

Notice of Annual Meeting

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Sunday, January 19

11:00 am until 12:30 pm



Have your voice heard

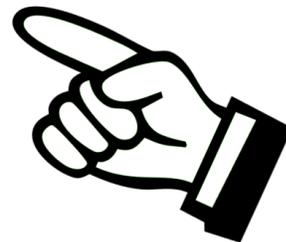
Have coffee in church (and treats too)

Find out what all the ministry teams have up their sleeves

Recognize Diane and welcome our new deacon

Be in the know

*Attendance at this meeting
will NOT automatically sign
you up for ANYTHING
...but you may want to sign up after you
hear what's going on



Elections will be held for the following positions:

Executive Committee

Vestry

Diocesan Convention Delegates

MISSION STATEMENT:

St. Mark's is called to serve all people in greater Springfield, MA. as a guiding light and a spiritual home where Jesus' spirit is known through inclusive, joyful worship, spirited formation, thriving ministries of service, and powerful outreach. Christ welcomed all, we welcome you.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

One Porter Road
 East Longmeadow, MA 01028
 413.525.6341
 Email: office@stmarksma.org
 Web: www.stmarksma.org
 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm

**Sunday Worship: 8am & 10am,
 6:30 pm**

**Wednesday Worship:
 12:00pm Eucharist**

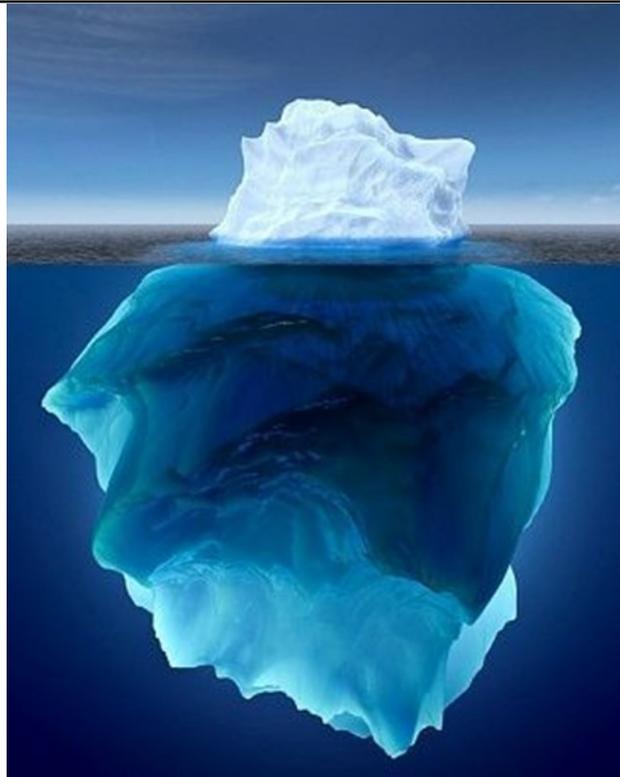
Rector- Rev. Peter Swarr
 Sr. Warden - Sue Schneider
 Jr. Warden - Peter Fairman
 Director of Music - Susan Matsui
 Parish Administrator - Diane Chandler
 Good News Editor - Diane Chandler

The *Good News* is published monthly by St. Mark's Church. The deadline is usually the **3rd Tuesday of every month** unless otherwise noted.

**Next deadline is
 Tuesday, Jan 15, 2020**



Submit articles to:
 Diane Chandler, Good News Editor
office@stmarksma.org

ICEBERG UPDATE

Early in December St. Mark's heard the good news that members of the church had started chipping away at the debt which is still owed from our building. Since that time parishioners have been responding to the invitation to do some chipping away of their own. As of December 12, when the newsletter articles were finalized, \$2,010 has been given towards reducing our debt and making our ministry and life of worship more sustainable. Thank you all for taking part, and know that ANY gift makes a real difference.

