

THE WAY

The Newsletter of

St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1612 W. Genesee St. Syracuse, NY, 13204
315-488-8511 || www.stmarkssyracuse.com



Summer 2020



Forever in our
Hearts...Pg. 4



Finding the Beauty in Our
Diversity...Pgs. 6-7



St. Mark mission not stopped by a
little thing called COVID-19....
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Are you my
Mama?...pg. 13

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St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street • Syracuse, NY 13204
Phone: (315) 488-8511 • Email: stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com

August, 2020

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Welcome back to in-person worship on Sundays! We did quite well negotiating the changes and there was a strong good feeling among us as we re-gathered after so many months. We are looking forward to being together again each Sunday.

**9 AM In the Sanctuary
10 AM In the Undercroft**

Please remember that because of the extremely small numbers that can be accommodated at each service, it will be necessary for those who wish to attend to **"register"** in advance **every week**. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis and may now be done in two ways:

REGISTRATION BY PHONE:
Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon

(Please make sure to speak directly to the secretary, Do not leave a message on the answering machine as this is being done on a first-come, first-serve basis and messages on the machine make that difficult.)

REGISTRATION BY EMAIL IS NOW ALLOWED
Wednesday 9 a.m.— Friday by noon

(Names will be added to the list according to the time the email was sent. You will receive a confirmation email or a notice that the time you requested is filled)

Those who attend must wear a face covering (mask) and be free of symptoms for the Corona virus. While in the building, you will be expected to maintain safe distancing as marked and comply with any other instruction given. There will be no social gatherings before, or after, the services.

Those attending the 9 a.m. service may enter through the parking lot door, the Genesee Street Door with ramp or the garden door facing St. Mark's Street. Those attending the 10 a.m. service are asked to enter directly into the Undercroft through the door at the bottom of the ramp off the parking lot.

Sincerely,

*Nelson W. Gaetz, Interim Rector
Gary Neddo & Barry Guinn, Wardens*

Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. & 10 a.m. • Visit: www.stmarkssyracuse.com

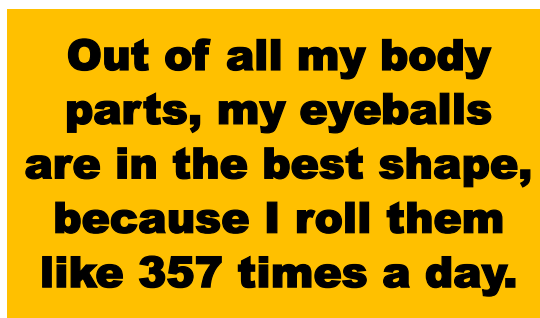
A shout out to those who encourage and make us laugh when we need it...

Joan Green, along with the rest of us who follow each other on Facebook, would like to send out a big thank-you to those who help us to remain positive, focused on what's important and make us outright laugh out loud when we need it!

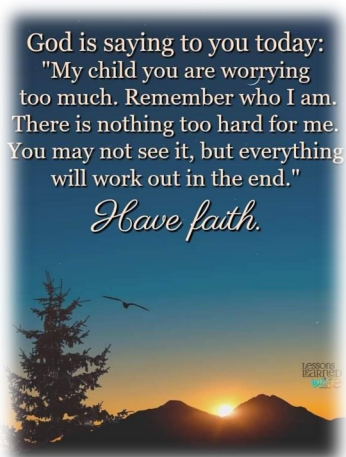
A shout out to:



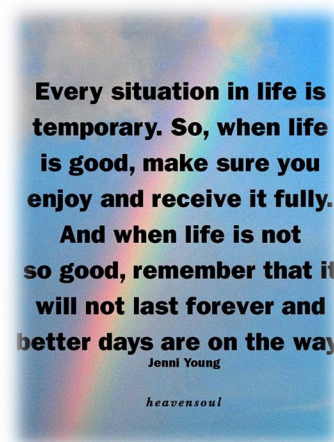
Kim Ada for her Inspirational messages each morning throughout this pandemic — they have “gotten us started” each morning...



Nancy Morrison for her sayings on Facebook that always give us a laugh for the day, which we all need. (Some are a little warped and some will make you groan out loud...for which she'll never apologize...)



