



MARCH MEMO



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

MARCH 2018

EARLY SPRING EDITION

EXCITING TIMES AT ST. MARK'S

By: Art Nicholson, Board Chair

A hearty welcome to Christopher White! Christopher will be our supply minister until this coming September, we are blessed to have him.

The nominating team has assembled a stellar team to guide us through the mission articulation process required to move us forward to selecting an

interim minister to start in September and help us define what we are looking for in a permanent minister.

There will be ample opportunities for all members of the congregation to provide input to the MAP team

For approximately a year the Interim minister will help us hone our definition of what St. Mark's

direction and priorities are.

On behalf of St. Mark's family a huge thank you to Karen Boniface and the M&P team, Tom Stephens and the Worship team and Carol Case office administrator for the extraordinary work accomplished getting us through the transition period.

Peace

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPPLY MINISTER

By: Christopher White, Minister

Last Sunday as I enjoyed the very warm welcome I received (and that wonderful carrot cake!) I could not help but reflect on the passage of time as I looked at the pictures you had of Wendy and I from 1985. Quite



literally a whole life time has passed since I first came to St Marks. All we need to do is to look at the changes in technology from then to now to appreciate this. The "phone" I carry with me and the laptop I am writing this on would have been seen as something from Star Trek or one of those Popular Mechanics magazine

articles about life in the future. Social media was talking about what was on TV with your friends!

So too was the church in a very different place, no one shopped on Sundays, the baby boomer generation, filled with memories of going to church as children, were starting families of their own and coming back in such numbers that it paused the decline in the United Church of Canada. St Marks was just enjoying their flexible new building with all its possibilities.

Today the challenges are quite different. Yesterday I met a woman who came to St Marks after not one, but two other United churches she attended had closed. The talk in the wider church is about decline and loss. But what if this is the wrong conversation? What if something new is being born in the midst of the closures and the decline? What if St Marks is part of that new birth of what the church is evolving into and

we can't yet see what that is going to look like?

This next phase of your ministry is the opportunity to use your collective imaginations to vision and dream what God is calling you to for the next 60 years. You have a rich and faithful history and people from different places are being drawn here. So how do you live faithfully into the future?

Easter is coming, both in the liturgical sense as we celebrate the day on April 1, but also in a bigger sense as we discern St Marks future. God is far from being done here and 32 years later I am honored to be a part of it over these next months.

Blessings to all,



2018 IS ST. MARK'S ANNIVERSARY YEAR



Sixty years ago, on June 17th, 1958, Curran Hall Park United Church became a congregation of the United Church of Canada. There were 264 names on the charter roll and services were held in G.B. Little School. Ellison Bradley, an Emmanuel College student and Dr. E. Crossley Hunter served the congregation until the first resident minister, Charles Freake, was called in 1959, followed by Dr. Gordon W. Porter in 1961.

In 1962, the first church building was dedicated and the name was changed to "St. Mark's United Church in Curran Hall Park". The church subsequently became known as simply "St. Mark's United Church".

In 1983 the current church building was dedicated after a fire in 1979 destroyed the original building.

We are proud of the journey St. Mark's has taken during the past 60 years and we'd like to acknowledge that previous ministers have led us to where we now are. During this 60th year we are inviting them to return and to help us celebrate by presenting the message in a service of worship. Here is the anticipated schedule:

March 4th – Greg Daly - We have already enjoyed Greg's service. Greg's period of ministry was during Paul's sabbatical in 2016.

April 22nd – Randy Naylor – filled in when the church sent Alan Hall to monitor elections in Kenya.

September 23rd – Jennifer Janzen-Hall – filled in during Alan Hall's sabbatical

October 21st – Anniversary Sunday – Alan Hall – minister at St Mark's for 23 years

November 18th – Cheryl-Lynn MacPherson – ministered during the transition between Alan Hall and Paul Hutchison

We also hope that Robert Brewer can arrange to join us and of course, it was interesting to learn that our current supply minister, Christopher White, interned at St. Mark's with Wib Lang from September 1985 to April 1986.