MEET LIBBY WADE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

On Sunday, January 12 the Rev. Libby Wade will be preaching at St. Mark's. Mother Libby will be the interim priest during Fr. Peter's sabbatical from mid-May through August. The Vestry and sabbatical team, which is currently being formed by Junior Warden Peter Fairman, thought it wise to have Mother Libby come and preach and get to know St. Mark's a little in

advance of the sabbatical. Fr. Peter will be at church that day as well. So come on the 12th and get to know Mother Libby and show her the warmth and love and welcome which is such an important part of our parish community.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH TO WELCOME THE REV. DEACON ERIC ELLEY AS OUR NEWEST CLERGY PERSON

St. Mark's is welcoming a new ordained leader into our life, the Rev. Eric Elley! Eric is known to a number of us already as he is actively involved in Church without Walls, Big Blue (the homeless ministry in Springfield), and offering audio visual support at Diocesan Convention.

Bishop Fisher has invited St. Mark's to welcome a deacon into our parish life. Deacons are a specific order in the church who represent the church to the world and the needs of the world to the Church. At Sunday services they have specific rolls, they read the Gospel, they prepare the Table for Holy Communion, they assist in administering the Eucharist, they dismiss the people to head into the world to love and serve God. They also take part in pastoral care and other worship rolls. Ultimately, Deacons serve at the direction of the Bishop and do not receive a salary for their ministry.

Prior to being at St. Mark's Deacon Eric served at St. Andrew's Church in Longmeadow. He is currently in the process of pursuing ordination to the Priesthood, and as such he will be undergoing additional formation here at St. Mark's prior to his potential priestly ordination.

We are looking forward to having Eric join us in 2020. As a way of getting to know Eric a little bit before his arrival, please read his brief biography below.



Born and raised in New Jersey, Eric and his husband Graham are happy to call Somers, Connecticut their home. They, along with their son Jeffrey, and very pampered pooch Chester, live in the parsonage (or rectory in Episcopal-speak) next to the Congregational Church of Somersville (UCC) where Graham has served as pastor since 2005.

Trained originally in electronics engineering, Eric worked in the electronics and IT industries for several years and continues to operate a business in multiple segments of that field. He was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church USA in 2000. He served at Trinity Cathedral and was employed on bishop's staff in the Diocese of New Jersey for five years. Since moving to New England in 2005 for

Graham's call, Eric served as a Deacon at St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton for seven years, inaugurating their very successful midnight breakfast program for Smith College students.

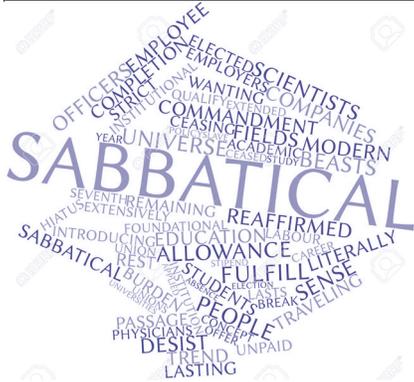
Eric joined the staff of St. Andrew's in the fall of 2015. His special ministerial focus continues to be with the homeless and disenfranchised at the Church Without Walls and Big Blue ministries in Springfield that are supported by multiple Episcopal and UCC congregations in the area. Eric looks forward to joining the staff at St. Mark's and supporting the ministry taking place here. "I look forward to meeting you all and sharing our spiritual journeys." Eric

HOW TO REPLACE THE IRREPLACEABLE: VESTRY FORMS A SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

The Vestry has the unenviable task of finding a way to seek a new parish administrator as Diane Chandler prepares for her upcoming retirement in May of 2020. Thanks to Diane's gracious forewarning, the Vestry has gotten to work planning, strategizing, and creating mechanisms for finding someone to step into the Parish Administrator roll. As part of this work, a Search Committee is being formed by the Vestry. They will examine job descriptions and needed skills and requirements as well as create a schedule for searching for and interviewing candidates. All of this needs to be done in a timely manner so that Diane is able to spend a full month training our new administrator.

