

## ALL SAINTS DAY: MAKING THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES VISIBLE

On Sunday, November 3 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, disciples 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.

My invitation to you, therefore, is to celebrate the Saints who have led you in the way of faith, hope and love by:



Be sure to come to church.

Bringing 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 and will be a visible part of our worship and celebration.

May you 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

## 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. You are invited to have those who are special to you remembered at the altar during the All Saints Service on November 3<sup>rd</sup> by legibly printing their names in the Necrology book located in the Great Hall.

**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,  
 6:30 pm**

**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 - 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 19, 2019**



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

**BEYOND OUR WALLS UPDATE**

For over a month we've been reflecting on the impact of You and the rest of our parish Beyond our Walls. We've heard stories of how ministry and financial resources have impacted people here in our parish and outside our walls.

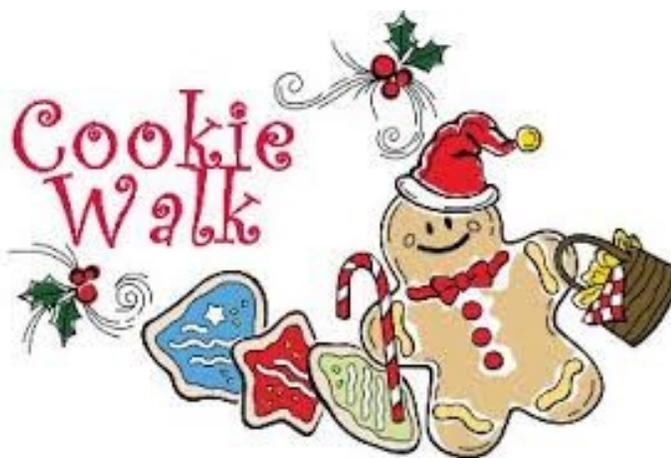
As of the beginning of November over 60 individuals and families indicated their commitment to reaching Beyond our Walls by filling out estimate of giving (pledge) cards. It's exciting to see how many of us are increasing our commitment of time and giving to help us reach out in the Name of Christ!

These cards are vital for St. Mark's. They give us a sense of how people want to use their personal gifts and their financial resources to keep ministry running in our common life.

Thank you to all of you who have returned a Beyond our Walls pledge card.

For those of you who have yet to complete a card, there is still time. Cards are available in the Great Hall and you can fill them out and return them to the office or via the offering each Sunday at church. The card is easy to complete only asking for your name(s), what talents, time and financial giving you intend to offer to God in the coming year and your signature. I encourage you to take the time to fill these important cards out so we can faithfully keep reaching out to do the work Christ has given us to do.

Ever in Christ Jesus,  
 Fr. Peter Swarr, Rector

**Cookies, anyone?**

The first baking event for the upcoming Cookie Walk took place after church on Sunday, October 20th, but there is still time to get in on the fun!

Just sign up in the Great Hall for the next baking date, which is **Nov. 4 at 6:30.**

We will be baking cookies to freeze for the Cookie Walk that will be held during the Art and Craft Fair on November 23. Everyone is welcome!

## OCTOBER 19TH FOOD PACK EVENT

**52 boxes with 36 packets in each and each packet feeds 6. . . You do the math! Wohoo**

Standing for 2 ½ hours holding plastic bags under a funnel, my shoulders hurt and my back was sore. But on October 19, it made me feel wonderful. I was just one of more than 60 Episcopalians, Methodists, Congregationalists, Catholics and Cornerstone Church who met at St. Mark's to take part in a food packing event.

Overseen by Outreach, Inc., we created six assembly lines in the Great Hall to put together packets of dried, non-perishable meals in plastic bags that would feed people who do not know where their next meal would come from. Some meals were destined for Haiti but most of the meals we packaged on the 19<sup>th</sup> will be given to those here in Western MA who are in need.

At the end of the packing event, we filled 52 boxes with 36 packets in each box and each packet feeds six people. When you do the math, that works out to be 11,232 people who will be fed from this one event. The aches and pains I had that day went away in a few hours but the love and thanks I gave to God for this experience will stay with me for a very long time.

