



the EPISTLE



The Monthly Parish Newsletter of
SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DECEMBER 2021 • ISSUE 273

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO LEAD THE PARADE, OR TO SPEAK SOFTLY AND CARRY A (SORT OF) BIG STICK?



Saint Mark's faces a dearth of vergers, and that's not a good thing.

Our parish currently has one active verger – Bill Silliman. Having additional vergers on the roster would be far preferable, according to Pastor Vicki. “I don't have a specific number in mind, but ideally I'd like to have at least five so that they only need to serve once a month or so,” she said.

What does a verger do? A verger is most visible when leading processions for religious services and assisting the priest during the services. But there are behind-the-scenes roles. Vicki described the verger as “manager of the liturgy.” Bill explained: “I often describe the role as ‘master of ceremonies.’ It is a relatively simple process of getting things set up and ready before the service, unlocking doors, turning on lights, lighting candles, replacing microphone batteries, assuring that the readings are set and marked, marking the Gospel reading, checking on the quantity of communion bread and wine, etc. I simply look around and take care of whatever needs to be done.”

The verger provides any assistance needed during the service, stepping in to help keep the liturgy moving smoothly, and after the service completes a few routine tasks.

Bill has been a verger since 2009; he had enjoyed being an acolyte as a youth and was happy to become involved with the worship experience as a verger.

Vergers date back to the 12th century in English cathedrals. Vergers, spelled virger by the English, were termed the Protector of the Procession. As religious processions centuries ago proceeded outdoors through crowds of people and animals, the verger cleared a path with the virge, a wooden staff of office.

At Saint Mark's, vergers wear a black cassock and a black and gray gown.

“I absolutely love working with vergers,” Vicki said. “Having a good verger allows not only the congregation, but the priest, to enter more fully into worship. One of the biggest challenges for me is to keep all the balls in the air on Sunday morning while not bringing my own anxiety into the worship. Having a verger makes that so much easier.”

Both men and women may serve as vergers. Vicki said a prospective verger needs four major gifts: “A desire to create a space where others can worship; an attention to detail; an ability to see three steps ahead and a willingness to act” when help is needed. An interest in the liturgy and how it unfolds during the church year also is useful.

Bill takes delight in the role of the verger. “In my head I recite the beginning of Psalm 100 when standing in the back of the church waiting for the processional to start, *Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.*”

Contact Pastor Vicki (rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org) for more information about vergers. Also, an information session on becoming a verger will be held after the 10:30 a.m. service Sunday, Dec. 12.

ADVENT



Advent is the season of preparation for the coming of Christ. We prepare for the celebrations of Jesus' birth at Christmas, but more importantly, we prepare for His second coming. The season of Advent focuses on what each of us might do to be prepared for the coming of Christ. The season of Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas Eve. This year Advent began on Sunday, November 28.

ADVENT QUIET MORNING – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 9 A.M. – NOON

A chance to take a moment, pause and reflect in the midst of a very busy season.

We will begin at 9 a.m. with Morning Prayer in the church.

There will be 3 reflections on Advent themes read during the morning. Each one will be followed by significant time for prayer and reflection.

There will be space available for quiet prayer. There will also be a space with music playing, art supplies and a space for conversation and reflection. Bring your art supplies, journal or other meditative aids if you'd like. The morning will end with Noonday prayer.

ADVENT MATERIALS

There are Advent materials available in the parish hall in the arch-shaped book rack near the kitchen, where the Forward Day by Day booklets are located.

Materials include:

- A booklet of daily reflections for use at home.
- An Advent Calendar.
- A booklet of weekly Theological Reflections for Advent.
- Information on the Incarnation Seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and how we observe them at Saint Mark's.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Services will be at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.

The 5 pm service will feature the children's Christmas pageant. We are planning on having an in-person pageant this year.

The 11 p.m. service will be the traditional late Christmas Eve service.

Both services will be live streamed on the Saint Mark's website and Facebook pages.

The Christmas morning service will be at 10:30 a.m.

Masks will be required at all services and communion will continue to be offered in one kind.

FRIENDSHIP SOUP



It is that time of year again - that's right, time for the annual Canterbury Choir Soup Sales! Looking for a thoughtful gift this Christmas? Or do you need an easy meal for those cold winter nights? Then you are in luck!

The Canterbury Choir has kicked off its annual soup sales! Soup mixes will be available on Sundays at the church

through the end of the year.

Details: due to COVID, and the fact that some people are not comfortable coming to in-person services, we are doing things a bit differently this year. We will be distributing soup orders at the church on Sundays, starting November 21, right after the 10:30 service from 11:30 - 12:30. You will also be able to pick up the jars in the Parish Hall if you are in attendance that day. If you prefer picking up your order, please email: gwrpowell@outlook.com and let me know what sizes of jars you would like, and how many.

