



the EPISTLE



The Monthly Parish Newsletter of
SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
APRIL 2021 • ISSUE 265

MEANDERING FROM THE INTERIM

So where do we go from here?

Some will receive this during Holy Week and most after Easter. So, my question to you is this; "Where do we go from here?"

So many things have happened since the "non-Easter" of 2020. We continue to weather the "Virus," we have been surveyed, attended focus groups, zoomed constantly, published the Parish Profile, been vaccinated (and continue to be), and now slowly moving back into "The Church." I know there is much more that you can add.

So, where do we go from here? My prayer is NOT to go back to "business as normal!" We have to recognize life has changed. As of April 4th, our lives are incredibly different. You might of thought I was going to write about "post-pandemic," but I am not. I am speaking "post-resurrection!"

He has Risen! (Unfortunately, we already know this.) My question though is still, where do we go from here? I just recently heard this quote and it make sense in finding our post Easter direction; "What happens in Church doesn't stay in Church."

Where do we go, we take Easter in to the margins of our community? We identify ourselves as Resurrection People and be the Good News to those we encounter in the journey.

Chris +

C. Christopher Thompson+
Transitional Priest-in-Charge

FROM YOUR SEARCH COMMITTEE:



Just as Lent is a quiet and reflective period of preparation so now is the work of the Search Committee. Over the next few weeks we will be "quiet" about the work of the committee as we wait, reflect and discern about the person who will become our next rector. This process must be done with utmost confidentiality out of respect for the candidates we will receive. Please continue to hold the committee in your prayers as well as potential candidates. Thank you for your patience during this next phase of the search for our new rector. If you have questions please contact Elizabeth Anstaett, chair of the committee.

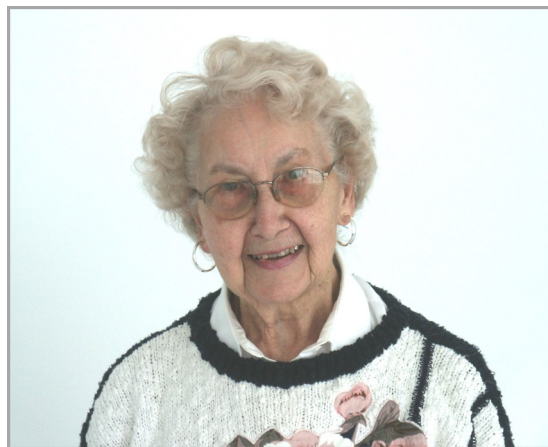
To the Members of Saint Mark's:

As Executor of the estate of my mother, Nancy B. Johnston, I am pleased to enclose a check for \$5,000 - her bequest to Saint Mark's endowment. She died on April 20, 2020 at her home in First Community Village.

The six remaining children of Nancy and the Rev. Eldred W. Johnston have many wonderful memories from growing up at Saint Mark's, and I especially enjoyed looking at the wonderful history section on your website from the material published by Elizabeth Webber and Clyde Tipton, whom I knew well. I recognized many others (friends, youth leaders and Sunday School teachers) that we remember so fondly and who were such good role models for us and encouraged us in our life in Christ.

I note that you are conducting a search for your next rector during the pandemic. As chair of our search committee at St. James', Lothian, MD, I can say that we not only survived conducting this search during the pandemic, but we thrived, and the Holy Spirit led us to just the right rector for us who joined us on January 1st. I was also very pleased to see that Gloria Wylie is on your search committee, as she was one of many who were so kind and faithful visiting and calling Mom over the years.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Johnston Mack
Executor



Nancy B. Johnston (1921 - 2020)

FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE

The return of in-person worship will lend a welcome air of normalcy to our observance of Holy Week this year. It is perhaps easy to forget that our first Zoom worship service took place on Palm Sunday last year, just days after Bishop Breidenthal made the difficult decision to suspend in-person worship throughout the diocese in response to the growing spread of COVID-19. As a staff, it will be a great blessing both to welcome worshippers back to services on these high holy days this year as well as to be able to stream these services for those who are not yet comfortable attending in person.

Although many aspects of our Holy Week liturgies will feel relatively normal in comparison to last year, one glaring difference from a typical year will be the absence of live group singing from these services. Choral music and congregational singing are deeply important parts of the Holy Week liturgies, and their absence this year will be deeply felt by many. Even so, the music staff is working hard to supply as much of the typical Holy Week music as possible, using the organ, our cantors, and numerous virtual choir videos.

We have been blessed in recent months by the outstanding organ music of our Interim Organist, Robert Wisniewski, as well as by the beautiful voices of our cantors Steve Barker and Margaret Wells, who have supplied live chanting and hymns during services since October. Steve and Margaret will be singing for all the major services of Holy Week, allowing us to include nearly all the beautiful hymnody that we typically use for these services. Virtual choir videos will allow us to include choral music in some form for each of the main services.

