

The Messenger



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

September 2021

A Pastoral Letter in August with Yellow Jackets and Afghan Refugees

Mowing my lawn a few years ago, I ran over a nest of “Yellow Jacket” wasps nesting in a ground hole. The “Yellow Jackets” swarmed out suddenly and stung me many times on the legs and neck. It was a painful surprise that I had little warning about. The collapse of the puppet Afghanistan government so suddenly was also like running over “Yellow Jacket” wasps; a sudden and painful surprise. It is also surprising that the many thousands of Afghans, wanting to leave their country, would not stand and fight for their freedom after twenty years of American and European support. But, that is the sad history and now the consequences are many refugees. You may be asking yourself whether we should take responsibility for these mostly Muslim refugees as Christians. I wrestled with that question having resettled three refugee families from South Vietnam and the Congo with a Lutheran congregation.

It was popular theology twenty years ago to apply this test question to every moral or difficult problem arising in our society. The test to resolving every thorny problem was this, that I'm sure you remember, “What Would Jesus Do”, WWJD for short. So, what would Jesus do if asked to resettle Muslim refugees? I think Jesus might remember his parents telling the story of them being refugees from King Herod and the slaughter of innocent children that caused Mary and Joseph to flee to Egypt. Jesus might also have heard the story in his Nazareth Synagogue of Moses and the Israelites fleeing Egypt as refugees from Pharaoh's army. Jesus might remember the story of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for forty years with no home country.

So, if you asked me “What Would Jesus Do” with Afghan refugees, I would say that he would have compassion for them first. Compassion that acknowledges that the twenty years or more of war have left them very wounded, traumatized, and frightened of violence. They are too frightened to fight the Taliban Wasp Warlords. The second thing Jesus would do is give these refugees rest; rest from the constant war around them. Jesus said “*Come unto me all you who are burdened and heavy laden and I will give you rest*”. Jesus was speaking to Jews and non-Jews alike. Why would Jesus have compassion and offer rest to Muslim refugees? Because, his scriptures (*the book of Genesis*) say clearly that all humans are created in the image of God and therefore quite valuable. So, I am pretty sure what Jesus would do with Afghan refugees. He would have compassion on them and give them rest and places to rest away from the Yellow Jacket Taliban Warlords wasps.

The Big Question about Afghan refugees now is not what Jesus would do, but what we would do. We as Christians say we follow Jesus. But following Jesus is not an idea or a feeling or good wishes, it is “Doing What Jesus Would Do”. I look forward to talking to the members of Saint Marks's about this Afghan refugee crisis. There is a way for us to offer compassion and rest to those who have lost their war and their home. WWJD is clear to my conscience and I pray to yours also.

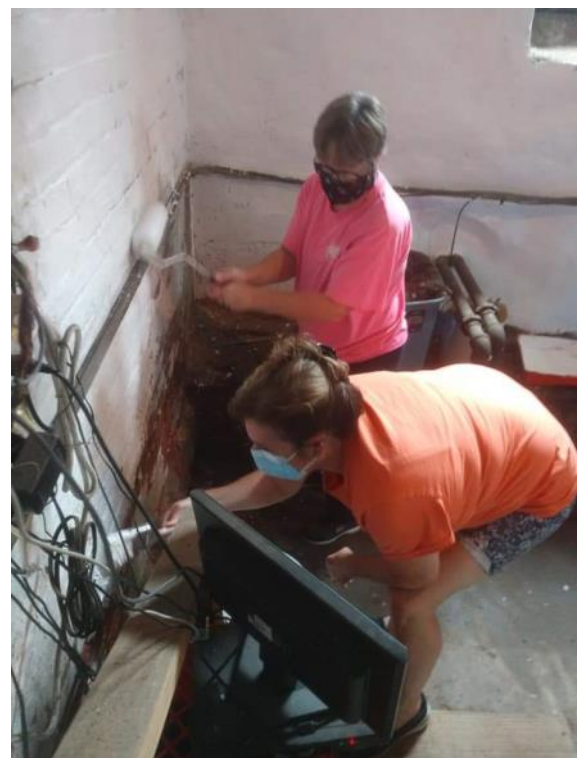
In Christ's Mission,

Fr. Kim

A simple gift of my time.

