

THE WAY

The Newsletter of

St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1612 W. Genesee St.; Syracuse, NY, 13204
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Winter 2020



Now with God but Forever in our
Hearts.....pages 4-9



Lust for Life—Putting St. Mark
in the NewsPages 2-3



Parishioner on the
Move.....Page 12

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Displaying a ‘Lust for Life’

This fall, St. Mark the Evangelist was contacted by Felicia Jagdatt, a S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications student studying Military Photojournalism (MPJ). Felicia reached out to St. Mark after hearing about our ministries from another S.U. student. As part of a class project, the students are creating a magazine and for her article, Felicia wanted to write about what St. Mark is doing to help those in need in the church’s immediate neighborhood – about our desire to be a beacon of light on Syracuse’s west side.

Some representatives of St. Mark sat down to be interviewed by Felicia and in return, she also agreed to share a little bit about herself with us – and we think you will agree she is an amazing woman!

In Felicia’s own words:

The concrete jungles of Queens, New York, raised me. I heard planes flying over my head every morning, I saw the smoke cloud in the far distance from my front yard when 9/11 happened, and I had the best family and friends (support system) a person can ask for. I am Guyanese (Indo-Caribbean) and the middle child.

I joined the military in 2012 as a Biomedical Technician Specialist, which is a superfluous name for a person who fixes medical equipment. The Army has allowed me to live in five states and South Korea. I also have traveled to three countries and 25 states, mostly the east and south borders of the U.S. I mention this because I love traveling

and seeing all pockets of the world in person.

In 2017, I became a Public Affairs Specialist for 1st Armored Division, where I told the story of two brigades which held approximately 9,000 Soldiers combined. It was a blessing to be there, but I hated the desert heat of El Paso, Texas.



Now, I am attending S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications in a Military Photojournalism program. I am learning the following subjects: journalism, branding, graphic design, photography, and videography. I would love to be of use to you all in what my time allots between schoolwork and homework.

Lastly, I will mention the next fact because Mr. (Jim) Miller asked me to: I achieved a goal of mine, which I made with myself since 2012. I wanted to get on the Sergeant First Class (E-7) selection list in seven years. Well, last week I found out that I am on the list. This is an extremely proud moment for me because this is a feat that not many

people in the military tackle well. To give context, Soldiers can retire without obtaining E-7, and some can take up to 20 years to get SFC.

Felicia was also asked:

Q: *What is the school project?*

A: The project is for the MPJ program where we are combining all that we learn through the multiple classes into a magazine. The class decided the theme would be Lust for Life. We have not agreed on a title as yet. We have done this throughout the years (I am not sure exactly how long), and some have gone on to win awards. However, I am not doing it for awards, but I am learning. Everything I do is very entry level, and I want to see in what ways I can help you all while helping my skills grow.

Q: *When did I accept God into my life?*

A: I grew up in the Hindu religion. I was exposed to Christianity through my mom's mom who grew up in the religion since her youth. I find God every day. Because of my life choices, I can't always find time for church. However, I always find time for God. My relationship with God is the greatest one I have. I understand that everything good comes from God. The bad stuff comes from my own bad judgement. I have shunned God in my life many times over and over. Every time I come back, He accepts me. I will never take advantage of that love again. He opens doors for me that I really cannot explain how much of a miracle some are. I also understand that when He doesn't open a door for me it's because I am not ready for that level as yet. I know His hand is on my life, but I'm not sure why.

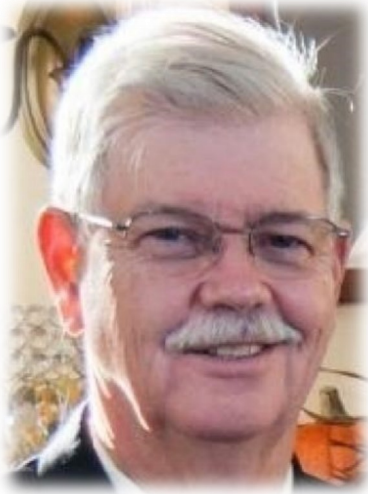


It's not up to me to understand. I just accept it. I am not perfect by any means. I have so many flaws, addictions and weaknesses, but I understand that we all are human. This is not a crutch, but it helps me remain happy in a life meant to tear us down. I cannot tell you in a moment how I know God is real, but my life is a testimony to God being real. He answers all of my prayers when He is ready, which teaches me patience because I need to learn patience.

Editor's note: A link to the article will be available on the church's Facebook page and website once it is published. Felicia has also supplied St. Mark the Evangelist with a myriad of beautiful photographs just in time for the building of the church's new website—a real answer to prayer. She has also bound them in a book that will be on hand in the Parish Hall and anyone is welcome to make notations by any of the images.

Forever in our hearts...

Recently, St. Mark the Evangelist celebrated the lives of two pillars of St. Mark's community and longtime and faithful parishioners and friends, James Oliver and Robert Kraushaar. They will be remembered and deeply missed by their loving family at St. Mark the Evangelist. To read more about Jim and Bob, turn to pages 6-9.



James "Jim" Oliver

August 31, 1949 — November 28, 2019

James Oliver, of the Valley in Syracuse, passed away with family by his side on Thanksgiving Day at New York Presbyterian Hospital from complications after lung transplant surgery. Born August 31, 1949, in Syracuse, he graduated from Onondaga Central High in 1967 and the Syracuse University School of Architecture in 1972. He married Bonnie Bex that same year and went to work for RSA Architects, where he had a long and successful career, becoming a partner and retiring in 2018. An avid golfer, he was also a dedicated fan of SU football and basketball, and New York Yankees baseball. He was also a very active member of his church community.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Bonnie. He is survived by his sons, William and Robert; his daughters-in-law, Jessica and Meghann; and his grandchildren, Bram and Faye.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 7th, at 10:30 am at the Episcopal Church of St. Mark the Evangelist, 1612 W. Genesee St., Syracuse. There are no calling hours. The family met with friends immediately following the service, where a light luncheon was served. Interment followed in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse.

