



The Good News Christ welcomed all, we welcome you.

Monthly newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church - One Porter Road - East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Vol. XXV JUNE 2019
www.stmarksma.org

THE WAY OF LOVE: FROM ACTIONS TO WORDS—LEARN—SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 11:30AM

COME WITH US LEARN WITH US

Have you ever wondered what in the world is going on at St. Mark's on Sundays after the 10am service finishes? Suddenly an entirely different church, made up of Bhutanese refugees, gathers in the sanctuary, singing songs and praying to God in an entirely different language (and with drums!). What's going on?

Come and learn...

what it's like to be a refugee driven from your homeland and placed in a resettlement camp.

how these church members came to be Christians instead of Buddhists

why they were resettled in Springfield, MA

what sort of food they eat (we will share a common meal of both "American" and Nepali food)

how we both worship the same God using different words and songs (we will teach each other a song we use in our worship)

As part of our hourlong gathering we will also bless the Rainbow Community Garden.

Parents/Grandparents/Guardians: We will be providing child programming and childcare in the nursery.

There is no cost for this meal, just sign up ahead of time in the Great Hall or by emailing Fr. Peter (rector@stmarksma.org) so we have a head count.

OUTREACH NEWS

Don't forget, Saturday, June 9, is our day to prepare and serve a meal at Loaves & Fishes community kitchen at South Congregational Church in Springfield from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. No experience is needed and all are welcome!

See the sign-up sheet in the Great Hall if you would like to help. We can carpool from St. Mark's if a ride is needed.

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.orgWeb: 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, June 18, 2019**



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

COME AND CELEBRATE PENTECOST AND WELCOME BISHOP FISHER AS HE CONFIRMS AND RECEIVES MEMBERS OF ST. MARK'S ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9 (AND ENJOY A PICNIC TOO!)

Sunday, June 9 is a HUGE day in the church. It is the day of Pentecost, the day when we remember the Holy Spirit descending on folks like you and me and empowering us to follow in the way of Jesus, the Way of Love. It is a day of beautiful music, celebration and joy.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS DAY

Not only because it is Pentecost (which means you are invited to wear **RED** which symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit in you) but because Bishop Fisher will be with us as well.



Every year or so the Bishop makes a visitation to St. Mark's to support, encourage, and help guide us as we seek to be a people of love, mercy and hope. This year Bishop Fisher will be visiting us and confirming, receiving, and reaffirming a dozen members of St. Mark's ranging in age from teenager to retiree. Each one of these individuals has chosen to express their faith and connection to God through this special ceremony. Please attend and support them in this statement of faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Special Note: On Bishop visitation days, there is only ONE service held at church. We will be holding our one service at 10am that day. There will be NO 8am or 6:30pm service that day.

Following the 10 am service we will gather together to celebrate with those who have been confirmed, received, and reaffirmed in their faith.

Sign up today in the Great Hall to help provide all the delicious food needed for this picnic



DADS AND GRADS: SUNDAY JUNE 16



On Sunday, June 16, St. Mark's will recognize and pray for all the fathers in our midst as we recognize Father's Day.

Additionally, we will pray for and recognize all graduating seniors from High School and College.

Special Note: If you have a graduate in your household, please let Fr. Peter know by emailing him at rector@stmarksma.org

VBS RETURNS! JULY 22-25, 2019



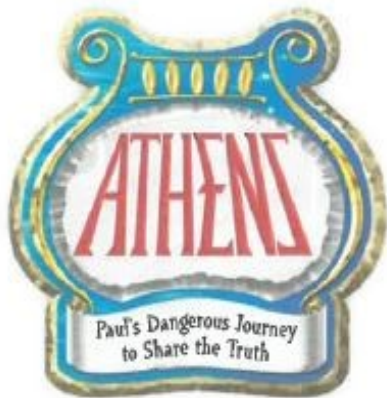
- Learning about God
- Singing
- Laughing
- Helping children grow in faith
- Reaching out to the community
- Having fun

Those are a few of the thoughts that pop into people's minds when they think about Vacation Bible School at St. Mark's. This year St. Mark's will be offering Vacation Bible School for children preschool (potty trained) through 5th Grade the week of July 22-25

Each day of fun and learning will begin at 9am and will conclude at noon.

Registration Forms can be found on page 4 of this newsletter and in the Great Hall. Application can also be requested through the church website.

Any and all children are welcome to take part in Vacation Bible School. Additional any church member willing to undergo a CORI check is welcome to participate in helping share the good news of Jesus at VBS.