If you are interested in learning more about the process or even volunteering to be part of the committee, please speak with Fr. Peter or our Senior Warden, Sue Schneider.

SABBATICAL PLANNING MEETING, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH 9-11 AM



As Father Peter is resting, relaxing and renewing during his sabbatical this summer, our congregational life will continue. On Saturday, January 25th from 9-11 we will be planning how we will be spending this time. Would you like to be part of this process? Is there something you'd like to focus on? Please join us as we brainstorm programs for the entire family. A light breakfast will be served.

For more information please speak with Fr. Peter, or Junior Warden Peter Fairman. We look forward to seeing you!

A BIG THANK YOU FROM OUTREACH

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Advent Warming Tree and Christmas gifts for our two families. The gifts have been delivered and the gloves, hats, socks, coats and blankets will be going out on the Big Blue van with us to be distributed to those who are living outdoors in our area. May the Lord bless and keep all those who are in need this winter.



ST. MARK'S YOUTH VISIT CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS IN SPRINGFIELD



On Sunday, January 5 St. Mark's Middle School and High School youth will be gathering in the church kitchen at 9am to make sandwiches and prepare a lunch. But the lunch isn't for them...it is for the homeless and needy in Springfield.

As you may know, on the first Sunday of every month St. Mark's helps feed 60-80 people in Springfield and Fr. Peter helps lead a worship service at Court Square. That worship service is called Church without Walls.

This January 5, our youth group will take part in leading the service. They will experience worshipping outdoors, interacting with the community that gathers each week, and then handing out sandwiches, chips, fruit and other goodies.

Please join me in thanking our youth for taking part, and join them in helping make a difference for those in need. Jesus said, "as you did it to the least of these, you have done it unto me." May we learn from our youth and be a people of compassion and action.

ADULT FORMATION



*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Psalm 32:8*

Adult Formation Ministry Planning Meeting
Monday, January 13th, 6-8 pm, Williams Media Room
Dinner will be served.

Adult Formation is on a roll! So many wonderful Spirit-led activities going on, from meals, and ministry to prayer to ???? Where will the Holy Spirit lead us in 2020? Be part of the planning for the upcoming year. No matter where you are, or where you are going, there is a place for you in Adult Formation. We are looking for you! We will share a meal, some brainstorming, and planning upcoming programs. Bring your calendars! For more information talk with Fr. Peter or Meg Galbreath.



JANUARY

*Happy
Birthday*

- 01/02 Kim Rodrigo
- 01/08 Barbara Gibbs
Cathy Stevens
- 01/10 Nicholas Dufresne
- 01/11 Matthew Villani
- 01/14 Alix DeGregory
- 01/24 Shamim Najeebi
Sydney Russo-Appel
- 01/26 Gail Gurney
Brian Banker
- 01/27 Ryan Moreau



Thanks to all of those who went Christmas caroling to local nursing homes on December 7.
And many thanks to Sue Matsui for helping organize this event.



SOMETHING TO WARM YOU DURING THIS NEW ENGLAND WINTER



Come in from the cold and join us for a hearty Italian meal and good company on **Saturday, January 11th from 5-7:30 pm** in the Great Hall. The meal will include the following traditional crowd pleasing dishes:

- Italian Wedding Soup
- Salad
- Lasagna
- Italian Bread
- Dessert & Coffee and Tea

The cost for the entire meal is \$12.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children under 10. There will also be a cash bar serving wine and beer. All proceeds will go to reduce the St. Mark's Church budget deficit.

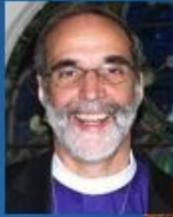
Bement Waterfield Grant Applications for March 2020

Our Diocese provides grant funding for post-secondary education for young people who are active in our parishes and missions. Please publicize this information throughout your parish via announcements in your Sunday bulletins and word-of-mouth. Applications for the coming year are due **March 1, 2020**.

Please advise your students that all information on the B/W educational grants program is listed on our website. A trifold brochure is available for printing and displaying in prominent locations around your parish. Application guidelines, application form, reference form and clergy reference form are all available, as well as the history of the B/W Grants Program.