Donations may be made to St. Mark the Evangelist Church.

Arrangements were with the Fairchild and Meech DeWitt Chapel.

Robert “Bob” A. Kraushaar

March 1, 1926 — January 1, 2020

Robert A. Kraushaar, 93, of Westvale, was called home to eternal rest on January 1, 2020. Robert was a graduate of Liverpool Central Schools. Upon graduation, he served honorably in the Army in both Okinawa and Korea during World War II. After leaving the Army, Robert attended Syracuse University where he received his master's in education. He went on to teach math and eventually retired in 1985 after more than 30 years with the Syracuse City School District.



Robert was an active communicant of St. Mark's Episcopal Church where he served as a Sunday School Teacher, Vestry Member, Treasurer and Choir Member. Robert's love of God, his church and church family was made evident through his many years of faithful service. He was an avid reader, especially Biblical passages. He loved gardening, travelling, and puzzles. Robert loved being with his family and friends.

Robert was predeceased by Mary (Matthews) Kraushaar, his wife of 67 years; daughter, Barbara Kraushaar Covey; and son, Robert G. Kraushaar.

He is survived by his daughter, Phyllis (Michael) Honsinger of Syracuse and daughter-in-law, Cindy (West) Krausaar of Syracuse. Robert has 8 grandchildren, Dean, Eric, Brian, Collin Kraushaar, Jennifer and Jeffrey Honsinger, Amy and Kimberly Jordan. He is also survived by 9 great- and 3 great-great- grandchildren as well as several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, January 5, at Tindall Funeral Home, 1921 W. Genesee St. Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m. Monday, January 6, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

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

A Life Well Lived

Jim Oliver's son, Robert, delivered a reflection on his dad's life during the funeral service. It was so inspirational and impressive that we were asked to share it in our next newsletter.

I'd like to start by thanking everyone for being here today. I ask you to join me in celebrating my Dad's life as I recount some of its highlights and hopefully paint a picture of the charming, dignified, wise, caring, passionate man that he was.

Dad was born in 1949 in Syracuse, and lived here his entire life. He was devoted to the city he called home, and had no intention of ever leaving. He attended Onondaga Central school and was a baseball pitcher as a kid. He graduated salutatorian and class president. After graduation, his parents took him on a tour of Europe, through Denmark, Germany, across the Alps, to Italy, France and Great Britain. He then entered the School of Architecture at SU. Before his career could get started, he was drafted into the military at the tail end of the Vietnam War.

A story Dad was fond of telling occurred toward the end of basic training. He'd suffered a kidney injury and missed weapon training while in the hospital. Upon his release, he was told he had to shoot for record, without the opportunity to practice, and if he failed, he would have to repeat basic. My grandfather had taught him how to shoot when he was young, and one thing my grandpa always expected was that you would give nothing less than your best effort. My Dad fully expected of himself that he would shoot 30 out of 30 like he knew he could, and he was tremendously upset when he missed two targets, apologizing to the drill instructor profusely. Of course, the military's standards were much less exacting, and he'd passed with flying colors, as evident by the huge grin on his drill instructor's face. But that story always resonated with me because that was how my Dad was. He expected a lot of himself and aimed for the very

best he could be. Nothing more, nothing less.

My Dad was spared the experience of war when Vietnam ended shortly before his unit was due to ship out. So he remained in the reserves, and began his architecture career. In the process, he grew his trademark mustache. In his early days at the firm, working there part time while still in college, clients would complain about this "kid" the firm had working on their projects. So Dad grew the mustache to look older and make a better impression. It stuck. Years later, he would shave it off once, and only once, and was promptly chastised by my mom. It was never shaved off again.

Architecture was Dad's calling and his passion. After his retirement, he expressed to my brother, Will, that he felt lost at times because being an architect was so central to his identity. An architect is who he WAS, at his core. It was what he knew he would be, as early as middle school. He talked a lot about how he saw architecture as creating space where life could unfold. And how there is real thought behind the use of space and the ways people live and interact within it. He loved to balance the physical practicalities of design with its more creative and artistic elements. So to him, his buildings were a place where the aesthetic, art and the social all met.

His career spanned 50 years, all at the same firm, RSA. Among his proudest accomplishments were the West Genesee High School renovation, and his work with the Middletown School district. After a successful project, Dad would break out the slide projector and regale us with the concept behind the design, the hurdles he'd overcome to make it reality, and the intimate details of which he was so proud. Members of this church know first hand of his work on the under-croft. He loved

his co-workers, and cherished his partnership with Larry, and he was thankful in the knowledge that the firm continues in good hands.

Dad had numerous passions outside of work. He was a voracious reader. He loved history, fantasy, and science fiction. He was a collector of old movies, and had what we called the leaning tower of DVDs that grew taller and taller over the years, but never collapsed. He listened to classical music, and spent the day before our drive to NYC for his lung transplant listening to his favorite symphonies. From my grandfather, he inherited his love for the game of golf, along with his love for Yankees baseball, and SU football and basketball.

He had a powerful singing voice, and he sang in the choir here for many years. He was very proud of that. He put his voice to other uses as well, including booing vociferously at SU games. I'm convinced they could hear him half-way across the Dome. He turned a lot of heads and his voice became well known in our section over the years. He never booed the team. To them, he was intensely loyal. But he hated poor officiating. He knew the officials by name, and would scream to get their attention. He was successful on more than one occasion. I asked him about it once, and he told me that he couldn't stand the thought of the opposing team being given an unfair advantage. It violated his sense of fair play. And I think, too, that it was his one release for his frustrations with life. In all other facets of his personality, he was calm, composed, thoughtful, but with sports, he was fierce.

