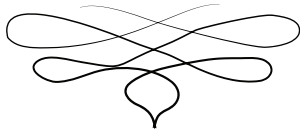




# THE ST. MARKS ADVENT MEMO

DECEMBER 2018



**THE NEWSLETTER OF**  
ST. MARK'S UNITED CHURCH,  
115 ORTON PARK RD,  
TORONTO M1G 3G9  
(416) 439-8623  
WWW.ST-MARKS.CA



## IT'S A BUSY TIME OF THE YEAR AT ST. MARK'S! AND THAT'S A GREAT THING

*By: Charlie Wardell*

### MINISTRY ARTICULATION PROFILE (MAP)

We continue the journey to hiring a minister on a permanent basis. St. Mark's Ministry Articulation Profile (MAP) document is ready. It describes the purpose of St. Mark's, what we are and what we want to be. Depending on when you are reading this, our MAP will be or has been offered to us all for approval. Given the change in Presbytery and Conference, we will be working with the new Region going forward. Let's keep this important work in our prayers.

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

The team to hire a new music director is making great progress. The position description is posted (feel free to check it out on our Facebook site!). We're looking forward to starting interviews. Thanks very much to Rob Burrige for his leadership in this vital area.

### DUTY OF CARE AND ACCESSIBILITY

We are reviewing our Duty of Care and Accessibility policies. These are just some of the ways that St. Mark's shows its mindfulness and caring for the well being of all of us. Periodic review helps keep this top of mind and helps ensure that we continue to be a safe and welcoming place to be.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have you been looking at the announcement slides before service

and wondered now yours could be included? These are a great way to let everyone know about events that are near and dear to our Sunday morning congregation. Simply send a PowerPoint slide to Carol and she can forward it to the projection team. If PowerPoint is not your 'thing', then please just send along a brief note and we'll take it from there!

### SERVICES ON VIDEO

If you can't make it to service, or just want to relive a piece of one (choir anthems!), many of our Sunday services are videoed and posted on the St. Mark's Facebook site. We love to have you with us Sunday mornings, but when you can't it's the next best thing.

Thank you for placing your trust in our St. Mark's Board! It's an honour to lead our journey.

Echoing what our good friend Diane Chadwick shared with us:

I wish you and your families blessings and best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a New Year of Peace, Joy, and Health.

## MITTEN TREE

The Annual Mitten Tree project will begin on the first Sunday of Advent – December 2, 2018.

Accepted items for the tree are scarves, mittens, gloves, toques, and even socks.

These items will be distributed to those in need in the Community in the new year.



## BAZAAR & CRAFTS MARKET

St. Mark's was transformed on Nov. 24th, with 19 vendors - upstairs and down, selling jewellery, one of a kind woodwork pieces, handmade dolls, art, sock monkeys, Caribbean style cookies & cupcakes, stained glass, salt lamps, etc. etc. Most vendors pay to rent a table but the cost is waived for local community organizations, raising funds for their good causes.

Our church tables were piled high with donations:

Karen Wigle prepares for the Bazaar & Crafts Market all year long, and

sets aside a wide variety of books in excellent condition, perfect for gift giving. There were many very satisfied purchasers, excited about "their finds".

A HUGE "Thanks" to all the knitters (many from the Tuesday Knit & Natter group) who provided scarves, hats, baby outfits, mittens, sweaters, blankets and shawls. The items that remained will be distributed in our community through projects underway: mitten tree, Food Bank and Boys & Girls Club.

Tree ornaments, crafts and treasures filled the rest of our church table space. The volunteers had good visits with each other, vendors and our purchasing guests.

Half of the income generated by the

Bazaar is generated by sales at the Bake shop, stocked and staffed by our Social Ministry Team and friends. Sincere "Thanks" to ALL the bakers who added to the variety of baked goods for sale.

Snacks and lunch were available at the café, with tables available for dining under lacy snowflakes. This year vendors could order food and beverages, for delivery to their vendor table by friendly servers... an excellent idea that was appreciated.

Income from church tables, vendor rentals, café and bake shop, added up to \$2,054. for St. Mark's. Many thanks to everyone who helped make it happen.

## A SCHOOL BUS FOR SNOW DAYS

*By: Todd Meyer*

As a young boy living on a farm in rural Brookdale Quebec in the 1950s, these were exciting times to make the ten mile trip by school bus to my four room school with nine grades. Especially during or after winter storms. The dirt roads in winter often were covered with fresh blankets of new fallen snow and snow drifts. Starting with the first snow

fall and ending after the spring thaw our usual bus was equipped with tire chains on the dual rear wheels on the typical truck-based school bus. Dressed warmly and waiting at the road to be picked up, the sound of rattling tire chains was most welcoming music. Once aboard, the chains would beat a merry tune on the hard packed snow over the usual forty five minute bus ride to Namur. But then a snow storm would block the road to normal car and truck traffic. Oh boy, no canceled school because of a snow day! Instead we