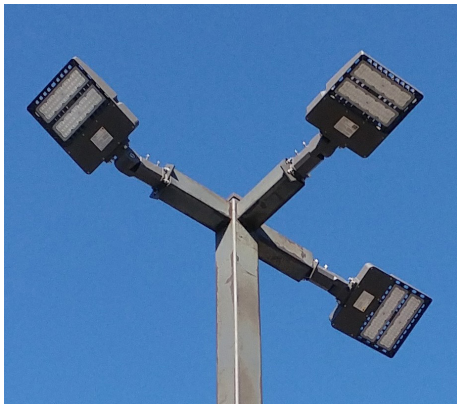
We celebrate the leadership that we received during the past 60 years.



ST. MARK'S GETS GREEN LIGHTS

By: Bart Boniface

On a cool clear February morning St. Mark's back parking lot witnessed a flurry of activity and it had nothing



to do with snow. For many reasons the Property Team felt it was time for the lighting of the past to take a step into the future. Thanks to the efforts of Glen Arnott of Landry Electric with the guidance of our own Todd Meyer, St. Mark's now has some of the greenest LED technology brilliantly illuminating our parking lot. Not only are the new lights much brighter, creating a safer environment for those utilizing the church building in the evenings but they are tremendously energy efficient. The new LED lights only use one third of the electricity that the old lamps consumed and the energy savings are projected to pay back the cost of installation in 3-4 years. Thanks again to everyone who played a part in bringing this project

to completion. Absolutely a win-win situation as St. Mark's continues its efforts to go green!



FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM....

I am absolutely delighted that Christopher White has joined us. I sense we will have a very exciting journey together. You have probably seen a questionnaire Christopher has prepared to help him develop a series of sermons that is relevant to St. Mark's. This is a very generous and sensitive approach and I encourage you to think carefully about these questions and then complete and return the questionnaire.

I am also tremendously impressed and grateful to all the people who have stepped forward during the transition period since we said farewell to Paul. What a depth of talent our congregation has! What a great willingness to share and assist! We have been very fortunate during this time to have had a taste of various styles of worship, theologies and presentation techniques. We have learned and grown from these. Of course, many

of us have become comfortable with a consistent style and we'll have this with Christopher for the next several months.

I'd like to specifically give a huge "Thank you!" to the following who have worked so hard to enhance our worship experience during this period:

- The team that organized the "Colour Our World" service: chaired by Art Nicholson and including Nicole Bible, Bart Boniface, Carol Caise, Catherine Deneault, Carla Gowrie, Roberta Howie and Charlie Wardell, with huge assistance from Music Director, Michael Gomiega and coffee hosts, Heather Urbansky and Luella Stephens.
- Feb 4th - friend of St. Mark's, Loreen Naylor, and Kathryn Moase and Karen Boniface
- Rob Peck (Feb 11) and Glen Greenwood (Mar 11). Also other members of St. Mark's who offered to take services if the transition period had been longer.

- Greg Daly who led our Ash Service (Feb. 13) and a 60th Anniversary "reunion" service (Mar. 4th)
- Ian Manson who stepped forward so we could have an ordained minister lead our communion service on Feb. 18th
- Kim Covey, Pat Carroll and singer, Faith Nolan, who led us in our African Heritage Celebration on Feb. 25th
- Carol Caise and Michael Gomiega for their huge assistance to those listed above.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:

Sunday, March 25th - Palm Sunday

Friday, March 30th - 10:30 a.m. - Joint Good Friday service with Scarborough Bluffs and Knob Hill United Churches

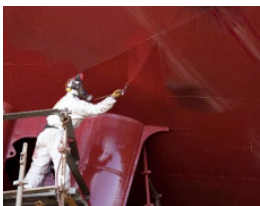
Our choir has been practicing and 4 people from St. Mark's will read in the service.

