



# 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 2018

FALL EDITION

## ANGELS AMONG US

Ruth Joyce has volunteered at the Scarborough and Rouge Hospital, for over 25 years, in almost every department, just falling short of donning scrubs and a stethoscope. Ruth has shared her insatiable joy with the hundreds of patients she interacts with on a regular basis. To honour her husband's memory, the Joyce family established the Bill and Ruth Joyce Nursing Education Bursary that allows critical care nurses to extend their qualifications by taking additional courses.



When her son Mark was born in 1971, he had to be admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit and Ruth remembers how the expertise and compassion of the staff helped her through a difficult time. Ruth continues to check in to the hospital herself, from time to time, to ensure that patient care meets expectations. As a longer term commitment to the hospital, Ruth has arranged a legacy gift through her will.

*A quote from Ruth:*

**“It’s up to all of us to take responsibility for the hospital. If the community cares for the hospital, it will care for the community.”**

## NOMINATING MINISTRY - BRIEF NOTE!

*By: Rob Burridge*

*Chair, Nominating Ministry*

The vibrancy of St. Mark's continues with the beat in our hearts from the congregation and our community.

As the newly nominated Chair of the Nominating Ministry Team, it is my pleasure meeting so many with committed gifts and talents

in the positions on the Church Board, Standing Teams, ad hoc committees and those who are at the ready to jump in with help! You are all extraordinary!!

With you, the splendor of our church, its services and programs provide the positive experience we look forward to in our journey.

I look forward to speaking with many of our members during my tenure as the Nomination Chair. It will be a pleasure to share with

you, all the dedicated and hard work from our church populace, the accomplishments now and for its future.

I invite you to think about where you see yourself in our ministries. This is a time you can share, reimagine, and continue to build. Follow, like so many before you, building on the legacy of St. Mark's United Church during and after its 60th Anniversary Year.

Truly, we do not walk alone.

## FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH – AND AT ST. MARK'S TOO! LOTS OF BIG THINGS ON THE GO RIGHT NOW

*By: Charlie Wardell*

The Finance and Stewardship Team is looking for our help. You may already have received your 2019 financial pledge card. Please write in and return the form. The information will help us decide what programs we can run next year.

Our Board has approved creation of an Innovation Team! The teams' task will be to create new and non-traditional forms of church. St. Mark's has always embraced innovative worship. Faith Nolan's folk singing and Tie a Turban day are great examples of our eagerness to try new things. The Innovation Team will help grow and strengthen our relationships in the community.

We are also continuing along the path of hiring a minister on a permanent basis. Many of us remember the old JNAC (Joint Needs Assessment) process. That was replaced with a new process (MAP) which is almost complete. We will coordinate next

steps towards posting the job opening.

Coordinating that MAP process will be all the more interesting with our new United Church governance structure! The long standing organizations of Presbytery and Conference are going away. We are transitioning to Regions which are larger areas (we are Region 10). These Regions will have a different mandate, the result being that individual communities of faith, including St. Mark's, will have more authority and responsibility.

Dude! Big Stuff!! and stuff we can only do together. Thank you for your support. Like in the movie, it's going to be Awesome! Totally awesome!

## HELEN JONES LIBRARY FALL 2018

*By: Karen Wigle*



If you are new to St. Marks you may not have noticed the Helen Jones Library. It is located past the coat rack (turn left after coming up the stairs from the back entrance) near the Friendship Room.

We have an interesting collection of non-fiction and fiction books. There is

a sign out binder near the book return basket on the right hand side. And please take a look inside the Little Free Library located on the front lawn. You can "Take A Book, Leave A Book, Keep A Book". I think you'll agree it was beautifully painted by Melinda Calway.

Here's some award winning fiction you might enjoy: *Bellevue Square*, *Brother* (based right here in Scarborough), *Fifteen Dogs*.

If you haven't read John Shelby Spong's *A New Christianity For A New World*, *The Better Angels of Our*

*Nature* *Why Violence Has Declined* or *The Complete Idiot's Guide To the Bible*, they are waiting for you.

Thanks very much to everyone who leaves Value Village discount cards for me to purchase books. They are a great help in reducing costs.

If you are already thinking about Christmas, please note there will be a small collection of curated books for sale at our bazaar on Saturday November 24. It's your chance to give lasting gifts for a very reasonable price.



*Give thanks with a grateful heart*

The worship team would like to invite the congregation to bring fall vegetables ie: squash, pumpkin, dried corn on the cob, gourds etc. on Thanksgiving Sunday to help decorate the front of the church. Thank you to everyone.



# COMMUNICATION AND CLARIFICATION OF STAFF AVAILABILITY AND ROLES

*M&P Ministry Team, Karen Boniface, chair*

As you may be aware, Christopher is our full time supply minister (40 hours a week) for one year, from Sept 1, 2018 to Sept 1, 2019.

