

# The MESSENGER

(February 2015)



## ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

61 Payne Ave.  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

The Rt. Rev. Dr. R. Wm. Franklin  
*Bishop of Western New York*

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES:

<b>2/18</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday service, 7:00 pm</b>
<b>2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25</b>	<b>Table Eucharist, 11:00 am</b>
<b>4/2</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday service, 7:00 pm</b>
<b>4/3</b>	<b>Good Friday: meditation, 1:00 - 3:00 pm service, 7:00 pm</b>
<b>4/6</b>	<b>Easter Sunday services, 8:00 &amp; 10:00 am</b>

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**Stations of the Cross - Service every Wednesday in Lent: 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, and 4/1.** Service will begin at 6:30 pm and will be preceded by a simple supper at 5:30pm. **All are welcome.**

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**2/17 Shrove Tuesday Dinner** begins at 5:30 pm. Free-will offering.

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**2/21 (Saturday) Theme Basket & Book Sale** 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

## Your Vestry at Work

At our annual meeting, held at 11:30 am on January 18, 2015, thanks were afforded former vestry member Joe Durick and former warden Bob Arnts for their hard work in service to St. Mark's parish. Replacing Bob as our new wardens are former vestry members Kathy Holesko and Sue Hutt. The new vestry members of our parish are: Neil Ferguson, Peggy Thrasher, and Barbara Nesbit. Peggy Thrasher has also taken on the task of being the vestry clerk.

Many responsibilities are being reassigned due to the retirement of Father Glen and Phil Frapwell, and the death of Bob Steinke. Father Joe Kozlowski will be our supply priest until May. Scott Smith, a licensed parish administrator, has already begun taking on many of the secretarial and administrative responsibilities of the parish; please be sure to follow the established protocols when making prayer, candle, or flower requests through Scott. Father Newbert and/or Mother Morris are offering the Eucharist on most Wednesday mornings. If they cannot be in attendance John Kucharski will lead us in morning prayer. Ben Phillips is conducting Bible studies after the Wednesday morning service. Claudia Conroy has been chosen to replace our retiring treasurer Phil Frapwell. Our seminarian Katie Smith has offered to be responsible for the assignment of lay readers and acolytes. Neil Ferguson will take charge of the usher assignments. Other assignments will be announced in the next newsletter. It is important for everyone to realize that being in charge of something does not mean having to do everything by yourself - many of the people who have graciously offered to accept the responsibilities of heading committees will need members of the congregation to assist them in doing their tasks.

2015 promises to be a year of change. Our parish needs a new rector. We need to address the diocesan full/fair share implementation. Should we extend our Capital Improvement Drive so we can maintain our rather small reserve investment account for future rainy day problems? Though the parish is once again in the black with bank accounts reflecting adequate funds to cover expenses, we are only \$358 from being in the red. The health of our parish depends on everyone doing what their time and talent allows them to offer towards the running, the prospering, and the growing of our church community.

## Musings of a Priest's Wife

When I began attending St. Mark's I was an intern's wife, but later became the wife of a postulant, a deacon, an assisting priest, a vicar, a rector, and finally a retired priest. Before all these I was the wife of a music teacher, a tool designer, a tool and die maker, a model maker, and a manager. I've had twelve somewhat different husbands, all of whom answer to the name Glen Fuller. He has often changed vocation in response to events he could not necessarily control, but he has stayed true to his desire to help people by becoming a priest and being their spiritual guide.

There are lots of reasons to fall in love with a person, but what sustains a relationship over time is the sharing of the intangible things such as moral and ethical standards, hopes and dreams, companionship, and faith. However, our "human condition" guarantees that we will face many challenges during our life. Will we live a good life, whatever that is? Are we social beings or individuals first? What are the universal truths in our life?

As Glen and I grow older together (44 years so far), I marvel at how much we have both changed in some aspects yet how much sameness there still is in our being. I do know with certainty that my faith has become stronger even though I realize that I know less with certainty than I did when I was much younger. I thought having a priest for a husband would afford me more understanding of all the questions I ponder concerning the nature of God and religion, but often Glen's answer to me is, "I don't know. That's one of the mysteries of our Christian faith." So I continue wondering about and marveling at the enormity of what our faith has to offer humans.

I know that I see some of the better aspects of humanity at work within our church community. Lots of little interpersonal events occur on a daily basis that show the caring that is endemic within this parish. As Father Glen has often told us, when God became human in Jesus Christ, He established solidarity with the human condition.

I am thankful for my husband and for his ministry. I am thankful for the church community of St. Mark's. Most of all I am thankful for God, who while being fully divine is also fully human and offers me the grace that I have not earned on my own.

## WHO?????

When we were children, we took a lot for granted. We knew the church would be open every Sunday. The priest would be there, acolytes would help, the lights and heat would be on, etc. We had the expectations of childhood and we received much of what we expected. However, now that we are adults we know there is no such thing as a free lunch; someone has to pay. Likewise, someone needs to do whatever it is that keeps St. Mark's home to a viable and healthy Christian community. Money pays the salaries of a very few people and it also maintains the functioning of the building and campus. This money comes from the considered generosity of our parishioners and from several fundraisers.

