

# THE MESSENGER

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### Revive Us Again, Dear Lord, Revive Us Again

It's been a busy few months here at St. Mark's. Since our last newsletter, we have remembered the Lord's passion and death and rejoiced heartily at the announcement of his Resurrection: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Shout it out, we were reminded – it is the source of our life and our joy.

During the Easter Season, the life energy of St. Mark's parish community continued to grow. The hungry were fed; those in need were helped; the

grieving were comforted. We saw elements of change start to take hold. The great window above the altar and the two side windows in the chancel "disappeared," though only temporarily. On the corner of South Main and Water Streets, a beautiful new sign appeared as if to announce, "St. Mark's is alive and well and you are welcome here!" Add to all of this, the work being done to reclaim our identity as the first Jubilee Ministry Center in the Episcopal Church, and you

have the vision of a parish ready to answer the call to be issued by our Bishop at the upcoming Diocesan Convention: "Revive us, again, dear Lord, revive us again!"

Please note several special articles in this issue of *The Messenger* that will describe some of the things now underway in an effort to answer the call to revival.

*David+*

### From the Senior Warden

*'Roll out the hazy, lazy, crazy, days of summer', as the old song by Nat King Cole goes. Indeed summer is the time for 'fun in the sun' and relaxation and vacations. A time to stop and catch our breath from our busy activities of the past several months. A quote I heard from long ago reminds us to 'take a vacation, but not from God.' Some of our summer activities can keep us from our times spent in church especially if we are out of town for vacation. For me I know it upsets me when heading to church on summer Sunday mornings and my neighbors are cutting the grass, washing the car, and painting and*

*fixing up around the house. I often ask myself, can't they just take an hour and a half once a week for worship and thanksgiving to our God for all His blessings? May I suggest as idea for this summer? Wouldn't it be neat if we, either as family or friends or individually, take a small retreat? Take a day, say like Sunday, and begin the day with worship at church, then spend the day just relaxing and giving the whole day to God. Spend a vacation day with our Lord. Read the scriptures, take a quiet walk in the woods or park and just meditate on all the goodness our Lord gives. On behalf of the vestry of St. Mark's I wish you all a*

*safe and enjoyable summer no matter where your travels or activities take you. Your church will be here when you return hopefully refreshed and renewed. But, as you know, our parish still needs up keep and bills to be paid. With low attendance our weekly pledges tend to drop. Remember to try and keep your pledges up to date. Even if it is those 'hazy, lazy, crazy, days of summer', your church still needs you.*

God bless and again have a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Blair*

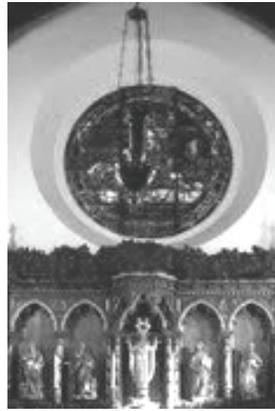
Blair P. Hannon  
Sr. Warden

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Diocesan Convention — Ramada Inn & Convention Center, State College PA — June 9 (Live streamed)*
- *Vestry Meeting—June 19 5:30 PM—Parish House (Meet with Canon Szoke)*
- *Breaking Bread Together Community Dinner — June 28 5:30-6:30 PM*
- *General Convention — July 5-12, Indianapolis, IN*
- *Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Closed for renovations — July 7—15*
- *Church-in-the-Park— August 19 — 10 AM*
- *"Backpack/Back to School Sunday" — September 9*

## Stained Glass Restoration Project Begins

Over the last year, the Vestry considered several of the material needs of the parish. Among those of the highest priority was the restoration of our beautiful and historic stained glass windows. Late last summer, Higgins Stained Glass, Inc. undertook an assessment of the condition and maintenance needs of all but the high clerestory windows. It was determined that while the windows were not in the worst condition, that unless significant steps were taken within the next few years, deterioration would accelerate and the associated costs for restoration and maintenance would increase dramatically. With that in mind, Higgins proposed a five year plan that would restore the windows, install state of the art protective glass on the exterior and create a maintenance environment that would preserve the windows for many years to



come. The total cost of the project was estimated at just over \$110,000 (or approximately \$22,000 per year over the next five years).

In March, Vestry took a step of faith and approved the contact with Epiphany Studios, Inc., of Front Royal, VA. (Epiphany Studios is the new name of Higgins Stained Glass, Inc.) It was determined that the first phase of the project would focus on the windows in the chancel: the great window over the altar and the two side windows. While these windows are not those most in need of repair, by having this section of the Church done first, the parish will be better able to address other maintenance issues that are also pressing. Undertaking the window restoration first, will simplify the difficult logistics of repairing and painting the chancel area.

