



# Mark This Word

The Parish Newsletter of St Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa  
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## ***A closer look at Stewardship***

We're all familiar with certain catch phrases when we talk about stewardship in a Christian context:

*Offering our time, talents and treasure*

*Stewardship includes everything we do after we say,  
"I believe"*

These phrases can be good. They are easy to remember and help us maintain focus. But the risk we take when we depend on them too much is to oversimplify what stewardship is really about, and possibly miss deeper truths. The world we live in can be complicated. What does it mean to live as a Christian when this world operates on a different set of principles and parameters?

For example, the world operates on the principle that

**Treasure = Time x Talent**

If you have an exceptional talent like a hockey player or a musician, and you leverage that talent with total focus and dedication, you can enjoy wonderful success for a period of time. Your earning potential may not last, so the drive to maximize your return on investment is there. If you have a more mundane talent, 40 years of solid effort hopefully yields enough to raise a family and retire. Some have to work harder than others. These world values might say that failure results from either a lack of effort or underdeveloped talent. The reality is that some do the best they can with what they've got, work two or three jobs, and still can't afford to live above the poverty line. That's life.

But the Christian life is about a new deal, a new math, a whole new equation.

**God's work = Time + Talent + Treasure**

All three are a gift from God. The sum of the parts are all necessary to make the whole possible. We are given

whatever time we have to take our God-given talents and make our way in this world. The means of living are granted to us for our benefit and for the benefit of others. This is all God's work. But there is much around us that is also God's work. It all comes from the same source of time, talent and treasure. Notice that we can't influence the outcome here by trading time or talents for treasure. It's not the case that we can give God an equivalent offering by upping one part over another. That only works in the world's equations. Everything we have comes from God, and it's all given to us to make life possible. The reality is, in God's economy, there is more than enough for all, and all God's gifts are given for the benefit of all the people.

We give from what we have been given. We give because what we give to is God's work, and because it helps us remember who we really are. We are a part of God's work in this world, not driven to success but gifted with the means of abundant life that is all around us.

- Fr Brian Kauk

## ***Daring to Dream***

On Friday, January 13th and Saturday, January 14th, 40 people gathered in Bishop Reed Hall to explore the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion and to dream dreams about our future together here at St Mark's. Where do we want to go, and what would we like to see ahead of us? The Reverend Bill Byers, former Incumbent of St Thomas' Alta Vista, facilitated both sessions. Michael Perkin coordinated refreshments and meals, a vital contribution that kept everyone well-fed and allowed us to focus on the task at hand.

Fr Byers shared his experience and passion for the Church, setting up the time we would spend together and the purpose behind it. As we opened with a short period



of worship, we heard from the Acts of the Apostles (1:6-8) about Jesus' commission to His disciples: "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In his reflections, Fr Byers talked about how *Jerusalem* represents "our place," namely St Mark's, here in the Diocese of Ottawa, within the Anglican Church of Canada. *Judea* represents the wider community (the city or nation in which our parish is placed), and *Samaria* represents those whom we might think of as "others" – people not exactly within our usual circle of comfort and acceptance. And then, Jesus sends us as witnesses to all of these places and beyond... indeed, to the very ends of the earth.

The first task we were given was to describe what our parish would look like as we most faithfully live out the Five Marks of Mission. These are:

- *To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;*
- *To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;*
- *To respond to human need by loving service;*
- *To seek to transform unjust structures of society;*
- *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*

Participants were challenged to answer this question: "What would a Christian home (community) which strives seriously to achieve all the Five Marks of Mission really be like?"

Each table group of 6-8 people took on the task of dreaming together. The goal of this exercise was to be able to articulate their collective dream to the rest of us. We were encouraged to be as creative as we could be, and not to spend time evaluating the present situation or tinkering with what already exists. It was about beginning to dream the future into being. We were dared to be daring: not to be distracted by finer details and dollar signs, the how-to and the if-we-can... but to focus on what we honestly feel we *should* be and therefore what we *should* do.



The Reverend Bill Byers

The first session went this far on Friday afternoon (braving some fairly harsh weather) and sent representatives back on Saturday afternoon to complete the sharing aspect. The second session went through the same exercise on Saturday morning, and stayed for the afternoon when the results of all our dreamings were shared with all.

Fr Brian was present throughout both sessions, but was politely instructed not to join a table group. This was our chance to speak while he listened! His job was to be a thoughtful observer so that he would know first-hand what our dreams looked like.

Michael Perkin is assembling a team that will summarize what was shared in the two sessions and presented by the six groups. Over the next weeks and months we will hear the results and engage in discernment as a community.

Another important outcome from this session will be the creation of St Mark's Case for Support for the upcoming financial campaign, Growing in Faith Together, in partnership with the Diocese of Ottawa. The goal proposed to us is \$198,000 over five years, to be split 50-50 between our case and the Diocesan case. With the full endorsement of Parish Council members, a covenant document between St Mark's and Bishop John Chapman was signed, and preparations are underway. Campaign Co-chairs Michael Perkin and Terry Frederick are assembling their team, with the guidance of Martha Asselin from Ministry & Money International, who provides professional services to parishes across the Diocese. Earl Warren from St Stephen' Church brings experience to the group, and a valuable outside perspective.

All in all, it's been an incredible amount of work so far, with the promise of future direction for our parish and the means to make our dreams a reality.

