

# The E-Pulse'

## Newsletter of St. Mark, Ocean Park

### July 16, 2023

The Heart of God Pulsing Life into the Heart of our Community

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#### **A Fond Farewell as Jos and I Say Thank You**

You welcomed us with open arms a year ago. Now, as we leave St. Mark's, and as you prepare to welcome a new rector, Jos and I would like to let everyone know just how privileged we have been to be a part of the community of St. Mark's. We have found so many people who are faithful to the Lord; people who truly seek to be disciples and follow him both in a life of prayer and in service. Many people have asked me why it is I am leaving so soon, or perhaps even so unexpectedly. Originally, it was thought my tenure at St. Mark's would conclude at the end of 2022. This time frame was extended to a time likely to finish at the end of April, 2023. It soon became clear that the interim period would be a little longer, likely to the end of this August. Although I initially agreed to the further extension, I decided that if a new rector would be named in the early summer I would leave at that time. Our grandchildren, who we had not seen in five years, were coming to see us and we wanted to spend that time with them. When it was clear a new rector would be announced, it seemed appropriate for me to step aside for the parish to better prepare to receive their new rector. Having served in parishes that have struggled financially, I have also always been a very practical person regarding parish finances. Although St. Mark's does not have financial difficulties, it did not escape me that a departure at this time would be helpful to the parish which has been so generous to me.

There is a great beauty in the worshipping life of St. Mark's. The congregation sings so many songs of praise to the Lord with a wonderful voice. It listens for the Word and the message contained for nourishment. It seeks to be nourished by the sacrament of bread and wine. It seeks to be a people who serve in the world and organizes how that service can be delivered where it is needed. Individuals live out their faith where they live and work. There is keen interest in how the Gospel is presented to others and there is a great deal of prayerful introspection seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in how the parish moves forward and takes each step. The parish does not work by a formula that needs to be maintained but seeks the Holy Spirit to direct and empower.

As you prepare to receive your new rector, the Rev. David Taylor, I wish you well as you receive a richly gifted person, who has deep insight, is prayerful, caring, and compassionate. David has a deep understanding of Liturgy, is gifted musically, seeks to draw people into a deeper relationship with the Lord through spiritual development as he invites people into a life of

personal prayer and developing the prayer life of the community. He is a person who leads a parish into deeper service of the community.

The Canonical Search Committee had a huge task and I believe the conclusion of its work alongside Bishop John and Archdeacon Philippa, has been Spirit led. This is a new chapter in the life of St. Mark's, and I pray the Lord may richly bless you all.

So, with the rich grace, the deep peace, and the myriads of blessings that come from the Holy One, I pray for your wellbeing as you keep your eyes on the Lord and follow in His steps while you continue your journey in faith together.

With our love,  
Stephen and Jos Laskey

## **Parish Life Announcements**



### **Readings for Sunday, July 23 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 28:1-12, 23-24, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24, Romans 8:12-25,  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



**A Lunch Basket for Hungry Children** is given today by Irene Snow to the Glory of God and in memory of my beloved Bill with gratitude for all the wonderful years we shared.

### **Offering Envelopes**

For those parishioners who prefer to give to St. Mark's using pew envelopes, please note that we will be ordering the 2024 envelopes by the end of July. They are available for either weekly or monthly donations. If you would like a set of envelopes, or if you wish to discontinue using envelopes, please contact the Donations Secretary, Brenda Horner via email ([bhenze@shaw.ca](mailto:bhenze@shaw.ca)) or notify Sheila in the office ([office@stmarkbc.org](mailto:office@stmarkbc.org) OR 604-535-8841).

If you are unsure about ways to donate, please consider Pre-Authorized Donations (PAD), as this is St. Mark's preferred method of giving. Many thanks to all for your generosity.

**Savvy Seniors Update** – We meet Wed. July 19 from 1pm to 3:30pm in the Church Hall for games, scintillating conversation and refreshments. All Seniors are welcome. August dates are: the 2nd, the 16th, and the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Looking Ahead – for Your Calendar

**Wednesday, July 19** - 10am Mid-Week celebration of Holy Communion

7:30pm – Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

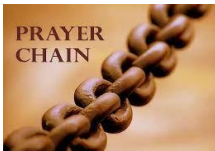
**Friday, June 21** –4pm – Jr. Youth meet in the Hall

- 7pm - Sr. Youth meet in the Hall

**Wednesday, July 19** - 1pm Savvy Seniors meet in the Hall

**Would you like to donate to ‘The Lunch Basket for Hungry Children?’** This provides for lunches to 9 single mothers and 16 children. Please help support these families by choosing a 2023 date on the notice board in the church hall to support these families and have a dedication in the weekly Pulse. The suggested donation of \$70 can be made by e-transfer, at the Donation Station, or by dropping off a cheque in the mailbox at the church office. email or phone Darlene W. or Barb G. with your dedication.

**Prayer Chain** The Coordinator for the prayer chain is Lynne Hurd at [lynneh1@telus.net](mailto:lynneh1@telus.net) or you may phone at 604.542.2772.



**AND... Sunday Intercessions** – Do you have a request to be included in the Sunday Intercessions? If so, please contact the Office at 604.535.8841 OR Michael Klaver at Tel:778.386.1973 or Email:[klaverfamily@shaw.ca](mailto:klaverfamily@shaw.ca)

**St Mark’s Family, Youth and Children’s Time Video Ministry** - To access our new weekly



online Family, Youth and Children's Time Video go to our Church’s website: <http://stmarkbc.org> On the homepage, you may click on the video picture below, or click on the box "St Mark's Children, Youth and Families Service". To watch previous videos go to

<https://tinyurl.com/St-Mark-Online-Video-Channel>

## We Live Stream our Sunday Worship



To access our 10 am Sunday online service broadcast go to our Church’s website: <http://stmarkbc.org> On the homepage, you may click on the service picture below: or click on the box “St Mark Online Worship Services”. To watch previous services go to <https://tinyurl.com/St-Mark-Online-Video-Channel>

## **The Prayer Corner – July 16, 2023**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. **Psalm 119:105**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. **Romans 8:1**

Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. **Matthew 8:8**

### **We pray –**

Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – we thank you for your many gifts to us. You are love and in the overflow of love that is you, you bless us with love and compassion, grace and mercy. You invite us into your community and make us fruitful. You reveal yourself to us through creation, through your written word of Scripture and your living word of Christ. You made us in your image and adopted us as your sons and daughters. You have promised to be with us as we journey through this life and to welcome us into eternal life in your perfect kingdom to come.

May faith and gratitude for these (and the many other blessings you bestow on your people) be sewn in our hearts as good seed that will bear fruit pleasing to you.

### **We pray –**

Thank you for answering our prayers for a new rector.

Bless Bishop John and the members of our Search Committee: Barbara, Isabel, Massimo, Ken, Jonathan, Lauren, Max, Barb and Betty-Ann for their faithfulness to the task you entrusted to them. We are grateful for their gifts of time and faith, and unity in their decision.

We trust that you have been at work through all the ups and downs of the process. Guide us into the new season you have for us with joyful faith in your plans and purposes.

Bless the Rev. David Taylor and his family as they prepare to make the transition to us from St. Dunstan, Aldergrove. Bless the people of St. Dunstan in this new season they will be entering.

Bless the Rev. Harold Munn and the Rev. Maggie-Rose Muldoon for their willingness to lead worship at St. Mark through the summer.

