



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# ReMarks!

*Our church on the corner of Green and King*

April and May 2011

825 King St. W, Kitchener, ON  
N2G 1E3 (519) 743-6309  
email: [stmarksluth@on.aibn.com](mailto:stmarksluth@on.aibn.com)  
web: [www.stmarkskw.org](http://www.stmarkskw.org)

Pastor: Rev. Nancy Kelly  
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Vernon Cronmiller  
Part-Time Visitation Pastor: Rev. Scott Schellenberger  
Community Ministry Coordinator: Rev. Marilyn Shaw

Congregational Co-Chairs: Brian Reiner, Jim Oakley  
Music Director: Lilla Hall  
Parish Secretary: Nancy MacLean

## intersection (n.) junction, crossroads, meeting point

by Pastor Nancy

Each year, for Christians all over the world, Holy Week is the intersection of:

- death and life
- despair and hope
- bondage and freedom
- disgrace and honour
- doubt and faith
- darkness and light
- what we can see and what we can't

This year Holy Week begins on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 17, and leads up to Easter Sunday, April 24, when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. During Holy Week each service draws us deeper into the life-changing story of Jesus' journey from death into new life.

**Come observe Holy Week 2011  
at St. Mark's.**



### Holy Week @ St. Mark's Church

#### **Palm Sunday April 17**

8:30 & 10:15 AM  
Procession with Palms  
Holy Communion

In the evening...  
6:30 – 8 PM  
Tough Questions...Resurrection?  
Come on!



#### **Maundy Thursday April 21**

12:00 Noon Lunch  
1:00 PM Holy Communion  
Friendship Circle for Seniors

7 PM  
The Story of Jesus' Last Supper  
Holy Communion

#### **Good Friday April 22**

10:15 AM  
The Story of Jesus' Death:  
Facing the Shadows

#### **Easter Vigil Saturday April 23**

7 PM

#### **Easter Sunday April 24**

Celebration of Jesus' Resurrection

7 AM Sunrise Service

8 AM Easter Breakfast

10:15 AM Festival  
Holy Communion



## The New Parlour

Jim Oakley, Chair of Property Committee

Have you seen all the work that's been done so far? The Property Committee has been very busy moving furniture out and back in (several times), painting, removing old carpet and underlay, installing a new suspended ceiling, setting up a fireplace....for atmosphere and warmth. The furniture will be reupholstered and some new pieces added; new window coverings coming, too. Also planned is new artwork as well as other decor to give this much used room a facelift and make it inviting and relaxing for all who spend time there. If you have ideas and/or suggestions, please talk to Helen Weber, Shirley Oakley or the Property Chair - Jim Oakley.

This project was recommended by the 95th Anniversary Committee and was scheduled to be completed for



Working on the facelift! Ron Williams, Fred Frank and Debra Azadi

St. Mark's 100th Anniversary in 2013. We are well on our way and invite you to stop by and admire this "new" room.

### Community Ministry

Rev. Marilyn Shaw, Community Ministry Co-ordinator

Archbishop Oscar Romero once wrote some rather wise words. He said, "No statement says all that could be said; no prayer fully expresses our faith; no confession brings perfection; no pastoral visit brings wholeness; no program accomplishes the church's mission and no set of goals and objectives includes everything."

He goes on to talk about how we plant seeds that will one day grow, that we may be the ones who water and nurture seeds planted by someone else, we might be the ones who lay foundations that will need further work and we may offer the yeast that will produce effects far beyond what we are able to produce ourselves.

And that is okay. When we come to understand we can't do it all, it offers us a sense of freedom that will allow us to move forward and do something. We each have something to offer and that something we can learn to do very well and offer it out into our community.

Reflecting on these words, I am reminded how often I see someone once or twice and then not again. It is usually at a time of great crisis in their life. I find myself on many occasions thinking back on the visit someone has had with me and wondering how they are doing. I wonder if what I was able to offer was

helpful. I wonder if they have found a way to move forward or if they are still in the depths of their struggle.

These words help me to think that maybe a seed has been planted and it has been nurtured and watered somewhere else. I know that has happened. I can think of times folks have come

and the seed has been planted elsewhere and they have come to Community Ministry and been watered and nurtured. And yes I also know of times when seeds have been planted and like the Gospel story the seed have fallen on rocky ground and the struggle continues.

