

St. Mark's Messenger

October 2018

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTION



Traditionally in Europe, a well fattened goose, fed on the stubble from the fields after the harvest, was eaten to protect against financial need in the family for the next year. There is an old English saying that captures this spirit: *“Eat a goose on Michaelmas Day / Want not for money all the year.”* Many people believe that eating goose on Michelmas (September 29 is the Feast or Mass of St. Michael and All Angels) brought good luck for the year – we have similar beliefs about eating pork on New Year’s Day.

So what's the connection to goose? Renters would pay their landlords a year's rent in advance, and a goose would be provided as a "bonus." Goose Day was the time for "hiring fairs" – if you were a peasant and wanted to seek a better job, this was the time to do it. With a festive goose dinner (as I enjoyed at Michel-e's), spirits were raised.

We remember Michael as being the greatest of the Archangels – he defeated Satan in the war in Heaven (see Rev. 12:7-12). If you remember Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, he was then exiled to Hell but along the way, one story goes, he landed on earth right on top of a prickly blackberry bush. Thus, September 29 became the last day when blackberries were available for harvest in England. On the brighter side, Michael is our protector in times of darkness, physical and spiritual.



*Baptism of
Raelynn Danielle Hevner*

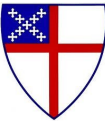
*Baptism of
Raelynn Danielle Hevner* St. Mark's will have a busy month. The men will have their monthly breakfast on October 6. We will bless the animals on October 7 at 11:30 in our St. Francis garden (we will use the parish house if the weather is bad). Apple dumplings will be made and distributed – thanks in advance to all who make this wonderful dessert possible. (Many of these people also helped to prepare sauerkraut for a future meal!)

Two weeks later (October 19-20) Joyce Hart, John Xanthopoulos, and I will represent St. Mark's at the Diocesan Convention in Williamsport. The convention will be streamed, thanks to John X's wizardry, and you can find information on our budget and the six resolutions on our website (<https://diocesecpa.org/diocesan-convention/>). The theme is "Coming Together in Mission," which Bishop Audrey introduced to us at our convocation meeting at St. Mark's.

October is also a time of personal anniversaries for me. My father and Kathryn's father were both born in October, 1918. I was ordained to the priesthood on October 17, 2011. And last October, Kathryn had her major heart episode and a long road of recovery. We will be marking all of these anniversaries with gratitude.

May October be a glorious month for all of us.

Father John+



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 Hammon, Jackie Leigh, Lillian Myers, Jane Smith, and
Elizabeth Harper
Deb Vaughn—Coordinator of Pastoral Ministries
Joseph Stokorsky—Treasurer

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

September was Hunger Action Month! As a congregation, we are joining the fight against hunger. With more than 40 percent of households living below the poverty level in the United States, many children are affected by hunger. In our own communities in Pennsylvania, one in six children are struggling with hunger. Recently, one child in our area, while receiving food from a summer recreation program, told a staff member, "I am so glad you are here. I haven't eaten since yesterday." Remember that for many children, the breakfast and lunch at school are their best meals of the day.

In September we served 258 people: 88 families, including 5 first-time families as well as 11 first-time individuals.

As always, financial and in-kind donations are welcome. To make a donation, please contact us at 717 248-9383 or the parish office at 717 248-8237.

Jesus was very specific: If you love me, feed my sheep.

THE MINISTRY OF OUTREACH MINISTRIES

St. Mark's Outreach Ministries assists families who find themselves, for one reason or another, in financial difficulties. Most of our assistance is with utility bills. The usual monetary amount of assistance is \$50—\$75 and we do not help with rental security deposits or monthly rent.

We depend on our Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner as the main source of our income. Please come out and support this fund raiser on November 9. (More details on this event later) Monetary donations would also be appreciated. Just write Outreach Ministries on the memo line of your check.

**MEN'S GROUP IS UP AND
RUNNING!**

The St. Mark's Men Group meets the first Saturday of every month at the Burnham OIP at 7:30 a.m. It is a great time of food and fellowship. Please join us!!!