A good friend of mine decided for her 50th birthday she would like help painting a couple of basement rooms at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Frankford. This is the church that feeds and clothes so many people in the city and recently gave out 1000 backpacks to children in the area; my friend has been telling me for a while about Christina, the senior warden, and all of the work she's been doing for her community. A couple of us went last Sunday and joined other friends in whitewashing 2 rooms in the basement to help with moisture control prior to them installing shower areas for the homeless. Christina gave a tour of the gorgeous church and grounds; it was immediately clear it was in need of expensive repairs. They also do not have a presence on social media and even though they only get about 30 people a week to their services, there is an entire community out there willing to help with their mission. I plan to help Christina to livestream on their Facebook page and to get the word out about their needs. We were deeply humbled by Christina's dedication to the people of Frankford, to her church mission and God!

Julie Combs



Don't Forget to Set Your Alarm Clock

It is "back to school" time again. Most of us have experienced these days in our lifetime. I always missed my children when they returned to their classes. It was such a joy watching them grow throughout the years. Those who have students attending college for their first time may find themselves as "empty nesters". It does take a little getting used to a quieter. style of life.

To all, Trust God!! Be strong and of good courage; do not fear or be dismayed. Obedience always brings blessings. Keep the law and the commandments. Hold fast and cherish your relationship with God. If adversity hits, cling to your faith. Keep God's Word and remain faithful in your relationship with the Lord You are my God! My times are in your hands. Deliver me from the hand of my enemies. Ps 31: 13-15

Ask the Lord to give you courage.

Read your Bible. When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly Matt 6: 5-6 This summer has produced a bountiful of fresh fruits and vegetables. Enjoy them while they are available. The first day of autumn is September 22nd. May the remainder of summer be a joyous one.

Best Wishes to every student returning to school and/or college. May you have an excellent year.

Faithfully yours,
Sally Nickle

A St. Mark's Perspective by Bob Schultz



Our family has been inordinately blessed. As you may well know we have had some serious health issues which continue to this day. However, as the Psalmist writes we are under the care of God's almighty and protective wings that keep us safe in all circumstances. What a reassurance!

Our community family at St. Mark's has been most supportive with phone calls, flowers shared, cards and notes received, pastoral calls, and more importantly ongoing prayers. We've now passed the eighteenth month anniversary since we have attended corporate worship on Chestnut Tree Road.

'Tis not intended as a boast. Thankfully, our vestry and parish leadership are sufficiently resourceful and today we have the option of attending either on You Tube or Facebook. Lois and I gather before the desktop with Prayer Book, hymnal, Bible and well-worn leaflet from Sunday's past which enable us to fully participate in the Sunday service. What richness and enduring grace these worship aids provide.

We anxiously await being able to be with you and seeing you face to face, even if behind a PPE mask.

Links



<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 Yeomans 9/2

Christine Roy 9/7

Drew Kaiser 9/8

Chase Pasela 9/8

Asha Guiser 9/9

Jim Finn 9/14

Norm Wilkinson 9/21

Ben Witman 9/21

Beth Snow 9/25

Mike Villano 9/28



Happy Anniversary

George & Sally Nickle 9/14

John & Frances Madiro 9/17

Jamie & Becky Hatranft 9/28

Sept. Healthing Corner *Holly Weaver*



"September's 2021 Healthing Corner"

Monthly : Alzheimer Awareness {WORLD},
NATIONAL Blood Cancers,
Cholesterol Education,
Week : Suicide Prevention Sept. 5th-11th,
Happy Holiday Sept 6th Enjoy and Be Safe
Clean Hands Sept. 11th-17th, (20seconds with soap
and warm water),
Fall prevention:
Sept 19th-25th.
Sept. 22nd First Day of Fall,
Sept 23th Great American Pot Pie,
Sept. 27th Chocolate Milk.



ECW NEWS

ECW: will be working in the kitchen to get ready for Sep-
tember 12th celebration

Fellowship: Started and we are having Fun after
Church. There is a sign-up sheet for TREATS.

