



THE WAY

The Newsletter of
**St. Mark the Evangelist
Episcopal Church**
1612 W. Genesee St.
Syracuse, NY 13204
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Summer 2023

(July/August Edition)

This Library is so much more than books...

This spring, St. Mark's received a call from Ms. Lauren Cox, Branch Manager of the Hazard Branch Library. She wanted us to know the library had planned to collect donations once again throughout the summer for St. Mark's food pantry and wanted to make sure we would accept the donations. This welcome news was greeted with enthusiastic appreciation and a list of items normally supplied in the bags was sent over.

In early summer, the Food Pantry attendance really began to pick up and the extra help from Hazard Branch was timely and gratefully accepted. Library patrons showed they were more than willing to meet the local need and once a week, the smiling face of Library Clerk Laurie Friedman can be seen rolling boxes of the food donations over to St. Mark's. And she always insists on helping to carry the heavy boxes to the pantry.

St. Mark is grateful for the partnership the parish shares with Hazard Branch and wants to send out a sincere thank-you to the library and its patrons for helping us meet the growing need of our community through our food pantry mission.



A Word ...

Though I've been out of school now for many decades, I still retain my schoolboy notion that summer is a time to take it easy and not worry about accomplishing much. Of course, as a grownup, they rarely work out that way – I still show up for work as usual for the most part, unlike my childhood self – but this summer seems more packed than usual.

Our daughter is in Japan with the Girl Scouts, my son gets dropped off to camp Monday-Friday, we have trip planned to join my in-laws to celebrate their 50th anniversary, and we're planning to gather in Colorado with some family to finally lay my mom and step-dad's remains to rest.

So, it's pretty full, but some of our ministries are on a summer break, and even our vestry is forgoing a meeting, so that hopefully will allow me to carve out some time to rest and recharge. As we read through Exodus this year in Bible Study, I noticed again how much weight God puts on the practice of Sabbath. It is truly a sacred act to take some time to gather ourselves and reconnect with what's essential in our lives, those we love, our God, and God's creation.

So I hope all of us are able to regularly make some time for sabbath in our lives and especially during these warm summer months.



Peace,
Jon



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

LICENSED PREACHER PROGRAM

Apply by August 15 for this two-year training program

The Episcopal Church has a number of licensed ministries for lay persons, including: Preacher, Worship Leader, Eucharistic Visitor, and Eucharistic Minister. If you feel you might be called to the ministry of Licensed Preacher, we are starting a new training cohort this fall! Licensed Preachers go through a 2-year program of training, at which point they may be licensed by the Bishop to preach at parishes in the diocese.

You need to have been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church and have the support of your rector or priest-in-charge. If your parish is without resident clergy, we can connect you with a clergy person to serve as your sponsor and mentor. You can find more about the program at the diocesan website (cnyepiscopal.org) or by contacting the Rev. Canon Tom Ferguson (tferguson@cnyepiscopal.org).

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARK...

Discernment 2023

Our parish continues to discern the shape of our future ministries and held our second parish meeting on July 11th after the Sunday service. In this second session we explored questions relating to what is essential to us as a community of faith, and especially as this particular community of faith.

The five questions we explored were:

1. What does it mean to you to be a church or community of faith?
2. Participation in the weekly Eucharist is essential to my faith life and worship at St Mark's is meaningful and satisfying to me.
3. St Mark's outreach ministries to the Far Westside/Tipp Hill neighborhood are an essential part of our parish identity.
4. It is important to me that I regularly participate in our parish's outreach ministries.
5. It is important to me that our parish has its own exclusive place of worship.

Our next parish gathering is planned for Sunday September 10th, again following the Eucharist service. At that meeting we will be exploring different the different options, their plusses and minuses, that our future life might take.

After that gathering, the Vestry will take in all that we've learned in the sessions and craft a proposal, including a draft budget to be implemented in the next year. You are encouraged to participate and to make sure your voice is included in our discerning.

Reading with Rover—It's for the Dogs!



