

NEWSMARK

MARK ST. UNITED CHURCH

Advent 2011

Your Elder: _____

Telephone: _____

A Christmas Prayer of Confession

God of stable, stars, and surprises,
of light and hope and new life:
open our eyes and hearts to your presence in our world;
forgive our obsession with property and possessions;
forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision.

Open us to your grace,
that we might hear again the song of the angels,
and respond with a song in our hearts,
and in our lives.

Amen.

Nodwsell, G. (1980) From *Voices United*.



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You, Lord God, are
strength for my task,
light for my way,
peace for my mind,
power for this day,
presence with me now,
love for alway.

DEAR FRIENDS...

Here is your Advent issue of NEWSMARK – one of the ways that we try to keep in touch with people who call Mark Street United Church their spiritual home. In these pages, you will find news about people and events at the church. You may know about some of them; others will be new to you; all are part of our church family. Susan Weaver does a great job of putting this together for us and we appreciate it very much.

The **Advent** issue. This means that another year has almost come to an end. The passage of time is so interesting to me – sometimes it seems to fly by and other times, a day is lllooonngg. And yet every day contains the same number of hours.

With Advent approaching, people's activity levels often change. Busy lives become even busier. It seems there are more commitments, more activity, and, for some folk at least, more shopping. Some people get very excited about Christmas coming; others dread it. Some look forward to family gatherings; others know what it means to long for these things. It's different for each of us. I've had people tell me that Christmas is "just so busy" for them that they don't have any time to think about the *real* meaning – they just have to get through it.

Each of us is doing the best we can with the resources available to us. It's not my purpose to add to people's burdens by telling them what they "should" do in terms of their faith life. Instead, for these busy days ahead, when there may not even be time to pray, let me suggest that you keep this affirmation of David Adam's close at hand: in your pocket or purse, and read it when you get a chance. It will remind you of what the season is about.

Advent and Christmas blessings

to you and those you love, *Bob*

UP-COMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, November 20: The last Sunday before Advent. Reception of New Members by Certificate of Transfer. If your membership is in another congregation, and Mark Street has become “home” for you, please call the office to arrange for your transfer – 705 742 2682. We will welcome you!

Sunday, November 27: The First Sunday in Advent. We will be celebrating The Sacrament of Holy Communion, lighting the first advent candle, and having a soup and sandwich luncheon following worship. This is also White Gift Sunday – an opportunity to donate to the work of the Community Christmas Hamper Fund to help those in need.

Monday, November 28: Our annual Blue Christmas service in the sanctuary at 7.30 p.m. This service is for those who come to Christmas with the loss of a loved one heavy on their hearts. It is a quiet, gentle, candlelit service of healing and hope.

Sunday, December 4: The Second Sunday in Advent. The lighting of the second advent candle. Our second White Gift Sunday – please share as you are able so that others might also enjoy his festive season.

Sunday, December 11: The Third Sunday in Advent. The lighting of the third advent candle.



Sunday, December 18: The Fourth Sunday in Advent. The Choir will be presenting their Christmas Cantata today. The Christmas music is such a special part of our Christmas preparations. The fourth Advent candle will be lit. A special Friendship Hour will be held following the service.

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve. We will be having two services of worship: at 5.30 p.m., the Sandalwood Singers and the Mark Street Drummers will be leading the music, and at 11.00 p.m., the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated. Each of these very different services will enrich your experience of Christmas.

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day – and yes, we are open for business and are planning a relaxed, informal celebration of Jesus' birth. Come casually dressed (pjs are fine), coffee, juice and muffins will be served.

Sunday, January 1: New Year's Day – a service of carols and readings will be held. Come and start the year by celebrating communion with your church family.

Wednesday, January 11: The Celtic Worship Circle will be held in the church parlour at 7.30 p.m. Come and join us for a service of worship modeled on the Iona Community.



Wednesday, February 8: Celtic Worship Circle in the church parlour at 7.30 p.m.

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 12** following worship.

Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at 7.30 p.m., in the sanctuary.



MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

Please remember the Mission and Service Fund this Christmas. Making a donation in memory of a loved one or in place of a Christmas gift to that person who has everything is a great way to help those around the world who may not be as fortunate. Your donations to the M&S fund help those in Canada as well as around the world. There are beautiful Christmas cards available in the Church Office that you can give to those in whose name donations are being made.

