



# 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 2017

FALL EDITION

## FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

*By: Paul Hutchison, Minister*

### **Welcome – or Welcome back to St. Mark's**

As I write, the sun is just breaking over the ravine out the window at the church – I managed an early start today – first light – dawn of a new day. We get that every day – what will the day bring, what needs done, who might I connect with –

what have I forgotten? This is the season of beginning, the sunrise of another year at St. Mark's. Sure, January 1st begins the year formally, but for most people September is the start-up of most things. This fall we have been, and will continue to be working through foundational stories of our faith from the Hebrew scriptures. I encourage you to take

some time to dig in the stories. Even in the challenging parts (and there are MANY), the story tells us over and over of the presence of God in the journey of life.

As the day begins, as the season begins, as the year begins, always know on the journey of life, that we are not alone. Thanks be to God!

## SUMMER SERVICES

This past summer, we at St. Mark's were blessed to hear the messages and stories of several of our members as they led a service of worship. We'd like to thank the following for stepping forward and sharing: Bart and Karen Boniface, Glen Greenwood, Neville Jacobs, Kathy Lisle, Katharina Manassis, Art Nicholson, Rob Peck, Tom Stephens and Trevor White.

If you would like to hear their messages (and Paul's too!) an audio recording is available on St. Mark's website ([www.st-marks.ca](http://www.st-marks.ca)) at "sermons" under the worship tab. Since July 30th, the messages were also recorded in video and these can be found on Facebook.

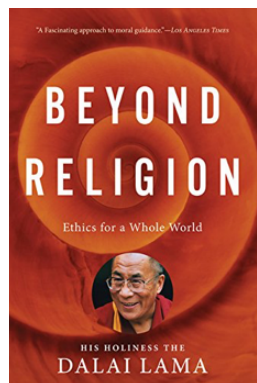
## GEORGE'S (CHAD'S) 90TH BIRTHDAY



*Thank you Paul for the balloons and thank you Michael for Louis Prima's "Sing, Sing, Sing"... he loved the surprises*

# ST. MARK'S BOOK STUDY STARTS AGAIN

By: Rob Peck



Every year from January through May, the St. Mark's Christian Education Team offers a book study for interested adults. The

purpose of the book study is to have fun and fellowship while adding to our knowledge of our Christian faith. We interpret that mission broadly to include any book that will teach us something about spirituality. Last year we studied Viktor Frankl's book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, a look at a holocaust survivor's lessons from his career as a psychiatrist and his internment in Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

For 2018, we have chosen the 14th Dalai Lama's book, *Beyond Religion: Ethics for a Whole World*.

Amazon.ca says of this book: "In this thought-provoking new book His Holiness The Dalai Lama argues that religion is not a necessity for pursuing a spiritual life. Rather, focusing on tolerance and understanding between religions, as well as tolerance and understanding between believers (of any faith) and non-believers is the way forward. The way to achieve such an approach, he proposes, is through a system of secular ethics grounded in a deep appreciation of our common humanity. Aimed particularly at the general reader, *Beyond Religion: ethics for a whole world* outlines those ethics he believes should be central to our lives."

We will start studying this book in just three months. We will meet from 7:30 pm

to 9:30 pm on Friday evenings, roughly every two weeks in St. Mark's starting on Friday, January 19th, 2018. Meanwhile, if you would like to get started early, books are available from Rob Peck at his cost of \$15.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

