

**JOINT SERVICE, SUNDAY, MARCH 8 AT 10 AM AT THE METHODIST CHURCH
LOCATED AT 215 SOMERS RD.**

There are over a dozen different Christian churches here in East Longmeadow. We worship at different times, use different music, and even speak different languages. We have different ways of understanding God and the Bible and Jesus. But all of us know that at the most basic level, we are called to be followers of Jesus. To let Jesus' way of love and hope guide us and shape us.

That's what makes me so excited about Sunday, March 8. On that day multiple churches from around town will leave behind their specific locations and their usual ways of worship to be ONE in Christ.

On that day members from St. Paul Lutheran Church, First Congregational Church of East Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow United Methodist Church will gather together to sing, pray, hear scripture, hear a sermon from Rabbi Amy Walk Katz of Temple Beth El in Springfield, and share in Holy Communion together.

We will be blessed with a children's sermon as well as a united church choir which will help us praise God with a loud voice of joy and we will have the chance to see the new Methodist sanctuary.

Be sure to come to the Methodist Church at 10 am on Sunday March 8 and worship God with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As a note, there will be **NO 10 AM** service at St. Mark's that day. There **WILL** be an 8am service.



Field Trip to St. John's, Ashfield! Let's hit the road for a Taizé Service on Sunday, March 8 at 4 pm

On that same day, Sunday March 8, Episcopalians from around Hampden county will take a road trip to Ashfield, MA for a time of Taizé prayer. St. John's Episcopal Church in Ashfield has invited us to come and worship God, to come and be still and let our souls be fed by Taizé music. The St. Mark's Youth Group will be heading up along with folks from the Cathedral, St. Peters, and beyond. If you are interested in taking part in this Lenten road trip, sign up in the Great Hall. We will depart at 2:30pm.



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, Mar 18, 2020**



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

BRINGING OUR VALUES TO LIFE:**LENTEN SMALL GROUPS AT ST. MARK'S**

Life is crazy. It can be so hard to balance the demands of life with what we **WANT** our lives to look like. Making it so the way we live, day-to-day, reflect what we **really** care about, what we really believe can feel like an impossible task. And that's why St. Mark's is thrilled to offer our Lenten Program,

Bringing Our Values to Life.

Beginning the week of March 1 and continuing for five more weeks, small groups will gather and look at a few key values which Christians are invited to incorporate into their daily lives. In small group communities we will look at Faith, Hope, Grace, Peace and Service and simply ask...how would these values impact our lives and the world if we let them come to life in our daily living?

Small Groups will take place on Tuesdays 6:00-8:00pm, Wednesdays 12:45-2:00pm, Thursdays 5:30-7:00, and Fridays 6:00-8:00pm. If you can attend even just one session, you are wanted and invited.

Sign up today in the Great Hall or speak with Fr. Peter, Sue Schneider, Meg Schoenemann, Meg Galbreath, or Alan Druckenmiller.

SEARCH COMMITTEE FORMED AND MEETING

**Parish Administrator
Search Committee
UPDATE**

A team of six parishioners and staff has been formed and is meeting to craft the details of the upcoming search for a new parish administrator.

Diane will be retiring the end of May. Job descriptions are being crafted, a salary range is being selected, a training plan is being created, and a plan for advertising, interviewing and selecting a candidate are underway.

The first meeting of the team was held on February 13 and further details will be forthcoming.

SABBATICAL TEAMS CONTINUE THEIR PREPARATION FOR MAY 15-AUGUST 15



Work continues to craft programs and systems to keep St. Mark's running smoothly and serving Christ during Fr. Peter's upcoming three month sabbatical. For more information or to join in this preparation, please contact Senior Warden Sue Schneider saschneider27@gmail.com or Junior Warden Peter Fairman peter.fairman@wne.edu

