

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 12th 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 4th 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 5th 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 5th
see the **BACK** of this page for details.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Sunday, November 9th
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 21st
Tickets \$ 12.00 and must be pre-ordered by Wednesday, November 19th

NEW AND NEARLY NEW SALE
Saturday, November 29th
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