

St. Mark's Messenger (July 2023)

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS



A highlight of June was celebrating not only Father's Day but Scouts' Sunday. It was so much fun to have four scouts and their parents with us. The Scouts' oath also went very well with the sermon! And I was also delighted to see Fred and Cynthia in their Scout uniforms: what a lifetime of service to youths in our community.

In Joanne's absence, we have been blessed by Jonah Glunt, a graduate student in engineering at Penn State. Who says that engineers can't also be accomplished musicians? We will be delighted when Joanne returns,

but we have been very well served during her absence by people in new roles for them.



In the past two months many people have stepped into new roles. Dan Dillon and Deb Vaughn are taking care of our bookkeeping; Jane Smith and Lynn Conklin are our new money counters; and Phyllis Sikorsky is helping with the bulletins and the *Messenger*. Jeff Baumgardner is a new volunteer at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. At our Wednesday service Bob Welham has become our regular chalice.



Our pastoral care team (Tracey Mckee, Blair Hannon, Phyllis Sikorsky, and me) has been very busy with our sick and shut-ins. Phyllis and I brought communion to Bob Briar just a few days before he died. On one Sunday in June, when we had three folks in the hospital (two in the ICU), we were able to see each person at least once.

The volunteers at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard are serving twice the number of persons they served six months ago. Think of all the goods that have been delivered, unpacked, sorted, and distributed in the past month. Lillian will soon be able to tell us how much the foods weigh, and you will be astonished by the number.



The glory of small churches is their capacity to “step up” gracefully and flexibly to the needs of the parish and the community.

We have some wonderful things coming later this summer. Of course, we’ll have our church picnic in August, but we are also beginning a new series of presentations called “First Sunday at St. Mark’s.” We will invite our neighbors to hear presentations on current topics of interest. On August 6, our first speaker will be Dr. Graham Spanier, who served as president of Penn State for 16 years. He will discuss not only his most recent book, *In the Lion’s Den: The Penn State Scandal and the Rush to Judgment*, but his experience of leading a major university in tumultuous times. The presentation will be at 2PM. Please invite a friend or neighbor.

Father John✠

TRANSITIONS

Two of our parishioners had big changes in June. Robin Wilson retired after 30+ years of teaching elementary school students. What a blessing she has been for children, parents, and other teachers.

Dr. Kim Kolonich moved to southern Virginia so that she could be closer to her daughter Renee, who is a resident in the emergency medicine program at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Kim was not just a parishioner; she was the beloved family doctor for so many people in the community. Her new address is

1400 Pantigo Lane
Apt. 207
Chesapeake, VA 23320

MEN’S BREAKFAST

We will meet at a new location on Saturday, July 1, at 8AM: Vince’s (311 South Logan Blvd, Burnham). Bring a friend!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ST. MARK'S



You will receive in early July your pledge statement for the first half of the year. If you are not current on your pledge, will you please make every effort to catch up? If you do not think that you will be able to meet your pledge, please see Father John. If you are current, then thank you for your faithfulness.

St. Mark’s is supported by about 25 households. Every contribution matters. If you are able to give extra, please do so. It makes a difference.

MOTHER HUBBARD’S CUPBOARD AND BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

We are seeing strong indicators that the need for food assistance is rising sharply. Consider the total number of people we served in the past four months: an increase of 104% between December and May. Last year MHC spent about \$5,000 per month on food, but this year we will need to increase that amount significantly to keep pace with demand. Please help if you can!

December	468	individuals
January	535	individuals
February	560	individuals
March	714	individuals
April	851	individuals (365 families; 27 new families & 73 new individuals)
May	960	individuals (395 families; 36 new families & 106 new individuals)

To better serve our clients and volunteers, we will make improvements to the space available by MHC. We will return from the Parish House to the original space in the rectory but redesign the space. You are invited to see the new space when it’s completed.

WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS

We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month; and we pray especially for Ralph Bitner, Sharon Copenhaver, Mary Daily, Tony Hatfield-Nicholson, Carole Mease, Steve Myers, Willa Silverman, Lynn Stricker, Deb Vaughn, Patty Wagner, Evelyn Wilson, and Bill Wilson.

We pray for the faithful departed. May their souls rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.

We pray also for those serving in the military as well as for President Joe Biden and Governor Josh Shapiro. We pray for the leaders of our church, especially our Presiding Bishop (Michael Curry), our Bishop (Audrey Scanlon), our priest (Father John) and our worship leaders, readers, ushers, and altar guild. We all serve in the name of Jesus, son of God.

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

3–Georgia Olson 4–United State of America 9–Phyllis Sikorsky 11–Cathy Beers	O GOD, OUR TIMES ARE IN YOUR HAND: LOOK WITH FAVOR, WE PRAY, ON YOUR SERVANT 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.
--	--

13 – 60 th anniversary of Tony & Sharon Hatfield-Nicholson 19–Jackie Leight 23–Fred McKinley	
--	--

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR JULY 4



Because the fourth of July falls on Tuesday, we will celebrate the national holiday on July 2 with some traditional American music, including the Star Spangled Banner. Yes, it has more than one verse, and we'll sing each of them as well favorites like "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "America the Beautiful" and "My country, tis of thee."

On the Fourth, we'll fly the flag in front of our house as you can see in this picture. Let us remember that our great experiment in democracy is just that: an experiment. It is too soon to determine whether we can live up to our ideals and principles.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
21 S Main Street
Lewistown, PA 17044