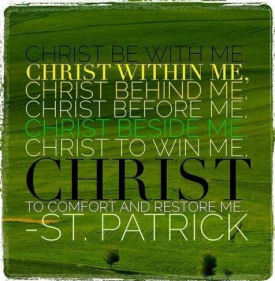


St. Mark's Messenger

Summer 2018

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTION



Summer time, and the living is easy! But the church is busy! This issue will be the only one this summer, so look for the next issue in September.

On Trinity Sunday we entered the longest season of the Church year: Sundays after Pentecost. This season will end on December 2, the first Sunday of Advent, giving us six months to live into the mission and ministry of St. Mark's.

In our readings we will be following “Track One” of the revised common lectionary.

Over a three-year cycle, we will read almost all of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) as well as the New Testament. Since we're in Year B, our principal gospel will be Mark, but in the Hebrew Bible (the only one that Jesus knew), we hear some of the great monarchy narratives. Last week we heard about the calling of Isaiah to be a prophet.

On June 3 we hear about the calling of Amos. When we get to Advent, I'll ask you about your favorite prophet – and you can ask me about mine. I am stressing prophets because they will ALWAYS be in conflict with the established order. (Hint: bad monarchs are the norm.) Even worse, the people are always drifting away from God's mission for them.

Jesus didn't just "fall from heaven": he was born and raised in a deeply Jewish family, and we simply cannot understand our Lord without respectfully listening to the stories that shaped him, John the Baptist, and all of the disciples, Pharisees, and Sadducees. These are our stories, too.

On Memorial Day, we remembered the men and women who died in service this country, but we often remember other friends and family members as well. Our lives—the people living right now—are built on the foundation of the lives given by previous generations. We are at the front line of the chain of lives going back to infinite time in the past. Memorial Day means one thing: remember.

Thanks to my account on Ancestry.com, I can go back 19 generations and can imagine the hopes and fears of those who lived in the 1500s (plagues and war were common) as well as those who emigrated to the British colonies of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania and survived despite the odds. I learned that John Breon (1834-1864), who was born 19 miles from Lewistown, died as a prisoner of war in the Civil War. Ministers and merchants, farmers and homemakers, their lives touched me: births, marriages, baptisms and deaths are the rhythm of life. Conflict and war were to be expected. My ninth great grandfather, the Rev. John Fairfax (1623-1700), was an Anglican priest who did not think the church was sufficiently pure – and so he became a Puritan minister. He was “ejected” from his church and had to serve an independent congregation. He gave up the safe life for something he thought was more faithful to God. Here’s a picture of him in his preaching garb. Note the lack of vestments.



Rev. John Fairfax

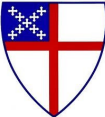


Rev. John Fairfax

With names like Mercy and Deliverance, Patience and Eulalia (this means “good laughter”), my female ancestors worked hard to serve God, their family, and their neighbors. In many cases, I know the name of the boats that brought them to our country from a dozen European countries over several centuries. One of those was the Mayflower in 1620.

I am trying to remember where I came from.

(Continued on Page 2)



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.

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 Hannon, Jackie Leigh, Lillian Myers, Jane Smith, and
 Elizabeth Harper
 Elizabeth Stoksey—Treasurer
 Deb Vaughn—Coordinator of Pastoral Ministries

If we think only about our St. Mark’s history, let us remember the forty-six priests and deacons who have served us since 1820. How many of them did you know?

