



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

the EPISTLE

A Monthly Newsletter of Saint Mark's, Columbus

October 2026

● Issue 326



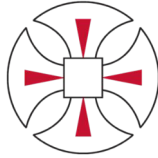
Pet Blessing

**Sunday October 4
8 & 10:30 a.m. services**

**Farmers Market
Wednesdays
September 30 &
October 7
3 – 6 p.m.**



*Choral Evensong
In honor of Saint Mark's 75th Anniversary
Sunday October 4
4 p.m.*



SAINT MARK'S CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Vicki Zust, Rector

rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org

The Rev. MaryJane Plote, Curate

curate@saintmarkscolumbus.org

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Jody Porreca, Clerk

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Vestry meetings occur every first Tuesday of the month in the Canterbury Center. Meetings are open to parishioners. Meeting minutes are available online at: www.saintmarkscolumbus.org/publications

The Epistle is the monthly newsletter of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church. The deadline for submissions is the fifteenth day of the preceding month. Send photos, announcements, or story ideas for inclusion in the Epistle to: communications@saintmarkscolumbus.org.

Stewardship

The Stewardship campaign for the 2027 budget will kick-off on October 11. In the week after that you should look for a letter and pledge card in the mail.

John Wilson will offer a reflection on Stewardship on Sunday October 18.

We will celebrate the in-gathering as part of the All Saints' celebration on All Saints' Sunday, November 1.

Please prayerfully consider your support for Saint Mark's in the coming year.

Saint Mark's relies on the pledges and gifts of members for the majority of our expenses.

Capital Campaign Update

We signed a contract with Progressive Roofing to replace the roof on the education building. There have been some delays in the project due to the permitting process. That project will probably start this month and we hope it will be finished by Christmas.

In 2027 we will begin looking at the second priority projects which are:

Upgrading Lighting in the Parish Hall

Painting the Parish Hall and Narthex

Renovating all the bathrooms on campus

Replacing the wall in the Memorial Garden which is deteriorating

Replacing the flooring in the nursery and children's formation area.

You can make a contribution to the Capital Campaign in any of the ways that you normally give to Saint Mark's. Note your contribution for the Capital Campaign.

Parish Life

Pet Blessing

We will bless pets in honor of Saint Francis' Day on Sunday October 4.

Pets are welcome at both the 8 & 10:30 a.m. services for the blessings. Pets need to be either in a carrier or on a leash. If your pet isn't up for a full service, you can bring them to the patio between 9 & 9:30 a.m.

We will also be blessing pets at the Farmers Market on Wednesday September 30 & October 7.

Stuffed pets and pictures of pets, either who can't make it in person or who are no longer with us are welcome too.

Fire Evacuation

Every fall, we remind everyone that in case of fire, or other need to evacuate the building, everyone should leave by the nearest door. We ask that people gather at the pavilion at Littleton's so we can make sure that everyone is out of the building.

Children's Formation leaders will take the children to the pavilion. Parents should go directly to the pavilion and not try to go get their children before evacuating the building.

Adult Formation

In October the Adult Formation group will be exploring the formation of the Anglican Communion, its development and current issues in and among the member churches of the communion.

Adult Formation meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall. This session will run for three Sundays, October 11, 18 & 25.

Pub Theology – AI Discussion

In August we had an initial conversation about exploring Artificial Intelligence and specifically the theological and ethical issues raised by Artificial Intelligence.

We agreed that we wanted to continue the conversation.

We are merging Pub Theology and the AI discussion in October.

We will gather in the Canterbury Center on Tuesday October 20 at 7 p.m.

Bring your own beverages. You can also join by zoom from home.

We will be focusing on the revelations of an engineer at Anthropic and the response of tech leaders to it. The New York Times podcast, The Daily, covered this on September 14. You find that at [nytimes.com/column/the-daily](https://www.nytimes.com/column/the-daily) or where ever you get your podcasts. There is also a link to it on the Adult Formation page of the website.

Youth Group

Youth Group meets on the second Sunday of the month. We will meet on October 11. We start with lunch after coffee hour. In October we will be playing some group building games (including hide and seek) and talking about the schedule for the year.

We will wrap up at 1:30 p.m. this month.

All youth grades 6 – 12 are welcome and friends are welcome too.

Thank you to Ann

Thank you to Ann Getz, who for many years has tended the wildflower garden in front of the Memorial Garden. The flourishing of that garden is largely due to Ann, and her husband Jim, working so hard.

Music

Canterbury Choir Anthem Premiere

Kick Off Sunday (September 13) was extra special for the choirs this year, as the Canterbury Choir, along with the upper voices of the Saint Mark's Choir, premiered Stephanie Martin's anthem "Love Will Endure," commissioned for the Canterbury Choir in honor of the 75th anniversary of Saint Mark's. What a tremendous joy and privilege it was to inaugurate this beautiful new piece in celebration of our parish!