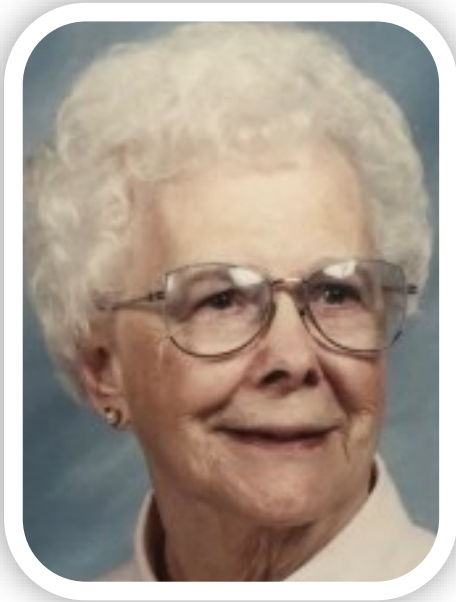
And, last but not least, **Dottie Doane's** messages of hope! When we think all is lost — she brings us HOPE...



*SO... THANK YOU TO THESE LADIES OF ST. MARK
For always letting us know they care about all of us!*

Forever in our hearts...

Recently, St. Mark the Evangelist had to say good-bye to a devoted and to date, our longest standing parishioner, Trudy Coe. Ask anyone and they will tell you she was the sweetest and kindest woman you will ever meet and she will be missed by her St. Mark family. May she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory!



Gertrude 'Trudy' F. Coe

March 4, 1918 – July 8, 2020

Gertrude "Trudy" F. Coe, 102, of Syracuse, passed away Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at Iroquois Nursing Home. A lifetime resident of the Syracuse area, she graduated from North High School in 1937 and attended Powelson Business Institute. Gertrude retired in 1980 from Allied Chemical where she worked for over 20 years. Gertrude was a lifetime member of St. Mark the Evangelist Church and a

member of the Circle V. She enjoyed her time at Brookdale Senior Living and playing Bingo. Above all, she loved spending time with her friends and family.

Gertrude was predeceased by her husband, Robert, in 1999.

Surviving are her sons, Robert N. (Nancy) of Clay, Thomas H. (Diane) of Baldwinsville and Edward N. (Kayla) of Liverpool; grandchildren, Jennifer, Bethany, Amy, Benjamin and Dwayne; four great-grandchildren; and niece, Patricia Yehle of Michigan.

Burial and service were private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Mark the Evangelist Church, 1612 West Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13204.

Arrangements are with the Buranich Funeral Home. To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Gertrude "Trudy" F. Coe, please visit the Tribute Store on their website.

In loving memory of Trudy ...

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, Trudy's family was not able to host calling hours or an open funeral. However, Fr. Gaetz was asked to do a funeral service just for the immediate family, which was greatly appreciated.

And...St. Mark's "flower lady" (Joan Green) also thought it would be a nice gesture to send flowers on behalf of St. Mark to the funeral home, which also was greatly appreciated. Joan recently received this thank-you from Trudy's son, Bob, and wanted to share it. St. Mark has also been receiving generous donations for Trudy's memory – which we sincerely appreciate.



*Many Thanks
for Your Expression
of Sympathy*

*Dear Joan,
The Coe Family
thanks you and the
Parish of St. Mark's
for the flowers
given in honor
of our mom, Trudy's
death.
She loved her
Church family
so much. She
will be missed.*

*Your sympathy
and thoughtfulness
will always be remembered
with deep appreciation.*

*Bob
Coe*

Finding a Sense of Oneness in the Divisiveness of Today

By Bevan Moscovici (Jim & Kitty Miller's daughter)

The past few months have shown us the great divisions that separate us all, but the time has also brought forth a sense of oneness, of being in this together, of a much smaller world than we had previously realized. We've all started to reevaluate our priorities. What is truly important? What should we change? In this my appreciation for my family, both immediate and extended, has grown immensely. I've researched our family tree, I've found old pictures of ancestors, I've listened to stories of how the present generations are getting through all of this.