In early May, initial work began. Each

phase will include several steps: removal of exterior protective coverings, removal of the stained glass from its frame, crating, transportation to the studio, installation of temporary translucent material during the restoration. While at the studio, each window will undergo careful study. Then the technicians will remove the braces and any debris from between the pieces of glass. The interior side of the glass will be cleaned, broken pieces will be replaced, cracks repaired with an epoxy resin. Finally, new braces will be installed before transportation back to the church. Once the windows return home, they will be reinstalled into their proper frames, recaulked, glazed and frames repainted. Finally, a one quarter inch clear laminated vented safety glass will be installed as a protective coating on the exterior.

As you can see, the process is painstaking, but acting now will allow St. Mark's to find inspiration into its 3<sup>rd</sup> century of ministry in this most traditional form of storytelling and worship.

## Vestry Approves "3<sup>rd</sup> Century Fund"

In 2023, St. Mark's Episcopal Church will turn 200! That means that we will be entering the third century of ministry with and for the people of the Lewistown area. According to available records, the first informal meetings of people with ties to the Episcopal Church began in 1818. Five years later, the group had grown enough to petition the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania (all of Pennsylvania was one diocese at the time) to erect a parish in Lewistown. The petition was approved at Convention in 1823. Consider this: at the time, the Episcopal Church was only 34 years old having been established in 1789 as an offshoot of the Church of England. St. Mark's, then, is nearly as old as the Episcopal Church itself. It is among the oldest parishes in what is now the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.

In honor of and to prepare for such a momentous occasion, St. Mark's Ves-

try, at its March meeting, established the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century Fund. The purpose of the fund is to raise significant funds that will focus on projects to fit St. Mark's for a third century of ministry. Among the projects envisioned are: restoration and maintenance of the stained glass windows (already begun), reroofing the bell tower and steeple, renovating the parish kitchen. Additionally, it is hoped that this fund will enable us to replace money that had been previously used from our investment accounts and increase those investments to secure a firm financial footing for the future.

The actual fund campaign is still in its planning stages. However, Vestry made an initial investment by designating income from a certificate of deposit that recently matured as well as a substantial proportion of a bequest from Ginny Kinsey as the "seed money" for this

important venture. Meanwhile, plans continue as we seek to identify needs, target a preliminary goal, review our readiness, specify a timeline and create a budget for our efforts. Vestry will

keep the parish informed of our progress.

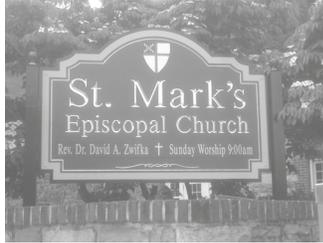
By establishing the fund at this time, the parish has made it possible to receive gifts and donations for this purpose even before the long-range fundraising activities begin. Any parishioners or friends of St. Mark's that are

interesting in assisting with or contributing to *The 3<sup>rd</sup> Century Fund* are welcome to speak with Father Zwifka at any time.

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## Signage Project Completed

With the installation of the 4' x 6' sign at the corner of South Main and Water Streets, St. Mark's completed one of its most recent improvement projects. Underwritten by funds collected in memory of Frank and Virginia Kinsey and a Project Grant from the Congregational Development Commission of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania,



St. Mark's now has an exterior sign that witnesses to its community presence and interior signage that will help guide friends and visitors to the parish. The interior signs were produced by Recognition Engraving of Lewistown. The engraved cedar sign that identifies St. Mark's to

passers-by was designed and produced by Stetts Signs of Williamsport.

Vestry determined that the sign should be dedicated to the memory of Frank and Ginny Kinsey. A plaque noting that dedication is being produced and, once finished, will be affixed to the rear of the sign, facing the memorial garden. A blessing and dedication is being planned and will be announced in the very near future.

## Presiding Bishop May Visit St. Mark's in 2013

The Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, has tentatively agreed to visit St. Mark's Church in conjunction with its observance of its 30th Anniversary as the *first* Jubilee Ministry Center in the Episcopal Church.

In 1983, Presiding Bishop John Maury Allin came to Lewistown to establish St. Mark's as the first of hundreds of Jubilee Ministry Centers in the Episcopal Church. Jubilee Ministry Centers since then have included food banks, day shelters, feeding programs, prison ministries, health care ministries, ministries serving immigrants, Native Americans, children and other vulnerable populations.



From the first one here at St. Mark's, the network has grown to over 600 such centers. Jubilee Ministry Centers seek to create a direct and dynamic link between our theology and our ethics—the talk and walk of our faith—they involve parishioners and ecumenical partners in the important work of empowering people to change their lives.