We are always looking for people to be a part of the M&S group so please let Susan Weaver or Helen McIntyre know if you would like to assist with this valuable work.

We would like to hear from you if you would like to provide a birthday cake for our annual fundraiser during Anniversary Sunday in January.

CCEP

This fall in the “ Seasons of the Spirit “ curriculum , the children of the CCEP were learning about God’s creation . Together we made a collage about the story of creation in Genesis. Even the youngest children were able to glue on their tiny pieces of paper to make a sun, a moon or a fish. Sarah Hatherley made a beautiful script banner of Genesis 1:1 which says : “ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth . ”

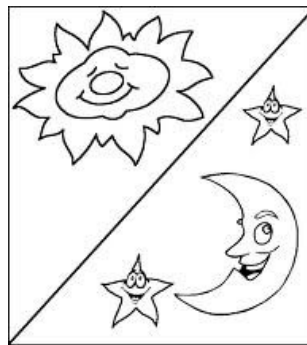
The collage depicts night and day; the sun , moon and stars; land, water and plants and fish . Jayden says “Now all we need are the animals and the people !“

Obviously — this is a ”work in progress “ – as is “ the Creation.” Come down and have a look at it in the CEC.

The 8 year olds and up group has had between 2 and 6 children per week this fall. We have some regular attendees, some visiting grandchildren of church members and other visitors from time to time. This group still needs help for a couple of Sundays each month. If you're interested in helping, please contact Martha Hunter at 705-745-7179.

This summer, the CCEP cupboards had a great clean-out from years of accumulated "stuff".

This fall, we have had donations of an electric pencil sharpener, wristbands, colourful pens, mini-puzzles, stickers and fun drawing paper.



On the fourth day, God made the sun, moon and stars.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHIRLEY POST

Shirley Post has been named as a member of the Order of Canada in part for her work in helping to create the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario and as a co-founder of the Canadian Institute of Child Health. Shirley taught nursing at the University of Ottawa and was the assistant director of the school of nursing at Ottawa General Hospital before becoming the first director of nursing at Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario when the facility opened in 1974. Shirley has campaigned for family-centred care for children.

Excerpt from: Brenda Wedley, *Examiner*

AVOID THE CHRISTMAS RUSH

You don’t have to dress up.
You don’t have to go anywhere.
You don’t have to bake anything.
You don’t have to do dishes.
You can save time and money at this busy time of year.
Buy tickets to our non-event and help your church.



Here is How:
Buy tickets for \$10 each after church in Friendship Hall or from Heather in the office.
There is no limit on the number of tickets you can buy.
You will be issued a tax receipt for you purchases.
It makes a great gift for that special someone who has everything and helps Mark Street at the same time.

Enjoy a stress-free moment this Christmas season with tickets to Avoid the Christmas Rush.

DEACONESS HISTORY SEARCH

I am conducting a research project to record and honour the lives of United Church deaconesses. Were you a deaconess? Is there a deaconess in your family tree? I am collecting names and stories and looking for diaries, letters, pictures, writings and so on of women who were deaconesses prior to 1980. Their contribution as pioneers in ministry is important. Please be in touch if you have anything you could share.

Caryn Douglas

caryndouglas@shaw.ca

204.487.2076

41 Purcell Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0Z9



PARISH NURSE

Dear Mark St. Friends,

On October 15th, I began the first year of the Parish Nurse Program at Emmanuel College in Toronto. I will attend class every Saturday for six weeks this fall for the first year of the curriculum. Our program discusses the concepts of healing, wholeness, spirituality, religion, and philosophy.

In January, I will begin the clinical portion of the education. This will take place from January to June and will consist of 100 hours of parish nursing education within Mark St.

I will have a mentor who is already a Parish Nurse. I will also be meeting with the other Parish Nurses in our area.

Please join me and the Health Cabinet for a Lunch and Learn on November 27th which will be in conjunction with a Soup & Sandwich Sunday put on by the Outreach Committee. There will be information on the role of the Parish Nurse as well as an opportunity to learn more about the educational process.

Sincerely, Janice Ross



FRAME DRUMMING AT MARK STREET

Our first introduction to Frame Drumming was at a workshop held at the church April 1 and 2, 2011. Betty Lynn Schwab came from Toronto to teach us some of the basics of frame drumming; everything from how to hold the drum to some basic rhythms. This was something totally different from anything any of us had done previously, and an exciting learning experience for all. On Sunday April 3, we drummed in church for the first time. We also drummed at Knox United Church in June.

