



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

ReMarks!

Our church on the corner of Green and King

November & December 2010 & January 2011

825 King St. W, Kitchener, ON N2G 1E3
(519) 743-6309
email: stmarksluth@on.aibn.com
web: 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 Chair: Stu Schellenberger
Music Director: Lilla Hall
Parish Secretary: Nancy MacLean

“Coming Clean” on Values!

by Pastor Nancy

Pastor Mark Ehlebracht, Pastor David Malina and I were drinking coffee one afternoon and talking about the three Churches “coming clean” about our congregational values as a way of building up our relationship with each other.

We pastors suspected that our individual values aren’t necessarily a “perfect fit” with the values of our congregations and that “coming clean” about our individual values might be a way of opening a conversation about congregational values. Conversation about congregational values might be a way of opening conversations about the values we share as three downtown churches.

I’ve done some thinking about this conversation with colleagues who are becoming friends, and as a result I came up with the following list of my own values.

Faith, confidence to risk, trusting that no matter what we face, Christ is with us.

Forgiveness, the freedom Christ gives us to choose mercy instead of blame.

Gratitude, the lens of thanksgiving for God’s blessings.

Relationships, delight in mutual respect and kindness.

Partnership, the joy of working together in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Community, building relationships and trust with our closest neighbours.

Diversity, delight in all the colours in the crayon box.



Hospitality, the joy of welcome, keeping the door open.

Adventure, expectation that Christ will keep knocking.

What are your values?

What’s more important to you as an individual and what’s less important?

What are you willing to stand up for?

How do your values line up with Jesus’ values?

How do St. Mark’s values line up with Jesus’ values?

What’s more important to St. Mark’s and what’s less important?

What is St. Mark’s willing to stand up for?

“Coming clean” about values is a way of helping clarify how we will move forward into God’s future.

“Just” Christmas Fair Trade Fair!

Wilma Marie Bindernagel

Sunday, November 28 - 9:00 to 12:00



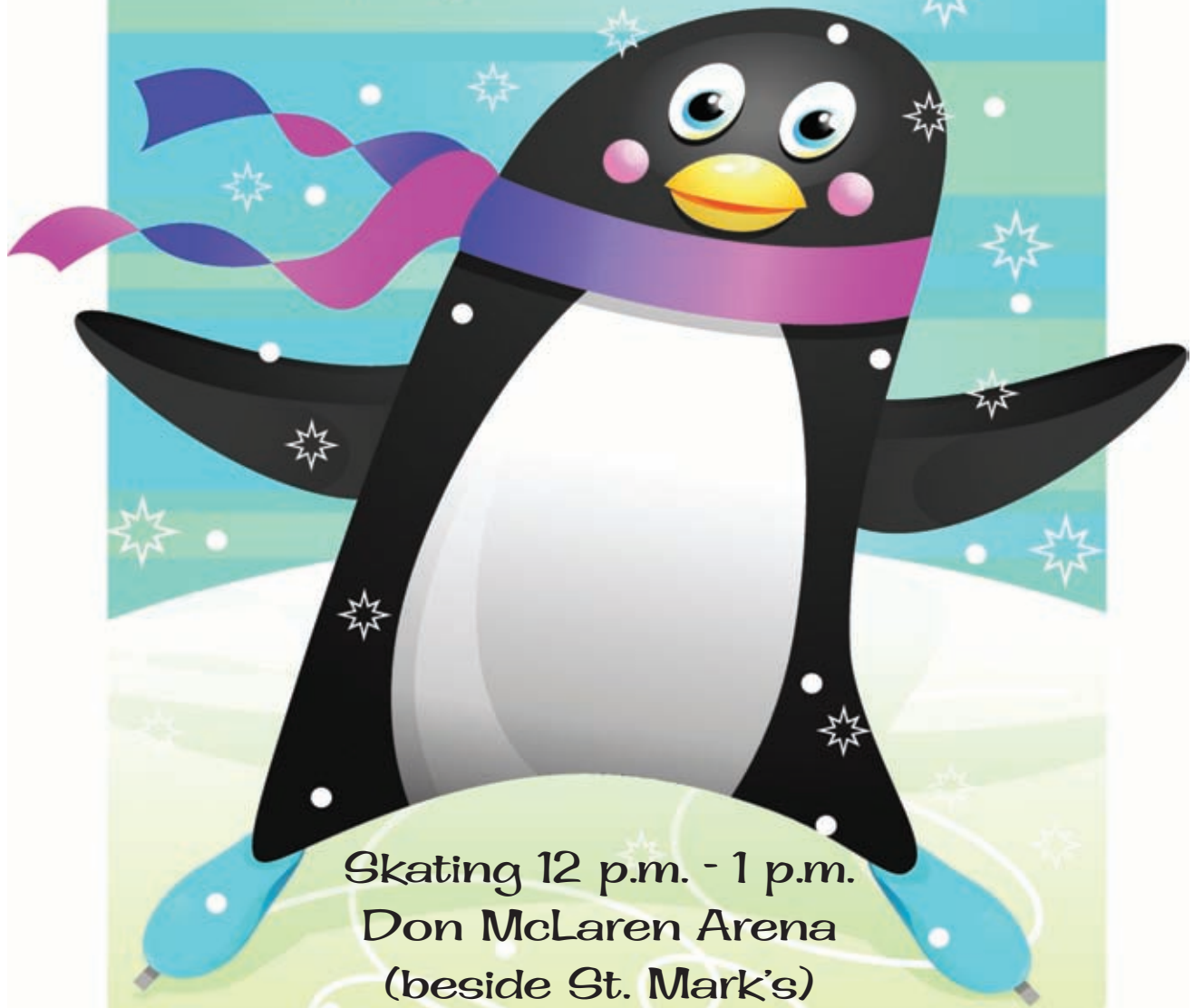
Ten Thousand Villages will be our main vendor. Join us in the Fellowship Hall. Do some Fair Trade Shopping and enjoy a Christmas Café!