Somehow though knowing seeds are nurtured in many different ways and places, it is as Romero says, a sense of freedom. It offers the encouragement to keep planting and offering hope to those who come seeking. I would still love to know the outcome for the people I encounter, their lives have touched mine and I will continue to carry them with me as we continue to offer care to God's people in this corner of God's world. And sometimes the seeds get blown into many unknown corners and that is God's grace.



## Welcoming Newcomers to St. Mark's!

*Witness Committee*

Walking through the doors of a church can be intimidating, and a friendly greeting can make the difference between a visitor feeling at home or wishing they'd just slept in.



I've been told by a few people that St. Mark's is a welcoming congregation. That's good to hear, but how do we know that first-time visitors to St. Mark's always feel welcome? We often notice when someone new is in our midst, but do we always extend a warm welcome?

Here are some tips to help us be more confident in welcoming newcomers and visitors to St. Mark's.

### 1. Begin prayerfully

Take a quiet moment to pray that you will be able to see the face of Christ in everyone you meet and that everyone you meet will see the face of Christ in you.

### 2. Take responsibility

A truly welcoming congregation is one where everyone makes an effort to be friendly / inviting / supportive towards newcomers. So take the initiative. If it's left only to greeters, ushers, our Pastor, etc. then it seems more like a job that someone has been assigned rather than a true welcoming spirit that pervades the whole congregation. A genuine welcoming atmosphere is very appealing for any visitor.

### 3. Introduce yourself

A warm hello and friendly smile goes a long way. A good introduction is simply "Hi, I don't think we've met before. My name is ...." If they introduce themselves, try to remember their name.

During the service, passing the peace is a great opportunity to go out of your way to connect with someone who may be new to St. Mark's, even if it's a simple "Good morning, peace be with you."

It's best NOT to ask "Are you new here?" or "Is this your first time here?" If the person is a regular, it can be embarrassing to both parties. Conversely, if they are new they may feel like they're being singled out.

### 4. Be inquisitive, but not an inquisitor

Genuine curiosity can be a sign of hospitality. Everybody has a rich and complicated history. Ask questions to help you

understand who people really are, not simply to slot them into a category.

Visitors may be churched or un-churched, non-Lutheran, unfamiliar with liturgy or Christianity, nervous or intimidated to even be in a church, and the list goes on. So it's important not to make assumptions or generalizations when greeting newcomers.

### 5. Be helpful and offer assistance

Newcomers may be unfamiliar with our liturgy or the worship format in general, so it can be challenging for them to follow along. Offer a helping hand if you see someone struggling to follow the worship guide or find something in the hymnal. Offer a bulletin to anyone who doesn't have one.

Newcomers also may not know about things like the Sunday School program, where the nursery or washrooms are located, and other things that regulars take for granted. A little bit of information and guidance can help them feel more comfortable.

### 6. Invite visitors to stay for coffee / fellowship

Encourage visitors to join you for coffee or tea after the service, and commit yourself to spending some time in conversation if that person seems open to it. (Don't leave them all alone talking to the furniture!)

### 7. Watch for the signals

Some visitors want to be inconspicuous, while others are simply shy and want to be drawn out. Pay attention to non-verbal cues, and if someone wants to keep a low profile make sure they know you are happy to see them and then let them find their own space.

While we certainly don't want to ignore a visitor, sometimes too much attention can be a turn-off too.

### 8. Value a good first impression

First impressions are important! We've all had bad first impressions at one time or another which ultimately tainted our view of that particular thing forever. Whether that first impression was representative or not didn't matter... it had a lasting impact. So it goes with churches too. If a person has a negative first impression, it's unlikely they will return again. The first impression sets the tone.

All of these actions can go a long way in creating a comfortable atmosphere at St. Mark's where newcomers, churched or un-churched, feel genuinely welcomed and hopefully wanting to return again.

*Excerpts taken from article originally published in The Unofficial United Church Handbook.*

## STRIDE – Local benevolence Project 2011

Service Committee – Wilma Marie Bindernagel

STRIDE offers support for women to make a successful transition from prison to the community. STRIDE CIRCLES are one facet of the total program. They are a long lasting network of positive relationships supporting integration.

