



# THE WAY

The Newsletter of  
 St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church  
 1612 W. Genesee St. Syracuse, NY 13204  
 315-488-8511 || [www.stmarkssyracuse.com](http://www.stmarkssyracuse.com)

## Fall 2022



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## A Word from...

*God is not a human being, that he should lie, or a mortal, that he should change his mind. Has he promised, and will he not do it? Has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? Numbers 23:19*

The Book of Numbers tells some of the stories of the ancient Israelites wandering in the desert, and these words come from the prophet Balaam (the one with the famous talking donkey) when the king of Israel's enemy, Moab, tries to get him to curse the Israelites, who happen to be passing through Moab at the time. In the story, Balaam offers sacrifices to God, at the king's command, and here God responds, telling Balaam to tell the king that God has blessed Israel and plans to keep those promises.



This is a theme that recurs regularly throughout the Scriptures, that God's promises can be counted on. The reason this theme recurs so often is that we humans often behave as though we can't trust God to fulfill the promises, instead we try to hurry them into being ourselves before the time when God feels is appropriate.



I think the difficulty for us comes from the difference between the time scales we and God use. Our lives are relatively short in the grand scheme of things, while God's, of course, is well... infinite and forever. Hundreds of years pass between the exodus and the reign of king David, nearly a thousand more years pass between the death of David and the birth of Jesus, and of course we've been waiting nearly two thousand years for Jesus' return.

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD;" so the same is clearly true for our experiences of time. For comparison, if the time between the formation of the earth, about 5 billion years ago, to today were compressed into a single hour, the two millennia since the time of Jesus would equal three hundredths of a second.

Being a follower of Jesus these days can be a challenge. There are plenty of cultural headwinds and it can be dispiriting to hear the hatred spewed by the loudest of those who claim to be followers of Jesus and to hear of repeated abuses by those entrusted with pastoral leadership. It is in times such as these that the old temptations to either dismiss the promises of God or to try and take their fulfillment into our hands, the temptations which the Bible shows us, repeatedly, never lead anywhere good.

Change is an inexorable part of human life, and we do well to plan for it and to be adaptable in facing it. But that isn't true for God. God is faithful and is working out our salvation, even now. God only asks us to face what the world brings our way without fear or anxiety, to live into the life Christ won for us and to have confidence that God's promises remain as trustworthy as always.

We have much to celebrate and be thankful for. Our challenges are not insurmountable, and our opportunities to be the Body of Christ are numerous. As St Paul wrote, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Blessings,  
*Jon*

## St. Mark's and St. Luke's Begin Shared Ministry

July marked the beginning of a new partnership between the two parishes both located on West Genesee St. where they will be sharing a single priest, the Rev Jon M. White.

Despite what sign out front says, Jon is the Priest-in-Charge at St Mark's (that was too many letters for the sign) but after 18 months, he can be called as the Rector. A Steering Group is being formed with members from both parishes to ensure that the partnership works smoothly and to be a council of advice for Jon.

Currently, plans are also being made to have a dinner sometime in the Fall so that members of each parish can get to know each other and the Bishop will lead a celebration of new ministry here at St Mark's on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.



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## Upcoming Formation Opportunities

Father Jon will be offering two different programs beginning in September for those desiring an opportunity to delve a little deeper in their faith. The first is an online Monday night Bible Study. This Bible study goes through a single book of the Bible, chapter by chapter exploring the history of the texts, their connections to other Biblical books, the dominant themes, and how it all serves to illumine God's hopes for us. Bible Study is online only on Zoom each Monday at 6pm and is open to everyone. Please visit the [Learning Together page](#) on our website to see how to join.



The second is Sacred Ground. Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The 11-part series is built around an online curriculum of documentary films and readings. Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. We will be hosting two groups, a weekday group and a weeknight group. This will be an in-person only program that will meet once per month. For this program we ask that those interested please register in advance with Fr Jon.

# St. Mark Artist Invited for Second Showing

For the second year in a row, the Marcellus Free Library invited St. Mark's own Nancy Morrison to be the September Artist of the Month. For the entire month of September, all who enter the library will be greeted by her beautiful and unique artwork which is on display — and for sale — near the receptionist desk.

Nancy found her love of painting at the age of 74 and for those not familiar with her work, Nancy describes her style of painting as 'abstract expressionism' or possibly, 'whatever-comes-to-mind expressionism.' It is primarily fluid art pouring, but sometimes she also use brushes, spatulas or other things to draw or make embellishes (sharpies, the ends of toilet paper tubes, combs, stencils, sponges, etc.).