Pint-size jars are still just \$7.00, and quart-sized jars are only \$10.00. Gasoline prices may have doubled, but soup prices have remained steady for many years.

Please email: gwrpowell@outlook.com, and specify the size and quantity of jars needed. Payment via check, cash, or Venmo will be accepted.

SAINT MARK'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Children of all ages are welcome to participate in the pageant. Younger children will be a part of the Nativity tableaux in costume. Older children who feel comfortable reading will be given that opportunity.

Please note: we will send a link to a Google doc to families to make signing up easier, but the dates below for in-person sign up will still be available!

Dates for Christmas Pageant sign-up and rehearsals:

Sunday, November 28

Sign-up during Sunday School or immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service.

Sunday, December 5

Sign-up immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service

Sunday, December 12

Sign-up and scripts passed out during Sunday School or immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service

Sunday, December 19

Full rehearsal with Canterbury Choir immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service

Friday, December 24, 3:45 p.m. Rehearsal

(No need to wear your costume, but please be prompt so we can wrap up before people start to arrive).

Children will have a chance to have a break/snack and change into their costumes after the Rehearsal.

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve Pageant at 5 p.m.

Children and families may also sign up by contacting Irina Reed, irina.reed@gmail.com or formation1@saintmarkscolumbus.org. Every effort will be made to honor requested roles.

Please contact Irina with questions.

Volunteers are needed!

If you can assist with costuming, backstage organization, snacks, or clean-up, please contact us, thank you!

FROM THE MUSIC OFFICEMatthew Bester, Director of Music



Although all our lives continue to be affected deeply by the ongoing pandemic, it is with great anticipation that we are looking forward to the return of our customary special services for Advent and Christmas this December at Saint Mark's, including our beloved Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 5 and two in-person services on Christmas Eve. Each service promises to be extraordinarily meaningful precisely because of their absence last year. Although our single livestream-only Christmas Eve service was deeply moving last year, including the superb virtual Christmas pageant with the Canterbury Choir, there is no substitute for gathering together in person for these special observances.

A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 5

The Saint Mark's Choir and the Canterbury Choir will come together to lead our beloved Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 5, at 4 p.m. An annual parish favorite, the service of Lessons and Carols alternates Advent-themed lessons with beautiful and inspiring music, all in preparation for the Christmas season. Music will include choral works by Francisco Guerrero, Judy Hunnicutt, Ian Kellam, Robert Lehman, Paul Manz, Colin Mawby, Craig Phillips, and Charles Wood. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted in support of the Special Music Fund. The service also will be live-streamed on our website and on our Facebook page. Please join us for the return of this uplifting event, and be sure to invite some friends!

Christmas Eve at Saint Mark's

We are excited for the return of two in-person evening services on Christmas Eve at Saint Mark's. The 5 p.m. service will include music by the Canterbury Choir and will feature our beloved Christmas pageant with youth from the church school. The 11 p.m. service will feature music by the Saint Mark's Choir and will be preceded by a prelude of Carols for Choir and Congregation, beginning at 10:30 p.m. Both services will be live-streamed on our website and on our Facebook page. We hope to see you there!

A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols

Saint Mark's Choir and Canterbury Choir

Music by Guerrero, Hunnicutt, Kellam, Lehman,
Manz, Mawby, Phillips, and WoodSunday, December 5, 4 p.m.
Saint Mark's Episcopal ChurchDonations will be accepted
in support of the Special Music Fund

OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

FIRST SUNDAY PROJECT

Starting last month, Outreach began hosting First Sunday Projects. Each month, on the first Sunday of the month, when there is no formation activity at 9:30, the Outreach Ministry will offer a hands-on project highlighting an ongoing outreach project. The activity includes an educational component and coordinates with the liturgical theme for the month. These projects are intended as an opportunity for those who are not regularly part of the Outreach Ministry to learn about and participate in the parish's ongoing projects. Please feel free to pop in or out of these activities without any commitment. We hope you will consider joining us!

Thank you to everyone who came to the November First Sunday Project! We highlighted the Re-Entry Assistance Project. Guest speakers taught us about the needs of people leaving prison, the traumas that can lead them to make bad decisions the result in further imprisonment, and the difficulties they face while trying to reintegrate into society. We were reminded that there are no "bad" people, only people who make bad decisions.

Our December project will focus on welcoming immigrants into our community. We will have a short video about CRIS, Community Refugee and Immigration Services, and Joyce Acton will speak to us about Saint Mark's experience of helping to settle a family seeking asylum. She will help us understand the hurdles these families face, and the satisfaction the process can bring for everyone involved. Finally, we will put together some grooming bags for the Afghan refugees coming to Columbus. There will also be a children's activity that can be completed during the presentations. It should be a very interesting morning. You will find Joyce's talk fascinating. Please join us!



