



An Advent Road Less Traveled

They say that road from Nazareth to Bethlehem was a hard journey, a road less cared for than our route 422 expressway. In Jesus's day most people didn't travel far from home because it was just too difficult and dangerous. Joseph and Virgin Mary were compelled by the government to travel in a census for tax reasons. They undoubtedly, didn't want to venture out on this new road, but they did. Yet, most of us try to avoid our problems and see difficult roads as something negative to be avoided. However, noted psychotherapist and author, M. Scott Peck, wrote that hardship, "the road less traveled", often teaches us how to face challenges which lead to spiritual growth, deeper self knowledge and deeper intimacy with God.

At, Saint Mark's, we as a congregation have been traveling on a dangerous drive way since 1835, even before autos were invented. Since cars started driving down Chestnut Tree Road, the driveway entrance and exit has been a hazard to all who come to church. The Vestry of Saint Mark's wisely chose to do something difficult to make ending church safer. They have planned a new drive way, named Shingle Lane, in nor of Bob Shingle and his family. We were also able to secure a Diocesan Grant for \$66,000 to get the project started along with a \$15,000 gift from a member. It has been a slow road toward getting this new drive way built. The Vestry did take the "road less traveled" in tackling this issue. And, I believe that in taking the difficult road, Saint Mark's people will benefit not only from the safety aspect, but also from the spiritual growth that change often brings.

When a new entry to the church is built, new people seeking love in a religious community that is disciplined enough to take the "less traveled road", will start driving in. So, prepare for the changes our openness will bring. New drivers on the "road less traveled" will disturb our old way of doing church. The question for us already in the parking lot is this; are you ready drive down the "road less traveled" and grow deeper in your own journey with God and each other. Will you allow God to show you more than your current routine? My advice in Advent is to program your GPS for a "Road Less Traveled". Use Google, Apple, or Ways or Jesus.

In Advent Peace,

Holly Weaver

Healthing Corner

“ What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he would be righteous? Job 15:14

Awareness Dec.

International Sharps Injury, National Safe Toy and Gifts, National Alzheimer's, ADHD Disease,

National Family Caregiver Week, Handwashing Dec. 1-7, Worlds AIDS Dec. 1, Disabilities Dec. 3

Practicing Good Hygiene

A. Reduces risk of infection and disease: Washing Hands help prevent spread of germs that can cause illness.

B. Help you feel better about your self. C. Reduces body odor.

A Merry, Merry   **Christmas**





FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship 2024

Thank you, Servants of the Lord. Our cooks and those who help to clean-up.

This gave a Good meaning to Fellowship this year. Keep coming to Church and providing Great Hospitality.

Thank you....for the food, support, laughs and caring....

Happy New year      

ECW 2024 - HOLLY WEAVER

ECW of ST. Mark's HB,PA

The officers' and Holiday Committee would like to Thank All of you, for your Time, and Talent, and Treasure that you gave for this year's Bazaar.

As you know that each year the Raffle Drawing is the first Sunday in Advent. Stay tuned for more information on winners of the raffle and Treasure that was made to support our community.

We,(ECW) as the church, have yet to pick our Charity for this year's support. Please submit Names by January 10th, then we can announce the charity at The Annual Parish meeting.

St. Mark's to get 25% and named Charity 15% after all bills paid.

Thank you again,

Holly, Sally N., Sue Lorah, Beth S. and Holiday Committee



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 ~



December Birthdays

Mara Witman, 12/1
Anne Lorah, 12/1
Diana Anders, 12/4
Julie Combs, 12/4
Joe Orlando, 12/5
Kathleen Mraz, 12/5
David Chellappa, 12/14
Hunter Pasela, 12/22
Lucia Costanzo, 12/29
Linda Duquay, 12/30

December Anniversaries

Karl & Verna Emery, 12/26



Office of the Bishop of Pennsylvania

For this reason, my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:29-30

My Siblings in Christ,

Since the beginning of this year, I have had 131 meetings with our churches, with you. I spend every waking hour and many sleepless nights thinking about how we can strengthen our churches, deepen our faith, and make our prayers a reality. At each visitation, I deeply listen to your dreams, fears, and challenges.

The number one question I am asked is: How can we grow?

Beginning this Advent, and continuing for the next three to four years, the diocesan offices will not launch new initiatives. Once again, all our financial, spiritual, and physical resources will be used to grow our churches, empower your ministries, connect churches, and build up the resources you need to meet the challenges ahead. (See the list of resources we have and are continuing to build for you: [https:// www.diopa.org/help](https://www.diopa.org/help).) I believe our parishes and their ministries are the direct connection between the world and the Gospel.

The purpose of the diocese is to walk with you on your journey, to make sure you know you are not alone, to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, together. As your Bishop, my ministry among you has been to provide connections: to one another, to support, to resources, and to partners. Since the beginning, my commitment has been supporting you, and I will redouble that effort.