Sunday, April 1st - Easter Communion - Celebrate the Risen Christ

With the frequent publication of the SM News, and its excellent and timely coverage of up coming events, we thought we might experiment with introducing other articles in the Memo. Possibilities include interviews of members of St. Mark's and commentaries or observations from some of our members. Rob Peck graciously agreed to fill the first spot with a reflection. We would appreciate receiving reflections from other members. Please send your submissions to David Niemela via email to: studioden@icloud.com

SAIL YOUR SHIP

By: Rob Peck



The father of a friend of mine died of lung cancer when I was in college. The day he got his diagnosis, he went into his bedroom, drew the curtains and waited to die. That made me start thinking about preventive maintenance and risk avoidance.

Think of a ship. Preventive maintenance: If a ship's engine is never serviced, it will eventually blow. If a steel ship's hull is never painted, it will eventually rust out. Risk avoidance: If a ship is sailed into a hurricane, it may sink!

What is good for a ship is good for us. Preventive maintenance: I have regular

physical check-ups. I try to exercise regularly. I go to St. Mark's regularly for spiritual check-ups and exercise! Risk avoidance: I quit smoking when I was 25. When I was 50 I quit drinking Coke and I now limit myself to one caffeinated coffee a day. Mind you, I am still a sucker for pie, cake and cookies. Maybe tomorrow.

But preventive maintenance and risk avoidance are only half the story! As the American theologian, William Shedd, said, "A ship is safe in harbor, but that is not what ships are for."

There are no guarantees in life: your ship can be perfectly maintained and perfectly piloted; and you can still be sunk by a tsunami or other disaster. You can do everything to



be healthy and still be cut down by a dread disease or a drunk driver.

Maintain your ship. Go to church! Do not sail into hurricanes but do sail your ship out of the harbor. Follow your dreams. Deal with the ones that don't come true and have a life!

Love yourself.
Love others.
And have fun
along the way.



Upcoming Events

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY



WHY?: To help ALL of us put names to the right faces. We are hoping that everyone will let us take their photo so we have an updated record. We are producing this "in house" so that a revised edition can be issued annually.

WHEN?: After Easter we will list dates when photos can be taken before and after church. Appointments can be made for other times and dates. If you are unable (for health or other reasons) to have a photo taken at church, we will be glad to make arrangements to take photos in your home.

If you have any questions, please contact Luella Stephens: (416) 283-1267 or email: tom.stephens@sympatico.ca

SPRING GREENS - COOKING WITH SPRING OFFERINGS INCLUDING NATIVE PLANTS WITH SIGNE LANGFORD

THURSDAY, MAY 24

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

\$30

or

SUNDAY, MAY 27

After the church service, about noon to 3:30 p.m.
(repeat of May 24, includes lunch)

\$35



REGISTER & PREPAY BY MAY 6

St. Mark's United Church
115 Orton Park Road,
Scarborough, ON
416 439-8623

Contact: Karen Boniface
or Carol Caise

Back by popular demand, Signe will share her lively cooking and storytelling skills with our bountiful spring harvests. She is deeply immersed in lifestyle principles that are good for you and the earth, while teaching us to reduce water consumption in our gardens and ways to increase pollinator habitat.

Signe will be talking and demonstrating how we can grow, harvest and cook dishes, potentially from our own yards. We will also sample her delicious delicacies!

From Hudson, Quebec, now living

in Port Hope, Ontario, Signe Langford is a restaurant chef-turned-writer who tells award-winning stories, creates delicious recipes, and published her first book – Happy Hens & Fresh Eggs; Keeping Chickens in the Kitchen Garden with 100 Recipes – in 2015, which will be available for sale at a reasonable gift giving price of \$20.00.

She studied Fine Art History and Humanities at the University of Toronto, and York University; she graduated with honours from OCAD University; she earned her Wine Specialist Certificate from George Brown College. <https://www.signelangford.com>



THE YARD SALE IS COMING!

SATURDAY JUNE 2ND

As you're doing your spring cleaning please put aside gently used items that are in working condition for this sale. Things that sell well are bikes, sports equipment, small appliances, jewellery, toys, furniture, kitchen ware, fine china, records, books (esp children's books) linen, electronics, tools, hardware items...no clothes. More info will follow but please mark it on your calendar and plan on coming out to help...it's fun. If you have any questions please direct them to Art Nicolson or Melinda Calway.