The average STRIDE CIRCLE lasts about 3-4 years and requires an additional year of volunteer preparation.

Three volunteers/Circle support one woman. Since 1999 over 40 Circles have been established, 282 volunteers have worked 39000 hours for STRIDE at \$16.5 per hour = \$643,000 in volunteer time. The Circle program has been closed intermittently over the years due to inadequate funding. When this has happened it takes years to rebuild the momentum needed to re-establish this intensive support service.

Volunteers and Women require considerable preparation and support by staff in order to support constructive healthy relationships needed for Circles to be effective. In addition, STRIDE staff are in constant contact with prison staff and management.

**Want to know more? ADULT FORUM, May 15 – Julie Thompson, Director of Programs, Community Justice Initiatives**



**“My life is not where it was; I have a chance now”**  
**STRIDE CIRCLES client**

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## *The Women's Auxiliary Of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary*

By Bette Cromiller

The Women's Auxiliary of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary was organized in 1913 to stimulate interest in the programs and needs of Waterloo Seminary, especially in the education of men and women committed to Christian ministry.

The Women's Auxiliary of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS) has always been a part of the activities of many Lutheran women including many at St. Mark's.

Over many years, handmade quilts have been treasured gifts to every graduating Seminary student. These quilts are created by auxiliary members from various Eastern Synod congregations. St. Mark's quilters participated when we had a quilting group.

Special events are planned to raise funds which have been affected due to our declining membership. All monies raised are used in many ways to aid Seminary students. May is our annual drive for the Women's Auxiliary's annual memberships - \$5.00 each! As well, WLS offering envelopes are always available. We have them at St. Mark's (see sample shown).

Recent auxiliary projects



include kitchen and lounge renovations and landscaping shrubs and the flowers beds at the Seminary. Tuition support is made

available to students for summer work - Chaplains at hospitals or correctional facilities etc. required to complete their Specialized Pastoral Education courses. The highlight of the Auxiliary members is always the Annual Meeting held every September at St. John's, Waterloo. A full day's program includes talks by Seminary students who provide recollections of their faith journeys and devotions. Quilts made by Eastern Synod women are on display, a musical interlude, a catered lunch and always a special key-note speaker round out the day. This has been a well attended event every year - at least 135!

Anyone can make a donation of \$25.00 to the Golden Book of Honour or as a memorial tribute in the In Memorium book for \$50.00. Both books recognize men or women, who have contributed to the life of their church. A certificate of this honour is given to the honouree (or the appropriate person) affirming their contribution.

In the past, two Auxiliary Presidents have been members of St. Mark's - Helen Chapman and Evelyn Vogt. Numerous members have served on the Executive Board and today include Helen Weber and Bette Cromiller.

This year, 2011, is the 100th Anniversary of WLS and also a time to celebrate the years of service of the much cherished Women's Auxiliary.

## Update: COUNTDOWN TO 100, 2013

St. Mark's 100th Anniversary Committee

Let's get ready to celebrate! We are busy and welcome any ideas/suggestions.

In fact, a recent suggestion is in process. We have applied to participate in the Region of Waterloo Open Doors, 2013. Annually, the third Saturday in September is designated throughout Ontario to "celebrate a community's architectural and historical past and facilitate understanding and enjoyment of local architecture and built heritage". Any year, a limited number of sites are selected. Museums, churches and heritage homes are the most popular. We are very optimistic since Open Doors indicated that they are very pleased we have applied to share St. Mark's history and heritage during our 100th Anniversary year.

COUNTDOWN TO 100 FUND envelopes are available at both entrances to the sanctuary and in the church office. It takes time and prudent financial planning to ensure any celebration will have cherished memories for all. Contributions can be made anytime and/or for special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries etc. The Totzke family designated donations to St. Mark's in memoriam to Lloyd.

**The budgeted goal is \$7,000 (to cover costs). As of March 6th fund = \$2783**

Other planning includes: a congregational lunch (catered - who wants to be stuck in the kitchen?), a music event, opening our time capsule, guest preacher(s) 12-month photo calendar, congregational photo directory and a new anniversary banner.

A few other exciting events/projects will be revealed as we continue to plan and **COUNTDOWN TO 100**.

