

ST. MARK'S OCEAN PARK

PARISH PROFILE 2012



INVITATION TO THE APPLICANT

In the Anglican Church of Canada, the Diocese of New Westminster, the Parish of St. Mark's Ocean Park is currently inviting applications for the position of Assistant Priest. This Parish Profile has been prepared by the Canonical Committee and will be of interest to candidates who are considering applying for this position.

We have attempted to describe the type of skills and gifts of ministry which the parish is seeking in an Assistant Priest.

The Parish Profile will introduce applicants to the parish and to the local community.



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PROFILE FOR ASSISTANT PRIEST ST. MARK'S OCEAN PARK

We understand everyone has particular gifts and also areas in which we can grow. We are looking for an Assistant Priest who will have gifts or potential to grow in the following areas:

- A vital relationship with the living Christ
- An active prayer life and dependence on the Holy Spirit
- A clear evangelical commitment with a passion to lead others to Christ;
- Strong biblical preaching, teaching and interpersonal communication skills;
- An interest and aptitude for pastoral care and visitation to seniors;
- An ability to nurture members of the congregation in their faith along with a friendly and welcoming personality;
- A willingness to serve in team ministry with the Rector, wardens and other staff members;
- Strong organizational ability;
- Sufficient experience to undertake a responsible role in worship and familiarity with Anglican liturgy;
- Able to relate to all age groups with a particular interest in young families and children;
- And will embrace the opportunity for personal growth in ministry.

It is our prayer that the ideal candidate will come to us with an interest in Christian Education and in ministry to young families. We also hope that the Assistant Priest and the Incumbent will be able to blend their gifts and talents in shared ministry at St. Mark's.

OUR PARISH

PARISHIONERS

Newcomers have often commented on the friendly, welcoming response they have received at St. Mark's. The congregation is truly a loving and caring church family.

Our congregation numbers 460 parishioners. Our members are largely in the fifty and older age group, although in the past several years we have seen a number of young families with children join our congregation, expanding our enthusiastic Sunday School. The parish does need to attract more members in the twenty-five to fifty age group, especially as there are now many families in that demographic living in our area. We are also praying for expansion in our Youth Group under the energetic direction of our Youth Coordinator, Heather Davies.

The following chart indicates a 5 year pattern of parish demographics:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Persons on Parishioner List	404	397	402	400	460
Identifiable Givers	265	216	238	254	250
Attendance - 8 a.m.	38	30	31	31	35*
Attendance - 10.00 a.m.	159	150	171	165	180*
Total Attendance	197	180	202	196	215*
Bible Study Attendees	149	115	108	127	95
# Bible Study Groups	12	8	8	8	8
Children Registered in Programs	30	10	n/a	37	35

* Approximate numbers

PRAYER

Prayer is a significant part of our Parish and we have seen God's blessings on numerous occasions with answers to prayer in the recent past.

- We have a team of intercessors who take turns writing and leading the Prayers of the People during the Sunday service.
- Prayer teams are present during the Eucharist to pray with members of the congregation as desired.
- Additionally a prayer group meets between the services on Sunday mornings to pray for the leaders and the congregation.
- On the third Wednesday of the month, we have a healing Eucharist with lay prayer teams available.
- We have a Prayer Shield group which prays for the members of the Parish Council during meetings and at other times as requested.
- We have a Prayer Shawl Ministry, which makes and prays over shawls and squares that are made available to those going through difficult times.
- We have a prayer chain of men and women, which prays daily for requests from the congregation.
- We have a new prayer group starting in January on Thursday evenings in the Sanctuary for intercessory prayer.

LAY MINISTRIES

St. Mark's is in the enviable position of having a large number of highly dedicated and competent lay people who function as teachers, leaders, members of prayer ministries, and pastoral care ministries.

There are many active groups and ministries which reflect significant involvement of parishioners in liturgy, instruction, fellowship, visiting and leading our children and youth.

During the Worship Services:

- Eucharistic ministers help with the Communion services
- Members of the congregation, involving many parishioners, read the scripture readings.
- Servers assist the minister in the preparation of the Eucharistic elements
- Greeters and sides persons are present at each service
- We have a developing group of men and women who operate our sound system during the services.

Parish Activities:

- A group of volunteers serve coffee and tea after the 8a.m. and the 10 a.m. services on Sunday mornings providing an opportunity for fellowship for all.
- There are numerous group functions and guilds which are very active, including ACW, Evening Guild, and Men's Club, all of which help in fund raising for charitable purposes and outreach.
- Special events and congregational activities are arranged throughout the year including the Sunday School Pageant, Carol Service, Holly Berry Fair, Potlucks, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, an annual Parish Conference, Chicken Barbeque and Salmon Barbeque, and a Parish Picnic.
- We have an active group of men who work regularly around the church individually and in work parties, maintaining it and keeping the buildings in good order. We operate a Stewardship Campaign each November.
- We have eight active Bible Study groups, which engage ninety-five members of the Parish.
- Each year many members of the congregation get together to put on "The Journey of Christmas" during Advent. The community has responded well to this over the eleven years that it has been offered. Last year 1,393 people toured our displays and then enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies and entertainment following in the church hall.

