



## HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

**Sunday September 9 is Homecoming Sunday at St. Mark's.**



On that day we will gather together and begin a new program year of worship, fellowship, and formation.

Church School students, parents and teachers will begin with a delicious breakfast in the Great Hall (**SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFO**).

The choir will return at our 10am service under the direction of our new Minister of Music Sue Matsui (**SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFO**).

As part of worship that day we will bless students and teachers, choir members and Holy Grounds volunteers as they "come back home" after summer. Homecoming Sunday is always a day of joy and celebration so make sure to take part. After all, you won't want to miss the unveiling of the photo of the winning team from the summer scavenger hunt!

Christ welcomed all, we welcome you!

## NEWSFLASH: LOUD HORN KNOCKS DOWN ENTIRE CITY DEFENSE SYSTEM...

Seem crazy? How about young boy defeats the worlds best known warrior with a smooth stone?...or man feeds 5000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish???

The fact is, small actions can make a huge impact! God is able to take small actions and use them to do incredible things...A little ripple of faith can lead to huge waves of grace and goodness.



It's that theme...ripples being turned into waves...that we hope to examine and consider this fall as St. Mark's considers our financial pledges for 2019.

Come and find out how tiny things are, in God's economy, having a huge impact. You wont want to miss one week of learning how God is active in our midst.

Watch for ripples turning into waves in the second half of September.

**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](mailto:office@stmarksma.org)  
Web: [www.stmarksma.org](http://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 - 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, Sept. 18th**



Submit articles to:  
Diane Chandler, Good News Editor  
[office@stmarksma.org](mailto:office@stmarksma.org)

**CHURCH SCHOOL 2018**

Church School (Sunday School) will be returning to its regular Sunday schedule on September 16.

Preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade will be taking part in Godly Play which meets in the lower level of the office wing while Grades 3-5 take part in the Rotation Classroom which meets in the Loft just off the Great Hall.

After a successful summer program of working in the Rainbow Community Garden (we averaged over 7 children per week throughout July and August!) our two elementary classes will begin meeting at 9:45 and conclude at 10:35 (right around the time of the Peace during the church service).

Middle School and High School Youth will begin meeting for class on Sunday evenings from 5:00-6:30pm. Middle Schoolers (who will be members of our Rite 13 Group) will be meeting in the Loft while High Schoolers (our J2A Group) will be meeting in the Williams Media Room

**Parents, be sure to fill out a Church School registration form (FOUND ON PAGE 4) and return it to Fr. Peter's office no later than Sat., Sept. 15.**

To learn more about our Church School Program be sure to pick up a copy of our **2018-19 Church School Handbook** which will be available in the Great Hall beginning on Homecoming Sunday, September 9, 2018.



The word "Tithe" is scary for most people. We tend to run away (mentally) when it is mentioned, especially around the yearly pledge time.

I was that way.

A few years ago, after I had been giving my usual each week, I heard God speak with a suggestion of an increased amount to try. As the weeks went on, I found it was working. So my next year's pledge became the trial amount. For the next couple of years the same scenario happened.

As I traveled the road to tithing, I found myself happier and receiving many blessings. The greatest blessings being continued good health, love of family and friends and the addition of Tom in my life.

"The generous prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

*Proverbs 11:25. NLT*

Sheila Bennett for the Stewardship Committee

Sheila Bennett, Linda Lemanis, Bruce Rockwell, Meg Schoenmann, Bob Shaw, Lester Sill, Father Peter Swarr, Doreen Tapper

## MEET OUR NEW MINISTER OF MUSIC



Greetings to all my new friends at St. Mark's! I am so thankful and excited to be joining you as minister of music. Let me tell you a little bit about myself.

I grew up in Nyack, NY, attending Grace Episcopal Church, where my father and brother are still active members. As a child and teen, I belonged to the Junior Choir and the EYF, and attended diocesan youth conferences every summer. My years at Grace Church left a deep imprint on me, and ever since, I have longed to find a church where my soul would be fed in the way it was there. I have been at all sorts of other churches since then - including eighteen years in the Catholic church in Japan (where all my children were born), and most recently nine years as the music director at the Second Congregational Church of Williamstown, preceded by five years as the youth music director at the First United Methodist Church of Williamstown.

On the last Sunday of this June, my husband Kevin Combs and I visited St. Mark's. I was so moved by what I experienced - the sense of wonder and worship, the "aliveness," the warm welcome, Father Peter's inspiring message, Nancy and the choir's beautiful music (we had happened upon her last Sunday).... It was love at first sight. Immediately I thought, "If only I could be part of a church like this!"

Now that wish and the prayers of my heart have been answered, and I am so grateful!

This change coincides with another big change in my life - Kevin and I, along with my daughter Maki (a soprano and music teacher), her husband Anderson (a Brazilian clarinetist), and their toddler Mollie (who speaks English, Japanese, and Portuguese!), are in the process of purchasing a house in Conway, where we will all move in together some time later this month.