As of April 1st...96 weeks...673 days...16,152 hours!

*We ask for God's comfort and peace for the family and friends of beloved members of the congregation:*

January 26, 2011 – Lloyd Totzke



## Lutherans on the Silver Screen



### Coming Attractions

Jana Kelly  
and Lyle Pearson

#### April 4 **Sophie Scholl: The Final Days** (2005)

directed by Marc Rothemund and starring Julia Jentsch

A dramatization of the final days of Sophie Scholl, one of the most famous members of the German World War II anti-Nazi resistance movement, The White Rose.

#### May 9 **Sweet Land** (2005)

directed by Ali Selim and starring Elizabeth Reaser and Tim Guinee.

Inge arrives in Minnesota in 1920 to marry a young Norwegian farmer named Olaf but her German heritage and lack of official immigration papers makes her an object of suspicion in the small town, and she and Olaf are forbidden to marry.

#### June 6 **Babette's Feast** (1988)

directed by Gabriel Axel and an Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Language Film

Martina and Philippa are the daughters of a devout clergyman who preaches salvation through self-denial. Even many years after their father's death, they keep his austere teachings alive. But with the arrival of Babette, a mysterious refugee from France's civil war, life for the sisters and their tiny hamlet begins to change.

**Movies are shown on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlour. Come and enjoy good films, yummy snacks and thoughtful discussions. Everyone is welcome!**

## Editing ReMarks

### *A Note from the Editors*



Thank you to the Members of St. Mark's who so willingly share items for ReMarks. As we endeavour to provide valuable, useful information to our readers, we wrestle with ongoing issues:

- Environmental issues in which we try to control the amount of paper used in printing
- Financial issues in which we try to control our costs in printing and in distribution
- Balance issues in which we try to balance our information to be shared with your time to read it
- Time issues in which we try to optimize the time required for production and distribution

Articles submitted are edited with these issues as a guide, always focusing on the information being presented. Pictures and graphics are used where possible to replace a myriad of words. The ReMarks Committee suggests 800 words as a maximum for submissions.

**We encourage members to receive their copy of ReMarks electronically via e-mail.**

You can request this service at [stmarksluth@on.aibn.com](mailto:stmarksluth@on.aibn.com). An added benefit of receiving your newsletter via e-mail is that it is in full colour!

### 2011 Newsletter Schedule

<i>Deadline Date</i>	<i>Covers Period</i>	<i>Published Date</i>
May 8th	June, July, August	May 29th
August 7th	Sept., Oct.	August 28th
October 9th	Nov., Dec., Jan.	October 30th



*Congregation attending the Annual Meeting*

## HELP WANTED: ARCHIVES

*By Diane Bonfonte*

St. Mark's archives are not in the best shape, not much different than most churches. Trying to locate facts can be like a puzzle with many, many missing pieces. Sharing and recording one another's stories is one method to recall our history. Photos, old bulletins, Synod newspapers, newsletters, learning materials, and organizational materials from women's and men's groups are a few examples of historical resources. If you are spring cleaning or downsizing or going through family mementos, please consider donating (or loaning) any found St. Mark's materials. If you'd rather not part with photo(s) or document(s) these can be scanned onto a disc. Digitizing our history has so many benefits. As we COUNTDOWN TO 100, St. Mark's archives needs help from members and former members (you could contact?). Records after the early 1980's are the least inclusive when attempting to locate factual details of persons or activities/events. Our earliest history is more complete. It is not easy or always possible to locate information from one resource or more especially to verify facts. Reviewing annual reports or committee minutes one by one is not usually a pleasant or fruitful experience. Please contact me (578-1369) if you have anything to share or donate to St. Mark's archives.

P.S. Help would help too!



*These photos have been retrieved from St. Mark's archives. No information was found to credit the photographer(s).*

## *The Year That Was (and Still Is)*

By Harold Remus


The “academic church year” – September to Easter – has been an exciting one in adult learning at St. Mark’s. There was good, even impressive, attendance at Adult Education Hour. Extra chairs were brought in on occasion.

**The first Movie Night saw 25 people watching, then commenting and questioning afterward.**

Tracking the renovations of the Church Parlour, week by week, was in itself a learning experience.

