



APRIL MEMO



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

APRIL 2019

SPRING EDITION

WELCOMING OF DANIEL REED!

By: Teresa Smith, Member of M&P

Our first Sunday in spring and our official introduction and welcoming of Daniel Reed! Daniel is our supply minister until September 2019.

Daniel worked as an administrative Staff member at the General Counsel Office of the United Church of Canada, where he had a various duties and had the opportunity to work with our former minister Alan Hall.

Daniel was the Growing staff & Visioning Minister at Willowdale United Church. While there he managed the community garden, doubled its size and increased reach into the neighbourhood. He built a community space and an outdoor chapel.

He worked as VIBE director organizing and leading worship, storytelling & games for half-day summer camps for children, focusing on Indigenous justice & reconciliation at Kawartha Highlands Presbytery.

As a student supply he was the Christian development minister at Thornhill United church. He co-ordinated Sunday school and youth group, and facilitated Bible study, Meditation group and workshops.

Daniel met and worked with Christopher White (our former supply minister) at Fairlawn Avenue United Church. Daniel was the Minister of Children and Youth.

These are just a few of the many things that Daniel has been involved with and accomplished.

Daniel attended McGill University where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts, Joint Honours – Philosophy & Religious Studies - He was a provincial recipient of the Millennium Excellence Scholarship.

Daniel attended Emmanuel College where he pursued and achieved his Master of Divinity. Daniel has been approved for ordination and will be ordained June 2nd, 2019 in eastern Central Region - formerly the Bay of Quinte Conference.

Daniel likes rock climbing, riding his bike, gardening and spending time with family and friends.

Christopher's last service was on March 17th, at which time he handed over his keys and the church directory to Daniel...so *Daniel we officially welcome you to St Mark's!*

NEW BEGINNINGS

By: Charlie Wardell, Board Chair

I feel better as spring starts, many of us do. As we see more of the sun, as we hear birds singing, these things bring hope and a sense of new beginnings. We feel that here at St. Mark's.

Welcome to Sharon Russell Howarth! She is filling in as our Music Director. Linda Meyer did a wonderful job, sharing her gifts. It had to be daunting, following Michael. Linda stepped up with grace and commitment. After that, a vacation is certainly in order! Our permanent music director, Doug Watson, will

be starting in April. How lucky are we to be treated to several different musical experiences!

And...Welcome to Daniel Reed! I am really looking forward to our time with Daniel!! Smart, compassionate, energetic, and a great listener. In his first few hours Daniel was already growing new relationships. Feels like St. Mark's already! Daniel 'gets us'. He is a wonderful new part of our St. Mark's family. Thanks very much to our Ministry and Personnel Team for bringing us together!

Thinking about new beginnings... How great was it to confirm 6 new

members and baptize one of them! Welcome: Angelie Devi Harinarain, Barbara Jean Merriam, Christopher Norman Niemela, Emily Joy Niemela, Lillian Marie Skotni, and Jessica Lauren MacFarlane. Thank you for committing to us, to our family, and to our church. We are so pleased to also commit to you.

In the meantime, our Permanent Minister Search Team continues their faithful work. The procedures and resources are all new with the change from Presbytery to Shining Waters Region. They are doing a wonderful job in coping with the change. Please

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HAPPY SPRING!

By: Daniel Reed

As I write, the daffodils are pushing their noses up through the ground. My tomatoes have just grown their second set of leaves. Lily Hewitt tells me that a flock of geese have taken up residence on the roof of her school.

And so it is that we recognize mortality, and yet celebrate the abundance of new life. As we did last year, ten years ago, hundreds of years ago – we gather in prayer to tell the story of Jesus executed and Jesus earth-shatteringly bringing the blessing of the resurrection to a dewy garden, a dread-filled upper room, and a beachside breakfast and a long journey.

I wonder how that blessing will appear in our midst?

I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome I've been given. I have met a number of really wonderful St. Mark's people, and I am looking forward to continuing to meet people and learn about this congregation and its context. I will be serving as the Supply Minister here until September, at which point the Permanent Minister will begin their work.