ATHENS
REGISTRATION FORM
ST. MARK'S CHURCH
JULY 22-25, 9:00-12:00

Name: _____ Age: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Last School Grade Completed: _____

Emergency Contact: _____
(Name and phone number)

Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Name of Authorized Pick-up Person(s): _____

Allergies or Other Medical Conditions you would like us to be aware of: _____

Name of special friend your child might like to be with: _____

Photo Release Form

I grant St. Mark's Episcopal Church, its representatives and employees the right to take photographs of my child, named above, in connection with its Christian formation program. I authorize St. Mark's, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that St. Mark's Episcopal Church may use such photographs of my child with or without name for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.

I have read and understand the above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

ROSEBUD MISSION NEWS



St. Mark's team of 12 missionaries is getting ready for our mission trip to Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota this summer (July 1-10). We have met seven times so far to plan, learn, share, pray, and learn about the work we will be doing in South Dakota. We are excited to see how God will call us to serve and love our sisters and brothers who live in the Reservation under the guidance of the local Episcopal priest, the Rev. Dr. Lauren Stanley.



Thanks to St. Mark's and the broader community the mission team gathered over 11,600 POUNDS of clothing and other household goods. This incredible amount of donated items helped raise roughly 2,400 dollars for the Rosebud Mission.

Additionally, many of you have been pre-ordering T-shirts, sweatshirts and water bottles. Every item sold will go towards our mission to rebuild the Rosebud community which was decimated by blizzards and flooding this past year.

Also keep your eyes open in the Great Hall to learn about other ways you can pray for and support our team as we head forth in the Name of Christ. (*Hint, check out page 6*)

The members of the team are:

Dan Schneider, Sue Schneider, Meg Galbreath, Lynda Lemanis, Mallory LaBonte, Russ Desroiser, Mary Desroiser, Ellie Otto, Rob Fitzpatrick, Marj Bruns, Jessica Lister, and Fr. Peter Swarr



ADOPT-A-MILE is here!

Want to “fly” with the Rosebud Missionaries but need to stay home?

Here's your chance to “fly” with us and take part in this mission!

Help the Rosebud Missionaries get to Rosebud AND back by Adopting-A-Mile.

Beginning **SUNDAY, JUNE 2st** through **JUNE 23rd** you can get us on our way and take part in this mission along with us. For **\$1.00 per mile** you will be filling our plane with fuel, luggage, supplies, and US! There are 1,802 miles between Hartford and Rosebud (3,604 round trip). That’s a lot of miles! And we need help getting there. Put a dollar, or more (!), into the Mission Money envelopes we’ll provide, in the Great Hall, or in the service bulletin, and watch our plane fly closer to our goal on the map in the Great Hall. Please make all checks out to “St. Mark’s Church” and put on the memo line “Adopt-A-Mile”.

****All monies raised will go toward the Rosebud Indian Reservation and their rebuilding projects**.**

Many Thanks and Blessings from the Rosebud Mission Team

JUNE

*Happy
Birthday*

06/01 Karen Flygare
06/03 Debbie Taylor
David LaBrie
Jackie Butler
06/06 Misty Trombly
Addison Lape
06/08 Brianne Boyd
06/12 Fran DeVall
06/16 Sam Tapper
Ryan Dufresne

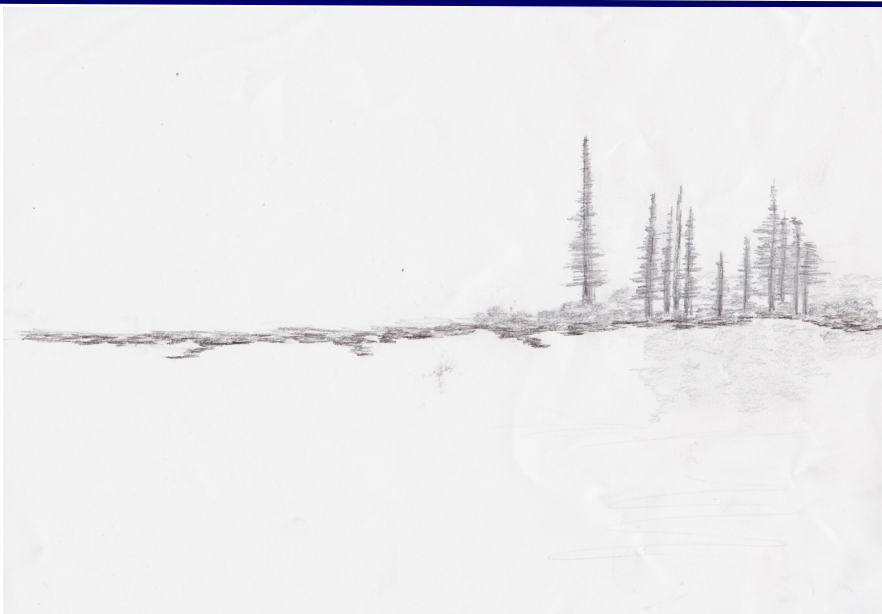
06/21 Michael Tami
Lucia Rodrigo
06/23 Teal Lipinski
06/25 Linda McComb
Kegan Druckenmiller
06/26 Keith Trombly
06/27 Karen Dufresne
06/28 Lily Mitus