Growing up, my brother and I had the quintessential "Dad" moments: he ran down the street behind us as we learned to ride our bikes, we watched Star Trek re-runs after dinner in the summer, we played catch in the back yard, swam at the beach while he warned us to watch out for the undertow, and guided us through our

Through his words and the way he lived his life, he taught me many lessons, among them: live simply and humbly; get the facts before making a decision; your word is your bond; family comes first.

homework.

Life with my Dad was about overcoming the little challenges it would throw your way. We used to camp every summer and had a giant fly that would extend from the roof of our camper to cover the entire camp site. Part of the setup included digging a trench in the dirt around the perimeter of the fly to collect the rainwater as it poured off. Like everything with my Dad, the trenches were planned and dug with purpose.

When the rain would start, and our handiwork would be put to the test. The trenches would start to fill. Water levels would rise and inevitably, a breach would occur. Dad would spring into action.

Water would not be allowed to enter under that fly. Issuing directions to Will and me, and with my mom giggling in the background at the sight of it all, the three of us would dig, building berms and channels, funneling water to low points and collection areas. In the end, we'd be successful, and he'd sit back, perfectly content in the safe, dry place he'd created. Why did I choose that story? Well, that was Dad. The lesson to be had was that if you were going to do something, you were going to do it right. And you were going to see it through. Some tasks were more important than others but you'd approach them all in the same way, with forethought, planning and care.

Anyone who knew Dad here at church knows he was firm in his faith. God was his constant companion. I saw it when his parents passed away, when he suffered a debilitating illness, and when he lost his wife. His courage in the face of hardship, with God at his side, was tremendous. Integral to that faith was this community, to which he was devoted. He was a warden at times throughout the years, and a member of the vestry. It was his home away from home, and he longed for the day he could again attend Sunday morning services, surrounded once more by the friends for whom he cared so much. He'd looked forward to singing again in the choir. The

outpouring of love and support that he received from the members of this parish kept him going throughout his illness. He was fortunate to have a strong circle of friends throughout his life for whom he cared very much.

The story of Dad's final years could be considered a tragic one. In April 2016, he lost his mother unexpectedly, followed by his father 11 months later in March 2017. In March 2018, early one morning, he suffered a pulmonary fibrosis attack, a genetic disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the lungs, and it left him debilitated, dependent at all times of the day and night on oxygen. Suddenly, without warning, he had lost his job, his plans for retirement, his mobility and his freedom. The following March, his wife of 47 years passed away unexpectedly of a brain hemorrhage. And only eight months later, we are gathered here today in his memory.

Through all this heartbreak, he did not lament his lot in life except, perhaps, in private, to God. He did not become bitter or jaded. His physical strength waned after my mother's passing, but he remained the same gentle, warm-hearted, generous, thoughtful, loving person, and we received an unending stream of compliments from care-givers along the way. They loved him, his stories, and his sense of humor. He told us he was determined to get his "life" back, if he could, and he never lost hope. The lung transplant was his hope. In the months leading up to the transplant, he underwent a barrage of tests. The final one before approval was a walk test, in which he had to walk 500 feet in 6 minutes. For you or me, that might be a simple thing. For someone with fibrosis, it is a severe challenge. The first test was performed without sufficient oxygen, and we walked only 190 feet. The second, with the oxygen flowing as he needed, he walked 660. It was a monumental act of courage and will power. He told me afterward that he felt as though his lungs were on fire. He asked if I remembered the saying that hung on

our dining room wall as a kid. I said yes, it was the poem "Footprints in the Sand." That poem is on the memorial cards here today. He said like that poem, God had carried him the last 200 feet of the test. He knew of no other way to explain what he had just done.

My grandfather would always say that Dad had a great mind...he was very intelligent, with a photographic memory, and everything he did was well planned, thought through, with purpose and care. He rarely acted rashly or in haste. He was dedicated to his family. He and my mother waited for years after marriage to save money before having children, and they made sure my brother and I were provided for before ever spending money on themselves. Dad was our number one source of guidance. He was often my sounding board, and I sought out his wisdom often. You could ask him anything at any time. He'd listen patiently, and his logic was always spot-on.

Through his words and the way he lived his life, he taught me many lessons, among them: live simply and humbly; get the facts before making a decision; your word is your bond; family comes first. And I thought it fitting, as I struggled mightily to come to grips with his passing, that his guidance would help me yet again. I thought, what would Dad say, and I knew instantly: he would say first and foremost, focus on your family. They need you and are your priority. Be thankful that he spent nearly his entire adult life in the presence of his parents and wife, and lived to spend quality time with his grandchildren. Don't dwell on the loss because life goes on. Remember our best times together, the happiest moments, and remember how much we loved each other. Remember him for who he was, not how things ended. Give thanks for his life and rejoice that he's with God now, reunited with his grandparents, parents, and wife. His was a life well lived. May we all be so fortunate.



A Humble Heart; A House in Order

Bob Kraushaar's son-in-law, Michael Honsinger, always referred to his father-in-law as "Dad" and it is obvious by his eulogy they were as close as a father and son could be. His words show just how special Bob was to so many and how his spirit continues to be an inspiration to all who knew him.

Good morning, everyone, and thank you for being here as we come together to pay our respects to a truly special man.

Robert Kraushaar, Dad, saw and did more in his 93 years with us than most people could hope to do in 2 or 3 lifetimes. In all of his accomplishments and achievements, Robert never made it about him. He had his house in order. God first, then family, followed by his fellows and so on. He had himself far down on that list.

He was a good man. I use the word "good" intentionally. If I referred to him as great, I would have been met with a dismissive wave of the hand. Great is boastful and Robert was not.

In Robert's world, only God is great. Just being good was good enough. This speaks of his humility and being right sized with the world. He saw the benefit of storing up his riches in heaven and not on Earth. Robert was a servant of God.