excitedly awaited the bus ride in a Bombardier 1950 era passenger snowmobile, awaiting not the rattling sound of tire chains, but the roar of a Chrysler flat head six cylinder engine. These large snowmobiles were built on Chrysler car frames and used the entire drive-line mounted backwards, but were equipped with wide treads like a small tank and a large pair of skis in the front for steering. The engine was at the rear and the drive sprockets for the treads were just behind the skis. This machine was purpose built to ride over deep snow in fields where there were no normal road beds. The plywood body bolted to this contraption could carry about twenty school kids. Wow, could it go through snow! If there were large snow drifts that blocked the road, the driver could take to an open field if this offered a better path. Even so, occasionally we were late for school but then we had an exciting "field trip" to talk about. (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oq09M5LUNbI>)

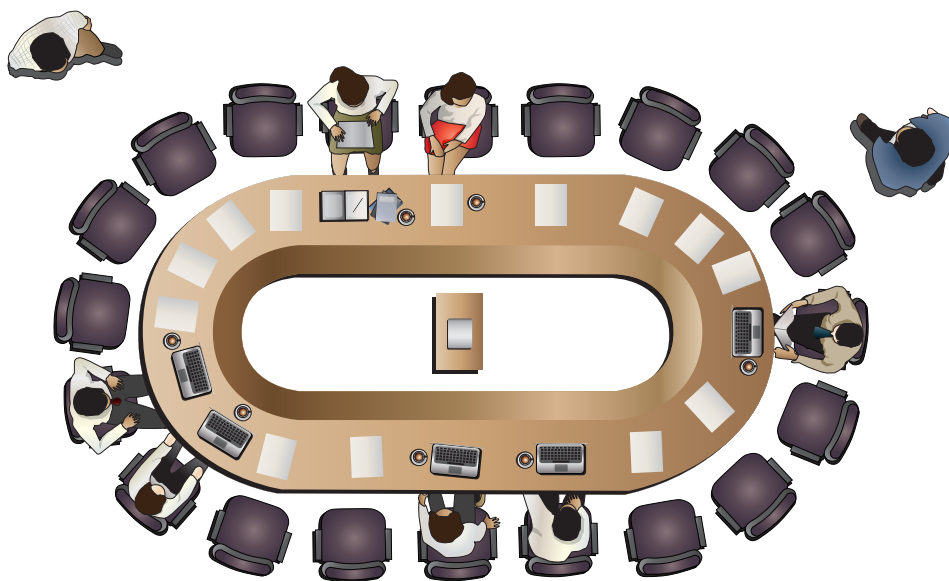


# FINAL PRESBYTERY MEETING

*By: Randy Stroud*

On Tuesday November 20, 2018, St. Mark's Presbytery reps Glen Greenwood and Randy Stroud, as well as our Pastor Christopher White, attended the Toronto Southeast Presbytery final meeting. After December 31, 2018, the structure of the United Church of Canada will change, replacing Presbyteries with Regional councils. With the enactment by General Council 43 of Remit 1, Region 10 became officially formed. St. Mark's, currently part of

The final Toronto Southeast Presbytery meeting was very well attended by representatives from churches within the Toronto Southeast Presbytery. The meeting started with a dinner, to celebrate the work that had been conducted over the years at prior Presbytery meetings. Business was conducted at the meeting, including a presentation and motions by Glen on behalf of the Mission and Outreach Team for the disbursement of funds to various recipients. There was much appreciation expressed to many people for their many and varied contributions to the many and varied tasks undertaken by the Presbytery to support the congregations within the



Toronto Southeast Presbytery, will become part of Region 10 starting in 2019. You can see a map of Region 10 by visiting <https://torontoconference.ca/2018/09/regional-council-highlights-september-2018/>. Work on vision, governance and policy for Region 10 by the new Region 10 council has begun, and the first Annual Regional Meeting, is scheduled to take place during the weekend of May 24-26, 2019. There's a website for Region 10 (<https://region10.ca/>) that you may access and follow Region 10's progress.

Presbytery. Communion was served to all in attendance. The final meeting of the Toronto Southeast Presbytery looked back on past activities, celebrated our final gathering together and looked forward to work still to come in the new Region 10 structure. Considering the future, Regions were assigned a number when regional boundaries were created, however, each region will be renamed. Region 10 is in the process of being re-named and a new name will be chosen in the near future.



## THE HELEN JONES LIBRARY

*By: Karen Wigle*

Thank you very much to all those who have recently left books for our church library and the little free community library. The Value Village cards are also a big help as they allow me to purchase books at a discount.

Here are three new fiction titles for you to enjoy:

- *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman (the book is much better than the movie)
- *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* by Madeleine Thien (shortlisted for the 2016 Man Booker prize)
- *A Christmas Carol* (an illustrated version filled with interesting facts about the London Charles Dickens lived in and suitable for most ages)

When you're hanging up your coat take a minute to check out the library. I usually have an interesting newspaper article for you to read and a cartoon from the Globe and Mail.