1. Charles Snowden	1820-1823	25. Fred H. Post	1893-1896
2. Norman Nash	1823-1824	26. F. T. Eastment	1897-1907
3. Jackson Kemper	1824	27. A. G. A. Buxton	1908-1909
4. Robert Piggot	1825	28. Wm. Heakes	1910-1924
5. John P. Robinson	1828-1832	29. Thomas Worrall	1925-1938
6. Corry Chamber	1832-1835	30. Miles A. Vollmer	1938-1944
7. King F. M. Whitesides	1835-1836	31. Vernon A. Weaver	1945-1949
8. J. F. Hoff	1836-1839	32. Francis B. Greamer	1949-1953
9. James B Noblitt	1839-1840	33. Adolph Wm. Kahl	1953-1961
10. Henry Brown	1840-1841	34. Joseph R. Gatto	1962-1968
11. Wm White Bronson	1840-1843	35. William H. Weitzel	1968-1975
12. Henry T. Hiester	1843-1849	36. Peter A. Greenfield	1975-1983
13. Theodore S. Rumney	1849-1852	37. Donald E. Evans	1984-1990
14. DeWitt C. Byllesby	1852	38. Frank Hughes	1991-1997
15. George B. Hopkins	1853-1854	39. Ronald Lynch	1998
16. I. Theodore Hutcheson	1854-1855	40. Derald Stump	1999-2001
17. Wm V. Bowers	1855-1860	41. Ronald Lynch and Delores Calhoun	
18. John Leithead	1860-1863		2001-2004
19. Edward Hale	1865	42. Ronald Guy	2004-2007
20. Thomas W. Martin	1868-1874	43. Lisa Schoonmaker	2007-2010
21. W. H. Henry Platt	1874-1883	44. David Zwifka and Loretta Collins	
22. B. F. Brown	1884-1888		2010-2015
23. H. Cruickshank	1888-1890	45. Bill Murphy (Supply Priest)	2015-2017
24. George Rogers	1890-1892	46. John T. Harwood	2017-Present

As we prepare for our third century, let us remember with gratitude the gift of our parish. It is our time to serve.

Father John+

FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE

As Woody Allen says, nobody gets out of here alive. St. Mark’s had three funerals within four weeks (Peg, Carey Ann, and Sara – may they rest in peace), and in every case, families are greatly stressed when they have to make funeral arrangements for a loved one.

Fr. Harwood has a “Funeral Planning Guide” which is a great tool to use to let your loved ones know of your wishes for your funeral. Do you have favorite hymns you would like to have sung or played; do you have special scriptures you would like read? In the Book of Common Prayer, page 494, suggested scriptures are listed; but possibly you have scriptures that are very meaningful to you for one reason or another; these scriptures could be used as well. Many times family members are not aware of your wishes and this guide can be a great benefit to them and reduce the stress of making a funeral service a real

reflection of their loved one’s life.

Other issues to consider are what you want included in your obituary: those who have gone before and those who are surviving. Even though these may change at the time the information is necessary, it will provide a great resource.

To what organizations have you or do you belong? Do you care if people send flowers or would you rather have donations made to an organization or church? Which one?

In the near future, this form will be distributed to St. Mark’s Parish family. Please consider completing the form and giving it to Father John. It will be kept in the church safe and a copy will be made available for you for your own records.

Your family will be grateful!

St. Mark’s Prayer List

Prayer List: Patty Attivo, Leslie Auxer, Jacqueline Benevento, Michelle Bitner, Ralph Bitner, Dennis Bossinger, Bob Briar, Lisa Briar, Linda Burger, Peggy Collins, Christie Colon, Deb Ergler, Marcia Folk, Emma Grace Germak, Kathryn Grossman, Thomas Hart, Josh Hohol, Dolores Houser, James Krepps, Martie Marquez, Marsha Lynch-Mock, Austin James Moore, David Moore, Gabriel Newman, Leslie Pitzer, Amy Reeder, Vicky Shoemaker, Joseph Smith, Gwen Swisher, Laura Tate, Ann Wimsatt, Robert Wilson, Jr. 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.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Recently, two members of our Parish Family have passed away and entered into the kingdom of heaven.

Sara L. “Cookie” Johns, 91, passed away May 14 at the William Penn Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Lewistown, PA
She was preceded in death by her husbands, Robert Cook and William Johns; a daughter, Roberta Saxton; and Thomas Edwards, her special companion for 20 years.
She is survived by her children Bonnie Cook O’Neal and Billie Johns Snook of Lewistown; 5 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

William “Bill” T. Wagner, 61, passed away May 26 at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville.
He was preceded in death by his parents, William L and Mercy (Schrock) Wagner; and a sister, Margaret L. Wagner-Clews.
Bill is survived by his wife, Kimbrah; daughters Tiffany Shockey of Spring Mills and Lindsay Powell of Lewistown. Also surviving is a sister Georgia Olson of Lewistown. In addition, he is survived by 3 grandchildren.