Planned highlights include:

Palm Sunday:

- ◆ Hymns 154, 168, and 474
- ◆ Organ voluntaries by Johannes Brahms and David N. Johnson
- ◆ Virtual choir anthem (section leaders): *Pueri Hebraeorum* (Tomás Luis de Victoria)

Maundy Thursday:

- ◆ Hymns 171, 315, 331, and 577
- ◆ Organ voluntaries by Seth Bingham
- ◆ Virtual choir anthem (section leaders): *Ave verum corpus* (William Byrd)

Good Friday:

- ◆ Hymns 158, 166, and 458
- ◆ Organ voluntaries by Johannes Brahms and Robert Wisniewski
- ◆ Virtual choir anthem (Cappella San Marco): *Adoramus te* (Quirino Gasparini)

Easter Vigil:

- ◆ Exsultet (chanted by Matthew Bester)
- ◆ Hymns 174 and 205
- ◆ Organ voluntary by Marcel Dupré

Easter Day:

- ◆ Hymns 192, 199, 207, and 210 (Hymn 207 presented virtually by both the Saint Mark's Choir and Canterbury Choir)
- ◆ Organ voluntaries by Johann Sebastian Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude, Marcel Dupré, and Charles Villiers Stanford
- ◆ Virtual choir anthem (Canterbury Choir): *Let All the World Be Glad and Sing* (Natalie Sleeth)
- ◆ Virtual choir anthem (Saint Mark's Choir): *Sing Ye to the Lord* (Edward Bairstow)

CHILDREN & YOUTH FORMATION

9:45 a.m. on Sundays via Zoom

To receive Weekly Notes for Children, Youth, and Families, email Formation1@saintmarkscolumbus.org.

Gradually Resuming In-Person Children and Youth Formation

We are making plans for a gradual return to the classrooms and Saint Mark's outdoor space in addition to remote format beginning April 11. More details will be forthcoming in the Weekly Notes for Children, Youth, and Families, and on the Saint Mark's website.



Saint Mark's to Host Columbus Area Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday

The Diocese recently announced Bishop visitations and confirmations across the diocese will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, from 2 pm to 4 pm at three locations: Saint Mark's in Columbus with Bishop Gibbs presiding; Christ Church in Dayton, Bishop Price presiding; and Saint Timothy's in Cincinnati, Bishop Rivera presiding.

The Saint Mark's 2021 Confirmation Class currently includes nine youth and one adult and will be joined by confirmands from parishes throughout Columbus and the surrounding areas. Saint Mark's confirmands completed Father Chris' course, "Episcopal 101" in February, and in addition, the diocese Formation team is offering a five-week, diocesan-wide confirmation class via Zoom on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm beginning April 13. Registration is required: <https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/diocesan-confirmation-class-2021/>

Plans are under way for the Columbus Area Confirmation ceremony at Saint Mark's and details will be available on the Saint Mark's website as they are...well...confirmed.

Saint Mark's on Spring Break - A personal reflection on finding sacred space

Each week in Children's Chapel we gather in a circle around a table that is dressed to look much like the altar in the sanctuary. In the center is a cross flanked by tall white candles. We light them to remind us of the presence of God among us. At the end of our service we change the light, and it reminds us God is the creator of all, including things we cannot see. I love this ritual.

So when the pandemic sent us all home, I cleared off a bookshelf and added a cross and two candles. Over the months of Formation by Zoom this new altar I made for weekly Children's Chapel became part of my own personal sacred space. A place set apart from the rest of the furniture and books and bills and bric-a-brac. A place of reverence and a space I use to clear my thoughts and connect to God.

In March our family took a 10-day Spring Break road trip to Florida. When we arrived at our hotel on that Saturday night, my first thought was to decide where I would set up for Children's Chapel. I did not bring candles or a cross, but I did have Powerpoint slides with a recording of the hymn, the colors and symbols of Lent, and a photo of Saint Mark's altar. After Children's Chapel we could livestream the worship service and "be" in the sacred space of Saint Mark's nave and sanctuary while sitting in our hotel room.

Throughout that week, I found sacred space in our time playing and laughing with each other, deciding things together, sharing small spaces and having patience with one another, posing for selfies, being tolerant of temporary life on the road, and the hundreds of slug bugs that happen between here and Florida and back. An unseen, shared sacred space.

On our final day, a Sunday, we did not have good enough Internet reception to join either Children and Youth Formation or Online Worship. And as we drove through the winding back roads of South Carolina and Tennessee I thought of the Old Testament reading for that day. Jeremiah 31:31-34, in which God makes a new covenant with the people of Israel: "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts." It reminds me that we can find God in the special things we create and keep, the things we hear, or touch, or see. We can find God in our relationships and the in between places we can't see. And, if we remember to look there, we will find God in our hearts--that sacred space that is always with us.