What presentations we had this winter: Living as a Muslim in Kitchener-Waterloo; Christianity as a minority religion in Canada and what that means for St. Mark’s; a Mennonite scholar on what Mennonites can learn from Lutherans; a spirited dialogue on what Lutherans did to Mennonites at the time of the Reformation (and the echoes today); Gandhi and the New Testament; Dr. Cindy Jacobsen’s story of her varied and unusual ministry; Dr. Rota Lister’s tales of growing up in Nazi Germany. And the “year” is not over yet.

### **SUNDAYS, 9:00-10:00 A.M. ADULT EDUCATION HOUR:**

 **April 3: When Independence Becomes Difficult for Independent Adults:** Concerns, Cares, Care-giving, Decisions Myra VanKatwyk, Diane Borch, and your stories and wisdom. . . .

 **April 10: Writing From the Heart** Robin Pearson

 **April 17: They Call This Friday Good: The Passion Stories in Light of Easter** Dr. Harold Remus

 **May 1: I Became (and Am Becoming) A Christian** (in KW, Jamaica, Moose Factory) Janaki Bandara

 **May 8: CarShare:** Twelve Vehicles Available, Instead of Owning. Cheaper, Environmentally Friendly.

 **May 15: Stride, our 2011 benevolence project, assists women at Grand Valley Institution for Women to make the transition from prison into the community.** Julie Thompson, Community Justice Initiative

### **DURING THE WEEK:**

**Mondays, 9:30 a.m., Church Parlour: Daily Discipleship.** Reading and reflecting on the gospel for the following Sunday with its implications for response – discipleship – today.

**Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., Church Parlour: The Prayer Shawl group.** Knitting, Crocheting, Talking, Praying. Put your hands to work or simply join the talk and prayer.

St. Mark's 98<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Lent – Holy Week – Easter



**LIFT HIGH THE CROSS:  
IN  
ART & ARCHITECTURE  
AT ST. MARK'S**

*The present showcase display has been extended through May!*

*In every photo, you can see various crosses depicted in St. Mark's art and architecture. Also read about the meanings of our liturgical colours.*

*View the display as you journey through Lent to Easter.*

## **Care for Caregivers**

by Holly Mathers

When a person is dealing with an illness, the people around that person are impacted as well. Caregivers face a variety of challenges as they care for the needs of the person with the illness including the emotional, physical, spiritual, social and practical implications of the situation for them.

It is easy for caregivers to become isolated, especially if they are lacking support and time off from care giving. The focus can stay mostly on the person who has the illness, so much so that the needs of the caregiver are not always evident to others around them.

Illness can feel like a hijacker, taking over the lives of everyone involved. When we feel this kind of huge loss of control, it can be overwhelming. We have many reactions to this experience including grief, fear, numbness, denial, and a range of other feelings.

New challenges become part of daily life and many adjustments need to be made to deal with them.

The caregiver support group offered at St. Mark's provides an opportunity to find hope in the midst of these challenges. It is a place for caregivers to receive some of the care and support they need. If you or someone you know is a caregiver, you do not have to cope alone. Consider registering for the caregiver support group this spring or fall, or contacting Hope for Families Counselling Centre for support.

Holly Mathers

Counsellor at  
Hope for Families  
Counselling Centre



Located in St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
holly@hopeforfamilies.net 519-513-9216

## Meet Bishop Mike (Or Michael) Pryse

by Diane Bonfonte

*By way of sourcing 2010 statistics from the ELCIC, our Eastern Synod has 201 congregations with 60,772 baptized and 45,307 confirmed members. These numbers are submitted annually by each congregation. Accuracy is dependant upon these submissions.*

The Pryse family; Mike, Lois, Jessica, Katy, Heather and Emily became members of St. Mark's on November 17, 1996. Since then much has changed. Most notably, on September 27, 1988, Pastor Pryse became Bishop Pryse - better known as Bishop Mike (born on Reformation Day - October 31, 1959).

John Penry Pryse (of Welsh descent) emigrated (from Plymouth, England) to Canada circa 1930. After serving as a Chaplain in WWII, he became a Baptist minister and accepted a call to Oshweken, Ontario on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford until the 1960's. His Mohawk name was "Big Heart". A treasured photo in Bishop Mike's office shows his grandfather being named a honorary Chief.

