

The Messenger



~ St. Mark's Episcopal Church ~ Honey Brook, PA 19344 ~ 610-942-2365 ~ info@stmarkshb.org

January, 2021

A Pastoral Letter in January in the Epiphany Season

Dear Christian Friends,

The great Greek philosopher and mathematician, Archimedes, once said, "Give me a place to stand, and I will move the whole earth with a lever." Archimedes noticed that if a lever was balanced in the correct place, on the correct fulcrum, it could move proportionally much greater weights than the force actually applied to it. He calculated that if a lever stretched far enough and the fulcrums close enough to earth even a small weight at the other end could move the world at the other end. Maybe you discovered this in high school physics class but forgot it? But the science is correct the world can be moved with a small amount of work force, if you have a place to stand.



Jesus was also scientific and knew the power of the lever, saying "If you had faith as small as a mustard seed you could move mountains in to the sea!" The big "IF" in his declaration was if you have a place to stand, that is a little faith in God, you can do almost anything. Jesus did not say you needed a big, strong, unshakeable, undoubting, faith; no only a little. A little faith is a small place you can be counted in, stand up in or show up in regularly.

So, in a time when it seems that we are prevented from going out to restaurants, sporting events, school, family gatherings and even church, we still have the power to move our world, and change the lives of people without hope. We at little Saint Mark's Church in Honey Brook, who can't even gather for church services or sing hymns or have meetings, we still have a place to stand from which we can leverage the world, move the world in a positive direction toward Jesus. How? We still have a strong community of faithful members, some resources, some leadership and can broadcast our worship live weekly. We have started to upgrade our Audio/Visual equipment to better broadcast our Sunday Worship and Coffee Hour. We still have a place to stand and leverage things. We have faith to share with those now living in the digital world on Sunday. We do not need a lot of faithful work to move the world, only a little, as much as a "mustard seed". Yes, Jesus will do all the heavy lifting in the future if we can stand with a little faith and push down our end of the big lever.

In the New Year of Our Lord 2021, I pray that you too will stand with us faithfully to move the world forward out of the current crisis of Covid. I pray that you will remain faithful in worship, prayer, scripture reading and stewardship. Standing in our little place with faith we at Saint Mark's can move the world farther than Archimedes ever imagined, but exactly where Jesus is going!

Know Jesus. Change the World.

Fr. Kim

What is a "word of the year"?

A word of the year is a guiding word that helps you move through your year. Choosing a guiding word based on scripture as we share below, can be transformative in your life. Why? Because God's Word is a guidepost. When followed, leads to joy, peace, and awareness of the blessings He bestows on us. Even when faced with trials as we were in 2020. We can't tell you how many of our group members testifying how their word was "rest" or resilience, which were themes central in their life this past year.

Joy
Peace
Fortitude/Courage
Love
Serendipity
Bloom
Intentional
Kindness
Delight
Balance
Stillness
Create

<https://christianplanner.com/>

Happy Birthday

Mary Ann Kaiser, 1/2
Howard Lee, 1/3
Katelyn Steele, 1/7
Stu McLauchlan, 1/9



Holy Eucharist celebrated on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/STMARKSHB>



Keep in touch via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/291213475198441>

Offerings can be made online at our website or mailed to the parish house.



~ Visit our Website at stmarkshb.org ~

ST. MARK'S OUTREACH UPDATE DECEMBER, 2020

Ivanna Freeman

Steeple to People	2 bags of groceries
Hearts In Hands	Gifts for 10 children

*BUT THE FRUIT
OF THE SPIRIT IS
LOVE
JOY PEACE
Patience
Goodness Kindness
FAITHFULNESS
Gentleness & Self-Control
GALATIANS 5:22-23*



Glaucoma is actually a group of diseases. The most common type is hereditary.
 There are typically no early warning signs or symptoms of open-angle glaucoma.
 Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness.

There is no cure (yet) for glaucoma.

Early detection, through regular and complete eye exams,
 is the key to protecting your vision from damage caused by glaucoma.
 A complete eye exam includes five common tests to detect glaucoma.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light...”
 Matthew 6:22

<https://www.glaucoma.org/>

Sally's Corner

Begin the New Year With Prayer

The pandemic continues to loom over our heads. Many of us were not able to spend Christmas with our loved ones this year due to the coronavirus. Yet, others took a chance and traveled to continue their tradition of a family gathering. There is a light, as they say, at the end of the tunnel. Several vaccines have been approved and are being distributed and administered. Be patient! We all shall have the opportunity to be vaccinated soon.

The November Messenger listed the first 10 of Charles F. Stanley's "Life Principles To Live By." This January, I will be sharing number 11 through 20.

- 11. God assumes full responsibility for our needs when we obey Him.
- 12. Peace with God is the fruit of oneness with God.
- 13. Listening to God is essential to walking with God.
- 14. God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.
- 15. Brokenness is God's requirement for maximum usefulness.
- 16. Whatever you acquire outside of God's will eventually turns to ashes.
- 17. We stand tallest and strongest on our knees.

18. As children of a sovereign God, we are never victims of our circumstances.

19. Anything you hold too tightly, you will lose.

20. Disappointments are inevitable; discouragement is a choice.

Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.
(Ephesians 6)

As we begin our New Year of walking with Jesus, it is my prayer that St. Mark's will be strengthened so we can continue to be beacons of light in a chaotic and fallen world. A strong church doesn't just happen. It begins with each one of us practicing what we believe.

Stay Warm! Stay Safe! Stay Well!