CATCH Court

We will be serving lunch before Court on Thursday, December 9. Volunteers are needed to assist with lunch preparation, transporting the lunch, and serving. Bakers are

always welcome as the women love our homemade cookies! To volunteer, contact Pat Iams at pati51@aol.com.



THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is located in a new spot this year, in front of the chapel. It has been decorated with ornaments labeled with gift suggestions requested by children. Unwrapped gifts (**with ornaments attached**) can be

placed under the tree from Sunday, December 5 through Sunday, December 19.

Gifts are donated to NNEMAP Food Pantry's holiday gift shoppe, which is available to pre-registered families in the Linden neighborhood with children up to age 16. In 2020, more than 800 children received gifts!

In the past there has been a shortage of gifts for middle- and high school - aged kids, so please consider choosing gifts for teenagers. NNEMAP is also requesting financial gifts in lieu of presents, as they send volunteers out with the money to shop for presents for the age categories where they are short of presents. Gift cards in denominations of \$25 or less are also welcome. If you would like to give cash or a check, please give it directly to Jill Hinton (jillhinton4041@att.net), or place it in the collection plate in an envelope marked "Giving Tree." A list of gift suggestions will be on the table behind the last pew.



ANNUAL COOKIE WALK IS RETURNING

Calling all parishioners! Our beloved cookie walk returns Sunday, December 12 after the 10:30 a.m. service.

We need bakers and buyers! You can help in two ways. First, by baking your favorite holiday cookies and bringing them to church on December 12. We will fill a long table with all the donated cookies. Following the service, you can choose a selection of your favorite cookies to purchase. Cookies will be sold by the pound, so fill your box to capacity and help us raise money for Freedom a la Cart.

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OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

ST. JOHN'S GOD'S TABLE DINNER

Saint Marks provided the dinner for St. John's Wednesday evening community dinner, known as God's Table, on November 17. We provided a bagged to go dinner, handed out in front of the church. Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation and serving of the dinner.

A special thanks to Roberta Morton for agreeing to coordinate the St. John's activities after our long-time coordinator Sally Rechner stepped down, and to Ellen Berndt and Brenda Hammersley who agreed to serve on the committee. It is really wonderful to have so many parishioners who are willing to take on yet one more project rather than having us stop an activity. Thank you ladies!

If you are interested in assisting in any way, please contact Roberta (notvmorton@gmail.com).



GIVE THE SWEET TASTE OF FREEDOM

Freedom is once again holding their Cause Cookie Campaign. Make a \$25 contribution to Freedom, and receive a beautifully packaged box containing a dozen fresh made from scratch cookies. A donation of \$50 provides on month of wraparound supportive services for a survivor of sex trafficking. Purchase four boxes and they will deliver them to your home. There are multiple dates when pick up is available at their café on Spring Street or closer to home, there is a pick up at Covenant Presbyterian on Redding Road on Saturday, December 11 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To order go to: freedomalacart.org.



NNEMAP

We continue to prepare spice packets for NNEMAP monthly. These are used by NNEMAP's clients for roasted vegetables or meats. If you would like to help, bring your measuring spoons and meet us in the parish hall at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 8.



We are also wrapping small packets of diapers and wipes. Both of these items fly off the shelves at NNEMAP!



It's a great time to visit with your friends while providing a service for NNEMAP. We get it all done in just over an hour.

For any additional information contact Bill Karl at mrbill.karl@gmail.com or Barb Keyes at bkeyes25@gmail.com.

OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

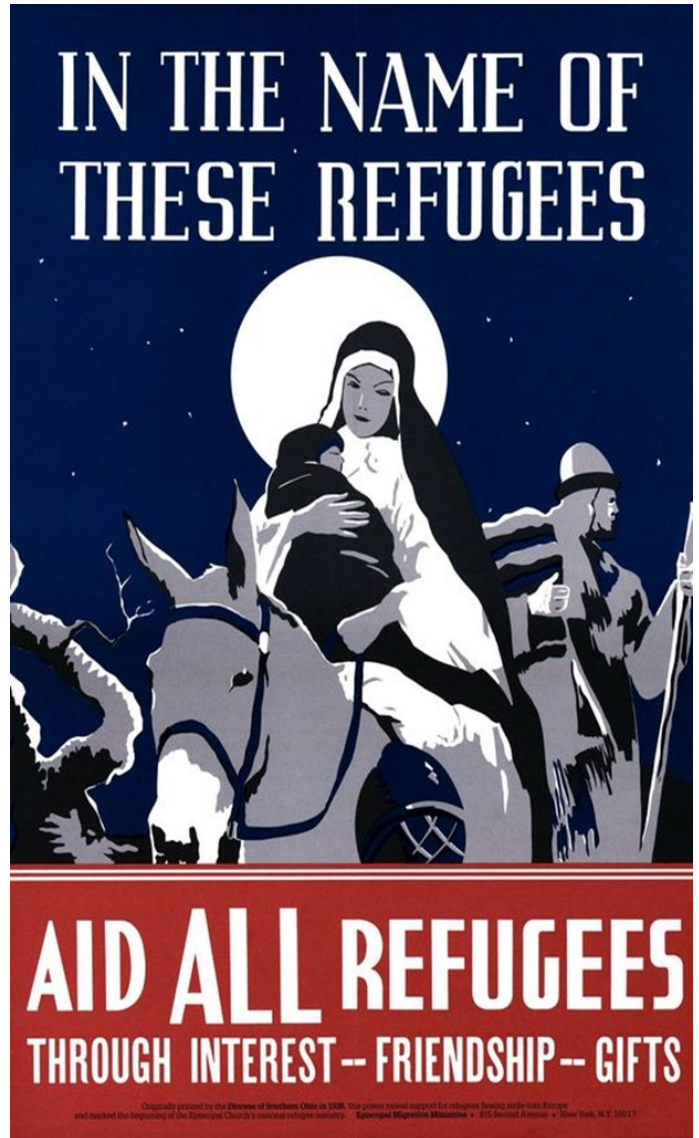


Helping a Fellow Episcopal Congregations in Need

Many of you know that we routinely work with Trinity Episcopal in McArthur, Ohio on the layette project, providing layettes to expectant mothers who are in need. Well, Trinity itself has a need, and both the Diocese and several other congregations have come together to help Trinity with badly needed repairs to their historic church (it is on the register of historic places). Prior to Saint Mark's learning of this project Christ Church Cathedral, the Church Foundation, St. Phillips Circleville, and St. John's Lancaster agreed to pool resources and contract for the \$12,000 of needed repairs such as tuck pointing, painting and mold remediation. Once learning of the projects, Saint Mark's wanted to know if we could pitch in as well, as the project didn't seem to be covering some floor joist work that we learned needed to be done during our last visit. So, with the help of \$2,000 from Saint Marks and some contractors from the St. Paul's Chillicothe Episcopal church, the project will be expanded to include these necessary repairs!

SAINT MARK'S MIGRATION MINISTRIES

Join us on December 5 at 9:30 a.m. to hear about Saint Mark's own journey with our refugee family.



Caring for people who are hungry or homeless or imprisoned is not only our duty; it is our joy. It is a privileged way of serving God because it mirrors an essential aspect of God's own character. God is biased towards the poor and bestows special favor on the dispossessed- and asks us to do the same.

Brother David Vryhof, Society of St. John the Evangelist

EDUCATION & PARISH LIFE

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP – A SAFE PLACE FOR HEALING



“Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4)

“Grief never ends, but it changes. It’s a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith. It is the price of love. “(Unknown)

Loving another person is a wonderful emotion but when that person dies, we enter the universal and unavoidable world of grief. Experts in grief and bereavement tell us that grieving is an extended and challenging process. But we also know that grieving in an atmosphere of guidance and support can be helpful as you find your way to a future where the memory of your loved one brings more joy than pain.

Bereavement professionals describe grief as something that cannot be “fixed” but which must be experienced in order to heal. They commonly describe grief as a life changing process after which you live in a new way with ongoing connections to those who have died. These experts agree that, while there are many models for the grieving process, everyone journeying through grief must work through four major tasks which include:

- 1) **Accepting the reality of the loss:** This is essential to starting on a path to healing. It’s difficult and painful at times and frequently there are lots of different feelings and physical reactions to acute loss – most of which are normal. In grief support, you’ll learn about these, how to manage them and when to get medical help.
- 2) **Processing the pain of your grief:** Active grieving takes work and energy and can be a period of mixed emotions including sadness, anxiety, anger, guilt, depression and/or loneliness. In grief support you learn from other mourners about how to work through these difficult but important responses to your loved one’s death.
- 3) **Adjusting to a world without the deceased:** All the roles played by the person who died may come up as well as other adjustments in your self-definition, self- esteem, sense of control and understanding of life’s purpose. In grief support we explore the meaning of roles left empty by your loved one and work together to find ways to create new meaning and purpose in life while honoring the love you have for the person who died.
- 4) **Finding an enduring connection with the deceased while figuring out how to step into a future you didn’t plan:** In this phase we begin to develop a sense of connection with the person who died and remember them with more joy than pain – and are even able to smile at the memories! The years with our loved one as well as their influences, inspirations, values and meanings of their lives are honored and celebrated in ways that work for us and our families. In grief support we learn how this phase helps us to adapt to other life losses and work together as each of us cycles back and forth through each of the four tasks.

