

THE WAY

The Newsletter of
St. Mark the Evangelist
Episcopal Church
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St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church
Syracuse, NY
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FEBRUARY 2024



St. Mark the Evangelist parishioner, Barbara Costa (center), graciously shares her story since moving from her St. Mark's family, fondly remembering her days here and all St. Mark's did to help her live her amazing life. She is shown here with her children (from left) Martha, her youngest known as Marti, a CAD designer for an engineering firm in NC.; her son Rick, the oldest, a retired Army Lt. Col, who just left a state job working with federal funds to restore housing after hurricanes; and Katherine, who goes by Kay or Katie, who lives in Baltimore and is a middle school special ed teacher. Read all that Barb has been up to since St. Mark's sent her off in the summer of 2002 (page 4).

A Word ...

*By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down
And there we wept when we remembered Zion.
On the willows there we hung up our harps.
For there our captors asked us for songs, and
our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"
How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign
land?*

Psalm 137:1-4

I've always felt this is one of the most plaintive cries of lament in all the Bible. In this psalm, as the Israelites are marched away into captivity, from a homeland in ruins, by the conquering Babylonians, we hear their devastation and despair. Their world turned upside down, all of their assumptions shown to be false, and they cry from their felt separation from their homes and from their god. "How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?" is a cry that comes from their belief that God could only be present in their homeland.

As hard as the experience of exile must have been, it was also the experience that showed Israel that the presence of God was not confined to Israel, or the Jerusalem Temple. It showed them that the spirit of God can and does move through foreign lands and foreign hearts. This was a foresight of the coming of Jesus and his mission to free all human hearts by bringing all people to the knowledge of God's love.

For us today, this season of Lent is an invitation to enter a foreign place either through giving up something or by taking on something new. Through our efforts to forego the familiar or take up the unfamiliar we too can discover or be reminded of God's eternal presence and God's eternal love.

Peace,
Jon



Gifts of love & hope from the Mustangs

The Mustangs were able to raise a significant amount of money with the sale of Gertrude Hawk chocolates, Christmas wreaths and Christmas cookies. We decided to donate to a few more charities at the end of the year. We purchased groceries for the Church food pantry. Julie Dunn is a nurse at Summerwood Pediatrics and suggested "A Charity for children" which offers financial assistance for medical expenses of sick children. Another member suggested finding a charity that supports individuals dealing with drug addiction. We chose to donate to the Samaritan Center which feeds the homeless and offers case management to assist their many needs. We gave money to Vera House which serves Central New York by providing comprehensive and compassionate care to those suffering from domestic violence, sexual abuse and elder abuse. Lastly, we donated to Griffins Guardians which spreads awareness of Pediatric Cancer and brings hope to families with children battling cancer.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARK...

Fridays in Lent

Lent began this month, with Ash Wednesday being February 14th. During Lent we'll be adding a special Friday evening worship and supper series jointly with St Mark's. We'll begin in the first full week of Lent, on February 23rd. There is a signup sheet for hosts in the hallway on the bulletin board. The service will begin at 6:30pm with supper to follow.

As host, we are asking that you provide a simple supper (soups are great) to share that will be served in the library after a short Lenten worship service which begins at 6:30. If possible, please consider offering a meal that is gluten-free or which provides gluten-free options.

The schedule will be:

Friday Feb 23	at St Mark's
Friday March 1	at St Luke's
Friday March 8	at St Mark's
Friday March 15	at St Luke's
Friday March 22	at St Mark's



Food Pantry Update



The Food Pantry has been very busy lately! The following is a list of items that go in the bags routinely. Feel free to bring in any of these items on Sundays, during office hours or when the Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Fridays, 11am to 1pm.

Cereal, tomato soup, hearty soups, mashed potato pouches, canned potatoes, tuna, pasta and pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, chili, hash, beef stew, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, applesauce cups, canned vegetables (peas, corn, carrots, green beans), pork and beans, laundry detergent pods.

Soon the Food Pantry shelves will be relocated to the basement in the "acolyte" room. The goal is during the Food Pantry hours we will also be accepting clothing donations as well. Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11-1. Please sign up for a shift on the list in the parish hall.

