

The Messenger



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

February, 2021

February

Dear Christian Friends at Saint Mark's Church,



One of the advantages that come with age is the ability to view life through a longer lens. I have witnessed this in grandparents and other seniors who have played influential roles in my life. Without their model, I don't know where I would have learned to believe that a prodigal child can be restored; that marriage is a gift of God's grace, even in hard seasons; that hope for calmer waters in difficult times is no trivial posture, but a strong act of faith. Yes, I believe that we who are older and seasoned by life have a big role to play now in these difficult, uncivil and deadly times. I believe it is up to us, the mature Christians, to be the model of hope, love, kindness, civility, and patience for younger generations in the church and especially outside the church.

As public life gets more polarized and impatient, as racism rebounds, as vaccine envy and income inequality generate discord; we who are considered "older Christians" need to model the gifts of the Holy Spirit and especially the gift of love and patience. Speaking of the most important spiritual gift, Saint Paul says, "love is patient and love is kind." So, perhaps as we approach Saint Valentine's Day, I have to ask myself, is love more than a box of chocolate and a dozen roses? Perhaps, I need to model more patience and love with people around me, with whom I passionately disagree, and take the long view, that others will come to know the truth. Perhaps, I with my longer lens can believe that our next generation of citizens will become more civil, more kind, more, hopeful and loving. Yes, I believe it is our role as older Christians to model hope when it looks darkest, when there is not enough vaccine, not enough money, not enough jobs, not enough unity or peace. This is a strong act of faith, exactly what is needed now from those who have had a long walk with Jesus.

Special thanks to those who will attend Church in person in February as Congregational Representatives: Bill & Ivana Freeman, Michael & Lisa Villano, Doug & Gretchen Streuli, Julie & Mark Combs.

In Christ's Mission,

Fr. Kim Guiser

January 27, Feast of Saint John Chrysostom

Stewardship News

In planning the 2021 budget, the vestry reviewed the budget and decided that it was necessary to reduce all staff salaries and hours. Custodial, Secretarial and Clergy positions were affected. Please note that the Parish Secretary & Clergy hours are from 10 AM to 2 PM Wednesdays and Fridays. Also, offering envelopes not picked up at the church can be delivered upon request. Call 610-942-2365 to have yours delivered.

**Wednesday February 17th is Ash Wednesday
Service will be at 7:00 PM.**

ASH WEDNESDAY *Worship*



Holy Eucharist celebrated on Facebook

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

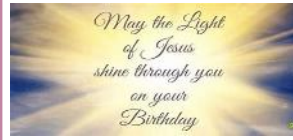
[St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Honey Brook - YouTube](#)

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 ~



Happy Birthday

Diane Spath 2/2
Liam Brogan 2/9
Bridget Wood 2/14
Marilyn Bremer 2/16
Marcia Wilkinson 2/17
Laurie Finn 2/19
Jamie Finn 2/21
Sally Macomber 2/22
Nancy Benner 2/27



Happy Anniversary

Jim & Laurie Finn 2/14
Bob & Lois Schultz 2/14
Stu & Toni McLauchlan 2/21

ST. MARK'S OUTREACH UPDATE JANUARY 2021

Ivanna Freeman

Steeple to People	4 bags of groceries 1 bag secondhand items
Mychal's Message	127 Hats, Scarves, Mittens for their "Holy Hands Project"
Honey Brook Elementary Center	8 Hats & 8 pairs of Groves
Honey Brook Sewing Circle	33 Baby Hats

Souper Sunday is February 7th please bring cans of soup to the church for this event.

Any questions contact Ivanna Freeman



Sally's Corner

Begin the New Year With Prayer

God's Love

We love God because He first loved us!

In the Old Testament there are 250 mentions of love. And the New Testament uses love 234 times and of those, 72 are found in John's gospel and epistles.

Read 1 John 4:7-11, the apostle John mentions love in every verse.