Belonging to a community that understands and respects your individual grief is an important step in healing the pain of loss. Starting in December, Saint Mark’s is offering a monthly grief support group for members of the congregation. Join us on Thursday, December 9th at 3:00 pm in the Bishop’s library as we explore how to face the holidays and other special dates after a loved one dies. For answers to your questions and more information contact Brenda Hammersley at b.hammersley@yahoo.com or call 614-330-1436. No matter where you are in your journey, you’re welcome to join us for one or all the meetings. You’ll be in good company!

EDUCATION & PARISH LIFE

NEW FACES (AND RETURNING FAMILIAR FACES)



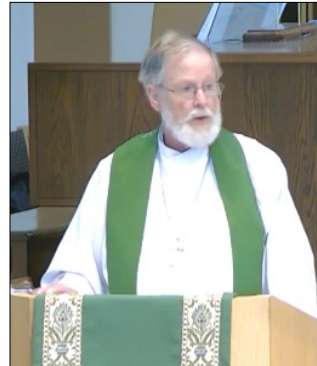
Jefferson (also known as Jeff) McConnaughey is serving as our interim organist through the end of the year. Jeff is a native of Virginia, has been playing the organ in churches for the past 54 years. He began studying in high school with Dr. Paul Hesselink at Longwood College in Farmville,

Virginia. He was graduated *cum laude* from Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, North Carolina in 1974 with a Bachelor of Music in Performance degree, majoring in organ. While at Mars Hill, Mr. McConnaughey studied organ with Donna N. Robertson and Dr. Marilyn Keiser. He also studied harpsichord with Eve Lynne Joan Reeve, founder of the annual Music in the Mountains chamber music festival centered in Burnsville, North Carolina.

After graduation, McConnaughey continued organ study privately with the late Dr. Arthur Poister during Poister's last years in Raleigh, North Carolina. McConnaughey served as an Assistant Organist and Choirmaster for Evensong at All Saints Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Georgia for 15 years and was organist for Northside Drive Baptist Church retiring and moving to Columbus, Ohio with his wife Kathryn, to be near their daughter and son-in law.

McConnaughey is also a graduate of the University of North Carolina's School of Law and is licensed in Georgia and North Carolina, having been admitted to the bar in 1978. He practiced law until his retirement in 2018.

Please welcome Jeff to Saint Mark's.



You will also see the familiar face of **The Rev. Bruce Smith** (and occasionally that of the Rev. Susan Smith) around Saint Mark's. Bruce is going to be worshipping at Saint Mark's when he isn't serving as a supply priest elsewhere or travelling. He and Susan will also be attending some of the social

and congregational events.

While Bruce will occasionally serve as a supply priest at Saint Mark's, he is not joining the pastoral staff. He won't be making pastoral visits or taking on any regular services or leadership of any programs. Bruce is making Saint Mark's his parish home.

Please welcome Bruce and Susan back to Saint Mark's.

BROWN BAG SERMON

On Sunday, December 5 Pastor Vicki will do a Brown Bag sermon at the 10:30 service.

A Brown Bag sermon is when Pastor Vicki invites all the children to bring something to church and put it in her bag at the front of the church before the service begins. Pastor Vicki has to use everything in the bag in her sermon.

There are a couple of rules:

- Nothing alive can be put in the bag (leave your pet rat at home).
- Nothing sloppy or messy can be put in the bag (if you bring slime make sure its in a sealed jar).

Look around, think about what you'd like to bring and don't forget your item on December 5.



EDUCATION & PARISH LIFE

MEMBER CARE MINISTRY

Saint Mark's has an active member care ministry which provides meals to members who are recovering from illness or surgery, caring for a family member who is ill, welcoming a new baby, or just having difficulty making healthy meals themselves. Please contact Michele Johnson (michelebjohnson@gmail.com) if you know of someone who could use some help with meals or if you are interested in volunteering to help provide some meals.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Christmas flowers at Saint Mark's offer a way to honor the memories or give thanks for the special people in our lives. This season we are offering two ways for you to donate money and remember loved ones. The first way is by picking up an envelope from the back table in the church. Fill out the back with the message and put your donation inside. Then put your envelope in the offering plate. The second way to donate is online. Simply go to the website and click on Christmas flowers. Follow the directions on filling out your message and the amount you wish to donate.