Many thanks,
Jackie Eberline

Far away, but still close at heart

Originally a member of Calvary church, Barbara Costa was there at the beginning of the merger when 4 churches came together (All Saints, Calvary, St. Mark, and Trinity) to form St. Mark the Evangelist. Barb said when her first husband died in 1993, she married Jim Costa a year later, having known him 30 years at church. She describes her unique wedding to Jim: "Since our kids lived in 4 states and a foreign country, we were married by Langston McKinney, a City Court judge, in his chambers at the Syracuse jail! A year later in 1995 when we could gather everyone, we had a Blessing of a Civil Ceremony event at Calvary— one of the last services there with 150 people present and the reception at Drumlins."

Here is the rest of Barb's story in her own words:

In August of 2000, the people of St. Mark's gathered for Jim's funeral. A year later the people of St. Mark's gathered to send me off to seminary in Pennsylvania for a year. And in August of 2002 the people of St. Mark's gathered again to send me to live and work at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA. I shall never forget you.

In the 21 years since, I have had a very active life both in the town and seminary. At Trinity,

I became the Community Liaison in 2006, bringing the town and the seminary to a position where they knew each other better. I served the community on the Downtown Development Corporation, gave the invocation at Ambridge Council meetings, and served on the Board of the Friends of Old Economy Village, our National Historic Site. I also celebrated both my 80th and 90th birthdays.

Last August, I moved once again, this time to the midlands of South Carolina to live with my son, Rick and his wife, Pat. I have visited them for 5-6 weeks each year for over 12 years, so I know neighbors and people at their church, where I also sing in the choir. It is a much less active lifestyle, and now that I am settled, I have begun to look for local volunteer possibilities. My mobility is an issue and I use a rollator outside the house.

Rick and Pat travel quite often and I don't always go with them, so recently I have joined you online a few Sunday mornings. It is good to see old friends and to hear you read the Lessons. Deb has my information if any of you want to be in touch.

*God's blessings be with you always,
Barbara Costa*

New Cross erected at St. Mark's in time for Lenten Season



A new cross, artfully handcrafted by parishioner, Jim Miller's son, Jeff, is now standing in place of the former. Thanks to parishioner Eric Hovater, the cross was erected just in time for Shrove Tuesday and the commencement of the Lenten Season. *Look for images of Shrove Tuesday and more in the next edition.*





Film premiere of Philadelphia 11 features CNY Episcopal priest

The first online screening of the documentary film, *The Philadelphia Eleven*, will take place at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 8. Tickets are available online and cost \$10. All proceeds will benefit the film's distribution.

About the film

In an act of civil disobedience, a group of women and their supporters organize their ordination to become Episcopal priests in 1974. The Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia welcomes them, but change is no small task. The women are harassed, some lose friends, and others are banned from stepping on church property. In this feature-length documentary film, we meet the women

who succeed in building a movement that transforms an age-old institution and challenges the very essence of patriarchy within Christendom.

The women who became known as the “Philadelphia Eleven” (or “Philadelphia 11”) were Merrill Bittner, Alla Bozarth-Campbell, Alison Cheek, Emily Hewitt, Carter Heyward, Suzanne Hiatt, Marie Moorefield, Jeannette Piccard, Betty Bone Schiess, Katrina Swanson, and Nancy Wittig. Schiess was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but earned her master’s degree from Syracuse University. The screening will conclude with a live panel discussion with esteemed panelists: the Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward, the Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera, the Rev. Nancy Wittig and filmmaker, Margo Guernsey. The panel will be moderated by Katie Sherrod.

More information and tickets are available at <https://kinema.com/events/the-philadelphia-eleven-jalij>.

About the Rev. Betty Bone Schiess

Betty Bone Schiess (April 2, 1923 – October 20, 2017) was one of the first female Episcopal priests in the United States, and a member of the Philadelphia Eleven. During the late 1960s, Schiess worked with the Syracuse National Organization for Women chapter to reform the Episcopal church. She earned her Master of Divinity degree in 1972 from the Rochester Center for Theological Studies but was denied ordination due to her sex. In 1974 the Episcopal Church did not allow women to be ordained: efforts at two general conventions of bishops had failed. Eventually, however, she was ordained in 1977 and served as chaplain at Syracuse from 1976 to 1978 and at Cornell from 1978 to 1979.