**THE MINISTRY OF FOLKS
OF A SEASONED AGE**

Now in its sixth year, our exercise class has resumed. Michele Lasher is the leader, and the class meets on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 in the Parish Hall. You will be glad to know that Father John goes to a gym 4 days per week to work on strength, cardio, and balance. I have a simple philosophy: use it or lose it. I encourage you to be as active as you can, and this group will help!

The "Knit and Knot" folks have continued their charity work through the summer. We continue to make hats and other needed items for the pediatrics unit at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, the Adult Oncology unit, and fingerless gloves for the Lewis-town 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 Jackie Leight at 953-6158 for more information.



**THE MINISTRY OF BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER
MEALS**

At our Breaking Bread meal on September 25, we fed 77 people a delicious meal of salad, fried chicken, and apple sauce. We had enough food for many to have "seconds."

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.



ST. MARK'S WOMEN

The women of St. Mark's are a very active group who tend not only to the "kitchen" events of the church—, Break Bread Together meals, funeral meals—but also are essential to fund raising events like the salad and soup bars and the bazaars.

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. to discuss upcoming events.

St. Mark's Prayer List

Patty Attivo, Cam 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, David Moore, Marsha Lynch-Mock, Austin James 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.

HOW TO CONTACT 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). I live in State College and will be in Lewistown on Wednesdays and Sundays, and at least one other day during the week. I am happy to come to your home. I want to have a meal with every member of the parish before the end of 2018, so please invite me!

Do not worry that you are "bothering me" if you call me. I want to know if you or a family member is in need — or if you have a concern about the parish.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2—Connie Knepp
- 3—Virginia Banks
- 7—Cynthia McKinley and Emily Zylstra
- 10—Sharon Copenhaver
- 11—Alice Woodring
- 18—Catherine Pinkerton
- 21—Maxwell Remy
- 22—Billie Gay Snook
- 27—Dee Calhoun
- 31—William Wilson

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.

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

Recently, a friend of our Parish Family passed away and entered into the kingdom of heaven.

Dr. William H. Farley, 101, passed away Sunday, September 23 at Elmcroft Senior Living Center. He was preceded in death in 2009 by his wife, Laura, who was an active and dear member of St. Mark's. Also preceding him in death was his son William, Jr. in 2016.

He is survived by his sons Michael and John; his daughter-in-law Gale, and five grandchildren.

The funeral service will be held Saturday, October 6, 11:00 a.m. at the Barr Funeral Home, Lewistown with a time of visitation from 10:00 until the time of the Service. Fr. Harwood will be officiating. Interment will be at St. Mark's Community Cemetery.

Dr. Farley's full obituary can be found at barrfh.com.

WHY DO I GO TO ST. MARK'S? VIRGINIA BANKS' STORY

I guess you could say I was born into the Episcopal Church. Growing up, my family attended Trinity Church in Hartford, CT. My sister and I also attended Girls Friendly Society and we both sang in the Girls Choir at Trinity. Every summer we also attended an Episcopal church camp in Cannon, CT for two weeks. I was married at Trinity, and our son, Bob III was baptized there.

We moved to Mifflintown in the 50's and my husbands' family was Presbyterian, so for 10 years we attended there. However, Dr. Jim Johnston, our family doctor at the time, suggested I give St. Mark's a try.

He attended regularly and very much enjoyed it. So one Sunday I did and I felt like I was back home. I thought, this is where I belong! Both Bob III, and our daughter, Bonnie, were confirmed at St. Mark's -- Bob while Father Weitzel was the priest, and Bonnie while Father Greenfield was. Bob followed Father Weitzel to St John's in Carlisle while attending Dickinson. Bonnie was also married at St. Mark's, and my husband's memorial service was at St. Mark's.

I enjoy attending and feel close to God at St. Mark's. Joyce's music is uplifting and the congregation is warm and friendly. So it goes without saying that St. Mark's is my church home!

NEW WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR BUDGET

Do you shop at *Amazon.com*? You can financially benefit St. Mark's Church? Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and then designate St. Mark's for your charity. A percentage of your purchase (excluding taxes and shipping) will be donated to St. Mark's. Right now our earnings rate is 4% BUT if we can increase the traffic to Amazon.com we may get 6 or even 8%!! This is easy and painless and all at no

cost to you!