- We have a very active Community Outreach program serving needy people in each demographic in Surrey by providing food, household supplies, financial support and encouragement to many, especially women and children.
- We actively support Camp Artaban in the Diocese by volunteering time and financial assistance.
- We support ARocha –a Christian movement that is local and also worldwide, focused on caring for the environment – with both volunteer time, and financial assistance.
- The Food Bank is supported through donations of food and money year round by St. Mark’s parishioners.
- We have an active team of parishioners who regularly visit and provide fellowship to shut-ins.
- We support PWRDF regularly and also with occasional fund-raising initiatives.
- We have a new and very active ministry for seniors providing opportunities for socializing and also travel to concerts and plays.
- Many in our parish support children overseas through a variety of programs.

LEADERSHIP

The Parish is staffed by our Rector, the Reverend Craig Tanksley. Craig is an evangelical who loves the Lord and his parishioners. His gifts include biblical preaching, pastoral care, music and encouraging ministry in his laity. Craig currently serves as regional dean for the South Fraser deanery. We are also blessed by the presence of our Honorary Assistant, the Reverend Eric Lowe.

The Reverend Jonathan Blanchard has served as our Assistant and later our Associate Priest since August of 2006. He has recently accepted a position in Winnipeg and it is his position that we are seeking to fill.

Our Music Director has been Deanna Blanchard, Jonathan’s wife, and we are currently seeking someone to replace her as well. She conducts the choir and has raised up a committed group of musicians with a variety of gifts.

In the office we have Eleanor Herd, who joined our staff last summer to replace the previous Office Administrator who had been with the church for 22 years. Eleanor has an abundance of gifts and talents which are blessing the parish already.

Our Youth Coordinator is Heather Davies who joined the staff in the summer and has boundless energy and enthusiasm for the young people in our congregation.

Our Sunday School is growing and gaining momentum under the very capable volunteer leadership of the Director, Wendy Aiken and her gifted team of teachers and leaders. In the summer we also have had a vibrant Vacation Bible School for the last several years lead by the enthusiastic and capable Linda Zeal. The attendance was in excess of 80 children in 2011.

We also have an active Summer Sunday School on Sunday mornings under the leadership of Pat Zammit for children who are not away on vacation. Various members of the congregation take turns in leading on a Sunday.

SERVICES

St. Mark's emphasizes biblically based preaching.

We attempt to respond to the liturgical and musical preferences of our parishioners. The 10 a.m. service is provided in printed form in the pew bulletin.

Sunday – 8 a.m. – Holy Communion BCP with about 35 in attendance

10 a.m. – Family Eucharist BAS and Lutheran Celebrate liturgy.
Average attendance is around 180 people

Wednesday – 10 a.m. Holy Communion BCP (said) with 5 attending.

We have opportunity for healing prayer following this service on the third Wednesday of the month, with a larger attendance.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

St. Mark's stands in the midst of a middle class to upper middle class residential area with excellent shopping, transportation and school facilities. Our church was completed in 1990 and consecrated in 1994. It seats 350 people. The previous building was converted to a hall, which adjoins the sanctuary. The property occupies 3.5 acres with parking for 108 cars.

We have recently been enhancing and upgrading the building through a Capital Enhancement and Renewal initiative, which we presented to the Congregation in 2010 with a goal of \$200,000. We have substantially achieved that total through cash and pledges and we have proceeded to repair leaky walls and roof, paint the exterior, upgrade our sanctuary sound system, replace our kitchen dishwasher and office telephone system as well as several other smaller projects. This program is ongoing at the present time.

Through the generosity of members of the parish, we have recently been blessed with a new organ, a completely refurbished piano, a Serenity Garden and a new cross in our sanctuary.

Included on our site is a four bedroom Rectory which is available to a successful candidate who might wish to occupy it. The Rectory was upgraded last year with new windows and a new furnace.

We also have a Memorial Garden.

Our buildings are insured for \$3,347,000 and the contents for \$3,385,000.

FINANCES

The parish is financially healthy and is not in debt. We have had an extensive Capital Renewal and Enhancement program over the past two years, and this program will continue into the next year.

