



RIPPLES INTO WAVES: HOW MY GIFTS IMPACT ST. MARK'S CHURCH



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.
Ripples into waves...how my gifts impact St. Mark's Church
is the theme of St. Mark's 2019 Fall Stewardship Program
We will examine this theme as we consider our financial pledges for 2019.

PET BLESSING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 11AM

A.W.
BR^{•••}WN'S
YOUR HOMETOWN PET & GARDEN STORE

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3

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,
6:30pm**

**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, Oct. 16th**



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

SEEING GIVING THROUGH THE JOY OF A CHILD... A RIPPLE THAT CAN BECOME A WAVE

By Peter Swarr

Just the other day Lucy and Eli got mail from the church. My kids LOVE to get mail, so when they both pulled an envelope out of the mailbox with their names on it they were excited! Inside was a note saying thank you along with a statement that said how much money they had given for the year. They were excited! And it reminded them they wanted to keep saying thank you to God each Sunday by making special gifts using their envelopes.

Angela and I decided a number of years ago that the kids would pledge and that they would give something to God through our offering. It has been a way to help our children understand that money is a way we express our values and that as people who love Jesus, we value and love the church.

Sunday in and Sunday out Lucy and Eli fulfill their pledge of financial support to St. Mark's. They don't do it because of the bottom line of the budget or because their dad worries about how we will fund important ministries (or his salary). They give because it's a joy to them and because they get to say thank you to God. They give because it is a way for them to be part of something they love, to be part of the community of St. Mark's.

That simple act of giving creates a ripple of joy and blessing which God uses to bless and benefit the world.

Parents of young children, maybe this year as our fall stewardship ingathering rolls around, you may want to consider taking part in this little act of helping your child(ren) fill out a pledge card and take part in the joy of giving (and receiving mail). It's fun, it's easy, and it can help children understand the joy of giving in a new way. It's a small ripple that can create a big wave of generosity and grace.

For **all of us**, I encourage you to consider your giving, your use of money, with such joyful and thankful eyes. It's a small action that can be used by God in enormous ways. What if each time you were to give you could enter into that act with joy and thanks, just like a child? (as Isaiah 11:6b says, "and a little child shall lead them")

May we all sense deep gratitude every time we make mighty ripples by giving of ourselves, with time, money, and ability in the service of God.



ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 11AM ST. MARK'S GOES TO THE DOGS...LITERALLY!



Each year as the Feast of St. Francis Rolls around (October 4) St. Mark's goes to the dogs...and cats, and fish, and birds. This year, as we seek to live more fully into our saying "Christ welcomed all, we welcome you" **St. Mark's will be taking an increased roll in the Pet Blessing that takes place at AW Browns.**

On Saturday, October 6 beginning at 10:45 parishioners will welcome 50 or more community members and their pets, hand out worship booklets, encourage folks to sign up for email communications, and tell people about St. Mark's. Then we will lead a worship and blessing service for everyone from the broader community. Together we will literally go out into the town, and bring the message of Jesus to people who are seeking connection with God. (Just think how many times Jesus sent his disciples out into the community to pray, teach, heal and bless. Jesus never seemed to tell his disciples to just hang out in the building and hope folks came to them...) Come and be part of St. Mark's going to the dogs this year!

Pet Blessings will also occur on Sunday, October 7 at the 10am service.

As in previous years, pets who play well with others are welcome to church to be blessed and for their people to receive special blessing certificates.

This year, to be certain that we provide a worship experience to anyone who might want to attend (such as people with dander allergies or fear of certain animals) the 8am service will be a dander free zone.

