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OCTOBER 2022

FALL EDITION

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

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

By: Janet Smith Zenwirt, Minister

Welcome to autumn, the season of change. What are you bringing with you into this new season? Many of us gathered with family and friends and, perhaps, travelled during the summer. We hold cherished memories from these visits and the delights of summer. We also may be wary of what lies ahead in this season of our life or in our world. The last two years have reminded us that life can change on short notice. We remain patient with the many pivots that life throws our way. With hope, we move forward into the known and unknown.

Join me in a collective deep breath as we take a moment to savour what is in front of us right now. Notice the people in your life; reach out to someone new. Spend time observing the gardens and trees as they again teach us about letting go of that which

does not serve us any longer. Look to see where they teach us about new growth and resilience. Perhaps you can take a walk around St. Mark's grounds: walk the labyrinth, look at the gardens, look at the trees, see the wildlife, and hear the children playing at the schoolyard. These varied reflections on ordinary things can nourish us in extraordinary ways. This can bring joy into our lives.

We are welcoming the new season at St. Mark's. This is an active place as we continue to be the church and part of our community. You will find numerous articles in this newsletter outlining plans for the upcoming season. You are welcome to join us. We move through this season together in hope and joy. May you know in your heart that you are deeply loved in all seasons.

Deep peace.

ADVENT IS COMING!

Are you interested in joining an Advent reflection group?

Do you enjoy opportunities for reflection and renewal?

Please contact Janet if you are interested or have questions

Dates and times will be determined later

(janet@st-marks.ca)

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

By: Brian MacFarlane

“ A New Season ”

In leaving behind the heat and humidity of summer I have always felt reenergized by the cooler days and nights of fall. Finishing outdoor projects once put off by the heat of summer, gathering the final harvest from the garden and spending time in nature enjoying the evolving palette of colour of the forest beside the Highland Creek, are things looked forward to with anticipation at this time of year. It is the only time to be able to spend a cool October day watching the spawning chinook salmon swim north against the current of the creek that runs through our church backyard in Morningside Park.

The fall season for our indigenous people has for thousands of years held traditions of celebrating harvests with feasting, dance, prayers and ceremonies. It is also within this season on September 30th, that we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. A day to honour and remember the many children who never returned home from residential schools, the ones who did, their families and their communities. Working with the

communications team, Janet, others and I, we created an instalment for the front of the church, displayed in the weeks leading up to the day, sharing the journey of reconciliation and witnessing we are on and to share this with others. You can show your support by wearing an orange shirt on September 30th and/or by attending the many events and programs led by the indigenous community that relate to this.

Over the summer I am grateful to members of our congregation who led Sunday services while Janet was on a much needed summer vacation to recharge for the seasons ahead. Grateful too for the many ministry teams at St. Marks for their continued contributions of time, energy and care that carries through all the seasons.

If you or anyone you know of is who is not currently on a team but interested in volunteering your time and talent towards one, or if not able to commit full time but would like to support activities and projects by our congregation's many teams from time to time, please do not

hesitate to contact any member of the Nominations Team to discuss your interest in this.

I am looking forward to the return of post summer activity at the church. This fall there are many new and returning events and activities that will be happening in the months ahead, conscientious that we are still navigating through a pandemic that seems to have no end. The last two and a half years of the pandemic has been a time of unprecedented change in the lives of many. It has been a time of fear, reflection, anxiety, choosing new paths, uncertainty and seeking new hope for the evolving new normal of our world that has replaced the old. Reflecting on these times the words found in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 resonate within me, they give the assurance that there is a season and a time to heal, to laugh, to dance, to embrace, to love, and a time for peace. May this season and the times ahead bring these precious things to us all, may it be so.

Blessings.

WITHIN REACH OUTREACH

By: Gayle Feeney



“Outreach has been very busy during the Dog Days of Summer.”

We have been alive and well, reaching out to the ever increasing needs of our community.