CLWR “Gifts From the Heart” Catalogues are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary.



Skating Party!

Sunday, November 7th



Skating 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Don McLaren Arena
(beside St. Mark's)

Come back to St. Mark's for a
hot dog lunch,
hot chocolate, and ice cream sundaes!

This is an all ages event! Free parking at the Church. Free will offering.

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. An added benefit of receiving your newsletter via e-mail is that it is in full colour!



74 Newly Blessed Prayer Shawls

St. Mark's Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 19th, Advent 4
Services of Holy Communion at 8:30 and 10:15 am
Children's Christmas Pageant at 10:15 am

Christmas Eve, December 24th
Lively Service of Holy Communion at 6:30 pm
Quiet Service of Holy Communion at 9:00 pm

Christmas Day, December 25th
Service of Holy Communion at 10:15 am

1st Sunday of Christmas, December 26th
One Service Only at 10:15 am
Service of Lessons & Carols and Holy Communion
Calvary Memorial United Church will join us.

2nd Sunday in Christmas, January 2
Services of Holy Communion at 8:30 and 10:15 am

Sunday, January 9th
BLAST and Adult Education resume



Life at St. Mark's



Friendship Circle



Baptism of Elora Jasny

Not To Be Missed!
A Special Evening Of Worship

Advent Carol Service
Sunday Nov. 28, 7:00 pm

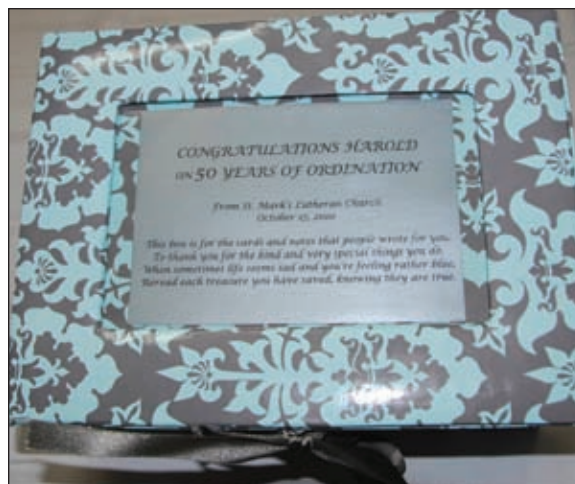
St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Kitchener

An inspirational service of music, congregational hymns, and readings expressing the beauty and mystery of the Advent season. Led by the choirs of St. John's and St. Matthews Lutheran churches, the Centone Brass Quintet (comprised of Principal musicians of the KW Symphony), and soloists.

Reception to follow.

Freewill offering to benefit "out of the Cold" program.

Come a few minutes early to hear the Centone Brass prepare as you prepare for worship.