CELEBRATING OUR WORSHIP MINISTRIES AT ST. MARK'S

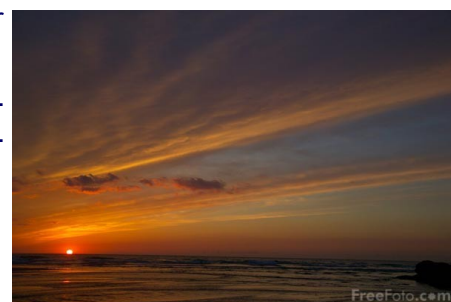
By Christine Whitehead

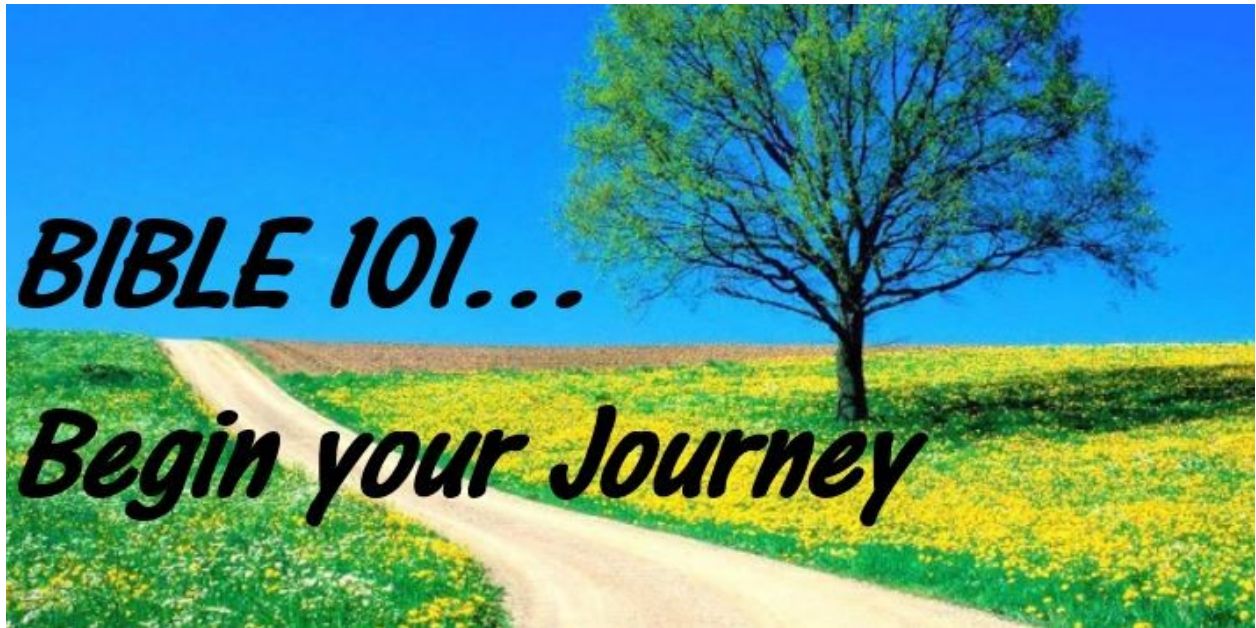
My name is Christine Whitehead and before writing more about worship ministries at St. Mark's I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as I begin to lead, along with Father Peter as an overseer, the worship ministry teams of our parish. I have been a parishioner at St. Marks for 45 years and have lived near the church for all of those years. I began to take on this role as a result of the Exploration into Christian Leadership Program and am excited to find ways to strengthen and support our many worship teams.

On October 7 we will be doing something new in church, **we will be celebrating our Acolytes** with a brief statement about what it means to them to serve God in this way. After the service we will have cake out in the Great Hall. Please feel free to approach an Acolyte if you have any questions on how to become an acolyte or what is involved in acolyting. Also feel free to thank them for their time and talents which help make Sunday services possible.

On the following first Sunday of the month we will be celebrating and highlighting other worship teams such as the Lectors, Altar Guild, Choir, Healing Ministers, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Counters, etc.

Blessings,
Chris & Father Peter +





What if the struggles, worries, and fears you have in life had some road maps and best practices for getting to the other side?

What if you could find meaning, direction, hope...

What if God was inviting you into a conversation and community of love, faith, support and connection...

What if all of this and more was available in a...**BOOK?!?**

Have we got a book for you...and it's called the Bible.¹(Bestselling book of all time!)

