

THE GRAPEVINE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

February 2009

Bishop's Visitation

The Rt. Rev. Robert Hodges Johnson
Assisting Bishop
of the
Diocese of Pittsburgh



February 22, 2009
10:00 a.m.

Confirmation and Holy Eucharist

Covered Dish to follow

Please help welcome Bishop Johnson to our church. There will be a sign up sheet in the parish hall for the covered dish.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
335 Locust Street
Johnstown, PA 15901
814-535-6797
Email: stmarks@floodcity.net

Our Staff:

Choir Director: Becky Schrock
Organist: Becky Schrock
Bell Choir: Annis Rogers
Treasurer: Larry Shaffer
Secretary: Joanne McKinley
Sexton: Nikki Forsythe

The Vestry:

Senior Warden:
Junior Warden: Pam Mayer

2009

Jack Herbein
Dan Thompson

2010

Pam Mayer
John Rogers

2011

Amy Whitlow
Larry Shaffer
Dolly Lopresti

*Please remember
St. Mark's Church in your will.*

From the Vestry:

Moving forward with grace and hope, we welcome your input and suggestions and look forward to rebuilding St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

A special parish meeting and an election for new Vestry members will be held Sunday, February 15, 2009 after the 10 am service.

Five Vestry members have resigned their positions - Lou Divido, Denny Berezansky, Denny Baserman, Deb Islamoff and Joe Johns. The other Vestry members - Larry Shaffer, Dolly Lopresti, Dan Thompson, Jack Herbein, Amy Whitlow, John Rogers and Pam Mayer - have all reaffirmed their commitment to serve St. Mark's Episcopal Church. So far, Greg Lilly, Lorraine Zitnay, Richard Burkert, Pam Hysong, Lucie Whittle, Cindy Leap and Kitty Batrus have allowed their names to be put into nomination for the open seats. Nominations will be also accepted from the floor at the special meeting.

Our wonderful secretary Joanne McKinley, our sexton, Nikki Forsythe and our organist and choir director, Becky Schrock have all agreed to stay on in their positions and for this, we are blessed.

Pam Hysong is working with the Diocese to make sure we have supply priests for Sunday services. Lisa Bell Loncella and Jack Green and Cindy Leap are working to make sure that those who are interested and want to lead Morning Prayer are properly trained and approved to do so. Jack Green and Lisa Bell Loncella are working to train Lay Eucharistic Ministers to serve our shut ins and Jack Green is seeking additional lay readers who would like to be trained to serve.

We could use new choir members, too, please see Becky Schrock if you are interested.

Amy Whitlow and Lisa Bell Loncella are putting together a confirmation class for this year.

Larry Shaffer has agreed to be Treasurer for the time being and Dan Thompson will continue to lead the Finance Committee.

Don Bender has agreed to serve as Head Usher.

John Rogers is working to improve our website and to link St. Mark's to the Diocesan webpage. Several members have agreed to sponsor weekly newspaper ads welcoming all to St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Doris Horner will continue to lead Altar Guild and we are blessed to have Julie Follansbee leading our ECW.

Bishop Johnson will be here for the 10 am service on February 22 and to meet with our newly elected Vestry.

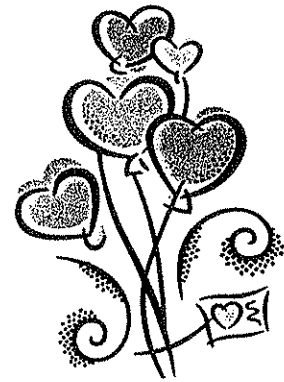
All in all we are in good shape - for the time being. This is a time of renewal and hope, and we welcome your input and participation and ideas. Also, if you have any questions or concerns, please bring them to a Vestry member's attention.

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9

Happy February Anniversary!

*Roxanne & William Hauger
February 14, 1992*



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!

| NAME | DATE | NAME | DATE |
|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Greg Lilly | 4 | Mary Boyden | 15 |
| Kaitlyn Kuruzovich | 10 | Thomas Schillinger | 19 |
| Madeline Lesosky | 10 | Emily Williams | 21 |
| Patrick Wolfe | 11 | Dorthy Veale | 23 |
| Jay Follansbee | 12 | Dennis Berezansky | 28 |

CHURCH BULLETIN BLUNDERS

"Weight Watchers will meet at 7PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance"

Shrove Tuesday

Ash Wednesday, and thus Shrove Tuesday, are just around the corner! Mark your calendars! St. Mark's will host its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Farewell to Alleluia **Tuesday, February 24**. Pancakes will be served starting at 6 PM; come earlier if you wish to help. The procession into the church begins a little before 7:00.

