

IN TOUCH

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church Newsletter – 1 Greenland Rd., North York, ON M3C 1N1 416.444-3471

Fall
Issue II – October, 2018

*Life starts all
over again when
it gets crisp in
the Fall.*

-F. Scott Fitzgerald-





Dear St. Mark's Presbyterian Church,

As we gather in congregations and around dinner tables this Thanksgiving, I rejoice in the many ways we have been blessed and want to express my thanks for your generous support of Presbyterians Sharing.

It has been four months since I began serving as Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and I have really had a chance to see your gifts in action. Already I've attended—and preached at—Canada Youth. I've had the privilege of visiting our mission partners in Malawi and seen the tremendous things they are accomplishing. I stop in to the national office from time to time to encourage the staff and share in the church's programs. Through your gifts, we are supporting innovative ministry and congregational renewal; equipping leaders in worship, evangelism, stewardship, youth ministry and justice work; promoting healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities; supporting over 40 international partners, and so much more!

I've experienced the contagious love of Christ that youth exude at a Presbyterian camp and even at General Assembly (believe it or not!). I've encouraged and been encouraged by new ministers and shared in the excitement and challenges of congregations in diverse communities. Congregational ministry is at the heart of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and I am looking forward to meeting people across the country as I go to the Atlantic Synod in October, Vancouver Island in November and many places in between in the months to come.

Throughout my visit to Malawi, I saw what happens when the people of God work together. I saw the incredible impact your gifts have on hospitals and clinics where dedicated staff treat the young and old under profoundly difficult circumstances; I saw how chaplaincy ministry and simple yet much-needed gifts of soap bring humanity and Christ's presence into the prisons; I saw hope and spiritual vibrancy in students of all ages engaged in theological education; I worshipped with congregations who were bursting at the "spiritual" seams singing and dancing as they overflowed with the love of Christ. I was so impressed with the PWS&D program that helps farmers in remote areas develop underground irrigation systems to support their crops especially through the dry season. We are a stronger church when we collaborate on God's mission. The people of Malawi wanted me to bring the deep gratitude they have in their hearts back to you for supporting all these efforts through your gifts.

As Moderator I have met variety of people—young, old, urban, rural—from different cultures and places, and hear their stories of faith, family and personal struggle. Together we've shared hopes for this church—and the global church—and what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ. I have witnessed how collaborating together, praying together, worshipping together and learning together make us a stronger church. Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing help make this happen and are making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ, here at home and around the world.

May you and your families be blessed as you give praise to God this Thanksgiving.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel W. Cho".

The Reverend Daniel W. Cho
Moderator of the 144th General Assembly



Letters of Thanks

May, 2018

**Rev.'s Farris, Cho, Erin, Mary, Marie, Veronica,
& St. Mark's Pastoral Care Committee:**

The family of Mildred Wang (*May 2, 2018*), is deeply grateful to St. Mark's Presbyterian Church for your love and care extended to Mildred. We truly appreciate your assistance in the funeral service arrangements. Your support means a lot to us.

A special thanks to Rev. Dr. Farris and Rev. Cho for conducting the service and speaking God's Word of comfort to us. Thanks to Veronica for preparing the lovely bulletin; and thanks to the Pastoral Care Committee for your thoughts and prayers and being present at the funeral.

May the grace of our Lord be with you.

Sincerely,
Lesley Wang & Family



June 29, 2018

Dear St. Mark's Congregation:

We would like to thank St. Mark's Presbyterian Church for your recent generous donation of \$500.00 (*from St. Mark's Session Capital Fund*) to support Street Health's services for individuals who are homeless or lack secure housing. Your contribution provides accessible healthcare for all community members.

In 2017-2018 Street Health's nursing and community mental health programs worked hand-in-hand to serve the complex physical and mental health needs of 1,641 individuals. The programs accommodated 10,111 client visits, providing both urgent and ongoing support. During this time more than 26,400 client visits were provided across all services. These numbers are reflected of the need for expanded shelter space and the continuing drug overdose crises. Thanks to your gift we continue to meet these urgent community needs.

Again, many thanks for this needed and appreciated support!

**Kapri Rabin, Executive Director
Street Health**



July 5, 2018

Dear Friends:

Once again this year, I am writing to thank you for the generous donation of \$500.00 (*Session Capital Fund*) to Community Share Food Bank. We are so grateful for your support.

