

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

21 South Main Street Lewistown, Pennsylvania 17044

Telephone: 717-248-8327

www.stmark-lewistown.org

The Right Rev. Dr. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop, Diocese of Central PA

The Rev. John T. Harwood, Priest

St. Mark's Vestry

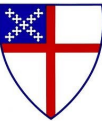
Joyce Hart, Senior Warden - Fred McKinley, Junior Warden

Deb Vaughn, Clerk

Blair Flannan, Jackie Leigh, Lillian Myers, Jane Smith, and Elizabeth Harper

Deb Vaughn—Coordinator of Pastoral Ministries

Joseph Stikorsky—Treasurer



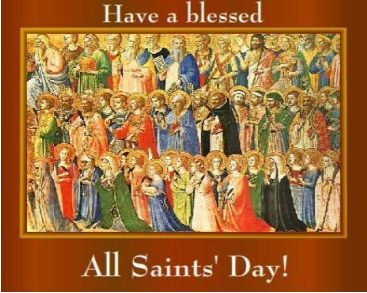
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
21 S MAIN STREET
LEWISTOWN, PA 17044

The Mission of St. Mark's
We gather to celebrate as the family of God, that we may be fed spiritually through the Sacraments and teachings of the Holy Scriptures, in order that we serve others in the love of Christ.

St. Mark's Messenger

November 2018

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTION



November is an important month in the life of this parish and for me personally. When we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, I am also marking the eleventh anniversary of my baptism. Yes, I was baptized at the age of 60 – better late than never. The connection between baptism and resurrection will always be vivid in my experience of this precious sacrament, and when you visit my office, you'll see my baptismal certificate.

But November is always an especially rich month in the life of the Church. No, I am not thinking about our pork and sauerkraut feast on November 9, Thanksgiving, or deer season, or the shopping adventure known as Black Friday.

Nor am I worried about Christmas shopping. This month begins with All Saints Day and ends with Christ the King Sunday.

We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 4. We commemorate the faithful who, according to the church, have achieved heavenly status. All Souls Day (November 2) is a day of remembrance for family members and the unsung saints of the world. I will remember especially my parents, grandparents, sisters, and my in-laws.

These feast days are so important because it is the only church holiday set aside to tend to our grief. We experience grief on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, but that grief is for the suffering and death of Christ.

All Saints Day is for us, for remembering the people we loved, who were important to us, who made an impact on our lives and then died and left us behind during the past year. All Souls Day gives us a chance to remember ALL of the special people who shaped our lives and who have joined the great cloud of witnesses.

On November 25, we celebrate Christ the King Sunday – the last Sunday of the church year – and will also have a baptism. We begin Advent on December 2, starting the new church year. We will bid farewell to the Gospel of Mark and become reacquainted with Luke, the beloved physician who also wrote the book of Acts.

Celebrating our ancestors in the faith, those men and women, some unknown, some esteemed, who lived and died furthering the Christian faith and nurturing ours, that is the “holy day” the church needs to hold up to the world on All Saints’ Day.

Father John+



CONTACTING FATHER JOHN

The best way is by phone: home (814-235-1198) or cell (814-571-0687). Another way is by email (jtharwood@comcast.net). While I live in State College, I am in Lewistown on Wednesdays and Sundays and frequently on Tuesdays as well. I am happy to come to your home. If you are ill or hospitalized or know someone who needs pastoral support, please call me.

Do not worry that you are “bothering me” if you call me.

**THE MINISTRY OF MOTHER HUBBARD'S
CUPBOARD: FEED MY SHEEP**

In October Mother Hubbard's Cupboard served several hundred people. Between MHC and Breaking Bread, St. Mark's provided food to nearly 400 different people.

MHC is grateful to our donors, both large and small, who enable our increasingly important work to be done. We are proud to say that every penny donated to The Cupboard goes to direct help. The generosity of St. Mark's Episcopal Church covers all over-head and administrative costs associated with The Cupboard's operation; the time, talents, and unflagging energy of our volunteers provide the human power necessary to carry out its mission. I was humbled to write a thank you note to someone who donated both a steer and a hog for MHC to distribute. We received and distributed more than 200 pounds of sausage this month.