If you tasked me with the chore of describing Robert with one word and one word only, without hesitation that word would be meek. In 1828, Noah Webster defined the word as – "mild of temper, soft, gentle, not easily provoked or irritated, yielding." The definition goes on to say ... "appropriately humble in an evangelical sense, submissive to the divine will, not proud, not peevish and apt to complain of divine dispensations.

A good example of this is in Matthew 11:29 which reads, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Jesus also proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:5, "Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the Earth."

Meek ... m-e-e-k. Just four letters means all of that. I think the word that I chose do describe my dad is more accurate than I could have possibly hoped for. I'm thinking to be meek is to know God. Lord, help me to be meek. Robert, thank you for the wonderful example of a life well-lived.

We miss you here on earth and look forward to the day when we are reunited in the spirit.



Above, Robert Kraushaar with his daughter, Phyllis Honsinger, in 2016. At left, Bob served in the Army in both Okinawa and Korea during World War II.

Looking to help? Here's some ways...



Latest Food Pantry Needs

Thank you all for your generous donations in support of this important ministry

Some of the items the Food Pantry could always use include:

Tomato Soup
Canned Pears
Canned Peaches
Peanut Butter
Tuna Helper
Pasta

Pasta Sauce
Canned Hash
Pork & Beans
Mac & Cheese (yellow box)
Canned Fruit
Pudding Cups



Circle V News

Circle V does not meet during the winter months but meetings will resume in the spring and will be held during the months of April, May, June, August, October and December. 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!

Also, 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. Your donations are always welcome!!

If you have any questions, just ask Barb White, Nancy Morrison, Joan Green, or Shirley Keech.

St. Mark Youth Group Update

The youth group of St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Syracuse was facing dwindling numbers. Members of the group told leader Dave Richmond they'd enjoyed meeting with other area youth groups, so Dave reached out to the Rev. Jon White at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Camillus.

As a result, in 2019, St. Mark's youth formed a partnership with St. Luke's as well as St. James', Skaneateles and St. John's, Marcellus. The newly-formed four-church youth group call themselves 4West, since all four parishes are west of central Syracuse. The group meets every second Sunday at one of the four churches for a meal and fellowship, followed by bible study, reflection, and Holy Eucharist.



In October 2019, members took part in the Greater Syracuse Crop Walk, raising more than \$500 to address hunger locally and around the world. *Pictured at the Walk are 4West members Olivia, Kaley, Earl, and Bob.*



Memorial donations appreciated

If you have a listing for a Sanctuary Lamp or Altar Flower memorial, a donation is welcomed and appreciated.

There are some open dates available:

Sanctuary Lamp — May 31

Altar Flowers—Feb. 16 & 23, May 31

If paying by check, please make it out to, "St. Mark's Flower Fund."



*Thank you,
Joan Green, Flower Fund Chair*

You Are Never Too Old for a New Adventure!

At 96, longtime parishioner Isabel Underwood is proof that you are ever too old for a new adventure! This past August, Isabel and her daughter and son-in-law packed up and moved to warmer digs in Kentucky and from what we hear, she is loving it!

Before her move, Jim Miller visited with Isabel and said he had had a nice long chat with her.

"She's 96 and still has all her marbles as I told her," said Jim with a chuckle. "She is hard of hearing and almost blind, but she still loves to get the bulletin which she reads cover to cover." A large-print bulletin is sent to her each week and she said it takes most of the week for her to get through it.

"She noted the lengthy and interesting Prayers of the People...the prayers for the ill as well as for other churches in the Anglican community," Jim said. "I took her the large print Forward for Aug-October and the latest newsletter. I assured her we'd keep mailing it all to her when we get her new address."

Isabel's daughter, Debbie, and husband have moved to the Louisville, Kentucky area to be near their boys and whisked Isabel off with them. Believe it or not, they sold their house on Onondaga Hill in only 2 hours! A bidding war led to a winning overbid. We were told that Isabel's granddaughter is living in her old house and teaching Special Education in the West Genesee district. Her plan is to get tenure and then also move south to be near the family.

Jim said during the visit, Isabel asked about Marian Williams and told him how much she had loved her visits and communion with Marian.

"I had to tell her that I didn't have an update on

Marian for her and then we got talking about her early years. I encouraged her to have her family sit her down to record her history," Jim said. "Toward the end of our conversation, she realized she hadn't let me talk about our kids. She said she

had kept a photo I had given her of our family trip to Ireland in 2015. She also said she loved the Amish people and grew up with them in the area of Steuben County? I think she spent many summers with grandparents in that area."

Jim went on to say she told him her first job in high school was gift wrapping for Edwards and she loved it.

"My dad wanted me to go to Cornell but with gas rationing, I didn't want to because my dad needed the coupons to get gas to go to work," she explained. Her next jobs were in a meat packing plant part time and filling in for full-timer where

she learned how to clean fish and chickens. This wound up Jim's visit with Isabel.

Deb Denny, St. Mark's secretary, said she talked with Debbie shortly after their move and was told Isabel is living in a facility close to them so they can spend a lot of time with her.

"Debbie said her mom loves the new facility and everyone has fallen in love with her, just like they did at Brookdale Bellevue (in Syracuse). She said they hated to see her leave."

For anyone who would like to drop Isabel a note or card, here is where she can be found:



From her smile, it is easy to tell Isabel is enjoying her move to Kentucky and her new home at Beehive Memory Care. Isabel moved in August with her family but St. Mark's is still in her heart and she said she loves to receive the weekly bulletin and newsletters.