Faithfully Yours,

Sally Nickle





A Thank You to St. Mark's

Two thousand twenty has been a year like no other, with just about every “normal” thing people have come to rely on turned upside-down, inside-out, or in some other way impacted. We know that has been the case for Hearts In Hands, and suspect it has been true for St. Mark's as well. Through it all, we are comforted and anchored by the belief that God is somehow in the midst of it all, and that his care and providence will see us through to a new sense of “normalcy” and wellness.

Hearts In Hands has been significantly blessed throughout the pandemic year, even though we have been able to deliver only a few of our programs—mostly prominently our periodic food giveaways. Because of the contributors and donors that believe in what we are doing, we will be able to finish our year in the black, rather than having to dip significantly into our prudent reserves as we had expected. God is good!

We are also blessed to have begun a partnership with St. Mark's which we hope will expand and deepen over the long term. Your provision of the upstairs of your administration building was the answer to fervent prayer, and your provision of auction items for our golf event helped it to become our most successful fundraiser ever. As we all find our way out of the restrictions and isolation required by the pandemic, we look forward to finding new and fulfilling ways to work together to provide beneficial outreach to the children and families which Hearts In Hands serves. We welcome your energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to work alongside us, and will strive to make the partnership a pleasing witness to the Lord we all serve.

Merry Christmas and Happy New year to you and all of the members of St. Mark's. We are blessed to be connected to all of you.

From the Board,

Dawn Marie Schell
Executive Director

John Yurkutat
Board Preside

BUILDING STRONGER YOUTH COMMUNITIES

The Minor Prophets of the Old Testament

Hosea

Hosea son of Beeri prophesied about the middle of the eighth century B.C., his ministry beginning during or shortly after that of Amos. Amos threatened God's judgment on Israel at the hands of an unnamed enemy; Hosea identifies that enemy as Assyria. Judging from the kings mentioned in Hosea must have prophesied for at least 38 years, though almost nothing is known about him from sources outside his book. He was the only one of the writing prophets to come from the northern kingdom (Israel), and his prophecy is primarily directed to that kingdom. But since his prophetic activity is dated by reference to kings of Judah, the book was probably written in Judah after the fall of the northern capital, Samaria (722–721 B.C.)—an idea suggested by references to Judah throughout the book. Whether Hosea himself authored the book that preserves his prophecies is not known.



<https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-hosea/>



Ariana, Becky, Charles Blosenski, **Marilyn** Bremer, **Billy** Brennan, **Shaun** Chandler, **the Combs family**, **Donald** Combs, **the Darby family**, **John & Elizabeth** Deering, **the DeHaven family**, **Sandy** Dawson, **Betty** Gallagher, **Nick** Gehman, **Gary** Gray, **Janice** Piper, **Greg** Leinweber, **Linda**, **Christopher** Macomber, **John & Sally** Macomber, **Karen** Mannke, **Margaret** Moore, **Fran** O'Neil, **Rory** O'Neil, **the Pasela family**, **Virginia** Pavero, **Dick** Rainer, **Ruth** Rainer, **Trish** Rhoads, **Ronnie P.**, **Trent** Rutt, **Sadie & Kathy**, **Bob & Dawn** Schell, **Bob, Lois & Elisabeth** Schultz, **Dayton** Shores, Sr., **Diane** Spath, **Sue** Staton, **Doris** Stacey, **Nancy** Summers, **Richard & Kathy** Wilson, **Jim** Woolwine, **Andrew** Yambor



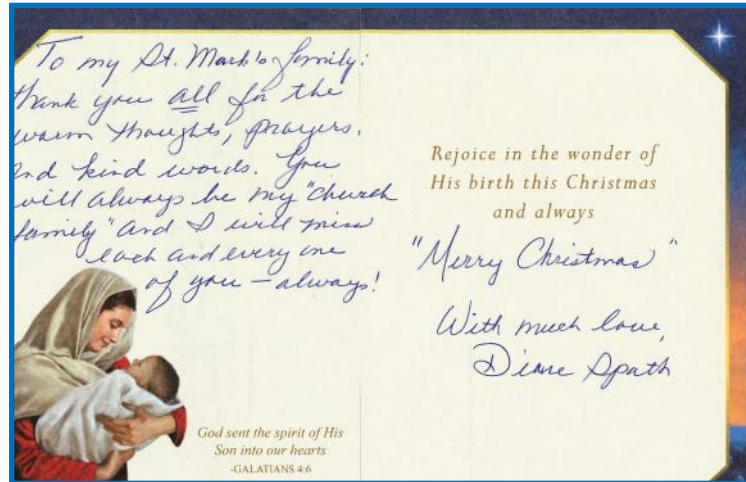
Lutz Family making cookies



Susan Weidener, son Daniel & pups



Ray Gromis, Lesley Wood & Hank



BULLETIN BOARD

"Food for Thought" has been suspended for the time being. We will keep you informed on when it will start-up again.



Our online equipment is in the process of being upgraded for better quality and internet access on YouTube as well as Facebook. Installation should be completed by mid-January.

We continue to support the City Gate shelter with hot meals on the second Saturday of the month. If you are interested in preparing a meal, please contact Frank Weaver or Fr. Kim.

Starting the 3rd week in January, you are invited to sign-up to worship in-person in our sanctuary as a representative for the whole congregation. Look for your email invite.

The January vestry meeting will be held via Zoom on January 18th at 7 pm.

2021 pledges are now due. Please email, USPS or drop-off your pledge card to the church mailbox. Thank you for your continued support.

This month the vestry will make a "provisional" budget for the first 6 months of 2021. In June we will hold our annual congregational meeting to approve the annual budget, COVID permitting.

Join us for a Zoom coffee hour and Gospel discussion every Sunday at 11:30 following Mass.



2021 offering envelopes are available for pick-up at the undercroft doorway. If you are unable to pick-up, we will deliver to your home upon request.