



BRING A NEW CANDLE TO CHURCH FOR... CANDLEMAS...

St. Mark's to Celebrate Candlemas on Sunday, February 2

Candlewhat??? you may be asking. Candlemas. It's true Candlemas isn't exactly an everyday word, and it isn't something most of us even have a clue of what it is. I had to break open my *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* to write this article! And yet Candlemas has a rich history that encourages us to think about God's light and presence breaking into our lives. It is a chance for us to celebrate God's presence made known to us in Christ and to join with millions of Christians around the world as we celebrate this ancient feast.

Candlemas is celebrated every February 2nd, which means it shows up on a Sunday only every so often. That's why so many of us may not recognize it as a regular part of the church year.

So just what is Candlemas? It's a day when we remember Jesus being "Presented" at the Temple. It happens 40 days after birth when a mother and child would come before God's presence in the Jewish Temple for blessing and purification. On the 2nd we remember Mary and Jesus heading to Jerusalem, heading to the very place where God's presence was believed to dwell, the Temple, and seeking God's blessing. At the same time, we remember that in this action, not only did they seek out God's blessing, but Jesus, the Light of God, was displayed someone named Simeon. You can read the whole story in Luke chapter 2 verses 22-39

Simeon was a prophet, a holy man who was waiting and watching for God's grace and light to show up in his life and in the world.

As Mary brought Jesus to the Temple, Simeon knew that God's light was with him. In joy he met Jesus and sang a song which church folk have been singing ever since... it's called the *nunc dimittis* and it's words go something like this.

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised; for these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

For those of you who have prayed Compline (page 127 in the Book of Common Prayer) you may well recognize this bit of scripture. It is said in the evening as part of every prayer liturgy. A song of hope, a song of completion, a song of trust. It is a song that talks about the Light of God being with us, even in the darkness of life.

As part of Candlemas people bring new candles to church to have them blessed, to help them then bring the light of Jesus into their lives. We will gather on the 2nd of February at the 10am service, with candles in hand (if you don't have any we will also provide extras), we will light them, pray, and process into the church. Together, we will be reminded that that Light of Jesus does not simply shine in the past. It does not shine just in old Bible stories, but it shines right here, right now, in our every day lives.

So come, welcome the light of Christ. Come, bring a candle, and then bring it home. Bring the light and love of God with you to warm your hearts and warm your lives.



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, Feb 18, 2020**



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

VESTRY RETREAT JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 2

On January 31 Vestry will be heading to Barbara C Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, NH for its annual Vestry Retreat. They will be away Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon building community, considering topics and possibilities for ministry, and seeking God's direction as they work to serve Jesus and this community and servant leaders.

Fr. Peter will be taking part in the retreat. This means we have the opportunity to welcome back the Rev. Libby Wade to preach and celebrate communion. Libby, who will be our interim priest during the upcoming sabbatical of Fr. Peter (May 15-August 23) will be assisted by our new Deacon, Eric Elley in leading worship.

**THE REV. DEACON ERIC ELLEY WILL JOIN THE
 PREACHING ROTA AT ST. MARK'S!**

Now that St. Mark's is blessed with the presence of Deacon Eric as part of our worship life, we will also be blessed with his preaching. Eric will be preaching at the 8 am and 10 am service on a monthly basis. It will be a gift to have his unique voice and perspective added to our reflection on Holy Scripture.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR PARISH ADMINISTRATOR HAS
 BEEN FORMED**

The Vestry is pleased to report that a search committee for the new parish administrator has been formed. Nancy LaBrie, Sue Schneider, Peter Fairman, Peter Rosengarten, Fr. Peter and Diane Chandler will be working together to develop a job description, advertise the position, interview candidates, and issue a call for a new parish administrator. We hope to have the new position filled by May 1. If you have questions, do not hesitate to speak with a member of the search committee.

FEBRUARY 26 IS ASH WEDNESDAY, AND THE BEGINNING OF LENT

Life is full. Full of things to do, issues to worry about, people and things clamoring for our attention. That is the reality of human existence. As such, it can be easy for us to lose sight of what truly matters, God, and God's love made known to us in Jesus. This core reality offers all of us hope, strength, peace, and guidance. And yet, sometimes this reality slips from our sight. Lent is an opportunity for all of us to take a moment, and intentionally come back to God. To come back home to what matters.