The fact that a food bank exists in our Don Mills neighbourhood is a surprise to some. However, The Community Share Food Bank helps more than 150 families living among us each week to put food on their tables.

In the 2017 Day Bread Food Bank *Profile of Hunger in Toronto*, we learned that food bank visits in Toronto are back to levels seen during the height of the recession of 2008, and people are having to access them twice as long as before. At Community Share, we would like to be going 'out of business' as a food bank but that certainly does not seem to be the case. Sadly, food insecurity appears to be greater than ever.

We thank again for your generosity of spirit and your trust in our work as we do our best to help our neighbours in need.

Sincerely,
**Dorothy Boothroyd, Vice Chair
Community Share Food Bank**



July 12, 2018

Dear Friends at St. Mark's:

We at Cariboo House Church Ministry would like to thank you folks at St. Mark's Church for your generous recent contribution of \$500 (*Session Capital Fund*). We are particularly appreciative because it reflects the ongoing support you have given us for many years now.

Last year when I wrote a thank you letter to you we were in the middle of what became the worst forest fire season in the history of the province of British Columbia. At the time several people in our house churches throughout the Cariboo were already suffering the impact. Later that summer Shannon and I were evacuated from our home and our entire community was under threat. We are thankful to God that most in our communities were spared

serious losses, yet we do know some people who lost homes or livelihoods. As representatives of the church of Christ, we have done what we can to support them.

Then this spring our community of Nazko was threatened with flooding. Several people suffered some significant damage but we are thankful that the waters did not rise to anywhere near the levels that were predicted.

In the meantime we have been aware of the exciting developments taking place among you at St. Mark's. We would like to congratulate you on the call of your new minister Daniel Cho and his family. Shannon and I have fond memories of him as a classmate at Knox College. We even remember attending his and Esther's wedding. As a congregation you have taken a big step in calling him in the same year as his appointment as Moderator of the General Assembly. May God bless and guide all of you in this busy year.

With that we would like to thank you again for your support, for the support you give to many other important ministries for your own ministry for Christ in North York. May God continue to guide and bless each of us as we seek to serve Jesus in the places God has called us.

**Blessings in Christ,
Jon Wyminga
Cariboo Presbyterian Church**



July 1, 2018

Dear Friends at St. Mark's:

Thank you for your recent donation to ARISE Ministry. Your generous gift will be used to provide services that will have a positive ripple effect in our community.

ARISE Ministry empowers individuals involved in the sex trade to reclaim hope in their lives. By providing outreach, case management and spiritual care; supportive relationships are established, hope is fostered, and futures are reclaimed.

From all of us at ARISE Ministry and those we support, we thank you!

**Rev. Deb Stanbury Rapport
Executive Director**



Life And Mission Team

The Life and Mission Team is looking for new members.

Duties entail attending one meeting a year wherein the Team decides which charities, the monies designated by St. Mark's, will be distributed to.

If you have further questions or are interested in joining the Team, please speak to the undersigned.



**With thanks,
Mary Jane Mills, Team Leader**

Cupid's Luncheon

After having coordinated Cupid's Luncheon for ten years, I have decided that it is time to step down however I will continue to work as a member of the Planning Committee.

Maureen M'Gowan will be coordinating the 2019 and all future events.

Cupid's Luncheon 2019 is tentatively scheduled to take place on February 9. Please watch your Bulletins for further information.



**Mary Jane Mills,
Former Coordinator**

URGENT! Ushers Needed!

Our dedicated Ushering Teams are in NEED of additional volunteers to fill vacancies.

We have managed, so far, to get help from non-scheduled usher to fill in when shortages occur in the summer months. However, new ushers are required to fill our team vacancies.

We are so pleased to welcome Mary Beth M'Lean who joined a team on September 2nd.

Please advise Veronica, our office administrator or myself, if you wish to learn more about joining one of our four ushering teams.

**Thank you in advance,
Brian Parkes, Ushering Team Convenor
For the Board of Managers**



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Inspiration for "In Flanders Fields"

Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, 1st Brigade Canadian Field Artillery. During the early days of the Second Battle of Ypres a young Canadian artillery officer, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, was killed on 2nd May, 1915 in the gun positions near Ypres.

An exploding German artillery shell landed near him. He was serving in the same Canadian artillery unit as a friend of his, the Canadian military doctor and artillery commander Major John McCrae.



