

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

SPECIAL GUEST MUSICIANS AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN AUGUST

As the Minister of Music Search Committee continues to look over resumes, call references, and speak to candidates the month of August promises to be a time with much music offered to the Glory of God.

On Sunday August 5 we will welcome Brother Bruce Jefferson who will lead us in worship on the Baby Grand piano. Bruce is a Gospel and Spiritual worship leader who will help us sing a new song to the Lord. This Sunday promises to be a time of joy and soulful singing, so come and worship the Lord on that day.

On the 12th and 19th of August while Fr. Peter is away on vacation we will welcome Nancy Gagne back home to help lead our worship. Please join together to welcome Nancy back and to give thanks to God for the many ways God has blessed us in our time with her.

Finally, on August 26 we will welcome Ron Shepherd who will help lead our worship as he focuses primarily on playing our beautiful pipe organ.

Each Sunday is a chance to gather, celebrate the power of Christ, and sing a song of praise and thanksgiving to God. So come, lift your voices and praise God.

MINISTER OF MUSIC SEARCH UPDATE

As of July 15 St. Mark's received a total of eight applications for our minister of music position. The St. Mark's Musician Search Committee then moved forward has moved forward with contacting references and follow up calls. The search committee is composed of Peter Fairman, Sheila Bennett, Ryan Schneider, Ginny Sill, Adam Lape, Tammy Najeebi, and Fr. Peter Swarr.

On August 1st two candidates will come to work with the choir, play a Prelude for the committee and hold interviews. We are thankful for every applicant who has been willing to part of this process. Please continue to hold the committee and the candidates in your prayers.



HERE YE! HERE YE!
YOUR BRAND NEW ST. MARK'S PHOTO
DIRECTORIES ARE HOT OFF THE PRESSES AND
WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!!

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH THE RAINBOW COMMUNITY GARDEN



When we established the Rainbow Community Garden this spring on the grounds of our church property, one of the goals was to build bridges among the various communities in the Greater Springfield area. We partnered with Bhutanese refugees from the Salvation Pentecostal Church (who worship each Sunday afternoon at St. Paul's Lutheran Church) to help us grow food and get to know each other better. In May, when we planted our garden plots, members of the Salvation church treated everyone to a delicious traditional Bhutanese meal.

To continue our fellowship, we at St. Mark's would like to return the hospitality. On Aug. 26, following the Salvation worship service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, we will treat our Bhutanese friends to a traditional American meal. Lori Decker is putting together a team to assemble a menu and prepare the meal. If you would like to help in preparations or would like to attend, please talk to Lori, Doreen Tapper, or Father Peter.

All are welcome to attend.

OUTREACH UPDATES



The outreach ministry team will once again be collecting school supplies for children in East Longmeadow during the month of August. A basket will be set up in the Great Hall with flyers listing suggested items.

If you have extra produce from your garden this summer, bring it to church on Sundays and we will bring it to the Open Pantry in Springfield on Mondays. The pantry is also welcoming volunteers to stock the shelves this summer on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 3 p.m. Contact Lori Decker at (413) 237-4758 for more info.



If you have a bicycle in good condition that you no longer need, contact Jewish Family Service Employment Specialist Tatyana at (413) 737-2601. She will give it to a newly-employed refugee client who can use it to get to work.

We are scheduled to prepare and serve a hot meal at the Loaves & Fishes Community Kitchen at the South Congregational Church on Maple St. in Springfield from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 11. If you would like to help, contact Mary Dunklee at (413) 566-3129.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. MARK'S

Time flies when you're having fun...so clearly we've been having a lot of fun this summer because it's already August! And that means plans are well underway for the upcoming 2018-19 St. Mark's Church School year. Here are a few notes about our Church School program.

Once again St. Mark's will be offering a multi-level formation program for children and youth.

Grades preschool through 2nd will take part in Godly Play

Grades 3 through 5 will take part in Rotation Classroom

Grades 6-8 will take part in Rite 13

Grades 9-12 will take part in J2A

More information about all of these classes and programs will be available in the Parents'/Guardians' Handbook which will be available beginning on September 9.

The Registration form for Sunday School is included in this month's newsletter (pg.4) and will also be available in the Great Hall. Once you have filled it out please return it to Fr. Peter's Office at St. Mark's.

CHURCH SCHOOL BREAKFAST FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS, STUDENTS, AND TEACHERS

On **Sunday, September 9** we will hold a **Church School Breakfast** for all teachers, students and parents. The breakfast will begin at 9:00am in the Great Hall. Please plan on attending and getting to know the church school teachers and classrooms on that day.

Sunday School for Children and Youth

St. Mark's Church School Registration Form

Child's Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Grade entered in Fall 2018: _____

Parents' or Guardians' Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (home) _____, (cell) _____, (cell) _____

Email: _____ 2nd Email: _____ *(please circle best contact)*

Siblings: _____

Specify Allergies or other medical concerns: _____

Special Concerns: _____

Please list the names of all other adults who are authorized to pick up your child after Sunday school.