Just as important as money are the time and talents of our parishioners. A church like ours has many people working behind the scenes, quietly going about the jobs they willingly took on as part of their personal stewardship. Have you ever wondered who is responsible for all the tasks, known to you and unknown, that account for much of the work that goes into keeping St. Mark's functioning well? Below is a series of questions that is meant to make the reader aware of the many people at work in some capacity at St. Mark's. See if you can answer them, and see if your name appears anywhere as an answer.

1. Who is in the altar guild and is thereby responsible for preparing God's Table for Sunday and Wednesday services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals?
2. Who shoulders the responsibility for the upkeep of the church grounds: mowing grass, raking leaves, keeping sidewalks clear, and cleaning gutters?
3. Who supervises the removal of snow from our parking lot, our sidewalks and stairs?
4. Who is responsible for the administration of our Sunday school, and who teaches our young people?
5. Who makes sure our kitchen supplies are always there when they are needed?
6. Who keeps our building clean in a manner befitting God's House?
7. Who has made a commitment to sing in our choir every Sunday and to rehearse every Wednesday?
8. Who organizes our music program so we have inspiring music accompanying our 10 o'clock service every Sunday?
9. Who is our very accomplished organist?

10. Who decorates our church for Christmas and Easter?
11. Who helps clean our church on cleanup day twice a year?
12. Who hosts our weekly coffee hour after the 10 o'clock service and thus helps to bring parishioners together socially?
13. Who is our treasurer and is instrumental in maintaining our financial health?
14. Who sits on the financial committee and makes decisions on financial matters?
15. Who generates paychecks and makes payments of expenditures?
16. Who is on our governing body, the vestry, and what responsibilities do they shoulder?
17. Who produces our weekly and special service (weddings and funerals) bulletins?
18. Who produces our newsletter, *The Messenger*?
19. Who are our acolytes and who trains them?
20. Who are our Eucharistic ministers and our Eucharistic visitors?
21. Who is the Master of Ceremony of our Sunday services, accepting responsibility for the smooth running of the liturgy?
22. Who are our ushers?
23. Who counts the weekly offering every Tuesday morning?
24. Who has accepted responsibility for the Inter-church food bank collection?
25. Who keeps our boilers running properly? Our plumbing? Our electricity?
26. Who organized the restoration of the Guild Room?
27. Who coordinated the refinishing of the Nave floors and the replacement of the carpeting?
28. Who maintains the votive candles in the pricket?
29. Who maintains the scheduling of readers, acolytes, and ushers?
30. Who is organizing all our historical data and documents?
31. Who leads the Lenten Stations of the Cross?
32. Who organized our Septemberfest and our 5K run?
33. Who acts as chauffeurs for our elderly and/or disabled so they may join in church services and events?
34. Who helps Granny's Attic raise monies for our capital improvement fund?

35. Who organizes our special holiday baskets for the needy families?
36. What special groups meet in our building during the week?
37. Who represents St. Mark's at Church Women United meetings?
38. Who maintains the lists for flowers, the memorial candle, and the sanctuary light that are given on Sundays?
39. Who maintains our website?
40. Who cleaned and painted our kitchen stove?
41. Who maintains our prayer list?
42. Who accepts responsibility for our yearly Episcopal Relief collection?
43. Who represents us at the yearly Episcopal Diocese convention?
44. Who maintains the church vestments?
45. Who sets up the Christmas tree and the creche scene every Christmas season?
46. Who makes sure books and prayer request cards are always in their proper place in the pews?
47. Who maintains the sign in the front of the church?
48. Who sits at her desk writing up these questions knowing she is skipping some important jobs and therefore begging your forgiveness ahead of time?

It may take a village to raise a child according to popular thought. It definitely takes a whole Christian community to make a church family and to keep that family healthy in the present and way into the future. Thank you to all who may be answers to the questions asked above. Please realize that the answers are forever changing and that is one of our parish's greatest strengths.

## Heraldry of the Episcopal Church

While almost all the arms used by Episcopal dioceses, churches, and parishes in the United States are “assumed”, a few such as St. Thomas’ Church on Fifth Avenue in NYC and the Cathedral of the Advent in Birmingham, Alabama are “granted” by an armorial authority such as the College of Arms Foundation, a non-profit body whose mission is the promotion of heraldic knowledge in the USA. First used by monarchs and greater nobility in the 12th Century, arms were eventually adopted by religious establishments for use on seals.

Our Episcopal Church heraldry is derived from that of the Church of England. The Episcopal Church of the United States of America (ECUSA) adopted its shield in 1940. The red cross on a white field is the cross of St. George, Patron Saint of England. This reminds us of the Episcopal Church’s roots in the Church of England. White represents the purity of the Christian religion and red represents the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross and the blood of martyrs. Nine miniature crosses (crosslet) on a blue field in the first quarter (NW quadrant) symbolize the nine dioceses that met in Philadelphia in 1789 to ratify the initial constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United

States of America. The crosslets are arranged in a saltire (diagonal cross) forming an allusion to the Cross of St. Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland, and reminding us that it was Scottish Episcopal bishops who ordained our first American Bishop, Samuel Seabury, in 1784. The colors, red, white, and blue are the colors of our nation’s flag. Since 1946 the Presiding Bishop has used the arms of the Episcopal Church with a mitre at the top and the infulae (two ribbons hanging from the back of the mitre) to designate the bishopric. This can be seen in the General Convention arms of 2012.



