

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church Messenger

## Newsletter

61 Payne Ave, North Tonawanda

April, May & June 2016

### Thoughts from Father Chris:

Christ is risen. Our loving Savior has risen indeed!!

Easter has come to St. Mark's and I am so grateful for all who made this year's celebrations both wonderful and filled with Easter joy. I equally hope that your Easter was well spent in the company of family and friends both near and far.

As I pen these reflections, I am dumbfounded how quickly time has flown...after all, it was only yesterday that you welcomed me into your midst on January 17<sup>th</sup> and here we are already into April!

Many of you have requested some biographical information about me; I am delighted to share this with you. I will use the next few installments of this parish newsletter to share bits and pieces about myself ...

A good place to begin is to speak about my biological family. I am the oldest of five children, having two brothers and two sisters. A common and frequent experience that we had growing up was that of many moves and relocations. My father worked in sales and marketing for two companies until his retirement and, with each promotion that he gladly received, it meant moving the family to a new part of the country.

I was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Within 2 years, we moved to Park Forest, Illinois. After this relatively short stay, we moved to Berea, Ohio and stayed there for six years. Following this stay, we then moved to Long Island and remained there for three years. We then moved to Long Grove, Illinois but was only there for 1 ½ years. By this point too, I had just started high school and was really enjoying the school I was attending.

Consequently, I was not thrilled to learn that we would be moving yet again. (This moving around business was quickly wearing thin!!) This time we moved to New Canaan, Connecticut and during that stay, I did finish high school. For my parents, the stay in Connecticut would be the longest they had since the day they were married in 1957. They proceeded to live in New Canaan for a total of 24 years. After my father retired in 1999, they moved down to Pinehurst, North Carolina and have lived there ever since.

Though my father was never in the armed forces, I have to say that the frequency and the challenges of so many moves from my birth to my completing high school certainly made us feel as if we were truly 'army brats'!

I think I will stop here for now. In the next newsletter, I will speak about my college years and my adult years.

I hope that you and your family will be blessed and gifted with God's loving and abundant grace as we walk on the roads of our lives during this Easter season of 2016.

I equally hope, as well, that we will eagerly await both the coming and the receiving of God's Holy Spirit at Pentecost which we will celebrate in May.

Thank you, my friends, for all you do for our parish and for God's kingdom.

(Fr.) Chris

### **Our Holy Week:**

- Our 7pm Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services were reverent. Easter 8am service 50 people attended and 10am service 130 people attended.
- Holy Week and Easter were the first holiday services celebrated by Father Chris at St. Mark's. During the Easter service the congregation loudly reaffirmed their Baptismal Covenant with him.
- Our Altar was beautifully adorned with Easter lilies, hyacinths, tulips and magnificent Cala lilies. Thanks to the dedication and creativity of Kathy Sokolowski, her Altar Guild volunteers and those who donated the flowers.
- Our 10am Easter service was a celebration of joyous hymns and music.
- All of the acolytes joined in the celebration with youthful reverence. (Dana Durrick, Katy Goris, Emma Nesbit, Riley Nesbit, Cameron Trenchard, Joshua Trenchard). Tennille Trenchard will be heading up the acolyte training ministry.

### **Altar Guild Memoriam**

Gifts given in memory of Irene Warchocki were used to buy a white Pastoral Stole and Chasuble. The lining of the Chasuble was embroidered in her memory and purchased through the Altar Guild memorial fund. The vestments were blessed by Father Chris and worn on Easter Sunday. Irene will always be remembered, along with her daughter Cathy Holesko (currently co-Warden), for the St. Joseph's Table years ago. They were both also known for their Polish Platter dinners and delicious baked goods. Irene was an Altar Guild member for many years and is sadly missed.

### **Confirmation by the Rt. Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin**

St. Mark's will present candidates for confirmation to Bishop William Franklin on Sunday November 20 at the 10am service. Details for classes and requirements will be published at a later date.