I would like to thank Linda Meyer and Sharon for their music ministry. We have been blessed by their dedication to their spirituality and by their deep artistic skill. We welcome Doug Watson, our new Music Director, who will join us on April 14th as we sing our Hosannas on Palm Sunday.

I would also like to say thank you to Charlie and to the M&P team as they've navigated these changes, and to Carol who has remained resilient, caring, and a font of wisdom throughout.

Please get in touch if you'd like to introduce yourself. I'd love to

spend some time together, and I'd like to hear more about you.

This is a congregation with strong congregational leadership, capable and integrated structures of care, and a vibrant spirit. I think you should be very proud of the church you have built, and I believe that you have a lot to offer to the community and to the United Church as a whole. It is a pleasure to join you for a portion of your journey.

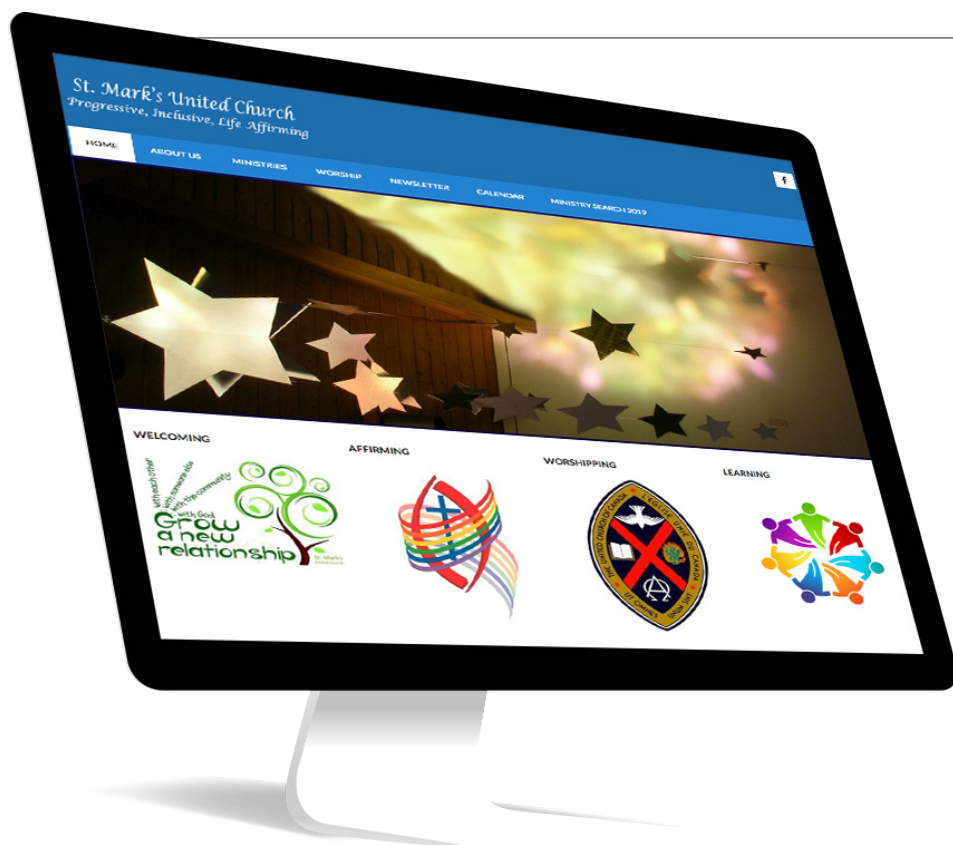
Blessings!

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keep them in your prayers. Their fine work will help set the tone at St. Mark's for years.

I'm looking forward to the Progressive Dinner and Starlight Ball! These are times for us to just have fun. We need that now and then and I hope you can come!

While we're in this frame of mind... Why not think about new beginnings for each of us? St. Mark's has many opportunities. If you're approached by our Nominating Team, please consider the offer. In addition to furthering the work of our church, this could be your way of growing a new relationship too!



ST. MARK'S WEBSITE

By: Kathryn Moase

St. Mark's has a new website. Check it out at www.st-marks.ca. While you're there, take a look at the new

Calendar. There are still a few items to be added to the site, but if you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to Kathryn using the contact form found under 'About Us'.

