

**Enews to the St. Mark's Pews
75th Edition September 3, 2021
St. Mark's Anglican Church est. 1792
Niagara-on-the Lake, ON**

Hear the Good News! Hear the Good news!

Dear Friends,

If you're like me, you're probably facing a pile of work that was put off in favour of some lovely seasonal diversion, or have found yourself in a frantic rush to get the kids ready for Tuesday, or have realized that the tasks you thought you had plenty of time to do during the summer break are still waiting to be tackled. Perhaps you've wondered if you've wasted your time.

Summer's over, and what have we to show for it?

One of the most beautiful and apt answers to such a question is from Mary Oliver's poem called "The Summer Day" in which she recounts an idle day spent wandering in the fields and asks:

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?

The encounter with nature awakens in the poet a sense of the beautiful and ephemeral nature of human life, of existence and of how each of us feels the agony of knowing that there isn't enough time to do it all, to see it all and to experience it all. Essentially, the poem is shot through with pain—a kind of exquisite agony—brought on by the sense of time's absolute march forward. Yet the poet is unapologetic for spending time being idle, for she knows that the most meaningful thing any of us can do is to learn how to be quiet in order that we may take in the miraculous wonder of the ordinary and everyday things of life. And the point of learning to be quiet is to come to realize that, with so little time, we need to live our lives with an urgent awareness of the things that truly matter.

Summer's over, and with it the especially carefree days of the season. But that doesn't mean that our present cares need to become burdens and distractions, for though summer is over, this is still a wonderful world with all of its opportunities, its friendships and its loveliness. Though summer is over, we are not bereft of times that can still be carefree, glad and restful. We will experience these times if we learn to pay attention to things like the love of those around us, the blithe laughter of children, and opportunities for creative labour. Though summer is over and we may look back with regret on all of the missed chances and things left undone, there is still the chance to do the things that truly matter, to pay attention to what is happening around us; to attach ourselves to the great cause of making the world a place where true joy can be found; to exercise courage and faith and love; to get from the day all that it has to give and, when the present moment seems bleak, to find hope and thus make it radiant; to take up the ordinary

things that are at hand and fashion something glorious of them and to find delight in so doing; to let go of anxiety and live by faith; to offer our lives in unafraid and glad service to others; and to learn how to sacrifice our comfort for the sake of another's good. Though summer is over, there is still a season in which to drink deep from the cup of life that God has given us, and to rejoice in his boundless gift of life with grateful hearts and ready wills.

So tell me, what *are* you going to do with your one wild and precious life?

Grace and peace,
Leighton

PARISH UPDATES

Keeping in Touch On-line

*Now that we are back to Church in-person our Sunday morning services are **live streamed** on Facebook and YouTube at 10:30 am. Simply go to St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page.*

Please use these URLs to watch:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Anglican-Church-Niagara-on-the-Lake-235477056649804/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-vVgNf0GbuxrfliW4sOXzQ>

Our Enews and Order of Service can also be accessed through new website:

Enews: <https://stmarksnotl.org/news/news>.

Order of Service: <https://stmarksnotl.org/worship-ministry/order-of-service-bulletin>

WORSHIP:

Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan in the Summer

End Date: September 6, 2021

We invite you to join Bishop Susan and people from across the diocese and beyond for a time of worship, prayer, fellowship, and teaching.

Each Sunday during the summer our diocesan service will begin at 10:00am on our [diocesan Facebook page](#) and then will be posted on our [YouTube channel](#). We'll have a number of special guest preachers to open up the Word of God for us.

WARDEN'S LETTER

Welcome to September! It is starting out as nice weather, great for walking and outside activities. At this time there is no change to our Sunday services nor to other activities within the Parish other than those exempted. Fr. Leighton will begin Monday Bible study (September 13th) and Wednesday morning prayer (September 8th).

Attendance at our Sunday services has dropped to about 22 each week. However, it is understandable that it is summer and folks are still enjoying holiday times. Our limit is 50 so don't hesitate to register (up to Friday noon). If you decide at the last minute to attend, please check with one of the wardens.

We had a number of positive responses to our "Attitude" piece in the last Enews. Thank you! If you have anything you would like to share through Enews please let the office know. Our intention though is to keep Enews relatively short and with current parish information.