We also are offering poinsettia adoptions. For a donation or \$25 you can adopt and take home one of our beautiful poinsettias. We will have large red and white poinsettias that will be ready to go home after December 25. If you would like to adopt a poinsettia, simply indicate on the envelope or the message area of the on line giving form whether you are adopting a red or white poinsettia.

MASKS, CHALICE, 8 A.M. SERVICE AND INDOOR COFFEE HOUR

You have been asking how long we will be wearing masks in church. When will the chalice come back, how long will the 8 a.m. service and coffee hour be outside? And similar questions.

The answer is we don't know for sure.

Right now, Franklin County is at the high level of community spread of COVID. We will continue with our current practices until we reach the moderate level of community spread.

To reach the moderate level of community spread, Franklin County will need to have less than 50 cases per 100,000 people. At the end of November, Franklin County had over 150 cases per 100,000.

Given that:

- Masks will continue to be required for the foreseeable future. Communion will be in one kind only for the foreseeable future.
- The 8 a.m. service will be outdoors when we can be. When it is too cold, or raining or snowing, we will move into the parish hall.
- Coffee hour will be outdoors when it is possible to have it. If it is raining or snowing or colder than 32 degrees, there will be no coffee hour.
- This isn't anyone's ideal situation, but it is the best decision we can make right now, in line with Diocesan guidelines.

EDUCATION & PARISH LIFE

ADULT FORMATION

Pastor Vicki will be leading the adult formation class in December.

We will be looking at the two different nativity stories in the Gospels and talking about the similarities and differences.

Adult formation meets on Sunday morning in the parish hall beginning at 9:30 a.m.

In December, adult formation will meet December 12 and 19. There will be no adult formation on December 26.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth group will meet on Sunday, December 5 following the 10:30 a.m. service.

All youth grades 6 - 12 are invited to join the group for lunch, whether they can stay for the program or not.

Our activity in December will be making and decorating sugar cookies and rice krispie treats for the Outreach cookie walk. We will sample some of them too, strictly for quality control purposes.

The youth group will not meet in January, because the first Sunday in January is January 2. Our next meeting will be the first Sunday in February, February 6.

WHO ARE YOU?

No, we aren't playing a Saint Mark's version of CSI or the Masked Singer. We are working on getting back to something that looks a little more normal.

As a part of that we will be bringing back name tags in December.

They will have brand new lanyards and will be back on the hooks at the back of the church.

Please pick up and wear your name tag when you are attending worship in person.

It will help our new members, including Pastor Vicki, to learn your names. It will also help us identify each other behind the masks.

SUPPER GROUP

Due to COVID, the weather, and church restrictions to having food in the Parish Hall, we will have Supper Group virtually for the next three months unless restrictions change. So grab a cocktail and/or dinner and join us on Saturday, December 4, January 8, and February 5. Please contact Gloria Wylie at gawylie@att.net if you have any questions. A link will be provided before December 4.

GOD'S TABLE

Many thanks to the many hands and hearts that helped with the most recent St. John's meals.

On October 31, many parishioners brought Halloween candy to share with the Street Church and God's Table congregants. The following parishioners made Community Chili to serve at the meal: Joyce Acton, Elizabeth Anstaett, Ellen Berndt, Anice Ellis, Marilyn Karl, Barb Keyes, Roberta Morton and Marilyn Smith. Many folks helped package the meal after our church service: Patti Blakey, Ellen Berndt, Anice Ellis, Brenda Hammersley, Pat Iams, Marilyn Karl, Barb Keyes, Pam Thurston, Leslie Winters and Gloria Wylie were among those. Brenda Hammersley, Pat Iams, Pam Thurston and Dan and Roberta Morton helped serve the meal at Broad and Central.

Brenda Hammersley, Pat Iams and Roberta Morton cooked Ground Turkey Pasta Bake casseroles for the God's Table meal on November 17. David Boop and Kevin Fix joined Brenda, Pat and Roberta at St. John's to help serve the food. We served the pasta, green beans, bread, hard-boiled eggs and fruit in take-away containers to 62 people.

Our next meal for Street Church will be January 30, 2022. We have some exciting plans for that meal....hoping to involve children and families. If you would like to help out at our meals scheduled in 2022, please contact Roberta Morton, notvmorton@gmail.com or 614-268-7021.

EDUCATION & PARISH LIFE



Save the Date:
New Member Brunch

Sunday, January 9, 2022

**Are you new to Saint Mark's?
Do you like brunch?**
If you answered yes to any of these questions, save the date of Jan. 9 for the Saint Mark's New Member Brunch.