I have two other children: my youngest, Sato, is at Juilliard studying composition and violin. My eldest, Yo, is a freelance translator who lives near my parents in the lower Hudson valley. He is married to Cindy, who came with him from the Philippines almost two years ago. She is a mechanical engineer. My family looks like a miniature United Nations.

Other interesting bits of information about me: I am a school music teacher (at Sunderland Elementary School) and an author of Japanese children's books and songs. As well as piano and organ, I play fiddle in a folk band (with Kevin on autoharp), guitar (which I have often played in worship), and various other instruments, including some medieval ones. As a school music teacher, I have taught most band and string instruments. Kevin, who can be recognized by his big beard, is a metal craftsman at Period Lighting Fixtures, where he creates beautiful reproductions of Colonial chandeliers, sconces, and lanterns.

I am so looking forward to getting to know all of you, and to worshiping with you. Thank you so much for your warm welcome!



The 6:30 p.m. Sunday service will resume on September 16th!  
This is a youth focused Eucharist lasting about 45 minutes and

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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

A **Church School Breakfast** for all teachers, students and parents will be held on **Sunday, September 9**. 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. **Registration forms will also be available in the Great Hall.**

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## SEARCHING FOR SOME DIRECTION IN YOUR LIFE? TRY BIBLE 101!

Have you ever taken a road trip and realized you don't have a map...and then had your gps fail? To get to your destination you need to have a guide, something that helps lead you where you need to be.

The Bible can be a meaningful, living, and amazing guide for living our life. It's a tool that Christians have used for 2000 years as they look for help, direction, and a sense of God.

But for many of us, the Bible can be confusing and it can feel hard to understand and hard to use. Some of us may even feel afraid of what the pages hold...

But the Bible is in fact a story of a living and loving relationship between God and humanity. It's filled with joy, humor, life, and incredible characters. It is a book meant for YOU!

Want to learn more? Then consider taking part in a new five-week event called **Bible 101**.

For five Friday evenings, beginning on October 12 we will gather for good food, conversation, and an opportunity to experience the Bible from different vantage points (can you say guest speakers?).

**Special Note:** the following prerequisites are required...a willingness to show up and learn, willing to challenge your assumptions, willingness to eat good food. NO previous Bible experience is necessary.

Christ welcomed all, we welcome you.



## 2018 ST. MARK'S PHOTO DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTION

The Welcome Ministry Team will be distributing the 2018 St. Mark's Photo Directories beginning on Sunday, September 9, 2018 after the 8 and 10 AM service. The directories have been individually labeled with the names of each household in the parish so that everyone can enjoy a copy. A HUGE thank you goes out to all those involved in the production of these directories:

- For the gift of time by members of the Welcome Ministry Team.
- For the gift of talented design and photography skills and copious time by Claire Sygiel.
- For the generous gift of high quality color printing by Michael Tarby and PIP Printing.

Because of these donations, everyone in the congregation is able to receive a copy free of charge.

However, a "Free Will Offering" to fund future Welcome Ministry Team events and initiatives would be gratefully accepted.

(suggested donation \$10.00)





## PARENTING YOUR ADULT CHILD WITH LOVE AND GRACE... AND MORE THAN A LITTLE PATIENCE!



Are your children no longer the child, but an adult?  
 Are they trying out their flight feathers to leave the nest?  
 Have they left the nest and then returned?

I am interested in forming a Small Group with parents of adult children.

How do we respect their boundaries as well as ours?  
 How do we support them in their successes, as well as failures?  
 When do we offer suggestions and when do we stay silent?

Parenting adult children can be as confusing as parenting a newborn. If you are interested in sharing time, wisdom and love with other parents in similar situations please contact Meg Galbreath at [meg.galbreath56@gmail.com](mailto:meg.galbreath56@gmail.com) or (413)230-6362. Our meeting times will be determined by the participants.

## REVIVAL WEST/EAST IS COMING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST !

### Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is coming to Massachusetts!

Were you able to watch or listen to Presiding Bishop Curry at the Royal Wedding in July? Would you like to hear him preach in person? Now is your opportunity.

There are **TWO** ways to participate.

For those who would like to travel, Revival WEST will begin with Holy Eucharist at 1:00pm at First United Methodist Church, Pittsfield. Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher, will preside. The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop will preach. We will be organizing a van to participate in this service. Doors will open at noon. Music and videos will be shown from 12-1 pm. As transportation details are finalized in Pittsfield we will update.

For those who prefer to stay closer to home, Revival EAST will begin at 5:00, Bishop Doug Fisher will be preaching on the Way of Love, at the Hanover Theater in Worcester. This will be Live streamed, either at St. Mark's or another local church. Stay tuned for more details about this way you can get involved.

There will be sign up sheet for the van to Pittsfield in the Great Hall. Approximate price, if we fill the 12 passenger van would be 22.00 each. For more information please contact Meg Galbreath ([meg.galbreath56@gmail.com](mailto:meg.galbreath56@gmail.com)) or Sue Schneider ([saschneider27@gmail.com](mailto:saschneider27@gmail.com)).