My family is awesome. Seriously. My husband and I have grown closer during this pandemic and I am finding that all three of our kids are humans that I really enjoy as humans-not just because I'm their mom or step-mom. My parents and siblings are also people that I actually like as friends. All this sounds sweet and All American. And it is. But the really cool part about my family is when you start looking deeper. We are an All-American family for sure, but *because* of the wonderful diversity that we all bring to the table. My family embraces each other, not in spite of our differences, but because of them. We all contribute something important.

My family is composed of a variety of immigrants. One branch reaches back to crossing from England in 1623. Another came from France in 1690. A number came from Ireland in the 1800's. Most recently my husband came from Romania as a political and religious refugee in the 1980's. My sons' father came as a child from Japan around the same time. During WWII who could have imagined that an American soldier fighting in France, a Japanese soldier captured by the Russians, and a Romanian Jewish man enslaved in a Nazi work camp would share great-grandchildren?!

"We are an All-American family for sure, but (it's) because of the wonderful diversity that we all bring to the table."

My extended family has a variety of religious beliefs: Episcopal, other various forms of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Jehovah's Witness, Shinto, Buddhist, Agnostic. I've learned from each of these religions and I've found a shared message of treating others and the world with respect. We go about these things in different ways. Our religions have fought wars against each other, but today we are united by the bonds of family.

We speak a number of languages: English, Romanian, Japanese, French, Spanish, Hebrew. I've learned to "listen" to body language, voice tone, and context to have full blown conversations in a language I don't know myself.

We have a variety of skin tones from the palest ivory to the darkest ebony and every shade in between. My immediate family recognizes skin color and we discuss how each of us has different baggage that comes with that skin color. However, our children know that skin color can't tell you anything about the essence of a person — that you must get to know the individual to find that essence.

We have a wide range of political beliefs from the “crazy” liberals to the “hard-nosed” conservatives. Some of us love a good debate and some of us think “politics” is a dirty word. (I'll let you all guess where I stand on that one.) I have had a number of wonderful conversations with family members in which I really tried to hear where they were coming from and I felt listened to as well. We may not always agree, but we respect each other.

We work in many fields: art, engineering, construction work, first responders, mechanics, healthcare, education, sports, service, science, business, dance, law, music, the armed forces-you name it and someone is probably doing it somewhere in our giant web! How awesome to be able to ask one family member for help with an essay, another for help fixing the house, another for information about a health concern and another for identifying the plant in the backyard. We each bring our own form of intelligence to the family and we are stronger for this.

We are fancy opera going city slickers. We are woodsy campers, hunters, hikers, and rock climbers. We are suburban soccer families. We are usually some mixture of all of these.

So today I am appreciating my family – my large, complicated, interesting and All-American family.



Free Food Giveaway in July a Success Despite COVID-19



On Wednesday, July 22, volunteers at St. Mark welcomed a steady parade of cars through our parking lot to pick up a special FREE offering from the CNY Food Bank.

As six-year veterans of the very successful Food \$en\$e program, St. Mark was invited by the Food Bank to participate in a special federal and NYS grant giveaway. Its purpose was to support CNY farmers and food producers as well as to thank our most regular *Food \$en\$e* participants.

Food \$en\$e ordering has been on hold since April, but because we had finished out our March *Food \$en\$e* order distribution during the on-set of the COVID-19 pandemic, we knew we had a system in place of how to safely distribute the food – as long as we could get the volunteers. Most of our faithful volunteers are older and/or considered vulnerable to COVID-19, so once more we would be reaching out to our generous “outside” volunteers who helped us in March.

Co-chairs Barry and Marilyn Guinn headed up this important mission and once more enlisted Jim and Kitty Miller’s son, Ryan, along with Erin Greenwood and her energetic daughters, Delaney (10) and Alexa (13). Add to that our church sexton, Phil, and “Mission Free Food” was a go!

Unfortunately, we only had a 48-hour turnaround to contact upwards of 50 of our customer base by phone and by email. We explained the offer, that the items were as yet undetermined, and asked them if they would like to participate. They would have to arrive between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on what would have been the regular *Food \$en\$e* delivery day. There would be no reminder phone calls nor would we be taking orders for August; however, this again was absolutely free. Not surprisingly, the response was enthusiastic, and we had no problem filling the 50 slots.