Following is a brief summary of our **Income and Expenditures in Dollars:**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Operating Income	356,243	361,487	314,502	358,700	371,004
Operating Expenses	364,566	368,685	322,591	358,577	369,003
Outreach*	48,437	29,161	27,614	30,514	25,870

*** This number does not reflect the money raised and also given to outreach and missions by our various church groups.**

OUR COMMUNITY

Located on the Semiahmoo peninsula in the extreme SW corner of the Fraser Valley, surrounded by the ocean, the USA border and farmland, South Surrey/White Rock is a distinctive area within the Greater Vancouver Region. It is within a one hour drive to Vancouver city centre and minutes to the border. The area covers 48 sq. miles (124 sq. km) and is well served by Public Transit.

Amenities include sandy beaches for swimming, the White Rock promenade and pier, walking trails, parks and forested areas, venues for numerous sporting activities, the A Rocha Christian Conservation farm and teaching centre (supported by St. Mark's), 3 libraries with children's centres, senior citizen facilities, and an active artists community.

Generally, the area is residential with the necessary commercial and business ventures, including 3 major shopping areas. Housing is mostly a mix of houses and multi family accommodation, with 77% owning their own homes. Median income is higher than average for the province. English is the home language for 93% of the population, with a smattering of Mandarin, Korean and 4 other languages in the remaining 7%.

The area is experiencing rapid growth, with the present population approximately 82,000.

The age breakdown, compared to the Province, is:

Age	0-19	20-49	50-65	65 and Over
South Surrey/White Rock	21%	33%	24%	22%
British Columbia	23%	42%	20%	15%

The climate offers the lowest rainfall in the lower mainland at an average annual 41ins (1050mm) precipitation. The average summer temperature is 22C (72F), and the average winter temperature is 5C (42F). The location, climate and leisure amenities attract retirees from many regions and account for the substantially higher than average number in the 65 and over bracket. There are 20 Care facilities and Retirement homes offering a variety of services for those who need to leave their home.

It is an attractive place in which to raise a young family. We have 18 Elementary Schools, 3 Secondary Schools, 4 Private Schools, and Special Needs classes.

For our spiritual health, there are 2 Anglican parishes among some 30 denominations with an active ministerial association, but 30% of the population have no religion.

Our physical well being is catered for by the Peace Arch Hospital with 146 acute beds, 300 extended care beds and Emergency, Outpatient and

diagnostic services. There are also a number of medical and walk-in clinics, and recreational programs as well as various support programs.

THE PARISH TOMORROW

This parish like our own lives is on a journey. We have come through some turbulent waters in the past several years to a place of new stability. We have not defined yet exactly where we believe the Lord is taking us. You are being invited to join us on that journey of discovery.

One of the strengths of our parish is a true fellowship of people who love, worship and serve together. When people come to visit us they quickly sense that strong and loving community which has not calcified into a clique but easily reaches out to embrace new people. We would like to continue to build on that strength and gift.

Our community life, as you can see, is filled with a variety of fellowship events throughout the year in barbecues and bazaars, in teas and potlucks that are full of fun, participation from the community and, in many cases, raising money for important ministries and outreach. Yet the people who have developed these programs are aging and like many churches today, we are finding it more difficult to sustain these programs. We are seeking ways to encourage the young families who have joined us to enter leadership and full participation. It is a great challenge because of the already heavy demands upon their lifestyles. We are also looking for ways to support their particular needs as Christian families raising children while maintaining career and community responsibilities. We see the organic growth of ministry in bible study and fellowship with this new demographic in our parish. There is much opportunity for expansion in this particular area.

There is a strong commitment to Christian Education through our home Bible studies program. We are interested in creating more opportunities for Christian education and lay leadership training. We have enjoyed the Alpha program in the past and would like to see that begin again.

St Marks has a comprehensive Community Outreach Ministry that is serving the needy and marginalized in our community in a number of different ways. There is a brochure available that describes the various outreaches we are involved in. This is a program that was born out of the vision of one woman in our parish and has grown into something much more comprehensive than its original purpose. Outreach to the community has a high priority in our life together and we would like to see this grow in strength and scope.

There is a huge commitment here to care for the frail elderly members of our parish. God has blessed us with an amazing lay team to share the load of visiting and phone calling. We are currently expanding their role by training a lay ministry team to take reserved sacrament into homes and hospitals.

One important area that has the core leadership for renewed energy is international missions. We produce a quarterly newspaper that features the various ways in which we are engaged as a parish as well individually in international outreach ministries. We have adopted Compassion Ministries as a means of offering Christian support to children around the world. Here is another area ripe to expand our outreach to people around the world, in Christian witness and loving care.

We are asking you to consider becoming a part of an engaging and fulfilling team ministry. We are a people who are on the move with God. Like Bilbo Baggins said in the Hobbit, "It's a dangerous business, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no telling where you might be swept off to."

Yet we believe that God is with us and leading us. We believe that God is speaking to someone to come and share this journey with us and are praying to that end.