Questions? Contact kwarren@diocesewma.org

Please join
**The Episcopal Diocese
 of Western Massachusetts**
 on a tour of the Holy Land
ISRAEL



Led by the Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith
 & Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro
April 18-30, 2020

On our interfaith journey we will...

- ▶ Discover Jerusalem, the modern capital of Israel, alongside the Jewish and Christian quarters of the historic Old City
- ▶ Ascend Mt. Zion to view King David's tomb and the Upper Room, the site of the Last Supper
- ▶ Explore the origins of Christianity in Capernaum, Nazareth and Bethlehem
- ▶ Take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee with time for prayer and reflection
- ▶ Visit Old Jaffa's landmarks such as St. Peter's Church and the House of Simon the Tanner
- ▶ Explore the history and foundation of Tel Aviv at Independence Hall and the Yitzhak Rabin Center
- ▶ Dig into the archaeological site at Beit Guvrin, unearthing remnants from Israel's ancient past
- ▶ Climb Masada to view the remains of King Herod's fortress and float in the healing waters of the Dead Sea
- ▶ Celebrate Israel's Independence Day

...and so much more!



Old Jaffa



Sea of Galilee



Jerusalem



Tel Aviv

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This amazing tour includes...

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- 2 nights at Kibbutz Nof Ginosar, Galilee
- 5 nights at the Ibis Hotel, Jersusalem
- 2 nights + late check out at the Grand Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv
- Breakfast daily
- 9 dinners, including Shabbat of a Lifetime
- Picnic lunch on Israel's Independence Day
- Tips to guide, driver & dining room waiters
- Bus travel to and from U.S. airport
- Arrival/departure transfer in Israel with group
- Entrance fees & portorage per itinerary
- Touring in a deluxe air-conditioned vehicle
- Incredible & unique touring adventures throughout

TOUR PRICING Price per person (double occupancy)	Discounted Rate (Payment by Check)	Full Cost (Credit Card)
FULL PACKAGE LAND & AIR	\$4,788	\$4,930
<i>Additional Cost for Single Occupancy</i>	\$1,249	\$1,286
LAND ONLY	\$3,399	\$3,499

Group flights on El Al from JFK.

**For more information, please contact
Marc Savitt at 800-237-1517 x309.**

To view the itinerary, go to:
secure.ayelet.com/SpringfieldtoIsrael2020.aspx

Full package does not include: Border taxes or visa fees, meals not listed above, travel insurance (highly recommended), or items of a personal nature. Land only tour does not include: Round-trip airfare, departure taxes and fuel surcharges, border taxes or visa fees, meals not listed above, travel insurance (highly recommended), or items of a personal nature. Please note, tour pricing and operation is based on a minimum group size. A small group supplement may be applicable if we do not reach the minimum requirement. Note airfare departure taxes and fuel surcharges are subject to change until ticketed. Full payment is due 61 days prior to departure. CANCELLATION POLICY: \$100 per person charged if canceled once booked, plus any applicable airline penalties. \$250 per person charged if canceled 60-31 days before departure, plus any applicable airline penalties. 100% penalties apply if canceled 30 days or less before departure. All prices in USD.

Disclaimer: Ayelet Tours, Bishop Douglas John Fisher, Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro and the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, touring, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. We will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements. However, we do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity to person and property because of an act of default of any hotel, airline carrier, restaurant, company, or person rendering any of the services included in the tour. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or to substitute comparable service without notice. Right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any tour passengers should such person's health or general department impede the operation of the tour to the detriment of the other tour passengers.

Yes! I want to join the Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith & Rabbi Shapiro to experience Israel!

I am sending this form with a \$500 per person deposit, payable to Ayelet Tours.