John's son Albert married Lorraine Berger (from Preston, Ontario) at St. Peter's Lutheran, Kitchener circa 1950. He served with the RCAF during WWII and later worked as an appliance serviceman at Heitzmans (located on King Street, Kitchener - Dunker Building). Lorraine, as a teenager, worked in woolen mills in Cambridge and later for Dominion (grocery store) on Scott Street. In 1962, they adopted Michael at the age of two. A year later, younger sister Christine was adopted. Mike attended Wilson Avenue Public School that fostered a zest for hockey, soccer and lacrosse. He graduated as a "Rebel" of Eastwood Collegiate and recalled playing football as an offensive tackle "with not much of the glory".

Summers were spent working at Camp Edgewood. This meant helping in every aspect of camp life including dish washing and cooking (which he enjoyed). In his teens, he became a counselor and a program director. In the early 1970's, Mike lived at Edgewood in the winter becoming its director. Eventually Edgewood's first full-time director was hired, Judy Brown.

Between high school and WLU, he was approached by Don McLeod to work in group homes where he met Lois; a child care worker. About the same time in his undergraduate year, Mike began considering seminary. He felt "drawn"; influenced by people he admired and life experiences. He graduated from WLU with degrees in history and english.

In 1981 Mike began seminary and in the same year, he and Lois were married. While life for them both was full with a mix of school, work and helping at the group homes, they grew as a family in 1982 and 1984 with the births of two girls. Mike was ordained on June 7, 1985 with a call to serve Mildmay-Neustadt Lutheran Parish (1985-88). Lois grew up on a dairy



*Bishop Mike Pryse*

farm in Floradale so rural life was somewhat familiar. I noticed Bishop Mike just beamed while he shared a few ways he got to know parishioners by - helping in the spring to pick stones in fields, making maple syrup, cider and beer and even butchering. He summarized the family's life there as: "loved it".

In the neighbouring parish was a pastor who graduated a year ahead of him - Pastor Fred Ludolph. Imagine what it was like when they got together! Jointly, they began much - youth programs, a confirmation camp and a memorable talent show. Ask Bishop Mike to sing a chorus of "Drop kick me Jesus through the goal posts of life!"

Needless to say Debbie Lou and Lois garnered a strong friendship. Debbie Lou's father (a family physician) delivered their third daughter in 1986. Bishop Mike is Rebecca Ludolph's godfather. The great memories each family shares are, no doubt in retrospect, a time in their lives they would not change for anything yet change was coming.

In 1988, Holy Cross Lutheran Church extended a call so they re-located to Burlington and a fourth daughter was born. Rev. Dr. W. Huras was Bishop of the ELCIC and hired Pastor Pryse as his assistant. In 1990 the family re-located to K-W.

## Meet Bishop Mike (Or Michael) Pryse *continued*

Bishop Mike recalls at the time he felt “terrified” yet privileged at being given such an opportunity. It seemed only natural that the Pryse family become members at St. Mark’s with his good friend Pastor Fred leading our congregation.

Bishop Huras retired in 1998. Again, a door opened for a move only this time the move was to serve as the elected Bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Bishop Pryse was installed on September 27, 1998 at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Kitchener becoming, at age 39, the youngest Bishop in North America! He is pleased to have also served as a member of the ELCIC National Church Council (1991-1998), as a member of the Board of Directors of CLWR (1993-1998) and as co-chair of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission from 2001 until the present.

I was going to ask Bishop Mike to describe what a “regular” day’s schedule would be but I began to realize this concept doesn’t exist. He indicated his schedule “is driven by others” and changing circumstances. That said, I got the impression he relishes in his leadership position. His commitment and passion as Bishop became evident as we discussed his roles with CLWR to build global justice and international development, his ecumenical work for greater Christian unity, meeting Pope John Paul II in 2000, his love of preaching, Sunday morning worship and his travels especially to the Holy Land. A special memory was of worshipping on Christ the King Sunday at Redeemer Lutheran Church in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem. Without hesitation he began to quote Psalm 122:1, 2 - I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Our feet are standing within your gates O Jerusalem. He commented, “visiting the Holy Land is a powerful witness to all faiths. Christianity is alive and so real once you experience walking in this Holy and ancient land”.