Marcellus Free Library is located at 32 Maple St., Marcellus. And if you wish to purchase one of them, you may contact her at: [ntoppmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:ntoppmorrison@gmail.com).

Here is a sample of her recent exhibit:



# Food \$en\$e Initiative Underway



More than eight years ago, St. Mark's became a **CNY Food Bank Food \$en\$e** site as a support to the Porter Elementary School partnership. We are one of almost 40 **Food \$en\$e** sites throughout the **CNY Food Bank's** 11 county region. Over the years we have been unsuccessful in attracting many "customers" from the Porter community. We have tried tabling at Porter events, changing our hours for ordering, sending monthly fliers over, and inserting the monthly flier in their Facebook page.

With the help of Food Bank's Andrew Katzer, principal Andy Nolan, and Assistant Principal Caston Binger, we have come up with a new way to accommodate the Porter families. A program aide assigned to Porter school will be trained to promote and take orders at Porter on a schedule convenient to the school and parents. The administrators, the social worker, and the program aide will develop the monthly schedule.

The aide will educate the families, distribute our monthly fliers, and take orders from families and staff. The *Food \$en\$e* program allows both cash and EBT orders. The cash and EBT forms will be secured in the school safe. Monthly the program aide will bring the orders to St. Mark's to be merged with our other orders. On delivery day, families will either pick up their orders at the church or the program aide will assist them in receiving their orders. The program aide will pick up remaining orders at St. Marks to deliver as needed.

The Food Bank likes this initiative as a trial of "satellite sites." If all goes well, we foresee the possibility of other satellite programs at nearby Frazer School (K-8) and Bellevue Elementary School.

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## Mustang's help Porter students gear up for the new year

St Mark's Mustangs, along with the Green Cafe led by Cheryl Neddo, donated backpacks filled with school supplies to Porter School, our neighborhood elementary school. Even though the public schools were promised funds to pay for dry erasers, pencils, etc., the school is not sure when the funds will be allocated. Therefore, in the meantime, we are sure the backpacks will be put to good use!

We thank our St Mark's family for their generous financial support.



# Memorial Fund Provides New Keyboard

In August, the Vestry voted to use the Jim & Bonnie Memorial Fund to purchase a Yamaha electric keyboard in their memory. Jim & Bonnie were integral members of our choir since the beginning (1996). They also played a variety of roles in our parish. A plaque will be placed upon the keyboard which was played by Nancy Tucker for our Undercroft services this summer.



*St. Mark would like to sincerely thank Nancy for her dedicated music service in the past several months.*

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## Successful Lawn Sale Held in August

August 13, 2022 - what a beautiful day! The weather was cooperative as we began our set-up for the lawn sale. Dave Richmond and Michael Honsinger provided the muscles by bringing out the tables and moving all the boxes and bins from downstairs. Unpacking the boxes and setting up the tables were the accomplishments of Gail Manolescu, Doris Monroe, Nancy Morrison, Nancy Tucker, and Dave Richmond. Meanwhile, Cheryl Neddo and her granddaughter were preparing the Green Café for customers.



Shoppers came early — before the 9:00 start!



There was a steady stream of people most of the morning. Along with Dave Richmond, more parishioners came to help with the sale and break-down — Marie Bearden, Leslie Hunt, and Kevin Ward.

Father Jon came and saw the crew in action. Gary Neddo was busy giving tours of the church, greeting and talking with people and breaking down the sale. Shoppers were directed to visit the Green Café and Clothes Closet. Jim Miller was there for anyone wanting to order Food \$en\$.

Thanks to all who came to lend a hand for the sale.

Without everyone's help, the lawn sale would not have been a success! God was certainly watching over us that day!

*Submitted by Phyllis Honsinger*

# Welcome to St. Mark's New Organist!



Robert Synakowski (Rob) is a Syracuse native who holds a degree in Church Music with concentration in Organ from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. He has been organist at several churches in Syracuse, with a five-year stint of studying and teaching in Krakow, Poland, in between.

In addition, he has been a teacher of English as a New Language in the Syracuse City School District for more than twenty years as well as the President of the Syracuse Polish Community (The Polish Home) for almost as many.

Currently, he is the President of the Syracuse Polish Community Foundation and a board member of the Polish American Historical Association. He has been the organist at St. Luke's in Camillus for the past seven years and is glad to be here at St. Mark the Evangelist. And St. Mark's is happy to have him!