If you would like to join Saint Mark's or would like to help with the brunch, please let Pastor Vicki know (rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

SAINT MARK'S VESTRY MEMBERS' PHONE NUMBERS

Mark Drew, *Senior Warden* – 614-301-2675
Leslie Winters, *Junior Warden* – 614-327-6337
Cheryl Boop, *Stewardship* – 706-614-1682
Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, *Formation* – 614-505-6792
Anice Ellis – 614-563-6984
Judith Grant, *Parish Life* – 614-956-6844
Jay Iams, *Member Connection* – 614-271-0849
Julia Johnson-Davis, *Stewardship* – 614-397-4650
Marilyn Karl, *Member Connection* – 614-562-1942
Bill Mayr, *Communications* – 614-537-0045
Irina Reed, *Formation* – 330-990-6593
Roman Skoracki – 614-583-8801
Sam Slee – 614-565-6179
Phil Glandon, *Treasurer* – 614-486-5806
Barbara Hyre, *Clerk* – 614-488-1567

SAINT MARK'S STAFF

The Rev. Vicki Zust, Rector
rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Dr. Matthew Bester, Director of Music
directorofmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Gary L. Garber, Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus
emeritusmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Dr. Michael Murray, Organist Emeritus
emeritusorganist@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Bill Silliman, Head Verger
headverger@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Melanie Jacobs, Office Manager
officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org

EDUCATION & PARISH LIFE

THOUGHTS ON LONELINESS AND REENTRY AFTER THE PANDEMIC

As social beings, we all truly need each other. This is not to say we don't need alone time as well. But right now, we really need the interpersonal relationships, the friendships, and the contact with one another. The pandemic has affected all of us even if we are not aware of the changes.

Alone-ness is only one of the many situations to which Stephen Ministers respond. There is a list of life experiences which are addressed by the Stephen Ministry. Here are just a few possibilities:

- Isolation and Loneliness
- Anxiety over health issues
- Grief of all kinds
- Major life transitions such as a new baby, adoption, blended families, empty nest, retirement
- Tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling
- Financial strain or job loss
- Uncertainty about the future
- Other unexpected life challenges

They may not all seem like major issues, but they can all disrupt our normal lives.

Every one of us will experience several of these life changes/challenges. The question should be "WHEN" you would like a Stephen Minister, not "IF" you would like one. You may only want to meet with your Stephen Minister for a short time. Having someone to talk with who is there just for you can be very comforting and encouraging.

If you or someone you know would like to know more about St. Mark's Stephen Ministry, talk with Pastor Vicki or with one of our Stephen Leaders: Michele Johnson (micheleljohanson@gmail.com), Dianne Silliman (dlsilliman@gmail.com), or Pat Barton (patricia-barton@columbus.rr.com). You can reach Pastor Vicki by email at

rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org. There is also information posted on the pillar closest to the narthex in the parish hall! Be assured that even your inquiries into the program will be kept confidential. Stephen Ministers are here for you WHEN you need them.



EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING

There is an old practice of blessing homes at Epiphany and chalking the top of the door to remind us that everyone who comes in brings the light of Christ with them and that as we go out into the world we carry the light of Christ with us.

Chalk is used in this service as an ordinary substance made of common elements of the earth, put to holy use. Chalk will not permanently mar the dwelling. As its image fades from view over time, those who participated in its original placement will remember it and the purpose for which it was intended. In doing so, they may rededicate themselves to that purpose. After a year passes and a new Epiphany arrives, they will have the opportunity once again to celebrate the themes of this season and once again to seek God's blessing on their homes and on those who come and go through its doors.

Pastor Vicki is offering to come to your home and lead the short prayers of blessing and mark the lintel over the front door of your home with chalk on Epiphany – January 6.

The writing over the door is traditionally the year and the initials C, M & B in memory of the traditional name of the three Magi who visited Jesus. As a reminder for us to seek the presence of Christ when we go out of the door. The mark looks like this 20+C+M+B+22.

If you would like to have your house blessed for Epiphany (with or without the chalking), please let Pastor Vicki know (rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org). She can probably fit in 6 or 7 visits on Thursday, January 6, so first come, first served.

IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK'S

EPISTLE DEADLINES

The deadline for the January Epistle is December 16. Please note the earlier date. It is early because of the holidays.

If the ministry you are involved in is planning activities in January, make sure to get your information to Melanie Jacobs at officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org by the deadline.

In 2021 the deadline for the Epistle will be the 4th Monday of the preceding month. The only exceptions are March and December & January 2023 because of the way that the calendar and Thanksgiving & Christmas fall.

The 2022 deadlines are:

<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
January	December 16
February	January 24
March	February 21
April	March 28
May	April 25
June	May 23
July	June 27
August	July 25
September	August 22
October	September 26
November	October 24
December	November 21
January 2023	December 19

Please mark your calendars.



