

St. Mark's Messenger

September 2020

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTION

Merry Christmas from St. Mark's in 1900!

You might think that I'm jumping the gun, but here's a very early photo of the new church. Please look carefully at it because my theme for this month is **resilience and hope – and the courage to adapt, grow, and change.**

This photo was taken about 1900. Please notice that there is no organ. (We bought one in 1901 for \$1,700; the organist would have pumped it herself.) We acquired our current organ in the 1920s.

You will also notice that there is no pulpit or reredos (the screen covering the wall at the back of an altar) – where we have our five gorgeous statues now. You will also see NO light fixtures. You will also notice that the pews have uneven dividers – not like today's. My GUESS is that they recycled the pews from the first church and had to modify them. Do you see that there are no side aisles but a VERY WIDE main aisle. Later, I think, these pews were discarded and we got new ones that match. Finally, you will observe clear glass in the round window above the altar – this is before the Tiffany window was installed.



St. Mark's Sanctuary—circa 1900

I point out these things because EACH of them represented a bold departure from the past and an effort to improve the quality of worship. The changes also reflect a new identity and self-image. Wow! That takes courage!

We were hardy, brave folks from our humble origins. In the summer of 1820, the Rev. Charles Snowden, an Episcopal priest, began to preach in the old courthouse that stood at the diamond. In the spring of 1823, a missionary priest, the Rev. Norman Nash, was sent from Philadelphia to organize a vestry, and by August 23, 1823, we had found the funds to build a small church out of red bricks (consecrated on October 24, 1824) and to complete our articles of incorporation (January 2, 1824). We were launched! If you'd like to see some of the original bricks, please ask me – good Episcopalians always recycle, and I know where they are. They were manufactured right here in Lewistown.

In a few years the house next to the church was donated to be a rectory, and in 1876, we built St. Mark's Chapel (aka, the parish house) for worship during the twenty years it took to prepare for the second church. In October 1898, we began the construction of a larger church, and we held our first service in it on October 10, 1899. It was not consecrated until 1904 because the tradition back then was to consecrate only buildings that had no debt. Only the baptismal font and the original altar were brought to the new church. The "new" altar that we're now using is part of the original one – so it's almost 200 years old. It had a marble top with a cross on it, and that's been place in our ornate altar.

When the new church was finished, the space inside and style of worship were nothing like today. It was "low church" through and through – no statuary, no aumbry, no elevated pulpit, no Tiffany windows, no canopy over the font, no magnificent organ, no incense, no chasubles, and Eucharist offered only several times per year. Morning Prayer was the central act of worship. We used the 1892 Book of Common Prayer until 1928 – we have a copy at the back of the church only with the other prayer books used in the past two centuries.

Sometime in the 1920s and 1930s, the priests, vestry, and congregation were drawn to the style of Anglo-Catholic worship very popular in the Church of England – and we adopted that style of worship to create an English church in Lewistown. Yes, this means incense upon occasion, priests in chasubles and birettas, chanting parts of the service. Do you remember when we would chant the canticles and the Psalms in Morning Prayer? How much resistance do you think there was between the "traditionalists" and the "modernists" over those decades?

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But thanks to COVID, we're back to the plain, low-church style of our origin in the 1820s. When we get through this, we'll take stock of who we are and how we can change our worship to feel closer to God and each other in this sacred, historical space so rich in history and vitality. **Resilience, hope, and the courage to adapt, grow, and change – these are part of our DNA and will sustain us.**

Father John

THREE WAYS TO WORSHIP: IN PERSON, BY THE WEB, OR BY PHONE

We have returned to regular worship on Wednesdays and Sundays at 10AM! You can connect easily by the Internet or a toll-free call. All services are recorded, so if you can watch it at any time of day. Please leave a comment so that we know that you participated.



You do NOT need to have an account on Facebook or Zoom to participate; a telephone will suffice. I will email you the Sunday service materials, including the readings.

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalchurchlewistownpa/live>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82334928109>
Meeting ID: 823 3492 8109

By phone: +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 823 3492 8109

MUSIC IN SEPTEMBER

Josh Evert will return to St. Mark's on a regular basis. We are grateful for his gifts.



