

A WAVE IS BUILDING AT ST. MARK'S



For over a month we have been talking about ripples turning into waves at St. Mark's. Small actions, small gifts, small amounts of time, given to God's service and amplified by the actions of others and the power of God, transformed into waves of grace, love, and hope.

On Sunday, October 21 many of you made additional ripples of giving in your time, talent and treasure as you returned your estimate of giving cards. As of the 29th of October, 65 members of the church have returned cards. Many folks have indicated their desire to serve as Ushers, Lectors, Counters & Acolytes. Others have indicated their desire to increase their giving.

I believe God is calling this wave to keep growing. You know that we have been struggling with a deficit this year, and these ripples and waves help address this so we can be faithful in living into our mission. Similarly there are many substantial demands from our building such as old furnaces, deteriorating parking lots, and aging elevators. **But more importantly, God is inviting you to be part of this movement, these ripples turning to waves because there is much work to be done**, programs to be run, ministries to be started, children to be taught, hungry to be fed, lonely folks to be cared for. God is at work in and through you.

So please, return your estimate of giving card by November 4. Please consider how God is asking you to make a ripple, through time, talent, and additional financial giving.

May God bless us as we seek to be faithful, to bring waves of grace to this community, and the world.

Fr. Peter

ALL SAINTS DAY: MAKING THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES VISIBLE

On Sunday, November 4 St. Mark's will celebrate All Saints Sunday. A day where we celebrate all the saints of God, those among us today, and those we remember who have gone before us. This is a day full of meaning, joy, and memory, a day where, at least for me, the church seems incredibly full. It is full because the spiritual presence of the saints who have led us in faith, shared their faith, disciplined us, prayed with us, and shown the love of Jesus to us, are in a sense, truly present with us in worship.



As we gather and worship God we will also look to the past and give thanks to God for those who have gone before us and taught us the beauty and power of the faith. The book of Hebrews recognizes the spiritual reality of the Saints who have gone before us, who support us and encourage us. Hebrews 12:1 puts it this way, *"Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."* The saints are truly with us, encouraging us and holding us up as we seek, like them, to be true and faithful followers of Jesus.

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, Nov. 20th**



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

ALL SAINTS DAY *Continued*

My invitation to you, therefore, is:

Be sure to come to church and celebrate the Saints who have led you in the way of faith, hope and love.

Reflect on your life of faith and then bring in mementos, photos, and items which represent those who have been saints in your life. Maybe it will be the first Bible you were given, or a prayer book, or a rosary, or a photo from your baptism. Items can be brought to the church any time before the service.

May your find joy and hope in this celebration of all the saints and may God use each of us to show others the path of life and love which Jesus has made known to us.

Fr. Peter Swarr, Rector

I · AM · THE
I know that my
RESURRECTION
Redeemer liveth,
AND THE LIFE
and that he shall
SAITH · THE LORD · HE · THAT
stand at the latter day upon the earth;
BELIEVETH · IN · ME · THOUGH
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall
HE · WERE · DEAD · YET · SHALL · HE
I see God, whom
LIVE · AND
I shall see for myself;
WHOSOEVER
and mine eyes
LIVETH · AND
shall behold, and
BELIEVETH
not as a stranger:
IN · ME · SHALL
John 11:25-26; Job 19:25-26
NEVER · DIE.

READING OF THE PARISH NECROLOGY

As part of our All Saints tradition, we will, as part of our worship, read the parish Necrology. The Necrology is a list of the members of St. Mark's and our personal community who have died and entered the nearer presence of Christ in the recent past. Please legibly print the names of those you would like remembered at the Altar on All Saints Day in the Necrology book.

SUNDAY BULLETIN—SLIGHT CHANGE

Beginning in January, 2019, names entered for Healing under the **People in our Prayers** section of your weekly bulletin will now be removed after one month unless otherwise requested to remain on longer.

Your help is requested to review the current list and notify the church office of those who should remain on it after the end of the year.