A very big thank you to several parishioners who responded to our financial ask in the last Enews. With no current plans for a major activities because of Covid concerns and Diocese restrictions, we rely on our monthly givings.

We are ordering 2022 weekly donation envelopes based on this past year list. If you are not planning to use them because you will be donating by direct debit, credit card or other, please let office know.

Now that the U.S. border is open for returning parishioners, we are happy to see Bob Gaines back in our midst. It has been a long time, but thank goodness for Zoom.

The Men's group is discussing a restart date although Zoom is not what they prefer, so stay tuned.

Sally Mitchell who has been the face of cemetery activities, maintenance, tree trimming, monument cleaning, stone identification mapping, interment preparations and site selections (yes all of that) is away for the month of September and we wish her a quiet and enjoyable time.

We shared earlier the sad news of the death of Jackie Johnson, a longtime parishioner and volunteer with us and in the community. Please keep her family in your prayers. Arrangements will be sent out when a celebration of life is planned.

We end this ENews wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable long weekend and hope to see many of you back in church on the 12th. Please be assured that rigorous Covid safety protocols are in place and the greeters are trained to ensure these protocols are followed.

As always a reminder to advise the office of anyone who needs assistance in any way, including a phone call, food picked up and delivered or some companionship through phone, Facetime or over the fence.

Stay safe – keep well

Called to Life – Compelled to Love

Your Wardens

READINGS FOR FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 5, 2021 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23 A proverb is a pithy statement expressing some truth in a striking way which is easy to remember. A scholar instructs a student in how to lead a moral life – a life in which God is given the respect due to him.

James 2:1-10,(11-13),14-17 The author has exhorted his readers to “be doers ... and not merely hearers” of the gospel; now he warns them that favouring one person over another is inconsistent with believing in Christ.

Mark 7:24-37 Jesus goes to a Gentile area. Even though his mission is primarily to the Jews, he heals the daughter of a Gentile woman who shows faith in him. Healing a man who is disabled in hearing and speech convinces the crowd that the Kingdom of God has begun.

Prayers of the People (submitted by Jane De Munnich)

Good and loving God, you are ‘our father’, the father of us all. Inspire us to be doers of your Word, to seize the opportunity to love one another in any way we can in the spirit of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Sustain all those who help the afflicted. We pray especially for the uplift of those who work for the World Food Program, World Vision, the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, the Salvation Army, Doctors without Borders, and for all personal caregivers and emergency personnel. **Lord, hear our prayer for their uplift.**

Sustain our teachers and professors in their duty of care to their students and our students in their duty of care to one another, as they return to school. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks to You for the presence in this community of John and Michelle Scott, John and Faye Shaver, and Rick and Susan Sherk. We pray to You for their well-being and that of their families. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese, we pray for Your care and guidance of the Reverend Kevin Cull, Priest-in-Charge of All Saints’, Hamilton, and for the people of that parish. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the imparting of Your wisdom to all those at the theological colleges and training programs within the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert’s Land, which include Arthur Turner Training School, the Centre for Christian Studies, the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, Henry Budd College for Ministry, Saint John’s College, Dr. William Winter School for Ministry, and James Settee

College for Ministry. Lord, hear our prayer. For the First Nations' reserves of Rupert's Land, we also pray that swift and responsible action will deliver clean drinking water, and inspire a renewed commitment by all to the stewardship of Your creation. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the comfort and specialized care of all who are sick in body, mind and spirit, and include in our petitions those of our own parish: Gillian MacKay, Terry, Don Dicarlo, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Doug Garrett, Bev Garrett, Jodey Porter, Sean, and Joshua. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We also pray for the comfort and care of those who are shut in. In our own parish, we pray especially for Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Joy Ormsby, Selina Appleby, and Joan Draper. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

And for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, dear Lord, bestow Your special grace on them. In our own parish, we pray especially for the friends and family of Ross Tomlinson, Peter Ford, Tony Dolynski, and Jackie Johnson. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in the new Testament brought to life in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the new covenant, we have been invited to participate in the power of Your eternal love to transforms all earthly lives. **Amen.**