As soon as the truck arrived that day, the crew, masked and gloved, went to work unloading. The items were already prepackaged so there was not the usual sorting and assembling in the Undercroft. Along with boxes of food, the Food Bank had sent along 120 cartons of eggs! The food – which ended up fulfilling more than the original 50 on our list – was stacked outside and ready for the steady stream of cars entering from one end of the parking lot and exiting out the other. Each received 2-3 dozen eggs, 5 pounds of sliced American cheese, a pound of butter, a



large bag of chicken patties, a rack of BBQ pork ribs (already cooked), a large package of precooked and seasoned chicken, plums, carrots, onions, potatoes, zucchini – and a note from Fr. Gaetz! The leftovers were divvied out and delivered to those our parishioners knew could use the extra food.

All in all, it was a small but wonderful demonstration of one of our outreach missions. Thanks to those who worked to pull it off so smoothly and many thanks to the Food Bank of CNY!



Note: At the time of this article, St. Mark has been asked to participate in this same free food giveaway in August and it is anticipated that the Food \$en\$e program will be resuming in September. Food \$en\$e is not a welfare program but rather a cooperative buying program which enables anyone to purchase first-quality foods at about half the cost of purchasing the same items at a local grocery store. (Ordering does require advance payment either with cash or EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) cards.) St. Mark has been an ordering and pick-up site for the budget-friendly food program for six years.

Living the 'real' Christianity

True Christianity is not going to fit in, it's going to have some counter-cultural ideals. But, it offers relationship, truth, purpose, and everlasting life.

By Matt Cretaro

As I'm in my new house alone right now, I've been doing some thinking about our country and society. Please take the time to hear me out.

One thing that bothers me is the general cultural Christianity in America that is so prevalent and is not really representative of the Christian faith and really hurts the Christian witness. It has become synonymous with "patriotism" or the idea of "god" being used to justify a position of power. This is wrong. Christianity transcends country and is not self-serving but is ultimately about something (rather someone) that is much larger than oneself or their country.

You are not a Christian because you live in the United States and you are not a Christian because your ancestors were Christians. Christianity transcends race and gender (Galatians 3:28). Being a Christian means believing in Jesus Christ as your savior from sin. (John 14:6, Romans 10:9, Mark 1:15, John 3:16). **YOU HAVE TO MAKE THAT CHOICE.** If you truly believe, you will be transformed. (John 3:3, 2 Corinthians 5:17 - not perfect, but you will strive to follow the Christian calling.) So, what is that calling? Christians are called to follow Jesus' example. In John 13:34-35, Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is. He replies that it is to "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength... and to love your neighbor as yourself." This is what true Christianity looks like according to Jesus – but how do we do those things?

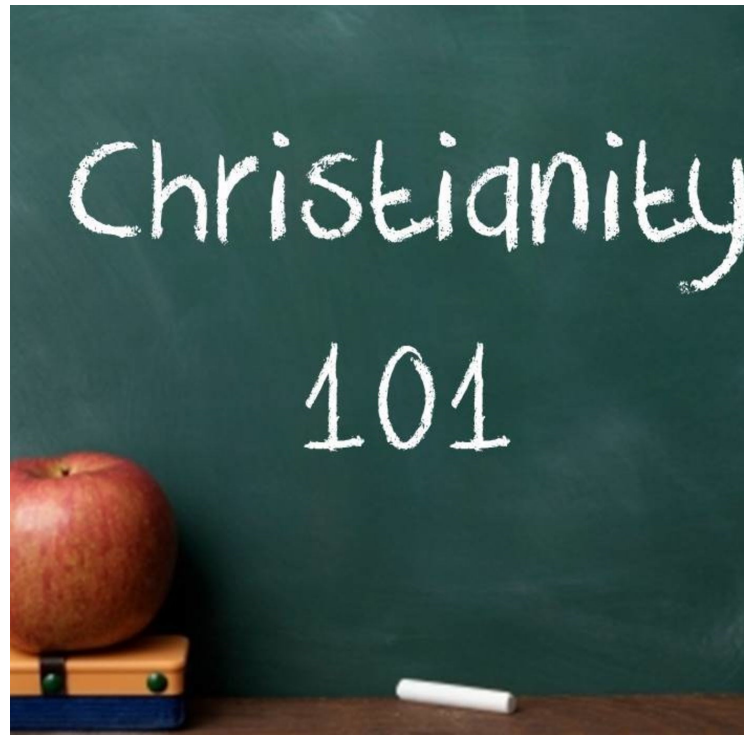
1. Love God – we love God by keeping his commands (John 14:15)
This does not mean we have to follow the Old Testament laws perfectly as they were in place to show people of their sinfulness and their need for a savior. Thankfully, Jesus fulfilled the law! (Matthew 5:17). However, Jesus discusses morality throughout his ministry. I won't get into a ton of detail with specifics, but read the New Testament of the Bible to become familiar. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is a great place to start (Matthew 5-7). This provides guidance from the all-knowing God of the universe to live a fulfilling life (just as loving parents set quality guidelines for their children)
2. Love others – Not just other Christians, but all others. There is no qualifier for this. This is true even for those who hate Christians. Acts of service, seeking justice,