Harold Remus 50 Years of Ordination

More Life at St. Mark's

100 Mile Potluck



Rally Sunday



Church Council Update

Church Council met on Sept. 7th and Oct. 5th for its regular monthly meetings. Here are the highlights:

- **Financial Update (Jan. 1 - September 30):**

Account	Net Income	
	2010	2009
Current Account	\$ 7,608.60	\$ -27,283.31 (deficit)
Special Projects	\$ 11,524.21	\$ 7,791.94

- *No money has been transferred from Reserve Account to Current Account in 2010. As of Sept. 30th the Reserve Account balance is \$183,854.*
- *Current account income in 2010 includes \$6,927 from a bequest. (Remainder of the \$16,927 bequest was allocated to other accounts (see below)).*
- *Envelope Offerings down 5.9% YTD compared to 2009.*

- **Three Churches Working Group** (St. Mark's, St. Matthew's, St. Peter's):

- **Co-operative Programming Task Group** – A skating party (hosted by St. Mark's) is being held on November 7th at Don McLaren arena. A pulpit exchange is occurring on October 31st – Pastor David Malina from St. Matthew's will be preaching at St. Mark's and Pastor Nancy will be preaching at St. Peter's.
- **Ministry Assessment Task Group** – An in-depth analysis and comparison of the three churches (ministries, buildings, staff, finances, demographics, etc.) was completed in June. Meetings are being planned for discussion of the report – will be open to all members of the three churches.

- **Meheret Church** – Two Council Members met with members of Meheret's Board of Elders on Sept. 23rd. We were informed that their congregation is splitting and they are searching for a new Pastor. We discussed the need for good communication moving forward. Given their unfortunate circumstance, Meheret was unable to act on the items that had been agreed to at the May Meeting. We reviewed these items again, and Meheret will try to fulfill those by our Nov. 25th meeting. This was a positive discussion overall.

- **Member Survey** – A forum will be held on November 14th after worship to discuss the Sunday morning schedule at St. Mark's and receive suggestions/input from the congregation.

- **LINC Building Use Request** – Council approved a rental request from the Conestoga College LINC program (and YWCA Childcare Services) to use the old kitchen and common room (downstairs) to run a child care (childminder) program for new immigrants in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program based at 800 King. St. W. The program would run Monday to Friday, September to July, with morning and afternoon sessions, beginning in Sept. 2011. LINC has applied for government funding for this program and is awaiting a decision. If their funding is approved, then a formal building use agreement will be drawn up by St. Mark's and the rental will proceed.

- **100th Anniversary Committee** – A motion was approved that for the period from February 1, 2011 until January 31, 2013 funds raised in "Count Down to the 100th" appeal be set aside in a Special Projects Account to cover the proposed budget of \$7,000. Any unused monies would be designated to the 100th Anniversary appeal in 2013. This will replace the regular annual anniversary appeals for 2011 and 2012.

- **Harvey Gleiser Bequest** – St. Mark's received \$16,927 as the beneficiary for Harvey Gleiser's life insurance policy. Council approved a motion to allocate this money as follows: \$5,000 to Youth (Special Projects), \$2,500 to Benevolence, \$2,500 to Memorial Account, and \$6,927 to Current Account. It should be noted that St. Mark's will be receiving a significant amount of money from the Gleiser Estate in the coming months. More details to follow.

- **Worship Bulletins** – Council approved a motion to produce our bulletin covers internally instead of buying pre-printed ones. This will result in a cost savings.

- **Updating the Membership Rolls** – A group has been formed to develop guidelines for transferring inactive members to a Responsibility List and also how to manage that list. This will begin the process of updating our rolls (Active, Inactive, Responsibility List).

- **Parlour upgrades** – Property Committee has arranged a meeting with some St. Mark's people to decide on specific upgrades to the parlour (to utilize 1/3 of the money raised in 2008 Anniversary Appeal that was designated for parlour upgrades). Work to begin in near future.

A binder containing Council Meeting Minutes is located in the narthex (King St. entrance to sanctuary).

Community Ministry

by Marilyn Shaw, Community Ministry Co-ordinator

I know that Thanksgiving was a few weeks ago now for those of us who are Canadian, but I feel compelled to share about the wonderful experiences of Thanksgiving day. We shared dinner with about 125 people, we enjoyed about 150 lbs of turkey, 120 lbs of potatoes, pots of vegetables, buns, cranberries, coleslaw and pies.