**Beehive Memory Care
8802 Smyrna Parkway
Louisville, KY 40228**

By Jim Miller & Deb Denny



Lenten & Easter Schedule Schedule 2020



February 26 ~ Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

7 PM

April 5 ~ Palm Sunday

Procession with Palms and Holy Eucharist

10 AM

April 8 ~ Wednesday

Tenebrae (Service of Shadows) in the Sanctuary

7 PM

Service of Palms, Passion and Eucharist at Brighton Towers

7 PM

April 9 ~ Maundy Thursday

Service of the Last Supper with optional Foot or Hand Washing

7 PM

April 10 ~ Good Friday

Solemn Prayers and Veneration of the Cross

(Holy Communion available from reserved elements.)

7 PM

April 11 ~ Saturday

The Great Vigil of Easter & First Eucharist of Easter

7 PM

With and at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

5402 W. Genesee St. in Camillus

APRIL 12 ~ EASTER SUNDAY ~ 10 AM

Festival Eucharist

Followed by Easter Egg Hunt for the Children and Brunch for all. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share.

St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13204 ~ 315-488-8511

PARISH MEETINGS

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Following the regular Sunday Service at 11:15 a.m. there will be a **Special Meeting** of the Parish to consider one, and only one, motion presented by the Vestry. This proposal is to bring the by-laws into line with occasional current practice that has been necessitated by the current size of the congregation.

MOTION: That the by-laws of the parish of St. Mark the Evangelist be changed as follows:

From:

The officers of the Church of St. Mark the Evangelist shall consist of a Rector, two Wardens and nine vestry persons, all of whom shall comprise the Vestry of said religious corporation.

To:

The officers of the Church of St. Mark the Evangelist shall consist of a Rector, two Wardens and not less than six (6), nor more than nine (9), vestry persons, all of whom shall comprise the Vestry of said religious corporation.

Provisions for terms of office shall not be impacted by this change.

Sunday, March 8, 2020

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. (The regular 10 a.m. service will be conducted.) Following the regular 10 a.m. service, the routine business of the parish will be conducted over food during an enhanced Coffee Hour hosted by the Vestry.

COME IN OUT OF THE COLD!



Browse through

Men's, Women's and Children's Clothing, Shoes, etc...

ALL FOR ONLY A 25-CENT DONATION PER ITEM!

Also Available — Loaves of Bread for a 25-cent Donation

SATURDAY, FEB. 8 & MARCH 14

10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

*The Green Café is open during this Clothes Closet with a
FREE light breakfast for shoppers.*

THURSDAYS, FEB. 20 & MARCH 26

4-6 PM

*The Evening Clothes Closet include a
FREE Community Dinner!*

Thoughts on Gratitude, Giving and God

Every night, my husband Mike and I had a ritual before going to sleep. We asked each other, "What was the highlight of your day?" Sometimes the answer was long; sometimes it was short.

When Mike died, I changed it up a bit. I asked myself, "What am I grateful to God for?" Usually my list includes the weather, my cats, family, friends, my church ... a healing ... having a personal relationship with Jesus.

I came to the realization that everything I have comes from God. And out of my gratitude to God, I give something back to God. I do this by supporting the mission and ministry of the church.

Every year at this time, we think about our financial commitments to the church. This year, as you prayerfully consider your pledge, think about all God has given you. And ask yourself this question,

"What am I grateful to God for?"

Karen Ward



Ministry Schedule: FEBRUARY 2020

	<u>2nd</u>	<u>9th</u>	<u>16th</u>	<u>23rd</u>
LECTORS	Dave Cook Becky G. Kitty M.	Shirley K. Dottie D. Dana M.	Sally T. Bill Z. Gary N.	Nancy T. Gail M. Kathi P.
CHALICE BEARER	Tom M. Nancy M.	Ethel A. Gary N.	Pat D. Dana M.	Jim M. Tom M.
GREETERS	Ernestine L. Jane S.	Dottie D. Ernestine L.	Gail M. Marilyn G.	Ethel A. Barb W.
USHERS	Bill Z. Amy L.	Gail M. Jackie E.	Nancy M. Marie B.	Bill Z. Gary N.
PRESENTER OF THE GIFTS	Joan G. Gary N.	Bill Z. Anna A.	Marilyn G. Barb W.	Phyllis H. Jackie E.
ALTAR ASSISTANT	Forrest A.	Tom M.	Alex A.	Hendrik L.
ACOLYTES	Phyllis H. Tate L. Marie B.	Adam A. Henrik L. Phyllis H.	Tom M. Tate L. Amy L.	Marie B. Alex A. Adam A.
ALTAR GUILD	Team A	Team B	Team C	Team D
V.P.O.D.	Gary N.	Karen W.	Barry G.	Deb R.
COFFEE HOUR	OPEN	Barry & Marilyn G.	OPEN	OPEN

UPCOMING MEETINGS



- FINANCE COMMITTEE — TUESDAY, FEB. 11, 1:30 PM
- WORSHIP TEAM — TUESDAY, FEB. 11, 5 PM
- STEWARDSHIP TEAM — TBA
- VESTRY MEETING — MONDAY, FEB. 17, 7 PM
- TRANSITION TEAM — SATURDAY, FEB. 22, 10:30 AM

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in the Vestry room on the lower level of the Parish Hall building.

If you would like to know more about any team or committee, please talk with Fr. Gaetz or one of the wardens.

Eagle Scout Project Benefits St. Mark Community



Aiden Brisson, Life Scout of Troop 71 Baldwinsville.

In October, 2019, St. Mark's Vestry received a presentation from Aiden Brisson, a Life Scout of Troop 71 Baldwinsville, who was in the process of earning his Eagle Scout badge. His project, entitled "Neighborhood Dinner and Holiday Food Baskets," was focused on community service to St. Mark's neighborhood community as well as families in need at Porter and Frazer schools.

The Eagle Scout award is the highest rank that a Boy Scout can achieve. To be an Eagle Scout takes a lifetime of dedication to the values of the Scout Law; God, Country and Self. The scouts who obtain this rank live out those values in their daily lives. Being an Eagle Scout means being a leader, not just a leader within your troop but within your community and throughout your life. Among the many things a Life Scout has to do to be awarded his Eagle rank is an Eagle project.