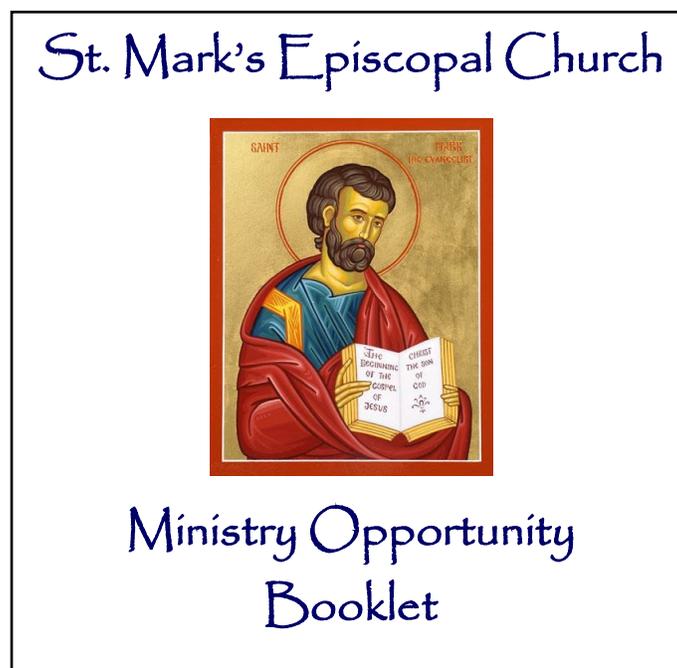
WELCOME MINISTRY TEAM INVITES MINISTRIES TO TELL THEIR STORY FOR THE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY BOOKLET

So...if you are new to a church, how do you know about all the different ministries at St. Mark's that you could connect with? It's a simple question, really, but if you don't know the ins and outs of a church, the answer to this question may be hard to find.

So, just about a month ago, the Welcome Ministry Team undertook a task which has the potential for St. Mark's to be more effective at welcoming newcomers into our life and ministry at St. Mark's. What if when you visit a church, there was a booklet which listed the different groups, ministries and activities at that church? What if you could look it over and then discover places God might be calling you to connect, **and** there was contact information telling you how to find out more or join a group?

That's exactly what the Welcome Team is trying to create as they seek to update the Ministry Opportunity Book (which hasn't been updated since 2015...). So, if you have received an email from a member of the welcome team, please take five minutes and tell folks the ins and outs of your ministry. Together, we can help make St. Mark's more reflective of our mission which says "Christ welcomed all, we welcome you."

For more information contact Mallory LaBonte Mallory.labonte@gmail.com



COME AND BRING A FRIEND

St. Mark's Church Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner



Saturday
March 7
5 to 7 PM

Meal includes Breads,
Coffee, Soda & Dessert



Beer and Wine
Available for Purchase

Tickets Available At
The Door

Gluten Free & Vegetarian
Options Available

Donation
\$12.00

Children Under
Age 10 - \$6.00

St. Mark's Church 1 Porter Road East Longmeadow, MA 413-525-6341

RITE 13 CELEBRATION SUNDAY, MARCH 29



St. Mark's will be celebrating two 13 year old members of our church at the 10 am service on Sunday, March 29. As part of our youth curriculum, youth who turn 13 take part in something called a Rite 13 ceremony. Together as a church we pray for these young adults as they begin this journey. Be sure to Please join us in church on the 29th at 10 am to celebrate our youth and pray for them as they begin the journey to adulthood as Christians.

YOUTH VISIT TO ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS IN WEST SPRINGFIELD, SATURDAY, MARCH 21



On Saturday March 21 our middle and high school youth are heading to the Islamic Center to learn more about our Muslim sisters and brothers of faith. To learn more about this opportunity for our youth please speak with Fr. Peter

OUTREACH NEWS



Many of you have heard us talk about the Big Blue ministry where members of St. Mark's go out with Deacons Linda Taupier and Eric Elley in Christ Church Cathedral's big blue van on Tuesday nights, bringing warm coats, blankets, sleeping bags, hats, gloves and food to those living outdoors in the Greater Springfield area this winter. Now, Big Blue has expanded to include a Drop-In Center at the Cathedral where our friends and neighbors who may be homeless can find a warm place to just relax without being hassled.

We are looking for folks to staff the Drop-In Center on Tuesdays from 9 am to 12 pm or 12 pm to 3 pm. No experience is necessary. All that is needed is a willingness to welcome those who "come in out of the cold." Please see Deacon Eric at church or contact him at (860) 394-8728 if you would like more information about this new ministry.



EXPLORING HOW ST. MARK'S CAN CONNECT MORE FULLY WITH OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS IN EAST LONGMEADOW

At the recent Vestry retreat the Vestry decided to set two goals for proactive action in 2020. 1. To seek ways to build deeper connections between St. Mark's and other Christian Communities in East Longmeadow.