A large shopping for the Christ Church Food Bank was delivered at the end of May and again in June. Each time, we chose the basics of a single day's meal requirements. We delivered large jars of peanut butter (2kg), or cereal, bananas, kidney beans, Kraft Dinner, bread, eggs and toilet tissue (not part of the daily diet but soooo necessary!!!). Each time we spent \$~1200.00 for what cost us \$1000.00 a year ago. Having said that, the demands at the Food Bank are ever increasing and our efforts are much appreciated. Because of the ever increasing need and the fact that we had many team members on holidays, we opted to donate \$1000.00 directly to the Christ Church Food Bank during the month of August. They were overwhelmed and most grateful for our generosity.

We opted to donate \$250.00 twice during the summer months. This money was used to provide lunches for the clients who visit 202 Markham Road for their noon day meal.

At the end of June, we received a cheque for \$550.00 from Scarboro Golf and Country Club. This was a benevolent donation made by the club. This money was a welcome addition to the Outreach coffers.

This year we opted to initiate a CAN A DAY initiative for the month of July. The congregation was invited to collect a CAN A DAY for each of the 31 days in July. It was indeed well received by the congregation and Christ Church reaped those rewards. Christ Church continues to be amazed by the support that they receive from St Marks'.

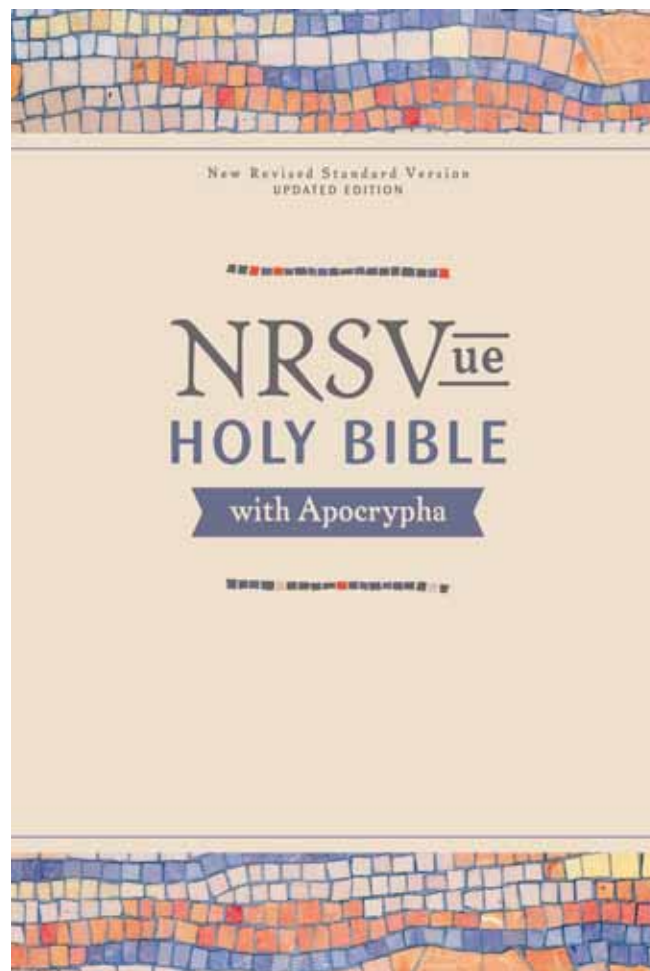
During a pasta sale at one of the food stores, Outreach purchased 23 packages of spaghetti and 12 packages of macaroni. Outreach used gift cards purchased during our St Marks' gift card fund raiser. This is a WIN/ WIN. As that fund raiser comes available, consider purchasing food store gift cards. The card help you as you do your personal shopping but also help St Marks' with another fund raising endeavour.

Forty back packs were purchased, stuffed and delivered to 3 area schools, Eastview, Galloway Road and G.B. Little. Pencils, pens, markers, crayons, calculators, rulers, erasers, etc. etc. were a part of each pack, where age appropriate. We appealed to the congregation for financial support for this endeavour and were supported. However, the costs were much greater than in previous years. We are very happy to have helped each of the schools again this year.

Outreach thanks the congregation for their generosity and their support.