Josh Evert

REST IN PEACE

We grieve with Joyce Sabol and her family over the sudden loss of Jim on August 22.



BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER



On August 25 we served a delicious meal (hoagie, chips, and cookie) from the OIP on Main Street to about 40 people – and all meals were gone within 10 minutes. We needed 55 meals, and that's what we'll order in September. We distributed the meals in front of the church, and all of us wore masks and gloves. We were glad to see familiar faces and to meet some new people. Thanks so much for the loyal volunteers who help each month.



MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD

In August Mother Hubbard's Cupboard served 121 people, including 2 new families. We have implemented new safety procedures to help protect both our volunteers and our client by distributing the food outside our building. We are also discussing how we can operate safely when cold weather arrives as well as the need to improve the safety and appearance of the entrance to MHC.



Mother Hubbard's Cupboard— Covid 19 Style!!

HOME VISITATIONS AND PASTORAL NEEDS

Father John will do the pastoral visits to minimize the health risks to other members of the parish. He will follow the same safeguards as we are using for communion at St. Mark's. If you would like him to visit you, please contact him (jtharwood@comcast.net or 814-571-0687). He will follow appropriate safety guidelines when he is with you.



COMMITTEE REPORTS (CEMETERY AND COLUMBARIUM, PASTORAL CARE, PROPERTY, AND SAFETY)

So that we can accommodate more than twenty-five people at Christmas and Easter, we will install a speaker in the parish house that will enable us to “broadcast” the service from the church. We will arrange the seating so that we have social distancing, and Father Harwood will bring communion to everyone there. A speaker will also be a boon for our annual meeting as well as for community meetings.

The construction of our new steps began on August 23 and will be completed in a week or so. We have preserved the “trinity” emblem from the previous railing and will install it on the new one in the spirit of “something old, something new.”

We have visited all of our shut-ins in person except for Judy Kline, who is a resident at Ohesson. Judy will appreciate cards and phone calls!



DIOCESAN SURVEY

As part of our “Shaped by Faith” initiative, the Diocese would like every parish to survey its members about “who we are.” When you think about St. Mark's, what are we like as a parish? Please base your responses on *your* experience in worship and in parish life. What do you think is most distinctive, for example, about how we worship – the style of our worship? What is most important to you personally? What is least important?

But worship is only part of the story. So many of us volunteer in so many ways that it's hard to say exactly what St. Mark's is. Please complete the survey and return it to the Church office. We need to submit our responses by September 7. You may complete the survey online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NMDY22T>

We will share the results with you when they are available.

St. Mark's Prayer List

Prayer List: Patty Attivo, Jacqueline Benevento, Ralph Bitner, Dennis Bossinger, Bob Briar, Lisa Briar, Tyler Burris, Dottie Casner, Peggy Collins, Lew Copenhaver, Heather Creighton, Amanda Ergler, Shirley Ferguson, Richard Flood, Marcia Folk, Dick, Josh Hohol, Dolores Houser, Angela Kaler, Bruce Kinsey, Judy Kline, James Krepps, Martie Marquez, Pam Lawson, Hugh McKee, Marsha Lynch-Mock, Austin James Moore, David Moore, Virginia Nace, Gabriel Newman, Amy Reeder, Makenzie Shearer, Vicky Shoemaker, Joseph Smith, Gwen Swisher, Steven Sunday and Family, Laura Tate, Henry Walk, Jackie Walk, William Wilson, Stella Wright and Ashley.

Pray for Lloyd A. Gessaman 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.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4—Michele Harden Lasher
- 6—Michelle Bitner
- 14—Carol Henry
- 15—Diann Pinkerton
- 17—Evelyn Wilson
- 18—Theodore 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.



Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
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 Telephone: 717-248-8327
www.stmark-lewistown.org
 The Right Rev. Dr. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop, Diocese of Central PA
 Father John T. Harwood, Priest-in-Charge
St. Mark's Vestry
 Blair Hannon, Senior Warden - Hal Jenkinson, Junior Warden
 Deb Vaughn, Clerk
 Dan Dillon, Lillian Myers,
 Jane Smith, and Robin Wilson
 Deb Vaughn—Coordinator of Pastoral Ministries
 Joseph Sikorsky—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.

