison  
Minister

Mary Ethel Morton  
Chair, Church Board

October 24, 2010



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### Anniversary Award - 2010 Margaret Mooney

Margaret Mooney is a relative newcomer to St. Mark's, having only been attending here for seven years. But in those years she has certainly made an impact upon all of us.

Over the years, Marg has been actively involved in many aspects of the ministry of St. Mark's. She has chaired our Outreach Ministry, coordinating Out Of The Cold projects, our popular Christmas hamper project, local housing initiatives, and our relationship with West Hill Community Services. In 2009, she took on the responsibility of chairing our Joint Needs Assessment Committee which put together a report of vision and promise.

She is currently the chair of our Worship Ministry team while continuing to lead worship services and being involved in various community initiatives, primarily in the areas of homelessness and poverty. Marg graduated from Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto in 2009 with a Certificate in Lay Theology while earning an award for the best integrated paper in the program. She is currently a candidate to become a Designated Lay Minister within the United Church of Canada.

There is no one more dependable than Marg. If she says that she will do something, it will be done. Marg's faith is one that is strong, yet constantly growing and evolving. She reads voraciously, expanding her understanding of what it means to be member of a community of faith. Marg once described coming to St. Mark's as finding a breath of fresh air in her life. She has repaid that feeling many times over as all of us who are fortunate enough to spend time with Marg come away feeling rejuvenated and reinvigorated.

Rev. Paul Hutchison  
Minister

Mary Ethel Morton  
Chair, Church Board

October 24, 2010



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### Anniversary Award - 2010 Luella & Tom Stephens

Luella & Tom, through transfer of membership, have become an integral part of our St. Mark's family in the relatively short time they have been with us.

They both jumped right in to assist in many facets of our church work.

Having been very active in the life of their previous church, they didn't hesitate to continue their good works here at St. Mark's. Luella was a member of the J.N.A.C. team that prepared our vision for ministry in 2009, and Tom was a member of the Search Committee that researched and recommended our new ministry team.

In between all this, they are active participants in our Outreach programmes, social events and planning committees. They have volunteered their time & talents for many years at Sparrow Lake Camp, and always seem to be in the spot where there is a need. They help make a difference in our world.

Their relaxation time is spent visiting family and friends, and exploring in their RV. Even with their daughter's wedding to plan for next year, I know that they will be "knee deep" in Christmas Hampers, Out of the Cold planning (and volunteering), etc., etc.

To me, they are the poster children of "the perfect volunteer"!

Blessings Luella & Tom, and Thank You from your family at St. Mark's.

Rev. Paul Hutchison  
Minister

Mary Ethel Morton  
Chair, Church Board

October 24, 2010

## Social Committee Report

### *Julia Peck - Social Committee*

On October 16<sup>th</sup> a group of industrious ladies gathered at noon to slice and dice their way through the rest of the day. We went through 90 pounds of potatoes, 50 pounds of meat, and about 15 pounds of onions. By the time we were done we had about 150 Shepherd's Pies which are now frozen and ready for sale. They come in two sizes and sell for \$5 and \$10.

We then slipped into making two very large pots of vegetable and meat sauce to go on the penne pasta which was served with Caesar salad and garlic bread at the G.S.T. Pasta Supper and Auction. All leftovers went to the Food Bank via Heather Urbansky.

A huge thank you goes out to Karen Boniface, Pat Carroll, Debbie Filey, Lynne Jeffrey, Becky Lapp, Jan Lee, Kathy Thomas and Pat Wardell for the long hours they put in the kitchen to make the day so successful.

The Cook Book is in and ready for sale at the low price of \$10. We are hoping for a preview of many of the recipes at the Pot Luck Lunch on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup>. At that time the Shepherd's Pies and frozen, unbaked, Christmas cookies will go on sale along with the Cookbook.

Remember to mark your calendars with "Turkey Dinner" on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Signup sheets are in the entrance hall, be part of the fun by highlighting your favourite "turkey dinner recipe". If it's in the Cookbook, then it will be a great chance to sample recipes that can become family favourites.

On December 19<sup>th</sup> come to church early and have Brunch with your St. Mark's friends. After the Brunch we will enjoy the sounds of the Christmas Carol presentation.

Bon Appetit!

## Book Study: A Page Flip Away...

### *Rob Peck - Christain Education Committee*

January is just around the corner so if you want to join the Book Study group, you really should be starting to think about it now.

Starting on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, from 7 pm to 9 pm, and running roughly every second Friday from then through to our wrap-up party in May, we will be studying Barrie Wilson's fascinating book, "How Jesus Became Christian". Are you curious as to how early Christianity became a separate religion from Judaism?" Then you need to study this book. Why not do so with good friends from St. Mark's?

The format will be straight forward. Each session will have two or three volunteer presenters who will present one chapter's material in a 20 - 30 minutes presentation. Then we will break out into discussion groups of five or six for another 20 or 30 minutes. After a half hour break for goodies (also prepared by volunteers), we will come back into one large group and listen to each of the smaller groups present their views. The main purpose is to have fun and enjoy the gathered community. People only do what they feel comfortable doing.

The book can be purchased from Crux bookstore downtown, at Chapters, Amazon.ca or any good book store for about \$16.00. If I have enough interest we may be able to secure a discount for buying in volume as we did several months ago

Want more information? Speak to Bart or Karen Boniface, Kathy Lisle, Louise Loucareas, Katharina Manassis, Kathryn Moase, Marg Mooney, Myrna Morton, Julia Peck, Wendy Whittam or me at church or give Carol a call at the church office. There is a sign-up list on the board near the Narthex.

## Re-Awakening The Spirit Workshop

The next in the series of workshops Re-Awakening the Spirit—Living into Right Relations Through Education will be held:

November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Council Fire Native Cultural Centre

439 Dundas Street East, Toronto

Search out Louise Loucareas of Outreach, or email her at lou1@rogers.com if you have any questions or need more details.

## It's Turkey Time!

Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>



Every year, members of St. Mark's congregation step forward to cook turkeys, mash potatoes or bake home-made pies and it is only through these contributions of culinary effort that our traditional Turkey dinner remains such a great success? Once again the gobble-gobble call is going out to all of our cooks, bakers and potato peelers to be a part of this year's dinner. Please check out the sign-up sheets in the back stair-way and see how you can help.

Our Turkey Dinner not only builds community but it is an important fundraiser for St. Mark's. In addition to the dinner, there will also be crafts for sale and an art exhibition to enjoy upstairs. Please share this wonderful event with your family and friends and let's make 2010 a year to remember.

Tickets can be obtained after Church over the next three Sundays or by calling Carol in the office at (416) 439-8623.

## Evacuation Drill Review

The Property Committee wishes to thank all of you (and the wardens) who participated in the Oct. 17th emergency evacuation drill. It was a success; the last person exited the doors in 1 min. 5 seconds. The plan seemed to work very well. Among numerous suggestions was the point that if fire vehicles ever had to access the back parking lot, due to the north side overhang, they would have to enter via the lawn on the south side of the church. This means that the 2 parking spaces immediately facing this entrance must be left vacant. In future they will be marked "No Parking".