THE HELEN JONES LIBRARY

By: Karen Wigle



We now have an NRSVue Holy Bible with Apocrypha in the library. It has comfort print for easy reading and will lay flat. “With revisions based on new textual evidence, historical insights, and linguistic precision, this updated edition delivers a

translation of Scripture based on meticulous care for accuracy and readability. The Apocrypha is placed between Old and New Testaments, a nearly four hundred year old tradition originating with the 1534 German Luther Bible. This

practice separated the Apocrypha from the 66 book canon while allowing readers to benefit from its spiritual wisdom, exemplary piety, and historical insight.”

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MUSINGS

By: Randy Stroud, Chair, Property Committee

Have you been to the church recently? Due to COVID, some have not been to the church for some time. The church is still there and the building and property still need ongoing TLC (tender loving care). The Property Committee has been maintaining the building and property, making needed repairs and providing TLC. A few examples are offered for your update.

Did you see the storage shed (which houses the ride-on lawn mower, BBQ and various gardening tools) with its roof wrapped in a blue tarp since last winter because shingles had been blown off in the wind? Well the tarp is gone and thanks to a working group comprised of Bart, Brian, Larry and me the shed roof has been re-shingled and new boards painted. It looks great.

The fence around a playground area at the back of the church has been partially taken down. The area is now more open and the grass can be cut with the ride on mower.

The walkway from the parking lot to the back door of the church has had polymeric sand added to the joints and the railing on one side has had the posts reinforced with concrete to make the railing much more stable.

A large pot hole at the bottom end of the driveway has been repaired. And a piece of the ceiling in the overhang over the driveway at the front door of the church, that fell out, has been repaired.

Other maintenance projects include repairs to the counter top and faucet at one of the sinks in the kitchen, BBQ maintenance, CCTV repairs, parking lot lights repairs, rodent control.... you get the picture.

The lawns and labyrinth look great thanks to Karen, Brian and Peter.

The ongoing maintenance of the church and property is made possible by the Property Committee members volunteering their time plus, as always, Bart and Brian happily assisting whenever a helping hand is needed. We even have a friendly electrician (Bob Copeland) who generously donates his time to help us with complicated electrical issues. Bob has been instrumental in helping us solve our building heating problems, which started last winter after a huge snowstorm in January. Following the storm, we had water pipe ruptures resulting in a flood in the basement, icicles dangling from the roof and ice dams on the roof, with leaks in various rooms inside the church. Hopefully our heating system solutions will help to avoid problems like this in future.

Upcoming projects include renovating the washrooms and making at least one washroom wheelchair accessible, repairing the ceiling lights in the downstairs rooms (we are considering switching to LED lights to cut down our electricity consumption), replacing ceiling tiles stained by the leaks we encountered last winter, and anything else that arises or is needed.

Maintenance of the church and property is an ongoing labour of love. If you would like to offer some of your love to your church by helping the Property Committee with their ongoing tasks and projects, please let us know by contacting us through the church office. Working on a church building or property project can be a fun social event. Your talents will be appreciated by the Property Committee and your love will be appreciated by your church.

REPORT FROM SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

By: Glen Greenwood & Randy Stroud

Summer is traditionally a time when things are quieter in our regional council and this year is no exception. That said we encourage you to visit our regions website:

shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca

In the wider church the big news is that we have a new Moderator. Here's the link to news of her installation in August:

united-church.ca/news/installation-44th-moderator-united-church

Have you ever considered becoming a Licensed Lay Worship Leader? This summer, more than any other, there was a great need for pulpit supply. It's, fun, a great way to visit other churches and learn more about the wider church. Here's the link for further information:

shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/pastoral-relations/licensed-lay-worship-leaders/

Gratefully.

GREETINGS FROM STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE!

By: Wendy Jarvis

As we settle into the rhythm of Autumn 2022, we remind ourselves of how the past few years have changed us. But indeed, here we are again, able to worship in person and that is something I'm thankful for.

Thank you for your continued support of the fundraisers which have all exceeded expectations. Renters are returning to the building and we welcome the Scarborough Needlearts Guild to our building this month. Offerings are below budget projections but will hopefully pick up in the Fall. Expenses are increasing as they do every year and we are all familiar with inflationary pressures.

Our fundraisers for this fall include the Golf Tournament, Gift Card program, GST Auction, annual

Bazaar and Craft Sale and the Advent Turkey dinner. Each of those contribute to the life and health of St Mark's and we are grateful to those who organize and those who financially support each initiative.