People often ask what the celebration is all about – Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the forty days of Lent. The tradition of a festival or Carnival on the last day before the beginning of the Lenten season dates to medieval times. Carnivals were developed to celebrate with exuberance one last time before the rigorous Lenten fast. In its most austere form, Lenten regulations forbade meat, butter, eggs, milk and cheese. Christians were not permitted to have weddings, dances, or festivals during Lent. So Shrove Tuesday festivals became very noisy, even rowdy.

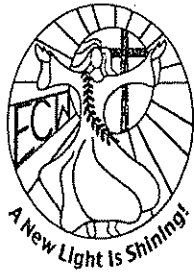
Why Pancakes? It's not so much pancakes as simply rich foods. The English had Pancakes; the French had crepes, the Russians had blini. Doughnuts filled with raisins and apples were among the first European carnival foods. Other names for this time of celebration are Butter Week, Fat Days, and Fat Tuesday. The name for Shrove Tuesday comes from the word *shrive* which comes from the custom of confessing sins in order to begin the spiritual battle of Lent renewed by an awareness of God's power and mercy.

We will **make lots of noise** and say farewell to *Alleluia* – as in previous years. After many years of festive celebrations at St. Mark's, we have amassed quite a collection of noisemakers: Humming combs, cardboard kazoos, box rattles, bell circles, and cymbals. But, perhaps you have a special instrument or favorite noisemaker. Bring them with you! After dinner, we will form a procession into the Sanctuary – with all of our noisy instruments! This will begin our "Farewell to *Alleluia*" service. Did you ever notice that during Lent, the word *Alleluia* is absent from the liturgies. On Shrove Tuesday we have a chance to bid farewell to *Alleluia*. We'll sing songs with lots of *Alleluias*, drape the *Alleluia* banner and put it away until Easter. If you still have your Palms from last year, bring them also, as we will include a ceremony to burn them and make the Ashes for Ash Wednesday.

There will be a Sign Up Sheet in the Church Hall for those attending the Pancake Dinner. We will also need help with making pancakes and sausage; setting up and serving, and clean up. *"Many Hands Make Light Work!"*

Also, this is a great time for the Youth of our Parish to come and make a lot of noise and say farewell to *Alleluia*.

ECW



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

LENTEN LUNCHES

Our Lenten Lunches will be held on the following Wednesdays.

March 12, 2009

March 19, 2009

March 26, 2009

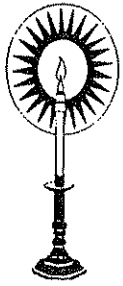
April 2, 2009

The ECW Ladies have decided to make a few changes in the meals, and menus will follow.

If anyone is available to help on Tuesdays or Wednesdays during our lunches, we could sure use your assistance.

Whether you like cooking, serving, baking, making desserts, greeting the people, setting up tables, doing dishes, jobs are available for all.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



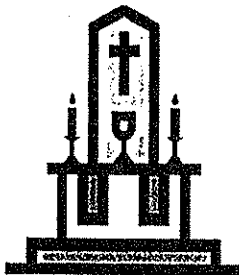
2009 Weekly Altar Flowers & Monthly Altar Candles



Donation price is \$30 a Sunday for flowers and \$8 a month for candles. Please contact Joanne in the Parish Office or Doris Horner with your requests.

There are openings for the entire year

You can also remember your loved one with an Altar Candle which burns the entire week in their honor.



ALTAR GUILD NEWS

I will be away during the month of February and March, and once again, Amy Whitlow will graciously step in to take care of the Altar Guild during my absence.

Bill and I will be back in April, in time for Holy Week.

I can count on all of you to help Amy In my absence.

*Thank you for all you do!
Doris Homer*

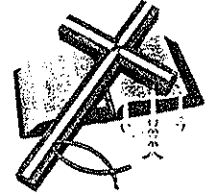
Bible Study

Please join us on Thursday morning from 10-11:30am at the Church for Bible Study.

Our first meeting will be on February 5th and we will pick the book to study.