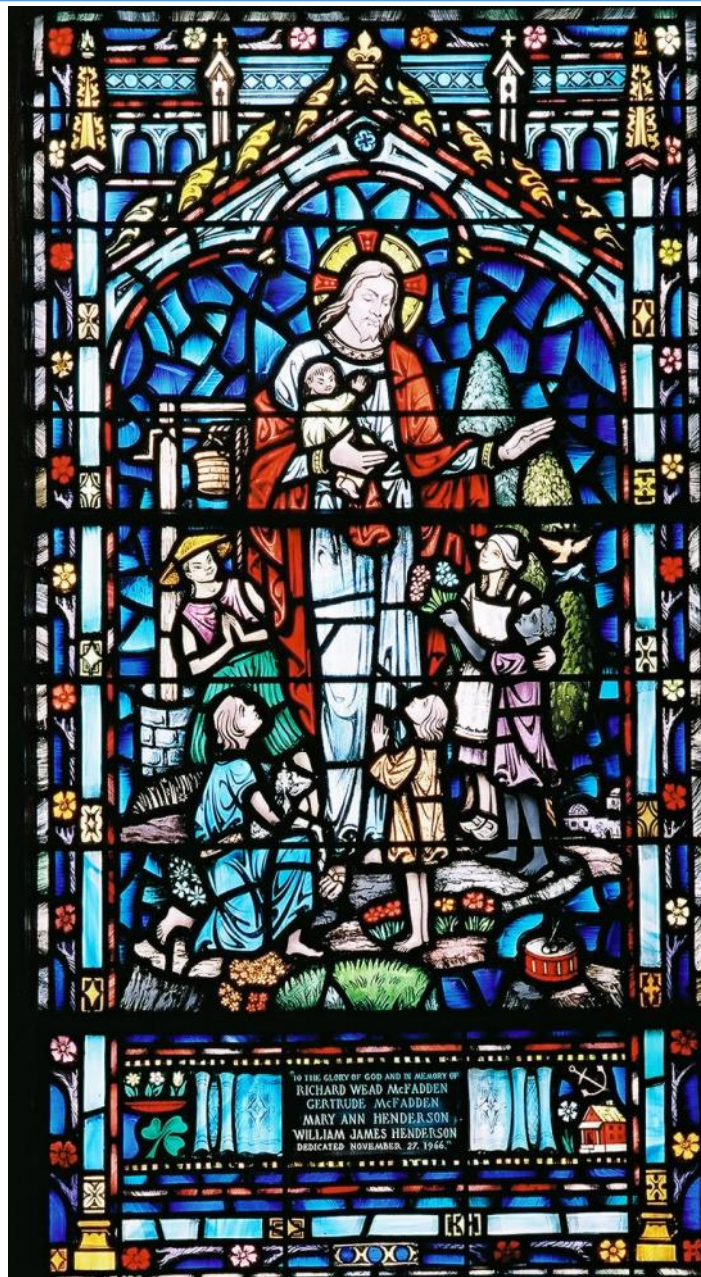


Coffee Fellowship

Christ Blessing Children

Christ Blessing the Children was a gift from Gertrude McFadden in memory of her husband, daughter, and her parents (Mr. & Mrs. William Henderson.) The Henderson family had been active members since 1891. When the window was given, 1963—1966 the Rev. E. M. Bevins (a civil rights activist) refused to have the window commissioned until all the children in the window represented different nationalities (originally all were Caucasian). Point of interest here: Mr. McFadden (Gertrude's husband) had no tolerance for civil rights. Remember that St. Mark's is just 35 miles north of the Mason-Dixon Line, which meant hostilities at that point in history.

The window pictures are taken by Stuart McLauchlan and the write up about the window was done by Diane Spath.



St. Mark's Outreach Update

August, 2021

Ivanna Freeman

- Mychal's Message-. 39 items
Of underwear, t-shirts and socks
- To Steeple to People- 3 bags of groceries
- To Eastern Lancaster County Food Bank-
1 box of groceries
- To Honey Brook Sewing Circle- 10 baby hats
- To Honey Brook Elementary Center-
4 Bookbags with school
Supplies inside, for
students in need.