Music Notes

Our music program continues here at St. Mark's each Sunday (and Thursday evening for choir practices). Please talk to the organist if you are interested in helping in our music ministry.

Many changes have happened here in the past year, and we hope that our music will evolve as needed to cope with these changes. We are fortunate to have such wonderful instruments such as our Yamaha Grand Piano and our Casavant pipe organ. It was built in 1929, for Glenview Church and was installed in our church. This year on October 6th we celebrate the 55th anniversary of the dedication of our church building which was on October 6, 1963. Next year, in 2019, our organ will have its 90th birthday. I hope to put together a musical event to celebrate this.

We are also fortunate to have many people over the years and now, who have shared their musical talents with the people of this church. We are grateful for our present musically talented people, and also for those who served through the years and have gone on to their heavenly reward. We should honour the memory of those who gave of their time and talents over the past 63 year.

I was able to attend a Musicians' Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, in July, and liturgical conference in Detroit in September. I hope to continue to learn and study the music of the church. The fall, winter and spring seasons will be busy musically as we prepare for the church year of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.



**Don't let those who take advantage
of your generosity
Stop you from being generous.**

~Author unknown~

Why Go To Church?



A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing..... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!



Stories From Another Era

One of Marcel Dupré's favourite stories was about his composition teacher, the great French organist and composer, Charles-Marie Widor. One day, Widor had a heated discussion with a student in his composition class at the Paris Conservatoire. The next day, when he arrived for class, he found a note on his desk: "Widor—you're nothing but an old ****." In a rage, Widor grabbed the paper and flew to the office of the director, Gabriel Fauré (the two were never on the friendliest terms), thrust it into his hand, and demanded, "Now, what do you think of this?"

Fauré calmly took the note and read it, thought about it for a while as he gazed into the distance, twirled his moustache, and finally said, "Well, yes. The adjective is a bit strong."



Submitted by: George Heldt

Inspirational life quotes



My mother said to me, "If you are a soldier, you will become a general. If you are a monk, you will become the Pope." Instead, I was a painter, and became Picasso.

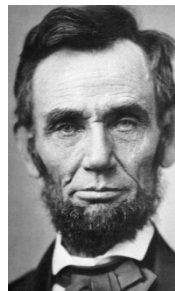
[- Pablo Picasso](#)(Artist, 1881-1973)



[- Gandhi](#)(1869-1948)

There are seven things that will destroy us:

**Wealth without work;
Pleasure without conscience;
Knowledge without character;
Religion without sacrifice;
Politics without principle;
Science without humanity;
Business without ethics.**



Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.

[- Abraham Lincoln](#)(16th US president, 1809-1865)





Catherine Anne Ray

November 23, 1929 - August 17, 2018

Announcement was made to the congregation of the sudden and unexpected passing of Cathy Ray on August 17th. A memorial service was held at St. Mark's on Saturday, September 15th officiated by Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis.

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Mary McCaffrey

January 18, 1926 - September 20, 2018

A Memorial for the life of Mary was held at St. Mark's on Saturday, September 29 at 11:00am officiated by Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis.

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In Remembrance....

Walter Palmer
September 21, 2017

Molly Michie
November 2, 2017

May the souls of our faithful departed rest in
peace!

Upcoming Events

Kids' Zone

Friday, October 5, 2018
Friday, November 16, 2018
Friday, December 7, 2018

9am-4pm

Extended care with pre-arrangement available
8am-9am and 4pm-6pm

Cost: \$15/child and \$20/family
Lunch and snacks are provided

Holly Bazaar & Lunch

Saturday, November 10, 2018

Cupid's Lunch

Saturday, February 9, 2019



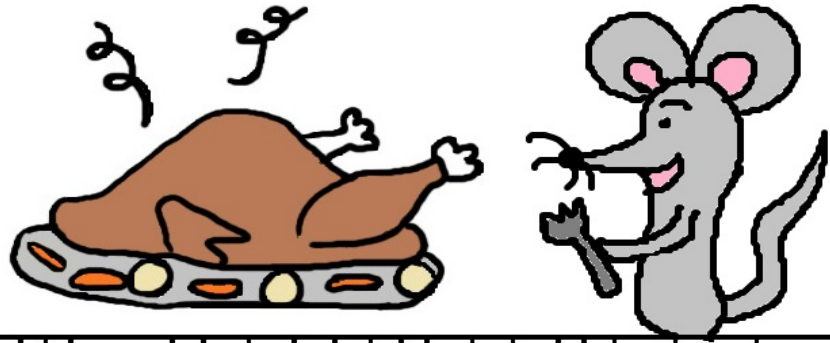
St. Mark's Telephone Directory

Final preparations are underway for the long awaited updated congregational Telephone Directory. Plans are being made for a Christmas distribution.

