



Mark This Word

The Parish Newsletter of St Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa
Anglican Church of Canada

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Thanksgiving Thoughts

"We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the ground"

Well... someone does. And with grateful thanks I get to share in the fruits of their labour. The reality is that I don't know the business end of a plough from a self-propelled windrower or a central commodity system seed meter. As I used to tell the farmers in my former parish: if I had to do what you do for a living, I'd probably starve.

The squash and other produce we bring to church, the decorations and donations to the food bank all contribute to an atmosphere of "welcome" and "home" which you and I enjoy. I think what I really like about Thanksgiving is a sense of being a part of something, a larger enterprise in which we are all joined together.

In Judaism, the Festival of Sukkot or "Booths" is a harvest festival (it starts at sunset on Wednesday, October 12 this year) that remembers the wandering of God's people in the desert as they made their way to the Promised Land. God's abundance is visibly present at harvest time. The Festival itself, however, remembers when people had to rely completely on God's grace and on each other to survive a great journey. Abundance and hunger, prosperity and desert thirst, celebrated and remembered together.

What if we take Thanksgiving all the way? We can be thankful not only for present abundance, but for the whole journey. That God's promise and fulfillment are always with God's people. We see this in the great Exodus across the wilderness. We see it in the story of the Church... and we can learn to see God's promise and fulfillment in the story of our own parish. Our beginnings, our journeys and resting places are in God's hands.

I am thankful for all the blessings of family, fruitful labour and the signs of God's abundance in my life, as I'm sure are you. But how much more it is to see with humble, thankful hearts that we have a share in God's promise and fulfillment through the grace of our Lord

Jesus! To be a people blessed by God, the Spirit beside us on the journey today, the Lord of tomorrow calling us into what we will be.

Fr Brian Kauk

You Are Invited

On Saturday, October 29, you are invited to attend an all-parish workshop from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM called "Daring to Dream," facilitated by the Reverend Bill Byers. Please call the church office (613-224-7431) to let us know that you will be coming. Lunch is provided.

Kate Greer-Close wins Vanier Community Leader Award



Kate Greer-Close receiving her award from former recipient Michael Horne

Congratulations to Kate on being awarded the Community Leader / Dirigeant(e) communautaire by the Quartier Vanier business association at their annual award night June 2, 2011.

Kate was recognized for her leadership and ongoing community involvement in Vanier, where she lives with her husband and three children. In 2006 Kate established Vanier's first Neighbourhood Watch. She became involved in the Vanier Community Association (VCA) and was a member of the Board of Directors for many years. Among several other community-based organisations, she was also actively involved with the Save Rideau High School Project. Well done, Kate !



Parish Fall Barbeque

The weather was perfect for the last BBQ of the summer - or the first of the fall, depending upon your preference. There were lots of sizzling hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages, lots of chips and finger snacks, and lots of desserts! A total of \$268.00 was raised towards postage for Bales to the North.



Financial Update

So far, the finances of the parish seem to be on track with the budget. However, we need to remember that we approved a deficit budget and, to end the year in a positive position, we would need to be ahead of the budget. Our biggest financial dealings this summer have been to start the contracts for the electrical, roof and solar panels. This will be covered in a separate article.

Joy Bowerman, Treasurer

Launched into SPACE

STUDY, PRAYER, ACTION, CELEBRATION & ENERGY!

At Sunday services on September 18 and during coffee hours on following weeks, the Stewardship Team asked the question "*Why did you first come to St Mark's*" in a group exercise called "Beginnings." Here's what we said.

A neighborhood church: Many of us said St Mark's was the logical choice based on where we live. There are life-stories here about starting a family, building a home, making a new life together. As one person said, "*I needed a new Parish, one close to our new home.*"

My family's church: The roots of our community run deep, and the branches draw a wide circle. Whether it is a parent that brings their child, a spouse that encourages their partner or a child's need that prompts their parent to seek out a community of faith, some of us came here first and foremost because of a family connection. As one of our youngest members said very clearly, "*It's my church.*"

I was welcomed: We clearly have a vocation to welcome those who come and provide an open experience of community where the love of Jesus is made known. As one person said, "*St Mark's wrapped itself around me each time I came in.*"

Some came with a specific need, and experienced "*Generosity of Spirit.*"

"*When St Peter's closed,*" one person writes, "*we were looking elsewhere for another Anglican Church for worship and fellowship. After visiting a few parishes, we chose St Mark's as it made us feel more than welcome.*"

Music program and liturgy: A ministry at St Mark's that has consistently brought joy, beauty and meaning to people's lives. Whether it was as a participant (*the choir - music*), "*to put kids in choir*" or to be a part of something just because we "*like the service*", some first came to sing God's praise and offer their gifts to God.

A spiritual journey: Some described a sense of God leading, guiding, prodding and moving in their lives, and that St Mark's became a place where that could take place. "*Rediscovering the sacred*" is how one person put it.