-Joanne Drew



WHAT HAS THE OUTREACH MINISTRY BEEN UP TO?

This month we'd like to tell you about last year's activities of the Outreach Ministry on behalf of St. Mark's parish.

Let's start with an understanding of the Outreach Ministry Funding. For the last six years or so, Outreach has received \$6600 per year from the vestry to be used for Outreach projects. Outreach used these funds to make grants and pay expenses related to activities with our partner agencies. Our gifts were relatively small due to our modest budget. The Committee tried to limit gifts to agencies with which we were actually volunteering our time.

Over the last several years the Outreach Ministry has received three large bequests from deceased members of St. Mark's. The first was a \$10,000 bequest in 2018 from Joan Maynard with the hope it could benefit young children. This gift led to our partnership with Trinity Episcopal to be used for the Layette Ministry. Then in late 2019, there was a \$33,000 designation for Outreach by the Vestry from the Muskoff bequest which allowed Outreach to make larger gifts to our current partners, such as a large gift to NNEMAP to allow for the purchase of a new computer system to operate their expanded operations (you have to be able to manage the operation if you want to continue to give away food). Finally, in December 2020, the vestry designated \$10,000 from a third bequest, with the request that the funds be spent in 2020. This led to large gifts in December to the Open Shelter and NNEMAP, both of which were intended to help alleviate the impact of the pandemic.

The other change to the Outreach budget over that last few years was an acceleration of member gifts earmarked specifically for Outreach. For the last two years this has been about \$7500 a year.

These wonderful gifts have led to changes in the way the Outreach Ministry spends its funds. They have also led to a debate on how fast the legacy gifts should be spent, and how much should be reserved for years when there are fewer gifts and our partners still have needs. The Outreach Ministry continues to work through these issues.

The Outreach Ministry Committee would like to thank the parish for its wonderful support of the Outreach Ministry. Everyone is welcome to join us at our meetings or our activities. Our boots on the ground activities have been fewer during the pandemic, but we hope those will accelerate this year.

A most unusual year

Normally, St. Mark's Outreach ministry includes

- monthly in-person meetings at which everyone is welcome, and
- a great deal of hands-on work by parish members, both individually and in organized projects.

Since March 8, 2020 all meetings have been on Zoom, and social distancing rules have eliminated many chances for hands-on volunteering. E.g., cancelling our annual Labor Day Bake Sale and pre-Christmas Cookie Walk meant a sad loss of opportunities for fellowship as well as fundraising.

At the same time we've been blessed with some exceptional financial gifts, which we have used to help allay harms caused by the pandemic.

Funding – Amounts received and spent

Beginning Budget Balance*	\$46,784*
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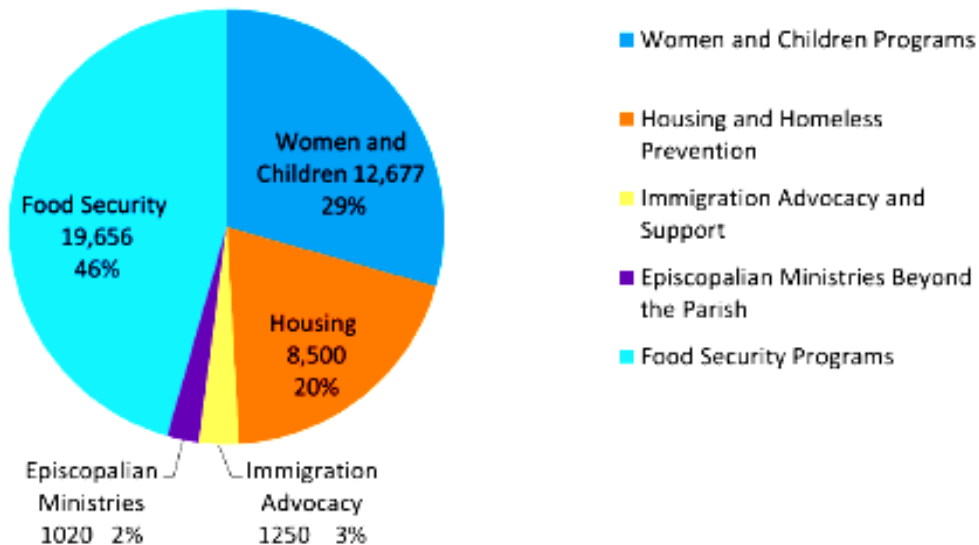
*2020 beginning balance was larger than normal due to a \$33,000 bequest designated for Outreach in late 2019.

