

## St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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*The voice of the Gospel  
in the Episcopal  
tradition for the Juniata  
Valley since 1823.*

We're on the web!  
[www.stmark-lewistown.org](http://www.stmark-lewistown.org)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sinners Repaint! St. Mark's receives diocesan grant	2
Why Church School?	2
Acolyte Installation	2
Schedule for Presiding Bishop's Visit	3
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Update	3

### SAVE THE DATE!

St. Mark's Annual  
**Church-in-the-Park**

Sunday, August 18, 2013  
Worship at 10:00 AM  
Parish Picnic to follow  
Kish Park  
(Derry Township Park)

### Breaking Bread Together Dinner to Take a Rest in July and August

 Our monthly Breaking Bread Together Dinner will take a brief hiatus for the months of July and August. The BBT Dinner will resume in September with a special picnic during the Presiding Bishop's visit on Saturday, September 7th at 4:00 PM.

### Folks of Seasoned Age Continues Exercise Class

 Folks of a Seasoned Age continues its weekly exercise program on Tuesdays at 3:30 PM in the Parish Hall. The Steering Committee continues to explore more programming opportunities. Watch the parish website for more details!

### Welcome to the Neighborhood!

St. Mark's heartily welcomes the residents of Mann Edge Terrace to the neighborhood. All residents of Mann Edge Terrace are being invited to a special welcome picnic on Wednesday, July 17 beginning at 5:30 in the parish close (garden)..

# The Messenger

2013, ISSUE 3

JUNE-JULY 2013

### COMING EVENTS

Diocesan Convention  
June 8, 2013, State College PA—Simulcast at St. Mark's, *Parish Hall beginning at 8:30 AM.*

Vestry Meeting  
Jun 18, 5:30 PM  
*Parish Library*

"Ask A Lawyer: Getting One's House in Order for the Later Part of Life."

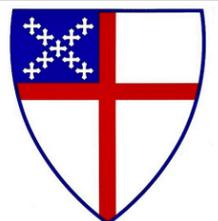
Sponsored by Folks of A Seasoned Age  
Jun 26 6:30 PM  
Parish Hall

Vestry Meeting  
Jul 16, 5:30 PM  
*Parish Library*

Welcome to the Neighborhood: Mann Edge Terrace  
Welcome Picnic  
Sponsored by Folks of A Seasoned Age  
Jul 17 5:30 (rain or shine)  
*Parish Close (Backyard)*

Church-in-the-Park  
Aug 18, 10 AM  
*Kish Park*

Vestry Meeting  
Aug 20, 5:30 PM  
*Parish Library*



## Parish Begins to Prepare for Presiding Bishop's Visit



Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts-Schori will visit St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Jubilee Ministry Center (JMC) in The Episcopal Church.

Presiding Bishop John Allin opened the JMC at St. Mark's Church in 1983. Since then, the JMC has come to include five principle outreach ministries of the Episcopal Church in Lewistown: Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Parishioners' Outreach, Environmental Stewardship, Breaking Bread Together, and Folks of A Seasoned Age. All five mission-ministries will be featured during the Presiding Bishop's visit.



The visit will also provide the occasion for other Jubilee Ministry Centers in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania to gather and network in a new way. During the day, Centers from across the diocese are invited to describe their unique efforts in "proclaiming a year of favor from the Lord" – the biblical mandate for Jubilee Ministries. Bishop Katherine will meet and pray with parishioners of St. Mark's in the morning. In the afternoon there will be a festive Eucharist celebrating the accomplishments and the future of Jubilee Ministry in the diocese.

2013 also marks the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Mark's Parish. The JMC Anniversary will be the first event in a 10-year period in which St. Mark's will prepare for its *Third Century of Ministry*. This particular event will focus on St. Mark's long-standing mission of "intentional hospitality" that hopes to expand its outreach and evangelism efforts in the greater Lewistown community. All major moments of the visit will be broadcast via the World Wide Web so that all who are interested can participate. See the tentative schedule of events for the day inside this issue.