Eagle projects vary in size and scope, but they all have common threads. Every Eagle project is a leadership project that shows the Eagle candidate's ability to organize, plan, communicate and supervise the project. The candidate also deals with any and all facets and concerns that may arise throughout the project.

Every project serves to make the community the Life Scout is part of better in some way. Some make a long lasting difference such as a tree being planted or a park bench being installed where there wasn't one. Others make a personal difference to meet an immediate need within the community. Aiden's project is the latter.

On Monday, December 16, 2019 Aiden Brisson, a Life Scout of Troop 71 Baldwinsville, New York distributed 40 holiday food baskets to families of Porter Elementary School and Frazer (Pre K -8th grade) School. A recipient list for the baskets was coordinated between the schools' social workers and St. Mark Mission and Outreach Coordinator Jim Miller, who works closely with the schools for the annual St. Mark Thanksgiving Basket giveaway. Each family received all the food items required to make their holiday meal nourishing as well as festive.



In addition to the holiday baskets, on Thursday night, December 19, 2019, Aiden and a team made up of scouts, leaders and parents of troop 71 cooked and served up a wonderful ham dinner for the people of our immediate neighborhood that come to our monthly free neighborhood dinners. They served approximately 45 people, most of which were families that come every month to shop at our Clothes Closet and have dinner and pick up some loaves of bread. Approximately 6 percent of scouts nationwide earn and are awarded their Eagle badge. To give some example of the hard work and dedication it takes to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, here is a statistic for you to consider: The total number of Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts and Venturers (males younger than 18 years old) in 2014 was 861,898. Of that number, 51,820 became Eagle Scouts. Since the inception of the Eagle Scout award in 1912, 2.01 percent of eligible scouts have earned Scouting's highest honor.

Great work Aiden! Thank you for asking us to serve as the host for your project!

Other St. Mark NEWS

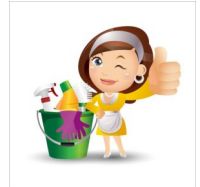
Lay Eucharist Visitors Commissioned

Four Parish members completed the process to become Lay Eucharist Visitors in order to meet the need of visiting and bringing Holy Communion to our at-home parishioners. During the November 10th Sunday Service, Jackie Eberline, Phyllis Honsinger, Debra Richardson and Karen Ward were commissioned. LEV's needed to complete Safe Church Training along with training in distributing the Eucharist to our at-home parishioners. This mission is extremely important as the visits mean just as much to our shut-ins as receiving Holy Communion. Visits began in December.

Thank you, ladies, for your time and dedication to Christ's work!

Some Housekeeping Items

Recently the kitchen refrigerator and white cabinet were cleaned out of expired food items dating back to "Best used by 2011." Moving forward, if you are bringing food in for any reason, please don't leave it thinking it will get used. If you are leaving it for a group that meets regularly ie: Bible Study (there is now a blue tray labeled with your food items) please mark it with your name. If it is not identified, it is fair game for general use or disposal.



Also, please do not leave any leftover party supplies: plates, cups, napkins and especially plastic ware on the corner kitchen counter without letting someone know. It becomes a problem of who does this belong to and why is it here. We are trying to become more "green" so every bit helps.

*Many thanks,
Jackie Eberline & Phil Buffham (Sexton)*

A Life Thought: Build Your Complete Temple

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

You've probably heard the expression, "your body is a temple," but, just what does that mean exactly? More importantly, what does it mean to you?

At this time of year, I think we think more about this concept than any other time (well, except maybe in the spring when we are trying on new bathing suits). A lot of us have made resolutions about becoming healthier and being nicer to "our temple." This usually comes in the form of more exercise, healthier food and perhaps even vitamin supplements.

But, St. Paul and God tell us our bodies are meant for more than for us to simply keep physically healthy. Our minds and souls are also housed within the flesh God created us with. There is more to maintaining your temple than doing so just to live longer or to better enjoy the pleasures of Earth. Our motivation should not be vanity; it should be in respect to our heavenly Father for providing us with our temple. We should be careful not to abuse it.

Even more than our physical bodies, we need to exercise our mind and soul. Perhaps a good resolution might be to learn something new this year or perhaps lose an hour of TV time and pick up a book. As for our soul, we can let God help us with that by turning to Him more this year for guidance and support. Reading the Bible, prayer and determination to be a better person, helping who and when we can, can only serve to make our spirit stronger and our "temple" a place to honor God.

".. and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." (1 Timothy 4:7-8)

So, exercise and eat well, but remember that your temple is only as strong as the foundation laid by your love for God over your body. All that is done for any reason other than respect for the life God has given us is vanity. Happy New Year!

Dear God, please be the foundation of my temple and let me build it from within to your glory. Amen.

Love, Deb Denny

Christmas Clothes Closet Fun!

The St. Mark annual Christmas Clothes Closet and Coat/Hat/Scarf/Mitten giveaway was held

Saturday, Dec. 14, and approximately 125 people attended, many with children who all visited with Santa, heard the Nativity story, had breakfast and received a stuffed animal and a free bag of homemade cookies. Each person received a gift bag with a Christmas card from the parish and a loaf of homemade sweet bread. Everyone had the opportunity to take home free hats, coats and scarves to make their winter season just a little warmer. This year, shopping was available at two tables as Circle V hosted a table of housewares along with the Mustangs' table of a variety of items from jewelry to decorations to knick-knacks and more. Bread was also available for a .25 cent donation.



