

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Messenger

Newsletter

61 Payne Ave, North Tonawanda

November & December 2017

Message from Wardens & Vestry and Search Committee:

The Wardens & Vestry and Search Committee are looking forward to Fr. John Seib and his wife Kathy coming to St. Mark's. He is an inspirational and down to earth priest from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. His wife, Kathy is friendly, outgoing and she was originally from upstate New York. They are in process of immigrating here. Join us praying that their immigration process goes smoothly and quickly. We are expecting their arrival with great anticipation by the end of this year.

Annual Vestry Election: Sunday, December 17th

There are multiple vacant vestry positions coming up at the end of 2017. Please consider taking a place on this fulfilling team and many times fun filled gathering. Your church needs your thoughts and efforts. The Vestry meets the second Tuesday each month at 7pm till 8:30pm. Please talk to a Vestry member if you are interested.

Annual Stewardship Drive: Complete & return pledge card by December 1.

Please ensure that the future of St. Mark's spirit continues to shine brightly; please complete your pledge cards prayerfully, with a grateful and generous heart.

180th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of WNY: Marriott Hotel, Amherst, October 27– 28. 3 delegates; Jane Lemley, Ben Phillips, & Peggy Thrasher and alternate; Claudia Conroy attended the convention.

- There were multiple issues presented and discussed. The most significant idea presented was the election of a provisional bishop, for a term of 5 years, to be decided by the next W.N.Y. convention in 2018. This bishop would shepherd both the Northwestern Pennsylvania Diocese as well as our own W.N.Y. Diocese.
- Bishop Sean Rowe, the current Bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania Diocese, also serves as Provisional Bishop of the Bethlehem Diocese. He has already called for an election in the Bethlehem Diocese. Therefore, his provisional term for Bethlehem ends in the fall of 2018 before he would assume responsibilities for WNY.
- What we did hear consistently from priests and lay people from both his dioceses was how Bishop Rowe is very accessible and down to earth. We heard his address and he answered very pointed questions. He is an inspiring speaker and is steady under pressure, remaining confident in his faith. Bishop Rowe has unusually high credentials with congregational, pastoral and diocesan experience. He also seems receptive to innovative solutions.
- **As delegates we urge you to read more about this proposal either on our Diocese website or take the convention materials provided in our Fellowship Hall.**
- Bishops Franklin and Rowe plan a series of conversations and meetings in both dioceses to gather feedback, answer questions, and listen to concerns. Both the bishops and diocesan leaders, including members of the Standing Committees and councils, remain available throughout the process to receive feedback and answer questions.

GOSPEL TO GO



Take nothing for the journey - no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.

Packing Up

I told them... "Come and get your stuff!" But something is telling me that my son really doesn't want those big old speakers or the chest of drawers from his baby days, and my daughter's really not interested in more of her grandmother's tea cups as well as another set of china. I have a feeling these treasures, along with lots of others, will still be in the basement when the moving van pulls up!

Maybe it's easier when you're leaving home, setting out on your first journey. Did we set out like those disciples that Luke talks about? Getting rid of stuff's not so challenging when you start with little. But now I've just got too many memories attached to stuff. How can I part with my first espresso pot, the not-quite-dead drill that still feels so right in my hand or that 'I-think-it-still-flexes-enough' paint brush? Yeah, I can finally justify dropping that collection of bolts that will never fit anything, cup hooks, door knob parts and mysterious metal things into a recycling box. Maybe that waffle iron is destined to never get rewired, maybe the dusty lamps won't be crowned with new shades, and doesn't everyone have an exercise machine that makes a perfect clothes rack?

So far, my packing's only resulted in a few boxes of books and files. A lot more needs to find a spot on somebody else's shelves. My son once swore he'd take away my record collection... after all it fits perfectly in those three milk-crates I haven't touched for ten years! The Best of the Mamas & Papas, the Rolling Stones, PDQ Bach, Virgil Fox, Taco, The Kings Singers and who knows what else I'll find if I'm foolish enough to start pawing through?! But my very eclectic collection may be symbolic of something that happens to all of us. What we listen to changes, our tastes change, our needs change, and our

paths change, too... it's as true for us as it is for those disciples.