Photo courtesy of Syracuse.com.



"Every moment is a fresh beginning."

~T.S. Elliot

Here are the highlights from our January 15, 2024, Zoom Vestry meeting:

- ▶ Pat Dunn reported that our income through December 2023 was over budget and our investments increased. Pledges for the current year are at 31 units with a few more expected.
- ▶ Jim Miller reported that Food \$en\$e orders continue to increase due to the online ordering availability.
- ▶ Spectrum News will be taping the Food\$en\$e program on January 24th. They will be taping the activity that occurs and doing a few interviews. We're unsure of the airing date.
- ▶ Worship Committee will be meeting to discuss the upcoming season.
- ▶ Fr. Jon reports that attendance has been solid, both in person and online.
- ▶ There will be a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday (2/13/24) from 5:00 – 6:30 PM. There is a sign-up sheet to bring a dessert/treat. Palms will be burned in preparation for Ash Wednesday. The Ash Wednesday service will be at noon at St. Mark and at 7PM at St. Luke's. Ashes to Go will be in the St. Mark parking lot from 1:00 – 2:30PM. The Fridays in Lent, alternating between St. Mark and St. Luke's, will resume. A sign-up sheet is in the parish hall.
- ▶ Fr. Jon is working at a new Altar Guild manual.
- ▶ At the Annual Diocese Convention, a resolution was passed to add a weekly prayer against Gun Violence.
- ▶ Fr. Jon encourages everyone to join his online Bible Study on Monday evenings.
- ▶ Volunteers are needed to manage the Clothes Closet donations and Food Pantry customers on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11:00 – 1:00. Future plans include the moving of the vestments upstairs and the Food Pantry downstairs.
- ▶ The Annual Meeting will be on March 3, 2024, which is also Fr. Jon's birthday.
- ▶ We have not heard from our assessment appeal as there hasn't been a board meeting.
- ▶ Nancy Tucker presented us with 3 online donation possibilities. More information will be forthcoming.
- ▶ The cleaning service hired has begun their weekly cleaning.

Any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact a Vestry Member.

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

February

Happy Birthday

- 8 Kathi Phillips
- 15 Nancy Tucker
- 23 Warren Ottey
- 24 Becky Guido



From the Treasurer...

Financial Report for January 1 thru December 31 2024

	<i>Budget for Year</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
<i>Income</i>	\$107,145.00	\$11,247.98	-95,897.02
<i>Expenses</i>	\$138,623.00	\$22,123.32	-\$116,499.68
<i>Deficit</i>	-\$31,478.00	-\$10,875.34	\$20,602.66
<i>Pledges</i>	\$68,000.00	\$7,910.98	-\$60,089.02
<i>Clothes Closet/FP</i>	\$ 2,961.20		
<i>Investements</i>	\$ 686,952.06		

Submitted by: Pat Dunn

Sibling Pride



Kevin Noble-Ward's brother, Charles Noble, had the opportunity to play as a substitute in the Seattle Symphony. He has played the viola with the Oregon Symphony in Portland for almost 30 years. Charles spent a week in Seattle and was able to do some biking while he was there.

Charles' wife Stephanie recently got a job with the Oregon Symphony working in Development, helping with fundraising. Unlike his brother, Kevin admits he doesn't have a musical gene. He said he did play the violin for about 3 years ... badly! Now he plays a CD player.



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

7pm Wednesday Mar 27	at St Mark's	<i>Tenebrae: the Service of Darkness</i>
7pm Thursday Mar 28	at St Luke's	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
Noon Friday Mar 29	at St Luke's	<i>Good Friday</i>
7pm Friday Mar 29	at St Mark's	<i>Good Friday</i>
7pm Saturday Mar 30	at St Luke's	<i>Easter Vigil</i>

Sundays

11 am—Holy Eucharist
In-person and by Livestream

All are Welcome!

Office Hours

Tuesdays
8 am to 3 pm
Thursday:
12-3pm

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.