Time and time again, we hear amazement about the quality and quantity of The Cupboard's work. None of it would be possible without the generosity of the people that have designated The Cupboard as their opportunity to make a difference in our community.

Jesus was very specific: If you love me, feed my sheep. If you have two coats, give one away to someone who has none.

**THE MINISTRY OF BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER
MEALS**

On October 23, we served 75 people (men, women and children, old and young alike) a delicious supper of chicken and waffles – a perfect meal on a chilly evening.. They were grateful for the warmth of our fellowship and the chance to break bread together in a family-style meal.

If you would like to help with this ministry, please come out on the fourth Tuesday of every month. To help prepare the meals, arrive between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. We organize our servers between 5:00 and 5:15 so that we can begin serving the meal at 5:30. Please note: our next Breaking Bread Together meal will be on **Tuesday, November 27.**



STEWARDSHIP

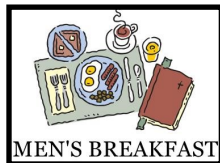
As we prepare to thank God for all of our blessings at Thanksgiving, we should also reflect on our stewardship to God throughout the year. We "give back" to God what we can – in our time, in our efforts to support the work of the church, and in our financial gifts. The budget for 2019 will be approved by the vestry at its November meeting, and we will present it to the parish at our Annual Meeting on December 9.

148TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION

On October 19-20, Joyce Hart and I represented St. Mark's at our annual convention, which was held this year in Williamsport. The Diocese does a fantastic job of helping delegates prepare to do the business of the church: All of the documents from resolutions to budgets are on the website (<https://diocesecpa.org/diocesan-convention/>). All of the services are "streamed," including the Bishop's address and the two worship services at Christ Church and Trinity Church. For myself, the very best part of the gathering is the chance to talk with friends from throughout the Diocese – and to worship. The service of Evensong was enriched by having two choirs – about 35 people altogether. I am reminded of the glorious worship materials in our Book of Common Prayer, and I hope that we will be able to have such services regularly in 2019 even without a huge choir! Unfortunately, St. Mark's attendance at this year's convention was limited due to an untimely fainting episode by Joyce. Have no fear – medical attention was (and is being!) sought and all is well!!!

**MEN'S GROUP IS UP AND
RUNNING — AT A NEW TIME!!!**

The St. Mark's Men Group meets the first Saturday of every month at the Burnham OIP at **8:00 a.m.** It is a great time of food and fellowship. Please join us!!!



APPLE DUMPLING SALE

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Apple Dumpling Sale and "Mini-bazaar" a success! The ECW raised about \$1,100 through the sale of apple dumplings alone. Items from the bazaar continue to be displayed for sale; therefore, the money realized from this event has not yet been totaled.

The ECW uses the money they raise in their fund raisers to donate to various organizations, including St. Barnabas, the Shippensburg Home, and Scholarships. The ECW also gives \$100/month to the Operating Account of St. Mark's!

All women of the Episcopal Church are considered members of this group. Please join them the first Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

St. Mark's Prayer List

Prayer List: Patty Attivo, Cam Auxer, Jacqueline Benevento, Michelle Bitner, Ralph Bitner, Dennis Bossinger, Bob Briar, Lisa Briar, Linda Burger, Peggy Collins, Christie Colon, Lew Copenhaver, Sharon Copenhaver, Heather Creighton, Bishop Michael Curry, Deb Ergler, Marcia Folk, Dick Gibboney, Emma Grace Germak, Kathryn Grossman, Thomas Hart, Josh Hohol, Dolores Houser, Angela Kaler, James Krepps, Martie Marquez, David Moore, Marsha Lynch-Mock, Austin James Moore, Gabriel Newman, Leslie Pitzer, Carol Potts, Amy Reeder, Vicky Shoemaker, Joseph Smith, Gwen Swisher, Jim Switzer, Laura Tate, Ann Wimsatt, Robert Wilson, Jr., William Wilson, and Stella Wright.

Pray for Lloyd A. Gessaman, Christopher Wilson and Max Wilson who are serving our Country.