But I can understand how scary it must be for them to take off with nothing! For some reason Kathy and I think we'll need books and bedding, pots and pans, filing cabinets, artwork, cutlery, collectibles and so on! And I won't be plodding around desert hillsides and dipping my toes in the Galilee. No, I'm bringing a snow shovel!

In some ways Jesus' first disciples are pretty lucky. There's no sorting and packing or snow for them! All they need is his power and authority. And it's great to know those same resources are always here for us today.

When it comes to curing illness or the other challenges faced by the disciples (*Luke 9:1-6*) – I only have a first aid kit and a prayer book in the car! But I'm confident the Lord will provide whatever's needed for His work.

I also know that if our journey to St. Mark's is anything like our first visit, we'll be led by the Spirit and graciously welcomed by God's people. I'm looking forward to sharing the warmth you extended to us throughout North Tonawanda and beyond.

So... it's back to the sorting and the boxes! And today I'll really try to remember what Jesus says about travelling light!

Blessings!

PS. I wish I could tell you exactly when we'll be arriving. We're waiting for the US Customs & Immigration Service to issue a Work Permit. Let's pray that they too are being held in God's hands and that the process will go smoothly!

Annual St. Mark's Memorial Scholarship for a High School Student:

Olivia Keller is this year's recipient. She is an outstanding June graduate of North Tonawanda High School who is now attending Niagara University. Olivia is majoring in secondary math education. During high school she was active in many activities; such as Editor of the year book, Honor Society President, Music Symphony, Track, Cross Country, Boys & Girls Club, and many others.

Pictorial Directory:

Many Thanks to Jane Lemley for all her hard work in getting this done. The directories are in a box in our narthex. Please check off your name when you take your copy.

UPCOMING EVENTS & HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE AT ST. MARK'S:

Spirited Fellowship Night: Barb Nesbit & Diane Wacker; Co-Chairpersons

Friday, November 17th; 6pm – 9pm, St. Mark's Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are \$20 and will be limited to 100.

Join us for Roast Beef sandwiches along with many great appetizers and beverages that will complement the evening while enjoying the musical entertainment from local acoustic guitarist, Dave Stayner. (Same performer as last year). There will also be wine tastings from our local Niagara wineries! Local Brewery tastings will join the festivities. To order tickets, call Barb @ 408-7362 or Diane Wacker @ 838-3019.

Local pairings - Great Music - Awesome Appetizers

Thanksgiving Altar Decoration Drop-off: Sunday, November 19

Please leave your donations of fruits and vegetables on the steps leading to the bell tower.

Thanksgiving Eve Service: Wednesday, November 22, 7pm: All are welcome !

Pick up of Christmas Poinsettia and Wreath Orders: Sunday, November 26 til 11:30am

Payment is due when the flowers are picked up in the Fellowship Hall.

Continental Breakfast: Saturday, Dec. 9th at 10AM. Cost is \$5. All proceeds and donations to benefit DeGraff Adult Daycare and our parishioners unable to attend church. Great fun & fellowship. Cost is \$5.00 and will benefit our shut-ins and Adult Daycare. **Please bring:**

- To be distributed to the DeGraff Senior Daycare Center
 - Suitable 'Bingo Prizes', hats, scarves, mittens, gloves: cotton balls, nail polish, etc
 - Cookies: to be distributed to those unable to come to our Church services.
- A representative from the DeGraff Daycare will give a presentation too.

Festival of Lessons and Carols & Christmas Party: Sunday, December 10, 10am Service
(There will be no 8am service)

The Festival of Lessons Carols is a service in Advent, celebrating the birth of Jesus that allows us to take a break from the holiday rush and prepares our souls for the Christmas miracle. The lessons tell the story of God's loving purpose through the ages and look forward to the redemption brought by the child Jesus, who is welcomed with reverence and joy through beautiful organ music and carols.

There will be a Christmas Party directly after this festive service in our Fellowship Hall.

Decorating our Church and Christmas Tree: December 17th after 10am service

Join the fun and fellowship. Many hands make light work.

Ideas for Outreach: by Jane Lemley

Outreach is an important component for any parish. The Vestry is asking how we should handle outreach as a parish and what we want to accomplish. There are many possible recipients. The Vestry could allocate part of the budget for outreach or a percentage of our fundraisers could go to outreach. We could take up a monthly collection.in the same way we're doing for the food pantry now. There are other ways we could address outreach. Do we want progress reports from a sponsored child or mission? Let a Vestry member know.