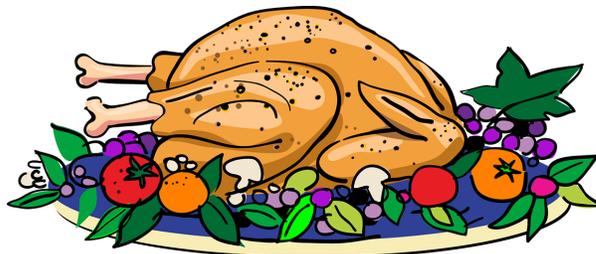
Many Thanks



THANKSGIVING FOOD COLLECTION

On Sunday, November 11, we will work to fulfill Christ's call to feed the hungry with our annual Thanksgiving food collection. Below is a list of items that will provide a family of five with a Thanksgiving dinner. If you would like to donate these items, please bring them to church on the 11th when a truck from the Open Pantry will be on hand to transport them. If you are unable to shop, cash or a check would be greatly appreciated also. Just make checks out to "Open Pantry" and bring them on the 11th. We will send them along with the food items.

Also, how about sharing this with your friends, relatives and coworkers to see if they would like to donate a turkey too? There might be folks who would love to donate but just have never been asked. Try it and see what happens!



Thanksgiving Food Boxes

- 2 cans cranberry sauce
- 1 large can of sweet potatoes
- 2 cans of vegetables (choice of peas, green beans, or corn)
- 1 bag of seasoned bread stuffing
- 2-4 cans of turkey gravy
- Fresh butternut squash
- 5 lb. bag of potatoes
- Frozen turkey (12-15 lbs.)
- Dessert (choose one)
 - Cake mix and canned frosting
 - Pie crust mix and pie filling (cherry, apple, or blueberry)

Let's make this our largest collection ever. The need is great and we can help.



CELEBRATING OUR WORSHIP MINISTRIES AT ST. MARK'S

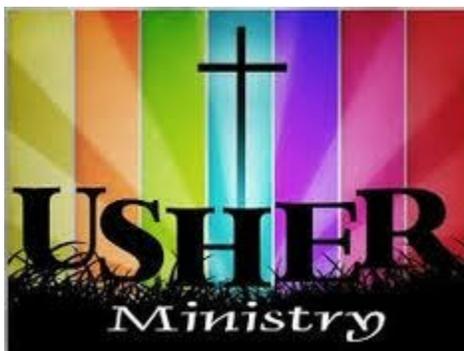
On November 4, we will be celebrating our ushers with a brief statement about what it means to them to serve God in this way. After the service we will have cake in the Great Hall.

Please feel free to approach an usher if you have any questions on how to become an usher or what is involved in ushering.

Also feel free to thank them for their time and talents which help make Sunday services possible

Blessings,

Chris and Fr, Peter+



(QUIET) DAY ON THE LAKE, NOVEMBER 2ND. 9-3 PM

Experience the Goodness of the Lord with All Our Senses



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.**

No, you don't need to be quiet. But the lake is a wonderful place to find quiet, if you would like.

We will be sharing a meditation, time for centering, a hearty potluck lunch, conversation, prayer and a closing Eucharist. We will gather at St. Mark's at 9 am and car pool up 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.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

The building & Grounds Ministry is looking for a 25 ft. Fire Escape ladder for the loft. If anyone has one or is willing to purchase one, please contact Jon Robichaud at 617/947-4766 or jrobichaud@gibsonengineering.com

The one pictured below can be purchased at Home depot for \$70 plus tax, Amazon may be lower.



MUSIC NOTES



Every Sunday, after the 10 am service (and after getting a bite to eat at coffee hour), children gather in the sanctuary to sing songs of praise and play small percussion instruments. “Kids Sing and Play” is lots of fun - and everyone aged two through twelve is welcome (parents can come, too). The children performed in church for the first time on October 14th - and they were a big success!

I am making a list of young people (and adults) who would be interested in playing their instrument in church or singing a solo occasionally. If you are interested, please let me know by email (music@stmarksma.org) or by leaving a note with your contact information in the music office.

The adult choir is looking for new members! Part-time members and occasional members are welcomed, too. Rehearsals are 7:00 pm on Thursdays at the church. On Sundays, we gather at 9:30. It would be hard to find a nicer and jollier bunch of people than the St. Mark’s choir. And it is very joyful thing to praise God through music. I hope you will consider joining us!