Income Received in 2020

Vestry annual budget appropriation	\$6,600
Donations earmarked for Outreach	7,899
Vestry designation of a portion of a large bequest for Outreach	10,000
Interest on a certificate of deposit	431
Total received in 2020	\$24,930

Expenditures in 2020

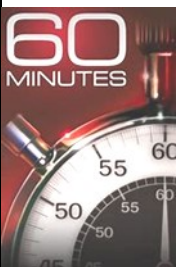
	Percentage of Budget	Dollar Amount
Food Security Programs	46%	\$19,655.59
Women and Children Programs	29%	12,627.31
Housing and Homeless Prevention Programs	20%	8,500.00
Immigration Advocacy and Support	3%	1,250.00
Episcopal Ministries Beyond the Parish	2%	1,020.20
Total spent in 2020	100%	\$43,053.10



Programs Making Up Each Category

- **Food Security Programs**
 - NNEMAP Food Pantry
 - St. John's "His Place" dinners
 - St. John's Street Church lunches
- **Women and Children Programs**
 - Layette Program at Trinity Church, McArthur
 - Women Affirming Women, respite retreat
 - School Supplies
 - Human Trafficking Survivors (She Has a Name, CATCH and FREEDOM)
 - Giving Tree and Adopt a Family Christmas Programs
- **Housing and Homeless Prevention Programs**
 - Open Shelter
 - Habitat for Humanity
- **Immigration Advocacy and Support**
 - CRIS- Community Refugee and Immigration Services
 - Artisans Beyond Borders
 - Episcopal Migration Services
- **Support of Episcopal Ministries Beyond the Parish**
 - United Thank Offering
 - Episcopal Relief and Development
 - St. John's Church, presence + ministry in Franklinton

PANDEMIC PERILS IN COLUMBUS HIGHLIGHTED



In case you missed it, Columbus was prominently featured on the CBS show *60 Minutes* last month. They took an in-depth look at the impact of the pandemic on the people of Columbus. They met with the Mid-Ohio Food Pantry about the increase in the need for food by both the working poor and those who were firmly in the middle class prior to the pandemic. They then looked at Starr House that provides shelter services for teens and young adults and how the pandemic has limited their ability to provide those services, often resulting in turning away teens when they are full. Finally they talked about the services needed for those living in tents, and what Mt Carmel is doing to reach out to them. So much of what they showed mirrors the efforts of the Outreach Ministry and focused on groups with whom we have partnered. During this pandemic we have increased our support for the homeless through the Open Shelter, and are looking to do more. We have increased our gifts to NNEMAP to allow them to supply food to additional families. But there is so much more to be done.



We'd like to share this NNEMAP story that shows how important NNEMAP is in the lives of the clients. NNEMAP provides so much more than just food:

You never know what's going to happen at NNEMAP Food Pantry. Take this recent customer's adventure, for example. Kendra (name changed) sent a request for free grocery delivery service right after the New Year. It was January 4th—our first business day of 2021. Pantry Manager Jim Hamberg called Kendra back to confirm the request and set up a delivery time. Business as usual.

The next day, business took an unusual turn. Kendra called Jim back to cancel the delivery request. "I do not have money for rent, so I am probably going to get evicted. I don't know where we will be, so I don't know where to tell you to deliver," she explained.

A year ago, Kendra was a working, single mother of a middle-school aged son. Like many families, they had enough to get by as long as nothing crazy happened. Then the Covid-19 pandemic struck. The first wave of shutdowns left Kendra without a job. After finally finding a new, full-time job that would be sufficient to support her household, she was diagnosed with Covid-19 as part of a final, pre-employment screening. After seeing the positive Covid test, the employer rescinded Kendra's job offer.

In less than 48 hours, Kendra and her 12-year-old son were going to be out on the street in the dead of winter with no food and no place to go. That was not acceptable. Jim and NNEMAP Food Pantry Executive Director Roy Clark found a nearby organization that would help Kendra pay her rent. A couple of phone calls later, Kendra's rent was paid and she could stay safely at home. Crucially, avoiding eviction will keep a blemish off Kendra's credit rating—a negative mark that could haunt her for years to come. Also, staying in her home meant Kendra's son would not miss any school time or transfer to a new school. Countless studies have shown that the effects of missed school time or transferring to a different school have a devastating effect on academic achievement. For a middle school student, missing school or being forced to transfer could have catastrophic effects.

Some quick thinking and good listening helped Kendra avoid a disaster—and helped her son stay on track in the classroom. All in a day's work.

From NNEMAP's Annual Report:

NNEMAP Food Pantry experienced a year of accelerated growth and explosive expansion in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In case you missed it, we....

- Expanded our service territory to include the whole City of Columbus and Franklin County,
- Allowed shoppers to come once a week instead of twice a month,
- Added Thursday afternoon/evening hours so we are now open 6 days a week,
- Introduced a popular grocery delivery service for customers who can't get out.
- As expected given the economic fallout of the pandemic, we were busier than ever distributing food to our friends in the community. By the end of the year we...
- Served 5,137 unique households (up from 3,736 in 2019)
- Served 17,480 unique individuals (11,904 in 2019)
- Fulfilled 18,546 requests for groceries (17,338 in 2019)
- Distributed the equivalent of 605,250 meals (526,731 in 2019).



