



# THE *Autumn* MEMO



The Newsletter of St. Mark's United Church, 115 Orton Park Rd, Toronto M1G 3G9 • (416) 439-8623 [www.st-marks.ca](http://www.st-marks.ca)

OCTOBER 2016

FALL EDITION

## FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

*By: Paul Hutchison, Minister*

Welcome to Thanksgiving – Welcome to the season of first coloured leaves, of shorter days – of crisp first walks with a favourite sweater. Who can imagine that it is the middle of October! The speed of the universe seems to be ever increasing. This fall I have been so grateful to have returned to St. Mark's; I missed you folks on my time away. It is good to catch back up with each of you.

We have been working on our marketing plan for the year again and I'm really pleased with the number of things we have planned to try and connect with folks from outside of our congregation. Our movie Night poster and bookmark distribution network is growing which also lets us connect for events like our Christmas Tree-Lighting and Carol-Sing (Dec 10).

For every event you hear of at St. Mark's – please ask yourself – who could I invite to join me! It is our human connection that makes a real difference in drawing people in! This is something we celebrate and give thanks for. With whom might you share it?

At the board level this year we are working our way through 5 remits – changes requested by the national church (the General Council) that will change the way the church functions, that have to be ratified by congregations and presbyteries (a referendum if you will). We are grateful to have Glen Greenwood and Randy Stroud guiding us through the process. This process looks at a three council model, a funding model, an office of vocation, the elimination of transfer and settlement and establishing one order of ministry.

I have been installed as Chair for Toronto Southeast Presbytery for a three year term. After sitting in the secretaries' chair for 13 years, I shift one seat to the right! At my installation we used a piece that I had found online – I'm including the text because I think it is not only my commitment, but should be our commitment to the church for which we are so thankful:

In gratitude we thank you for accepting this opportunity and we challenge you to offer your best. And so we ask you:

Martha ter Kuile (Past Chair of Presbytery): Will you do all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been chosen? I will.

Randy Naylor (Chair of Nominating): Will you commit to work with the members of the executive and presbytery to build

*Continued on page 2*

## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR ....

*By: Art Nicholson*

On Anniversary Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrate 58 years of St. Mark's worshipping and working within the community. On this day we celebrate and honour our anniversary award recipients.

Every member of St. Mark's plays a vital role in our ministry.

However your nominating team under the guidance of team chair

Charlie Wardell has the tremendous responsibility of narrowing the extensive list( recommended by the congregation) of very deserving candidates for the prestigious St. Mark's Anniversary Award to only two or three recipients.

The Nominees for the Anniversary Awards are individuals who have demonstrated commitment to St Mark's by actions observed. They may have offered services

unassumingly over time that benefit the congregation; or have been in more formal leadership in the ministry of the congregation; or have volunteered extensively within the community. In other words- someone who has served not only St. Mark's and the United Church of Canada, but someone whose life reflects the heart and soul of St. Mark's.

*Peace be with you,*

## ...CONTINUED FROM THE MINISTOR'S DESK

engagement with the court? I will.

Audrey Brown (President of Toronto Conference): Will you work to open yourself to hear more intentionally the still beating heart of ministry in our congregations and in our ministers? I will

Marg Walker (Secretary): Will you faithfully commit to working with us in this time of Transition for the wider church, lifting up those places of new life within us in celebration, and faithfully being with those places where it seems life is dwindling. I will

Will you bring your best? Will you be with? Will you be open? Will you lift up gifts of new life? Will you be present where there is loss?

May we all respond I Will!

## ST. MARK'S BIBLE STUDY STARTS OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>!

*By: Rob Peck*

In October and November of 2016 the Christian Education team is sponsoring another in its continuing series of Bible studies. This study is taking place on 6 consecutive Tuesdays, October 18 and 25 and November 1, 8, 15 and 25 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm and will be on the Gospel of Mark.

How appropriate! After all, our church was named after this guy! Have you ever wondered:

1. Who he was?
2. Why he wrote his Gospel?
3. Who he wrote it for?
4. What is in it?
5. When he wrote it?
6. Where he wrote it?

Me too!