God of everlasting love, who provides all things, we pray for all people: make your way known to them, your saving power among all nations. We commend to your fatherly goodness all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or circumstances.; relieve them according to their needs, giving them patience in their sufferings, and deliverance from their afflictions. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

PROPERTY UPDATE

The Safety Committee is making great progress on developing recommendations for becoming better stewards of our property and people. We will soon be replacing the ancient shed behind the parish house, and we are making necessary repairs of the missing or damaged slates on our bell tower.

Epiphany Studios hopes to return five of our stained glass windows that have been repaired and restored to their original beauty. We will then send another handful of windows for similar treatment. The parish is grateful to Elta Lauver, who generously provided funding for this project. We will dedicate a memorial plaque in Elta's memory



Epiphany Windows working on one of our windows.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6—Beth Birch
8—Cam Auxer
30—Debra Diven
25—Mary Beth Pietropaulo
27—Tracey McKee
30—Marshal Lynch-Mock

O GOD, OUR TIMES ARE IN YOUR HAND: LOOK WITH FAVOR, WE PRAY, ON YOUR SERVANT **N.** AS (S) HE BEGINS ANOTHER YEAR. GRANT THAT (S)HE MAY GROW IN WISDOM AND GRACE, AND STRENGTHEN OUR TRUST IN YOUR GOODNESS; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.



HISTORICAL IMAGES OF ST. MARK'S

THE HISTORY PROJECT AT ST. MARK'S CONTINUES TO TAKE SHAPE AS MORE ITEMS ARE DISPLAYED IN THE WATER STREET HALLWAY. OF SPECIAL INTEREST ARE THE EMBROIDERED QUILT PATCHES. THREE OF THEM ARE DATED—1892—OVER 125 YEARS AGO!!!

WHAT WILL OUR SUCCESSORS FIND THAT WE LEFT BEHIND DATED 2018? HOPEFULLY, IT WILL NOT ONLY DEMONSTRATE OUR STEWARDSHIP AND LOVE FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL CHURCH BUILDING BUT ALSO BE A TESTIMONY OF OUR FAITH!



Top left: Embroidered quilt patches



Bottom left: Sanctuary windows in the designing phase.



Right: Present and past Bishops of Diocese

WHY DO I GO TO ST. MARK’S? JOYCE HART’S STORY

I had been brought up in the United Methodist Church, actually joining the Evangelical United Brethren Church when I was 12. The EUB Church shortly merged with the Methodist Church in 1968 and thus the *United* Methodist denomination was formed.

Knowing that Jesus Christ is my Savior was never a question to me; however, proclaiming that knowledge and expressing it in the way my Church did at times made me feel uncomfortable. I felt as if confessing my faith and acknowledging it was more of an emotional action which was “activated” by annual evangelical events, rather than a day-to-day way of life. This is not to criticize the United Methodists (my daughter Leah is still very active in the United Methodist Church!) but a statement of a characteristic of my own personality.

1998 was a year of searching. I was going through a crisis in my life and found myself trying to figure out who I was, what my purpose in life was, where I was going and I was looking for a new church family. The last search was finally resolved.

In December of 1998, Virginia Banks contacted me and asked me if I would be interested in being organist at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. I probably asked her “*what church?*” seeing as how I had never stepped foot in an Episcopal Church. I attended a Christmas Eve Service with Fr. Lynch presiding at St. Mark’s and was awe-struck at the beauty of the Church and also of the liturgy of the Service itself. I wanted to be part of that Church! As far as being organist of St. Mark’s — that’s history. In the ensuing 20 years, I have not looked back or questioned that decision.

As for the first two searches — I at times still ponder the question of “*who I am*” or “*what my purpose is*”. It’s not a bad thing: it makes me look inside myself and make sure I am being true to myself and those around me. It makes me look inside myself and make sure I am trying to follow God’s will in my life.

“*Where am I going?*” I am convinced that spiritually I will one day meet my Maker face-to-face in glory! As for my earthly life — I am where I’m supposed to be — St. Mark’s Episcopal Church!!!

TIME TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK AND CHANGE THE BATTERY IN YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

On Saturday evening, November 3, you’ll need to set your clocks BACK one hour, because Standard Time returns on Sunday, November 4. This is an excellent time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms. Father Harwood knows from personal experience that smoke alarms save lives.



FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDELINES

All Saints Days is a good reminder that all of us are mortal dust to dust, ashes to ashes. This is a good month to take care of some practical matters. Do you have a will? Do you have a health care directive? And have you completed St. Mark’s funeral planning guide? If you have made your will, have you remembered St. Mark’s? Generous bequests are an important element of our annual budget.

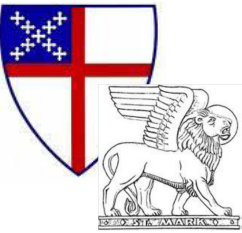
Your family and parish will be grateful for your loving attention to these matters.

PORK AND SAUERKRAUT DINNER

St. Mark’s will be holding their Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on **Friday, November 9 from 4:30—6:30 p.m.** This fundraiser benefits the Parishioner’s Outreach Fund which assists families of our community who find themselves in difficult financial situations, such as having no money for heating fuel, utility bills, and gas. This is not a handout that is given to anyone who claims to need money; but rather, every effort is made to

make sure that each situation is indeed a result of a temporary crisis and not of a perpetual poor-management life-style. This Fund also gives all those who request money other resources to contact such as the Salvation Army and Mifflin County Department of Human Services. The average donation is \$50. Tickets are \$10.00/meal which include a beverage and dessert (pie). Take-outs are available.

Please help St. Mark’s and the Parishioner’s Outreach by supporting this event. For purchase of tickets or acquiring tickets to sell, please see Cynthia or Joyce or call the Church Office at 717-238-8327.



ST. MARK’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

21 SOUTH MAIN STREET
LEWISTOWN, PA 17044
717-248-8327

31 October, 2018

Dear Friends,

Nobody at St. Mark’s is a nomad; none of us lives in a desert; there’s not a single shepherd among us. And so, when our stewardship lessons talk about “first fruits,” we say: “What?”

If God wants fruits, then we go to Giant or Weis. We don’t go to our own orchards, do we?

The ancient Israelites lived between feast and famine. When the harvest finally came, food was marked by the offering of the first of the crop, and the first of the new season’s animals, as a sacrifice, as a token of thanks to God for his care and provision for his people.

One theologian defines “sacrifice” as “making something holy by giving it away for love.”

Making something holy.

From the time of the Old Testament, God has asked for the first fruits of our labor. By “first fruits,” the Bible is very clear—the first ten percent. Why specify such a seemingly arbitrary number? God wants to make it easy for us to compute.

In our household, Kathryn and I have tithed faithfully for 35 years. In some years we double tithe. Every month we saved for retirement – and tithed. Now that we are retired, we will tithe.

But please don’t confuse a tithe with a tip. God has given us not a meal in a restaurant: He has given us life itself.

Why does God want you to tithe? The primary reason is not to help St. Mark’s! Believe me, the Vestry and I are well are of our financial needs. We just replaced the roof on the rectory for the first time since the 1980s, and we did not do a special fund raiser. But we have significant monthly costs. Call this the cost of being God’s church.

Even with no full-time employees, our annual budget is about \$140,000. We have many of the same expenses that you have at home, but our property insurance costs about \$11,000 per year. Our utilities are almost \$14,000. Our “fair share” pledge to the diocese is \$15,570. Add them up, and you have a parish budget!

The real reason for stewardship is not what it does for the Church; it is what it does for you. Where there is no giving (or little giving), there will be no growth. St. Mark’s finds itself unable to do its mission. We wither on the vine.

When you make a pledge to St. Mark’s, you are making a formal statement about your time, your talent, and your treasure.

You are showing your gratitude for God’s blessings in the year just past

When you return to God the first fruits of your labor, you signal that we all labor in His vineyard. And you are also telling God that you will be a good steward of the remaining 90%.

If you are working toward a tithe but have not yet achieved it, then please strive to continue your growth. If you have not yet pledged before, then I urge you to think not about the needs of St. Mark’s but about your own spiritual life.

Stewardship is not a burden or a penalty: it is an invitation for you to respond to God’s call. Stewardship is not about St. Mark’s budget; it is about your commitments. When God calls us, we can choose to hear and obey.

Or we can reply, “Is there anybody else there?”

I ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge for 2019 and return the pledge card to the church office (or put it into the plate) on or before Sunday, November 11.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. John T. Harwood+
Priest in Charge

