

# THANKSGIVING NEWSLETTER 2014

## St. Mark's Anglican Church

*148 Years of Ministry and Service*

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### ***THANKSGIVING DAY***

#### **Change the World by Changing Me**

The Sufi Bayazid says this about himself: "I was a revolutionary when I was young and all my prayer to God was, "Lord, give me the energy to change the world."

As I approached middle age and realized that half my life was gone without my changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to: "Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come into contact with me. Just my family and friends, and I shall be content."

Now that I am an old man and my days are numbered, my prayer now is: "Lord, give me the grace to change myself. If I had prayers for this right from the start I should not have wasted my life".

Everybody thinks of changing humanity. Hardly anyone thinks of changing themselves.

Anthony de Mello, *The Song of the Bird* (Anand, India: Gujarat Sahitha Prakash, 1988, pp. 174-175)

#### **Reflections - The Rev. John K. Morrell**

It seems each year the news around the world gets worse and worse. This past year, planes hijacked and disappeared, planes shot down, violence in the Ukraine, and unending civil war in Syria, a short but deadly war in Gaza ..... and now an uncontrolled Ebola epidemic in West Africa. What possibly do we have to be thankful for in this continuing broken world?

Sufi Bayazid gives us a clue – change yourself. Jesus constantly speaks of change – changing ourselves to make the needs of people around us more important than our own.

This Thanksgiving, make a pledge to do something to help a friend or neighbour. Donate money, time and talent to a cause close to your heart --- but above all give thanks to almighty God for the blessings you have received in the past year.

*Disturb us, O Lord when with the abundance of the things we possess we have lost our thirst for the waters of Life; when, having fallen in love with time, we have ceased to dream of eternity; and when, in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the New Heaven to grow dim. Amen.*

**THANKSGIVING FOOD BANK  
DRIVE of non-perishable groceries  
Wednesday to Saturday, Oct. 8-11**  
Collection at the Office

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING  
Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> 8:30 and 10 a.m.**

Items for food bank may also be brought in Sunday morning. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$ 10 or more.

**THANKSGIVING OFFERING  
ENVELOPE**

A Thanksgiving Offering Envelope is included for those not using the weekly envelope system. Extra envelopes are available at the back of the church

**CHURCH RENOVATIONS and  
CAPITAL FUND DRIVE 2013-2014**

At this time last year, you were notified of a special fund raising campaign to complete a number of important renovations authorized by your Parish Council last fall. This fund sought to raise \$ 20,000 for the following repair and renovation projects:

1. Insulation of the church roof
2. Renovations to the cloakroom
3. Add Lexan covers over the North tower windows
4. Some exterior painting of the church
5. Concrete repairs to the front steps and some foundation repairs
6. Install a new sink and faucets in the upstairs bathroom to accommodate the Chancel Guild flower arranging.

As of mid-September, we have received \$ 14,890 and spent \$ 7,468 on items 2. 3. 4. and 6. above.

At a Parish Council Meeting in August, we approved an additional expenditure of up to \$ 7,000 to repair and repaint the North Tower so that the front of the church

presents a more pleasing impression to the community. There is some money on hand in the Building Fund to cover this repair. **Additional donations to the Building Fund or Capital Renovation Fund will help these needed repairs take place before winter.**

***UPDATE ON THE ST. MARK'S  
PARISH HALL***

In early August, Ward 5, which runs its programs from the first floor of the Parish Hall, was notified that they could no longer use the kitchen until renovations to bring it up to code were undertaken. Ward 5 put together a small committee to investigate what renovations would be needed and at what cost. In the process, major repairs to the sewer system and kitchen drains were undertaken at a cost of over \$ 14,000. In addition, installation of a new higher capacity electrical entrance and substantial rewiring of the building has to take place with estimates of over \$ 14,000.

At the same August meeting a proposal from Ward 5 was presented for complete renovation of the kitchen, installation of new stainless sink fixtures, oven and other appliances. More formal plans were submitted to the September meeting of the Parish Council. The cost of these renovations is being raised by Ward 5. The Rev. Diane Parker is spearheading their fundraising program so that the building can be back in full use as soon as possible.

The St. Mark's Parish Council has pledged \$ 10,000 from our Capital Reserve Fund of \$ 16,000 [which is only for use in repairs to the hall] with the balance of the costs to be raised by Ward 5. The Parish is also submitting a request for \$ 10,000 from the Diocesan Church Extension Fund.

**ST. MARK'S FOOD BANK  
RELOCATED**

From Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> the St. Mark's Food Bank began operation from the Church Office and basement of the Church. Over 116 families have been served in the past 4 weeks!!!

**WARD 5 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS  
RELOCATED**

From Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> the Ward 5 breakfast and school day children's program has been operating from the downstairs of the church using both the Butler and Lemoine Rooms as well as two classrooms for their program. It has been many years since our church basement has been getting such heavy use, and your Church Ministers – Fr. John Morrell and Rev. Vivien Hannon have been making contact with the children and their parents as well as the Food Bank clients each week.

A substantial amount of money has to be raised in a short period of time so that the kitchen renovations can take place and all programs return to the Parish Hall.

Donations can be made to the *St. Mark's Capital Reserve Fund - Kitchen Renovations* if you feel the need to donate to this important cause.

The Primate's World Relief and Development (PWRDF) Fund is appealing for donations to help rebuild Anglican hospitals and schools in Gaza. Donations may be made c/o St. Mark's Church

**\* \* COMING EVENTS \* \***

**JESUS AND ME PROGRAM,**  
Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>  
see the **BACK** of this page for details.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**  
Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>  
10 a.m. -- Lighting of candles for those who have lost a loved one since November, 2013. Special brass accompaniment to the music.  
*Special video presentation of our own St. Mark's veterans.*

**TAKE-OUT BAKED HAM &  
BEAN SUPPER**  
Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>  
*Tickets \$ 12.00 and must be pre-ordered by Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>*

**NEW AND NEARLY NEW SALE**  
Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>  
*sponsored by the ACW.*  
*Contact Mellie Crewe if you wish to donate anything*

**STOCKING STUFFERS FOR  
CHRISTMAS**

St. Mark's is offering **TWO** different items for gifts.

*Both are engraved with the Name, address and phone number of the church*

**# 1 – Small LED pocket flashlights with keychain.**

**Colours are black and dark silver.  
COST \$ 4.00**

**# 2 – Gel Pens – red and blue  
COST \$ 3.00**

Available on Sundays or from the church office Tuesdays – Thursdays