This season of coming home, of reorienting ourselves on God, begins with Ash Wednesday which marks our intentionality to return to God and be guided by God. This year we will mark this holy day, this fast, with two special Ash Wednesday Eucharists.

One will take place at noon (a spoken service) and the other at 7:00pm (which will feature our choir and Lenten music).



Both services are gracious invitations, made by the church on behalf of God, for all of us to refocus our lives on the way of Jesus, a way of love which offers freedom, hope, and light. I hope and pray that as many of you are able, will take part in Ash Wednesday services as together we turn our lives and our eyes to God and begin walking the way of Lent together.

In addition to Ash Wednesday services, St. Mark's will offer us all many different ways to come home, to reorient our lives on God, the One in whom we live and move and have our being.

- Consider picking up a Lenten meditation book and reading it each day.
- Consider using Forward Day by Day to reflect on the Bible each day of Lent.
- Consider taking part in a Lenten Small Group. (See pg 4)
- Consider attending our mid-week Wednesday Eucharist to be more fully centered in the God of love and mercy.

May this holy season of Lent bring you more deeply into connection with Christ, the One who loves us beyond our wildest imagination.

THE WELCOME MINISTRY TEAM BEGINS WORK ON THE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY BOOK

If you are new to St. Mark's, or wanting to get more involved, how do you find out what opportunities exist in our parish? The Welcome Team hopes that soon the answer to this question will be "you pick up a copy of the Ministry Opportunity Book". Inside the pages of this book will be descriptions of all the different groups, ministries and opportunities that exist at St. Mark's for people to connect with and serve God and other members of this community. Many thanks to members of the Welcome Team for taking on this wonderful ministry!

**Undie
SUNDAYS!**

February is the month of the ingathering of men's underwear and socks for the Rescue Mission in Springfield. St. Marks has supported this mission over many years. The men look forward to your gift with much gratitude. A basket will be provided for your generous donation. Thank you from the DOK.

OUR 2020 LENTEN PROGRAM

Change the World One Value at a Time;

Bringing our beliefs to life

Have you ever struggled to determine what your values REALLY are when the world around you seems to be out of sync with them? What is the value of values anyway? What are CHRISTIAN values? Are they MY values? Can really LIVING our values change the world as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry says "from the nightmare it often is into the dream that God intends"?

These are just a few of the questions we'll ponder this year during Lent. Our small group program will look at several values that are often stated as Christian values and how those may or may not align with our personal values. We'll also talk about how we can be true to our values out in the "real world".

There are several time slots from which to choose: Tuesday evenings, Wednesday afternoons after the noon Eucharist, Thursday evenings before Choir rehearsals or Friday evenings. Ash Wednesday is February 26th this year so sessions start the week of March 1st. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Great Hall.

Come and take part in this Lenten Small Group Program together as we seek God and seek to bring our values to life.



FEBRUARY

*Happy
Birthday*

02/02 Michael Anthony Whitehead
 02/03 Bill Russo-Appel
 02/04 Collette Ingram
 02/09 Jim Whitehead
 02/11 Michelle Teto
 02/13 William Gibbs
 02/14 Mallory LaBonte
 02/16 Bonnie Hardy
 Lynn Dgetluck
 02/18 Paul Joenk
 02/19 Robert Bustamante
 02/24 Mary Fitzpatrick
 Wendy Boyd
 Marilyn Robichaud
 02/27 Elliot Tami
 02/28 Gail Turgeon



In an ongoing effort to relay information about the work of the church to all in our congregation, please find the most recent monthly balance sheet immediately following which is the 2019 EOY report. The full report is available in the Great Hall. There was no Vestry meeting in December thus no minutes



Additionally, members of the Vestry will be available on the last Sunday of each month in the Great Hall from 8:45 to 9:30 AM to provide updates, information and answer any questions.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church - East Longmeadow MA
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2019

