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**FALL 2024**

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)

# A PICTURE- PERFECT RETURN:

*Highlights from the Welcome Back BBQ*



# MINISTRY SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

*By: Your Ministry Search Team*

*Art Nicholson (chair); Jane Greenwood; Barbara Merriam; BartBoniface; Wendy Jarvis; Katharina Manassis (Equity Monitor); Gord Maunder (scribe) and Lynella Reid-James (S.W. rep)*

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The MST is making good progress St. Mark's Faith Story and the new full time Minister job description have been posted on the ChurchHub website for approval by Shinning Waters.

Once approved they will be available for prospective canadates.

The Faith Story is living document and should be reviewed yearly. Once it is approved by Shinning

Waters it will be sent by email and post to shut ins to all St. Mark's members for information and comment. Details to follow.

Please email any questions/comments regarding the search to Barbara Merriam at [b.merriam6@gmail.com](mailto:b.merriam6@gmail.com) so they can be accurately presented to the team.

## OUTREACH

*By: Gayle Feeney*

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The focus for your Outreach Team continues to be to battle against food insecurity. The numbers at the Christ Church Food Bank are now well over 200 folks lined up early each Thursday morning. Your CAN A DAY donations were received with open arms by the good folks at Christ Church. Outreach also purchased 103 tins of tuna to add to this delivery. Joanne Chambers, Diane Chadwick, Gladys Pankhurst and Gayle Feeney made this delivery. As school started we added to their coffers by doing our BIG shopping. As an example of how BIG this shopping has become, we now have the Mc Crimmons, friends of Outreach, counting out over 550 bananas! Even with that number, we know that each family is lucky

to receive 3 or 4 bananas. I would like to share that the workers at the Food Bank passed the hat and sponsored one of the holes at our recent St Marks Fall Tee. As well, The Deacon's Bench sponsored a hole. We have mutual admiration for the work done in our respective churches.

We have supported three schools in our catchment area by providing granola bars and juice boxes for students who are coming to school hungry.

As well, a cheque will be delivered to Agincourt Community Services to be used to supply lunch for their clients.

Keep an eye out for Thanks 4 Giving Food Drive.



# GROWING IN FAITH

## *Sunday School in the Park*

*By: Alissa duHasky, Sunday School Coordinator*

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Sunday September 22nd the Sunday School took advantage of a beautiful day and took our class outside. As part of the lesson on God making the world the

students were put into partners and using bits of nature they had to make a person. Each creation was as unique as each of them.



# PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

*By: Randy Stroud, Chair Property Committee*

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Your Property Committee (Randy Stroud; Larry Smith; Ken Niece; Reg Lanning plus project volunteer Bart Boniface) had a chance recently to enjoy the church at the Welcome Back BBQ on September 20th and to review the changes and repairs made to the church building over the past couple of years. The church building is in great condition with the repair projects that have been completed over the last few years. We can all see and enjoy the major changes, like the new patio at the back of the church that was enjoyed by many on a very pleasant evening for the Welcome Back BBQ and the three renovated washrooms which continue to function properly and safely.

However, there are also a few repairs that usually go unnoticed, unless one is looking to assess the specific repair. For example, the concrete steps at the back of the church look much better than before the repairs, the caulking project would only be noticeable if the caulking was cracking or falling out (which it is not), or the brick spalling and cracked foundation repairs may only be noticeable if the bricks and mortar were crumbling/cracking (which they are not). Other upgrades that may go unnoticed unless they are not working properly include the heating/cooling systems (which continue to function properly), the lights in, on and around the building which also continue to function properly and the shed roof with new shingles which keep the equipment stored in the shed nice and dry. Repairs to our plumbing has been successful as evidenced by no leaks or flooding. You may recall we have had a few serious floods inside the church in the past.

One other property feature that may go unnoticed unless diligently maintained include the lawns, labyrinth and plantings around the church. Karen, Brian, Peter and others do a wonderful job keeping the grounds looking spectacular.

So having reviewed some of the completed projects and their current state of repair, what's on the Property Committee radar for future attention? The number one issue at our church is the deteriorating state of the

driveway and parking lot. Anyone who drives down the driveway into the parking lot has no doubt had to dodge the potholes and cracks in the asphalt that continue to suddenly appear and quickly grow - particularly at the bottom end of the driveway just at the start of the parking lot. Several potholes at the bottom of the driveway have been filled in earlier this year. Those potholes were filled with asphalt cold patch repair material and they are staying filled in for now. New potholes have developed in the driveway over the summer and these will be filled with asphalt cold repair material as well. Unfortunately, the asphalt driveway is at the end of its service life and we can expect many new potholes to develop over time, based on the large surface cracks we can see in the asphalt. The problem with the cracked asphalt is that water can get into those cracks and cause them to widen - especially when it gets colder and we have freezing temperatures - then pieces of asphalt break away and we see a new pothole to dodge. We will try to do the repairs to the asphalt driveway to keep everyone (and their automobiles) safe. But it's an ongoing battle as new potholes are expected to develop as we enter into fall and winter.