Claire Sygiel



## COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE PSALMS:

### A BOOK WHICH TALKS ALL ABOUT US AND GOD

St. Mark's is happy to be offering a Bible Study for anyone who wants to learn a little about the Book of Psalms. This class is co-taught by Alan Druckenmiller and Peter Swarr and it meets on Wednesdays following the noon Eucharist (right around 12:45 pm) in the Williams Media Room. We are intentional to be done with Bible Study by 2pm.

You don't need any previous knowledge or experience to take part in this class. Neither do you need to bring anything for the study, just yourself. We provide even the Bibles.

We gather for a meal, conversation, and a chance to learn more about the book of the Bible which we use in worship every Sunday of the year.

We will be meeting on Wednesday October 30, November 13, December 4 and December 18.

You are most welcome to simply show up or to contact Fr. Peter with any questions you might have at [rector@stmarksma.org](mailto:rector@stmarksma.org)

## SABBATICAL PREPARATION

Everyone,

Preparation is underway for Fr. Peter's sabbatical. Anyone wishing to help in the planning for that time can contact me at [peter.fairman@wne.edu](mailto:peter.fairman@wne.edu).

The first meeting will take place on Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm.

Best wishes to everyone,

Peter Fairman  
Junior Warden

## MEET MOTHER LIBBY WADE

Dear St. Mark's Congregation,

My formal name is the Rev. Elizabeth T. Wade, but I prefer to be just Libby or Mother Libby. I will be filling in for Fr. Peter in Spring 2020 while he is on Sabbatical and also joining you on three earlier Sundays. I'm looking forward to getting to know you during that time. In preparation, Peter asked that I tell you about my background.

My husband Jim and I are fairly recent transplants from western Kentucky to western Massachusetts. People almost always ask two questions as soon as I tell anyone about that 2014 move.

Why such a drastic change from the South to New England?  
and How do you manage the snowy winters here?

It does snow in Kentucky, though not as often or as much as here. Actually, the sleet and ice that frequently attack the Ohio River Valley can be more difficult to navigate than the snow here. My husband and I lived in North Dakota when we were first married and have been regularly visiting Boston for over 20 years, so we were not strangers to the northern climate. I love the beauty of winter here and have happily let go of the hot humid southern summers. We also enjoy the natural beauty and abundant cultural opportunities of western MA. 2010.



Cont'd pg 5

**MOTHER LIBBY WADE**

Cont'd from pg 4

We decided to move to the Berkshires after attending a cousin's wedding in South Egremont in August 2010. The outdoor wedding had a corn field and distant mountain backdrop, and the air was cool enough for a sweater. After spending an enchanting afternoon at Tanglewood, I was sold on making this our retirement location, though I'd not yet decided to retire! Also drawing us north were our sons and their spouses and a newly born granddaughter. Our son James (whose family now includes two little girls), lives in Maplewood, New Jersey, while our other son Dave lives in Melrose, Massachusetts. Dave and his wife are now expecting their first child. We live in Lee, MA, an easy drive for both young families. Jim and I enjoy being part of our grandchildren's lives as they grow up.

The Diocese of Western MA has been a great place to serve as a retired priest. In addition to occasional Sunday supply work, I've had the pleasure of serving as interim rector of St. Paul's in Stockbridge, St. John's in Williamstown, and Southwick Community Episcopal Church. In 2016, I filled in at St. Andrew's in Longmeadow during their rector's sabbatical. Before retiring, I served in a variety of settings in Kentucky, including as rector of an inner city Louisville church, on our Cathedral staff, and almost 10 years as rector of Grace Church in the small city of Paducah. I met your Rector, Peter Swarr, when he came to Paducah to visit a seminary classmate who was serving as my Assistant Rector!