The composer was able to experience the premiere via the livestream (watching from Dublin, Ireland!), and she had this to say by email: "Thanks so much for a beautiful premiere. The choir, organist, and conductor all did a wonderful job in bringing this new piece to life. All the best for your 75th anniversary!"

I hope that you will join us for the premiere of two more new works (both commissioned for the Saint Mark's Choir) at our 75th anniversary service of Choral Evensong on October 4.



Choral Evensong for the 75th Anniversary

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 4, the Saint Mark's Choir will lead a service of Choral Evensong in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Saint Mark's.

The Rt. Rev. Kristen Uffelman White, Bishop of Southern Ohio will be present at the service and will serve as officiant.

Choral works will include the world premiere of the Saint Mark's Evening Service by Richard Webster (commissioned for Saint Mark's for the 75th Anniversary), responses by John Sanders, and anthems by F. Melius Christiansen and John David Earnest (the latter another world premiere and commission for the 75th Anniversary). Organ music will include works by Richard Fitzgerald and Gerald Near.

Richard Webster will be here for the premiere

Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully received in support of the Special Music Fund at Saint Mark's.

A reception will follow. Please join us for this beautiful and celebratory service, and be sure to invite some friends!

Upcoming Special Events

Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day
Saint Mark's Choir
Sunday, November 1, 4 p.m.

Choral Eucharist for the
Feast of Christ the King
Saint Mark's Choir
Sunday, November 22, 10:30 a.m.

Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols
Saint Mark's Choir and
Canterbury Choir
Sunday, December 6, 4 p.m.

Stephen Ministry

Saint Mark's is recruiting Stephen Ministers for a training to begin early in 2027.

Our Stephen Ministry was started by the late Joan Maynard, our former Deacon and Pat Barton, our long-time parishioner and dear friend to many. Our former rector had asked Joan to consider beginning a Stephen Ministry program at St. Mark's. Joan asked Pat to help her and our Stephen Ministry was launched. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we find it is time to offer a new training and a chance to really make a difference in fellow parishioners' lives by becoming a Stephen Minister.

You may not be sure that you are a good match to be a Stephen Minister who will listen and "walk with" a fellow parishioner through a difficult time of life. The person might be getting used to a new baby, a family illness, the death of a loved one, a divorce, a job loss or job change or any of a number of life changes.

As you will see in the message below, Stephen Ministers provide support and caring; they let God do the curing. Please consider the Stephen Ministry as a possibility for you. You can talk with Pastor Vicki or any of our Stephen Leaders (Dianne Silliman, Michele Johnson, and Pat Barton) or current or former Stephen Ministers (Roberta Morton, Dan Morton, Joanne Drew, Craig Tuthill, Barb Wiseman, Phil Glandon, Craig Zimpher, Martha Belury, Andi Waller, Jackie Nicol)

Here is one story from a Stephen Minister at another church.

"I've always been a fix-it kind of person," says Steve, who retired from the Navy with the rank of Commander. "But I've found that it sure takes the pressure off to step back and let God do the fixing." The Stephen Leaders at my church said, "We think you'd make a great Stephen Minister. We'd like you to join our training." So I sort of looked up to God and said, "Okay Lord, if you really think someone like me can do something like this, I'm yours, I'll give it a go." "Here I am, a cigar-smoking, straight-talking motorcycle rider. They're not going to want me. I might be a little bit too rough for this." What happened next? I dedicated myself to Stephen Minister training, and I learned a lot. I discovered that you can learn to listen, you can learn about feelings, and you can learn to be a better caregiver. I learned that God is the caregiver, not me.

My job as a Stephen Minister is to listen and care—to really try to empathize and understand what the person is going through—and leave the fixing up to God. That last part was tough for me because I've always been a fix-it kind of person. But I've found that it sure takes the pressure off to step back and let God do the fixing. It's also freeing, and it's helped me be more in tune with others. I no longer see people in terms of problems needing to be fixed. I see them as people who are going through a difficult time and need me to walk with them and reflect."

Watch for more information about and from Stephen Ministers in the upcoming Epistles. Also, if you or anyone you know might like a Stephen Minister, let Pastor Vicki or the Stephen Leaders know.