Your Property Committee will continue working to maintain our church building as best we can to maximize use of the building as safely and as comfortably as possible while we also extend the useful life of the church building and its facilities. Maintenance and preventive maintenance is important for our church building.

With noticeable and unnoticeable maintenance and repair projects that have been completed, the church is in good shape to ensure St. Mark's will have a reliable, safe and functioning building to maintain our welcoming environment.

# FORE THE WIN: ST. MARK'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

*By: Gayle Feeney*

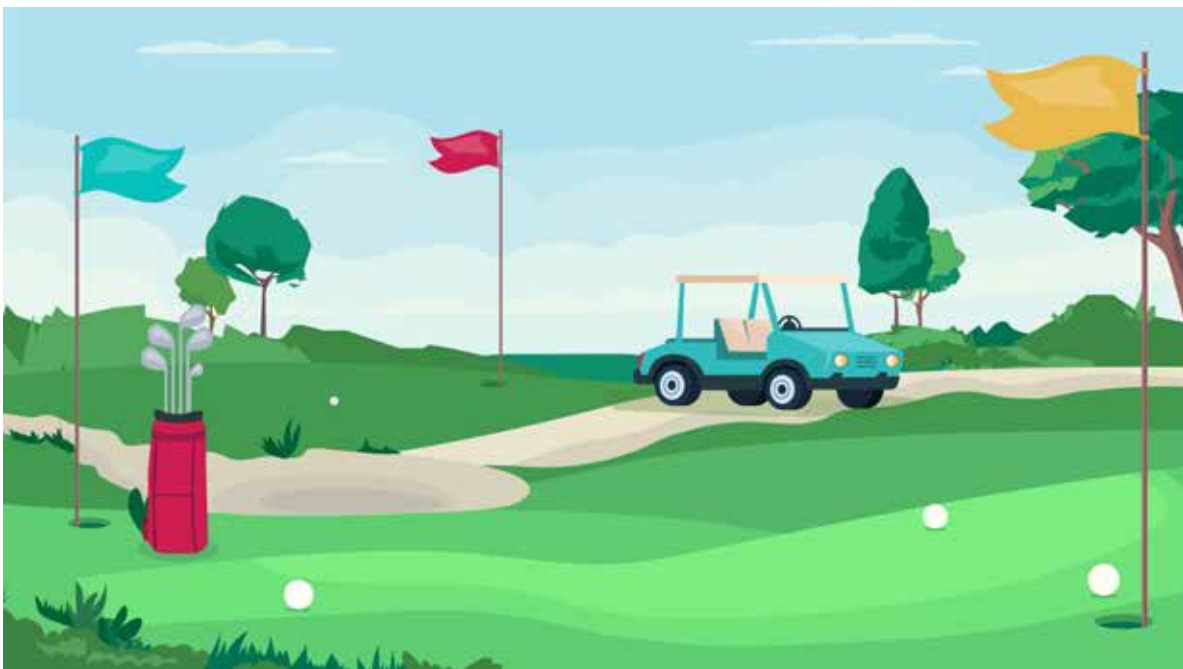
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The golf gods were with us this year as we enjoyed the PAAARFECT golf day weather wise. St Marks' Fall Tee was once again both well received and well attended. The camaraderie exhibited by our participants reflected the spirit of the day. Our participants enjoyed the generosity and hospitality typically associated with St Marks'. They were treated to a golf goody bag, a barbeque and prizes, as well as their golf and cart. Again and again, our participants complimented the committee on the caliber of the efforts made on their behalf.

Many hands make light work. That is no truer statement than what has been reflected in the outstanding results that this tournament has seen. I would like to thank our Hole Sponsors and ask you to acknowledge their efforts on our behalf, by availing yourself of the

services they provide. We thank the good folk who have donated prizes both for our Silent Auction and as golf prizes. I also wish to thank the people who have worked so very hard to put our BBQ together for us. Lastly, but by no means least, I would like to thank those people on the golf committee itself, who have worked tirelessly on your behalf to put this day together for all to enjoy. This year's committee consisted of Rob Burridge, Joanne Chambers, Randy Desaulniers, Dave Mac Kenzie, Gord Maunder, Ken Niece, Teresa Smith, Heather Urbansky, and Tom Stephens.