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: _____

STEWARDS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

As our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry likes to say; “We are the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement”. Well our branch has been very active recently. I’ve been following some of the news from General Convention #79 and it has made me feel very humble. General Convention occurs every three years and is the body that shapes our church and its future. This time around it is happening in Austin, TX. Each Diocese within the worldwide Episcopal Church (not to be confused with the worldwide Anglican Communion of which we are a part) sends elected deputies to Convention. Deputies are elected locally at each Diocesan Convention which, for the Diocese of Western Mass occurs every October. There are clergy and lay deputies who make up the House of Deputies and then there are the diocesan bishops who make up the House of Bishops. That’s the background info but that’s not what has made me feel humble.

It’s the depth of faith, commitment, and hard work these deputies display and the broad and serious nature of the topics addressed that give me pause. Here are just two of the headlines from Convention: “General Convention moves one step closer toward sacramental marriage equality; House of Bishops must act on ‘compromise’ resolution”, and “Deputies back plan to end financial complicity in Israel’s occupation of Palestinian lands”. One deals with the core of our church – its liturgy, and the other with our social responsibility in the world. Woah.

These faithful deputies are truly stewarding this church that I love. They are lovingly caring for our faith, our traditions, and our social conscience while shepherding us to a new place. The Episcopal Church never comes out of General Convention the same. And isn’t that what God expects of us? We are meant to grow and evolve in our understanding of God’s creation. That’s pretty humbling. I’m grateful to, and humbled by, these ordinary people who have accepted our expectations to be the stewards of our church.

While General Convention will be over by the time you read this, you can find all the news of the Episcopal Church on the website of the Episcopal New Service. There is a tab for General Convention here as well: <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/>

Meg Schoenemann for the Stewardship Ministry Team

AUGUST

*Happy
Anniversary*

08/02 Hana O’Brien
 08/05 Sandy Moore
 08/06 Zoey Lape
 08/10 Karen Russell
 08/11 Brooklyn Goodreau
 08/12 Luca Villani
 08/15 Bailey Gawron
 08/16 Raymond Antaya
 08/18 Don Edwards
 08/25 Rena Tarnowski
 08/26 Jessica Decker
 08/28 Bob Shaw
 08/29 Tammy Najeebi
 Cyndi Steinbock
 08/30 Christine Joenk

*Happy
Birthday*

08/01 Tim & Mary L’Heureux
 Dan & Sue Schneider
 08/04 Dwayne & Teal Lipinski
 Jon & Marilyn Robichaud
 08/07 Peter & Karen Dufresne
 Michael & Leslie O’Brien
 08/16 Adam & Sharlene Lape
 08/18 Michael Tami & April Knight
 08/19 Christopher & Laura Peteros

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 was canceled

Next Meeting

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

Meeting will highlight what we have all been doing over the summer. Feel free to bring pictures and such.

Upcoming

Next Meeting Date

**Weds, August 15,
2018**

Monthly Prayer Intention

**The congregation of
St. Mark's**

Golden Years, Golden Words

**The glory of the
young is their
strength; the gray
hair of experience is
the splendor of the
old.** Proverbs 20:29

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

REVIVAL UPDATE: SCHEDULE



Following Presiding Bishop Curry's sermon for the Royal Wedding in May, demands for his time increased greatly. His office asked us to reconsider his schedule for our Revival, as his presence was requested at an event on the evening of October 20. The Steering Committee agreed that the Presiding Bishop would arrive here later than originally planned, which required adjusting our original plan. We apologize for any disappointment or inconvenience caused by these changes, but we give thanks to God that so many want to hear from our church's leader! I am deeply grateful to the local planning teams who have been understanding, flexible and industrious in reconfiguring our revival into two wonderful events on October 21 in Pittsfield and Worcester. We ask your continued prayers for our revival process. A passion for evangelism, service and worship is rising and a great preacher is coming to our diocese. Let's give thanks as we move forward to a day of great celebration.

The Rev. Samuel J. Smith, co-chair The Steering Committee #WMARevival

1:00 pm Revival WEST - First United Methodist Church, Pittsfield

Revival begins with the Holy Eucharist at the largest church in Berkshire County. Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, will preside. The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry will preach.

*The Episcopal Church will livestream this event.

5:00 pm Revival EAST - The Hanover Theater, Worcester

Revival continues with music, testimonies, and the inspired preaching of our Presiding Bishop at a 2,300 capacity theater in the heart of the city.

*The Episcopal Church will livestream this event.

There will be a procession to the theater beginning at 4:30 pm from Fuller Park.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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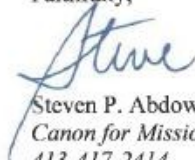
July 23, 2018

St. Mark's Church
1 Porter Rd,
East Longmeadow, MA 01028-1348

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your donation of \$300.00 on May 4, 2018 in support of the Mampong Babies Home. Our companion dioceses in Ghana are benefitting greatly from your generosity and heartfelt support of this special ministry. On behalf of Bishop Fisher and the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, thank you for your generous support.

Faithfully,



Steven P. Abdow
Canon for Mission Resources
413-417-2414
sabdow@diocesewma.org



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