THE HELEN JONES' LIBRARY

By: Karen Wigle



We have lots of interesting new books this spring in our church library.

Harper Collins Bible Dictionary – this “is the most complete, up-to-date, and accessible guide for

the study of the Bible available today. With more than 4,000 lively, informative, and reader-friendly entries, this essential reference book provides all the information you need to understand the Bible.”

This United Church of Ours – “Except for Bibles and Hymnbooks, no other book has been read and appreciated by as many United Church people. From what to wear and where to sit in church to theology and ethics, Ralph Milton covers it all with his signature easygoing style. Updated with new information and expanded to reflect a church that is reconciling the past and celebrating the future, this fourth edition is both informative and revealing.”

Make It! Don't Throw It Away Create Something Amazing ...this fun, colourful book has clear and concise

directions for creating imaginative projects while subtly educating kids about recycling. In the four sections of paper, plastic, metal and fabric, you learn how the materials are manufactured and then how to make such wonders as bright bowls from junk mail, stuffed bubble wrap cushions and goofy glove puppets to name just a few of the quirky ideas in the book.”

Do Not Say We Have Nothing – this multiple prize winning novel by Madeleine Thien “explores ordinary lives shaped by extraordinary political events. Like a beautiful and complex piece of music, the narration unfolds in layers, returning again and again to the central themes of family, memory and loss.

HATS OFF TO GAYLE & BOB FEENEY

By: Luella Stephens

As many of you know we have been holding Bob in our prayers for the past three years, as he dealt with serious medical issues and also for Gayle as she tended to his care. Recently they bravely set out on a 7 day cruise out of San Juan and when asked about the experience, Gayle said “that they enjoyed every precious moment” and met some lovely people. Further conversation led to disclosure that ALL their luggage was lost in transit and they spent the entire vacation with literally the clothes on their backs. This incredible attitude I think is worthy of celebration and deserves a “Hats Off”. Thanks Gayle and Bob for the terrific people that you are.

“Happiness is a quality of the soul... not a function of one's material circumstances.” – Aristotle



REGIONAL COUNCIL

By: Glen Greenwood & Randy Stroud

With the launch of our new governance in January we are now part of Shining Waters Regional Council. Here is our new website home. As you are able, please check it out from time to time shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca

In February Glen attended a Shining Waters event: Cluster and Network

Conversations. The event was described as Welcoming Futures, The centrality of story in UCC life and mission. Paul Hutchinson, the Founder/Director of Imagined Spaces lead the days journey of stories.

Late May will bring a weekend meeting of our Region in Barrie.

Shining Waters journey is just beginning...

Upcoming Events



ST. MARK'S AMAZING YARD SALE SATURDAY JUNE 1ST 9AM-1PM

ST. MARK'S UNITED CHURCH
115 ORTON PARK RD.

Gently used items may be dropped off
at the church Thurs May 30th and Fri
May 31st between 6 and 9 pm.



ART SHOW/SALE AT ST. MARK'S "NATURE AT IT'S BEST"

Original watercolours, Prints & Cards
by Melinda Calway

Fri May 10th, 12 pm-8 pm &
Sat May 11th, 10 am-5 pm

Refreshments will be served.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY ANNUAL UPDATE

By: Luella Stephens

If you want your photo replaced in
the church directory, or if you want
your photo added, please come to
the Friendship Room on one of the



following Sundays: April 28, May
26, June 23, - before church starting
at 10:00 am, or after church. If none
of these dates suit you, please contact
Luella Stephens: (416) 283-1267 or
email: tom.stephens@sympatico.ca to
make arrangements to have us take
photos in your home, at the church,
or any other suitable location.

Starlight Ball

A fundraiser for St. Mark's United Church

Friday, April 26th, 2019

Q-SSIS Banquet Hall

Appetizers & Cocktails at 6:30 pm

Dinner at 7:30 pm

\$60 per person

Tickets on sale Feb 17th

Tickets available from:

Karen Boniface Carol Caise
Melinda Calway Bill Wolba
Bettie & Dave Mackenzie

Rob Peck Tom Stephens Pat Wardell
Sharon & Trevor White (416-574-6429) or at
the office (416-439-8623)