We are one family of 136 churches – some small, some large. Some in between. Like a family, we come together to help those with greater need. When one church helps another church with greater challenges, we prove that we are one. In a divided society, that unity can be a beacon of light. We are stronger together.

Each parish does ministry in its own context, and it is those parish ministries that the Holy Spirit uses to draw people to Jesus Christ. You are the most critical disciples in spreading the Gospel. I trust each of you to know your communities and how to minister to them. We want to help you grow your ministries so you can continue to reach those who are vulnerable. When we empower you, we grow stronger together. When churches work together, that connectedness is amplified.

This Advent is the season of preparation for the present and the future. It is a Season of Care and Connection of our Churches. Let us keep our eyes on Christ and prepare.

Also, please invite someone to church during Advent and Christmas. Share the hope of Jesus Christ and the hope of our churches.



The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania 23 E. Airy Street, Norristown, PA 19401 215 627 6434 contact@diopa.org www.diopa.org

| December 2024 | 12/01 | 12/08 | 12/15 | 12/22 | 12/24 | 12/29 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| GREETERS | Rose Dienno | | | Brittney Urban | Verna Emery | Rose Dienno |
| USHER/GIFTS | Sally & George Nickle | Sally & George Nickle | Sally & George Nickle | Sally & George Nickle | Sally & George Nickle | Sally & George Nickle |
| READERS | Toni McL | Kathleen Mraz | Mother Asha | Toni McL | Toni McL | Sue Lorah |
| PRAYERS | Mother Asha | Susan Weidener | Toni McL | Brittney | Liz Hughes | Lois Schultz |
| ACOLYTE | Nick & Lucia, David, Evan , Cayleigh | Nick & Lucia, David, Evan , Cayleigh | Nick & Lucia, David, Evan , Cayleigh | Nick & Lucia, David, Evan , Cayleigh | Dave & Cayleigh Nick C. | Nick & Lucia, David, Evan , Cayleigh |
| COUNTERS | Christine Todd Laurie Finn | Amanda C Kim Symonds | Verna Emery Toni M | Pat Nass Julie Combs Toni McL | None | Toni M John Mraz |
| EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER | Kim Symonds | Bob Shingle | Mike Villano | Kim Symonds | Bob Shingle | Kim Symonds |
| ALTAR GUILD | Karl & Verna | Karl & Verna | Kaye Lee Verna | Kay Lee Barbara H Sheila C | Verna Karl | Verna Karl |
| NURSERY/ SUNDAY SCHOOL | Ivanna | Ivanna | Ivanna | Ivanna | Ivanna | Ivanna |
| FELLOWSHIP APPETIZER | Erin Pasela | ECW German Christmas Lunch | Fr. Kim Mother Asha | Weaver | None | Sue |
| FELLOWSHIP MAIN DISH | Fr. Kim Mother Asha | ECW German Christmas Lunch | Jeff & Barbara Haas | Jess & Chris Urban | None | Weaver |
| FELLOWSHIP DESSERT | Fr. Kim Mother Asha | ECW German Christmas Lunch | Susan Weidener | Brittney & Nancy | None | Maureen Price |

WE ESPECIALLY PRAY FOR: **Mary Hayes, Burt Todd, Sandy Shaffer, Michael Morris, Jeff Haas, Erin Pasela, Pat Clark, Debbie Reese, Peg Hoxter, Drinda, Debbie Mienert, Dorothy Stauffer, Sharon Levering, Nelson Price, Carol Hoppes, SUE LORAH, BRIAN LEE, DIANA ANDERS, BILL FREEMAN, RON SHINGLE, Zach Schrum, Mary Ann Gallagher, Piper Hatfield, Lynn Williams. Wanda Bullock, Julie Combs, Diane Spath, Lois Schultz, Taran Miller, Sheri Monti, Jane Shingle, Galen Miller, Julie (Nass) Immel, Tori Edwards, The Dienno Family, Ed Kasian, Bella Maria, Beverly Karlson, And those we now name aloud or silently**



BULLETIN BOARD

City Gate Men's Mission:
Volunteers needed to help Frank Weaver
cook the second Saturday of each month at
City Gate. Sat. Dec. 14th

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

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

The second quarter vestry meetings
will be zoomed at 7:00 PM Dec. 16

**Please remember the *Saint Mark's "Little Food Cupboard"* outside
the undercroft by bringing canned or dry food items for the
hungry in our community.**



EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 1st - FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:00 Choir School

9:00 AM Choir rehearsal

10:30 AM Pledge Sunday Eucharist

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Dec. 8th - SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:00 AM Choir School

9:00 AM Choir rehearsal

10:30 AM Schubert's Mass in "F"

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY

Dec. 15th - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:00 AM Choir School

9:00 AM Choir rehearsal

Angel Tree Gifts for Hearts In Hands return

Dec. 22nd - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 AM Choir rehearsal

Dec. 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - Merry Christmas

3:00 PM Christmas Eve Service Holy Eucharist

Dec. 29th— 10:30 AM Morning Prayer