generosity, and compassion are all ways we can love others. Especially in these times with magnified social and racial inequality, Christians have an incredible opportunity to live this out! These things may end up causing sacrifices on the part of Christians, especially for those on the top of the social hierarchy, but what better way to follow Jesus' example?

Is correction loving? Absolutely, when it is done in a manner that lovingly points people to Jesus. (Think of a parent setting a rule of not letting their child play in the road - they do it because they love them and want what's best for them!). This should be mainly for other Christians. Non-believers will not understand the value of following God's commands until they know Jesus as their savior. In salvation, God meets people where they're at and then works in them to help them follow Him (read about Paul in the Book of Acts in the Bible). Loving non-believers as Jesus loved (while also sharing the good news of Jesus with them) is how this transformation can happen. Yelling at people about following rules of a religion they don't believe in will not change anyone's mind (I won't get into how prevalent that is in politics today and how lousy of a strategy that concept is).

If you want true meaning and purpose to your life – this is it. This is real Christianity. Typical American cultural Christianity seeks to fit in and seeks to use “Christianity” as a means to do that. It offers no substance. It's empty. It doesn't offer a relationship with Jesus Christ and it can't save us. True

Christianity is not going to fit in, it's going to have some counter-cultural ideals. But, it offers relationship, truth, purpose, and everlasting life. And while Christianity will not be understood and accepted by everyone, it is the job of Christians to follow Jesus' command to love God and love others.



“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- John 13:35

This blog was a Facebook post by Matthew Cretaro, a former student of parishioner, Jim Miller. Jim received permission from Matt for it to be published in our newsletter. He describes Matt as “a terrific student of mine at Cortland and then a student teacher I supervised in the spring of 2017. He now teaches Social Studies at Oneida High School.”

A Life Thought: A Psalm for All Seasons

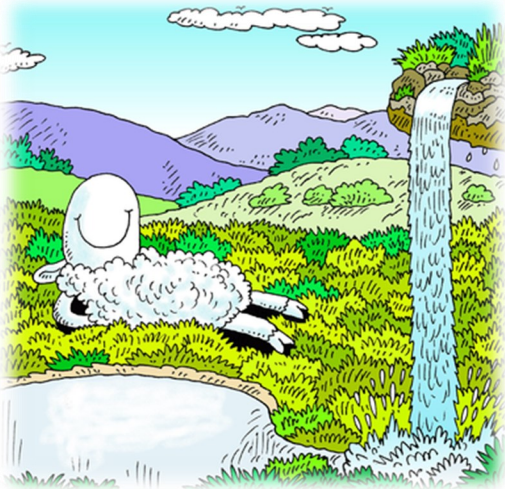
“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)

If you have been to a funeral, you have most likely heard these words of comfort. Psalm 23 is a familiar and consoling chapter to read to loved ones during their time of loss. But, if you think about it, Psalm 23 can serve each of us every day of our lives.

The first verse, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” says it all. As long as we have God, we have everything. He will take care of us and supply our every need. Notice I said “our every need,” not “our every want.”