As well, Charlie is our new board chair as of last June, so he is new to the job!

And then there is Carol, our administrator and the glue that keeps the church humming.

The M&P ministry team felt is timely to clarify their availability for communication, input, and meetings, especially for new church members, and as a refresher for those who've been around.

If you wish to speak to or meet Christopher, please try to schedule it during the day (Monday to Thursday). Also, Fridays are his days off, so will not meet or respond to calls or emails.

Charlie works full time in the west end of the city, and also travels as part of his job, so his availability is limited, but he can speak to you on most Sundays and is often quite responsive by email.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Did you know that there is an Executive Committee? It is comprised of the minister, administrator, and the past, current and vice chair prior to the board meeting. They prepare the agenda together and discuss current issues. If you have an issue to discuss, it is suggested that you speak to Carol, Charlie or Christopher and they can determine if it can be referred to a ministry team or brought forward to the church board meeting. Board meetings are held typically on the second Thursday of the month, with a break in the summer.

## ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

Also, with the change in pastoral ministry, Carol has taken on more administrative work, as Paul had strengths and initiated projects in this area. The Times & Events booklet, and working with David Niemela on movie posters are such examples. This has become more work than her allotted work hours can handle.

Christopher has identified one of his strengths as actively working on growing the church, both in

pastoral care and reaching out to the community. This is an important work for our present and future ministries, and we encourage him to pursue these endeavors.

It is hoped that each ministry team and activity organizer (such as a fundraising event) take a stronger role in preparing and administering their functions to lessen Carol's already busy schedule. If this is difficult for your team, please let M&P know, so we can further discuss at the next board meeting to seek volunteer resources to help out.

## CAROL'S TIME & AVAILABILITY

Did you know Carol's assigned working hours are only 14 hours a week?

Also, Sunday is her day off, so if you have requests, please contact her during the week (Wednesday is her day off), or leave her an explanation in writing.

We want the church to run as smoothly as possible; for you to understand when staff are available, and clarify their roles. Your cooperation and assistance is greatly appreciated.

## THE FIRST ANNUAL TRUMP FAMILY SPECIAL

"The First Annual Trump Family Special", a musical comedy, opened September 13th at the Triad Theatre in New York, and will play each Thursday night at 9:30 pm, until December 6th.

Have a look in the back row, second from the right... Brian Sills is Donald Jr. Brian's Mom (Diane Chadwick) reports "the show has been a great success – the audiences are loving it!"





# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

## ST. MARK'S NEXT BIBLE STUDY STARTS ON TUES OCT 16<sup>TH</sup>!

*By: Rob Peck, for the CE Team*

In October and November of 2018, 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, and November 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 1:30 pm and will be on St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.

St. Paul, the Apostle, was born in Tarsus in what is now Turkey around 4 CE. and died around 62–64 CE, in Rome. One of the leaders of the first generation of Christians,

he is often considered to be the most important person after Jesus in the history of Christianity. In his own day, although he was a major figure within the very small Christian movement, he also had many enemies and detractors. Many of his contemporaries did not accord him as much respect as they gave Peter and James so Paul was compelled to struggle to establish his own worth and authority. Nevertheless, his surviving letters have had enormous influence on subsequent Christianity and have secured his place as one of the greatest religious leaders of all time.

The First Epistle to the Corinthians, usually referred to simply as First Corinthians and often written 1 Corinthians, is one of the Pauline epistles of the New Testament of

the Christian Bible. It was written by Paul to the church he founded at Corinth, Greece when he learned of difficulties that church was undergoing. Called “a masterpiece of pastoral theology”, it addresses various issues that had arisen in the Christian community at Corinth.

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



The Knit & Natter ladies enjoyed a 94th tea party birthday celebration for Dorothy Benson. We meet every Tuesday at 1:30 to 3:30 pm and you don't have to knit, just natter!



## Upcoming Events



Presented under Criterion Site License Agreements  
treats provided

Friday  
November 16<sup>th</sup>

## Free! Community Movie Night

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



Not free



## TURKEY DINNER ST. MARK'S CELEBRATES IT'S 60<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

St. Mark's will be hosting its Annual homemade turkey dinner and celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

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

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

Tickets will be available on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

For more information or to reserve tickets call Carol in the Church Office at 416 439-8623.

**FOOD BANK DONATIONS  
APPRECIATED**

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

Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
6:00 pm - Preview & refreshments  
7:00 pm - Auction

**Donation forms on table in Narthex**

Any questions?  
Call Tom or Luella Stephens (416) 283-1267

Going...  
Going...  
Gone!

Great  
Variety  
of Crafts

Ye  
Olde  
Treasures

Bring your  
neighbours  
and friends  
to SHOP

Bake  
Table

Saturday,  
November  
24<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
10am-2pm

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