### Delegates to Diocesan Convention Approved by Vestry

Joyce Hart and Tony Hatfield-Nicholson will represent St. Mark's Church at Annual Diocesan Convention to be held in State College on Saturday, June 8 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center. The annual meeting that consists of all diocesan clergy and lay representatives from every parish and mission is the ultimate expression of The Episcopal Church at the diocesan level. Each year, the diocesan convention gathers to receive reports on the ministries of the diocese, its financial picture, and approve the operating budget for the following fiscal year. It is also a time to meet parish leaders from across the diocese.

This year, all convention activities will be broadcast on the World Wide Web. You can watch business sessions, the bishop's address, and the liturgy from the comfort of your own home or meet with others in the St. Mark's Parish Hall to watch on the "big screen" and share fellowship on a local level. St. Mark's is one of four communication hubs that will stream the convention live for anyone interested in viewing the work of convention. Links to the broadcast can be found on the parish and the diocesan websites.

# Sinners Repaint!

St. Mark's got a new coat and we need your help!

Consider donating a "gallon of paint." A \$35 donation will help to defray the cost of brightening our interior

Make a tax deductible donation to St. Mark's Episcopal Church and mark "Sinners Repaint!" on your check. Just drop in the offering plate or send to St. Mark's at the address listed in the newsletter.

## Whole Parish Church School: Why Participate?

Since the first Sunday in Lent, St. Mark's has undertaken a new approach to Christian formation and education by implementing a "whole parish" curriculum. This means that traditional "Sunday School" classes have been replaced with an effort to have the entire parish studying the same thing from our youngest to our oldest members.

The primary reason for any effort like this is the "Great Commission" that Jesus gave to his disciples before his ascension: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; and, behold, I am with you until the end of the ages." (Matthew 28:19-20). In this we see that Christian education is not about learning a set of doctrines but about *making disciples*. Anyone who seeks to be a Christian must first be a disciple: they must deepen their understanding of the mysteries of God in Christ — a lifelong undertaking! It can't end at an arbitrary moment, say, confirmation or reception into the Church. As each person grows in knowledge of the world, so must each disciple grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.

## St. Mark's Receives Diocesan Grant to Help "Sinners Repaint!"

Blair Hannon, Senior Warden, recently received information that St. Mark's Church was granted a Bishop Darlington Grant in the amount of \$2500 to assist with its effort to repaint the Church interior. Darlington grants are given with the approval of Bishop Baxter to assist parishes that are undertaking needed maintenance improvements or upgrades. Cited as part of the approval was the effort of the parish to raise a substantial amount of the cost for the project in its "Sinners Repaint!" campaign. The funds will come none too soon since the project was a bit more extensive than first thought (what improvement project isn't?) raising the overall cost by \$1700. However, now that the project is finished, all the cracks, peeling paint, soot marks, scuffs and the like have been repaired and painted. A fresh new coat adorns the interior of our beautiful worship space. Thanks to all who have and those who still will contribute to this effort. The extra work makes full participation by all essential. Our goal was to raise \$3500 by the purchase of a "gallon" of paint at \$35 per gallon. So far, we have raise enough for 47 gallons — we need 53 more!

## Acolytes Installed at Pentecost

Now that several of our younger parishioners have been trained as acolytes, they and their adult counterparts were officially be installed during the Sunday worship service on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th.

Acolytes assist in worship by carrying the processional cross, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book, holding candles or "torches", assisting a deacon or priest at the altar, swinging a censer or thurible or carrying the incense boat, handing the offering plates to ushers, and many other tasks as seen fit by those charged with organizing the liturgy.

Acolytes commonly wear cassock and cotta or cassock-alb with cincture. A cincture is usually a twisted rope with knots on the ends which is secured round the waist.

Acolytes are often referred to according to the roles they perform, for example, Crucifer, Torch-bearer or Thurifer.

Our Church School program seeks to create a systematic understanding of the Word of God by focusing on one or another of the readings assigned for the day. The lessons are created upon a solid scriptural and theological base to enable leaders and learners alike to dive deeper into the rhythm of the church year. It utilizes a common Bible passage for all, making it easy for families to learn and live out their faith together. Have you experienced our program yet? If not, why not? We begin promptly at 8:45 each Sunday morning and end a few minutes before our regularly scheduled worship service-about 40 minutes in all. Most people already participating are amazed at how quickly time flies and how much is left to discuss. To paraphrase a recent automobile ad: *This is not your parents' Sunday School!* Come and experience Christ in our midst.