Rekindling  
HOPE

Sharing  
LIGHT

Loving  
JESUS

#WMARevival



St. Mark's has once again been asked to volunteer to help the Vermont Maple Sugar Association in the Vermont Building during the Big E, September 14-30, 2018.

This is a wonderful fundraiser for the church, as the Association pays St. Mark's for the volunteers.

The Big E sign up sheet & instructions are posted in the Great Hall.

The shifts are 9/14 through 9/30.

Two volunteers for: 10a-1p, 1-4p & 4-8p

Scott Conrad is trying to see if we can add an hour (likely in the morning to help with setup). He would like to get back to all four hour shifts for next year.

Please consider filling as many shifts as you can. We need to have every volunteer sign up for at least two shifts to help with the admittance pass situation. **This is one of St. Mark's largest fundraisers and we would love to get it 100% filled.**

We are off to a good start with someone signed up for five shifts!

If you are willing to serve as a last-minute backup for anyone who cannot fulfill their shift, please email Scott Conrad at [scott@conrad.us.com](mailto:scott@conrad.us.com) with your availability and cell phone number so he can text you if necessary.

AMAZON WITH A SMILE   
A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT ST. MARK'S!!

You can donate to St. Mark's every time you shop Amazon.

Simply start at: <https://smile.amazon.com/>

Click on the AMAZON SMILE square.

(Your sign in information is the same username and password you use for Amazon and all your saved payment info is there already too.)

From here you can designate a charity to receive a donation every time you shop Amazon Smile.

To find St. Mark's, type in **St. Mark's Episcopal Church MA** in the "Or pick your own charitable organization" box under some more well-known charities that scroll along.

It will come up with our name and E. Longmeadow, MA.

Then you simply choose it by clicking the Select button.

From then on, always begin your Amazon shopping experience at <https://smile.amazon.com/> and St. Mark's will benefit each time. Small amounts from all of our shopping (and we do know how often we're on Amazon, right?) will add up.

The site reminds us: "Remember, only purchases at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/) (not [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or the mobile app) support charity."  
So start your shopping at Amazon Smile instead.

Bring a smile to all those who benefit from our ministries here at St. Mark's.





Meet our beautiful little girl, **Cecelia Ruth Wentworth**. 6lbs, 9oz. 19in.  
 Born at 5:48pm, August 24,2018  
 We are sooooo in love!!!! Kristen and Brian Wentworth (Fiola)

## SEPTEMBER

*Happy  
 Birthday*

- 09/02 Laura Rollins
- 09/04 MacKenzie Thomas  
Rebecca Banker
- 09/07 Barbara Volker
- 09/10 Aiden Allsop
- 09/11 Samantha Druckenmiller
- 09/12 Jon Robichaud
- 09/14 Peter Fairman
- 09/15 Sharlene Lape
- 09/16 Matrim Smyrski
- 09/19 Peter Dufresne
- 09/21 Gabriel Allsop
- 09/24 Jake Berry
- 09/30 Bob Gurney

*Happy  
 Anniversary*

- 09/07 Tom & Darlene O'Brien
- 09/08 Bob & Gail Gurney
- 09/09 Matthew & Andrea Villani
- 09/16 Shamim & Tammy Najeebi
- 09/18 Cliff Kerr & Claire Sygiel
- 09/23 Mark & Lori Decker



**St. Mark's  
 Thrift Shop**

**Join us for our Fall Opening  
 Friday, Sept. 7**

**All new items. Come in and shop for bargains  
 every Friday and Saturday 10 to 1.**



**Please call Gail Gurney (566-3665), Sheila Bennett (525-4599) or  
 Gail Turgeon (301-7542) if you have items to donate to the shop.**

**Tools, collectibles, pocketbooks, kitchen items, linens, books, and  
 toys are greatly appreciated. Please, no clothes, glassware, dishes,  
 lamps or large items.**



## Aging Gently-Aging<sup>with</sup> 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.




---

### August Meeting Notes

Sheila submitted an article from AARP that will be available at our next meeting. *Your Body at 70 +* by S. Harrar.

Several folks have offered to contribute to the cost of lunch. A **very optional** donation jar will be made available for free will contributions.

Rick shared a copy of the 1968 and 1973 St. Mark's Picture Directory along with St. Mark's Country Fair pamphlets from 1966 and 1967. These are available for your perusing on our Aging Gently library shelf.

---

### Upcoming

Next Meeting Date

**Weds, Sept. 19, 2018**

Monthly Prayer Intention

**Healing of social and political animosity in our country.**

Golden Years, Golden Words

**LOOK IT UP!**

**Isaiah 46:4**

---

**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 Episcopal Church  
One Porter Road  
East Longmeadow, MA 01028-1348

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
East Longmeadow, MA 01028