## FALL into Great Deals at St. Mark the Evangelist's CLOTHES CLOSETS



Thursday Clothes Closets &  
Neighborhood Dinners are BACK!



*Browse through Men's, Women's and Children's Clothing, Shoes, etc...*

**ALL FOR ONLY A 25-CENT DONATION PER ITEM!**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 8**  
**9 AM-12 PM**



**FREE LIGHT BREAKFAST**  
available at the Green Café!

**THURSDAY, OCT. 20**  
**3-6 PM**



**MENU: Spaghetti w/meat sauce ~  
Tossed Salad ~ Bread ~ Dessert**

**You may also sign up for Food \$en\$e during the  
Saturday Clothes Closets!**

## Clothes Closet

## Donations Sought

The Clothes Closet is looking for new or gently-used children's books and small stuffed animals to be included in gift bags for children attending the Clothes Closets. A bin is available in the Parish Hall for these items or may be dropped off at the church during office hours.

**Thank you!**



## In-Person Sunday Bible Study Now Offered

An in-person Bible Study will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 10am in the parish hall. We will be studying the Sunday Gospel readings using Lectio Divina as our guide. Everyone is welcome. Feel free to bring something to share; coffee will be available.

# A New Look...and a Big Thank You!

In mid-August, St. Mark's was blessed by visits from a good – and very busy – fairy. This fairy transformed many of the Sunday School rooms. In the nursery, the good fairy cleaned and disinfected the furniture and toys, shampooed the carpet, organized materials, and hung new blinds and curtains.



In two rooms used by the Clothes Closet, the walls were scrubbed and painted, items were organized, and new curtains were hung. These rooms are now clean, organized, and pleasant to the eye. Our good fairy has done amazing work in providing us with rooms to boost our pride in our church.

There are a few more rooms that could use some improvement with a small group who could clean and reorganize these rooms. This would be helpful in attracting some new parishioners or families. Let the good fairy's hard work be our inspiration. If interested, please contact Phyllis Honsinger.

If you haven't seen the new and improved rooms, you owe yourself – and the good fairy – a look.

Thank you, Good Fairy, for blessing us with your handiwork!





# A Delectable Share

From Allrecipes.com

Contributed by Kevin Ward

Easy and delicious!



1. Pre-heat oven at 350 degrees.
2. Spray the sides of a 9x13 pan with cooking spray.
3. Spread 2 21oz. cans of cherry pie filling on the bottom of the pan.
4. Evenly cover cherries with 1/4 cup of water.
5. Sprinkle a family sized box of brownie mix on top of the cherries.
6. Shred 3/4 of a cup frozen salted butter evenly on the top of the brownie mix. If you can't find a family sized mix, the regular size is okay.
7. Bake in the oven for 35 minutes.

You can serve it warm with vanilla ice cream for a real treat!

*A Delectable Share is a new series in The Way. After being asked by several parishioners how to make this dish brought to Coffee Hour, Kevin decided to share it in the newsletter. If you have a popular or particularly yummy dessert or appetizer/savory dish to share, please email it to the office or bring it in with you to church.*



## An Update on our Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has been very busy recently. Each neighbor that comes is provided with 2 bags of food. The following list is what goes into the bags on a regular basis. Please feel free to bring any of **these** items any time as they are always appreciated.

**Cereal (regular size), tomato soup, hearty soup, canned pasta, mashed potatoes (pouches), pasta, spaghetti sauce, Ramen soups (beef/chicken), peanut butter, jelly, tuna, Tuna Helper, hash, chili with beans (not spicy), applesauce, pudding cups, canned fruit, canned vegetables (peas, carrots, corn and green beans), pork and beans and saltine crackers.**

Many thanks for your ongoing support of this ministry. Also, a big thanks to the Clothes Closet staff as the funds raised in that ministry significantly support the Food Pantry.



"Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past and present are certain to miss the future."

—John F. Kennedy

This July, we held our first Vestry meeting with Father Jon White. We were all excited to begin this new chapter in our parish.