WANTED: an electronic keyboard and stand to use at choir practice. If you have one in a closet that you don’t use anymore, and are willing to donate or lend it to the church, please let me know!

Thank you!

Sue Matsui: music@stmarksma.org

PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATION FROM THE EYES OF A PARENT

You may remember a short while ago when our Old Testament lessons were about a boy named Samuel (1 Samuel Chapter 3). Like most young people (and everyone else) he was trying to figure out life and where he fit into it. You may recall how in the middle of the night he thought his guardian and foster father Eli was calling him. But it was not Eli. In a wisp of wind, a quiet whisper, a small voice, it was God who was speaking to Samuel. Finally Samuel listened. That wisp became a strong and sustained wind, that whisper a steady impactful speaking, and a human voice became the voice of God to a nation that became God’s priests to the world. Ripples to Waves.

The young people of this parish are trying to find their way in the world, their place in life, their sense of purpose and belonging. So we support each successive group of youth in taking a pilgrimage with the hope that in some way the experience will be a ripple that becomes a wave of positive action – something that helps shape their life as a life of meaning and purpose.

As parents, we celebrate those things that we have to be proud of in our children. We hope that they not only have a good time when they go out from us as they did on this trip but that they experience growth, meaning, and joy. I want to share with you excerpts to be proud of from the power point presentation they presented on Sunday the 14th of October.

Cont’d on pg 6

-What are your favorite memories of the trip?

The story Ms. Wilma told about her red lipstick and how she wears it everyday to feel happy and make sure God sees her smile

Playing with Madison and making her smile and seeing how happy she was despite her living conditions

Getting the opportunity to go to church there and seeing how different it is then up here

-Why did this trip make a difference in my life?

-The trip made me feel really good knowing that overall I did make a difference in someone else's life even if all I did was fix a crack in the wall

-This trip made me realize how lucky I am to live in a safe neighborhood and have everything I need to live a good and healthy life

-This trip got me outside of the bubble that is my life, helped me to understand the things that are important to me, and introduced me to friendships and experiences that have forever changed my perspective on the church and on God's love

-What did I learn about myself?

-I learned that I loved helping people who need it and that I'm very blessed and lucky to have all that I do in this world

-I learned that it can be worth doing hard work if you can help someone in need

-I learned that I take a lot of things in my life for granted when there are plenty of people who have nothing close to what I have been blessed with

-I learned that I really want God to be a part of my life. I don't know exactly what I believe but I know that the church does a lot of good for a lot of people and it is very important for me to live my life with as much joy and kindness as possible

- What did I learn about God?

-I learned that God doesn't always give people the best conditions for living but he gives people in poor conditions the spirit to carry on

-I learned that even in the worst conditions God will be there for people and keep them happy, smiling, with spirits high

-I learned that God doesn't make life easy for everyone, but is always there with you through everything

-Sometimes it's hard to understand how God can let bad things happen to good people. But I think this experience helped me learn that God doesn't mess with the natural events of the world, and she doesn't interfere with the decisions that people make, but she is always there when people need strength and she empowers those with privilege to help those who do not

-I learned that even when put in the poorest conditions with the least amount of resources and little ability to help themselves, people are still able to find the good and happiness and see God in everything no matter how small, and God gives them the ability to do this even through the littlest things – Like red lipstick!

What a blessing when we discover, as did Samuel and these youth, that we are taking our place among the people of the Bible. Like these, our spiritual ancestors, life was not always easy but was always blessed. So now our lives and experiences can be ripples in the lives of others in ways that create God's waves of love and blessing for them and for the world.

If you would like to see pictures of the trip paste the following link into your browser & ENJOY!

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Ej5f_W0J84291WiVG7DsDknw-akYYeom?usp=sharing

THE BIG BLUE MINISTRY

The Big Blue ministry is off and running. It is named for the Christ Cathedral's huge blue van that Deacons Linda Taupier and Eric Elley, along with others including St. Mark's parishioners Jeanne Conrad, Lori Decker, Meg Schoenmann, and Claire Sygiel, travel in to go out every Tuesday night in the late fall and winter months to bring blankets, hats, gloves, socks, food and prayers to Springfield's homeless population.