St. Mark's will host a Reading with Rover event on Thursday, Aug. 17, from 2-4pm for kids in grades K-6 as well as for dogs! Children will be able to relax on the lawn of the church while reading a book to any dog who drops by. If you would like to have your furry best friend read to, please bring him/her. If you have a child who is interested in participating, St. Mark is providing the books but children are welcome to bring their favorite book as well. For more information or to help out, please see Kevin Ward, coordinator. Kevin is also looking for bakers to

make "people biscuits" (cut-out cookies) for the event and has dog bone cookie cutters if needed.

First St. Mark's Craft Show in September

St. Mark's is planning a Craft Show on Sept. 30 and looking for crafters. If you are interested or know of a crafter who might want a table, please contact Gail at 315-450-4438. A table is \$30. The Craft Show will also feature a bake sale, White Elephant Sale and food for sale in the kitchen. There is be a bin in the Undercroft currently for White Elephant items. The committee will be seeking volunteers to help the night before and the day of. Look for more information as the event draws closer!

Food \$en\$e welcomes much needed – and timely – help



St. Mark the Evangelist has been a CNY Food Bank Food \$en\$e participant for nine years. We are one of 48 Food \$en\$e sites in the CNY Food Bank's 11 county region, providing a cooperative buying food opportunity for all who eat. (foodbankcny.org) The offering each month varies but always has a "unit" of 12 items which always cost \$20.50. There are also six separate "specials" that are offered.

We have a small group of loyal volunteers, mostly of "mature" age, who come month after month to help unload the truck, sort items, pack boxes, and deliver to clients' cars within a two-hour time frame (many items are frozen).

As it happened, on a toasty Wednesday, July 26th, we had a record 85 orders to fill and four of our "regulars" were unable to come! Then the Lord showed up just as the CNY Food Bank truck arrived...in the form of eight Wal-Mart angel-volunteers from Fulton! Apparently, the wife of one of the Wal-Mart managers is a CASA volunteer who normally helps with Food Sense. She persuaded her

husband to encourage the management team to come to help – and they did!

These managers from the Wal-Mart Fulton regional training program were a blessing in Wal-Mart blue Volunteer T-shirts! They immediately unloaded several pallets of meats, fresh produce, and non-frozen food items and helped fill 79 "unit" boxes of 12 items each. As boxes are filled, the volunteers checked the boxes for accuracy, and then carried them out to waiting cars.

However, the Wal-Mart volunteers didn't rest there. They also flattened a massive amount of cardboard boxes and hauled them to the weekly recycling spot at the rear of the church. Finally, the Wal-Mart Angels helped dismantle the tables and return our Undercroft to its summer profile as our Sunday worship space.

The Lord does provide and we hope these Wal-Mart angels might return again for the August delivery, Wednesday, August 23rd!



St. Mark Updates...

Our sexton, Phil

As Phil continues on his road to recovery through physical therapy at Van Duyn, he maintains good spirits and said he is making slow but steady progress. He is not sure how long he will be there, but said his doctor predicts recovery could take up to a year. He misses St. Mark and his trains and sends out a thank-you to all who donated to help pay his August rent. Please continue to keep Phil lifted up in your prayers.

Food \$en\$e

Update on our "marketing efforts" for our **Food \$en\$e** program: Harrison Bakery and Coleman's have graciously allowed us to display our **Food \$en\$e** fliers and posters. CENTRO has also given permission for us to mount a **Food \$en\$e** box on their Bus Stop signpost across from St. Mark's.

We already have the fliers in brochure boxes at Byrne Dairy, Colonial Laundromat, Brooklyn Pickle, Hazard Branch library, and Champs Pizza up the street. Still, word of mouth is our best promotion method so even if you don't utilize Food \$en\$e, you can tell friends, neighbors, and relatives about it!

More exciting news is that Food \$ense can now be ordered by credit/debit card through the Food Bank of CNY's website at: <https://foodsense.foodbankcny.org/> and delivered to St. Mark's. So volunteers on the day of delivery is still very much needed.

Saying Good-Bye

We recently said goodbye to Pearl Popiak, who died of cancer at the still young age of 57. Pearl was a fixture in the back of worship in the rocking chair and her untimely death was a shock to many. We were honored to be able to celebrate her life in a service in the church in June. Please remember Pearl and her friends and family in your prayers.