Thank you to everyone who supported the book drive to benefit the NNEMAP food pantry. A special thank you to the St. Mark's Youth Group who both organized the book drive and collected the books. The clients of NNEMAP will enjoy receiving these reading materials.



Meet another rising star of Freedom a la Cart, Rose. Rose has worked in the Freedom workforce development program for just over 18 months and has truly blown them away by her resilience and dedication to her future.

While at Freedom, Rose graduated from CATCH Court and Amethyst, got her driver's license through Freedom's Driver's License Reinstatement program and continues to work toward acquiring her GED. In addition to this, Rose participated in Freedom's Savings Match Program and purchased a car through Freedom's partnership with Ricart Automotive.

Since gaining her license, Rose has become one of the star delivery drivers for Freedom. You may see her dropping off your Freedom at Home meals in the afternoons. As Freedom continues to expand its meal delivery service, redevelop catering and open a public café, there are opportunities for workforce development participants to grow within the organization. Rose just moved up into a new role as the Delivery Lead! She said "I'm really excited about taking charge of the deliveries, and training people that would like to deliver. I love completing the mission and interacting with the customers."

Rose's dream is to receive her CDL (commercial driver's license), so this opportunity to lead the delivery team is a valuable learning experience. Rose told us, "I want to start out as a truck driver delivering in town, and then work for a trucking company and travel. Freedom is excited to see her flourish and pave her way toward a career."

When asked what Freedom meant to her, Rose stated "Freedom to me means to have my own choices today- I'm not dependent on anything or dependent of someone else, or a drug. The right choice is not always easy or fun. I struggle really bad asking for help from people, but Freedom allows you to ask for help." As Rose continues to make good choices, paving her road to empowerment and asking for help along the way, Freedom could not be more proud of her!

To support women like Rose, consider ordering Meals at Home from Freedom, a weekly delivery service of prepared meals. Go to Freedomalacart.org to order. On your behalf, the Outreach Ministry has donated to the Freedom Savings Match Program.



You may have seen **Star House** featured in a recent 60 Minute episode exploring Homelessness in Columbus. Did you know that the St. Mark's Outreach Committee has recently made a monetary donation to help that organization in its mission to help homeless young people aged 14 - 24?

Star House, located in South Linden, is Central Ohio's only drop-in center for youth who are experiencing homelessness, offering a safe haven where young people can access basic needs, connect with resources and receive ongoing emotional support.

In 2020, Star House joined with Finance Fund and opened a housing option in Franklinton. **Carol Stewart Village** provides affordable housing in a dorm-like setting with lots of support from mentors, peers, educational resources and health care connections.

There will be many ways that volunteers can take part in the mission of Star House, once the current Covid-19 Pandemic is under control. Some of those opportunities will include working in the warehouse (receiving in kind donations), working directly with Star House guests through meal preparation, cleaning, mentoring, and enrichment programs.

There are many ways one can donate to the mission of Star House. If you are interested in making a donation directly please look at the website to find what items are needed and how one can donate.

<https://www.starhouse.us/donate>

If you are interested in helping address the issue of Homelessness through St. Mark's Outreach Committee, please make a contribution to St. Mark's and designate it for Homelessness Ministry.

If you are interested in giving of your time, please consider joining the St. Mark's Outreach Committee and find out the many opportunities for service that are represented there.

IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK'S



Butterfly Garden – Donations Needed!

If you have wandered around the church grounds lately you may have noticed some early blooming bulbs – a sure sign that spring is coming! Last summer when we began planning and forming our butterfly garden, we had a long list of hard work ahead, and work we did! With outstanding assistance from Dave Yeager and Scott, Peter and C.J. Milburn, we plotted and tilled the space, installed irrigation, and amended the soil. Now, we can start the fun stuff... planting!!

If you have butterfly or other pollinator-friendly plants that you might be dividing, we'd love to have donations for our garden. This is a community project, not a formal garden. We are looking for varieties such as Milkweed, Asters, Coneflowers, Phlox, Viola, Coreopsis and Dianthus. Planting can begin once the ground warms and things can be safely transplanted. If you have a plant to donate, please let us know by contacting the office.

ST. MARK'S BOOK CLUB

St. Mark's Book Club will meet on April 19th at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Our chosen book is Old Lovegood Girls by Gail Godwin. Marilyn Smith will be our discussion leader. If you have a suggestion for the book for May 24th, please contact Pat Iams. Any one is welcome to join us, but let Pat know if you would like to come so you can be sent the link to the Zoom. Even if you don't have time to read the book, please feel free to join us! See you soon!