- *Sheila Vaudrey, editor (with notes from the organizing team of Daring to Dream and Growing in Faith Together)*



## ***A Note from the Treasurer***

The bad news from 2011 is that we ended the year with a deficit of about \$5,500. The good news is that we ended the year with a deficit of about \$5,500. Which is it? Well, both actually. Last year's budget projected a deficit of about \$10,000. In actual fact, due mostly to a decrease in expenses, we ended the year with a deficit less than was expected. It was also a year of changes from a financial point of view. In July, we cashed in two of our accounts in the Consolidated Trust Fund to pay for our electrical upgrade, roof repairs and solar panels. However, we are not quite hooked up yet and have not begun generating offsetting income from the solar panels. This year of 2012 looks to be an exciting and challenging year as we begin to receive income from our solar panels and start the Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) campaign in partnership with the Diocese.

*- Joy Bowerman*



## ***Roof, Solar, and Electrical – JUST ABOUT***

The roof repairs, solar installation and electrical upgrade are one big project – the biggest we have had since the building of the Hall and Link in 1966. It takes time.

The new steel roof had been completed and it looks really good. The new wooden cross on the peak of the roof has been installed and it looks good as well. The leak which was above the Altar has been repaired and the plenum at the peak has been sealed. That was what had caused the leaking problem.

We had some water seep in from the old roof on the office and office foyer and that has been repaired. We will have to put that last original section of the 1966 roof on the replacement list.

The solar panels are all in place. The connecting wire from the solar panels has to be run to the new meter base, another task which is just about complete. The cross pattern made with different coloured solar panels has been noticed and praised. The entire installation looks great on the roof.

The last thing to do is to complete the new electrical service. It has added four months to getting the job done. It has been time-consuming because so many organizations have a part in it. The Electrical Safety Inspection Authority rules on the installation from the property line to the new electrical meter on the north church wall next to the chapel wall, and also from the meter to the electrical panels and switches in the basement. But from the property line to the pole and up to connect to the lines is the sole jurisdiction of Hydro Ottawa. Disconnecting the old service is also the job of Hydro Ottawa. And don't forget that the City of Ottawa has to get in on cutting the sidewalk to run the wires.

Getting everyone together is tough. The conduit is just about installed from the outside meter base to the pole. The wire has to be pulled, but that cannot be done until Hydro Ottawa is ready. It is another "just about."

So we have made great progress. The job is excellent and that is the most important thing. We are just about finished – finally.

*- Lorne Bowerman*





# Calendar of Events

**Induction: The Reverend Margo Whittaker**  
February 2, 2012 at 7:00 PM  
St. Richard's Church, (8 Withrow Ave., Nepean)  
*The Venerable Chris Dunn will celebrate.*  
*Reception to follow the service. All are welcome.*

**Annual Vestry Meeting**  
Sunday February 19, 12 PM to 2 PM  
Bishop Reed Hall

**Family Day – Office closed**  
Monday, February 20

**Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Supper**  
Tuesday, February 21, 5 PM – 7 PM  
Bishop Reed Hall

**Ash Wednesday – February 22**  
Services at 10:00 AM and 7:30 PM

**Submission Date for Spring Issue of Mark This Word**  
Sunday March 4

**Schools on Spring Break**  
March 12-16

**Ordinations to the Diaconate**  
March 28, 2012 at 7:00 PM  
Christ Church Cathedral  
*God willing, Patrick Neil Clarence Stephens, a former student minister at St Mark's, will be ordained to the Diaconate along with Michel Paul Gagne, Hilary Anne Murray and Carolyn Gertrude Seabrook.*

**2012 Lenten Study**  
Details available soon. For more information:  
• call the office at 613-224-7431  
• watch for bulletin announcements  
• visit [www.stmarksottawa.ca/brian](http://www.stmarksottawa.ca/brian)

**Holy Week and Easter, 2012**

**Sunday of the Passion, April 1**  
Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of the Palms, 10:00 AM

**Monday in Holy Week, April 2**  
Holy Eucharist, 7:30 PM

**Tuesday in Holy Week, April 3**  
Holy Eucharist, 7:30 PM

**Wednesday in Holy Week, April 4**  
Holy Eucharist, 7:30 PM

**Maundy Thursday, April 5**  
Holy Eucharist, Institution of the Lord's Supper and Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 PM

**Good Friday, April 6**  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 1:30 PM

**Holy Saturday, April 7**  
Great Vigil of Easter, 8:00 PM

**The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day, April 8**  
Holy Eucharist, 8:00 AM; Sung Eucharist 10:00 AM

**ROLL CALL**  
*Since the last edition of Mark this Word*

Births: Cerian Morris and Christopher Brown welcome Gavin Thomas Brown, born on January 16 at Brockville General Hospital. We just can't resist one more! Rachel Kennedy and Philip Greer welcome Garrett Lawrence Kennedy Greer, born on June 16, weighing 8 lbs 11oz and baptized on October 23rd at St. Andrew's Chalmers Presbyterian church, Uxbridge.

Deaths: Dorothy Reardon; Cecil Duthie; Florence Skinner; Joyce Sherman; Don Porter

Baptisms: Caitlyn May Findlay; Brodie, Jacob and Zoë Hammermeister

Welcome: Anne, Jason, Brodie, Jacob and Zoë Hammermeister; Barry Smith; Grant Bradley & Shirley Gibbard (who intend to be married at St Mark's in the summer of 2013).