I like this one: “He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the path’s of righteousness for his name’s sake.” (Psalm 23:3) I don’t know about the rest of you, but my soul can always use some restoring and refreshing. It gets so tired and can feel so soiled by the end of a day or a week. I get off track sometimes and when I realize it and turn to Him, I am invigorated feeling his loving guidance gently setting me on the right path again.

But, we all know it is a constant battle to stay on track. Verse 2 says, “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside still waters.” Both places are so relaxing and soothing. But not only that, they are quiet. They are places we can be still and hear God speak. Sure, they may be figurative, but when we reach that place, it can be just as beautiful. And yet, we can be brought there in the worst of circumstances.



I remember talking with a friend who works at a local doctor’s office. She shared the fact she seldom got sick and definitely did not like to rely on anyone else. A few years ago, however, she became ill to the point she couldn’t move or even care for her dog. She had to call on a friend to help her. But, she said, it was the best thing that ever happened to her because it was during that time when she couldn’t do anything for herself that she came to that special place of understanding and peace with God. “I started listening,” she said simply. Her still waters came with sickness, just like our green pastures can come as a result of loss or tragedy. But that place is there for us;

always waiting for us to follow God to them. Unfortunately, most of us probably don’t go there often enough or try too hard to find them on our own...

When the verse talks about walking through the valley of the shadow of death, I think it does not have to be referring to a physical death. I believe it can be referring to the death of our humanness; of the old person we were before we came to know God and his precepts. That humanness is what holds us captive to the things of this world, robs us of our peace and the pureness we seek. We have to constantly shake off that “old man,” killing him daily in order to walk in righteousness with our Father. But, God tells us to “fear no evil: for thou are with me.”

God is with us every step of the way. We do not have to fear the future. For those of us walking through the “valley of death,” whether it be physical or spiritual, we do not have to be afraid. Knowing this, we can also lay claim to the rest of the Psalm, which tells us, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.” What more do we need?

Love, Deb Denny

How I've spent some of my time during the pandemic...

I know some of you will think I'm too old to adopted a baby, but if an orphan showed up on your door step, what would you do? Yes, a baby appeared near the front door about 5-6 weeks ago. It appeared to be 5-6 weeks old; it has already doubled in size!

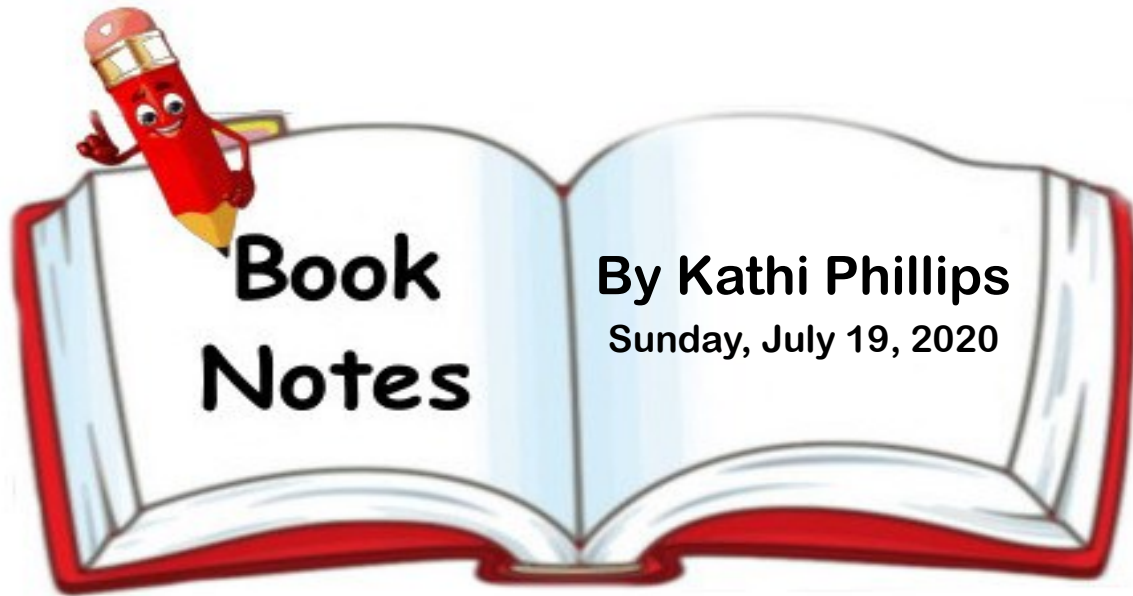
I am sharing custody with my next door neighbor. I'm not sure if this baby is male or female, so I've named it "Little Orphan Annie" or "Little Orphan Andy." It shows up once or twice a day to be fed. He/she really eats "high off the hog," as they say. Likes meat, fruit and nuts and even live crayfish. He/she does not care for dog or cat food.