Consider joining us next year. It is a great day of FUNd raising for St Marks.



# THE HELEN JONES LIBRARY



By: Karen Wigle

Past Moderator of the United Church, The Very Rev., The Honourable Dr. Lois Wilson recently passed away. She was the United Church's first female Moderator and the author of ten books. Look for her "Streams of Faith" on display on the main library shelf. What do you think about this passage? Does it pique your interest to read more?

*"It always depresses me to read that 90 percent of Americans believe in a higher power. My response is, 'So what?' Does it make any difference to their social, political, economic, theological views or actions? To believe in a higher power is a safe and comfortable thing to do, but it may make absolutely no difference to one's life posture. But to align one's life and work with the One who is creating and sustaining a just community is quite a different matter. 'To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God' (Micah 6:8) is one of the tougher implications of belief in a higher power!"*

Have you read the fall book study book? We have a copy of "Sacred Earth Sacred Soul - Celtic Wisdom For Reawakening To What Our Souls Know And Healing The World" by John Philip Newell. It was kindly donated by Rob and Julia Peck. "Leading spiritual teacher John Philip Newell reveals how Celtic Christianity can enable us to rediscover the natural rhythms of life and deepen our spiritual connection with God, each other, and the earth...learn how to listen to the sacred and see the divine in all of creation and within each of us."

Katarina Manassis has generously donated a copy of her latest book "Brainwaves". "This beautifully written book conveys the human side of loss and how one copes within the tapestry of grief, all written through the lens of a loving wife and mother...She takes the reader through the shock of loss, the path of grieving and the ultimate process of recovery all in a very real and relatable manner. This book is a must read, eloquently written straight from the heart."

"Children of the Broken Treaty Canada's Lost Promise And One Girl's Dream" by Charlie Angus "...exposes a system of apartheid in Canada that led to the largest youth-driven human rights movement in the country's history. That movement was inspired by Shannen Koostachin, a Cree teenage who died tragically at 15.... Angus sheds light on one of the ugliest features of our nation. If you think Canada provides equal treatment to all of its citizens and that our injustices to Indigenous people were in the past, think again."

Have you read the award winning Canadian author Anne Michaels' latest novel "Held"? It has been short listed for the 2024 Booker Prize. Here is the opening sentence:

"We know life is finite. Why should we believe death lasts forever?"

We do not have this in our library yet but I highly recommend it. If you have a copy to donate, it would be most appreciated.

# UPCYCLE THE CHEER WITH EYE-CATCHING ART

By: Melinda Calway



Thank you for being environmentally friendly! The cereal boxes & Frozen Pizza Boxes that you are bringing to church are being upcycled and made into Christmas ornaments by my Son, Scott & his partner Elysha. They come in a kit (with the current year) that you assemble yourself, or with your kids & grandkids. All the pieces are numbered and instructions are included as well as a link to a video. It's a fun holiday activity for the family. It takes 4 boxes to make one ornament. Any cereal box larger than the smallest Shreddies box works. They are

donating 25¢ for every useable box donated. So far \$100 has been given to SM. (every little bit helps) If you want to check it out their website is [www.worthmending.com](http://www.worthmending.com)

Also, if you want one of these kits for Christmas and don't want to pay shipping, you can let me know by Oct 10th and I will get Scott to bring them when he comes to Toronto at Thanksgiving. They are \$25 (+hst) and \$2 from each will be donated to St. Mark's. Again... Thank you.



This kit includes everything you need:

- 96 numbered stars (on 8 perforated cards)
- Wooden sticks
- Wooden lock ring
- Yarn for tassel
- Hanging ribbon
- Threading tool
- Sandpaper
- Instruction sheet (with a link to our instruction video)



A fun festive activity for kids and adults alike!

unique designs / upcycled materials  
[worthmending.com](http://worthmending.com)

Upcoming  
Events

Going...  
Going...  
Gone!



# GST

(GOODS, SERVICES, TALENT)

# AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER  
**26<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

PREVIEW &  
REFRESHMENTS  
**6:00 PM**

AUCTION  
**7:00 PM**

**DONATION FORMS ON TABLE IN NARTHEX**

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

Christmas  
Decorations

Great  
Variety  
of Crafts

Many  
Vendors

Bring your  
neighbours  
and friends  
to SHOP

Bake  
Table

Plants  
& Books

Café

ST. MARK'S  
BAZAAR  
& CRAFTS  
MARKET

Saturday,  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2024  
10am-2pm

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