An Update from Your Transition Team

January, 2020

Dear Friends,

As you may remember Sunday, September 29, was a special Sunday for St. Mark's as we embarked on the next leg of our journey together – the complex process of calling a new Rector to lead and guide us. That Sunday, all parishioners were asked to give us their thoughts. We wanted to learn how they felt about St. Mark's, our strengths and what we could work on to be a better outlet for God's message(s) and plans for us and for our community. A significant part of the survey was asking you your thoughts regarding what you would like to have in a new Rector.

We were heartened by the response. We had 45 submitted that day and an additional 12 returned by mail from the 63 mailed to those not present. An overall theme of how people came to be attending St. Mark's initially was knowing those here. Also, many had attended one of the initial four parishes (All Saints, Calvary, St. Mark's and Trinity) at the time of the new parish of St. Mark the Evangelist being incorporated in 1996.

The Fellowship/Community category seemed to be the most popular reason people remain at St. Mark's. The importance of Sunday School and Youth Group unfortunately didn't score as high as many of us had hoped, likely due to the lack of young people in our congregation [A point to focus on!]. Kudos to our Youth Group for reaching out to the young people in St. Luke's (Camillus), St. John's (Marcellus), and St. James (Skaneateles) and forming the "4-West" Youth Group.

One surprise from the survey was how few folks mentioned parish finances. We need to make clear to all that we are presently not financially able to call a full-time rector.

Programs and activities that rated of highest importance, either that we already had, or were felt to be needed in our parish were community outreach, pastoral care, evangelism, stewardship, music and worship.

As for what folks wanted in a new Rector (aside from the universal "ability to walk on water" criteria expected of all clergy), was one that is a "people person." Evangelism scored high in importance, but individual interpretations of the word can be varied. We want someone who is "easy to talk to," a good listener, compassionate, and well-versed in the Bible. Good sermons were highly rated as, ironically, was "youth-focused."

At our December meeting, Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent met with us. She was surprised at how much ministry our parish does and that we should be very proud.

The next steps in completing the Parish Profile (the basis for a clergy search) are to have financial reports, statistics from the annual Parochial Report, having the website up and running and having a search committee approved by the Vestry. A big boost has been our new parish member, Felicia Jagdatt, a staff sergeant in the US Army, studying an advanced program in the Newhouse School of Journalism at SU. Her photos and commentary will be a big help in different areas as we continue our journey to secure a new Rector.

*Respectfully Submitted by the Transition Team,
Jim Miller, Joan Green, Nancy Morrison, Gail Manolescu, Deb Denny*

FEBRUARY 2020 FOOD \$ENSE MENU

Westside @ St. Mark's

Inquiries can be made at:

(315) 488-8511 or (315) 727-4936

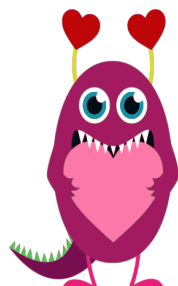
Email: stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarkTheEvangelistEpiscopalChurchSyracuseNewYork/)

[StMarkTheEvangelistEpiscopalChurchSyracuseNewYork/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarkTheEvangelistEpiscopalChurchSyracuseNewYork/)

FEBRUARY Package* \$20.50:

- Pork Tenderloin, 1.7 lbs. (avg.)
- Chicken Thighs, 3.5 lbs. (avg.)
- Fish Sticks, 1 lb.
- Ground Beef, 1 lb.
- Polish Sausage, 13 oz.
- Pierogies, 13 oz.
- Cheddar Cheese, 8 oz.
- White Rice, 1 lb.
- Broccoli Florets, 1 lb.
- Applesauce, 15 oz.
- Fresh Produce
- Fresh Produce



**Projected package is subject to change*

PLEASE READ:

We cannot hold food for you after the scheduled pick-up time. If there is a conflict, you may have someone else pick up your food for you. If you have any questions, please ask the volunteers when you sign up.

There are NO refunds or exchanges.

Any food NOT picked up on

FEB. 19 will become a donation.

February Specials:

Boneless Chicken: 2.5 lbs. for \$5.50

- The chicken breasts are boneless/skinless and individually quick frozen.

Lobster Bites: 17 oz. for \$4.50 -

Lobster Bites can be deep fried or baked in the oven.

American Cheese: 5 lbs. for \$12.00 -

The sliced American cheese is not individually wrapped.

Meatloaf: 2 lbs. for \$6.50 - The meatloaf is a traditional meatloaf made with 100% ground beef

Produce Box: \$15.00 - The Produce Box includes apples (5), oranges (5), potatoes (5 lbs.), pineapple (1), grape tomatoes (1 pint), cucumber (1), salad mix (1 bag), and carrots (1 lb.).

French Fries: 5 lbs. for \$4.50 - The French fries are ready to cook and can be used in the oven or fryer.

Hot Pockets: (12) 8 oz. sandwiches for \$20.00 - The Ham & Cheese Hot Pockets contain 12 sandwiches per special.

What is Food \$en\$e??

What is it? Food \$en\$e offers the opportunity to stretch your food budget by purchasing quality food at a discount.

Who is eligible? EVERYONE is eligible to purchase food from Food \$en\$e. No donated food is used in this program. It's a buying club -- so there is no income requirement.

How does it work? It's Simple. Order and pay in advance at our site.

Cost is ALWAYS \$20.50 per unit. Multiple units may be purchased, and/or single specials — YOU choose!

Cash or EBT are accepted. No checks. (EBT customers must bring card and sign a voucher).

When can I sign up?

