

INTRODUCING THE REV. MIKE DEVINE: NEW PRIEST ASSOCIATE AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

But first a little backstory...

About 3 years ago Sue Schneider and I began creating a leadership program to help the people of St. Mark's identify their gifts and explore opportunities to serve. While leading "Exploration into Christian Leadership" Seminars for St. Mark's... the Diocese noticed, and asked us to lead these programs at other churches. So far we have taught in North Adams, Holyoke, and are getting ready to lead the program at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield. To make this a reality, the Diocesan granted funds to help support my time at St. Mark's making sure that as I take on this additional diocesan work, things still get done right here.

As a result, the Vestry has agreed to invite the Rev. Mike DeVine to begin leading Eucharists on Wednesdays at the nursing homes in town where we offer monthly services as well as lead every other Wednesday noon Eucharist here at St. Mark's. Fr. Mike will also offer other pastoral care as needed. His worship leadership and pastoral care will help free up my time for other ministry while still ensuring continued worship and outreach at St. Mark's.

Fr. DeVine will begin taking part in Wednesday services in February and a full schedule will be set in March, so keep your eyes out for more details.

In the meantime, please join me in welcoming Mike into the worship life of St. Mark's Church.

A brief Bio of Fr. Mike DeVine is found here:



Despite being raised in the corn fields of Iowa, the Lord directed me to a different path when I ended up in the Peace Corps. I served in Latin America for three years in both Chile and Paraguay before going to Virginia Seminary. In reality, I never left Latin America because upon graduating from seminary I immediately began serving in Hispanic Ministry in parishes in New Jersey and Rhode Island. In 2003 my wife and I moved to Springfield where I was the Canon for Hispanic Ministry at the Cathedral. I "retired" from the Cathedral at the end of 2012, but immediately began as Interim Rector at St. Peter's where I continue to this day.

My wife, Mariana, and I have been married for 46 years and have two children; both of whom are working in Rhode Island. My daughter, Marisa, works as an accountant and my son, Christopher, works as an architect. Mariana has long since retired from teaching dance, but has remained very active in the Daughters of the King on a local, regional and national level. We continue to live in Springfield and enjoy the bounty of the Pioneer Valley.

A MONTH OF UNDIES

February is the month that we collect underwear and socks for the men at the the Springfield Rescue Mission. We have been doing this for years, and your response has been heartwarming. We collected over a hundred items last year. There is a basket located in the great hall for your donation. Let's make Undie Sundays as successful as we have in the past.!



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,
6:30pm**

**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
I.T./Webmaster - Ryan Schneider

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, Feb 19, 2019**



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

VESTRY HEADS ON RETREAT: FEBRUARY 1-3

On Friday afternoon, 02/01 and continuing until Sunday afternoon, 02/03 the Vestry will be heading to the Barbara C Harris Camp and Conference Center in New Hampshire for its annual retreat.

Together they will grow as a community of faith, learn about each other, team-build, and work on the upcoming Small Group Initiative which was unveiled at Annual Meeting (See the Article in this month's newsletter for more details pg 5).

While the Vestry and Father Peter will be away from Sunday worship on the 3rd, we hope and pray that you will gather together to celebrate the gifts of God, support each other in community, and pray for the Vestry to faithfully do the work God has given them to do.

Know that Vestry will be holding all of you in prayer as well as we seek to lead in the name of Christ.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE BIBLE, OURSELVES, AND GOD:
BIBLE 201**

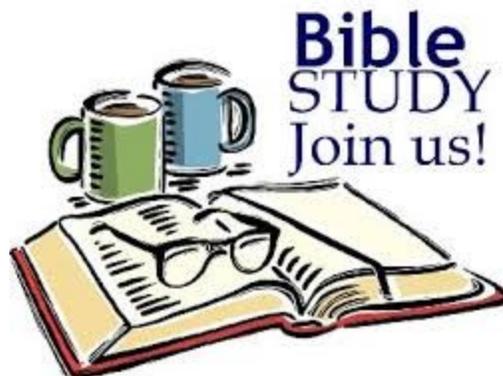
Early in January a new Bible Study group began, led by Alan Druckenmiller and supported by Fr Peter. Together this group of well over a dozen individuals is meeting six times before Lent. They will look at different connections between the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and Christian Scriptures (New Testament) as well as connections between our lives and the Bible.