The team will also on the 2023 budget in the coming months, and you can expect some communication on that item. Last year (for 2022) we provided a narrative budget; showing where the income dollars are spent, and that seemed well received. Any comments on that front (or any other) are welcomed and can be addressed to the team.

With every good wish.

GOLF IS A PUZZLE WITHOUT ANY ANSWERS

By: Gayle Feeney

Gary Player obviously did not know the golf committee at St. Marks as they worked diligently toward finding the answers by organizing and creating an outstanding golf FUNd raiser for all to enjoy. The team solved the puzzle by reaching out to find hole sponsors. We had both personal and business sponsors. We had sponsors that could help you buy or lease a car, fix it, or maybe help you buy a house, renovate it, help you move in, cut your grass or offer chiropractic services after all was said and done! There was indeed a myriad of sponsorship and we

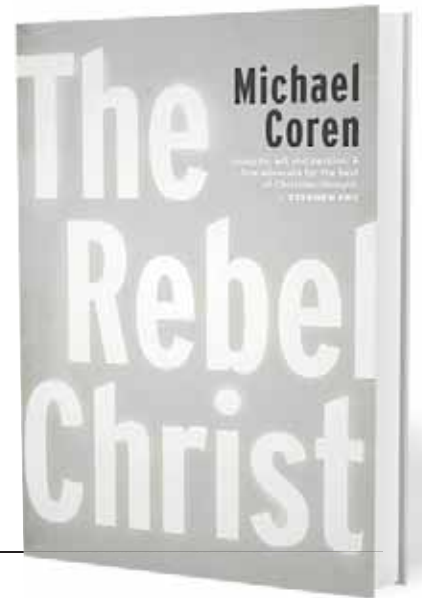
would encourage all of you to support our sponsors as you require services. Because of their generosity each of the 93 golfers received a Goody Bag filled with snacks and a handful of useful items. As well, each cart of golfers was given a dozen gently used golf balls. Because of the weather, 40 of our 93 golfers showed up at the course and played their 18 holes in more or less dry conditions. The BBQ back at St Marks was a roaring success. Our prize table was laden with prizes for our golfers. Generous donations to our Silent Auction table

further enabled our successful day. What is a BBQ without delicious food and a very capable group of people in our kitchen and at the BBQ, itself, all of whom were certainly at the top of their game?

Over and over again, our golfers complimented the Golf Team on their ability to organize an outstanding event and to offer a warm welcome. The team extends that same warm welcome to each of you at St Marks. Be a piece of the puzzle, as we look forward to next year.



ST. MARK'S FALL BOOK STUDY RESUMES OCTOBER 21ST!



By: Rob Peck

The St. Mark's Book Study group typically meets every year in the Winter/Spring and again in the Fall for 4 to 8 bi-weekly sessions to study books or video series that relate in some way to our faith journey. We share responsibility for organizing and presenting our material. Pre-Covid we would enjoy camaraderie and good eats prepared by members. Post-Covid we still enjoy the camaraderie, but via Zoom, and forgo the eats!

May 6th, 2022 was the group's last meeting for our 2022 Winter/Spring session. The only things on our agenda were to chat about the Book Study generally and to consider what we should do next. Our discussions centred around Shirley Criscione's suggestion for the next Book Study session, Michael Coren's 2021 book, "The Rebel Christ".

Indigo.ca says the following about the book:

The real Jesus was
a **REBEL**,
a **RADICAL**, and a
REVOLUTIONARY.

Christianity is in crisis, and its founder is often misunderstood and misinterpreted. This book presents the real Jesus: a rebel, a radical, and a revolutionary.

What did Jesus - the original Jesus - say about the pressing issues of his and our day? He didn't mention homosexuality but did call for the poor and marginalized to be protected and championed; he never spoke of abortion but did criticize the wealthy and complacent; he didn't side with the rulers and wealthy but did condemn those who judged and exploited others and turned their eyes away from those in need and from the cry for justice. This was Jesus the rebel, Christ the radical, who turned the world upside down and demanded that his followers do the same. Too many of those followers, tragically, seem to have misplaced that vital lesson.