These people will be fondly remembered not only by their family and friends but also by the Parish Family of St. Mark’s.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Loren Stewart-Wilson—3rd
John Potts—5th
Joseph Sikorsky—6th
Naomi Richard—11th
James Xanthopoulos—11th
Damien Young—11th
Larry Vaughn—16th
Michael Aitkin—22nd
Christine Naylot—29th
Susan Beers—30th

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jeff Wilson—8th
Phyllis Sikorsky—9th
Cathy Beers—11th
Lillian Myers—11th
Ann Royer—11th
Jackie Leight—13th
Fred McKinley—20th
Laurie Goss—20th
Gerna Shade—24th

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Mark Remy—15th
Robert Pinkerton—25th
Bruce Bitner—27th



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.



Historic Christ's Church
Philadelphia, PA

While I was growing up in Altoona, my family attended the Methodist church. While I was a medical student in Philadelphia, I began attending historic Christ Church. Initially, I was interested in going to church where many of the Founding Fathers had gone. I very quickly became attracted to the liturgy of the Episcopal Church and the opportunity to have communion every Sunday was also very appealing. I was confirmed as an Episcopalian at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wilmington, Delaware in 1975.

When I arrived in Mifflin County in 1978, I began attending St. Marks. Fr. "Pete" Greenfield was the (full time!!) priest. He and his wife, Carol, were so kind and welcoming...as was the congregation. I remember my very first Sunday at St. Marks: many were pleased to learn that I was already an Episcopalian!!

That first year, I joined the choir. There were at least 10 or 12 members at that time and I think that both of the Greenfields sang in the choir. In 1978, there were folding chairs moved into the back of the church to provide seating on Christmas Eve and the pews were pretty well filled on Easter morning.

We had 2 services on Easter morning, and I remember walking with the choir for a complimentary breakfast at the Elks Club between services.

In 1979, I met Joe and we were married at St. Marks on December 1, 1979. It is very special to me, almost 39 years later, to remember that I walked down that aisle and that we said our vows at that altar.

Over the past 40 years, at least 9 or 10 priests have served at St. Marks. Each, of course, had his or her own personality and "style". It has been interesting to get to know each of them. One of the things that I appreciate about the Episcopal Church is the continuity of the form of the worship service. I think our Book of Common Prayer is a treasure.

I have made many dear friends at St. Marks. Since retiring in 2011, I have been able to spend more time in St. Marks related activities. That has been a great blessing. When people ask what I am doing in retirement, I generally respond. "I spend a lot of time at the church". Serving at the altar has been a special blessing. I love my time in the kitchen with the other "church ladies" and I count each of them as one of my dearest friends. I am also blessed to have the opportunity to take communion to our home bound members, as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor.

St. Marks is a very special place to me...so many memories. We have a beautiful place in which to worship and I always feel God's presence there. It is sad that church attendance has declined over the years...not only at St. Marks, of course. A line from the Book of Common Prayer (Holy Eucharistic II) sums up what I feel at St. Marks every Sunday. "Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal". I find "strength and renewal" regularly at St. Marks.

Thanks be to God ...Alleluia!!



ST. MARK'S TURNS 200

When the Revolutionary War broke out, there were not over ten clergymen in Pennsylvania, four of them in Philadelphia. There were, at that time, three churches in the city – Christ, St. Paul's, and St. Peter's; while at Oxford, nine miles to the north, was Trinity; eighteen miles to the west, at Radnor, we find St. David's; and St. Thomas' is located at White Marsh. There were missions at Chester, Bristol, Perkioman, Pequea, Lancaster, and Huntingdon, all of which were served by these ten priests.

The first priest of the Protestant Episcopal Church to hold services in central Pennsylvania was the Rev. Charles Snowden, who in 1820, preached in the old courthouse that then stood in the Diamond. He soon after became rector of an Episcopal Church in Thompsontown in the Spring of 1823. The Reverend Norman Nash, a Missionary of the Church, sent out from Philadelphia, visited the town and organized the Parish, the members of which elected a Vestry.

Late in the same year application was made to the Legislature for a Charter of Incorporation which was granted January 2, 1824. (We will display the signed original document in our historical gallery.) Soon after the society was incorporated, a lot was secured on Main Street and in the same year a brick church building was erected and consecrated in the fall of the same year by Bishop White. This church would be torn down sixty years later so that we could build our current church. Did you know that our parish house originally had a steeple on it? It served as a chapel. I'll publish that picture in September along with a picture of our original brick church.

St. Mark's Church was admitted into union with the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1823. The first Church was consecrated on Oct. 24, 1824.

