



December 2019

Upcoming Event Services at St. Mark's

Sunday, December 1st – 1st Sunday of Advent “Hope” 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 8th – 2nd Sunday of Advent “Peace” 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 8th – Jingle and Mingle Silent Auction 2 p.m.

**Sunday, December 15th – 3rd Sunday of Advent “Joy” 10:30 a.m.
Carols and Lessons, Congregational Christmas Party**

Sunday, December 22nd – 4th Sunday of Advent “Love” 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 24th “Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 29th – Old Fashion Carol Sing 10:30 a.m.
Please bring goodies to share after service. Beverages will be provided.

Sunday, January 5th – Epiphany Service
Brunch 10:30 a.m. with Service to follow



Message from Rev. Ryan...

Where are we going?

As we enter the “Christmas Season” people are going, everywhere. The “Christmas corner” of the Quinte mall parking lot is filled and people are filling calendars with end of the year gathering. Many of us will make pilgrimages to family gatherings. Is this the year it changes?

For about the first decade of our marriage, we made an annual pilgrimage to the Morris family Christmas party at the Peel Valley Gold Club. The party was famous for two things: the arrival of Santa Claus across the first fairway, and the terrible singing during the carolling. It was always a joke that people who had married in where in high demand to carry the tune for the 12 Days of Christmas.

One year, the party didn't happen. Some people couldn't travel due to health concerns and others had family commitments with new spouses. It was the end of an era, and we missed it, even the off-pitch singing. Santa's sack of toys aside, Christmas carries a lot emotional baggage.

Some of us hunger for a Christmas of old, when we were younger, the mall was closed and families spent whole days eating pie around the piano in a scene reminiscent of a Currier and Ives plate. Others find this a time when losses are remembered most. The ghosts of Christmas past can be ever present, yet the season comes again and we find new ways to celebrate.

As a congregation, we have been in a time of asking questions, fondly remembering what was, but also wondering what will be left behind. It is clear to me that being a presence in this part of Belleville remains a priority, but the question remains, “what kind of presence will we be”. The choice to find new ways of being and celebrating is before us.

I look forward to speaking with each of you over the weeks between now and the annual meeting in February. We know where we have been, but where are we going?

Ryan



***Christmas is a great time to invite friends and family to St. Mark's.
Why not invite someone for Christmas Eve?***



Message from Board...

As we near the end of 2019, I would like to take this opportunity to “thank” Board members for their hard work and diligence in planning for St. Mark’s future.

With input from the congregation your Board has progressed on its journey towards the goal of providing a road map for St. Mark’s.

2020 will be another pivotal year for our church and your further input and direction will be essential.

May the joy of the Christmas Season be with you all thought out the year!

Jack

Results of Preferential Vote **Congregational Gathering Sunday, November 10th a.m. & p.m.**

First of all, we would like to thank all who attended the two Congregational Gatherings. Your passion and wisdom during the discussion was greatly appreciated.

As we examined the 54 ballots that were cast, we only looked at people’s first choice, at this time. The results are as follows:

Option 1: Explore new options for staying in this location – 33

Option 2: Find others to join with in another location – 3

Option 3: Maintain the status quo – 18

Main conclusion: People want to stay in this location, but they want us to look at new and unique ways to be able to do this.

Thank you again for your participation, and the Board is already looking at ways to accomplish this.



Message from UCW...

The hard working ladies of St. Marks UCW have had a very busy year. Under the great leadership of our Catering team, we have baked, served and delivered again this fall.

Our preparations for the Country Bazaar in October paid off with a presentation to the board of \$5,500.00! We couldn't have done it without all the planning, participation and enthusiasm from our church and community. At the door this year, it was rewarding to hear compliments from the many people who came to participate in the Bazaar.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas with family and friends.

Alfreda Rupert, UCW President

Message from Stewardship...

Another year is coming to an end and we would like to thank everyone for their continued support during 2019. Donations to St. Mark's are made through weekly, annual or occasional gifts or through PAR. Plans are being worked on to have a Donate button on the church website in the near future. All bills have been paid and insurance and assessments are up to date. The General Fund received money from the Manse Fund and \$5,500 from the UCW to help with ongoing expenses.

The Memorial Fund was used to purchase 10 new card tables to replace some of the ageing tables.

Overall it was a good year and we will end it with a positive balance in the bank.

As we approach Advent may the Blessings and Peace of the season be with you and yours.

Mary Milligan
Chair, Stewardship Committee



Do you use your debit/credit card everywhere, to earn as many reward points as possible? St. Mark's accepts debit/credit cards for donations and payment for events at the church. Online giving, using CanadaHelps.org, will be soon available.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES WORKSHOP

Sponsored by Belleville Area United Churches

Come and Start the New Year off Right

Explore Ways to Deepen Your Faith and Prayer Life

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Jackie Harper

Date: Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Registration and coffee at 9:30 a.m. Cost: \$15

Place: St. Matthew's United Church, 25 Holloway Street, Belleville

Parking at rear of church. Accessible entrance off parking lot.

To register: Contact Caroline Giesbrecht at 613-477-1654

or rev.carolineg@xplornet.ca

Deadline to register is January 6, 2020



*Spiritual
Practices*

Jingle & Mingle

St. Mark's United Church,
237 Cannifton Rd., North, Cannifton



Holiday Gift Baskets, Wine, Giftcards,
Christmas Baking and Décor & more!!

Timed bidding on items

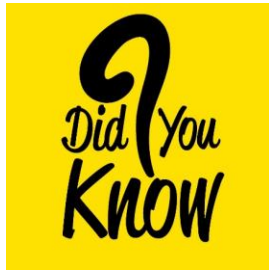
3 Large Door Prizes and a Grand Prize to be won with your \$5 admission



Sunday, December 8th, 2019

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.





If you're away for the weekend or stuck in a cold arena on Sunday morning, why don't you join in worship through our Live Stream feed on YouTube! Search for St. Mark's Cannifton to find our channel.

Events at St. Mark's on a Regular Basis!

Do you know that we have Bingo every month with the exception of December! Join us for some fun and fellowship.

January 28; February 25; March 24; April 28; May 26; June 23; July 28; August 25; September 22; October 27; November 24.



There is Euchre in the Lower Hall every other Thursday night at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome. Mark these dates on your calendar and join us!

January 9, 23; February 6, 20; March 5, 19; April 2, 16, 30; May 14, 28; June 11, 25; July 9, 23; August 6, 20; September 3, 17; October 1, 15, 29; November 12, 26; December 10.



Santa's Workshop



assemble
box
boys
build
busy
Christmas
elf
elves
factory
gifts
girls
hammer

helper
letters
lights
list
merry
nails
naughty
nice
North Pole
ornaments
package
paint

presents
reindeer
Santa
sleigh
snow
stocking
table
Toyland
toys
tree
workshop