PARISHIONER NEWS

- July 15, 2017; James Hescox and Krista Incorvia we're joined in Holy Matrimony.
- August 26, 2017; Jesse Bonacci and Ashley Sayles we're joined in Holy Matrimony.
- October 1, 2017: Barrett Randall Stivers was presented for Holy Baptism by his parents; David Jonathan and Amanda Stivers.
- Nada Stivers came from Utah for her grandson's baptism and stayed with the Kucharski's. Nada (husband David deceased) was a long time member of St. Mark's and joined in the cooking efforts for the Polish Dinner. Her parents were also long time members of St. Mark's; Fran & Ferdie Kopec.
- October 22, 2017: Ryan Elliott Kane was presented for Holy Baptism by his parents; Timothy Ryan & Leslie Ann Mary Kane.

IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS AND TO THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING:

Lord today and every day we seek to honor all of our loved ones who have served or who are serving our country. We are reminded that because of their service we can all live in safety and freedom.

Conroy, Charles - Army
Emery, Leroy -
Foels, James - Marines
Gagnon, Kathy S. - Navy
Green, Robert R. -
Green, Roger R. -
Holler, Richard -
Kedierski, Michael -
Kirchman, Thomas -
Kozlowski, Bradley - Navy
Lee, Art - Navy
Lucas, Thomas - Marines
Mather, Donald - Air Force
Mather, Scott A - Air Force
Matusick, Myron -
MacLean, Donald - Air Force

Mitchell, Frederick
Murie, Frank - Navy
Orlowski-Williams, Katie - Air Force
Passino, Richard -
Phillips, Dennis - Army
Piasecki, Victor -
Riley, Patrick - Coast Guard
Smith, Francis -
Snowman Sr, Edward R. -
Stevenson, Jill M - Air Force
Stivers, David Jr. - Air Force
Louis F. Thompson - Marines
Turtle, Thomas - Army
Vanderburg, Robert
Wacker - Ron - Air Force

THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

The Prayer List: is taken from the Sunday Bulletin unless someone notifies us.

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, Fr. Glen Fuller, Diane & Norm Cook, Courtney Krysa, Lois Wilson, Liz Moeller, William Lucas, Connie Thompson, Christopher Wolf, Nick Evans, Teresa Arndt, Robert Arnts, Jim Semrau, Marilyn Southwell, Gerry Poleon, Phil Wekenmann, Tim Morris, Ellen DiLaura, Harold Becker, Leslie Mulligan, Norm Sczewyck, Heather Kraemer, Ray Wolf, Fr. Chris O'Connor, Baby Sherilynn Wilson, Pat Riley, Andy Jenneve, Ronald Wolf, Susan Kerrison, Marcia Kerrison, Cathy VanMeerbeck, Donna Simon, Marcia Poleon, Toni Cerra, Nathan Roberts, and Laura Steinke.

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

St. Mark's Website: www.stmarksnt.net **St. Mark's email:** 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!

CALENDAR

November

- November 14, Tuesday at 7pm; Vestry Meeting
- November 17, Friday; Spirited Fellowship Night,
- November 19, Sunday; Drop off of fruits & vegetables for Thanksgiving altar and Food Pantry Donation
- November 22, Wednesday, 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Holy Eucharist service
- November 23, Thursday, HAPPY THANKSGIVING !
- November 26, Sunday, Pick up poinsettias and wreaths

December

- December 1, please return your pledge cards
- December 3, Sunday Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
- December 9, Saturday, 10am Continental Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
- December 10, Sunday, 10am; Festival of Lessons & Carols (**no 8am service today**)
- December 12, Tuesday at 7pm; Vestry Meeting
- December 17, Sunday, Holy Eucharist
 - Vestry member election
 - Food Pantry Donation
 - Christmas Decorating Fellowship
- December 24, Sunday; Christmas Eve services
 - 9am; Holy Eucharist; Last Sunday of Advent
 - 4pm; Holy Eucharist
 - 7pm; Holy Eucharist in candlelight
- December 25, Sunday Christmas Day

January

- January 9, Tuesday, at 7pm; Vestry Meeting
- January 14, Sunday, after 10am service: Annual Meeting & lunch