No previous Bible experience is needed and all are welcome!

Meetings are taking place in the Williams Media Room on Friday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for February 15 & 22 and March 1 & 8.

If you are interested in joining in and taking part in this connection building experience, please do not hesitate to contact Alan Druckenmiller (pastorard@msn.com) or Fr. Peter (rector@stmarksma.org)



STEWARDSHIP NEWS: THANKING BRUCE ROCKWELL FOR NINE YEARS OF SERVICE

At the most recent meeting of the Stewardship Ministry Team, Bruce Rockwell, our longtime leader of the Stewardship Ministry Team announced his plan to step down from his leadership position. Fr Peter and Sue Schneider helped lead the team in a time of prayer, reflection, and discernment about the future. Even as we looked at this major change in our ministry, it was clear that the abundance of God was present in the room and in this ministry team. So many team members shared about their passion and desire to continue serving Christ and the church as members of this team. While the exact format of the team is not 100% clear what we do know is that there is passion and desire to keep moving forward helping people discover their gifts, experience the abundance and love of God, and find joy in giving their time, talents, and treasure.



In the meantime, please join the entire team in thanking Bruce for many years of dedicated service, skillful leadership and helping to make stewardship part of the fabric of St. Mark's Church. Well done good and faithful servant!

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CHURCH? A LITTLE LOOK AT OUR BUILDING USE

Have you driven by St. Mark's some evenings and noticed the lights on and the parking lot full? It's happening more and more these days, more ministries and more outside groups are using this wonderful space for their work and ministry.

Because most of us don't watch the church calendar with any sort of regularity it seemed like now might be a good time to list out some of the different outside groups who are using St. Mark's for meetings and other gatherings.

- Mom's Club of East Longmeadow meets in the Great Hall and Nursery on a monthly basis
- Cub Scouts Troops meets four times a month
- AA groups meet in our Great Hall eight times a week
- Salvation Church uses our Sanctuary every Sunday and holds Saturday morning Bible Studies
- Every Tuesday from noon until 4pm a Bridge Club meets in our Great Hall with about 50 people in attendance
- An exercise group for moms has been meeting on a weekly basis as well

Additionally, outside groups and parishioners will rent the great hall for parties and gatherings.

Each time we open our doors, we show Christian hospitality. We help support the community, encourage people to health and recovery and connection. Thanks be to God for a building that can be such a positive resource for East Longmeadow and beyond.

SAVE THE DATE!



Who wants to bid on or win items for only quarters?!

We have the perfect solution! Come join us to have fun, win some prizes, snack on yummy food and raise funds to go directly toward the church deficit.

Quarter Auction - March 23, 2019 at 4pm in the Great Hall.

See Mallory LaBonte or Mishel Mitus for more info or if you're interested in being a part of the action!



CELEBRATING OUR COUNTERS

On February 10, we will be celebrating our Counters with a brief statement about what it means to serve God by being entrusted with reporting the funds collected during the service. These funds help support keeping our church operating on a daily basis. They are a visible sign of our gratitude to God and they help us do the work we are called to do as a Church. Counters dedication and service ensure that we are good stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us as a congregation. After the service we will have cake in the Great Hall. Please feel free to approach any of our Counters if you have any questions on how to become a Counter or what is involved in joining this ministry. Please take a moment to thank them for their time and talents which make Sunday services possible.

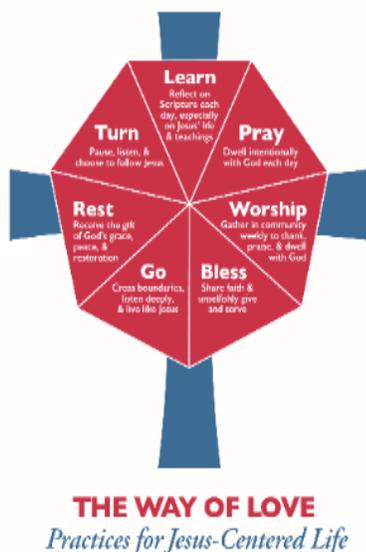


OUTREACH

Our Big Blue ministry teams have been going out every Tuesday night in Christ Church Cathedral's big blue van to deliver warm items and food to the homeless living outdoors in Springfield. To give an idea of the need, on just two Tuesdays in January, we gave out a total of 60 sandwiches, 68 pairs of warm socks, 43 winter coats, 18 blankets, 31 pairs of gloves, 1 sleeping bag and several hats and scarves.