On the second night of Big Blue, Linda, Eric, Joel (from the Cathedral) and Claire went out and within 10 minutes they had given out everything they had packed in Big Blue to eight men out on the street. The men welcomed the blankets, socks, and coats and were very grateful for the warm items. They came because they saw the van and it was good to have Joel with them who could speak Spanish and tell one of the men that they will be back every Tuesday night.

After restocking the van, three more people in an isolated area of Springfield were given blankets, canned food, a new tent, and warm socks. There the group prayed with the men there that God would keep them safe.

Another person, sleeping on a park bench, was completely wrapped up in multiple blankets and without moving, told the group he was comfortable and okay for the moment.

The closet at the Cathedral is out of warm gloves,



socks,



men's coats



and flip-top canned food. St. Mark's usually collects these items during Advent with the Warming Tree but the need is here now. If you have items you could donate before Advent, Lori, Jeanne, Meg and Claire will bring them every Tuesday to give out to those who really need them.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/06	Marge Shaw	11/20	Mary L'Heureux
	Rob Fitzpatrick	11/21	Owen Antaya
11/07	Marcia Jester	11/22	Laura Peteros
	Rick SmithEpaul		Olivia Ferreira
	Nicole Antaya	11/23	Meg Schoenemann
11/10	Barbara Derose	11/26	Nancy LaBrie
11/13	Mindy Rosengarten	11/27	Rick Rollins
11/14	Jane Solitario	11/28	Mary Dunklee
11/16	Julia Vernadakis		Rob Mitus
11/17	Jean Conrad		Isabella Whitehead
	Bradley Bostian	11/29	Pat Chester

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/09 Marty & Meg Schoenemann

11/27 David & Nancy LaBrie

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Happy
Anniversary



The St. Mark's Mini Golf Fun Raiser earned \$1375! Many thanks to all who helped make this FUN event a success, the Organizers, the Sponsors, the Participants and the Donors!



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.



October Meeting Notes

October's meeting included a brief opening discussion looking for possible safety challenges for the Aging Gently population within the St. Mark's building.

Another topic discussed was weaving, past and present. A working table loom was available along with a variety of woven cloth samples.

This Month

Our Aging Gently bookshelf in St. Mark's library now contains two excellent new resources. The national Institute on Aging booklet entitled Caring for a Person with Alzheimer's Disease and The Greater Springfield Services Inc., Resource Directory.

Get involved! Tai Chi classes for beginners and beyond are offered at the East Longmeadow Pleasant View Center by Lissa Fontaine, R.N. Check the Aging Gently library shelf here at St. Mark's for copies of the November Senior News and calendar

Upcoming

Next Meeting Date

Weds, Nov. 20, 2018

Monthly Prayer Intention

For strength & guidance in moving into the future.

Golden Years, Golden Words

LOOK IT UP!

Psalm 92:12-15

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

Lunch is provided or bring your own.

All are very welcome!

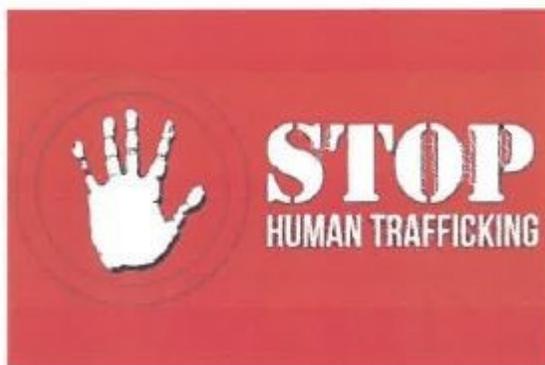
Please save the evening...

Wednesday, November 14th
7 PM to 8 PM

St. Michael's Parish
128 Maple Street
East Longmeadow, MA

“Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity.” **Pope Francis**

Members of the Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph will offer information about what human trafficking is, who is involved, why it is so pervasive and lucrative, and what ONE person can do about it. Please try to join us.





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