By: Steve Salt

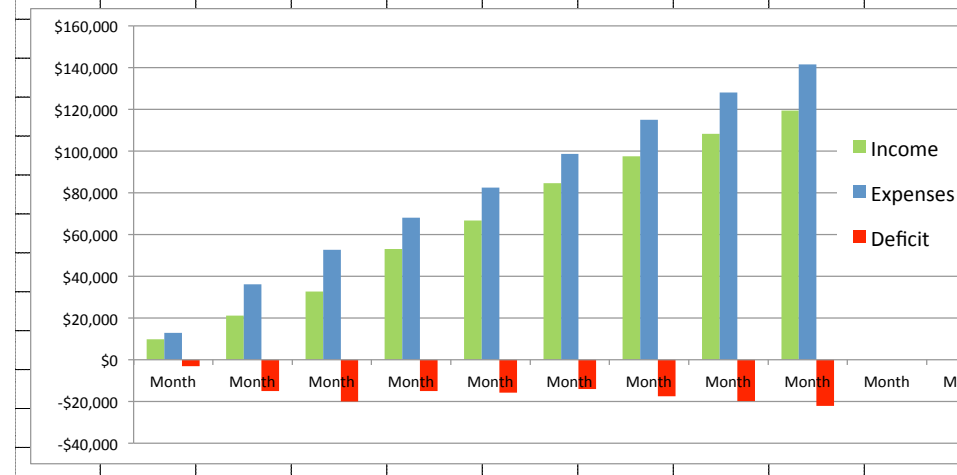
Earlier this month, your F&S Committee sat down for our first meeting of the fall. During our meeting, we were thrilled to find out that a number of new people have joined St. Mark's. We are happy you are here with us.

Below is an update on our current financial situation as of Sept. 29, 2017.

Our current financial status is similar to that of previous Septembers. We thank all who continued their donations during the summer months and respectfully ask those who did not to consider a 'catch up' donation now, in order to help us reduce our current deficit position.

Our sincere thanks to all for your continued support of St. Mark's.

Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month
Income	\$9,720	\$21,082	\$32,634	\$53,080	\$66,638	\$84,586	\$97,417	\$108,146	\$119,413
Expenses	\$12,832	\$36,165	\$52,703	\$68,086	\$82,420	\$98,531	\$114,987	\$127,966	\$141,545
Deficit	-\$3,112	-\$15,083	-\$20,069	-\$15,006	-\$15,782	-\$13,945	-\$17,570	-\$19,820	-\$22,132



# THE OBSERVER

By: Carol Caise

**It's time to renew your subscription to the United Church OBSERVER for the coming year!** If you already receive the Observer, please let Carol know if you would like to renew your subscription.

If the Observer is new to you, it is a magazine affiliated with the United Church of Canada providing you with articles on Faith, Ethics, Justice and Living, as well as information about United Churches across Canada.

Please let Carol know if you would like a subscription for 2017-2018.

The annual subscription fee is \$25.00 (HST/GST included).

**Please call Carol at the office at 416-439-8623 or e-mail her at [carol@st-marks.ca](mailto:carol@st-marks.ca) by Friday, October 20th to let her know if you would like to receive the Observer.**

The fee can be enclosed in an envelope indicating what it is for and mailed to the Church or it may be put on the offering plate.



# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## ST. MARK'S NEXT BIBLE STUDY STARTS ON OCTOBER 17TH!

*By: Rob Peck*



In October and November of 2017 the Christian Education team is sponsoring another in its series of Bible studies. This study is taking place at St. Mark's on 6 consecutive Tuesdays, October 17th, 24th, and 31st, and November 7th, 14th and 21st from 12 noon to 1:30 pm and will be on the Sermon on the Mount, chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament.

Gotquestions.org summarizes the Sermon on the Mount as follows: "How to live a life that is dedicated to and pleasing to God, free from hypocrisy, full of love and grace, full of wisdom and discernment."

Are you curious as to how the Sermon on the Mount came to be in the Bible? Who recorded it? When it was written down? What is in it? Then this study is for you!

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

# JOHN WRIGHT RECEIVED 2017 DOUGLAS J.B. WRIGHT AWARD

The Douglas J.B. Wright Award was created in 1992 by the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario and the Ontario Electrical Construction Company Limited (OEC) to pay tribute to individuals who best exemplify the dedication and commitment to the electrical contracting industry in Ontario. We are pleased to share the great news that John Wright received this year's award. His father, Douglas J. B. Wright, would be proud of his son's accomplishments and consider him a very deserving recipient of the award named in his honour.