### **News from our Seminarian, Katie Smith:**

This semester I am taking a course at Christ the King in Homiletics which I am finding challenging but enjoyable. It is wonderful to have an opportunity to work on improving my preaching! I am currently assigned to Trinity, Buffalo on Delaware Avenue for field education. My supervisor at Trinity is the Rev. Matthew Lincoln who is very experienced in supervising ministry students. At Trinity I am working hard on my preaching and leadership skills. I have been very involved with Trinity's 12-steps@7 liturgy which takes place every Thursday evening at 7pm. Fr. Matt has been teaching me about planning worship and has been very generous in involving me in everything that is going on in the parish. While I am enjoying my time at Trinity, I do miss my spiritual family in North Tonawanda and am always glad to hear news of what is going on at St. Mark's. Scott often comes home from St. Mark's with messages of love and support and cheerful greetings from various members of the congregation which I am so grateful to receive! I miss everyone at St. Mark's and you are all always in my prayers. I look forward to seeing everyone in June!

### **Annual St. Mark's Memorial Scholarship:**

*Comments from Marcia Poleon;*

Each year we offer a scholarship to a high school senior who is active here at St. Mark's and is planning on attending a 4 year or 2 year college this fall. If you are interested, we have applications available. I will have them in my mail slot outside the Guild Room. If you have any questions I'll be at the coffee hour after the 10am service or call me at home.

### **United Thank Offering: During the Month of May**

The women of the Episcopal Church annually participate in a fund drive to support church grant requests. The WNY donations are presented by women of each church at the annual WNY Diocese convention. Examples of grants to local churches in the past are posted on the church bulletin board. Please make checks payable to St. Mark's Episcopal Church and place in offertory plate.

United Thank Offering Prayer:

*Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept we pray these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. Amen*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Holy Land Pilgrimage Presentation: Thursday, April 21 at 7pm in our Fellowship Hall**

Father Earle King from St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Grand Island, will make a presentation about the 2017 Holy Land Pilgrimage he is organizing. The pilgrimage is scheduled for November 1-20, 2017. Pictures from previous Holy Land Pilgrimages will be shown in addition to the scheduled events and travel arrangements for 2017. More details are listed on a flier posted on the church bulletin board.

#### **Organ Dedication Recital: Sunday, May 15**

*Comments from Ben Phillips; Organist*

Our new Allen Organ has been outfitted with an additional, auxiliary division: the Antiphonal Division. Its speakers are mounted on the top beam, just under the ceiling, at the rear of the church. This allows the main organ (in the chamber, behind the choir) to accompany solo stops that sing from the back completely unenclosed. This addition, together with the midi computer system, provide versatility for music unimaginable until recently.

Our recitalist, internationally acclaimed Hector Olivera, will show off our new instrument with his stunning musicality and organ technique. Maestro Olivera is noted for his command of a broad range of music in addition to church "standards". His website has links to recent recordings. Google <**Hector Olivera, organist**> and listen for yourself.

Tickets are available for our organ's dedication on **Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.** The tickets are free, of course, but should turnout match our expectations, only listeners with tickets are assured a pew seat for the recital. See Ben Phillips or Tennille Trenchard for tickets.

#### **F.R.O.G. Day (Fully Rely On God) Sunday, May 22 10am service**

Our Sunday School Program is culminating with our celebration of our children and youth on F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely On God) Day. Our young members are responsible for the entire church service and they always create something special. This annual event is always a memorable and treasured service.

### **Salad Bar Luncheon, Wednesday, June 8; 11:30am – 1pm**

Our annual lunch time event offers a feast of many different salads, deli sandwich items and desserts. Tickets will be \$10. Many employees of DeGraff Hospital and the local municipal offices attend our luncheon. Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to enjoy the great lunch selection. Sign-up sheets for providing salads will be posted on the church bulletin board in May.

### **Church Picnic at Pinewoods Park, Sunday June 26**

Come join us in Pinewoods Park giving thanks and praise to our Lord to start the summer. We celebrate Holy Eucharist in the pavilion and then share a potluck picnic afterwards. Hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments and beverages are provided. Sign-up sheets for attending and bringing a pot luck dish will be posted on the church bulletin board in June.

### **RECENT SUCCESSFUL EVENTS:**

#### **Church School Open House** *Comments from Pat Miller*

On February 7<sup>th</sup> the congregation was invited to attend the annual Sunday School Open House. The Children helped host coffee hour and supplied a variety of delicious goodies, while we learned how grades 1 – 12 are developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Grades 1 – 3 are reading basic Bible stories and grades 4, 5, and 6 are learning how to read and understand the Bible. A beautiful mural called the seven days of creation is being painted by grades 7 – 12 and can be seen outside of the class rooms. Kudos to our Sunday School Superintendent Leslie Ann Kane and all the teachers for a great year and successful open house!

#### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner:** *Comments from Joe Durrick*

We had about 35 people at the dinner and everyone enjoyed the pancakes, sausage, coffee and pastries. I'm hoping that it draws more people next year because it seemed that everyone had a good time and I feel it draws us that much closer together as a great church family.

#### **WELCOME Reception for Father Chris**

St. Mark's is very happy to Welcome Father Chris to our church family! Cathy Holesko and Sue Hutt organized this reception and the church family brought many delectable dishes and treats enjoyed by all.

#### **Valentine's Day Food Collection:** *Comments from Jane Lemley; Chairperson*

The St. Mark's Valentine's Day food collection was a brilliant success! Forty-seven bags of food were welcomed at the food pantry!

#### **Theme Tray Auction (February 21) was an Extraordinary SUCCESS !:**

*Comments from Leslie Ann Kane and Jillian Sylvis; Co-Chairs*

This year's Theme Tray Auction was a **huge** success. We would like to thank everyone at St. Mark's who either donated a basket, a monetary donation, a gift card, or came and bought tickets and supported the raffle. We had over 180 baskets including multiple big ticket items!

The Theme Tray Auction brought in \$4,800, which is the largest one day fund raising event in St. Mark's history.

Thank you everyone who helped make this event such a success!

### **Bread Sunday, Fourth Sunday in Lent:**

*Comments from Sue Hutt and Cathy Holesko*

The Fourth Sunday in Lent is sometimes referred to as Refreshment or Bread Sunday. It is a moment in liturgical time when people are invited for a day to refresh themselves through feasting and resting. With this tradition, we at St. Mark's share the bread with our shut-ins and parishioners who are ill. Thanks to all of you that contributed the bread and those that made the deliveries.

### **Hospice Bouquets Sale: March 1**

*Comments from Brenda Mead*

I was very happy to do the Hospice bouquets sale in memory of my beloved aunt. It was great to deliver 32 beautiful bouquets that will make other people happy too. I am looking forward to doing this event again next year!

### **Lenten Friday Fish Fry Dinners were Deliciously SUCESSFUL**

*Comments from Gerry Poleon:*

YES, St. Mark's fish fry dinners are back after a long absence. Many hands made this happen.

One night as I was selling tickets with Jane Foster a couple came in and said "where are the Dessert Dollies? I heard so much about them, I had to meet them. Oh, you even have a sign made for them."

On another night a man as he was leaving said "very good" and he put two thumbs up. I said is that all and he said he did not have any more thumbs as we both laughed. There was many good comments from people as they left:

- "I am so glad your fish fry dinners are back."
- "We saw your sign out front and stopped in and are glad we did."
- "We have been back the last 3 weeks."
- "Dessert is included? Surprise. YES"
- "I'm back."
- "It was so good, I had a second dinner."

Thanks to Tennille Trenchard for designing the tickets and the table servers that made the dinners go so smoothly. Even Father Chris helped to serve dinners!

The dessert bakers, fish fryers, oven masters, salad makers, breaders, plate & beverage servers, ticket sellers, Thursday/Friday prep crews, and clean-up crew were all just amazing. And doing all this with smiles and laughs.

*Comments from Lin Kucharski:*

The Thursday Night Fish Fry Crew was a 'well-oiled' machine week after week, for the six weeks of this Fish Fry Season. Everyone consistently committed to, and arrived between 5:30 and 6pm every week. Tables were set by Nancy Hefner, Carol Lucas, Terry Kraemer, Sheila Allen, and Alex Morgan. Then Alex joined the kitchen crew and helped make salads. Apologizing ahead for those I forget, the kitchen crew included Marty and Ellen Hall, Steve Mead, Pat Miller, Jane Lemley, Janette Phillips, and John & Lin Kucharski. Each member of the team had a specific job to do, executed it to perfection. The potato ladies included Gisela Reiss, Jean Isroe, Sheila Allen, Pat Miller, Marcia Poleon, Claudia Conroy, Terry Kraemer, and Janette Phillips. Thursday night went so smoothly, we were in and out in less than an hour and a half!