LIBRARY HOLIDAY HAPPINESS

Our neighbors across the street at the Upper Arlington Public Library are having their annual Holiday Happiness event on Saturday, December 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be crafts, music and a visit from Santa from Noon to 2 p.m. Stop in, have fun, and explore the library's resources.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

We celebrate the following good news:

Congratulations to Roman Skoracki, MD. Roman has been appointed as medical director of the Stefanie Speilman Comprehensive Breast Center at the OSUCCC-James. Roman is a member of the vestry here at Saint Mark's and has been a member of the medical faculty at OSU since 2014. Congratulations Roman!

If you know of the birth or marriage of someone related to the parish (but not a member as recorded in the parish register), a job change, retirement, achievement, student news, etc., we invite you to share it with us (and with the permission of the individuals involved, of course!) so we may pass along the good news. Information may be sent to Robbie Hurley at hurley.roberta@yahoo.com.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



Mary Kirkey	12/1	Erika Haupt	12/13
Ted Meyers	12/5	DA Kreinbihl	12/16
Carol Zubovich	12/5	Waymon McLeskey	12/17
Anne Fields	12/6	Karen Swartz	12/19
Jill Hinton	12/6	Erik Warren	12/19
Bruce Johnson	12/6	Diane Young	12/26
Ted Keller	12/10	Craig Zimpher	12/28
Noelle Sicuro	12/10	Roman Skoracki	12/30
Jeremiah Warren	12/12	Beth Hylton	12/30



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group	1 p.m. Knitting and Stitching Group 6:15 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 8 p.m. AA	Rector's Day Off 8 p.m. AA	9 a.m. Advent Quiet Morning 9:30 a.m. OA 4:30 p.m. LancasterChorale Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Supper Group 7:30 p.m. LancasterChorale Concert
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 a.m. First Sunday Outreach Project 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (with music by the Canterbury Choir) 12 p.m. Youth Group 4 p.m. A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols with music by the Saint Mark's Choir and Canterbury Choir 8 p.m. AA	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group	9:30 a.m. Al-Anon 1:30 p.m. Columbus Clergy Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	1p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting 4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. The Marksmen (Zoom ID is 92836222249)	3 p.m. Grief Support 6:15 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting 8 p.m. AA	Rector's Day Off 8 p.m. AA	9:30 a.m. OA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 a.m. Adult Formation 9:30 a.m. Church School 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (with music by the Saint Mark's Choir) 12 p.m. Cookie Walk 8 p.m. AA	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group	9:30 a.m. Al-Anon 1:30 p.m. Columbus Clergy Bible Study	4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group	1 p.m. Knitting and Stitching Group 5 p.m. Deadline for December Epistle 6:15 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 8 p.m. AA	Rector's Day Off 8 p.m. AA	9:30 a.m. OA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 a.m. Adult Formation 9:30 a.m. Church School 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (with music by the Saint Mark's Choir) 8 p.m. AA	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group 7 p.m. Sisters in Faith	9:30 a.m. Al-Anon 1:30 p.m. Columbus Clergy Bible Study 7 p.m. Outreach Ministry Meeting	1p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting 4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. The Marksmen Monthly Dinner	6:15 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting 8 p.m. AA	Christmas Eve - Office Closed 5 p.m. Holy Eu- charist, Rite II with Saint Mark's Annual Christmas Pag- eant, music by the Canterbury Choir 8 p.m. AA 10:30 p.m. Carols for Choir and Congregation 11 p.m. Solemn Holy Eucharist for the Eve of the Nativity with music by the Saint Mark's Choir	Christmas Day 9:30 a.m. OA
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 a.m. Migration Ministries Meeting 8 p.m. AA	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group 7:30 p.m. Monday Night Book Group	9:30 a.m. Al-Anon 1:30 p.m. Columbus Clergy Bible Study		6:15 p.m. AA 8 p.m. AA	New Year's Eve 8 p.m. AA	

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2151 Dorset Road

Columbus, OH 43221

Phone: (614) 486-9452

E-mail: info@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Web: www.saintmarkscolumbus.org

RETURN ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

11/22/2021—12/13/2021

SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services at Saint Mark's



Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24

Holy Eucharist, Rite II*

Saint Mark's Annual Christmas Pageant

5 p.m.

Music by Canterbury Choir

Solemn Holy Eucharist, Rite II*

11 p.m.

Preceded by

Carols for Choir and Congregation

10:30 p.m.

Music by Saint Mark's Choir

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:30 a.m.

*Both services will be both in person and live streamed on the Saint Mark's website and Facebook pages.
Masks will be required at all services and communion will continue to be offered in one kind.