St. Mark's received a \$20,000 grant for Fiscal Year 2012 to assist in its efforts to reclaim and enhance its identity as a Jubilee Ministry Center. "The timing of this effort witnesses to the leading of the Spirit in the life

of our parish," said Father Zwifka, Rector of St. Mark's.

When asked by Bishop Baxter if she would be willing to visit the diocese for this occasion, the PB's answer was an immediate and unqualified, "Yes!"

Of course, such things take a great deal of planning. Father Zwifka has been in touch with The Rev. Dee Calhoun, Diocesan Jubilee Officer, as well as Bishop Baxter, to begin plans for the visit and for other events that would mark this significant anniversary in the life of the parish and the diocese.

## Environmental Stewardship Committee

Because of the busy scheduling and many activities we all have at this time, We, the environmental stewardship committee, will not be participating in this year's Green Expo at the Reedsville Youth Park on Saturday 9 June 2012. We will try again next year.

And as announced by Deacon Loretta, our "Jam Session" is on hold at this time because of the poor crop of strawberries and the ones we can find are too expensive. We will be looking for some other 'fruit' as time goes on and re-schedule this event.

Also we are still collecting the pill bottles. We were informed by the

American Foundation for Children with AIDS, Harrisburg, they will begin accepting the bottles sometime in July.

At present we are storing the bottles in the basement until they begin accepting them.

We are still in the process of setting up the 'cooking with herbs' class some time soon this summer. We will keep you posted on this event.

Think Green and Recycle!

Cam Auxer



## Breaking Bread to Take a Break

St. Mark's cooked meal outreach, Breaking Bread Together will take a much needed summer break during the months of July and August. The last Breaking Bread Together Dinner until the Fall will be June 28. The free community dinners will resume on Thursday, September 27 at 5:30 PM.

## Mother Hubbard's to Close for Renovations

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard will be closed for business from July 7-16 to provide time for renovations to its storage and work areas. Thanks in part to a grant from the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, what was the rectory kitchen will undergo some much needed updates and changes to provide for the needs of the Cupboard.

## Operation Understanding 2012

Friends,

Each year during the Easter and early Pentecost seasons, we have the opportunity to draw closer as a community in Christ to serve and support those in our diocese whose lives are marginalized by poverty, homelessness, and hunger. Through the Operation Understanding Alleluia Appeal, we have a direct impact in helping those in despair through our financial gifts. Grants are



given to Episcopal parishes within the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania that house ministries or that are deeply involved in serving and supporting programs of service in their communities.

During 2012, Operation Understanding will give grants to churches in Coudersport, Williamsport, Lewisburg, and Shippensburg that serve the hungry.

We will also support nurturing and educational programs for disadvantaged children in Carlisle and Lancaster.

Your Operation Understanding envelope has been included in this issue of *The Messenger*. Please consider a generous donation to this cause to help other parishes that are involved in efforts different than our own. It is our hope that everyone will participate in the Alleluia Appeal, which recalls the Easter theme of Resurrection, New Life, and the Spirit of real opportunity for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sincerely,

*David+*

## What is “Third Age Ministry?”

The “Third Age” refers to that time of life when people have gone through their “paces” and are facing new horizons in their experience. Often people 50 and above have discovered who they are (during their teens and 20s – their First Age), taken up a trade or profession, wed, raised children (30s-40s – their Second Age) and now are looking at a third significant stage in life.

People in this age group have gone through many incarnations. They have been through the swinging sixties when the birth control pill was first available, which changed the way we view sex and marriage. They have lived through several wars.

This is the generation that won equality for women, raising the profile of injustice - all the while managing their families, and working lives.

Some of the challenges that face people in this group include: having the status of “no longer working” (if retired), being the “sandwich generation” caring for grandchildren and elderly parents, facing the loss of spouses and friends, and for some, facing a substantial change in income.

In an ideal world, this time of life can be a time of fulfillment. People are of-

ten free from mortgages, career-building is over, children (if they have them) are independent. There is time to spend as they choose. For some, this ideal third age scenario has changed because of the current financial climate. Married, grown-up children often need the help of grandparents to look after young children to allow them to meet housing costs and other family needs. Also, the time that once was available for an individual is often taken up by looking after elderly parents who are living longer, and often in need of care.

Ministry for the Third Age strives to support people 55+ with the following aims:

- **To re-include them in society and our religious community.** Generally aging people are left out of ongoing development - often having more in common with the people they talk to on the internet world wide, than their local community or families.
- **To ensure the dignity and rights of the Third Age.** This age group is commonly seen as 'on their way out'

and therefore not in need of the full service from many levels of government.

- **To raise the profile and re-brand the Third Age.** To re-introduce the valuable and positive contribution that the third age can make to our society as people of wisdom and experience.