Bring a Bible and come and enjoy the fellowship as we study the word of God.

If you are interested please contact Cindy Leap either at Church or call at 536-0045.



Prayer Circles

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cindy Leap | 536-0045 |
| Lisa Bell-Loncella | 269-2904 (M-F 8-5) 266-3059 |
| Annis Rogers | 539-2295 |
| Angela Hardwick | 619-9908 |
| Sue Kelly | 539-8003 |
| Doris Horner | 536-8220 (on vacation until April) |
| Andrea Mulligan | 254-0086 |

St. Matthew's Anglican Church

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Barbara Custer | 254-4670 |
| Sheila Berezansky | 446-6187 |
| Marilou Daniels | 266-9272 |
| Deacon Marion | 724-910-4478 |
| Nancy Baserman | 255-1797 |
| Fr. Doug & Wendy | 255-2507 418-0780 |

Just a reminder:

Call the next person on the list, if no answer or the machine picks up just leave a message and then call the next name on the list. If you are the last name on the chain, please call the first name so the chain is completed.

Remember: Anyone can start the chain.

Just call the person after you and let them know you are the one who started the list so everyone gets the message. If you do start the chain, please call the other tree so everyone gets the plea for prayer. Again, thank you for your willingness to serve.

Cindy

Soup & Study

Most Wednesdays at the home of John & Annis Rogers
6 – 8 pm

Join us for an evening of delicious homemade soup and lively discussion in our home. We are just beginning a new book, **Rodney Stark's *The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries.*** Paperback editions are \$10.17 when we purchase through amazon.com with free shipping.

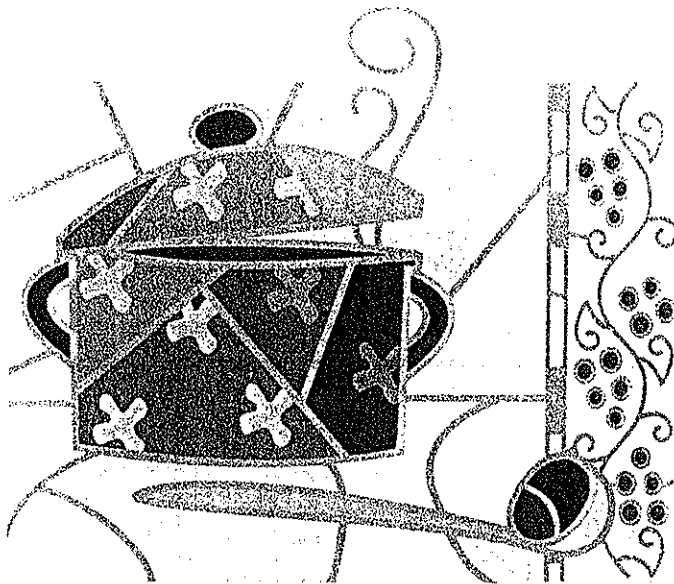
We usually read one chapter each week and meet to talk about what we've read. We take turns providing a simple meal.

February 4
February 11
February 18
February 25

March 4
March 11
March 18
March 25

April 1
April 8

Contact Annis Rogers 539 – 2295



ATTENTION

MEMBERS OF ST. MARK'S

The Choir is searching for new voices from young adults to the young at heart. Please see Becky Schrock if you are interested in joining or have any questions.

Practice is held after the 10:00 am Service.



ATTENTION, ATTENTION!

Ushers Needed

Have you ever thought about becoming an usher? Maybe it's time to make a commitment to St. Mark's. Whether you are young or old, we need you! You may only need to commit to one Sunday a month.

Please call Don Bender for more information 539-4128.

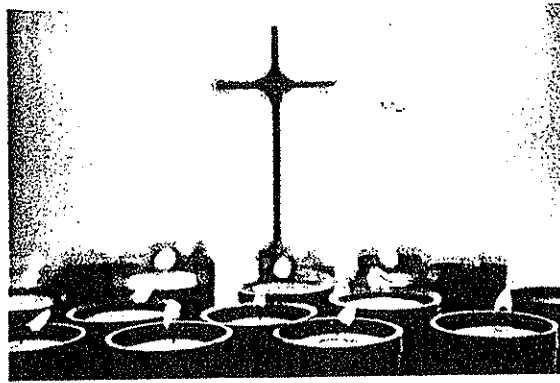
LEM

St. