



THE WAY

The Newsletter of
St. Mark the Evangelist
Episcopal Church
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Syracuse, NY 13204
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December 2023



St. Mark's Christmas Clothes Closet saw a large number of shoppers who were also given the opportunity to enjoy a free breakfast at the Green Café (below) and shop for a free coat along with hats, mittens, gloves and scarf courtesy of the Hazard Branch Library's Mitten Tree (left). (For more turn to pgs. 4-5)



A Word ...

Charlie Brown: I guess I really don't know what Christmas is all about. Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?!

Linus: Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about..."for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord..."

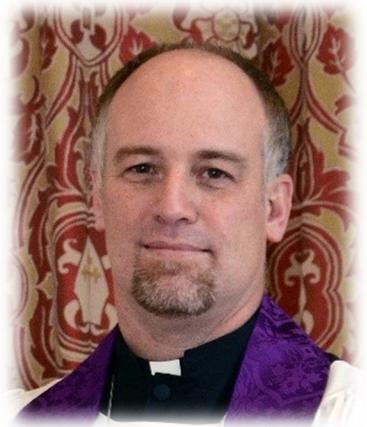
This exchange, which I'm sure all of you are familiar with, comes from the classic Charlie Brown Christmas Special. While Charlie is overwhelmed by the creeping secularization of Christmas and its commercialization to the point where he feels like a failure for not being able to keep up with it all; his best friend Linus reminds him of the simple and surprising event at its center, the incarnation of God in the baby Jesus.

Of all that God has done, aside from the Creation itself, this act is probably his most audacious and surprising. And it reminds us that God rarely enters into our lives in loud or showy ways, and never where we might expect it. Instead, God enters our lives in the same way Jesus entered the world, unexpectedly and deep in the margins where he might be easy to miss.

And yet, just as at the birth of Jesus, there are signs all around us of the active role of God in our world and in our lives. I think it is especially easy to miss those signs when we are busy and trying to meet so many expectations, like at Christmas. I hope all of us have someone like Linus around to remind us and to show us how God is alive and in our midst.

As we walk through the seasons of Advent and Christmas; keep your ears tuned to hear the angels sing and your eyes open to see the bright star and to be drawn away into the unexpected places and with our Lord.

Peace,
Jon



2023 CHRISTMAS SERVICES

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
THE BIRTH OF HOPE IN STORY, SONG, AND PRAYER

December 24th at 4:00pm - Early Christmas Eve

At St Mark's

*Family-Friendly service with favorite Christmas hymns –
reception to follow*

December 24th at 7:00pm - Christmas Eve

At St Luke's

*Festal Eucharist with hymns – champagne & chocolate
reception to follow*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARK...

New Evaluation Process



Are you interested in planning an activity? An event? A new ministry?

If so, the Vestry has approved a checklist that must be completed. It's a simple questionnaire which focuses on the plans' goal, purpose, fitting with the church's mission, resources, cost, time, and responsibility. Once completed, the Vestry will review the plan to determine the direction of the proposed plan.

It is hoped that by creating this process, our church will be more focused on our move into the future.

The checklists are available in the office.

Food Pantry

Thank you for supporting this very important Outreach program. I thought you might be interested in what actually goes into the food pantry bags. The following is a list of what we try to keep on hand regularly. Feel free to bring in any of these items at any time.

Each client receives 2 bags of food:

Bag #1 has Cereal, tomato soup and a "Hearty/chunky" soup, a bag of rice, mashed potato pouch, Tuna Helper and 2 cans of tuna, a box of pasta and a jar of sauce, a box of macaroni and cheese (the yellow boxes are best), 2 Ramen noodle soups.

Bag #2 has peanut butter, jelly, hash, chili with beans, beef stew, canned fruit, applesauce, pudding cups, 2 cans of vegetables (peas, corn, carrots, green beans), pork and beans and 1 sleeve of saltine crackers. Occasionally we will have some cookies or dessert items and those would be added if available.

Jackie Eberline

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Our Food Pantry is currently in immediate need of the following items:

Tomato Soup	Jelly
Tuna	Applesauce
Mac & Cheese	Peas
Pasta and Sauce	Carrots
Chili with Beans	Pork and Beans
Peanut Butter	

ONLY:

Items may be brought to the church on Sundays or during office hours (Tuesday & Friday, 8am to 2pm; Thursday 12:30-3pm)

NOTE: Please be sure to check the expiration dates of all items donated.

Thank you!



St. Mark's annual Christmas Clothes Closet sees record number of shoppers

After a slightly slow reopening last year following its closure during the COVID pandemic, St. Mark's 2023 Christmas Clothes Closet welcomed the hustle and bustle of a multitude of customers on Saturday, Dec. 9.

The festive and fun event included a coat and warm gear giveaway, a free breakfast at the Green Café, a table of free items for holiday shopping, a reading of the nativity story for the children as well as a visit with Santa Claus and goodies galore.

Here are some images from the day...



All pictures courtesy of
Gary Neddo



Hazard Branch Library's Tree of Caring

Once again, Hazard Branch Library and patrons came through in time for St. Mark's Christmas Clothes Closet!

In November, Hazard Branch Library set up a "Mitten Tree," collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarfs from the library patrons to donate to St. Mark's Christmas Clothes Closet. In early December, boxes with more than 100 items to go along with the winter coat giveaway were delivered.

St. Mark the Evangelist sends a sincere and appreciative shout out of THANKS to Hazard Branch Library for their generous and thoughtful donation to our Clothes Closet!

The free coat and winter gear giveaway will continue at the Dec. 21 holiday Clothes Closet dinner from 3-5:30 pm.





"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to the glory of God."

2 Corinthians 4:15

Here are some notes from the November 20, 2023, Vestry meeting.

Pat Dunn, with a devoted group of 4, completed the yearly audit.

- ▶ Nancy Tucker will be looking at different church sites for ideas on their procedure for online donations.
- ▶ Jim Miller has been reviewing Facebook pages of Porter, Frazer, and Bellevue schools to see if they are including our information.
- ▶ Jim Miller is looking into Aldi's for future gift cards as that store is closer to our neighborhood.
- ▶ Nancy Tucker knit and donated 32 pairs of mittens to Porter School. Thank you, Nancy!
- ▶ A Christmas party will be held on December 17, after the greening of the church. All are welcome!
- ▶ The stewardship letter has been sent out and will be collected to be consecrated on December 10.
- ▶ Fr. Jon purchased sandwich boards for welcome entry to the service.
- ▶ Keep Kevin Ward in your prayers as he proceeds through the discernment process.
- ▶ Our plowing contract has been renewed but does not include salting this year.
- ▶ The next discernment meeting with parishioners will be held January 21, 2024.
- ▶ Fr. Jon and Gary Neddo are reevaluating our boilers to determine the best approach to our problems.
- ▶ We are also working with a St. Luke's parishioner to help with cutting our utility costs.
- ▶ Christmas Eve services will be held at both St. Luke's and St. Mark's. Check for the schedule for times.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to see any Vestry member or Warden.

***Faithfully Submitted,
St. Mark the Evangelist Vestry***



december

Happy Birthday

- 2 Jim Miller
- 22 Doris Monroe
- 26 Julie Dunn
- 31 Deb Denny

If you would like to be added to the birthday and or anniversary listing, please contact Deb in the office.

From the Treasurer...

Financial Report for January 1 thru November 30, 2023

	<i>Budget for Year</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
<i>Income</i>	\$115,450.00	\$117,497.03	2,047.03
<i>Expenses</i>	\$178,316.89	\$134,176.18	-\$44,140.71
<i>Deficit</i>	-\$62,866.89	-\$16,679.15	\$46,187.74
<i>Pledges</i>	\$53,000.00	\$46,230.00	-\$6,770.00
<i>Clothes Closet/ FP</i>	\$ 3,054.65		
Investments	\$ 682,716.58		

Submitted by: Pat Dunn





St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:

Sundays

11 am—Holy Eucharist
In-person and by Livestream

All are Welcome!

Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday:

8 am to 2 pm

Thursday:

12:30-3pm

Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel

Mission Statement: The Church of St. Mark the Evangelist is a community of faith sharing the love of Jesus Christ with one another and the world.