As Christians, we believe we are all part of the Body of Christ. For years we've done things together: Lenten services, joint worship services, softball games, Easter Vigil fires, National Night Out, our outreach food pack, and much more.

Vestry believes that God wants us to keep striving to be connected to each other and to find NEW WAYS to do this. For that reason, the Vestry joined together with the Lutheran Council (Vestry) on February 24 to simply eat together and get to know each other. We are seeking ways to share ministries and join together in outreach and youth formation.

As more opportunities for interaction and mutual ministry arrive, the Vestry will be sure to announce them.

The Vestry also decided to 2. Update and improve our Internet, Computer, and Phone systems to better support our volunteers and staff and in preparation for a new parish administrator coming on board (**see article on page 2**)

MARCH

*Happy
Birthday*

*Happy
Anniversary*

03/04 Doreen Tapper
03/06 Roy Butler
03/09 Faith Trombly
Grace Trombly
Hope Trombly
03/13 Darlene O'Brien
03/15 Marty Schoenemann
Julia Decker
Rita Robichaud

03/17 Oliver Michel
03/20 Bryan Boyd
03/21 Betty rennell
Emily Conrad
03/22 Madeline Lister
03/24 Rick Stevens
03/21 Joseph Bustamante
Sarah Conrad
03/26 Gwen Rosengarten

03/07 Michael & Jane Solitario
03/12 Bob & Marge Shaw
03/13 Rob & Mishel Mitus



CARING ADULTS NEEDED - 15 STUDENTS WAITING FOR TUTORS!



We currently have a shortage of tutors with only 12 weeks of tutoring left in the school year. Do you think you could be a good tutor? We do!

Action Centered Tutoring Services (ACTS) provides free, one-to-one tutoring and mentoring to Springfield elementary school students. In just two hours each week, you'll give your student a little extra boost to help him or her build confidence, improve academics, and feel good about school.

ACTS volunteers include caring adults from all walks of life. Under the guidance of your Site Director, you and your student will enjoy snack time, tutoring time with work on basic reading and math skills, and Club Time in which we read Bible stories and teach values like patience, kindness, self-control, and being good members of the community.

The ACTS family meets at nine locations around the city, and you can choose the day (Monday thru Thursday) and location that works best for you. Please visit acts86.org for further information or send an email to acts1986@gmail.com. You may also contact our Executive Director, Burt Hansen by phone at 636-3768.

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 and Vestry 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 January 31, 2020

Thursday, February 20, 2020		Page 1 of 2	
Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
Assets			
1.003	United Bank Ck. Acct.	35,324.94	34,264.00
	Bank Accounts and A/R	\$35,324.94	\$34,264.00
1.101	Trustees Bement Scholarship	4,453.84	4,590.46
1.103	Trustee Childrens Education	25,376.77	26,155.24
1.104	Trustee Mem. Garden Burial	24,581.08	25,335.12
1.105	Trustee Memorial Funds	1,891.57	1,949.59
1.107	Trustee General Endowment	51,645.36	53,229.63
1.108	Trustee - Organ Maint	2,306.13	2,376.88
1.109	Trustee - RDF	2,162.32	2,256.09
1.110	Trustee Larch Gift	44,198.35	45,554.17
1.111	Trustee Stockwell Gift	13,848.34	14,273.15
1.112	Trustee Farquharson Gift	22,218.09	22,899.65
	Trustee Accounts	\$192,681.85	\$198,619.98
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	\$616,830.13	\$621,707.32
Liabilities			
2.000	Accounts Payable/Vendors	3,071.40	746.40
2.201	Loan (Bldg) United Bank	162,808.72	161,532.74
2.601	Next Years Pedges	6,040.00	6,820.00
2.602	Prepaid Special Gifts	0.00	0.00
	Total Liabilities	\$171,920.12	\$169,099.14