Another way to give back to the parish is to purchase a paver (\$95). What a wonderful way to honor or remember someone important in your life. We are all restricted in the number of words: 3 lines of engraving with maximum of 14 characters (including spaces) per line. Please see Father John or Joyce Hart if you are interested. Finally, our beautiful columbarium is now ready for you to purchase a niche. I assure you that there is no rush to occupy the niche just because you have purchased it! The cost is

\$850, and while cost should not be the deciding factor, please consider these advantages over traditional interment in a cemetery.

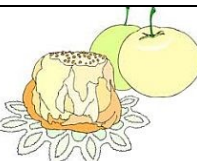
- No need for separate urns (self-contained urn/niche construction).
- Above ground burial of cremated remains.
- Sacred context of church's memorial garden.
- Public space in a notable and historic location within the borough.

Please see Father John if you are interested in purchasing a niche.

APPLE DUMPLING SALE

ECW will be holding their annual Apple Dumpling Sale with a new twist this year. There will be **two** sales, one on Friday, **October 12** and the other one the following Friday, **October 19**. When ordering, please specify which date you prefer. Dumplings will be ready for pick-up at 10:00 a.m. The price remains the same — \$3.50/dumpling with extra syrup. Please order yours on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or call Cynthia McKinley at 717-248-9903.

There will also be a “mini bazaar” set up at each sale. We need nice items that could be used as Christmas gifts. No “yard sale” items will be accepted. Please see or call Cynthia McKinley if you have questions.



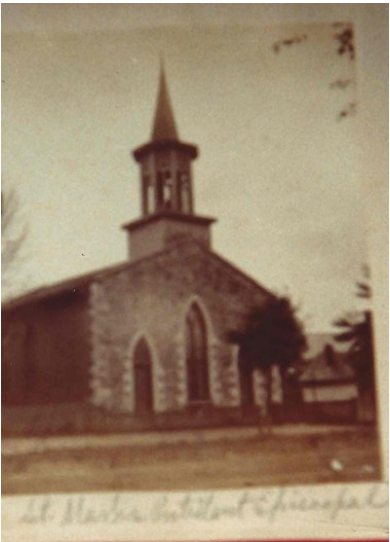
BLESSING OF YOUR PETS

We will mark the feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a Service of Blessing and Thanksgiving for pets following our Service on **October 7**. Bring your pets to parish house at 11:30 AM. If this is not possible, bring a picture. St. Francis is a patron of all who care for God's creation, including people and animals but also our planet, “this fragile earth, our island home” (as we hear at the Eucharist in Prayer C).

I have blessed dogs, cats, horses, mice, gerbils, guinea pigs, birds, snakes turtles, and even a hairless cat. The variety teaches us a lesson about the glorious variety of creation.



HISTORICAL IMAGES OF ST. MARK'S



Where in the world is this church? We'll, it's St. Mark's sometime between 1867 and 1895. Forty years after building a brick church, the vestry decided to make the church a bit more like the other churches in Lewistown. For instance, they added a steeple and a stone façade. But you'll see the same doors and windows as in the original church. In the 1880s, this church was torn down; some of the bricks were re-used in the parish house, and this image became a distant memory.

The history is complicated. The brick church was built in the 1820s, got a façade in 1867, and was demolished in the 1880s. The “parish house” was built to look like a chapel and served as one while the new church was being built.

A few years after that the rectory was built. If you look closely, you can see the stone masons hard at work. What you don't see are the modern construction tools like cranes.

The next time you look at our church office and rectory, give thanks for the skills of these Lewistown workers. Imagine the challenge of “stitching” together three buildings and making all of the systems – electrical and plumbing – work so well.

Imagine the courage and commitment of the parishioners who wanted their buildings better reflect who they were and what their mission was in this community. Through good times and bad, we have been strengthened by the lives and witness of those who went before.



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?

This form is available to St. Mark's Parish family. There are forms at the back of the Sanctuary for your convenience or call the church office at 717-248-8327 to have a form sent to you. 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.