



JULY WORSHIP AT ST. MARK'S: A CHANCE TO WELCOME LINDA TAUPIER AND MARY D'ALESSANDRO BACK HOME!

In July, while Fr. Peter is taking part in the High School J2A pilgrimage to New Orleans, LA, St. Mark's will have the opportunity to welcome some beloved folk back home. Chaplain Mary D'Alessandro and Deacon Linda Taupier will both help lead worship while our high schoolers and Fr. Peter are sweating in the Louisiana heat.

Mary will be with us on Sunday, July 15 and she will lead worship and preach on that day.

Linda will be with us on Sunday July 22 and will also lead worship and preach.

I hope you all take this opportunity to come and welcome Mary and Linda home, while worshipping the Lord our God.

Christ welcomed all, we welcome you.



HARVESTING GOD'S GIFTS: SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AT ST. MARK'S

In the month of July all children, preschool through 5th grade are invited to come and spend 30 minutes a Sunday in the Rainbow Community Garden learning about the Bible, God, and growing food for others.



Children gather in the Founders room beginning at 9:55 in the morning and will return to the church to join their families by no later than 10:30am. All are welcome, and you can attend even if you were not present the previous week.

In July we will focus on:

7/1 God planting the Garden of Eden and asking people to take care of it.

7/8 the story of the Mustard Seed and how big things grow from small seeds.

7/15 What it takes for a garden to grow and the parable of the sower.

7/22 how gardens need water and we need God's word.

7/29 We will learn about pruning and branches and vines and how we can stay connected to God.

If you have any questions please speak with or email Angela Swarr, angelaswarr@gmail.com

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,

**Wednesday Worship:
12:00 p.m. Eucharist**

Rector- Rev. Peter Swarr
Sr. Warden - Sue Schneider
Jr. Warden - Peter Fairman
Director of Music - Nancy Gagne
Parish Administrator - Diane Chandler
Good News Editor - Diane Chandler
I.T./Webmaster - Lester Sill, 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, July 17th**



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

MINISTER OF MUSIC UPDATE

On June 24th Nancy Gagne, our beloved Minister of Music officially retired from St. Mark's. In the meantime our search committee has been hard at work creating job descriptions, talking to potential candidates, and looking into references and previous work experiences.

Over the course of July and August St. Mark's will continue our search and interview process and we hope to hire a new minister of Music by the end of the summer.

In the meantime, visiting musicians will help lead our worship in July and August.

Please join me in welcoming each guest musician who will help carry on the St. Mark's musical tradition of making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Many thanks to the many members of St. Mark's who made it possible for us to send Buzz and Nancy Gagne on their way with a weekend getaway to the Captain Lord Mansion in Kennebunkport, ME and with funds for meals out by the Atlantic Ocean. Your generosity was such a gift to them and a testimony to the love and care which is part of St. Mark's.

J2A PILGRIMAGE TO NEW ORLEANS, LA JULY 15-24

Eight teens and three adults from St. Mark's are heading to the Big Easy this summer! They will worship, share, work, and learn together as they rebuild homes near New Orleans along with other Christians at the Epworth Project. As our teens and adults work and serve, they will also be discovering who they are, what they believe, and how they understand themselves and their faith.



Please hold our teens and mentors in your prayers as they seek and serve Christ in this work.

STEWARDSHIP

Each Sunday when we gather for worship we are given a booklet as we enter the sanctuary. In that booklet is everything you need to know about what is happening in our worship service. But take a closer look. While you will notice that scripture readings and prayers might vary, the order that we do things stays pretty much the same.

In order to enrich our understanding and appreciation of each aspect of our worship service, the Stewardship Ministry Team has proposed a labeling of each of the parts of our service. You will notice centered bold-faced headings at the beginning of each piece of our service. They are:

WE GATHER ... together to begin our worship through music, collects, and prayers
WE LISTEN ... to God's word through Scripture readings, homilies, and sermons
WE RESPOND ... by restating our creed, offering prayers, and confessing our sins
WE GIVE ... our time, talent, and treasures in our offertory
WE REMEMBER ... the night Jesus was betrayed after feeding his disciples bread and wine
WE RECEIVE ... the body and blood of Christ in our Eucharist
WE ARE SENT ... out in the world to do the work God has given us to do

We hope this addition to our worship booklet will give our congregation a greater understanding of our Episcopal faith and worship.



THE RAINBOW COMMUNITY GARDEN AS STEWARDSHIP



There are many ways in which we can see the Rainbow Community Garden as acts of good stewardship.

We are called to be good stewards of the environment. Creating this garden is a good use of the land that God has entrusted to St. Mark's so that the land can produce a good harvest.

We are called to be good stewards of our neighbors. We will use some of the produce of the garden to feed our neighbors who are hungry through Open Pantry.