Romans 8:38,39 , For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The following is the final list of the 30 Life Principles To Live By from Charles F. Stanley

21. Obedience always brings blessing.

22. To walk in the Spirit is to obey the initial prompting of the Spirit.

23. You can never outgive God.

24. To live the Christian life is to allow Jesus to live His life in and through us.

25. God blesses us so that we might bless others.

26. Adversity is a bridge to a deeper relationship with God.

27. Prayer is life's greatest time saver.

28. No Christian has ever been called to "go it alone" in his or her walk of faith.

29. We learn more in our valley experiences than on our mountaintops.

30. An eager anticipation of the Lord's return keeps us living productively.

The Inauguration of our 46th President of the United States , Joseph R. Biden Jr and the first female Vice President, Kamala Harris, took place on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. "Democracy has Prevailed" Our new President stresses healing, respect and above all, unity as a nation.

I always liked JFK's question: "Ask not what your country can do for you; what can you do for your country?"

May God Bless America!
Faithfully, Sally Nickle



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Get to know Gail Craven our Organist.

Gail grew up in a musical household, singing in youth choirs at the Church of the Redeemer, Episcopal Bryn Mawr. This experience sparked a lifelong love of liturgical choral music.

She attended Ithaca College and Temple University, where she received Bachelor's degrees in both psychology and music theory/piano, studying with Alexander Fiorillo. Later, she returned to Temple U. for a Master's degree in music theory and composition. Post graduate studies in organ were completed at Immaculata U. with Michael Helmann.

She has given organ and piano recitals, and has had sacred compositions performed in various churches. When it was possible to perform for an audience, she played duet piano with a partner, Gail Habecker. The two of them were known as Gail X 2", and performed in many area churches together.

Gail lives in West Chester with her adult son, and her rescue dog. She loves to play many different instruments, garden, and make quilts.

**ECW
2021**

Holly Weaver

**The ECW received a special thank you card for the Christmas gift given to Fr. Kim and Mother Asha.

Holly Weaver issued this letter;
To the Parish Women,
Sally and I would like to give a gift to the church, either for the general fund or the audio visual equipment.

Thank you, be safe Holly Weaver.

Ash Wednesday February 17th 7:00 PM live or YouTube and Facebook

The first of the forty days of Lent, named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers at Ash Wednesday services. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality, and may be imposed with the sign of the cross. Ash Wednesday is observed as a fast in the church year of the Episcopal Church. The Ash Wednesday service is one of the Proper Liturgies for Special Days in the BCP (p. 264). Imposition of ashes at the Ash Wednesday service is optional.

Imposition of Ashes

Ashes may be imposed on the heads of participants in the Ash Wednesday service as a sign of mortality and penitence. The ashes are imposed with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (BCP, p. 265). Ashes are typically imposed by inscribing a cross on the forehead. The imposition of ashes has been practiced on Ash Wednesday since the ninth century.

As Lent approaches this year, we lament.

We lament all those whose lives were lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our hearts break for all of the people who are no longer with us. We also lament other losses that include jobs and livelihoods, the opportunity to travel to visit loved ones and the ability to worship together in our church buildings. So much was lost, with little or no time to lament that which was lost. Because of the magnitude of these collective losses, I decided to focus on lament as the theme for the 2021 Lenten Meditations.

"Four Steps of Lament," by resting, reflecting, repenting and ultimately being restored to God and to one another. This Lent, may God restore your soul by bringing you into the bright new life that is our Easter promise. And may you continue to know that you are loved now and always.

City Gate Men's Mission

St. Mark's continues to supply dinners to City Gate in Coatesville. If you would like to help with cooking, contact Frank Weaver or Fr. Kim before the second Saturday of each month. The next dinner is on February 13,



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



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WILDERNESS
 TEMPTED
 DEVIL
 FASTED
 FORTY
 HUNGRY
 STONES
 LOAVES
 ANGELS
 FOOT
 SATAN
 WORSHIP



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 installed and working great.

Connect with YouTube go to our website and click on the link, You can also use Facebook.

**Ash Wednesday Feb. 17th
 7:00 PM**
**First Sunday in Lent Feb. 21st.
 10:00 AM**

We have openings in March and April, sign-up to worship in-person in our sanctuary as a representative for the whole congregation. Invites were sent out via E-Mail or call Fr. Kim.

The January vestry meeting will be held via Zoom on February 17th at 7 pm.

Please submit pictures for the March Newsletter. All pictures are welcome, pets, children, seniors .

The vestry made 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.

