

December 2018

In this issue...

Page 2

'The Best of Broadway'
Christmas Choral Concert

Page 3

Rev. Deb's Message
Annual Carolling party

Page 4

Christmas Season Events
Finance Committee Update

Insert page

Upcoming Events
Celebrating Christmas with St. Mark's



Psalm 33:20-22

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you.



St. Mark's CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROJECT December 2018

Food donation baskets are located in the narthex and upper hall.

WHITE GIFT/HAMPER PROJECT SERVICE Sunday, December 16th.

For more information about the Hamper Project please contact Linda Bain 905-668-7395, Anne Summers 905-668-8255 or the church office 905-668-3091.

St. Mark's U.C.W presents **NO ROOM IN THE INN**



A display of treasured nativity scenes
Admission by freewill donation.
Light refreshments included.

Saturday December 8th
11 am - 3 pm

St. Mark's Musical Players present:



Join the St. Mark's Musical Players as they perform musical arrangements of your favourite show tunes from GUYS AND DOLLS, MY FAIR LADY, THE SOUND OF MUSIC, WHITE CHRISTMAS, and more. We hope you enjoy this exploration of some of Broadway's favourites, and that your toes keep tapping long after the lights come back on.

Thursday November 29 - 7:30 pm

Friday November 30 - 7:30 pm

Saturday December 1 - 4:30 pm

Tickets available by free will donation (suggested ticket price \$20 each)
From the Church Office 905-668-3091, and at the door at each show

Christmas Choral Service

Sunday December 16 - 3 pm

A celebration of music offered by
St. Mark's Chancel Choir
and Mixed Blessings Choir

Take this opportunity to enjoy the music of the
Christmas season through Advent.

May Hope, Peace, Joy and Love
be with you this season.



*Sounds
of the
Season*

The Music of Worship

*Music is not inserted into worship;
rather worship is inherently musical.*

We are a singing people.

*How we sing together and what we
sing together reflects our faith, our
church, our union with fragile
creation, our thoughts and our
feelings about one another, and our
attitudes toward all humanity.*

*Adapted from "A Theological Statement of Music in
the United Church of Canada" (July 2008)*

Rev. Deb's Message



A NEW YEAR BEGINS!

As we move into December, we move into the Season of Advent in the church. Advent marks the waiting time till Christmas when we celebrate the birth of the Christ-child long ago, and every year, and into every waiting heart. Advent goes from the fourth Sunday before Christmas to Christmas Eve at sundown. And then Christmas begins.

In the church the colour for Advent is blue symbolizing hope. The hymns during worship are Advent hymns but we sing Christmas carols before worship in anticipation of Christmas to come. From Christmas Day, for Twelve Days, till Epiphany January 6, it is the Season of Christmas. The colours in the church will be white and gold, the colours of celebration. And of course, around all of this will be the decorations of wreathes and trees, lights and nativity scenes, that symbolize for us and anchor us in the wonder and miracle of Christmas itself.

Advent is our time to remember the story of our faith, the story of God with us, Emmanuel. It is a story of hope, peace, joy and love that is told through the scripture stories of the fig tree and John the Baptist, the words of Isaiah, and the song of Mary.

Advent is the waiting time, the beginning time of new life to come. I hope you might come journey with us through the weeks ahead and that your spirit will be moved and readied for the birth of the Christ child once again into the manger of your hearts. I hope you will be a part of this journey that truly can transform your life and your living. The door is open. Come see the beauty, hear the harmony, and experience God with us together.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

Rev. Deb

dfoster@stmarkswitby.ca

905-668-3091 ext. 222



Annual Caroling Party

Tuesday, December 18

Join a team who loves to sing
Caroling about at our neighbours' homes!
Then back to St. Mark's for warm cider and a treat.
No singing experience necessary.
Meet at 5:30 in the Church Hall

**Lighting the Darkness Prayer Vigil
Thursday December 13: 10am – 5pm**



An opportunity to sit in the sanctuary, listen to soft music and offer prayers or light a candle in honour of yourself or loved ones. A booklet of devotions will be available to assist you, if desired.

**Annual Skating Party
Friday December 28th**

**Family Skate: 1 pm
Shinny Hockey: 2 pm
Iroquois Park, pad 5**



**New this year
Skaters must register with the office
prior to attending this event.
905-668-3091, Ext. 0**

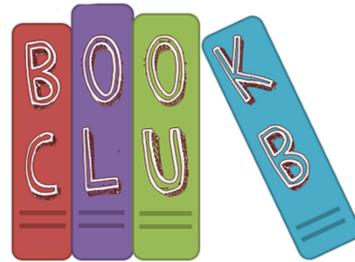


FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

While faith development and reinforcement, in their many facets, are main purpose of a church, dollars remain the life blood which supports the many activities and facilities of the church.

Total givings till the end of October 2019 are a generous \$242,000 including fundraising. Expenses for the same period have been about \$283,000 for a shortfall of \$41,000.

Thankfully as a congregation we have in the past made substantial increases in givings in the last two months of the year. We are hopeful we all can do this again and if so we would project a shortfall of about \$8,000 which would be substantially less than past years.



**St. Mark's
Book Club**

9:30 – 11 am

January 29, 2019

*The High Road
by Terry Fallis*

**Contact Carole Beam
for more information**

Minister: Deb Foster
dfoster@stmarkswitby.ca
Parish Nurse: Carole Beam
cbeam@stmarkswitby.ca
Organist: Henry Remiz
chancelchoir@stmarkswitby.ca

St. Mark's United Church
201 Centre Street South
Whitby, Ontario L1R 4V7
905-668-3091
www.stmarkswitby.ca

If you have news that you would like included in the St. Mark's Newsflash, Email it to:
whitbyhazletts@gmail.com

St. Mark's Upcoming Events

2018 DECEMBER

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 The Best of Broadway 7:30 pm | 30 The Best of Broadway 7:30 pm | 1 The Best of Broadway 4:30 pm |
| 2 First Advent HOPE | 3 | 4 | 5 Community Care Dinner | 6 | 7 | 8 No Room in the Inn 11 am – 3 pm |
| 9 Second Advent PEACE | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Lighting the Darkness 10 am – 5 pm | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Third Advent JOY Children's Service Christmas Choral Service 3 pm | 17 HAMPERS | 18 HAMPERS Carolling 6 pm | 19 HAMPERS | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Fourth Advent LOVE | 24 Family Service 7 pm Candlelight Service 10 pm | 25 Christmas Day | 26 | 27 | 28 Family Skate 1 pm Shinny 2 pm | 29 |
| 30 Celebration of Christmas | 31 | 1 2019 Happy New Year | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |



JANUARY 2019

Sunday January 6

- Epiphany

Thursday January 17

- Euchre Party – 2 – 4 pm

Monday January 28

- Community Lunch Table – 12 pm

Tuesday January 29

- Book Club Meeting – 9:30 am



Help us keep St. Mark's a scent free zone.

Please refrain from wearing cologne, perfume, or other strong scents as they are harmful to some.



The United Church of Canada 

For a full listing of what's on at St. Mark's, see the calendar on the Church website

Celebrate Christmas with St. Mark's

Advent Season Services

Hope - Sunday December 2

Peace - Sunday December 9

Joy - Sunday December 16

Childrens Service / White Gift Sunday

Love - Sunday December 23

Lighting the Darkness Prayer Vigil

Thursday December 13 ~ 10am

Christmas Choral Service

Sunday December 16 ~ 3 pm

Christmas Eve - Monday December 24

Family Service - 7 pm,

Candlelight Communion Service - 10 pm

