

St. Mark's Messenger (June and July 2024)

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS



planning the trip since Christmas, and we will return well before the Olympic games begin.

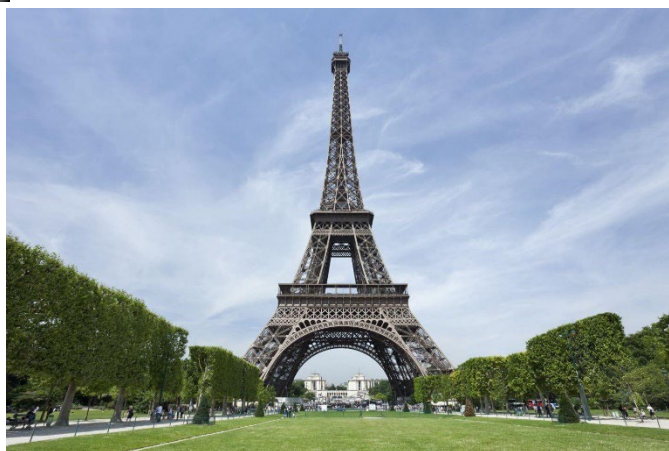
Yes, we will do all of the things that tourists do: visit the Eiffel tower and climb to the top (oh, my aching knees!) just for the view. We'll even take the boat tour on the Seine just so Elina can see how the river truly does wind through the ancient city. We won't be able to visit inside the Notre Dame cathedral because it is not quite restored after his catastrophic fire five years ago, but we will admire its grandeur despite the scaffolding. The building dates from the 1200s.

St. Mark's will be busy, productive, and joyful this summer. We hope to find new ways to socialize with our neighbors. Who doesn't like strawberries and ice cream on a Sunday? When Tracey McKee led our first participation in KidConnection in early May, we had no idea how many children and adults would come to the church. We were delighted to talk with more than 100 people, several of whom also toured the church.

We are also meeting new people through Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Did you know that we've distributed at least two dozen Bibles in English and Spanish in the past month or so? Through our "First Sunday" presentations we've greeted several hundred more people.

We've made it: summer is truly here. Because of the mild spring, the berries will be early; because of the wet spring, corn will be late. Truly, we will be able to enjoy the fruit of the earth when the farmers' markets begin to share all that God has provided.

For our summer vacation, Kathryn and I will be taking our 12-year-old grandchild, Elina, to Paris for eight days. We have been



In the past twelve months, moreover, we have been enriched by seven new regulars: Rob and Carol, Pete, Albert, Elijah, Aquila, and Wade. “Friendship Evangelism” starts with a smile and an invitation. Jesus made it simple: “Come and see.” **Father John**✝

CONGRATULATIONS

Aquila Harshbarger graduated from Belleville Mennonite School on May 29. He will be a student at Harrisburg Area Community College in the fall. Along with his brother Elijah, he is a new lector (reader) in our Sunday service. Both of these young men also helped with KidConnection in May. We are so grateful to have them at St. Mark’s

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. Last year MHC spent about \$4,000 per month on food. Please help if you can!

	Total
December	513
January	574
February	543
March	464
April	614 (24% are children under the age of 18; 22% are seniors)

At our monthly Breaking Bread Together meals, we are enjoying the cooking of chef Peter Carry and his large number of helpers. All members of the parish are invited to enjoy the food and fellowship with our guests. During Lent we found two families who decided to worship with us after coming to a meal. You know the hymn: “Let us break bread together.”

PROPERTY UPDATES

We have worked very hard to beautify our grounds. Do take a stroll in our backyard and Memorial Garden. We also talked with PennDot (which owns the tiny parking lot across

from the Church Office) about removing the dead tree and brush and planting a low-maintenance shrub like forsythia and perhaps some bulbs. They have blessed our efforts! In addition, we are gathering information on how we could reduce our utility bills: it's not just about the money, it's about stewardship of the planet. Can we respond to the challenge of reducing our use of natural gas and electricity by 10% or even 25% within the next five years? What are our options, and what are the costs and benefits of each choice? We have exactly one planet; there is no Planet B. How can we preserve it for the next ten generations at St. Mark's?

PRAYER LIST

We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries as well as for our sick and shut-ins: Ralph Bitner, Sharon Copenhaver, Mary Daily, Edie Fogelman, Angela Kaler, Shirley Mancino, Tony Hatfield-Nicholson, Doris McKee, Carole Mease, Jane Smith, Lynn Stricker, Patty Wagner, and Evelyn Wilson.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

10: Joe Sikorsky; 20: 53rd Anniversary of Charles and Dawn Phillips; 22: John Michael Aitkin; 30: Susan Beers

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

3: Georgia Olson; 9: Phyllis Sikorsky; 11: Cathy Beers; 13: 61th anniversary of Tony & Sharon Hatfield-Nicholson; 23: Fred McKinley

MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS THIS SUMMER



In July Joanne Yang will visit her family in Taiwan, so we will have a guest pianist for that month. We will sing many of our favorite hymns. If you have requests, please let Father John know.

We will also have special concerts by two of our talented soloists. On Sunday, July 14, at 2PM Josh Evert will sing "golden



oldies,” and on Sunday, August 3, at 2PM, Kaley Yeager will showcase her gifts with a selection of classical, religious, and contemporary music. Both will be accompanied by Jonah Glunt, a doctoral student in mechanical engineering who has a minor in piano from Penn State.

You will NOT want to miss these concerts. Can you invite a friend and neighbor?

PEW CUSHIONS

Have you ever noticed how hard the pews are? We have a solution: pew cushions. For approximately \$10,000, we can have comfortable, attractive cushions in every pew. Few people have already pledged \$2,500, so we're 25% of the way to our goal. Please let Father John know if you would like to contribute to this project.



**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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