And you can learn all about that book in a special course coming to St. Mark's called *Bible 101*

BIBLE 101 is for ANYONE.

All you need is an open mind and a willingness to get to know others, share, learn, laugh and enjoy special guest presentations for five evenings

Each class will begin with hearty appetizers, conversation and activities from 6:15-7:00pm.

We will reflect on previous learnings and insights from 7:00-7:30 and then welcome a guest presenter who will share with us from 7:30-8:15.

Each evening will end with 15 minutes of peaceful and meditative prayer.

Class begins on Friday October 12 and continues each Friday until 11/16 (We will skip 10/26)

Space is limited so sign up today in the Great Hall or by emailing office@stmarksma.org

Christ welcomed all, we welcome you!

¹ It's true, it can be a little daunting and hard to understand and use...but that's what BIBLE 101 is for!

FACILITIES USAGE

The Property Management Team is happy to report that a new Fee Schedule and Facilities Usage Policy have been completely revised and updated.

This has been a lengthy and detailed process to arrive at the completion of the operating procedures needed for this new program to be successful. A lot of time and thoughtful deliberation has gone into defining this process that will ensure our facilities are safely used and efficiently managed.

If you know of any person or groups that would be potential users of our facilities *please let them know of our availability.*

Diane Chandler will be the point of contact for initial inquiries her contact information is :
Email: office@stmarksma.org; Phone: 413-525-6341

A revised fee schedule for parishioners is also now available. It has substantial discounts (50%) as compared to outside users.

Our new website (Website URL: www.stmarksma.org) has a section dedicated to Facilities Usage. It is located under the “**Connect to St. Mark’s**” tab.



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES



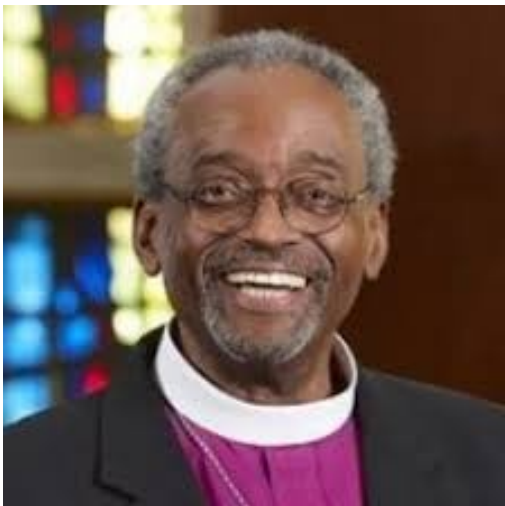
10/04	Raymond & Nicole Antaya
10/07	Robert & Dolly Nicoli Lester & Ginny Sill
10/08	Rob & Hannah Fitzpatrick
10/09	Brian & Wendy Boyd
10/13	David & Paula Wicks
10/20	Don & Linda Edwards

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/03	Peter Swarr	10/18	Adam Lape
10/04	Mary Edwards		Lori Decker
10/06	Theo Hutchins Erin Peteros Harrison Peteros		Hanna Salvador Claire Sygiel
10/09	Dan Schneider Dwayne Lipinski	10/21	Tracy Plass
		10/23	Caroline Peteros
10/14	Brett Boyd Tralee Noonan	10/24	Melinda McQuade
		10/26	Dan Tapper
		10/27	Sue Schneider



FEED YOUR SOUL, AND YOUR BODY



On Sunday, Oct. 21st Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be visiting our diocese to pray, sing and speak about his Way of Love. At 5:00 he will be in Worcester to share God's word with singing and testimonies.

But you can't make it to Worcester? Not to fret- we will be bringing Bishop Curry to St. Mark's , via LiveStream.

Starting at 5:00 pm we will LiveStream his homily, and all the music and prayers directly to our Sanctuary. After this wonderful service we will gather in the Great Hall to share a meal and conversation to help us bring the Way of Love into our lives.

Please join fellow members, the Rite 13 and J2A classes, and members of other local churches in this wonderful night of music, testimonies, food and fellowship. Doors will open at 4:30, with dinner beginning at 7:00, and the evening should conclude around 8:15-8:30.