I learned many years ago early on in this ministry, that we are abundantly provided for in so many ways. In the past I was concerned that there would not be enough food on Wednesday night but we are yet to run out of food, even for the odd person who wanders in hungry after everything has been cleared away. Sometimes it is someone sharing food they have been given to take home, other times a can of stew kept on hand for a situation like this.

We have never been short for these extra large meals either. This year I began to wonder but not worry as 2 weeks before I had no leads on turkeys. Then I got an email from a company who had given us a financial gift 2 years ago for turkeys telling me they would like to once again help us buy turkeys. What a blessing.

Along with this generous gift, came the other offerings - potatoes, vegetables, juice, buns and so on. Thanksgiving day morning an eager group of volunteers arrived ready to start work as soon as they could, preparing the food and the dining hall. It quieted down a little early afternoon and then started up again late afternoon putting on the finishing touches, helping to serve, share in the meal and clean up. Many people making the work go well. Many people offering

whatever their gift was large or small and many people arriving to enjoy the meal. There were many who came back offering their thanks for our work.

Once again I was reminded of God's gifts of abundance, of helping us to realize there is enough for all. When everyone is well fed, when everyone shares in fellowship there is a deep sense of gratitude. I can't help but think deep in my heart that yes indeed this is the day that God has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it. Thanks be to God for all the goodness around us. All we need to do is pause and notice.



Joint Service St. Mark's/Calvary United Community Ministry

Our annual joint service with Calvary United Church was held on Sunday, August 22. **Debra Azadi from St. Mark's** gave a stirring testimony, relating to Luke 13: 10-13, about what it means to be stigmatized in our society.

A full copy of her testimony can be obtained by calling the church office – 519- 743-6309 – or e-mailing a request to stmarksluth@on.aibn.com.



Workshop To Tie Comforters and Relief Quilts

Carol Totzke, Darlene Reiner

Monday November 22 from 9 am to 3 pm, in the Parish Hall

Come when you can and for as long as you can. Bring scissors and a lunch – coffee is provided. We have fun and if you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt.

If you have flannel or cotton sheets or pieces of fabric to donate, these can be brought to the church anytime.

If you have any questions, please call Darlene Reiner 699-5410 or Carol Totzke 885-6173.



Learning Committee

by Fay Albrecht

We're settling in to our fall programs and BLAST has begun with an explosion of excitement. Rally Day was fantastic. We went through a pile of hot dogs, and a huge thank you to everyone who brought salads or desserts.

Thank you to Sharon Cassidy who took so many pictures of our children at VBS and again on Rally Sunday, a beautiful recording of our children in action.

Please be supportive of our teachers and students as they begin the morning gathering time by being as quiet as possible until they leave the Parish Hall for their sessions.

On Sunday, November 7 following the 10:15 service everyone is invited to the McLaren arena next to the church for ice skating from 12 to 1 p.m. We are inviting the members of St. Matthew's and St. Peter's to join us. When we have had enough skating we will return to St. Mark's for hot dogs and sundaes. A great day for friends and families. Mark the date on your calendar and join us even if you don't skate.

We are purchasing a supply of the new Spark Story Bible to be used in our BLAST program. If you are interested in having a Bible for your 3 - 6 year old please contact us through the office. The cost to you is only \$5.00.

Plans are underway for Advent and Christmas. Watch for more information.



Celebrating Partners In Education

By Diane Bonfonte



October's issue of The Eastern "LUTHERAN" newspaper front page headline shouts "two Lutheran milestones" are jointly celebrating in 2011. Both institutions are very close to many in heart and at home. Home being our faith family

- St. Mark's. The ELCIC head office in Kitchener and the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in Waterloo.

The Seminary was established Thanksgiving Monday, October 30th, 1911 and First English Lutheran Church February 2, 1913. The book *A Time For Building* was published in 1988 as part of St. Mark's 75th Anniversary. It has a chapter entitled, *Partnership In Seminary Education* by Delton Glebe (an intern at St. Mark's in the 1940's and a former Principal Dean of the Seminary).

Excerpts from A Time For Building:

"St. Mark's, Kitchener and WLS have a surprising number of persons and events in common....From the beginning, and down through the years, St. Mark's pastors have had a strong hand in the shaping of the Seminary." Rev M.J. Bieber was St. Mark's founding pastor and "served also as the English secretary of the new Seminary's Board of Governors." Remember in 1913, we were known as First English Lutheran Church.