All were given with love and received with gratitude. But it is going to be a long and cold winter, so these items will be needed throughout the next couple of months. If you have gently used winter coats and blankets or would like to donate some new warm socks and gloves, please bring them to the Great Hall by the Outreach Wagon. Someone from St. Mark's will be going out every Tuesday night and will hand deliver these items to those who need them most.





St. Mark's Church

Small Groups 2019

What are **Small Groups**?

Small groups are gathering of 6-12 people, who meet for fellowship, learning, sharing and worship. These groups can meet in a variety of settings including the church, the home of a church member, or a public place.

Why **Small Groups**?

We have long known that small groups are an important way people can connect with each other and God as they grow in faith. Vestry be-

lieves this endeavor will be a blessing to St. Mark's and to you.

How will the **Small Group** program happen?

Vestry members have worked to adapt "**The Way of Love**" curriculum offered by the Episcopal Church to create a program that is made for us.

While on retreat this year, the Vestry will serve as the "beta group" to test out the program and make it as good as they possibly can.

When they return from retreat, Vestry will identify people to host and/or lead a group during Lent and those volunteers will be supported and trained.

All members of the congregation are invited to take part. We will do our best to offer many different times to meet.

What is the **Way of Love**?

The **Way of Love** is a way of life. More than a program or curriculum, it is a return to the ancient pathways and Rules of Life that followers of Jesus have observed for centuries. They knew the power of commitment to a core set of practices – **Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest** – and the power of gathering in a small group where you find love and support for living into these commitments. If we hope to grow more like Jesus and bear his redeeming love in the world, we can adopt a rule of life like the **Way of Love** and find a community with which to practice it.

Christ welcomed all, we welcome you

WINTER QUIET DAY ON THE LAKE



CATHY AND RICK STEVEN'S HOME, LAKE METACOMET, BELCHERTOWN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH , 9:00-3:00

WAYS OF SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Would you like to learn about different ways of spiritual practice? Are you looking to grow your ways of communicating with, and listening for, God? Please join fellow questioners and seekers at our winter Quiet Day at the Lake. We will learn, listen, pray and eat together as Father Peter shares a variety of practices. We will meet at St. Mark's at 9, then car pool up to Cathy and Rick Steven's home on Lake Metacomet in Belchertown. We will share Eucharist, time for quiet or discussion, weather permitting a walk in the woods, and a hearty pot luck lunch. We will return to St. Mark's at around 3:00. For more information please speak with Fr. Peter, Meg Galbreath meg.galbreath56@gmail.com or Cathy Stevens rcmstvns@verizon.net



I am writing this after listening to Fr. Peter's sermon at the Eucharist at the Feast of the Epiphany at which he spoke, in part, about the gifts the Magi brought Jesus. And that got me thinking about gifts.

Probably most of us received gifts at Christmas. But I'm not thinking about those kinds of gifts. I'm thinking about the intangible gifts God has entrusted to us.

Geoffrey Tristram, a brother at the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, has said this about these kinds of gifts: "Our wealth, our talents, our very life, are not ours – not our possession – they have been given to us as a gift – from our generous God. But how quickly we forget. How easily we become possessive, acquisitive, angry, when another seems to have what we want or threatens to take what is ours."

I would like to suggest that we try to start each day with the awareness that our wealth, our talents, our very life, are all gifts, given to us as gifts by our generous God. Let us strive each day to be a good steward of these gifts, and to use these gifts in ways that will be pleasing to God.

One of the things I learned from Bishop Scruton, the retired bishop of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, was to begin each day with this prayer: "Loving God, may all that I do this day be an offering to you." Each day I strive to do this. And each day I fall short of the mark. But I continue to state this intention each day in the hope that one day God will indeed find what I do is a worthy offering that truly represents my love of God.

Bruce Rockwell

On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry Team

First Annual Unofficial “Episcopal Night”

See the Springfield Thunderbirds Friday, February 15



6:00 gather at the Cathedral Parking to walk down. 7:05 game time.