I was amazed when this baby arrived it was wearing a mask – how very thoughtful! I did have a little talk with her/him yesterday. I said that she/he needed to begin to search for its own food and that I would have to stop feeding it by this coming weekend. Every child has to learn to leave the nest, so to speak. It also needs to learn to sleep during the daylight and search for food by night.

I do hope it was listening to my words of advice. I will truly miss Annie or Andy, but it's time to say good-bye. Stay safe and wear your mask...

Joan Green





It was good to be back in church this morning, and last Sunday as well. But I so miss conversation and coffee after the service! I just wanted to hug everybody and ask how things are going. What are you doing to keep sane these days? Read any good books? How about this heat wave! Will we ever again be able to sing together? And so on.

As for me, I have a very useful addiction for these pandemic times: reading mystery fiction. Big doses. Every day. I read on the porch. I read in the living room. I read in bed. This afternoon I ventured out onto the porch but the heat drove me back inside after about 20 seconds. Easy decision!

I blame my mother (who was born in 1908) for this addiction. She introduced me to the great mystery writers of her time and I consumed their works voraciously. Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Rex Stout, and Arthur Conan Doyle were all high on the list.

These days I keep up with a number of the most popular and prolific mystery writers. My favorites are Harlan Coben, Lee Child, David Baldacci, John J. Nance, and Thomas Perry. I can hear you asking if I read James Patterson. No. Most definitely not.

Recently, a friend posted a question on Facebook. She asked for reading suggestions for her vacation. Here is the list I gave her, with a couple of modifications. These are all works that I have read during the pandemic. They were excellent entertainment – held my attention and enabled me to escape from the tougher realities of life in 2020.

The Life We Bury (2014) by Allen Eskens
The Guise of Another (2015) by Allen Eskens
The Heavens May Fall (2016) by Allen Eskens
Still Life (2009) by Joy Fielding
Stranger Diaries (2018) by Elly Griffiths
The Hidden Things (2019) by Jamie Mason
The Old Man (2017) by Thomas Perry
A Small Town (2020) by Thomas Perry

When I'm not trying to figure out who done it, I do read other types of literature. Today I recommend *The Gift of Years: Growing Old Gracefully* (2008) by Joan Chittister. (I need a lot of help doing it gracefully.) Helen Prejean wrote: "*The Gift of Years* brims with insight, pluck, verve, and courage – and trust that finally in God's love all will be well. It shows us both the joys and challenges of growing older, and encourages us to discover the deep spiritual meaning that can come with older age." I agree. This is an excellent and very readable work.

I would love to put together a list and generate some discussion about what other St. Mark's people are reading and enjoying. Even a simple list of your favorite authors and/or titles would be nice. If you send me the information, I'll prepare an article for the next newsletter. My email: kphilli7@twcny.rr.com. Do it now before you forget!



Circle V News

Circle V meetings are on hiatus along with other church groups and events, however, they realize that the need does not stop for anything. To that end:

Circle V is still collecting items for the personal care bags, i.e. shampoos, combs, wash cloths, deodorants for either men or women, shavers for women or men, bar soap, toothpaste and brushes, etc. They ask anyone who can pick up one or two (or more) of these items to please hold onto them until the church re-opens. Then they will be working like busy bees to put the bags together!

Circle V meetings are held at noon on the first Thursday of the month in the Parish Hall except for June and December meetings, which are held at area restaurants. YOU are always welcome to attend our meetings. Just bring your own lunch; dessert, coffee and tea are provided. ALL ARE WELCOME!



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:



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.