*Happy
Anniversary*

06/01 Bruce & Cris Rockwell
06/06 Dan & Doreen Tapper
06/13 Carl & Ellie Otto
06/21 Peter & Angela Swarr
06/25 Michael & Barbara Derosé



On Friday, May 17 nine people gathered for a day of looking for God in the midst of nature and the natural world. Together we listened to the Rev. Rick Bellows who shared his gift of photography and explained how it is a tool through which he is able to look for God's presence. After learning we took time to practice just that in the midst of the beauty of Lake Metacomet at Rick and Cathy Steven's lake house. St. Mark's tries to offer reflective days like this three times a year. To learn more speak with Meg Galbreath or email her at meg.galbreath56@gmail.com



Gail's Art, 05/17/19

In an ongoing effort to relay information about the work of the church and its current financial standings to all in our congregation, please find both the monthly Vestry Minutes and the monthly Financial Summary immediately following.

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. All are welcome to attend.

**St Mark's Church
Monthly Financial Report
02/28/2019**

	<u>Actual YTD</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>Projection</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2019</u>
Income			
Other Offerings	3,293	8,582	8,500
Pledges-current year	70,430	205,000	205,000
Endowments	3,847	7,694	7,682
Building Expense Recovery	4,754	14,262	16,600
Special Gifts	1,810	3,000	2,000
Fund Raising	1,675	10,500	10,500
Total Income	<u>85,810</u>	<u>249,038</u>	<u>250,282</u>
Expenses			
Outreach & Stewardship	8,024	27,128	27,116
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	48,675	146,539	149,166
Church & Rectory Utilities	10,321	25,348	25,440
Office Expense	3,475	8,184	6,875
Christian Education	1,573	5,260	4,815
Clergy Expense	1,153	3,460	3,200
Altar Expense	356	1,185	1,185
Music Expense	262	1,635	1,510
Welcome & Mutual Care	209	1,850	1,850
Buildings & Grounds	11,120	25,549	25,847
Debt Management	6,660	16,200	15,200
Total Expenses	<u>91,829</u>	<u>262,338</u>	<u>262,204</u>
(Deficit) Surplus	<u>(6,019)</u>	<u>(13,300)</u>	<u>(11,921)</u>

Minutes of the April 23, 2019 Meeting

St. Mark's Vestry

Present: Fr. Peter Swarr, Rob Fitzpatrick, Claire Sygiel, Peter Fairman, Ellie Otto, Rich Bruns, Scott Conrad, Nancy LaBrie, Jon Robichaud, and Jake Berry.

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

Vestry reflected on what it would look like to "welcome all" to our church. Some of the thoughts were we would have announcements, more church services, and bereavement/divorce support groups. Some of the other suggestions that were made, Fr. Peter noted that the Welcome Ministry Team is already working on such as designated greeters at the door, welcome bags to be distributed to newcomers, and protocol for follow up. Fr. Peter read from the Gospel of St. Luke about the Good Shepherd who not only protects his own sheep but also goes out searching for other flocks and gathers them together.

In response to a question by Nancy of how do we know if someone is new, Fr. Peter said there is a mechanism in place whereby members of the welcome team touch base with Fr. Peter during the peace to identify newcomers and someone is designated to wait for them at the door to welcome them and invite them to Holy Grounds if they seem receptive.

Rob made a motion, seconded by Peter F., to accept the March minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Vestry members reviewed the information sheet about various activities in the parish. Fr. Peter noted that, as part of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, members of Christ Church Cathedral visited the homeless encampments in Springfield and distributed 60 pair of the Bombas socks.