Diocesan Events

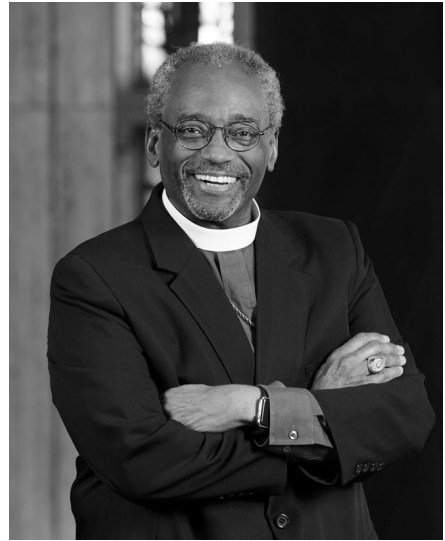
Bishop Curry at Diocesan Convention

The Most Rev. Michael Curry, the previous Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, will be the preacher at the Diocesan Convention Eucharist this year.

The Convention is being held at the Hilton Polaris. The Eucharist is at the hotel at 5 p.m. on Friday November 20.

Everyone is invited to attend the Eucharist, but the Diocese is asking everyone who is planning to come to register so that we are sure that there are enough seats.

You can register at diosohio.org/convention-registration



Fall Youth Retreat



Better Together

Nov 13-15, 2026



PROCTER CENTER
1200 ACRES OF MISSION

Outreach

Football Ticket Raffle for Outreach

Thank you to all who sold and purchased raffle tickets to support Outreach. We raised \$1380 which will be used to support our ongoing and new ministry projects!

Congratulations to Dorothy Vojvodich who won the tickets.

THANK YOU and Go Bucks!!

NNEMAP Food Pantry

NNEMAP meets the changing needs of its community by providing nutritious food and connecting neighbors with essential resources. To support this work, NNEMAP raises funds through several events, including the annual Harmony for Hunger concert on November 20, 2026, at Northwest Christian Church.

NNEMAP also depends on monetary and gift-in-kind donations. In August, Saint Mark's donated more than 300 pounds of canned goods, cereal, and collected band-aids to package into small first-aid kits.

If you are interested in becoming an NNEMAP volunteer, contact Bill Karl (mrbill.karl@gmail.com) or visit NNEMAP's volunteer page at <https://www.wefeedcbus.org/volunteer> for more information

Diapers & Spices: Our diapers and spices packing day is Wednesday October 14 at 10 a.m. We will meet in the Parish Hall. Many hands make light work, so come and join the fun if you are available. No experience required! Please contact Marilyn Karl with any questions (mjkarl@yahoo.com).

Habitat for Humanity Lunch

The Northwest Partnership broke ground in May for a new build at 1848 Aberdeen Ave. in the Linden area.

The work schedule has changed and involves fewer days requiring volunteer lunches, so most of the participating churches are supplying only one lunch this build! Saint Mark's is providing lunch Saturday, October 10.

Anyone who is interested in preparing or serving lunch for ten to twelve hungry volunteers can contact Marilyn Karl at mjkarl@yahoo.com. or 614-562-1942.

Migration Ministries

The next meeting of Migration Ministries will be Tuesday October 27 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. For questions or to receive the Zoom link, please contact Elizabeth Anstaett at oxford4234@aol.com.

If you are interested in ways to help our immigrant neighbors, scroll down to the bottom of the Saint Mark's website for information. If you are interested in advocacy related to immigration, CRIS has some good information at crisohio.org/advocacy

Outreach

Street Church

Our next commitment for a Street Church meal is November 29, Thanksgiving Weekend. Please look for a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall in November. We are planning to make our Community Chili meal where the chili can be frozen ahead of time and stored in the church freezer. We will need volunteers to hard-boil eggs, provide fruit and make peanut butter sandwiches as well.

If you are available to help that weekend with preparations and/or serving, please contact Roberta Morton: 614-268-7021 or notvmorton@gmail.com.

Many thanks for all the effort that has gone into making 2026 a wonderful year for our collaboration with St. John's in this ministry.

Vinton County Ministry

Our Fall delivery to Vinton County will focus on books and cleaning products. The staff of Help Me Grow would like to leave a book with the families that they work with when they make their visits. You can help by donating a new or gently used concept board book suitable for ages 1 month – 3 years. Concept books about colors, numbers, shapes, animals etc. would be a wonderful extension for families.

“Stuff the Bucket” is a new project we are trying this Fall. We are accepting donations of basic cleaning supplies along with brooms and mops to be delivered to families in October.

If you are interested in helping with either of these projects, please contact Barb Keyes 614-314-7630.

Outreach Contact Information

Questions about anything Outreach can be sent to the Outreach Administrative Committee at outreach@saintmarkscolumbus.org.

The Outreach Administrative Committee members are Leslie Winters, George Knight, Ellen Berndt, Melanie Tepley and Vestry Liaison, Nicole Moon-Koharik.

Outreach Administration Committee

The Outreach Administrative Committee will be seeking interested candidates to serve for a 2-year term.