BIRTHDAY BAGS! BIRTHDAY BAGS!

The Women's Respite program is back this year after a COVID hiatus. For those of you who aren't familiar with Women's Respite, it is a mini-vacation hosted for up to 25 single moms. This year it will be a 3-day, 2-night stay at Ohio Dominican University. It will be packed with fun, crafts, spas, and wonderful meals and snacks. (It will be held July 23-25.)

One of the most fun activities is a surprise birthday party during lunch on the last day, complete with birthday cake. At that time, the team presents each participant with a Birthday Bag filled with all sorts of goodies just for them.

St. Mark's women have been asked to provide 12 bags. In the past, women have paired up to fill a bag, although if you would like to do one yourself, that's fine.

You might expect to spend \$50-75 to fill a bag. Below is a list of suggestions you might want to include in your bag. Please know that you *don't need to include everything on the list*. They are suggestions only.

I will supply the actual bags. Please contact Anice Ellis if you wish to sign up or have questions.

Let's help to make a group of single moms happy! After all, some of these women may never have had a birthday party or get gifts for their birthdays.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Shampoo | • Washcloth |
| • Conditioner | • Scrubbies |
| • Body lotion | • Nail polish |
| • Body spray | • Polish remover |
| • Fancy bath soap | • Nail file |
| • Shower cap | • Necklaces |
| • Spa candle | • Bracelets |
| • Sunglasses | • Earrings |
| • Fancy flip-flops | • T-shirts: L & XL sizes |
| • Bath towel | • Scarves |
| • Hand towel | |

IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK'S

SUPPER GROUP

We will continue meeting on the first Saturday of each month. **All ages, singles, and couples are welcome.** If you are interested in joining us, please forward your email address to gawylie@att.net and you will be included in future meeting notifications.

Zoom link is:

<https://saintmarkscolumbus.zoom.us/j/96770888927>



STEPHEN MINISTRY

This pandemic and isolation have been causes for loneliness, mild depression, and just plain sadness since we cannot be with family and friends in our normal ways. If you or someone you know is feeling "low" and would like to have a Stephen Minister check in with them, please let Father Chris Thompson or one of our Stephen Leaders (Pat Barton, Michele Johnson, Dianne Silliman) know. Our Stephen Ministers are wonderful lay ministers who will just "listen and walk with parishioners" during a difficult time. Stephen Ministry visits, (mostly by phone due to the weather and the pandemic) are completely confidential and provide an opportunity to share feelings that you may not want to burden your family or friends with. Please consider this wonderful ministry.

SAINT MARK'S MEMBER CARE

The Saint Mark's Member Care ministry has provided meals for a number of parishioners over the past months. We welcome anyone who might be able to fix and deliver a meal or provide a gift card for a meal. If you or someone you know could use a few lovingly prepared meals, or if you would be willing to help, please contact [Michele Johnson](#).

We also have a New Baby ministry which provides a welcoming rose and muffins to families with a new baby in the house. If you know of a family with a new baby, please contact [Regan Bohnert](#) with this information. In addition, if you are interested in helping with either meals or the new baby ministry, please contact Regan.

God Moment #8

What if ... ?

Reader suggestion: read out loud

An Ash Wednesday Awakening

Isaiah 58: 1-12

"Is this not the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke?

Is it not share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom will be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong. And you shall be like a watered garden, like the spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt. You shall raise up the foundations of many generations.

You shall be called the repairer of the breach—the restorer of streets to live in."

This was the first lesson from the Ash Wednesday service. When I finished the lesson, I wondered what if we all, everywhere, in 2021, lived into this Ash Wednesday lesson? - *Jim Keyes*

SAINT MARK'S MIGRATION MINISTRIES

*This call for volunteers below was shared with our Migration Committee by
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tucson, Arizona. Many of the opportunities can be done remotely – from Ohio.
If you need further information, please contact Joyce Acton*

Once a Benedictine Monastery, Casa Alitas is a migrant shelter in Tucson, Arizona, who welcomes migrants seeking asylum in the United States, by offering food, clothing, and support as they go through the arduous process of seeking refuge. Almost entirely staffed by volunteers from every denomination and church in Tucson, Alitas is a 24-hour operation which prepares each of its guests to make their final journey.

One of the intake coordinators recently commented about fighting stereotypes: Kat Rodriguez said the families she works with every day are not in the United States illegally but are in the legal process of claiming asylum. "They're not undocumented. These are folks that are in process," Rodriguez said. "I think one of the most frustrating comments I hear is people saying, 'Why can't they just do it the right way?' This is literally the right way."

The U.S. allows people who have fled their country and who are seeking legal protection in the U.S. to apply for asylum, and there's no way to ask in advance, "you just have to show up," according to Olga Byrne, the [International Rescue Committee's](#) director of immigration.