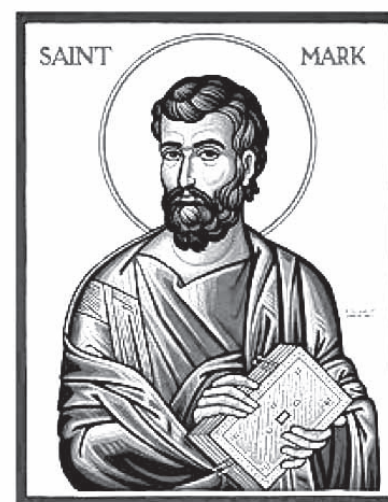
Full disclosure: I do not have all the answers!

Whoever you are ...

Wherever you're at ...

Join us on the journey as we look at these fascinating questions.

Bring your lunch, bring your Bibles and enjoy the ride. Your fellow passengers are loads of fun!



## THE HELEN JONES' LIBRARY

*By: Karen Wigle*

Featured this month are some new books and also some classics for great fall reading.

**"419" by Will Ferguson** – this Leacock Award winning author writes about a Nigerian e-mail scam and one of its victims.....a "thoroughly engaged politico-philosophical thriller...from roughly page 187 on, you won't sleep until you finish, and then rest won't come easily. Riveting. Provocative."

**"Brooklyn" by Colm Toibin** – the movie version was nominated for Best Picture plus multiple other Academy Awards. It is "a classical coming-of-age story, pure, sensationalized, quietly profound....

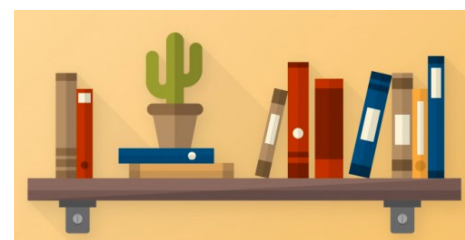
One of those magically quiet novels that sneak up on readers and captures their imaginations."

**"A Wrinkle in Time" 50th Anniversary Edition by Madeleine L'Engle.** "This story of love, time travel, and triumph over evil has truly stood the test of time...A book that every young person should read, a book that provides a road map for seeking knowledge and compassion even at the worst of times, a book to make the world a better place."

**"Man's Search for Meaning" by Viktor Frankl** – This is our 2017 book club selection. There are more than 12 million copies in print

worldwide. It is a classic work of survival literature.

**"The Complete Idiot's Guide to The Bible"** – "quick and easy guidance on the stories, people and events written about in the Old and New Testaments... Idiot-proof steps to deciphering the meanings behind Biblical stories. Valuable tips for making the Bible a part of today's busy life."





## CONGRATULATIONS TO PHYLLIS SPENCER



She is celebrating 30 years in United Church (UC) Ministry. Phyllis grew up and completed her education to Grade 12 in New Brunswick. Phyllis and her husband, Gerald have lived in this community since 1959 and raised 4 children, who have remained in the Toronto area. Fred Styles, the minister at West Hill UC, recognized Phyllis as a positive, hopeful person who loved children, and encouraged her to go back to school. Studies began with a UTSC night school course, in which she had to earn at least a "B" to qualify to enter a 5 year program at the Centre for Christian Studies. Despite having a family and an elder parent to care for, as part of her education, Phyllis served for a year as a student minister at Dentonia UC. Phyllis unashamedly admits that she also spent a year in jail... field placement was at the Don Jail where

she, amongst other duties, spent a year helping inmates learn basic practical math so that they could decide what they could buy with the money they had. In order to get to all the places she needed to go, at age 46, Phyllis also got her driver's license.

Phyllis was commissioned as a diaconal minister in 1986 and served part time for 5 years at St. Andrew's in Markham, with primary responsibility being to welcome new people in to the community. While attending her grand-daughter's baptism in Pickering Village, a woman sitting in the pew behind, introduced herself and asked Phyllis a few questions, then advised that they were looking for a full time minister... Divine Intervention? Phyllis remained at Pickering UC for 9 years, until she retired at age 65, 16 years ago. Phyllis was licensed to perform the sacraments (marriage and baptism) in both York and Durham regions.

After retirement, Phyllis continued her ministry work as a VAM (Volunteer Associate Minister), and spent 15 years at Greenwood UC pastoral charge. In appreciation for her volunteer work, Phyllis was made Minister Emeritus.

Phyllis enjoys reading, crosswords, walking, gardening

and spending time with Gerald and their family that now includes 10 grandchildren.