Coren had been a conservative, Roman Catholic, talk show host but changed his views. The following was extracted from a 2016 article about Coren on the CBC radio program "Tapestry":

A change of heart - then a change of mind. That's how Michael Coren describes what happened to him not so long ago.

The broadcaster and commentator has written bestselling books defending some of the more conservative teachings of the Catholic church. So it came as a great surprise to many when he recently converted to the Anglican Church, the Anglican Communion. The primary reason was his evolving views on same-sex marriage. Once vocally opposed to it, Michael came to fully support what he refers to as "equal marriage".

Coren's change of heart was a matter of faith and experience.

"What I know best now is that where there is love there is God, and the more I saw of the gay community the more I saw that love."

But his personal transformation came at a cost, both emotional and financial.

"I soon found out that there is none so angry as a fundamentalist scorned. My critics were cruel and abusive beyond even my worst imaginings."

Coren was subject to vicious attacks about his character and his family, and he says changing his mind cost him

more than half his income. But in the end, he says that doesn't matter:

"A found soul is so much more important than a lost pay cheque."

Shirley, in suggesting the book, said: "There are 4 chapters, an intro and an afterword. I have read little bits to get an idea, not much though. Easy reading and very approachable. He discusses his "epiphany" and thus the loss of his TV show and newspaper column and his speaking engagements in the intro. "This book is about pure Jesus rather than pure politics" p9 "I should also emphasize that this book isn't about trying to convert people to the Christian faith, but rather to explain what that faith genuinely has to say about vital issues to anybody who has an interest, whatever their religion or lack of one." p9"

This book was a popular choice amongst the 10 people who attended our May 6th Book Study session as well as several others who phoned in their views before we met on Friday evening. As a result, we decided to go with Coren's book, "The Rebel Christ".

Our first session will be on October 21st to avoid a conflict with Melinda Calway's art show at St. Mark's on October 14th. The dates are:

OCT. 21 - Intro & Chapter 1,

OCT. 28 - Chapter 2,

NOV. 11 - Chapter 3,

NOV. 25 - Chapter 4,

DEC. 9 - Last Word and Christmas get together

I (Rob Peck) placed a bulk order of "The Rebel Christ" for 12 paperback books through Indigo.ca. The cost is \$21.00 per book, GST included, but subsidies are available through Christian Ed. 11 of these books have been distributed to members of our group. I still have one left but can easily get more. If you want a book, please let me know and I can arrange to get it to you. That way you will have lots of time to read it before we start on October 21st!

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Contact me at robpeck40@gmail.com or cell phone, 416-569-3646.

EMBRACING THE SPIRIT AT CAMP

By: Alissa duHasky, Sunday School Co-ordinator

Summer camp is a magical place, full of fresh air, laughter, games and cool teenagers that lead fun times all day long. I grew up going to overnight camp and I knew I wanted to share the magic with my kids. Several years ago C.E voted to have the Embrace the Spirit Fund cover up to \$500 of the cost of Christian camp. Before Covid several of our children utilized the funds but the year we

had a record number of St Mark's youth at Glen Mhor camp. Emily and Christopher Niemela worked on staff, Alanna spent the month of August at the camp in a leadership program. If you know Alanna then you know that this is way out of her comfort zone but she did amazing!! Rebecca had the best week of her life, she didn't want to leave. Lily, Abby and Gabby were lucky to have

Emily as their councillor and spent the week running, swimming and learning new sports such as archery, canoeing and zip lining.

At camp kids hear Gods story and they hear it from young people who are passionate about Jesus and can share our faith. Thank you to the Embrace the Spirit Fund for not only giving the kid a great summer but helping them grow in faith and love.



Upcoming Events

2ND ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT IS HAPPENING SUNDAY OCTOBER 30TH FROM 11AM – NOON.

Last year we had over 80 children and their families come out for a fun morning of treats and games. Members of St. Mark's decorated their vehicles and handed out treats.

We are looking for members who would love to participate this year. Your car can be a scary Halloween theme or any other theme you can imagine. Luella and Tom made Count Dracula's Clinic and Kathy Lisle and her cow sidekick, Kevin, had a farm themed car.