Over the summer, we had two pot luck suppers, and being true Mark Street people, we ate first and practiced second!

Betty Lynn came back for a second workshop August 26 and 27. We were taught more challenging rhythms for the Frame Drum, and were introduced to the Tar. We once again drummed in church August 28, using the Tar this time.

We soon realized we needed to have a regular practice session to keep up the skills we had learned in the workshops. We meet each Thursday night from 6:00 until 7:15 in the church parlour. Practice is an enjoyable time with everyone contributing ideas, (sometimes they are ideas of grandeur), and lots of laughter.

We went to Applewood on October 30, to drum for Gerry Langton, one of our original drummers. Gerry was able to play a little bit with us, which was very exciting for us. We put a lot of effort into learning the hymn we played for her, and look forward to the privilege of sharing this hard work with the congregation at a future date.

This is a very new and exciting Ministry for Mark Street United Church, and we welcome new members to join us on Thursday nights.

Sylvia McNabb and Judy McIlroy

OUTREACH



Breakfast Bundles: We continue to fill 60 bundles and one container of fresh veggies, a protein and fruit per classroom. Fifty-five cartons of milk are delivered every Tuesday. A very special “Thank You” to our volunteer teams.

Collective Kitchens: The class is meeting in the CEC on the third Thursday of the month. They are a group of young Moms. Some prepare meals while others give childcare in the nursery.

Community Gardens: The gardens are ready for winter. Rototilling will be complete next week. A very special “Thank You” to Carol Parnell for coordinating the gardens.

Kawartha Food Share: Thank you for your on-going support. We took 67 pounds of non-perishable products to the depot for Thanksgiving!

Friendship Hall: What a busy place. Who would have thought that centre island would create such activities from serving buffets and pie-making to the perfect place to learn! Coffee and tea will be served most Sundays.

Mitten Tree: The “Mitten Tree” is up and waiting for lots of mittens, toques and scarves. The items will be delivered in early December to the Armouries for the Salvation Army Hamper Program.

Soup ‘N’ Sandwich Sundays: Mark your calendar for lunch on November 27th. Unfortunately, we did not qualify for the offer to serve soup and sandwiches at the Hand of Man. We were looking forward to meeting the community and for the community to meet us.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Amy, Cathy, Goldie, Janice, Louise, Norma, Peggy and Sharon.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

Sunday, November 27, 2011

Christmas Tree Sales Begin

Please plan on supporting this important fundraiser for our church.

Come out early for the best selection.

Thanks to Ian Cruikshank, Ken Vass, Larry Keller and Greg Simpkins for helping to coordinate our sales.



MARK STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

The Mission of the United Church Women of Canada is — to love God, to foster Christian faithfulness, spirituality, commitment and devotion and to promote love and respect by living generously and giving joyfully to all God's people and to affirm and strengthen ourselves creatively.

As United Church Women we believe

that as Christian women of faith, we nurture spiritually by reaching out with commitment and devotion to God's people;

in promoting truth, justice, peace, caring and sharing with respect for all in the community and wider world;

In loving God and others by living generously and giving joyfully; and

In affirming and strengthening ourselves creatively in study and witness through music, laughter and solitude.

The two United Church Women Units at Mark Street strive to live by the Mission and Vision of the United Church Women. Meetings generally consist of worship, program, business, refreshments and a social time. Unit One meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:15p.m. in the church parlour. Unit Two also meets in the parlour on the third Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Both units welcome new members and occasional visitors.



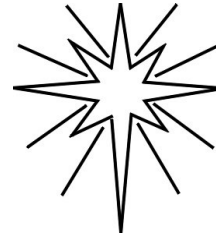
Throughout the year, UCW members have three major fundraising projects. Huge Rummage Sales are held in the spring and fall. The Tea & Bazaar is held every November. Members are also called upon to cater to funerals and other events within the church.

Beyond our Mark Street commitments, we are also committed to the UCW at Presbytery. Mark Street member Emily Pettypiece currently serves as Secretary. Helen McIntyre has also recently served on the executive. We salute both these ladies for their ongoing dedication.

**Yuletide Tea & Bazaar – November 19, 2011 – 11:30
am to 2:30 pm**

This annual event at Mark Street is an event that can't be missed!