**The church
has left
the building.**



We are still collecting school supplies and food for Steeple to people.



Prayer

Oh Heavenly Savior, I thank you for Your church. Together, we sing a song of glory to You, and Your name is exalted. May I walk with those who love Your name and grow in You. I pray that I may learn from my fellows and that they may learn from me. I pray for an eternal bond with my brothers and sisters in Your church, and I thank you for Your Kingdom that is our inheritance. In Christ's name,
Amen.

Inspiration

It is difficult - even impossible - to achieve the perfection that Jesus did on earth. It is a struggle every day to live by His commandments. But we are not alone! God's church provides us with fellowship. We lean on each other and learn from each other, and we sing songs of praise to the Heavenly Father together. In this way, we can grow closer to God than we can by ourselves, and we can live a more Christ-like life.

Many are called but few sign-up...**St. Mark's worship team calendar**

The life of the church is its people. Our participation in worship and fellowship is but one way we demonstrate our willingness to serve. - Bob Schultz

	9/5	9/12	9/19	9/26	
GREETERS	Rose Dienno	Burt Todd	Verna & Karl Emery		
USHERS					
READERS	Toni McLauchlan	Dr. Asha	Kathleen Mraz	Frank Weaver	
PRAYERS	Pam Refford	Burt Todd	Toni McLauchlan		
ACOYTE					
COUNTERS	Sandy Shaffer Burt Todd	Mike Villano Frank Weaver	John Mraz Toni McLauchlan	Sandy Shaffer Jeanie Villano	
EUCCHARISTIC MINITER	Marilyn Bremer	Bob Shingle	Kay Lee	Bob Shingle	
ALTAR GUILD					
NURSERY/SUNDAY SCHOOL					
FELLOWSHIP APPETIZER	Fr. Kim Dr. Asha	Liz Hughes	Verna Emery	Susan Weidener	
FELLOWSHIP MAIN DISH	Anne Sue Lorah	Mary Ann Kaiser	Toni McLauchlan	Holly & Frank Weaver	
FELLOWSHIP DESSERT	Rose Dienno	Sally Macomber	Bob Shingle	Toni McLauchlan	

LET US PRAY FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN NEED: Charles Blosenski, Billy Brennan, Shaun Chandler, The Combs family, Donald Combs, The Darby family, John & Elizabeth Deering, Nick Gehman, Janice, Piper Hatfield, Judy Ink, John & Sally Macomber, The Pasela Family, Susan Peet, Dick Rainer, Ruth Rainer, Bob, Lois & Elisabeth Schultz, Diane Spath, Jim Woolwine, David Corrigan, Elizabeth Lorah, Ginny Lorah, Claudia Petrus,, Harry Orlando, Taran Miller, Sheri Monti, Steve Attis, Beth Knoedler, Mike Bird, Sam Dienno, Suzanne Towber, Annamarie Picariello, Susan Rainer, Douglas Rainer, Greg Shores, Jane Shingle

The Prayer list information:

Please mail all additions and deletions to the parish secretary.

The leaflet dedications.

You may dedicate a Sunday leaflet either in honor or in memory of a loved one, the cost is \$10.00 to help cover the cost of producing our weekly leaflet.

BULLETIN BOARD

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 Sept. 11, 2021

Let us know what you would like to see in our newsletter!

September 12, 2021 Kitchen Dedication in the undercroft following our Sunday Service. Stop down and see the beautiful work our volunteers have done!

The September Vestry meeting will be held via Zoom on Sept 13 at 7 pm.



Remember
20
years
ago
9
/
11

God of Tears

God of Tears, who weeps with us
And holds our trembling hands.

God of fears, embraces us
When we're too weak to stand.

God of worried, restless nights
Has eyes that never sleep.

God of sorrow, sighs with us
When visited by grief.

The times when we are most alone
Is when He is most near;
And when we are engulfed by fog,
His vision crystal clear.

He's with us in each darkened hour,
And suffers every loss.

Because He gave up heaven's realms,
For nails upon a cross.

—*Steve Proctor*