*May she rest in peace
and rise in glory.*



"There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart."

~ Celia Thaxter

The Vestry must always have an eternal summer in their hearts as we are grateful to be doing God's work.

Here are the highlights of the June 18, 2023, Vestry meeting:

- ▶ Fr. Jon presented information on the discernment process. The 2nd meeting will be July 9th to discuss real priorities and the 3rd meeting will be putting meetings 1 and 2 together for structure. The Vestry will decide what is to be done and work on a budget (September/October).
- ▶ Jim Miller reported that we are in the process of erecting the two new signs for the church. It needs to be determined which of the existing signs should be replaced at this time. Jim also reports that Food \$en\$e flyers are being placed at Coleman's and Harrison Bakery.
- ▶ Kevin Ward has volunteered to speak to Porter classes about his experience on the Diocesan Mission Trip.
- ▶ The 1st Annual Craft Fair will be held Saturday, September 30, 2023. In addition to the craft vendors, there will be a bake sale, white elephant sale and food available for sale in the kitchen. We will be advertising for craft vendors soon. We will be reaching out to parish members for additional help the night before and day of the sale. For more information, see Kevin Ward or Gail Manolescu.
- ▶ Phyllis Honsinger is still collecting bottles and cans. In the past, the funds have been used for the Youth Group. Now the funds in that account and in the future, will go into a separate account for the Food Pantry.
- ▶ Fr. Jon reports that the parish hall will be closed during the week of July 17th. The floors will be stripped and waxed. The 12-Step groups will meet in the undercroft.
- ▶ Two new bulletin boards are to be installed for community events. One will be in the parish hall and the other will be in the hallway downstairs.
- ▶ There was a discussion about some new ideas for outreach. More information will be forthcoming.
- ▶ Our sexton, Phil, has been moved to Van Duyn and is welcoming visitors. He receives PT and is making slow steady progress. One way to help Phil is by donating towards his expenses. Another way to be of service is to volunteer to help with the cleaning and maintenance of our church.
- ▶ Celebrate!! Fr. Jon has been with St. Mark the Evangelist for one year!!

Please contact any Vestry Member or Warden with any suggestions, concerns or questions.

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

From the Treasurer..

Budget Report for January 1 thru June 30 2023

	<i>Budget for Year</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
<i>Income</i>	\$115,450.00	\$60,040.42	-55,409.58
<i>Expenses</i>	\$178,316.89	\$87,179.42	-\$91,137.47
<i>Deficit</i>	-\$62,866.89	-\$27,139.00	\$35,727.89
<i>Pledges</i>	\$53,000.00	\$24,916.00	-\$28,084.00

Submitted by: Pat Dunn
Reported: July 2023

Summer Birthdays

JULY

July 16 Dottie Doane
 July 17 Patrick White
 July 21 Gary Smith
 July 25 Kim Ada
 July 28 Tim Manolescu
 July 29 Hendrick Lallier

AUGUST

Aug. 6 Stacey Marzynski
 Aug. 9 Pat Dunn
 Aug. 12 Jackie Eberline
 Aug. 18 Marie Bearden
 Aug. 18 Jane Smith
 Aug. 24 Tom Marzynski

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

Happening at St Luke's

Weekly Eucharist

Every week St Luke's has Eucharist on Thursday mornings at 10:00am. Each week we commemorate one of the Holy Women and Men from the Episcopal Church's calendar of saints. If you aren't able to come on Sunday or would just like another opportunity for communion each week, come and join us. (Note: There will be no service Aug. 17 & 24 while Fr. Jon is on vacation)



Towpath Days

The Camillus Erie Canal Park's annual towpath Day is Saturday, August 12th. Come out for a day of fun and free homemade ice cream at the St Luke's booth.

Junk in the Trunk St. Luke's will have a fall Junk in the Trunk and Bake sale, Saturday, September 23.



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:



Join us for our parish picnic on
August 27th at Reed Webster Park

Church Picnic

This year's picnic will be held jointly with St Luke's following a combined worship service **at 10am** at St Luke's.

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

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.