In addition to his duties at OEC, John always felt a strong obligation to serve the electrical contracting industry and served on the Greater Toronto Electrical Contractors Association (GTECA)



for 16 years from 1998-2014 and was President from 2010-2012. John also served on numerous committees, making major contributions to the betterment of the electrical contracting industry in Ontario.

John and his wife Leslie, former members of St. Mark's, have retired to Stratford. John's sense of duty and desire to serve others remains an important part of his character. He is

an active committee member of Stratford Summer Music Festival and the local Rotary Club. Recently, John and Leslie established and funded a SP Community Foundation fund to support health and

wellness projects for seniors.

Congratulations John! It was noted, in your nomination for the award, that you have always been a visionary in the electrical industry. Your St. Mark's family are proud of you and happy that your significant achievements have been celebrated.

# ANGELS AMONG US

*By: Luella Stephens*

We recently received a letter from the Scarborough and Rouge Hospital Foundation, that included the following accolade to Ruth Joyce, that I am very happy to share, as confirmation that Ruth is indeed an ANGEL in our midst...

Ruth Joyce is a living example of people making extraordinary differences. A retired teacher, Ruth has been volunteering at the hospital in many roles and in nearly every department of the hospital for more than 25 years. Her connection with the hospital began with the birth of her children. When her son Mark was born in 1971, he experienced complications and had to be admitted to the NICU. Till this day she remembers how the expertise and

compassion of the medical team helped her through a difficult time. When her husband Bill passed away in 2000, she and her children, who are all teachers, as was her husband, decided it was fitting to honour her husband's memory by setting up the Bill and Ruth Joyce Education Bursary. It allows ICU nurses to take courses or go to conferences to learn new practices and techniques in patient care. Dozens of nurses have directly benefited from her generosity in the past 17 years.



# 'CHAMPION OF THE UNDERDOG' IS THE 2017 BEACH CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

By: Beach Metro News



2017 Beach Citizen of the Year Jason Balgopal at Community Centre 55.

PHOTO: Anna Killen

He hasn't always been a volunteer, but the 2017 Beach Citizen of the Year has more than made up for lost time.

Ward 32 resident Jason Balgopal, 46, began volunteering about a decade ago, when, frustrated with vandalism, he decided to remove graffiti in his neighbourhood.

But doing so was about more than property damage.

"I was at a bit of a low point in my life, and I knew something had to change," he said. "I thought, well, I'll go out, and I'll try removing graffiti and see if that leads anywhere, if it makes me feel any better."

It did. Through graffiti removal, he met Bob Murdoch, then the executive director of Community

Centre 55. "Those connections were very instrumental in leading me down a path of greater involvement in volunteer work," said Balgopal, who has lived in the neighbourhood since 2000 with his family.

Not long after, he became treasurer of Community Centre 55, and he served as chair of its board of management from 2009 until last year. Balgopal has also worked on a long list of other initiatives with existing organizations and ones he started himself.

At social-service agency Neighbourhood Link Support Services, he was on the board between 2009 and 2015. The year his tenure ended he joined the board at YouthLink, a youth organization he still serves at today. He was on Beach Metro's board for the 2015-2016 year.

Somehow, he found time in 2015 to launch Beaches Mental Wellness, a mental-wellness support group. Balgopal's struggles with depression inspired him. "One of the things I found as I was going through that process—and as I was getting to a better place in my life towards the end of 2014—was that there were no supports in the community that were readily accessible," said Balgopal.

"We originally were a once a month group, and within almost the first meeting, people were saying, 'Can we meet next week? Can we have this weekly,'" he added.

Balgopal, an assistant Crown attorney and former public defender, sees parallels between his legal work and community involvement. "Both of those roles deal with individuals at the core of them... and so does volunteering," he said. "The volunteering that I like doing, you deal with real people."