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
Assets			
1.003	United Bank Ck. Acct.	28,898.35	35,324.94
	Bank Accounts and A/R	\$28,898.35	\$35,324.94
1.101	Trustees Bement Scholarship	4,543.62	4,453.84
1.103	Trustee Childrens Education	25,888.36	25,376.77
1.104	Trustee Mem. Garden Burial	23,616.85	24,581.08
1.105	Trustee Memorial Funds	1,929.70	1,891.57
1.107	Trustee General Endowment	52,686.49	51,645.36
1.108	Trustee - Organ Maint	2,352.62	2,306.13
1.109	Trustee - RDF	2,099.64	2,162.32
1.110	Trustee Larch Gift	45,089.36	44,198.35
1.111	Trustee Stockwell Gift	14,127.50	13,848.34
1.112	Trustee Farquharson Gift	22,666.00	22,218.09
	Trustee Accounts	\$195,000.14	\$192,681.85
1.215	Furn and Cont - Church	2,716.00	2,716.00
1.229	Pipe Organ - Church	97,000.00	97,000.00
1.243	Major Improvements (Church)	123,949.55	123,949.55
1.244	Major Imp/add-Parish Hall	111,796.60	111,796.60
1.245	Major Imp/add Rectory	48,501.95	48,501.95
	Fixed Assets	\$383,964.10	\$383,964.10
1.999	All other Assets	4,859.24	4,859.24
	Total Assets	\$612,721.83	\$616,830.13
Liabilities			
2.000	Accounts Payable/Vendors	310.40	3,071.40
2.201	Loan (Bldg) United Bank	176,402.35	162,808.72
2.601	Next Years Pedges	0.00	6,040.00
2.602	Prepaid Special Gifts	0.00	0.00
	Total Liabilities	\$176,712.75	\$171,920.12

<i>Fund Balance</i>			
3.001	General Fund Balance	(34,023.27)	(37,731.22)
3.003	Transfer Fund Balance	191.67	191.67
3.090	Trustee Accounts	195,000.14	192,681.85
3.900	Net Fixed Asset Fund Bal	230,352.15	243,945.78
3.902	Good Friday Fund Balance	(5.00)	418.60
3.904	Episcopal Relief & Development Fund Balance	722.00	0.00
3.906	Annual Plant Sale Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.907	Flower Fund Balance	271.17	148.06
3.909	Special Events Fundraising Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.910	Rector's Discretionary Fund Balance	3,014.29	2,203.73
3.914	Holy Grounds Cafe Fund Balance	153.94	526.01
3.920	Memorial Fund Balance	5,234.73	5,949.72
3.921	Special Gifts (Transfer) Fund Balance	0.00	804.00
3.922	Prepaid Building Use Fund Balance	0.00	600.00
3.923	Bement Scholarship Fund Balance	1,092.05	174.14
3.924	Missions Outreach Fund Balance	0.00	3,337.31
3.925	Meal Expense Fund Balance	0.00	1,000.00
3.926	Organ Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.927	Summer Formation Programs Fund Balance	316.06	463.16
3.928	Youth & Children's Formation Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.930	Big E Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.931	Receptions/Socials Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.932	Retreats/Conferences Fund Balance	206.00	(590.00)
3.933	Memorial Garden Care Fund Balance	1,283.45	2,697.63
3.934	Memorial Garden Burial Fund Balance	0.00	229.00
3.935	Adult Education Fund Balance	200.65	0.00
3.948	General Endowment Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.951	Buildings & Grounds Capital Fund Balance	7,025.92	12,041.64
3.953	Pilgrimage Fund J2A Members Balance	(637.62)	1,395.18
3.961	Pilgrimage Fund - Parents Balance	0.00	0.00
3.962	Pilgrimage Fund Parish Balance	813.74	2,313.74
3.964	Craft Fair Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.965	Clergy Sabbatical Fund Balance	4,227.51	5,031.51
3.968	Mission Trip Fund Balance	159.05	569.00
3.969	Altar Guild Fund Balance	383.62	0.00
3.973	GSGC Program Fund Balance	35.10	35.10
3.980	2016 Men's Retreat Grant Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.981	Leadership Grant Fund Balance	4,641.04	0.00
3.982	Thrift Shop Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.983	Digital Gospel Grant Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.984	Church Play Balance	0.00	0.00
3.985	2017 Men's Wine Ministry Grant Balance	1,207.26	43.57
3.986	2017 Couples Ministry Grant Fund Balance	350.35	0.00
3.987	Website Maintenance Fund Balance	401.47	0.00
3.988	Community Garden Fund Balance	1,891.61	0.00
3.989	Refresh Great Hall Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.990	Digital Communication Fund Balance	1,500.00	0.00
3.991	Leadership 2 Fund Balance	10,000.00	4,312.29
3.992	Way of Love Part 2 Grant Fund Balance	0.00	2,118.54
	Total Fund Balance	\$436,009.08	\$444,910.01
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$612,721.83	\$616,830.13

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

One Porter Road

East Longmeadow, MA 01028-1348

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