## Schedule of Events for the Visit of The Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts-Schori

As plans develop for the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of St. Mark's institution as the first Jubilee Ministry Center in the Episcopal Church, St. Mark's participation in the visit will tentatively follow the schedule below. Please note that this is only a *tentative* schedule and is subject to change.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 10 AM Presiding Bishop arrives at St. Mark's
- 10:30 AM Prayer Service with people of St. Mark's and volunteers of Jubilee Ministry Center. Theme: *Preparing for a Third Century of Ministry—Church*
- 11:15 AM Informal gathering with people of St. Mark's and volunteers from Jubilee Ministry Center—Parish Garden
- 12 Noon Luncheon with representatives of Jubilee Ministry Centers throughout the diocese and diocesan clergy—Undercroft
- 2:30 PM Festival Eucharist Celebrating Jubilee Ministry in the Episcopal Church—Church/Parish Hall (overflow)
- 4:00 PM Breaking Bread Together Picnic begins Parish Garden
- 6:00 PM Presiding Bishop departs

Beginning at 9:00 AM, Jubilee Ministry Centers from around the diocese will highlight various ministries occurring throughout the diocese (Parish Hall)



## No Let Up in Mother Hubbard's Work

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard continues to be as busy as ever. While news media talk about a recovery taking hold in our economy, the last people to feel the recovery are those who are most in need. The Cupboard continues to register new clients with an increasing number among "the working poor," that is, those that have work but still cannot make ends meet. What little we are able to provide can sometimes be a lifesaver for such people, especially families with children. Mother Hubbard's Cupboard can always use your support — both financially and "in-kind." Donations of regular staples such as peanut butter, pancake mix & syrup, baked beans, canned tuna and canned vegetables are always welcome. Paper products such as toilet tissue, paper towels, and facial tissue are always in demand since government food assistance programs do not cover these.

The Cupboard is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 AM- 12 Noon and Friday afternoon from 3:00 – 6:00 PM. We are always looking for new volunteers to help staff the cupboard at these times. For more information, please call the parish office and ask for Elta Lauver.

## "Ask A Lawyer: Getting Your House in Order for the Latter Part of Life" - June 26, 2013 - 6:30 pm

Folks of a Seasoned Age, a ministry of our Jubilee Ministry Center, will sponsor an informational seminar on Wednesday, June 26th beginning at 6:30 p.m. for anyone who needs to "put their house in order" focusing on key legal documents that are needed by everyone in any phase of life, but especially as we transition into our senior years. Father Zwifka will moderate the seminar with assistance from legal professionals who will outline major documents such as: wills, end of life directives, powers of attorney, distribution of assets (including one's home and personal property). Fr. Zwifka advised the *Folks of A Seasoned Age* steering group that such information is vital. Not only does it make us think about what we really want, having these documents created and at the ready can assist family members when they face difficult decisions. "I've seen too many families split apart, sometimes permanently, over disagreements as to what a family member 'would have wanted' when the only one who really knows what that person wanted is the person him or herself. Having one's house in order in this regard can save time, resources, and avoid much unnecessary emotional pain in times when people often aren't thinking straight," he said.

"Ken and I have these documents in place now," he continued, "but the impetus was the fact that each of us faced major surgical procedures over the last several years. Without that motivation, we may never have actually sat down to put this altogether at this stage in our lives." "I was 53 when I had back surgery and Ken is 8 years younger, but we decided we both needed the protection and direction these documents provide in the event of less than a positive outcome," he concluded. "It is important not only for us but for our families."

So, if you are approaching the latter third of your life, or will be the primary family advisor for someone who is, consider participating in the most informative session.

## Liturgical "Rota" soon to be available on website

As soon as is practical, the monthly schedule for liturgical ministers will be available on the parish website, [www.stmark-lewistown.org](http://www.stmark-lewistown.org). It will also be e-mailed to all liturgical ministers that have access to e-mail. To facilitate this process, please make sure that the parish office has your correct and current e-mail address. This will help us to be more efficient about disseminating this information. Printed copies of the Rota will be available at the parish office upon request. Please watch the parish bulletin for further information.