



An Invitation to you from St. Mark's

Leaves are falling and despite the warm days recently, the crisp morning air lets us know that cooler weather is approaching. This fall is a mix of sadness and anticipation. At the end of this month we will be saying good-bye to Peter after 24 years of faithful and dedicated service at St. Mark's. We are so grateful for his tireless dedication, spiritual guidance, and the profound impact he has had on each of us during his time with us. We wish Peter and Elizabeth everything good as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

We anticipate the arrival and warmly welcome The Rev'd William Willis back to St. Mark's. He will serve as the Interim Priest-in-Charge November 1st, 2025 through April 15th, 2026. Rev'd Willis is known to many of you as he and his wife Jacquie worshipped with us through the fall of 2024, after leading worship at St. Paul's in Shelburne prior to its closing. They moved to Collingwood in January where he has been helping out at Anglican Churches in the area.

Activities at the church are well underway, and we would like to invite you to take part. Church services on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 10:00 am continue as well as the Thursday morning service at 10:00 am. Bible study at 11:00 am on Thursdays has resumed. If you are not already a regular participator in this activity, be sure to let one of the clergy (rector@saintmark.ca) know that you would like to attend and ensure that they have your email address so that you can be contacted ahead with the reading. The Lions, our children's ministry programme is underway led by Tracey Croft and her amazing group of volunteer teachers. Planning is underway for a youth group for the youth of the parish. Contact Tracey (lions@saintmark.ca) for more information.

St. Mark's Book Club

The book club is active again and meets on the last Monday evening of each month. Books can be fiction or non-fiction and have been recommended and chosen by members of the group. The book this month is *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. The group will meet on October 27th at 7:00 pm in the Elizabeth Room to discuss this book. For more information, contact Sally (landysally72@gmail.com).

Meditation with Ann Lay

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the board room off of White Hall (the parish hall) for an hour of quiet meditation and relaxation led by Ann Lay.

Bible Book of the Month Club

Led by the Rev'd Canon Stephanie Pellow, a group gathers on the first Monday of the month from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Elizabeth Room to discuss a book from the Bible. Watch the bulletin for the name of the next book. All are welcome whether or not you have read the book and would simply like to come out and learn more about the Bible. Next meeting is November 3rd

Prayer Shawl Group

A group of women meet biweekly in the Elizabeth Room at 2:00 pm to knit or crochet prayer shawls that are blessed and distributed at the hospital and to those who become known to us. Whether you are a knitter or you crochet, or you want to learn, please join us! Our next meeting will be October 14th.

Soul Sisters Brunch

Parish women meet for breakfast and fellowship monthly. We meet monthly at Stacked and enjoy a great breakfast and animated fellowship! Peter will be attending our next breakfast on October 21st. **All** women are welcome to join us! If you do not already get an email with the information about the next breakfast, please send your email address to Cathy Wilson (fitzroywilson@gmail.com) and she will be happy to add you to the list. We are getting 25+ women out each month, and we would love for you to join us.

Men's Breakfast

The men of the parish also meet monthly. Contact Deacon Richard (rkbeaudoin75@gmail.com) for information about their next breakfast.

Notes from the Parish Nurse

Yasmin has focused on Falls Prevention this month – check out her bulletin board in White Hall for more information. A special two hour seminar with a nutritionist, occupational therapist and the pharmacist from the DAFHT – the Dufferin Area Family Health Team - will be held at St. Mark's in White Hall on November 12th from 10:00 am – noon. This will be open to the community so feel free to invite a neighbour or friend. Watch the Parish Nurse bulletin board for more details.

- October 19th **Parish Brunch** after both the 8:30 and 10:00 am services
Brunch includes eggs, bacon or sausage or ham, toast, pancakes and beans, juice, coffee and tea – yummy! We hope that you choose to join us for that. Tickets available from Deacon Richard after Sunday services or by calling the church office.
- October 25th **Farewell Drop-in with Peter and Elizabeth** from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in the Narthex. This will give those unable to attend the evening dinner an opportunity to speak with Peter and Elizabeth ahead of Peter's retirement the next day.
- October 25th **Farewell Dinner for Peter and Elizabeth** in White Hall. Tickets are on sale now after church services- \$25/person. Contact Cathy Wilson (fitzroywilson@gmail.com) to reserve your ticket. Tickets are going quickly for this special event.
- October 26th **Peter's last Sunday service** with us followed by a special coffee hour and **CAKE!**

There is lots going on at St. Mark's and we hope that you will choose to join us for services (Sundays 8:30 & 10:00 am and Thursdays 10:00 am) or any of the activities. Joining the choir or volunteering in the children's ministry programme or the altar guild may interest you. Our parish family benefits and grows when we all participate as we are able. We hope to see you!

God bless you, and those you love, and as Rev's Canon Lynne Thackwray always adds, and those you should love.