I was ordained priest in January 1999 after completing two years at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and a final year at General Seminary in NYC, from which I received an Mdiv in 1998. Prior to seminary, I worked as musician, children's minister, Christian Formation Coordinator, youth leader, and weekday preschool teacher/director in Episcopal churches in Florida, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, and Kentucky. In addition to church employment, I tried my hand at social work case management, coordinating a mental health center's crisis telephone line, selling life insurance, and teaching piano. It seemed that I was always searching for the vocation that would feel like "home." In Louisville, KY, while my sons were in high school, I finally said "yes" to the call God had persistently been placing before me since my teen years and entered the ordination process.

As a teenager in Hayneville, Alabama in the mid-1960s, I experienced a strong call to ordained ministry, but being Southern Baptist presented obstacles. Though the denomination didn't ordain women, the little country congregation that my family attended affirmed a call for me and said I would make a wonderful preacher's wife some day. I was pretty sure that wasn't the conversation God and I had been having, but lacking any role models, I just pushed the call aside. I then found my way into the Episcopal Church through an interesting combination of music, 17th English literature, and my husband (a "cradle Episcopalian"). I was confirmed in North Dakota in 1972. Later that decade, the Episcopal Church began ordaining women as priests. Through the coming years, the call I'd experienced as a teen persisted, but there were always reasons to set it aside. My experience in Louisville changed all that, however, and set me on a priestly journey that continues to be rich and full even in retirement. I look forward to sharing that journey with you for three months in 2020 and will enjoy hearing your stories!

Faithfully, Libby+

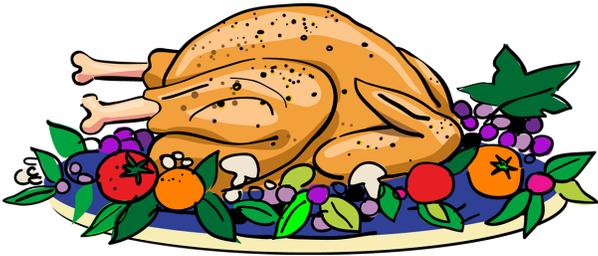


## THANKSGIVING FOOD COLLECTION

On Sunday, November 24, 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 24th 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 24th. 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)

# NOVEMBER

*Happy  
Birthday*

*Happy  
Anniversary*

10/03 Peter Swarr  
 10/06 Theo Hutchins  
 Erin Peteros  
 Harrison Peteros  
 10/09 Dan Schneider  
  
 Dwayne Lipinski  
 10/13 Lucy Swarr  
 10/14 Brett Boyd  
 Tralee Noonan

10/18 Claire Sygiel  
 Lori Decker  
 Adam Lape  
 Hannah Salvador  
 10/21 Tracy Plass  
 10/23 Caroline Peteros  
 10/24 Melinda McQuade  
 10/26 Dan Tapper  
 10/27 Sue Schneider

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

You're invited to  
**Jake Berry's Eagle Scout Ceremony**



When: Friday November 15th at 6:00 PM

Where: St. Mark's Episcopal Church (1 Porter Rd, East Longmeadow)

Dinner will be served

RSVP to [caberry6578@gmail.com](mailto:caberry6578@gmail.com) by November 1st



On **Sunday, November 17** our Middle School and High School youth will be spending their formation time with Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro who will be leading them in a conversation about Judaism.

This wonderful opportunity helps our youth understand more about the Jewish roots of Christianity and it helps us build bridges of respect and understanding among two major world religions.

Rabbi Shapiro is visiting us thanks to the support of our Bishop, Doug Fisher, who has named Rabbi Shapiro his "Rabbi in residence" and asked him to help build understanding about Judaism within the diocese.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PLANNING

It's time to start preparing for the St. Mark's Christmas Pageant!  
We need people to help with all the different tasks that go into making the pageant a success.

**Please join us for a meeting after church on November 10th!**



### ALSO

On November 17th right after the 10am service there will be a rehearsal for the **Ode to Joy Play & Sing-Along** being performed on Sunday, November 24th  
Don't forget to bring your instrument and music to church



### TO DECK THE HALL!

Mark your calendars for December 15th at 11:15am and join the fun as we **Deck the Hall** at St. Mark's

You can sing some carols, have some food, make some ornaments, decorate some trees, just plain have FUN!