* Please include a copy of the front page of each registrant's passport and fill out **one form per person**
* Passport must be valid for 6 months past travel dates

- Full Package (Land & Air)
 Land Only

Name as it appears on Passport: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Passport #: _____ Expiration: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sharing with another registrant (registering separately)? Please note name here: _____

Pay by credit card:

___ MC ___ Visa ___ Disc ___ AmEx # _____ Exp: _____ Security Code: _____

If submitting multiple forms, please check this box to apply the credit card information to cover all registration deposits in your family.

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Canon Pam Mott to Retire in 2020

December 4, 2019



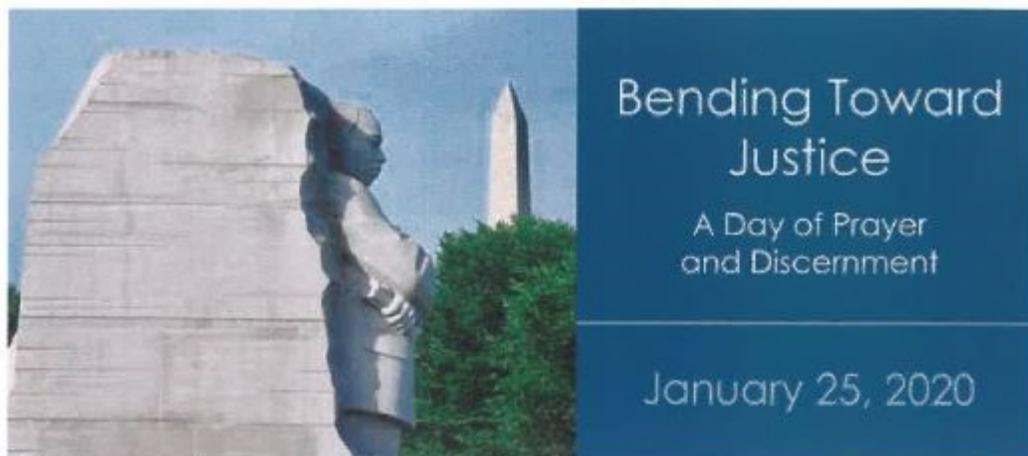
Friends and colleagues,

The Rev. Canon Pamela J. Mott has announced her plans to retire on March 1, 2020. Pam has been a faithful partner in ministry from the moment of her arrival in 2013. Her counsel has been invaluable, her vision attuned to the 21st century



This transition has allowed me to wonder how we might adapt to the mission in a new way. I have decided not to fill Pam's role and appoint a second Canon to the Ordinary at this time. Canon Rich Simpson will continue in his current role, with transitions slowing down a bit in 2020. **Mrs. Susan Olbon** and **the Rev. Vicki Ix** have joined the Executive Team, along with me, Rich, and Steve, which meets weekly. Susan and Vicki have been invited in periodically to bring their perspectives to bear on important matters. It feels like the right time to bring them into this circle on a more permanent basis.

We have more to work out in the three months before Pam's retirement. I felt it wise to inform you as soon as possible so that you can express your gratitude to Pam for her excellent ministry among us as Canon, and look forward to her continuing work as Missioner.



Saturday, January 25

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

All Saints' Episcopal Church, South Hadley

Sponsored by the Social Justice Commission

- Join us as we pray and discern the work of justice in our time and place.
- Come, meet others who are passionate about the issues.
- Listen to the Word and discern how the Spirit is calling the Church to action.

9:00 AM Eucharist with the Propers for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, presiding

10:00 AM Coffee, light refreshments, meet your table companions

10:30 AM Keynote Address given by the Rev. Arrington Chamblis
w/ small group work

12:00 PM Lunch

12:40 PM Poor Peoples Campaign MA presentation & video

1:00 PM Facilitated break-outs by issue: Beloved Community, Creation Care,
Immigration, Gun Violence

2:15 PM Groups share what has arisen in prayer and discussion

2:30 PM Renewal of our Baptismal Vows

Love Your
Neighbor

who doesn't

 Look like you

 Think like you

 Love like you

 Speak like you

 Pray like you

 Vote like you

Love Your Neighbor

No exceptions

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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