Phyllis shared that she has witnessed the guiding of God's presence in cardinals; when she was in school at age 41, coping with all the challenges of a busy life, a cardinal would come near, which made her smile and encouraged her to continue on her journey.

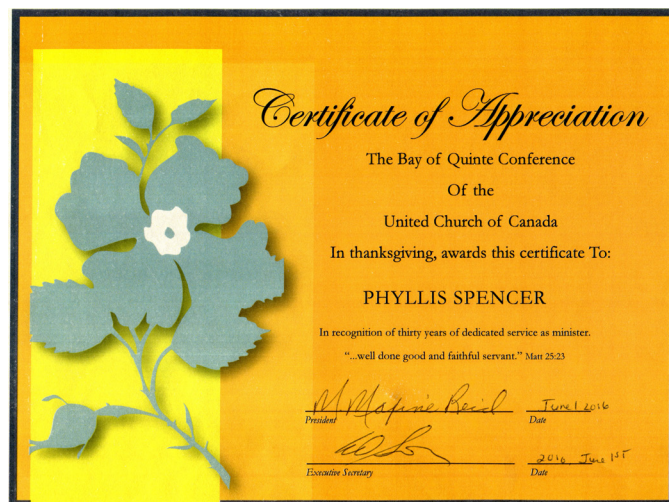
Thoughts:

*"Miracles are everywhere for us to see, but we have to see them."*

*"God is in nature for me and I celebrate God's creation."*

*We celebrate Phyllis and all that she has given in her 30 years of UC Ministry.*

Congratulations Phyllis and Gerald on an additional milestone celebration; Thanksgiving Sunday will be their 63rd wedding anniversary.



## ST. MARK'S FALL TEE, A HOLE IN ONE!

By: Dave Mackenzie

Once again, the annual St Mark's Fall Tee was a huge success both in participation and in financial support for the church. More than 80 golfers took part in the tournament and just over \$9000.00 was raised for

St. Mark's. Gayle Feeney has chaired this committee for two years and along with hubby, Bob have done the lion's share of the organization and preparation to see this event to its successful conclusion. This year, as well, special thanks go out to the committee for the various roles that they played to insure the success of the day. The ladies in the kitchen did an exceptional job, once again this year to insure that all food was served

in abundance and in traditional St. Mark's fashion.

Special thanks go out to Ken and Jane Ogaki for their financial backing of the Hole in One competition.



# Upcoming Events



Presented under ACF Video Site License Agreement

Friday  
October 14<sup>th</sup>

## Free! Community Movie Night

7pm in the sanctuary  
@St. Mark's United Church  
115 Orton Park Road



Nut free treats provided



## IT'S TURKEY TIME!!

The dinner bell will soon be ringing, when St. Mark's hosts its annual homemade turkey dinner with all the fixins' and delicious home baked pies.

Invite family and friends to what promises to be another wonderful evening and help turn this year's dinner into an event.

Cost for a complete meal is \$15/Adults and \$6/Children (12 and under)

Pre-purchased tickets assure a seating – Call 416-439-8623 or [carol@st-marks.ca](mailto:carol@st-marks.ca)

**PLEASE BRING A  
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM**



CO-		COFFEE
CO-		CONVERSATION
LA		LABYRINTH

## CO-CO-LA

Join us  
downstairs  
for  
Coffee  
Conversation  
Labyrinth

Thursday  
mornings

10:00 to 11:30

October 13<sup>th</sup> to  
November 24<sup>th</sup>

Going...  
Going...  
Gone!



## G.S.T. Goods, Services & Talents Auction

St. Mark's United Church  
115 Orton Park Road

**Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**  
6:00 pm - Preview & refreshments  
7:00 pm - Auction

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

By: Alissa duHasky

After a fun summer full of camps,

visits to trailers and cottages as well as ice cream and sunshine the children of St. Marks are together again.

There is always laughter and learning each week in both of

our classes. The senior class is continuing to use the curriculum "Deep Blue Sea" they used last year and the junior class is using "Whole People of God" curriculum.



# MONSTER BASH

## HALLOWEEN LUNCH

For everyone young  
and young at heart!

## SUNDAY OCT. 30<sup>th</sup>

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH  
AND STAY FOR A GROWLING LUNCH  
GAMES, CRAFTS AND HALLOWEEN TREATS!



Sign up in the Narthex