We have pictures of the construction of the "new St. Mark's church" in the late 1880s, and we have pictures of church life from more than a century ago. Look at the size of our choir in 1910!

To make our project succeed, we had about a dozen documents professionally matted and framed; the glass covering the documents will protect them from ultra-violet rays, which cause images to fade.

We need your help in two ways to make this project successful. We need your financial support so that we can frame our documents with acid-free matting. We need to create a "safe" environment for paper documents like letters and newspapers, most of which are very yellowed and fragile.

We will need to purchase track lighting and materials for hanging the pictures properly. The total cost of the project is about \$2,000. So far we have received \$1,111 in pledges.

Will you help?



We also need YOUR contributions to our history. We need YOUR photographs of church life and church events. Do you have pictures of priests who served the parish? In the "olden days," St. Mark's had pageants and plays and concerts in the parish hall. Who captured these events? We will make copies of what you share so that you can retain the originals.

Please make out your checks to St. Mark's with the subject line "History of Church." You may bring your pictures to the church office.



St. Mark's Choir—1910

MOTHER HUBBARD’S CUPBOARD

In May Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard served 96 families (254 individuals). Out of these 96 families, 10 were first-time clients (25 individuals).

Time and time again, we hear amazement about the magnitude of our ministry. None of it would be possible without the generosity of the people that have designated MHC as their opportunity to make a difference in our community.

In 2017, we were generously supported not just by the people of St. Mark’s but by the following individuals and organizations: All American Cruisers, Allensville Planing Mill, Arby’s (Milroy), Linda Boss, Boy Scouts of America (Cub Scouts), Ronald Colwell, Community Resources for Independence, Hunter Corbin, Steve Dunkel, Ed’s Trains, Frank Enterline, Jay Finkbinder, Linda Flanagan, Ashley Fultz, John and Bonnie Gallagher, Carleen and Robert Grossman, Dave Harmon, Sharon Havice, Barbary Henry, Nikki Hilday, Juniata Valley Bank, Forrest and Joan Kerstetter, Key Club, Kish Bank, Krautkramer (Aerotech), Darlene Kress, Ed and Nancy Lerch, Lewistown Police, Marsha Maines and Maines Roofing, Walter and Virginia Malcolm, Patricia Mannino, MC Wrestling Team, MC School Retirees, MCSD Student Activity Fund, Heidi Plebani Murphy, John and Connie Nanas, Larry Niemond, Thomas and Marjorie Noerr, Northwest Bank, Sis Norton, (knitted children’s hats), PA Lions, District 14L, Region 4, Joyce Pecht, Ivan Pecht, Alan Peters, Philips Electronics, Pierson Computing Connection, Adam Pietropaolo, Mary Beth Pietropaolo, Mrs. Ian Presscott, Stephen Reeder, Susan K. Richard, SAM Inc., Scotty’s Taxi, Rosalie Smith, Nancy Snook, Wilbur O. Sourbeck, Art Spicer, James and Joanne Stuck, Kathie Tice, Deb Vaughn, Charles and Helen Warfel, Robin White, Women’s Service Club, and the Yeagertown Volunteer Fire Company.

The following churches were also generous supporters: Allensville Mennonite Church, Bannerville Church of the Brethren, Church of the Brethren, Church World Service, Inc, East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church, Ellen Chapel, F.V. Brethren in Christ, First Baptist Church, First Church of the Brethren, First United Methodist Church (Crop Walk), Freedom Avenue Methodist Church, Grace United Methodist Church, Granville Methodist Church, Grove Memorial Church, Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Lake Park Methodist Church, Lewistown Assembly of God, Lewistown Presbyterian Church, Maitland Church of the Brethren, Maple Grove Mennonite Women, Mattawana Mennonite Church (Willing Workers), Parkview Church of the Brethren, Sieglerville Congregational Church, Spring Run Church of the Brethren, St. John’s Lutheran Church, St. John’s Lutheran Church (Barnabas Brothers), St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Third Street Lutheran (Crop Walk), Trinity United Church of Christ, Trinity United Methodist Church, United Methodist – Schrader, Vira United Methodist Church, Wagner United Methodist Church, Walnut Street United Methodist Church, Wayne United Methodist Church, and the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church.