"Mrs. Bieber was secretary on the first executive of the Women's Auxiliary, which played such a vigorous role in the Seminary's life. Our second pastor, Rev. Henry J. Behrens was a part-time history teacher because the Seminary could not afford full-time." Our third pastor, Dr. J. Maurer, served on the Board of Governors since its beginning and was president on the Board of Governors for many years. As of 1988 when this book was published, St. Mark's "has been served by thirteen pastors, the first three gave leadership in birth and early growth at the Seminary, succeeded at St. Mark's by nine pastors who are graduates..."

I'll stop here - at the beginning. There is so much more including the influence of St. Mark's lay persons at the Seminary. During 2011, let's encourage others in our congregation - Pastors, Women's Auxiliary members, professors, students, alumni at St. Mark's to share their stories, past and present. Sharing experiences is one way to learn more about our connection as a congregation and perhaps bring Waterloo Lutheran Seminary's 100th Anniversary closer to heart and to home. This is best expressed by Delton Glebe -

"The partnership within the Seminary, the partnership within the parish, the partnership between the Seminary and parish is the partnership in the Gospel of God. God's Good News in Jesus the Christ is the purpose and the power in our partnership in Seminary education".

Doors to Adult Learning: October 2010 - January 2011

By Harold Remus

Adult learning opportunities at St. Mark's offer wisdom, understanding and guidance in accepting and stimulating settings where we learn from the Bible, Christian tradition, the world about us, and from one another. Here is the lineup for the coming months...


1. Mondays, 9:30 a.m., Church Parlour:


DAILY DISCIPLESHIP. This is an opportunity, all too rare these days, to sit down with like-minded persons to read and reflect on the book – the Bible – that is so important to our faith and hear what it is saying to us today.


2. Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., Church Parlour.


KNITTING, CROCHETING, PRAYER CIRCLE. Time to put aside some of the everyday and take up needles and yarn and hooks and sit down with others and talk and pray. A lot gets unravelled and knit up in those morning sessions. You are welcome to come, sit, put your hands to work, or simply join the talk and prayer.

3. Sundays, 9:00 a.m., Church Parlour, ADULT EDUCATION HOUR.

 **Oct. 31: War, conflict, inner conflicts: Daily companions in our world:** Christian Stances Toward War: "Just War," Pacifism, Crusades. Dr. Robert Kelly, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.


 **Nov. 7: Conflict: In Families, Churches, the Workplace and Communities, between Nations – War.** Whence the roots of conflicts (and their resolution)? What can we learn from the Bible, from global hot spots, and our own experience? Dr. Tim Hegedus, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada on the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation and the National Canadian Christian-Muslim Liaison Committee.


 **Nov. 14, 21: Peace and Reconciliation for the Self: Romans 7 Meets the Modern World .** Dr. Peter VanKatwyk, Professor Emeritus, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Those inner conflicts – the Apostle Paul knew about them. So too modern psychology. Dr. Van Katwyk brings them together with his usual learning and art.


 **Advent** means Bible Study, and this Advent it's the stories of Jesus' birth in those familiar and


beloved accounts in Matthew and Luke – but also some that didn't make it into the New Testament: Gospel of James, Infancy Gospel of Thomas. What light do these shed on those familiar stories?

January offers rare opportunities to glimpse firsthand snapshots of how our church, our society, our world are changing—indeed, have changed—and to reflect on that for our life together and our ministry and mission.

 **Jan. 9: What is it like to live day to day, as a Muslim – a Muslim woman – in Kitchener-Waterloo?** Dr. Idrisa Pandit, who works with Muslim Social Services, Kitchener, will tell us, and invite questions. *Not to be missed.*

 **Jan. 16: In our midst we have St. Markers who have fled to Canada or have lived and worked or spent serious time in troubled countries.** They will tell those stories: Living/Teaching in Colombia, Sharon Newmaster. Leaving Home/New Home, Elba Martell. Return to Guatemala, Lyle and Robin Pearson. *Not to be missed.*

 **Jan. 23:** Men and religion? How is "masculinity" viewed in Christianity and other religions? How is it changing – has changed? Does it matter? Dr. Michel Desjardins, Chair of the Global Studies Department at Wilfrid Laurier University and winner of teaching awards at both the University of Toronto and Laurier, will be here to tell us – and invite questions. *Not to be missed.*

 **Jan. 30: How have the changes in the demography of Canada affected churches?** How are the changes affecting St. Mark's every day? Dr. David Seljak, St. Jerome's University, one of the best-known experts on this subject, will speak on Christianity in Canada: A Minority Religion, and What It Means for Churches. *Not to be missed.*

Address and Information Changes



New addresses are available for the following members. We will no longer publish the address due to privacy issues. They are available to members from the office if you need to contact them.