Until 1838, our whole state of New York was one diocese. In that year a new diocese from Utica to Buffalo was established. Thirty years later a further division established the eastern half as the present Diocese of Central New York and the western half as the present Diocese of Western New York. The symbolism in our Diocesan Seal combines features of the Anglican Communion and local topography. The three blue with white roundels or circular charges (emblem occupying field of a shield) represent our three major bodies of water: Lakes Erie and Ontario, and Niagara Falls.



The crossed swords symbolize the Diocese of London of which this diocese was once a part (pre-revolution), and are also emblematic of St. Paul the Apostle, patron saint of our diocesan cathedral. The inscription in the blue perimeter reads "*Sigill. Diocesis Novi Eboraci Occidental MDCCCXXXVIII*", which is Latin for "Seal. Diocese of Western New York 1838".

*(The Diocese of Western New York history and recollections* by Charles Wells Hayes; published 1905 by Scranton, Wetmore in Rochester, NY)

## From the Mouths of Children

Most adults try to teach their children the essentials of life so they can grow into self-sufficient adults, but the wise adult knows there is also much that can be learned from children. Such a child is William Lucas, Tom and Carol Lucas' great grandson. Most of us know of William because his name is on our Prayers of the People list due to health problems he has been fighting for quite a while. Others of us know him as the talkative little redhead with a *joie de vivre* who often shows up with his great grandparents at special church events.

One day in November when William was in need of some activity to give his mother some relief from his considerable energy level, she gave him a project: Write a prayer that can be sung to the tune of *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* and expresses how he feels about Thanksgiving Day and his family. Below is the song he typed out by himself using the one-finger method, and presented at the family table at the beginning of Thanksgiving dinner.

### **THANKFUL SONG**

by Wm. Lucas

*(Sung to the tune of Twinkle,  
Twinkle Little Star)*

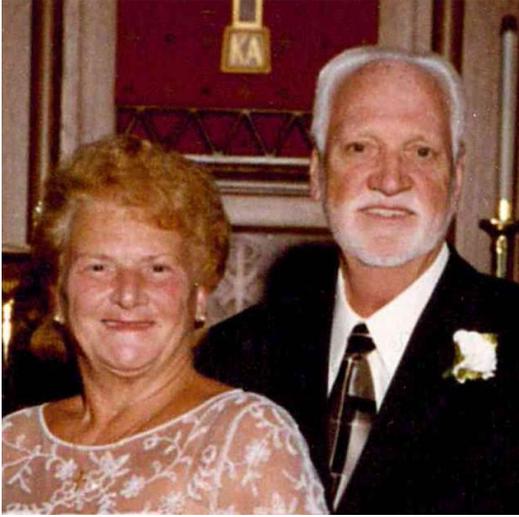
**Let's be thankful for each day  
For our health and for our faith.**

**Let's be thankful, happy and glad  
For this food and the things we have.**

**Let's give thanks for you and me  
And our homes and family!**



## Richard Meckes Remembered



Rich Meckes died on January 21, 2015 after a long and courageous battle against cancer. Born in 1931 in Blakely, Pennsylvania, his family moved to Buffalo for employment purposes. When a young adult home on leave from the Navy (where he served on the U.S.S. Salerno Bay), he met Joyce (McNaughton Meckes). They became good friends, and one of Joyce's fondest memories is of Rich attending Christmas Eve service with her and her parents at St. Mary's on the Hill Episcopal Church in Buffalo.

Their paths, however, went in different directions and they each met their future spouses and got married. Rich had four children, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. After the death of their respective spouses they renewed their friendship and eventually got married at St. Mark's on October 18, 2003. Though raised in a Pentecostal church, he found a happy home with Joyce at St. Mark's.

Rich spent most of his adult life as a sheet metal worker and was known for his story telling ability and his love of music of all kinds. A Mason and a man of deep faith, he felt blessed to participate in the baptism of his great grandson Aaron Poe (who called him "The Great Rich") this past July at the Lewiston Assembly of God.

Rich was given a Masonic service at Brunner's Funeral Home the evening before his funeral Mass at St. Mark's on Monday, January 26, 2015. The church service was officiated by Father Earle King along with help from eucharistic minister John Kucharski, organist Ben Phillips, and soloist Marty Hall. Rich received military honors and was piped out of the church by a bagpiper from the Erie County Sheriff's department.

Joyce told this writer that the strength of her marriage to Rich was due to their deep friendship. Both being retired, they were able to do many joyful things together for the last 11+ years without time constraints due to work schedules. Once again Joyce unfortunately has lost a man she loved and had nursed through a terminal illness. With Rich's death she has lost her best friend, her husband, and her Christian partner.

*Bring Rich, O Lord God, at his last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitation of thy glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.*