<i>Fund Balance</i>			
3.001	General Fund Balance	(37,731.22)	(34,600.80)
3.003	Transfer Fund Balance	191.67	191.67
3.090	Trustee Accounts	192,681.85	198,619.98
3.900	Net Fixed Asset Fund Bal	243,945.78	245,221.76
3.902	Good Friday Fund Balance	418.60	0.00
3.904	Episcopal Relief & Development Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.906	Annual Plant Sale Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.907	Flower Fund Balance	148.06	123.06
3.909	Special Events Fundraising Fund Balance	0.00	1,187.21
3.910	Rector's Discretionary Fund Balance	2,203.73	1,353.73
3.914	Holy Grounds Cafe Fund Balance	526.01	549.97
3.920	Memorial Fund Balance	5,949.72	5,973.04
3.921	Special Gifts (Transfer) Fund Balance	804.00	45.02
3.922	Prepaid Building Use Fund Balance	600.00	600.00
3.923	Bement Scholarship Fund Balance	174.14	59.05
3.924	Missions Outreach Fund Balance	3,337.31	3,337.31
3.925	Meal Expense Fund Balance	1,000.00	1,000.00
3.926	Organ Fund Balance	0.00	28.43
3.927	Summer Formation Programs Fund Balance	463.16	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	(590.00)	(870.00)
3.933	Memorial Garden Care Fund Balance	2,697.63	3,000.67
3.934	Memorial Garden Burial Fund Balance	229.00	229.00
3.935	Adult Education Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.948	General Endowment Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.951	Buildings & Grounds Capital Fund Balance	12,041.64	12,041.64
3.953	Pilgrimage Fund J2A Members Balance	1,395.18	1,395.18
3.961	Pilgrimage Fund - Parents Balance	0.00	0.00
3.962	Pilgrimage Fund Parish Balance	2,313.74	2,438.74
3.964	Craft Fair Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.965	Clergy Sabbatical Fund Balance	5,031.51	3,350.70
3.968	Mission Trip Fund Balance	569.00	569.00
3.969	Altar Guild Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.973	GSGC Program Fund Balance	35.10	185.10
3.980	Men's Retreat Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.981	Leadership Grant Fund Balance	0.00	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	Men's Wine Ministry Balance	43.57	43.57
3.986	2017 Couples Ministry Grant Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.987	Website Maintenance Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.988	Community Garden Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.989	Refresh Great Hall Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.990	Digital Communication Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
3.991	Leadership 2 Fund Balance	4,312.29	3,953.45
3.992	Way of Love Part 2 Grant Fund Balance	2,118.54	2,118.54
3.993	Jester Music Fund Balance	0.00	0.00
	Total Fund Balance	\$444,910.01	\$452,608.18
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$616,830.13</u>	<u>\$621,707.32</u>



Minutes of the January 14, 2020 Meeting

St. Mark's Vestry

Present: Fr. Peter Swarr, Sue Schneider, Peter Fairman, Claire Sygiel, Jake Berry, Nancy Labrie, Ellie Otto, Scott Conrad, Rich Bruns, and Doreen Tapper.

The meeting was called to order with an opening prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Under Discussion Items, Fr. Peter reported that the 2019 budget was finalized with a \$3,707 deficit, far smaller than the projected deficit of \$11,921.

For 2020, total income is projected to be \$251,261 with total expenses to be \$257,266, with the projected deficit to be \$6,005. This is the lowest deficit in several years.

Some of the changes to the line items that will be passed on to Marty S. of the Finance Committee include:

4001 – Keep \$5,200 for loose plate offering

4014 – increase to \$201,500

5013 – decrease to \$2,480

5023 – increase to \$13,000

5230 – Increase to \$1,200

5319 – Put \$2,800 to front load line of credit

Sue made a motion, seconded by Scott, to put \$2,800 to front load the line of credit. The motion passed unanimously. Rich then made a motion, seconded by Ellie, to approve the 2020 budget with a new deficit of \$5,115.

Plans were made for vestry retreat, scheduled for January 31 to February 2.

Under Updates, Fr. Peter noted that he and Sue have been talking with Don Edwards, Rich, and Rob about the treasurer position.

Sue reported that the administrative assistant search team of Sue, Fr. Peter, Peter F, Nancy, Gail Gurney/ Peter Rosengarten and Diane Chandler has been assembled with the hope that a suitable candidate will be selected by the beginning of April, so that there is an overlap of one month with Diane before Fr. Peter goes on sabbatical. A training plan will be created and Diane has graciously offered to leave her phone number for the new administrative assistant.

Fr. Peter updated vestry on a meeting he and Sue will have January 22 with the parish council of St. Paul's Lutheran Church about possible ways St. Mark's could help as their pastor Anne Strickert has taken a call to a church in Pennsylvania. More discussion on this will take place during vestry retreat.

Fr. Peter updated vestry on parish concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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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