# ST. MARK'S BOOK STUDY TO START IN JANUARY!

*By: Rob Peck*

Once again St. Mark's Christian Education Team is offering an adult book study group.

## WHO?

Any adult who wants to eat, learn and have fun with other nice people.



## WHAT?

Emmaus Road: Churches Making Their Way Forward by Donna Sinclair and Christopher White (yes, our Christopher White!).

The Road to Emmaus appearance (see Luke 24: 13-35) is one of the early resurrection appearances of Jesus after his crucifixion and the discovery of the empty tomb. The Emmaus story relates how two disciples were walking towards Emmaus when they met Jesus. They did not recognize him, and discussed their sadness at recent events with him. They persuaded him to come and eat with them, and at the meal they recognized him. The Emmaus narrative tells of the evolution of the awareness of the two disciples, from despair over Christ's death to faith in his resurrection.

To quote from our study book, Emmaus Road, "We live in a period of corrosive uncertainty. There are so many questions: What is the role of the church in this new world? What are the implications for worship, adult education, programs with youth and young adults? How will this church speak to its neighbours who share different faiths? What sort of churches should we be building? What should happen within their walls? What sort of leaders do we need? Emmaus Road: Churches Making Their Way Forward is a collection of answers to those questions ..."

## WHEN?

From 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. roughly every other Friday from January to May, 2019 (Day 1 January 18, 2019; Day 2, February 1; Day 3, February 15; Day 4, February 22; Day 5, March 22; Day 6, April 5; Day 7, April 12; Day 8, May 3; On May 24, 2019 we will have our closing party and pick the book or video study for 2019).

## WHERE?

St. Mark's.

## WHY?

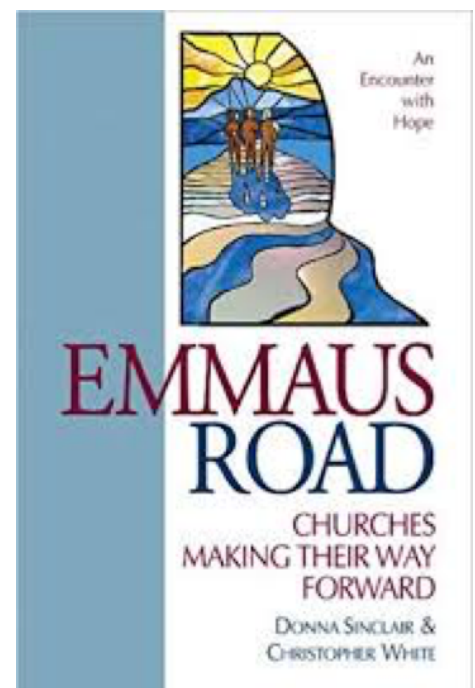
The purpose of the book study is to have fun and fellowship while adding to our knowledge of our Christian faith.

## HOW?

Each session will have one or two presenters who will talk for 20 - 30 minutes about the material. After they are done, there will be 20 to 30 minutes of discussion in breakout groups of five or six. After a 1/2 hr break for goodies (also prepared by volunteers), we will come back into one large group and listen to

each of the smaller groups present their views. The main purpose is to have fun. There will be no pressure on anybody to do anything other than attend and enjoy the gathered community. People will only do what they feel comfortable doing. We know that God will provide presenters and goodies!

If you are interested, or if you have any questions, please let us know your name, phone number and e-mail address so that we may contact you directly. You can either contact Carol at the Church office, me, Rob Peck, or place your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The book is no longer available from its publisher, Wood Lake Books in Kelowna B.C., but you can get one from Rob Peck for \$20 subsidized by St. Mark's Embrace the Spirit Fund.



# G.S.T.

Goods. Services & Talents

## 2018 Auction Thank You



## GST (GOODS, SERVICES, TALENTS) AUCTION: OCTOBER 20TH

A team of many worked hard to make the GST a HUGE success. Sincere thanks for your donations of auction items, helping: with set up, crowd control during the event and clean up. Enthusiastic bidders competed for popular items, which increased sale prices. We warmly welcomed our church family and guests to our "auction house" for a fun night.... and raised \$8,177. Thank you!



## Upcoming Events

### SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2019 "CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE TONIGHT?"

7 pm – Concert in the sanctuary, with songs from:

Little Shop of Horrors, Aida, Ragtime, Sister Act, Guys and Dolls, tic, tick... Boom, Fiddler, Miss Saigon, Oklahoma, Annie Get Your Gun, Lion King

Followed by a dessert buffet and coffee downstairs



Presented under Criterion Site License Agreements  
treats provided

Friday  
December 14<sup>th</sup>

## Free! Community Movie Night

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



Nut free