Vestry went into executive session and then resumed the meeting with a discussion of the gift of \$12,000 that we received from an anonymous donor. Fr. Peter noted that the only restriction on this gift was that at least ten percent be used for outreach ministry. He also reported that last Saturday Mary L'Heureux donated \$2,000 to be used to reduce our line of credit. After much discussion on how best to use the \$12,000 donation, a motion was made by Jon, seconded by Rob and approved unanimously to use the money as follows:

- \$1,500 to outreach, distribution to be determined by the Outreach Ministry team, with the suggestion that some be allocated for Big Blue and some to the Rosebud Reservation mission trip;
- \$2,000 to repair the door at the rectory, which is estimated to cost approximately \$2,800, the remaining \$800 needed would come from the Buildings & Grounds budget;
- \$1,000 to fund Vacation Bible School as 18 people have volunteered to work at the summer program;
- \$3,000 to replace the lighting in the sanctuary with LED bulbs that will allow us to keep the dimmers. We will have to do the work ourselves but will see savings on our electric bill immediately;
- \$1,000 to upgrade the network that is so slow that many times it takes close to 18 minutes for computers in the office to boot up. Rob Mitus, Rob F. and Eric Elley have volunteered to get this done;
- \$2,000 to reduce the line of credit;
- \$1,500 to be left in reserve.

Scott suggested we might publicize Mary's gift of \$2,000 and the \$2,000 allocated from the anonymous gift going to reduce the line of credit and ask if anyone would like to join in this momentum with a matching gift. Scott, Claire and Sue will work on how best to present this to the congregation.

Fr. Peter asked for thoughts on the above statement of welcome that has been created by the Episcopal Church. Vestry members agreed that it fits in very well with our own statement of "Christ welcomed all, we welcome you" and the suggestion was made to add our lines to the statement and have a banner made to hang outside the front of the church, particularly across the two front doors. In response to what concerns we might have with this statement of

welcome, Nancy noted that older parishioners might have a better reaction to this statement than they would to a plain rainbow flag as was previously discussed by vestry. Peter F noted that the statement of welcome was printed in last Sunday's bulletin. Fr. Peter made a motion, seconded by Jake, to move forward with the statement. The motion carried unanimously.

Under Updates, Scott reported that no finance committee meeting was held last month but that he is continuing to make sure that all monies are flowing in and out of the correct accounts. Jon noted that the \$1,500 to be held in reserve from the anonymous gift should help with cash flow. Scott noted that his name has still not been put on the line of credit despite his efforts and he will continue to work on that. He will be scheduling the audit soon.

Jon updated the vestry on Buildings & Grounds activities; noting that donations were made to build two more storage units in the lower level and that the one housing the tools given by Scott's father is now complete and the tools are secure. A railing has been added around the sump pump for safety reasons. Spring cleanup is scheduled for April 28. Nancy offered to help

Marj Bruns with the gardens and Ellie offered to do any painting needed for the new rectory door installation.

Fr. Peter reported that the Diocese has contributed \$4,400 to the Rosebud Reservation mission trip and that we have submitted a grant proposal for \$4,000 to St. John's Church in Williamstown. The mission group continues to meet every other week and upcoming fundraisers include the Savers clothing drive, St. Mark's T-shirt, sweatshirt, and water bottle sale, and an opportunity for parishioners to "purchase miles" at one dollar a mile to cover the 3,800 miles between East Longmeadow and the reservation. A mural will be created to show exactly where Rosebud is located.

A discussion was held about a proposed ECL funded Christian Education Admin and Special Event position. Fr. Peter explained that the \$10,000 given to him and Sue for their work with the Christian Leadership Program would be used to fund this part time, one-year position at St. Mark's. A job description has been created and Fr. Peter noted that in accordance with vestry policy, parishioners will not be considered for the position. A suggestion was made that perhaps two church school teachers, a parent and a vestry member could form a small ad hoc search committee. Peter F volunteered to serve as the vestry representative. Scott noted that perhaps the curriculum that will be developed could be then used in subsequent years. He also suggested that due to our projected deficit, we make clear to the congregation that this position is not being funded by St. Mark's.

Under Quick Action items, Fr. Peter noted that two Way of Love Words to Actions events are coming up. On May 11, there will be an opportunity to Worship at the Celtic Service at St. Andrew's Church in Longmeadow followed by dinner at an area restaurant. Participants will meet at St. Mark's at 4:15 p.m.

On June 2, we are invited to share a communal meal with the Salvation Church at 11:30 a.m. and Learn about the Nepali people and how they came to relocate in East Longmeadow. Funds left over from the Rainbow Garden Fund will be used for the meal.

Then in July, we will be Blessed by completing small projects that older parishioners and others may need in their homes. And then in August, we will Go out into the community and worship with those at Church Without Walls, prepare and serve a hot meal at Loaves & Fishes and visit area nursing homes. A retreat to Rest is also being planned at Rolling Ridge.

Sue will be at church at 8:45 a.m. this Sunday to chat with the early comers about goings-on at the church if anyone would like to join her.

Fr. Peter updated the vestry on pastoral concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.



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