What a blessing!! And what a GREAT time we all had, working together, in fellowship, for our church!

*Comments from the Dessert Dollies: Sheila Allen, Linda Martina, Audrey McMillan and Connie Turtle*

Thank you to all the dessert makers. Part of the fun of being “a dolly” was watching people trying to make a decision on which dessert to choose. The wonderful assortment of pies, cheesecakes along with the chocolate cakes were favorites along with the tantalizing selection of wonderful delectables. We appreciate your part in making “St. Mark’s Dessert Deli” a great success for the fish fry dinners

A SPECIAL THANKS to Gerry Poleon for inspiring everyone to reinstate the fish fry dinners and giving weekly Sunday Pep talks! John Kucharski and Gerry Poleon did a great job with the weekly inventory and Gerry getting the supplies. On Friday afternoons there was a special team that called themselves the ‘Three Stooges’ Gerry Poleon, Joe Durrick and John Kucharski and assisted by Phil Frapwell.

So many helped to make these Fish Fry Dinners successful that it would be a very long list of names, so we must conclude by thanking each crew member and the whole St. Mark’s church family for spreading the joy and spirit of St. Mark’s.

## ONGOING MINISTRIES

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** *Chairperson: Ellen Hall*

Prayer shawls provide warmth and the comfort of our Lord to those in need. The shawls are not only for our parishioners, but also close family and friends outside our church family. These shawls are blessed and prayed upon during our service before given to the person in need. Knitters and crocheters are need to make these shawls to keep our supply ready. Anyone in need of a prayer shawl, please contact Ellen Hall at tel# 694 1425. Anyone interested in joining this group, also contact Ellen for shawl size needs. The longer shawls (18 in by 5 ft) provide greater warmth and comfort to those who are cold due to their illness or treatment.

### **Church School:** *Comments from Leslie Ann Kane, Church School Superintendent*

Both the Children and Teachers of St. Mark’s Sunday school truly embrace our program’s mission and vision on their journey to better serve God as loving Christians.

**Our Mission:** To build a faith foundation for children by guiding them into a personal relationship with Jesus.

**Our Vision:** To provide a worship experience that enables children to experience Jesus every day.

### **Ushers:**

Ushers are greatly needed for our 8am and 10am services. See Neil Ferguson if you are interested.

### **Building & Grounds:**

Thanks to all that spruced up our church yard in time for the Fish Fry Dinners and Spring!

### **Eucharist Visits**

If you know of anyone who is unable to attend church, even temporarily and would like to have the Eucharist delivered to them, please contact Peggy Thrasher.

**Bereavement Receptions:** *Comments from; Lin Kucharski, Chairperson*

St. Mark's will host a funeral reception for members of St. Mark's. Generous parishioners provide the menu, serve and clean-up. The family usually gives a donation to cover purchase costs, if applicable. Menu donations are always needed, but just as important are those who serve and clean up. Please contact Lin if we can call on you to help with this ministry.

**Lunch Bunch:**

Our Ladies Lunch Bunch meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at various restaurants. All are welcome to join. Call Sheila Allen at Tel# 692-3980 or Lin Kucharski at Tel 694 7929 for details.

<b>PARISHIONER NEWS</b>
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- Lisa Keller is very proud of the accomplishments of her daughter, Olivia. Last year Olivia was the Boys & Girls Clubs 2015 Youth of the Year of the Northtowns and competed in the New York State event in Albany. Currently, as a junior at NT High School, she is a member of the National Honor Society, the Wind Symphony, co-editor of the yearbook and member of DECA, which is a youth leadership group. Olivia volunteers here twice a month as a Sunday School Assistant. The SIKORA American Legion selected Olivia to represent North Tonawanda at the annual June Girls State Leadership Event held at Brockport for New York State representatives. It is a conference promoting leadership and patriotism. Thanks Olivia for shaping our palms into crosses on Palm Sunday!
- Heidi and Brian Himes are proud to announce that their daughter, Megan Himes, was selected as a Quality Student of the Tonawandas. Quality Students are selected based on their academic success, good character, and commitment to their community. Megan was 1 of 40 chosen from North Tonawanda High School. Megan has also been accepted to the Fine Arts Dept at Nazareth College in Pittsford, NY; where she plans to earn her Bachelors in Fine Arts with a minor in Psychology. She plans to stay on and get her Masters Degree in Art Therapy.
- David Jonathan Stivers, son of longtime member Nada Stivers, is a career member of the Air Force. Deployed in November, he was part of the coalition fighting against ISIS in SW Asia. We are overjoyed to announce that he has returned safely to American soil in mid-March.  
We HERALD his service and THANK him.
- Small jars are needed for the delicious English marmalade made by Kathleen Mary Dreelan.
- Happy Birthday wishes to Olive Pike on her birthday May 2.
- Jeff Trenchard sings in 2 groups described below. The concert schedule is in the calendar (last page).  
“Harmonia:” a 25 member chamber choir that performs choral repertoire from a variety of time periods, from the Renaissance to today. A donation of \$10/person is suggested for performances, but isn't mandatory.  
“Lake Effect:” an all-male a cappella quintet that performs originals and arrangements of pop standards from the 1950's- today. Most performances are free to attend.

## THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

**The Prayer List:** is taken from the Sunday Bulletin unless someone notifies us of an addition or deletion.

**Oh God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to your servants the help of your power, that their sickness maybe turned into health, and their sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Tom Garigan, Ken Pittner, Betty Szewczyk, Fr. Glen Fuller, Chuck Conroy, John Thrasher, Donald Donovan, Robert Hefner, Paul & Linda Holst, Diane & Norm Cook, Courtney Krysa, Philip Frapwell, Lois Wilson, John Pankow, Liz Moeller, William Lucas, Connie Thompson, Katie Krysa, Jim Thompson, David Shoen, Art Lee, Christopher Wolf, Nick Evans, Tom Lucas, Beth DeMartino, Teresa Arndt, Don McKernan, Jim Auhland and Yvonne McClanahan,

**In Memoriam:** If you would like a loved one remembered please contact a newsletter member.

**Almighty God, we remember your faithful servants; and we pray that, having opened to them the gates of heavenly life, you will receive them more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, they may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen**

Catherine Burns	William Ferguson	James Foels	Carol Isenberg	Rose Jastrzemski
Audrey Murie	Rod Neumann	Delton Ossman	Manfred Reiss	Irene Warchocki
Roy Wraight	Sheila Yaro			

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**This newsletter is also available on our St. Mark's website**

**St. Mark's Website:** [www.stmarksnt.net](http://www.stmarksnt.net)

**St. Mark's email:** [stmarksnt@verizon.net](mailto:stmarksnt@verizon.net)

### **Newsletter Committee:**

Chairperson: Peggy Thrasher

News Reporters: Pat Miller, Janette Phillips, Connie Turtle

*Thanks to all for contributing and helping to get this newsletter together and ready to go!*

### **SUNDAY SERVICES:**

**8am** Holy Eucharist; spoken service

**10am** Holy Eucharist; music & choir, Sunday school

## **CALENDAR**

### **April**

- April 17, Sunday; Holy Eucharist, Food Bank donation during services
- April 20, Wednesday; 11am Table Eucharist and Bible Study follows
- April 21, Thursday, 7pm: Fr. Earle King will give a presentation at St. Mark's detailing a Holy Land Pilgrimage he will be leading in November 2017; it will be of interest to all, not just those who might be interested in going - see Jean Isroe for more info
- April 21, Thursday, 7pm 'Lake Effect' Free concert at Mill Middle School, Williamsville.

### **May**

- May 1, Sunday Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
- May 15, Sunday; Food Bank Donation, Organ Blessing
- May 18, Wednesday; 11am Table Eucharist and Bible Study
- May 15, Sunday 3pm: Organ Dedication and Recital
- May 21, Saturday 7pm, 'Harmonia' 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Franklin St. Buffalo
- May 22, Sunday 10am service; F.R.O.G. Day

### **June**

- June 5, Sunday; 10am service Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
- June 8, Wednesday; Salad Bar luncheon
- June 19, Holy Eucharist, Food Bank donation during services
- June 26, Sunday; Church Picnic at Pinewoods Park Pavilion

### **SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICES:**

From July 3 through August 28, the 8am and 10am services will be combined so that the entire congregation can celebrate the Holy Eucharist together. One Sunday service will be held at 9am during July and August and a coffee hour will follow so that we can all enjoy some fellowship together!