Upcoming Events

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

Going...
Going...
Gone!

Saturday, October 22nd, 2022
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

Art Show & Sale 2022

'Outside My Window'

Paintings by Melinda Calway



Come and Meet the
Artist

Fri Oct 14th 12-8pm
Sat Oct 15th 10am-5pm
Visa, MC & Cash accepted

St. Mark's United Church

115 Orton Park Rd.

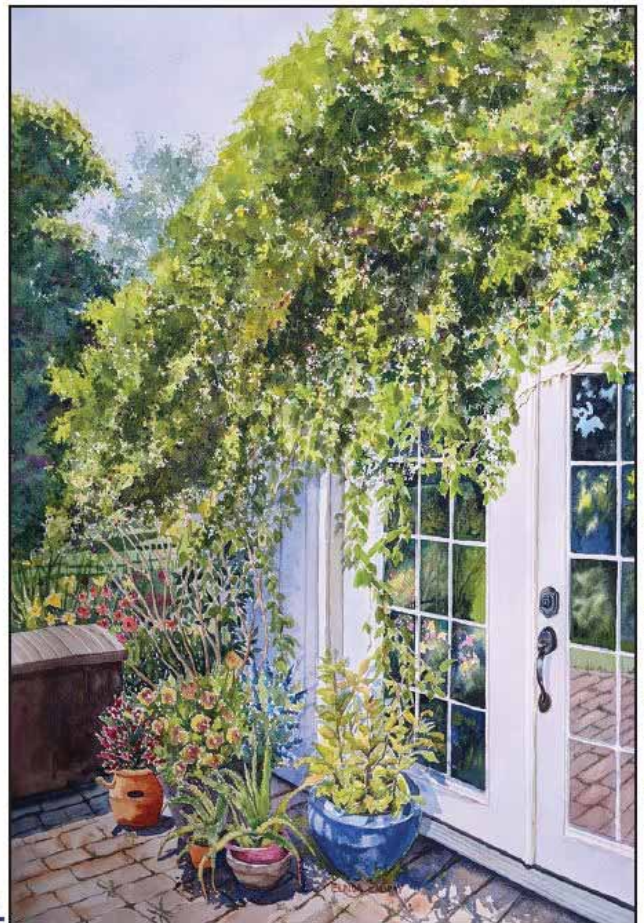
(North of Lawrence, East of Markham Rd)

Refreshments

info & map on website: www.melindacalway.ca

Facebook: Melinda Calway - Artist

Instagram: [melindacalway.art](https://www.instagram.com/melindacalway.art)



Melinda Calway is having her post pandemic Solo Art Show & Sale on October 14th (12-8pm) & 15th (10am-5pm) at St. Mark's United Church.

"I've been busy taking and teaching watercolour workshops on Zoom during the pandemic and of course painting and evolving. Come out

and see what I've been up to; visit, chat and enjoy some refreshments. My wonderful husband (Bill) & kids (Lindsay & Scott) will be assisting. We would love to see you... it's been a while! Please feel free to bring anyone who might be interested and to share this info with friends and family.

There will be original paintings, laser prints and greeting cards (packaged in themes) for you to peruse, a free draw for a "matted print" and a surprise item. See invite for more info.

And this is a seed project for the church a portion of the profit is donated to St Mark's.

ST. MARK'S UNITED CHURCH
2022 G.S.T. AUCTION
(Goods, Services & Talents)
Saturday, October 22nd, 2022



DONATION DETAILS

Name of Donor(s) (to be shown as "Donated By"): _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Description of Donation:

Approximate Value, if known: \$ _____

Please place your completed form in the envelope provided on the table in the Narthex

OR

Send the completed form to tom.stephens@sympatico.ca

Email Tom or Luella at tom.stephens@sympatico.ca or call (416) 283-1267
if further information or clarification is required.

**TO ENABLE US TO PREPARE THE GST AUCTION CATALOGUE IN ADVANCE, PLEASE SUBMIT
DETAILS OF YOUR DONATION PRIOR TO THANKSGIVING MONDAY, OCTOBER 10TH**