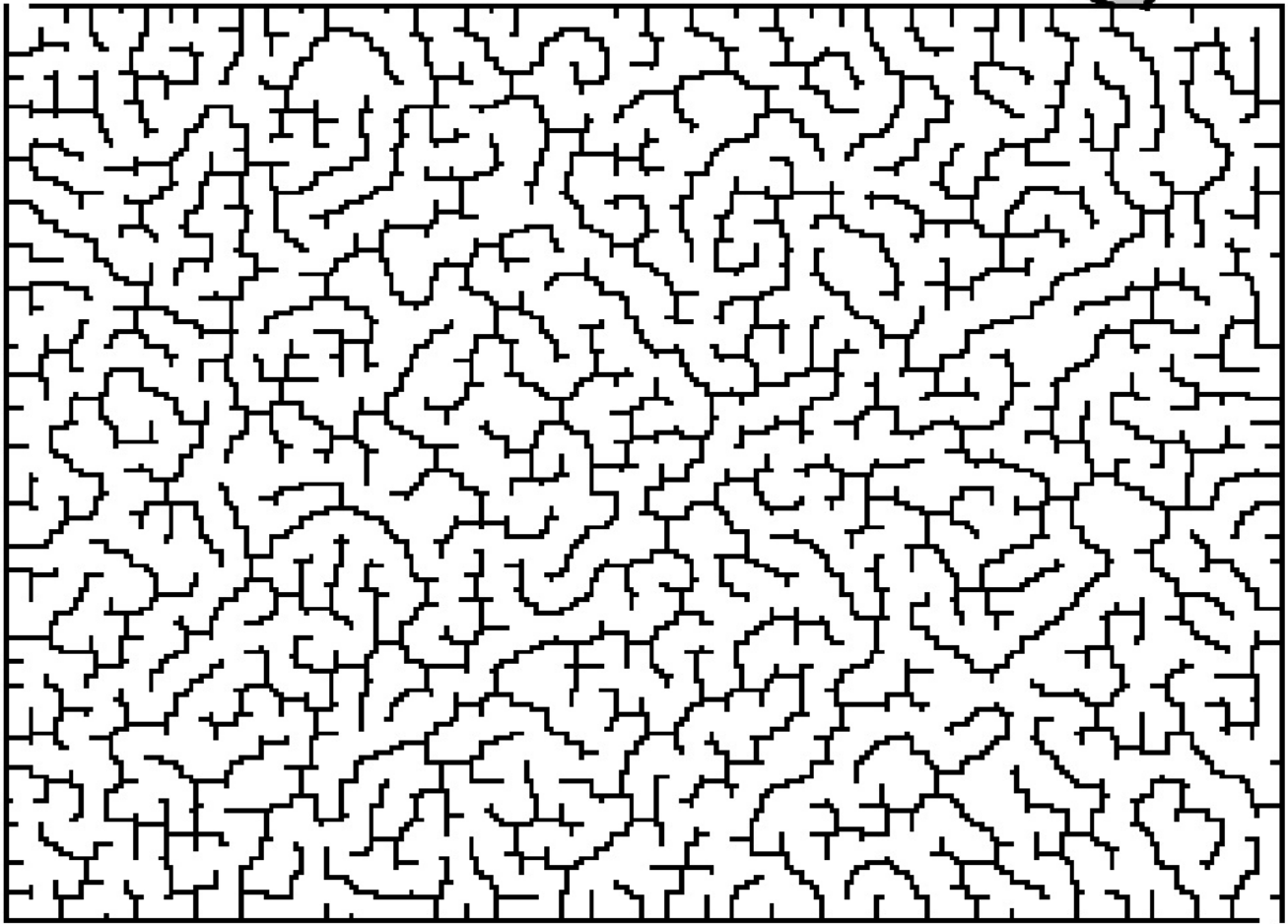
Thank you for your patience



Church Directory



Start



Church House Collection ©

End



**Happy
Thanksgiving
Day!**