**Sundays,
Feb. 2 & 9
10 AM –12 NOON**

**Thursday, Feb. 6
4-6 PM**

**Saturday, Feb. 8
10:30 AM—12:30 PM**

Pick-Up Date & Time:

**Wednesday
Feb. 19
11:30-1:30 P.M.**

Join us at St. Mark's **UPCOMING CLOTHES CLOSETS**

**SATURDAY, FEB. 8
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

The Green Café is open during this Clothes Closet with a free light breakfast for shoppers

**THURSDAY, FEB. 20
4-6 PM**

*The Evening Clothes Closets includes a
FREE Neighborhood Dinner!*

*Browse through men's, women's &
children's clothing, shoes, etc...*

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

**Loaves of Bread also available for
a 25-Cent donation...**

**You can also sign up for
Food \$en\$e at the
Saturday Clothes Closet!**

FOR YOUR ADDED CONVENIENCE:

Just give us your email and we will send you the following month's brochure ahead of your pick-up day. That way, you can place your next order the same day you pick up your current order, saving you an extra trip for ordering!

Simply call the office (315-488-8511) and give your email to Deb, email stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com or give it to one of the volunteers on the day of pickup.

**The Church of St. Mark the Evangelist
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 16, 2019**

Present: Fr. Nelson Gaetz, Gary Neddo, Nancy Morrison, Barry Guinn, Phyllis Honsinger, Cherolyn Ottey, Debra Richardson, Karen Ward, Jackie Eberline

Excused: Julie Dunn

Treasurer: Pat Dunn

Clerk: Debra Denny

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Fr. Nelson Gaetz at 7:01pm.

2. Opening Prayer: Cherolyn Ottey led the opening prayer.

3. Nov. 18, 2019 Minutes: **Nancy Morrison** made a motion to approve the November 2019 minutes with one minor correction; the motion was seconded by **Karen Ward**. November minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Pastoral Report:

Report & Hours: Fr. Gaetz presented his November hours and Pastoral Report to the Vestry.

Nancy Morrison made a motion accept the November Pastoral Report and hours, which was seconded by **Jackie Eberline**. The report and hours will be filed with the November minutes.

Eagle Project Update: Gary Neddo updated the Vestry on the Eagle Project, reporting that 40 Christmas baskets were made up and handed out to Porter and Frazer school families who had been designated by the schools' social workers. There were four left over after the distribution, which will be given to additional families in need at Porter School per the social worker along with a local neighbor. Thursday night, Dec. 19, is the Clothes Closet and neighborhood dinner, which will be hosted and supervised by Boy Scout Aiden Brisson, of Baldwinsville Troop 71, who is in the process of earning his Eagle Scout badge through ministry service to St. Mark the Evangelist.

Update of Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Fr. Gaetz announced the Lay Eucharist Visitors have begun to set up visits to our at-home parishioners and he expressed his gratitude to those taking the time to do this important service.

6. Treasurer Report:

The November 2019 and Year-to-Date Financial Reports as well as the Treasurer's Report for November were presented to the Vestry for review. Pat Dunn reported that the pledges for 2020 are currently at \$54,796 with 33 units, just short of the \$59,000 goal. He said there are still potentially 6 or 7 that could still come in and he is optimistic we should hit the budget number. He also noted that along with the \$100 Wegman's gift card, \$384 was received through church donations toward the annual Thanksgiving Baskets, leaving \$332.99 to be covered through the church's Ministry & Outreach. **Phyllis Honsinger** motioned to receive the reports as presented; the motion was seconded by **Cherry Ottey**. The Vestry unanimously accepted the reports.

The treasurer also presented the Finance Committee report which shows the 2019 St. Mark investment growth up compared to 2018.

7. Presentation of the Proposed 2020 Budget: The 2020 Budget of \$152,391.00 was presented to the Vestry. The proposed budget reflects the same amount to be withdrawn from our investments each

month as in 2019. He pointed out that this monthly draw is from the investment income growth and not from the principal. Pat Dunn said the Finance Committee had agreed that \$24,000 (\$2,000/month) is prudent to be drawn for the year to cover expenses over our pledges. After a brief discussion, **Barry Guinn** made a motion to approve the proposed 2020 budget and the Finance Committee Report along with a request that the Finance Committee be asked to attend a Vestry meeting to help the Vestry better understand the investment and to answer questions. This motion was seconded by **Jackie Eberline**. The 2020 proposed budget and Finance Committee Report were unanimously approved by the Vestry.

8. Committee Reports

Worship Team: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 5pm.

Transition Team: The Team met with Cannon Carrie at the December 9th meeting and the Parish Profile was discussed. The next meeting is Saturday, Jan. 18, 10:30am.

Stewardship Committee: The next committee meeting is TBD with a January date.

9. Old Business

Bishop Visit Dec. 22: Fr. Gaetz informed the Vestry that they will be meeting with the Bishop at 9am prior to the service. The Vestry will be hosting a Coffee Hour in her honor after the service.

Thank you to Deacon Chuck Steward: Fr. Gaetz said he has arranged for Deacon Chuck Stewart to be here Jan. 26 so we can properly thank him for his services with our at-home parishioners over the past year and a half.

Computer for Office: The new computer for the office has been ordered and is slated to be delivered by Dec. 27. The cost is \$1, 283 which includes a 2-year warranty. This cost is under the \$1,500 approved by the Vestry.

Building inspection update: Barry Guinn confirmed that the inspection of our building has been completed and suggested a follow-up be made with RSA Architects, the architectural firm that performed the inspection, for the results.

10. New Business

Clothes Closet overflow concern: As a follow-up to parishioner concerns regarding the overflow of clothing and household items in the downstairs, Jackie Eberline reported that some of the items will be donated, extra stuffed animals will be given away and the Christmas Clothes Closet was able to "sell" a good portion of the items. Clothing donations have been limited until the closet is able to move the overflow of what it currently has. Gary Neddo pointed out that an additional Clothes Closet has been added during the Food Sense pickup time.

11. Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Debra Richardson** and seconded by **Nancy Morrison**. Meeting adjourned 8:11 p.m.

12. Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Gaetz.

Next Vestry Meeting: Jan. 20, 7 p.m.



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:

Service Time

**Sundays:
10 am-Holy Eucharist**

Office Hours

**Tuesday—Friday:
9 am to 2 pm**



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.