Third Age Ministry at St. Mark's is being coordinated under the umbrella of its Jubilee Center Ministries. The rector has asked Mrs. Jackie Leight, a member



of the Vestry and a long-time volunteer at St. Mark's to spearhead this effort. Currently, Mrs.

Leight is gathering a committee to develop and create a plan of operation for this exciting new effort. For more information, visit our parish website at [www.stmark-lewistown.org](http://www.stmark-lewistown.org).



## Church in the Park - August 19th

Once again, the people of St. Mark's Church will gather in Derry Township Park for the Annual "Church in the Park" celebration. Church in the Park is an opportunity for us to experience the worship of God in the midst of



God's creation without the benefit of a beautiful gothic style church. Instead, fresh breezes, a (hoped for) blue sky, and the freedom of a summer morning character our "Green Cathedral."

A simple altar provides a focus for our meeting along with simple music and the Word of God. After worship, those gathered share a pot-luck picnic — and the food is always good!



What a great opportunity to bring a friend who is not regularly a part of our worshipping community. It's a perfect time to give witness to our long-standing tag line:

**The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!**  
Worship begins at 10 AM. Children and young people are most welcome. Activities will be provided.

## A quiz: How well do you know the Episcopal Church

Test your knowledge. Take the following quiz to see how well you know certain facts about the Episcopal Church. Answers are on the last page of *The Messenger*.

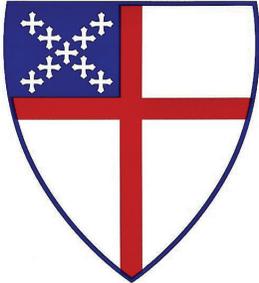
- Who is considered the founder of the Episcopal Church?
  - King Henry VIII
  - Martin Luther
  - An unknown traveling preacher
  - St. Stephen, the first deacon
- The Episcopal Church is derived from what other Church?
  - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Saints
  - The United Church of Christ
  - The Roman Catholic Church
  - The Church of England
- Who is considered the leader of world wide Anglicanism?
  - The Pope
  - The Archbishop of Canterbury
  - The Archbishop of Madrid
  - The Bishop of London
- What does the word "Episcopal" mean?
  - Governed by bishops
  - Organized into dioceses
  - Supervised by priests
  - Assisted by deacons
- What is the prayer book of the Episcopal Church?
  - There is no official prayer book
  - The psalms and the New Testament
  - The Book of Common Prayer
  - The Roman Missal
- A woman cannot be a bishop in the Episcopal Church
  - True
  - False
- The head of the Episcopal Church is
  - The Archbishop of Washington
  - The Presiding Bishop
  - The Archbishop of Canterbury
  - The Diocesan Bishop
- You must be confirmed in the Episcopal Church to receive Holy Communion.
  - True
  - False
- Which of the following are you LEAST likely to find in an Episcopal Church?
  - Confessional
  - Candle
  - Cross
  - Communion Rail
- The Episcopal Church was founded in
  - 1776
  - 1789
  - 1823
  - 1928

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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Quiz answers: 1) a; 2) d; 3) b; 4) a; 5) c; 6) b; 7) b; 8) b; 9) a; 10) b

### St. Mark's to Begin Mutual Ministry Review

Beginning with the June 2012 Vestry meeting, St. Mark's Church will undertake a long overdue "Mutual Ministry Review" or MMR.

An MMR is designed to help a parish:

- Celebrate what is going well and to identify what needs attention or change
- Give clear and reliable feedback; to speak the truth in love;
- Identify lay and clerical leadership development needs;
- Minimize unrealistic expectations
- Renew/establish goals and priorities for the next period of time;
- Deepen rector/vestry relationships and enhance communications for building of the Body of Christ.



The process will be guided by Canon Robyn Szoke who is the Canon for

Children & Youth and Development for the diocese. The entire process will take several months and will include a Vestry retreat and interviews with parishioners. This information will be carefully studied to help identify and prioritize themes and develop a pastoral plan related to those themes.

The MMR is not a time for going over what has gone wrong or to assess blame. It is a time to take an honest look at what is working well together with a consideration of the means of improving those area that are less effective.

### Providing for the Future

Have you considered how you will provide for future ministry at St. Mark's? Much of what we count as important and precious to our life as a parish was left to us by generations past.

Elements like our beautiful stained glass windows, the Casavant organ, even the altar at which we celebrate the Eucharist are a constant reminder that we have a similar obligation for future generations.

There are many ways that even those of us with little means can provide for future generations. If you would like to discuss the possibilities, please contact Father Zwifka at your convenience. He is more than happy to discuss such an important subject with you.