Here are some highlights of our meeting:

- ▶ Father Jon has been busy preparing his office and working on the needs of St. Mark. He is planning to meet with committees to learn of their activities. He would like to plan a joint dinner with St. Luke's in October.
- ▶ A discussion was held about hiring an organist. Fr. Jon will compose a job description and post the position.
- ▶ Our substitute musician, Nancy Tucker, requested that the undercroft keyboard be replaced or to tune one of the old pianos. After discussion, a motion was made to use the Oliver Memorial Fund to purchase a new keyboard.
- ▶ Josall Syracuse Inc. will be making repairs of the roof shingles and other roof needs.
- ▶ Jim Miller reports that Porter School is forming a Food \$en\$e partnership with us and Porter will be a satellite sign-up location.
- ▶ The St. Mark Lawn Sale will be held Saturday, August 13th from 9AM to 12PM. The Clothes Closet and Green Café will also be open.
- ▶ Fr. Jon explained that a Shared Ministry Steering Committee will exist between St. Luke's and St. Mark, with 2 or 3 members from each parish.
- ▶ The Diocese has set Fr. Jon's new ministry service for Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 7PM. More information will be forthcoming.
- ▶ We are looking into new signage to replace the four current signs that have seen better days. These are the signs that show the direction to our church and address. We are also looking into the cost of advertising on a billboard.
- ▶ In the undercroft, there are no railings on the steps. For safety reasons, we hope to purchase and install soon.
- ▶ In the contest to formally name the undercroft, the winning response was to keep the name "The Undercroft." Joan Green was the winner of the prize.
- ▶ Fr. Jon is planning to resume the Wednesday night service at Brighton Towers in September.
- ▶ Father Jon began and ended our meeting with prayer.

Questions, concerns, suggestions? Contact any Vestry member. We're here for you!

***Faithfully,  
The Vestry***

# CURRENT BUDGET REPORT 2022

**Submitted by: Treasurer, Pat Dunn**

**Reported: 8-31-22**

	Jan - Dec '22	Budget	\$ Over Bud...
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
4000 — Pledges	36,097.20	49,000.00	-12,902.80
4100 — Plate/Loose Offerings	665.70	4,200.00	-3,534.30
4200 — Major Feasts	1,714.00	1,675.00	39.00
4300 — Long Term Inv. Income	28,000.00	48,000.00	-20,000.00
4500 — Diocesan CIF Income	2,805.19	4,000.00	-1,194.81
4600 — Memorial/Donations	500.00	150.00	350.00
4650 — 4650-Flower Fund Dona...	2,227.00	3,000.00	-773.00
4700 — Building Use Or Donation	1,531.00	2,380.00	-849.00
4900 — Miscellaneous Income	138.86	200.00	-61.14
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>73,678.95</b>	<b>112,605.00</b>	<b>-38,926.05</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>73,678.95</b>	<b>112,605.00</b>	<b>-38,926.05</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
5100 — Diocesan Support	12,000.00	18,000.00	-6,000.00
5200 — Salaries	53,237.30	83,264.77	-30,027.47
5300 — Rector Benefits	4,818.81	6,250.00	-1,431.19
5400 — Youth Programs/Scholars...	0.00	300.00	-300.00
5500 — Church School	282.71	375.00	-92.29
5600 — Outreach	2,537.20	3,500.00	-962.80
5700 — Human Needs	130.00	500.00	-370.00
5800 — Committees	1,241.37	3,150.00	-1,908.63
6000 — Office Operations	6,166.93	13,100.00	-6,933.07
6100 — Insurance	7,505.46	8,400.00	-894.54
6200 — Other Financial Expenses	3,817.24	7,650.00	-3,832.76
6300 — Building Operations	13,548.34	22,950.00	-9,401.66
6400 — Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	100.00	-100.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>105,285.36</b>	<b>167,539.77</b>	<b>-62,254.41</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-31,606.41</b>	<b>-54,934.77</b>	<b>23,328.36</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-31,606.41</b>	<b>-54,934.77</b>	<b>23,328.36</b>

## Just a friendly reminder...

If you give altar flowers or the Sanctuary lamp as a memorial, a small donation is appreciated and welcomed. If paying by check, it should be written to **“St. Mark’s Flower Fund.”**

*There are some open dates available:*

**Sanctuary Lamp**  
Oct. 9 & 30; Dec. 4 & 11

**Altar Flowers**  
Oct. 9 & 30; Nov. 13



*Thank you,  
Joan Green. Flower Fund Chair*



## St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:

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### **Office Hours**

**Tuesday—Friday:  
9 am to 1:45 pm**

### **Service Time**

**Sundays  
11 am—Holy Eucharist  
In-person and by Livestream**

**Visit  
[www.stmarkssyracuse.com](http://www.stmarkssyracuse.com)  
for information regarding  
virtual service and programs**

*All are Welcome!*

**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.**