After ICE processes the migrants, they usually stay at Casa Alitas for one to three days until they can travel to sponsors throughout the country – usually friends or family members who already are established in the U.S.



"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" - Matthew 25:35-36

WE NEED YOU

We have already started to see a steady up flow of guests with groups of 12-15 arriving every day. We are expecting these numbers to increase very soon, and so are in need of having all hands on deck! There are both in-person, onsite opportunities and at-home, virtual, opportunities to help:

- Individuals who speak Spanish and can provide intakes from home remotely.
- Individuals who speak Spanish to help with contacting sponsors to make travel arrangements, updating spreadsheets and arranging drivers. This could be in-house or from home.
- Do you have a mental health background? Social work, psychology, therapist, or chaplain? We'd love to have you on our Trauma Support Team. This team will provide mental health and psychosocial support to guests, volunteers and staff, on-site or virtually. Spanish is a plus, but not required. Meeting and training will start soon.
- If you have not volunteered with us in over a year, and/or if you have never attended a volunteer orientation, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/sic3gGmw8hNCWdfB8>
- Please contact Sarah at alitasvolunteers@gmail.com if interested in meeting any of these needs!

Blessings,
Sarah M Reed
Program Coordinator, Casa Alitas Welcome Center

ARE YOU USING THE SAINT MARK'S ONLINE DIRECTORY YET?

Hopefully by now you have learned how to access our directory on the internet AND you have installed the ShelbyNext App on your cell phone. It is easy to do! Here are the instructions. If you cannot take the time to learn this today, then cut it out of the Epistle and post it on your refrigerator door so you will not forget to do it later! There is a list of people who can help you provided at the end of this message.

Instructions for logging in and using the Saint Mark's directory:

Logging in and updating your profile.

- Go to the St. Mark's website (<http://www.saintmarkscolumbus.org/>) and scroll down to the Parish directory button on far left.
- Click on it and this will bring up the login page.
- If you have not already set up your password, enter your email address and click on Forgot Password?
- You will get a window that will require your email address. Enter it and click on Send Password.
- You will then get an email with a password. (Note: If you do not get an email back, it is because we do not have your email address in the directory. Call Melanie to have her add your email address to your record.)
- Go Back to the Saint Mark's website directory tab and enter your email address and the password to login.
- You are now in the directory. On the upper right corner is a circle with your initials.
- Click on your initials and that will bring up your profile. Read through it to verify that the information is correct.
- If any information needs to be changed click on Edit below your name. Correct anything that needs changing and hit Save at the bottom of the page.

Using the Directory on a computer or tablet.

- You can access the directory from the first small icon on the left and it will go directly to a list of members. You can advance through the list by going to the bottom of the page and picking a page number.
- A better way to find someone is to use the Search Bar at the top which will take you directly to the person you are searching for. A fast way to search for a name is with the first few letters of their first and last name. For example, type in "ph gla" to the search bar and it will find Phil Glandon.
- You can check your giving history by clicking on the little heart on the far left. Scroll down to see a record of your pledges and gifts to the church.
- If you click on Give Now, it will take you to the donation page where you can follow the steps to make a gift to the church.
- If you click on Statement you can download a statement of your giving.
- You can click on Account to change your Password.
- Note that you can see your own birthday including the year, but no one else can see your birth year or age. Likewise, you cannot see other members ages. If you would like to block any other information from the rest of our members, please let Melanie know and she can block that information.

Using the Directory on your smart phone.

- Install the "ShelbyNext" App on your phone.
- After it is installed it will ask you for: a domain name, your email, and a password. You will be asked the domain name which is saintmarkscolumbus.shelbynextchms.com
- Enjoy exploring the App!

Need help?

Contact any of the following people who have been trained on the ShelbyNext Membership software. Melanie Jacobs, Joanne Drew, Phil or Lynn Glandon, Robbie Hurley, Bruce or Michele Johnson, Julia Johnson-Davis, Judy Leach, or Gloria Wylie. Thanks to Gloria for writing up these instructions!

Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday

6:15 PM & 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

7:30 PM: Holy Eucharist (Indoors, In Person)

Friday, April 2 - Good Friday

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

7:30 PM: Holy Eucharist (Indoors, In Person)

8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)

Saturday, April 3 - Eve of Easter

6:30 PM: Supper Group (Zoom)

7:30 PM: The Great Vigil of Easter w/ Holy Communion (Indoors, In Person)

Sunday, April 4 - Easter

Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson

9:00 AM: Holy Eucharist (Outdoors, In Person)

11:00 AM: Holy Eucharist (Indoors, In Person and Live Streamed)

8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Monday, April 5

5:30 PM: AA - Men's Group (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, April 6

1:15 PM: Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)