This past January, he officiated at retired Pastor Donald Stewart’s memorial service. Bishop Mike said that he had been baptized, confirmed and married at St. Philip’s, Kitchener, by Pastor Stewart adding; “Pastor Don provided a rich and compassionate role model for ministry in all regards.”

I asked “what’s next?” He mused that through his life experiences a path “just happens” and he “likes to finish everything that I start”. My impression is that would be a lot. Displayed in his office are a few select photos. He explained the cross he wears daily is the former design of the ELCIC logo cross and another cross in one particular photo (taken with Bishop Susan) was passed onto him from Bishop Huras. This will also be true with Bishop Mike’s successor. Every Bishop wears this special cross on “official” visits and occasions. It has the shepherd’s crook and symbols of each of the four Evangelists. I thought both quite beautiful in design and symbolic meaning. Our conversation ended by Bishop Mike saying he has “a lot to be thankful for” and will continue “as God calls him to do.

To close, this Benediction -

**“The LORD bless you and keep you;**

**the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;**

**the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”**

– Numbers 6:24-26

*Do you know... former St. Mark’s pastor, Dr. A.G. Jacobi was President (today’s Bishop) of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Canada during its 100th anniversary and the speaker for its Centennial Rally on June 4, 1961 at The Aud, Kitchener. The year was also the “golden jubilee of our seminary” writes Dr. Jacobi. Today our own member, Bishop M.J. Pryse, heads the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC in its 150th anniversary year.*

## THE POOR, GOD’S PEOPLE

**Paz, Brian Rude, Pastor  
Missionary of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in Canada**



*January 2011 brought me words. Words to articulate reality. Words to help analyze, interpret, reflect on, comprehend that reality. Words with which to confront that reality. Words with which to overcome that reality. Distressing words. Words of challenge. Words of hope.*

*These words, in one sense, have taught me little new. But they have helped to consolidate my perceptions, and to express my experiences. No doubt they will lead to further words--others’ and my own. I feel compelled to share them with you.*

*To read Pastor Rude’s full account, go to St. Mark’s Web Site at [stmarksluth@on.aibn.com](mailto:stmarksluth@on.aibn.com)*



## “What’s up guys?”

Hey St. Mark’s fellas, please consider sharing your crafts or collectibles or hobbies!

The summer holiday season is a great time for our showcase to display (from the beginning of June to September) items that keep our male members busy all year ‘round. Please contact Shirley Oakley (884-0518) by the end of April if you are interested or if you want more details.



A Christian  
resource  
for meeting  
human  
need

**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee  
Ontario**

December 29, 2010

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
825 King St W  
Kitchener ON N2G 1E3

**MCC Ontario**  
50 Kent Avenue  
Kitchener, ON  
N2G 3R1

Tel. (519) 745-8458  
(800) 313-6226  
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[ontario.mcc.org](http://ontario.mcc.org)

Dear Friends,

This letter brings you Christmas greetings from the staff of the Material Resources Workroom at 50 Kent Avenue.

The workroom and warehouse has been a bustling hub of activity this year. From the great outpouring of relief donations provided for Haiti after the earthquake to the steady flow of knotted comforters being prepared at women's circles and church groups throughout South-Western Ontario, your donations have kept us all very busy sorting, packing and shipping this year.

Last week Bob and I were hosting a youth group at the Workroom. We were sharing stories that we'd heard of the impact the kits and blankets we send have made. We shared a story of children receiving a school kit, and because the supplies were so precious they took a ruler and pencil and made lines in between each blue line on the pages of the notebook, to make the paper last longer.

A supervisor who had come with the children asked if she could share her story. She shared that many years ago she had lived in a refugee camp and received a school kit, and that she had done exactly that. Every page was so precious that she double lined them, and even sent letters to her family in the United States that way. She finished her story with the sentence, "What I received in that kit was like pure gold".

What an encouragement to keep doing what we're doing! I am reminded of my colleague's favourite verse, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me" (Matt. 26:40).

Thank you for your recent donation to material resources. Know that your donation is literally life changing.