Nicolas & Candace
Pascoe

Wanda Henkelman
Marilyn Shaw

St. Mark's Showcase

(outside the Parish Hall)

November, December & January

Friendship Circle: Memories From The Table

by Diane Bonfonte

Every 3rd Thursday of most months, Friendship Circle is a gathering of St. Mark's men and women ranging in ages from 60+ (ish) to 90+. Lunch is served followed by a program. Maundy Thursday is always a worship service. It is a treasured time for life long friends to celebrate special occasions (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter), receive communion, play cards, sing hymns or just catch up on one another's news. Presently, Friendship Circle is St. Mark's longest existing regular meeting group. ELW, Couples Club, The Brotherhood, Luther League and Girl Guides have disappeared, but are not forgotten.

Every Friendship Circle's highlight is a home-style lunch. Over the years, there have been hours of hard work and dedication from many great cooks and support kitchen crews. For the Lent/Easter Friendship Circle a ham dinner with lemon pie are traditionally served. Rose Easson, even in her later years, would get up extra early and bake her famous lemon pies in the morning so they would be at their best. October brings an Oktoberfest lunch of sausage, sauerkraut and peach/apple cobbler. Schmecks good! June of 1992, Friendship Circle celebrated Canada's 125th birthday. All wore red and white. The program included a Canada trivia contest followed by a rousing rendition of O Canada. Shortly after, Clayton Hallman said to me (with tears in his eyes), "today I have never felt prouder to be a Canadian!" By the way, Canada's 143th birthday was celebrated this past June. Photos are on display of this event and Friendship Circle gatherings through the years.

Of course, what is served is only part of what makes taking your place at a table so special. It is no coincidence the tables are adorned with seasonal décor - napkins, centre pieces and a most treasured table card. Every card's cover is hand decorated with a thoughtfully selected prayer or poem inside. No card's design or prayer/poem has ever been repeated!

Dorothy Bird began designing and making Friendship Circle favours/cards and decorations. For how long? Her reply, "seems like I made them forever". Ideas came from magazines, books or inspiration. Centre pieces were strategically placed along each long table. For example, a small loaf of bread shellacked with a piece of wheat and a leaf every glued atop symbolizing the fall harvest. Dorothy mentioned that. "every season has its prayer and I always started planning the next right away".



Dorothy Bird

Pat Kropf "took up the torch" about eight years ago. Scaling down from a house to an apartment presents some strategic storage hurdles yet in the fall, she gets out the leaves she has waxed to be part of the annual decor. Besides "using what is around", she also searches for fresh decorations in a field near her apartment such as "goldenrod for added colour". She "loves decorating the card with the horn of plenty for October. Pat also co-ordinates the table napkins to ensure a match for the month's seasonal theme. Forty table cards are the usual number required so everyone gets to take home their own. She is very particular, like Dorothy, to choose its message.

In June during St. Mark's 95th Anniversary year, Pat made a large '95' and adorned it with spring flowers as a central centre piece. It was placed on a separate table adding to the occasion. The 95th Anniversary theme "I Have Called You Friends"

(John 15:15-17) was also the theme for this day. As part of the program, 95 spaces were filled on a large sheet of paper with words that reflected the meaning of 'Friends' - love, cherished, kind, loyal, blessed etc. The last 30 (or so spaces) were completed with each person signing their name. The card's poem entitled Friends was found in St. Mark's

archives. It was first used for Friendship Circle during St. Mark's 85th Anniversary. I fondly recall seeing this card in Ruth Haynes' kitchen for years after "so it can be read everyday" she once told me. These St. Mark's anniversary Friendship Circle cards with the poem Friends are on display.

Butterflies are a particular favourite of hers - a portion of a magazine page was cut and shaped like wings then accordion-style folded and held together with a pipe cleaner for the body. A year or so before health concerns, she had enlisted a helper that has diligently carried on this tradition.