## WINE GROUP: ALL ARE WELCOME 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7PM

For a while now St. Mark's has had a MEN'S wine group...but here at St. Mark's we say we welcome all. And the Wine Group wants that to be true of their gatherings too! So please know ALL people are invited to come and be part of this group.

We meet and ~~work~~ to prepare the sacramental wine which is used on Sundays as part of our worship. You'll learn about wine making, make connections with other folks at the church, and continue supporting our community through this act of wine making.

If you are interested in learning more about the Wine Group or coming to a meeting, please contact Rob Fitzpatrick: [rob.w.fitz@gmail.com](mailto:rob.w.fitz@gmail.com)



FALL CLEAN UP , SATURDAY, NOV, 16

In an ongoing effort to relay information about the work of the church to all in our congregation, please find the monthly Vestry Minutes immediately following.

Additionally, members of the Vestry will be available on the last Sunday of each month in the Great Hall from 8:45 to 9:30 AM to provide updates, information and answer any questions. All are welcome to attend.

Minutes of the September 24, 2019 Meeting  
St. Mark's Vestry

Present: Fr. Peter Swarr, Sue Schneider, Rob Fitzpatrick, Claire Sygiel, Peter Fairman, Ellie Otto, Scott Conrad, Nancy LaBrie, Jon Robichaud, Jake Berry, Dorcen Tapper, and Rich Bruns.

The meeting was called to order with an opening prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Scott made a motion, seconded by Rob, to accept the August minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Vestry members reviewed the information sheet about various activities in the parish. Fr. Peter noted that the youth car wash netted \$585. He informed the vestry the Way of Love Prayer will be held at the church on October 18. Sue noted that Dan Tapper has agreed to chair the Art & Craft Fair and everything is progressing nicely.

Bishop Douglas Fisher was in attendance and updated the vestry on various topics going on in the diocese. He then asked vestry members what energy do they see around the church. Some things that were mentioned were the Big E Vermont building work, live streaming, outreach, welcome, youth activities, and service music.

Under Updates, Scott reported budget projections are coming in over budget, pledges are down, and loose plate collections are declining. The Building Expense Recovery has gone up but sexton's supplies have also gone up as well as the guest musician cost is over budget. Scott and Rob will spearhead an effort to send out quarterly reports to keep parishioners informed of where they are with their pledges. Scott said more people are needed for the Finance Committee. He reported that although the Big E work was budgeted to bring in \$4,000, the actual money raised might be closer to \$5,000. Scott will look into alternatives to VANCO and how to present the information to the congregation.

Fr. Peter gave an overview of the 2020 budget and then the vestry discussed the staff salaries. Jon updated the vestry on Buildings & Grounds activities, noting small items were completed such as HVAC, flashing, heater registers and trip hazards. He encourages everyone to use the worksheets provided if there are things that need to be addressed.

Fr. Peter reported that newly hired Christian Ed administrator Gina Parent is working hard to get to know all the teachers and students in the Christian Ed program. Sue reported that the fall Stewardship program is in full swing.

Rob made a motion, seconded by Peter F. to go ahead with plans to erect a permanent welcome sign on the side of the front of the church. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue announced that a brainstorming meeting to discuss the matching gift initiative would be held November 6.

The vestry went into executive session.

Under Quick Action Items, a motion was made by Fr. Peter and seconded by Ellie to keep the kitchen locked when not in use due to outside groups using items from the kitchen and not cleaning up afterwards. The motion carried unanimously.

Under Discussion Items, Jon informed the board that a quote of \$6,800 was received from Rob Mitus's company to install the new lighting in the sanctuary. He noted that only \$3,000 was earmarked by vestry for this work.

Vestry went into executive session.

Fr. Peter updated the vestry on pastoral concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Love Your  
Neighbor

who doesn't

 Look like you

 Think like you

 Love like you

 Speak like you

 Pray like you

 Vote like you

Love Your Neighbor

No exceptions

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

One Porter Road

East Longmeadow, MA 01028-1348

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