Blessings,

Wendy Cotter  
Material Resources Workroom Coordinator

## *Update from:* **Barry And Alice Lang**



*As Barry and Alice packed to depart for Papua New Guinea from Cairns, Australia, they forwarded this marvelous message!*

Alice and I have many happy and fond memories of our time spent at St. Mark's Kitchener and the wonderful people of that exciting congregation.

I started out as a student assistant in my first year of Seminary at Waterloo in 1955. It was the practice then, to assign all first year students to a congregation for one year, to assist the pastor with teaching confirmation, help with the youth ministry and take part in worship services and to preach once in awhile. My mentor was the wonderful Pastor Franklin Jensen. What a great example he was for me. Truly a man of God and a faithful shepherd. At the end of my assignment, the Church Council of St. Mark's, asked me to return for a second year.

Pastor Jensen performed our wedding in June 1957. The Council allowed, for the first time, the Parish Hall to be used for the reception. The adult and youth choir sang and LCW catered the wedding reception and buffet meal. We had only to provide a ham and a turkey from J.M. Schneider's. The cost for us was \$37.00. As a struggling student going into my last year of seminary this was a tremendous help and blessing. Pastor Jensen's two daughters were our flower bearers.

Our son Kirk was baptized at our beloved St. Mark's on September 4, 1958.

Upon graduation we were called by the Board of World Missions to serve overseas in 1959. Our first assignment was to British Guyana, South America. St. Mark's congregation became a supporting congregation and we represented them in Guyana, South America, Liberia, West Africa and Madang, Papua New Guinea over a period of our many years. After a year of study at the School of Mission in Chicago in September 1959 we were on our way overseas to begin our mission outreach.

Every third year, while on furlough, we would visit all of our supporting congregations and share the stories of our mission work. One summer, during our good friend Pastor Vernon Cronmiller's pastoral ministry, we took part in several weeks of Vacation Bible School. Vern and Betty were also deeply committed to missions to others.



In Guyana, South America, we became the first resident pastor for the Berbice River. We had 9 Churches and 8 Primary Schools to serve and administer. Travel was by speed boat, covering a distance of 168 miles. After 11 years we were called to Liberia, West Africa. We ministered a Parish that developed, after 16 years, into 32 congregations, 3 primary schools and a clinic and had a stewardship increase of over 500%. Bong Mine Parish became self-supporting. After the third revolution we had to leave Liberia. The Mission Board asked us to serve in Madang, Papua New Guinea. We started with 168 communion members and in 11 years our membership was over 1000. Stewardship increased 250%. Sunday School attendance was 200 and the youth ministry every Saturday evening was 195. Our ministry in Madang continued until 2000 when we were supposed to retire.

Bali, Indonesia was a short term placement. We were called to serve as interim missionaries back to Guyana, South America from 2002-2004. St. Matthew's, Hanover, my home congregation, called us for interim service for a year and a half.

Upon visiting our sons Kirk and Hans in Cairns, Queensland, Australia and to escape the harsh Canadian winters, the Australian Lutheran Church asked us to serve in the Aboriginal Lutheran Communities of Wujal Wujal, Coen and Hope Vale. Those assignments were exciting and fascinating.

After escaping the cold climate in the winter months we returned to our home area of Hanover. We were asked by the Synod to serve at Sullivan-Williamsford 2008 and recently this past summer & fall, 2009, the Brant-Elmwood Parishes.

On Feb. 17th., we depart for Madang, Papua New Guinea to continue our ministries and witness for Christ. We have been asked to teach and be councilors at the "Divine Word University" in Madang, PNG. It is a paperless university. All students are supplied a lap top. Alice will be teaching English while Barry teaches "Sexuality."

After 52 years of overseas mission witness we have learned to listen and observe. Some of our closest friends have been Roman Catholic priests and nuns. Each time we return to Canada we are challenged with the politics of our church and the direction in which it is going. Now that we return to serve and be witnesses at the University we are eager to resume to serve what we know best - serving our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and being partners with you to make mission happen. We eagerly look forward to this new adventure in our lives.

God bless you St. Mark's and faithful members as you begin your countdown to celebrate 100 years of ministry.

Please remember us in your prayers as we do you in ours.

***Love, Joy, Peace to all! In Christ, Barry & Alice Lang***