Tickets \$10, \$18 and \$22 purchase your own on the night of the game.

We will pay 1/2 for any child 12 and under

RSVP—so we know cccspdlf@gmail.com

EPISCOPAL PRISON MINISTRY

An update from the chaplain



A few months ago, I wrote about the needs of women as they reenter society after incarceration.

One of the many obstacles they face is the lack of affordable transportation. I made an appeal for donations towards weekly and monthly bus passes from the PVTA.

Thanks to the generous donation from the people at St. Andrew's, Longmeadow, I was able to purchase many bus passes.

Thank you, St. Andrew's.

I'd like to share one story that may illuminate the value of the passes. When one woman was released from the Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee, I transported her to a social service drop-in center in Springfield. Her hope was that they could help her find a shelter in which to stay. Sadly, she declined the options for housing which the staff at the correctional center were willing to arrange. This woman was seven months pregnant and was concerned about her living situation as most shelters don't allow pregnant women to stay with them.

As I dropped her off and handed her the monthly bus pass, she said, "You know, this is probably where I'm going to live for the next month. I'll probably just stay on the bus a lot of the time to keep warm." That is an image that should be familiar to most of us; a pregnant woman with no place to stay, wandering around.... This all happened about one month ago and I think of her and pray for her often. I hope she has found a place to lay her head at night.

Please don't ever doubt the value of a simple donation of a bus pass or a supermarket gift card or a Bible. Your donation may just get someone through another day.

Thank you, St. Andrew's, and thank all of you who keep these women, and me, in your prayers.

Mary D'Alessandro

Chaplain for the Women's Correctional Center
Chicopee, MA

HOLY GROUNDS WISH LIST

The Holy Grounds sponsor list in honor, memory or thanksgiving is posted in the kitchen for anyone desiring to sponsor a week. The normal donation is \$25 but any amount is gratefully accepted. If you prefer to support Holy Grounds other than by sponsorship, the list below includes items that are always needed.

Tea-individually wrapped-decaf-plain flavor
Apple juice (bottle)
Paper Cold 5 oz cups
Clorox disinfectant wipes

Paper plates: Small- dessert sized
Lunch sized napkins
Sugar packets
Sweeteners: Pink, Blue, & Yellow Packets
Paper HOT cups 8 or 10oz
Handi-Wipes

Lenten Seminar 2019

Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life

Seminar Description



What do we mean when we speak about the spiritual life? Lent is a time to reflect on and reexamine our spiritual life in light of God's will. It is a time to rediscover the active presence of God's Spirit in our lives and trust God's Spirit to recreate and renew us inwardly with love. This seminar is centered on Henri Nouwen's book: *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life*. Participants will discern the meaning of the spiritual life through prayer, reflection on the readings, scripture, and discussion.

Facilitators

Fr. Warren J. Savage is the Director and Catholic Chaplain at the Albert and Amelia Ferst Interfaith Center, Westfield State University; Lecturer, Religious Studies Department, The Elms College, Chicopee, MA; Instructor, Diocesan Permanent Diaconate Formation Program; Chairperson of the Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy; Member of the Presbyteral Council; member of Spiritual Directors International, The Academy of Homiletics, and The Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality.

Mary Keator, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the English Department at Westfield State University, Westfield, MA and an Adjunct Lecturer, Religious Studies Department, The Elms College, Chicopee, MA., a member of Spiritual Directors International, Contemplative Mind in Society and a registered yoga teacher.

Seminar Location, Dates & Time:

DeCicé Hall at the Marian Center

1365 Northampton St., Holyoke, MA 01040

March 25, April 1 and April 8 (7:00 – 8:30 p.m.)

To register for the seminar please contact: Chris Clark, DHM, Director

(413) 687-1858; voicemail (413) 539-5924

Email decice.hall@gmail.com

Cost and Required Resource

Registration is \$40 per person (check payable to Fr. Warren J. Savage). Participants can pay at the first session of the seminar. Participants will need to purchase the following resource: Henri Nouwen's book: *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life* (New York: Harper Collins, 1981) ISBN: 9780060663261 This resource can be purchased online through Amazon or Barnes & Noble. The facilitators will provide other resource materials for the seminar.

Do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?...
Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first...
and all these things will be given you as well." (Matthew 6:31-33)



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