Others indicated a specific reason:

- *The minister at the time*
- *Ministry with children*
- *Beauty of the church*



...and the list goes on. Look for more events as a part of St Mark's SPACE program this fall.

Michael Perkin & Fr Brian Kauk

Electrical, Roof and Solar Panels

Although there is nothing visible happening on the property, in fact there has been a lot happening on the electrical, roof and solar panels. To install the solar panels as part of the micro-FIT program, you have to receive an offer of contract from the Ontario Power Authority. This finally came through at the end of April. At that point, you also have to have an offer to connect from your local power distributor. We started on that process. When Ottawa Hydro came out to examine the property, they expressed the opinion that while connection was not a problem, our current electrical panel room did not meet current safety standards. Although we would not be forced to change the electrical service wire and redo the panel room if we did not go ahead with solar, there was a strong undercurrent from the Hydro representative that the situation was unsafe. As with many large companies, the authority belongs to a number of different agencies and they cannot step on each other's toes. Therefore, the person who looked at it could not tell us what to do or express

too strong an opinion. Because of the feeling that the panel room and service wire should be upgraded, Parish Council made the decision to go ahead with the upgrade and considered it a separate project. The feeling was that the upgrade should be made whether or not the solar project went ahead. Tentative approval for the upgrade was given at the June Parish Council meeting, and final approval was given during an email poll in early July. The contract for all three projects was signed in the middle of July. Since then we have been waiting (and waiting and waiting) for building permits, cut permits and materials to be received. We have now reached the point where all the stars seemed to be aligned and work is scheduled to begin on October 17. When the service wire is switched over, we will be without power for several days. You will notice some interruptions and inconveniences. Please bear with us for the duration. There has been some concern about the financing of the projects and the state of our reserves when the projects are done; please see the table below to understand how the finances work out.

Where the contract is

Service wire	
(Electrical upgrade, no tax)	21,000.00
Roof (no tax)	37,500.00
Solar system (no tax)	75,000.00
Total Contract Amount, including tax	150,855.00
Payment already made	62,000.00
Amount remaining	\$88,855.00

Where the funds come from

Amount of taxes to be returned	12,095.10
CTF already cashed	95,255.78
Bequests received	9,820.51
Donations for electrical upgrade	10,000.00
Roof Reserve	1,050.00
Total	\$128,221.39

Remaining to be cashed \$22,633.61

Amount remaining in Capital Projects \$21,133.61
Amount remaining in CTF \$28,366.39

Lorne Bowerman

Nash Smith, Ministry Intern

Nash begins in October as a student minister for the year. Welcome to Nash, and his son Paul





Calendar of Events

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday October 9, 2011

Thanksgiving Day, Office closed

Monday October 10, 2011

40th Wedding Anniversary of the Venerable Gordon and Leslie Worden

Sunday October 16, 2011 at the 10 am coffee hour



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2011

AT THE CHURCH OF

ST MARK THE EVANGELIST

Advent Carol Service & Potluck dinner

Sunday, November 27, 2011, 4:30pm

Potluck Supper after the Service

Nine Lessons and Carols Service

Sun Dec 18, 2011, 4:30pm

Light meal after the service

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2011

7:00 pm Family Service with the Junior Choir

The Christmas Story for all ages (Communion too!)

9:30pm Carol singing

10:00 pm Sung Eucharist with the Senior Choir

Greet the Christ Child reception after the service

Christmas Day, December 25, 2011

10am Holy Eucharist

130th Session of Synod of the Diocese of Ottawa

October 20, 21, 22, 2011

All are invited to the Synod Eucharist and Reception, Thursday October 20, 7:00 pm at Christ Church Cathedral, 439 Queen Street.

Farewell to Patti Robillard's

Sunday, October 30, 2011

Daring to Dream - All Parish Workshop

Saturday October 29, 2011, 9:00am – 3:30pm, in Bishop Reed Hall

Fall Bazaar

Saturday November 5, 2011, 10:30am - 2pm in Bishop Reed Hall and basement hall

All Saints

Sunday November 6, 2011

Daylight Saving Time ends today

Holy Baptism

Remembrance Sunday

November 13, 2011

8:45am Parish Breakfast. This is a Welcoming event for newcomers to our parish.

Ancoura

Sun Jan 1, 2012

Presentation from Brian Harrison

Ecumenical service

Sunday January 22, 2012, 7:30pm

at Madonna Della Risurrezione

Thank You, Patti

Patti Robillard has announced that she will retire as Parish Nurse here at St. Mark's and move on to the next stage in her life. She has served in this capacity since 2004. Plans are in the works for a farewell party on Sunday, October 30th after church. We as a parish and as individuals have benefited enormously from her wonderful attitude and her extensive knowledge. All the very best, Patti, and may God continue to bless you!

Sheila Vaudrey, Editor.