We are called to be good stewards of our relationships. The garden has drawn together people of many denominations, of people from not just East Longmeadow but from the city of Springfield to work cooperatively together. We are working with people we might not otherwise get to know.

As stewards we are called to discover the gifts God has given us, to develop those gifts, and to be good stewards of those gifts by using these gifts for God's work in the world. The idea for the garden began with Doreen Tapper who used the gifts God has entrusted her, sometimes working outside of her comfort zone, to help bring this idea to fruition. Others have used their God-given gifts to obtain grants and corporate gifts to help the garden become a reality.

Many people have used the gifts God has given them, to use their hands and labors to actually create the beds that house the garden.

We are called to be good stewards of the financial resources God entrusts to us. We are called to be generous. To further the work of the garden, many of us have been called to offer not only the gifts of our time and talent, but also to offer financial resources to help the garden to become the reality that it is.

DO YOU HAVE A WILL?

If you are ever flicking through the pages of the Book of Common Prayer and find yourself on page 455, you will find a rubric that says the following:

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all person to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for the religious and charitable uses.

(Rubrics, by the way, are instructions, always written in italics that appear throughout the prayer book.)

So the question is: Do you have a will? And, if you do, is it up to date?

At one time Cris and I thought we were too young to have a will. But after Jennifer, our daughter, was born, Cris decided that it was important to make provision for Jennifer, should we both die. She told me that she knew the dysfunction in her family and was learning about the dysfunction in my family, and she did not want any of that to rub off on Jennifer, should we both die. So we wrote a will that appointed some good friends of ours to be Jennifer's guardians. At Jennifer's wedding, the male friend, who we had named to be her guardian, came up to me and kidingly told me he was sorry Cris and I had not died since he and his wife had always looked forward to being Jennifer's guardians.

I tell you this story to suggest that even young parents, who may feel they are not old enough to need a will, or don't have enough assets yet to need a will, might think about who they would like to serve as a guardian for their children, should they die. Dying is not something we like to think about. But as Christian stewards, we should make plans to address the unexpected.

Bruce Rockwell
For the Stewardship Ministry Team



Thank you everyone for all you did for Russell's funeral arrangements. The lunch, the caring, the service and more. Everyone was very impressed.

Betty and Family

*Happy
Birthday*

JULY

*Happy
Anniversary*

07/01 Irene Graves

**07/07 Ellie Otto
Robert Nicoli
Chris Berry**

07/08 Ryan LaBonte

07/12 Julia Peteros

07/14 Christopher Peteros

07/17 Michael O'Brien

07/20 Jacob Thomas

**07/22 Denis Turgeon
Lincoln Allsop**

07/23 Linda Edwards

07/25 Ellie Hutchins

**07/28 Carl Otto
Levi Robichaud**

07/29 Maria Russo-Appel

07/08 Mickey & Jessica Lister

07/20 Paul & Christine Joenk

Aging Gently-Aging with Dignity

We are a group of gently aging people who meet once a month to engage in conversation, prayer, and moral support with other gently aging people who are trying to age with dignity.



The June Meeting

Marcia gave a tour of the Aging Gently library shelf.

Betty shared two light-hearted, inspirational thoughts.

Cathy shared the "flounder" story.

"Yet He gives us just enough light so that we can see to take the next step. That's all He gives and in reality, that's all we need." Charles P. Swindoll

We all shared in remembering St. Mark's early days and when we each joined St. Mark's Church.

Next Meeting

Bring in any St. Mark's memorabilia that you may have at home.

Contrary to the meeting discussion, lunch **will** be provided this month!

Upcoming

Next Meeting Date

Weds, July 18, 2018

Monthly Prayer Intention

Migrants in turmoil

Golden Years, Golden Words

**For Thou art my lamp,
O Lord; and the Lord
illumines my
darkness. 2 Samuel 22:29**

Note! We meet on the third Weds. each month at 1:00 in the Williams Rm. at St. Mark's Church.

Lunch is provided or bring your own.

All are very welcome!

St. Mark's Thrift Shop

**CLOSED JULY & AUGUST
WILL REOPEN SEPT. 7**

DONATIONS NEEDED

**WE WILL GLADLY TAKE ANY BOOKS, KNICK-
KNACKS, COLLECTABLES, KITCHEN-WARE,
POCKETBOOKS, COMFORTERS, SMALL THROW-
RUGS, SMALL TOOLS, GAMES, PUZZLES, AND TOYS**

**SORRY, NO DISHES, GLASSWARE, LAMPS,
CLOTHING OR LARGE ITEMS.**

**Please Do Not Leave Items At Church.
Call Gail Gurney Or Sheila Bennett To
Arrange A Time For You To Drop Them
Off. Thank You.**

Gail Gurney—413/566-3665 ggurney8433@gmail.com

Shelia Bennett—413/525-4599 dashben@charter.net



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