Volunteers include Tom Beaver (St. John’s Lutheran), Susan Beers (St. Mark’s Episcopal Church), Brenda Funk (St. John’s Lutheran), Bill Goss (First Baptist Church and Locust Grove Mennonite), Wayne Hannon (St. Mark’s Episcopal Church), Ann Hetrick (St. John’s Lutheran), Lillian Myers (St. Mark’s Episcopal Church), Mary Beth Pietropaolo (First Presbyterian), Galen Stees (St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church), and Kathie Tice (Sacred Heart Catholic Church).

Thanks to our faithful volunteers we were able to serve 1,345 families comprising 3,626 individuals. Fifty-five of the families and 139 of the individuals were new in 2017.



BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

In May the people of St. Mark’s served more than 60 people a delicious meal featuring bar-b-que sandwiches. Thanks to Joyce Hart for playing some of our favorite music.

Please note: Because the Parish Hall is not air-conditioned, we will resume our dinners in September.

UPDATE ON “FOLKS OF A SEASONED AGE” AND “KNIT AND KNOT”

Now in its sixth year, our exercise class will resume in September.

The “Knit and Knot” folks have continued their charity work. We continue to make hats and other needed items for the pediatrics unit at the Geisinger Center in Danville and the Adult Oncology unit as well as fingerless gloves for the Lewistown and Danville Dialysis units. Father John has also received three prayer shawls that he will distribute to persons in need in our community.

We invite new people who would like to learn to knit to join us in this quiet, contemplative ministry. Please call 717-953-6158 if you would like more information.

BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY MORNING AND ADULT FORUM ON SUNDAY

Bible Study continues on Wednesday mornings at 9AM in my office. You cannot tell the story if you don’t know it. Bring a friend or a neighbor or an acquaintance, young or old, who would like to understand the Bible.

In our Adult Forum which meets Sunday mornings at 9:00, we are returning to the study of Mark, the gospel appointed for 2018. As the first gospel, it “invents” the tradition of telling the Jesus story. It seems simple; it is incredibly subtle and honest. Join us on the pilgrimage with St. Mark. Our guide will be an Anglican bishop, N.T. Wright.



CHURCH IN THE PARK

FOR QUITE A FEW YEARS NOW, ST. MARK’S HAS HELD “CHURCH IN THE PARK” SOMETIME DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. THIS YEAR, THE OUTDOOR SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON **AUGUST 26 AT 10:00 A.M.** AT THE GRAY PAVILION IN KISH PARK.

THIS EVENT BEGINS WITH A CHURCH SERVICE WHICH INCLUDES HOLY COMMUNION AND THEN CONTINUES WITH A PICNIC LUNCH. THE CHURCH PROVIDES MEAT AND BEVERAGES FOR LUNCH AND EVERYONE BRINGS A COVERED DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE.

AFTER LUNCH, WE ALL ENJOY PLAYING (OR WATCHING) GAMES FOR EVERYONE OF ALL AGES. INCLUDED AT THIS TIME IS A “BLIND” AUCTION.

COME OUT AND JOIN US FOR THIS TIME OF WORSHIP, FOOD, AND FUN!! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! WE ALWAYS HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD!!!

BUDGET AND PROPERTY UPDATE

Doesn't the church look funny without the stained glass windows? Don't worry: they will be back in several more months. The Vestry has decided to postpone the project of refinishing the floors in the parish house for now. We hope to complete the historical gallery by September.

MEN’S GROUP IS BACK

Not so long ago St. Mark’s had a men’s group: the St. Andrew’s Guild. Regardless of the name it is time for us to gather in fellowship and common purpose. We propose to have a monthly breakfast together on a Saturday morning, and we need to know who wants to attend. Please send Tony Hatfield-Nicholson email (stinkingrose@pa.net) or give him a call (717-436-9184 or 717-543-7411). Or you can contact Father John by email or phone: (jtharwood@comcast.net / 814-571-0687). We will have our first breakfast on **June 23**. More details to follow!



HOME VISITATIONS AND PASTORAL NEEDS

If you find yourself in need of a pastoral visit at home or in a hospital, please let me know. I am always happy to visit you in your home. But are there shut-ins I do not know about? Who else in our community needs a visit or is facing a hard time? Please let me know.

Are there other pastoral needs? Would you like to renew your marriage vows? Would you like to talk with me about baptism or confirmation? There are many adults who “missed” this chance when they were young, but as I know from personal experience (I was baptized at the age of 60!), it is never too late for baptism. Please invite me to talk with you or someone you know.

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.