Here's where you can find some beautiful and unique Christmas gifts, crafts, scrumptious baked goods, candies, preserves and more. More - being the famous Mark Street Meat Pies. Folks return year after year to scoop up their meat pies.



Top that off with a fabulous luncheon that includes some fancy sandwiches and delectable homemade desserts – and of course all the tea or coffee you can drink.

Members and friends of the UCW have been busy preparing for this event for the past few months in anticipation of selling all their handmade talents.

Cost of the event is \$5.00 per person.

*Carolyn Holmes
Secretary
Mark Street UCW*

Fifth annual

Artisan

Show and Sale

Mark Street United Church

90 Hunter St. East, Peterborough, ON

Saturday, November 26

10am-5pm

Sunday, November 27

11:30am-4pm

“Think globally, act locally”

15% of sales support education and community development projects in Jamaica.

For more information,
call 743-1671 or visit our website
www.jshcanada.org

MARK STREET GIRLS AND BOYS SOFTBALL

Registration for the 2011 softball season was held on March 28th at Mark Street United Church in preparation for the playing season which started with the beginning of May and ended the last week of June.

Dick Simpkins was the Chairperson for the Boys Division and Carol Gibson was the Chairperson for the Girls Division. Based on registration, Mark Street was able to enter eight teams into this year's league. There were four girl's teams, two boy's teams and two teams of mixed (boys and girls). At the completion of the season Mark Street had four championship teams.

Team	Coaches	Place
Novice & Tyke	Dick Simpkins Eddy Payne	3rd
Juvenile & Tyke	Connie Davis Eric McLenghan	Champion
Junior Girls	Peggy Lunn Al Kimball	1st in Regular Season
Intermediate Girls	Ali Webb Nicole Truman	Champion
Senior Girls	Jack Hobart Donna Philip	Finalist
Overage Girls	Sherrie Nelson	Finalist

Team	Coaches	Place
Pee Wee Boys	Jim Boothby Paul Romig Mike O'Neil	Champion
Bantam Boys	Brian McNeely Jim McKee Paul Armstrong	Champion

Many thanks must be given to the coaches for their time and efforts in guiding their teams this past season.

The ball season ended with our banquet held in the Christian Education Centre at Mark Street Church. One hundred and sixty people attended this year's banquet and many thanks go to those involved in this endeavour:

To John Armstrong of Sobey's who assisted and organized the delivery of supplies and food for the banquet.

To Bob Root for his kind words at the banquet.

To those gentlemen who set up and dismantled the tables and chairs.

To Verla Clark who helped to set the tables.

To Diane and Brian Woodruff and Louise Ferren for heading up the kitchen staff who helped to serve and clean up.

Thanks to Goldie Lock, Peggy Lockwood, Kathy Lockwood, Rick Kraetzer, Ada Cormack, Larry Cormack, Brad Eno, Sharon Simpkins, Doug Holly and Kylie Gibson.

Thanks also goes to Reva Johnston who was responsible for convening the Juvenile Girls Division this year.

Thanks to Jim Dorsett for helping for so many years with the boys' team.

Thanks to Dick Simpkins for Co-Chairing, in particular, the Boys' Division and for all the assistance throughout the ball season.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the parents and guardians of the ball players. They volunteered their time in coaching, assisting, driving children to games and practices, and just as importantly, cheered and supported the Mark Street Teams.

It is hoped that the upcoming ball season will be just as rewarding as this past year and, as always, volunteers are needed to make for a successful season. Anyone interested in becoming involved as a volunteer should please contact either:

Dick Simpkins 705-295-9487 or
Carol Gibson 705-745-6672

Respectfully submitted by
Carol Gibson

THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Thank you to those who so generously donated money so that we could purchase a new Christmas tree for the Sanctuary. Rick Kraetzer, who puts up our tree, is particularly appreciative as he was having trouble holding the old one together.

We would also like to thank all of those people who donated their hard-earned Canadian Tire Money so that we could purchase new decorations. At the time of printing of the NewsMark we had \$123.60 cents.

Coralee Vass & Susan Weaver

Members of the *NewsMark* Committee are:

Cliff Weaver
Susan Weaver

Newsletter Deadline
February 4, 2012

Please put your submissions in the mail slot
marked "Newsletter"
or e-mail them to
cliffsue.weaver@hotmail.com

We invite you to make submissions
to YOUR newsletter.

Mark Street United Church

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