

Catch the Spirit NEWS

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ST. MARK'S BY-THE-LAKE



What have we been up to...

We have come through a very busy period in the life of our Parish community. I would like to thank the over 40 people who took part in the Markus process over the past year. Coming out of Vestry 2006 we were charged with investigating the issue of growth in our parish and how we sustain and encourage it in the future. This was a very rewarding and enlightening experience. We examined the ministries that were identified as central to who we are as a Christian community, and with that the opportunities that exist for growth around them, and the obstacles that are in place presently. Each of the teams identified the need administrative assistance in the Church office. With Margaret's indication she would be retiring, it was apparent that we needed to increase the hours in the Church office to reflect a more full time situation. After a special Vestry meeting in the fall it was decided that we would advertise for a full time Parish Administrator. This posi-

tion was filled by Valerie Henley who has already become an integral part of the ability of the teams to succeed. The teams also identified space concerns that would prevent orderly growth. These ranged from seating capacity in the Church where we are already past comfortable capacity most Sundays at 10:30, to shortage of Sunday School rooms and inadequate nursery space to multipurpose space for youth and Christian education. There is a need for additional office space, and adequate washroom facilities, and a welcome desk for New Member Management.

Once these needs were identified we were very fortunate to have the assistance of Dr. Norm Becker to take them and put them on paper in a preliminary set of engineering drawings which allow us to visualize the possibilities. Early on in the process the Markus committee decided that the sense of community we enjoy needed to be at the centre of all decisions we

made about growth, and to that end that the current footprint be maintained and any additions be contained within it. If you were at Vestry this year I think you will agree that the preliminary drawings presented by Dr. Becker were spectacular. We passed unanimously a motion to establish a "Raising the Roof" committee to take on the responsibility of raising the Capital necessary to complete the project. The initial goal is to raise the approximately one million dollars needed over a ten year period with a grant for \$400,000 from the diocese of Huron, and \$600,000 being raised from within the Parish.

Father Kevin and I attended the Diocesan Executive meeting recently in
Continued on page 3



Inside this issue:

From the Rector	2-3
Our Outreach Programs	4
Parish Profile	5
Raising the Roof	6-7
Repentance and Forgiveness	8-10
Holy Week Schedule	11-12

Special points of interest:

- Looking to clean out your closet, help others in need
- Help Beautify the Church with your gardening
- Learning about Peat Moss