Pat Kropf



Blessed In Aging

Esther Mary Walker

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and shaking hand
Blessed, who know my ears today
Must strain to hear the things they say.
Blessed are those who seem to know
My eyes are dim and my mind is slow
Blessed are those who look away
When I spilled tea that weary day.
Blessed are they who, with cheery smile
Stopped to chat for a little while
Blessed are they who know the way
To bring back memories of yesterday.
Blessed are those who never say
"You've told that story twice today"
Blessed are they who make it known
That I am loved, respected and not alone.
And blessed are they who will ease the days
Of my journey home, in loving ways.

Church Security

By Jim Oakley

Church council approved the hiring of L & K Patrol Service to undertake nightly security checks of the exterior and interior of St. Mark's Church. This service is in addition to our existing electronic monitoring system that includes open door detection, motion sensors and alarm siren. L & K Patrol Service would be contacted by our service provider to respond if a breach occurs in our electronic monitoring system.

These security checks started on October 6, 2010, and will provide for checks on all exterior doors and windows as well as all interior rooms, including checks on: lights left on, water running at taps and toilets, doors left unlocked, signs of intruders or vandalism, heating system working, as well as meeting rooms left in a messy condition. This security person will maintain daily log sheets with entries documenting his findings and actions taken. These log sheets will be kept at the church for Property Committee monitoring.

Paz, Brian Rude, Pastor

Missionary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Pastor Brian has sent us an extensive accounting of his travels during the past summer. If you would like to receive a copy, please call the church office at 519-743-6309 or e-mail your request to: stmarksluth@on.aibn.com.



Weddings!

*Rachel Holst & James Donnelly
on September 11th.*

*Ryan Brohman & Jennifer Micheli
on October 30th*



Baptisms!

*Matthew Ball on September 26th,
son of Michael & Tamara Ball*

Elora Jasny on October 10th

*Avery Jane Shabatura
on October 24th, daughter of
Jennifer Volz & Chris Shabatura*



Introducing... Elora Jasny, baptized into the Body of Christ on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 10, 2010.

Elora is a 14 year old grade 9 student at Cameron Heights. She is a bright, artistic and athletic young woman. Since April of this year, she has lived with Debbie Wilken.

Update on the SHOW House

By Barbara Barnes, Volunteer Coordinator

It has been in operation for almost three months and all kinds of good things are happening at the SHOW Building.

The Open House, which took place on June 16th, was attended by about 300 people. There were many good comments about our building. Most were very surprised when they saw some of the units. People still had the image of a hostel or bachelor apartment in their minds, and were shocked to see that these are regular apartments with fully equipped kitchens, a living room, a full bathroom, and of course a separate bedroom with a brand new bed. Two of the tenants who were to move in the next day attended the Open House, and were given a sneak preview of where they were going to live. More hugs and tears.

Since the Open House, it has been a time of getting everyone settled. Not everything has gone perfectly, but there are a number of really great success stories. The tenants themselves have been forming their own community within the building and are now looking at the wider community to seek out employment and do some volunteering themselves. Families are visiting daughters, sons and fathers.

Many of the tenants are cooking up a storm. Some who know how to cook are helping others, but one problem did come up: we had not thought about cookbooks. I quickly sent out an email to friends and my extended family at Mt. Zion and we now have about 30 cookbooks.

As the Volunteer Coordinator, I will be working with the YWCA Staff to create some in-house programs for the tenants. These will probably include basic cooking lessons, craft sessions, and a year end BBQ and Sing Along among others. Tenant input is very important at this point, so we will include them as part of the planning team and will also be getting their ideas for the kind of activities they desire. We will be putting together a description of each of the programs desired, at which point we will need volunteers to act as coordinators or as teachers.

The tenants have started taking on little jobs within the building. We have one who takes care of recycling cardboard. I left a box in the kitchen, intending to take it home with me and by the time I walked to the office, had a brief chat and came back, it was in pieces in a recycle box. I saw one of the tenants mowing the lawn, and there are a few who look after keeping the back patio neat and tidy. Sometimes when I drive into the parking lot they come to see if I have things they can help carry in.

This work is still very rewarding. I really enjoy getting the chance to chat with tenants about how things are going with them. Even though there have been some very hectic times, I can still walk into that building excited to discover what we are doing next.