There will be vegetarian options for dinner.

Please sign up in the Great Hall, in order for us to gauge the amount of food. Of course you don't need to sign up to attend. Please come to share God's grace and love.

For more information please contact Meg Galbreath meg.galbreath56@gmail.com or (413) 230-6362.

THE OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who ordered mums last month to benefit ACTS , Action Centered Tutoring Services. More than \$1,100 was raised which will provide free tutoring services for children in Springfield.



During the month of November, we will be filling backpacks with personal care items to be given to the women Mary D'Alessandro works with when they leave the prison system. Often it is the only thing they have to start the new phase of their lives with. Shampoo, soap, feminine hygiene products, comb and brush, toothbrush and toothpaste are some of the items we will be collecting in the Great Hall. We hope to provide Mary with at least three backpacks per month, if possible.



Friends Next Door

Sharing Religious Values for Our Time

Mondays, October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19

At First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, UCC

763 Longmeadow St, Longmeadow

7:00-8:30 p.m. with coffee, tea and desserts

During this course, we will explore the different (and possibly similar) ways we read and relate to sacred texts. At each session representatives from two religious traditions will present, field questions, and facilitate conversation. We will focus on Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. No prior knowledge required. Just you and your curiosity.

Planned and presented by:

Cantor Elise Barber, Temple Beth El

Rev. Marisa Brown Ludwig, First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, UCC

Rabbi James Greene, Springfield Jewish Community Center

Rabbi Amy Katz, Temple Beth El

Rabbi Jeremy Master, Sinai Temple

Rev. Pam McGrath, First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, UCC

Rev. Ute Schmidt, Baystate Health

Rev. Jason Seymour, Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield

Rabbi Mark Shapiro, Sinai Temple

Rev. Anne Strickert, St. Paul Lutheran Church

Rev. Peter Swarr, St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Rev. Kelly Turney, East Longmeadow United Methodist Church

EXPERIENCE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD WITH ALL OUR SENSES



Quiet Day on the Lake, November 2nd. 9-3 pm

Cathy and Rick Steven's house on Lake Metacomet, Belchertown.

Join us in experiencing God with all of our senses.

SEE... the sparkling water, the glorious foliage, the birds migrating. **God is here.**

FEEL... the breeze on the deck, the roughness of a pinecone, the warmth of the sun (or woodstove).

God is here.

SMELL... the pines, the water, the earth, the tangy woodstove. **God is here.**

HEAR...the breeze through the trees, the lapping of the water on the shore. **God is here.**

TASTE...the hearty soup, the crusty bread, the tang of warm cider. **God is here.**

We will be sharing a meditation, quiet time for centering, a hearty potluck lunch, conversation, prayer and a closing Eucharist. We will gather at St. Mark's and car pool to Belchertown. We will return at 3 pm. Please sign up for rides and food in the Great Hall. We look forward to sharing all of God's wonderful creation with you.

For more information please contact Cathy Stevens rcmstvns@verizon.net or Meg Galbreath meg.galbreath56@gmail.com or (413) 230-6362.

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.



September Meeting Notes

Standing Tall, one simple posture from the AARP article, Your Body at 70+ was reviewed and handed out. This is a first step in an effort to work through the article one small life style change at a time.

Tai Chi was suggested as another useful tool for improving balance and posture. Betty and Cathy will pursue information from the Pleasant View Senior Center of East Longmeadow regarding Tai Chi.

A luncheon field trip to the senior center was also proposed. This idea will be further explored as well.

Glen Meadow of Longmeadow is offering a Monthly Memory Café on the 4th Wednesday of each month. This is an opportunity for folks to enjoy activities along with their care person and connect with others experiencing the same challenges. For more info: L Lavoie 413-355-5905 or llavoie@glenmeadow.org

Upcoming

Next Meeting Date

Weds, Oct. 17, 2018

Monthly Prayer Intention

Hurricane Relief Efforts

Golden Years, Golden Words

LOOK IT UP!

Psalm 71:18

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

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