If you run into Balgopal one weekday evening, there's a good chance he's donating his time. "Sometimes it might be something quick like going to put up a sign in the park, or it may be a couple of hours where I'm running a meeting somewhere, but Monday to Thursday I'm often out doing something in the evening," he said.

Balgopal's commitment to volunteering is part of what led Murdoch, the previous Community Centre 55 director, to nominate him for the annual award. "He is a front line worker, a ground breaker, a leader, a community developer, a champion of the underdog and protector of that which the community holds dear. He is the quintessential volunteer," said Murdoch in an email.

Balgopal has three words of advice for those interested in community volunteering: "Just do it."

"There are so many existing organizations that would love to have somebody come out and help out. Be it once a week, be it once a month, be it once a year, or be it just once," he continued. Of course, if anyone needs help getting started, Balgopal—ever the volunteer—is around. "I'll connect you."

Balgopal will be awarded the 2017 Beach Citizen of the Year plaque, surrounded by past recipients, at a ceremony in Woodbine Park's Millennium Gardens at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24.

The award is a joint venture between Community Centre 55, the Toronto Beaches Lions Club and Beach Metro News. Candidates are nominated by community members, while a jury consisting mainly of previous Citizens votes on who will receive the honour.



## Upcoming Events

### TURKEY DINNER MARKS REMEMBRANCE DAY!

St. Mark's will be hosting its annual homemade turkey dinner on Remembrance Day, Saturday, November 11th from 4:30-7:00 p.m.

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

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



Tickets will be available on Sunday, October 14th. For more information or to reserve tickets call Carol in the Church office at (416) 439-8623.

### ST. MARK'S 59<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, Oct. 22nd, St. Mark's is celebrating 59 years as a congregation. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Natalie Wigg-Stevenson, Director of Contextual Education at Emmanuel College.

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, NOV. 12TH



Last year on Remembrance Sunday, before the service we projected pictures to recognize some of our members' family members who have served their country in the armed forces. We will project these pictures once again this year. If you or a family member have served and you would like a picture added, please forward it, with particulars, to Tom Stephens (tomstephenschurch@gmail.com). If the picture is not digital (i.e. a print), let Tom know and he will arrange to scan it.

### COLOUR OUR WORLD

January 28th, 2018 will be our 2nd annual Colour Our World service. This is a service that tries to inject colour and fun into a time of year when days are short and to recognize the challenges some people have coping with this time of year. We are forming a team to help organize this service. Please talk to Tom Stephens or email him

Great Variety of Crafts

"Children Only" Shopping Area  
-Where children can shop for their own gift-giving

Bring your neighbours and friends to SHOP

Bake Table

Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
10am-3pm

Donations of NEW crafts for our church tables will be appreciated

## BAZAAR & CRAFTS MARKET

**St. Mark's United Church**  
115 Orton Park Road, Scarborough

**VENDORS**

- Tables available to rent @ \$25
- Please note that table space must be reserved and paid for by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Email [bazaar@st-marks.ca](mailto:bazaar@st-marks.ca) to request a reservation form.

**Questions?**  
Email [bazaar@st-marks.ca](mailto:bazaar@st-marks.ca) or call (416) 283-1267

### SHAKIN' THE BLUES AWAY CONCERT

**Jim Hayward & Willowridge Bluegrass Band with Friends of St. Mark's**



**8 p.m. Saturday, October 21st., 2017**  
**St. Mark's United Church**  
**115 Orton Park Road, Scarborough**

**Tickets - \$25**

**- on sale before and after**

**11 a.m. Sunday worship service until sold out.**  
**Note that tickets will also be available at the door unless sold out in advance of concert date.**

**Questions?**

**Email: [bluegrass@st-marks.ca](mailto:bluegrass@st-marks.ca) or call (416) 283-1267**

(tomstephenschurch@gmail.com) if you are willing to help with the organization of this exciting service.