3:00 PM: Staff Meeting (Zoom), Women of St. Mark's (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 7

8:00 AM: Wednesday Eucharist (Nave)

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

7:00 PM: Prayer Group (Zoom)

7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)

Thursday, April 8

5:30 PM: Stephen Ministry Meeting (Zoom)

6:15 PM & 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Friday, April 9

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)

Sunday, April 11

Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Indoors, In Person)

9:15 AM: Adult Formation (Zoom)

9:45 AM: Children's Formation (Zoom)

10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Indoors, In Person and Live Streamed)

8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Monday, April 12

5:30 PM: AA - Men's Group (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, April 13

1:15 PM: Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)

3:00 PM: Staff Meeting (Zoom), Women of St. Mark's (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 14

8:00 AM: Wednesday Eucharist (Nave)

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

1:00 PM: Stephen Ministry Meeting (Zoom)

7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)

Thursday, April 15

6:15 PM & 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Friday, April 16

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)

*

Sunday, April 18

Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Indoors, In Person)

9:15 AM: Adult Formation (Zoom)

9:45 AM: Children's Formation (Zoom)

10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Indoors, In Person and Live Streamed)

8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Monday, April 19

5:30 PM: AA - Men's Group (Parish Hall)

7:00 PM: Sisters in Faith (Zoom)

7:30 PM: Saint Mark's Monday Night Book Group (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 20

1:15 PM: Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)

3:00 PM: Staff Meeting (Zoom), Women of St. Mark's (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 21

8:00 AM: Wednesday Eucharist (Nave)

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

7:00 PM: Prayer Group (Zoom)

7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)

Thursday, April 22

6:15 PM & 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Friday, April 23

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)

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Sunday, April 25

Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Indoors, In Person)

9:15 AM: Adult Formation (Zoom)

9:45 AM: Children's Formation (Zoom)

10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Indoors, In Person and Live Streamed)

8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Monday, April 26

5:00 PM: May Epistle Deadline

5:30 PM: AA - Men's Group (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, April 27

1:15 PM: Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)

3:00 PM: Staff Meeting (Zoom), Women of St. Mark's (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 28

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

7:00 PM: Prayer Group (Zoom)

7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)

Thursday, April 29

6:15 PM & 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)

Friday, April 30

8:30 AM: AARP Fdn. Tax Aide Volunteers (Parish Hall)

8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)

SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



2151 DORSET ROAD • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43221 • (614) 486-9452
info@saintmarkscolumbus.org • www.saintmarkscolumbus.org

Staff:

The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson,
Transitional Priest-in-Charge
Dr. Matthew Bester, *Director of Music*
Robert Wisniewski, *Interim Organist*
Gary L. Garber, *Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus*
Dr. Michael Murray, *Organist Emeritus*
Bill Silliman, *Head Verger*
Melanie Jacobs, *Office Manager*
Ministers:
The Entire Saint Mark's Family

Mission Statement:

As a Christ-centered community, the people of Saint Mark's seek a world in which all people share the joy of loving God and each other by...

- *Celebrating worship together with inspiring words, music and traditions*
- *Serving all of our neighbors*
- *Engaging in fellowship and hospitality*
- *Encouraging people in their lifelong spiritual formation*
- *Being a beacon of Christ's presence in the world*

Vestry Members:

Mark Drew, *Senior Warden*
Leslie Winters, *Junior Warden*
Henry M., *Youth Warden*
Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, *Formation*
Marilyn Karl, *Member Connection*
Jay Iams, *Member Connection*
Anice Ellis, *Search Committee Liaison*
Judith Grant, *Parish Life*
Bill Mayr, *Communications*
Cheryl Boop
Julia Johnson-Davis
Sam Slee
Roman Skoracki
Phil Glandon, *Treasurer*
Barbara Hyre, *Clerk*

CONNECT WITH SAINT MARK'S!



VISIT US ON FACEBOOK:



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:

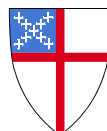
Who We Are:



Part of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Saint Mark's held its first worship service in 1951 in a converted Methodist church in Grandview. Ground was broken in 1953 for the Parish Hall (now the Education Building) where services were held until the current Nave and Sanctuary was completed in 1958. Office space in an adjacent building was purchased in 1989. Major renovations of the entire facility occurred in 2004 and 2008 creating a campus today that empowers Christ's ministry within and beyond our parish.



Saint Mark's is a member of the Episcopal Church in the United States – a community of 2.4 million members in 114 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. *Episcopal* means a church with bishops. Bishops are the leaders of the church and spiritual descendants of the apostles of Jesus Christ. We are also part of the worldwide Anglican Communion consisting of 82 million members in more than 160 countries. *Anglican* are those churches who trace their history to the Church of England.



Whoever you are, and wherever you may be on the journey of the Spirit,
The Episcopal Church welcomes you.