The Committee is composed of 4-6 parishioners, a Vestry liaison and the Rector. This group does all the behind-the-scenes work to support the various Saint Mark's Outreach ministries, including parish communications, overseeing the Outreach calendar, setting and managing the Outreach budget, applying for grants, monitoring the Outreach e-mailbox, running the Outreach Summits, and more.

Skill sets needed on the Committee are: communication & writing, strategic planning, budgeting, and general administration.

If you are interested in learning more, please speak with the Rector or any member of the Outreach Admin. Team or email outreach@saintmarkscolumbus.org.

Mark Your Calendars!

Diapers and Spices Packing
October 14

Migration Ministry Meeting
October 27

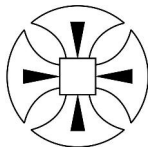
Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Labor Day Bake Sale. We raised over \$1800 to help support groups working to address food insecurity.



BIRTHDAYS

Collin Wheeler	October 1
Linda Wheeler	October 3
Nora Bensing	October 4
Cassie Myers	October 4
Cecily Alexander	October 5
Benjamin Leibowitz	October 5
Jackson McIntire	October 8
Virginia Tuttle	October 8
Anice Ellis	October 9
Adam Parson	October 9
John Brian Russo	October 10
CW Hess	October 12
Clay Hess	October 12
Mary Clevenger	October 13
Norman Jones	October 13
Stacy McIntire	October 17
Leah Smith	October 17
Greg Duncan	October 18
Gary Glover	October 19
George Hauswirth	October 20
Catherine Hreachmack	October 20
George Reed	October 21
Barbara Wilcox	October 22
Susan Galbreath	October 27
Ron Linville	October 28
Charles Tuttle	October 30
Dixie Norman	October 31



Support Groups

Saint Mark's provides meeting space for AA and Al Anon in the parish hall on the following days and times:

Sundays, 8 p.m. AA Open Group
 Mondays, 5:30 p.m. AA Men's Group
 Mondays, 7 p.m. AA Open Group
 Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon Group
 Tuesdays, 11 a.m., Al-Anon Small Meeting
 Thursdays, 6:15 & 8 p.m. AA Open Group
 Fridays, 8 p.m. AA Open Group

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Cindy & Larry Anderson
 Terry Bowman
 Ted Carey
 Anna Dougherty
 The English Family
 George Fix
 The Flynn Family
 Luann German
 Carolyn Gunther
 Pedro Benito Hernandez
 Patrick Hreachmack
 The Ibarra-Benito Family
 The Karcher Family
 Brad Klemsrud
 Lynn Klemsrud
 Sylvia Martin
 Marta Mojzer
 Joe Nowark
 Vicki Sampson
 The Syverson Family
 Audrey Trotier
 Greg Wittmer
 Anna, Jose and Family
 Elaine
 Florence
 Mark & Margo
 Melissa
 Rex
 Viola
 Sarah, Theodore & Maxwell

If you have people you would like add to the prayer list please let Melanie Jacobs know.
 (officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org)



Worship, Music & Formation		
Holy Eucharist Rite I 8 a.m.	Sundays	Sanctuary
Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 a.m.	Sundays	Sanctuary
Pet Blessing 8 & 10:30 a.m. services	Oct 4	Sanctuary
Choral Evensong for 75 th Anniversary 4 p.m.	Oct 4	Sanctuary
Adult Formation 9:30 a.m.	Oct. 11, 18 & 25	Parish Hall
Children's Formation Begins 10:30 a.m.	Oct 11, 18 & 25	Children's Formation Area
Sisters in Faith: Monday 7 p.m.	Oct. 19	Canterbury Center
Pub Theology & AI Discussion	Oct. 20	Canterbury Center
Book Group 7:30 p.m.	Oct. 26	Canterbury Center
Rector's & Curate's Day Off: all day	Fridays	
Parish Life and Vestry		
Vestry: 7:30 p.m.	Oct. 13	Canterbury Center
UA Farmers Market 3 – 6:30 p.m.	Wednesdays	Dorset Road
Daytime Knitting Group: 1 p.m.	Oct. 1 & 15	Canterbury Center
Contemplative Prayer 6 p.m.	Oct.. 12	Bishop's Library
Outreach Ministries		
Diapers & Spices: Wednesday 10 a.m.	Oct. 14	Parish Hall
Migration Ministry 7 p.m.	Oct. 27	Zoom

***Funeral Services for Ken Yeager
Saturday October 3
2:00 p.m.***

Visit saintmarkscolumbus.org for a full calendar of events & activities



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2151 DORSET ROAD
COLUMBUS, OH 43221
(614) 486-9452



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Sunday, November 1

10:00 A.M.

Service in the Memorial Garden

4:00 P.M.

Choral Evensong for the Feast of All Saints'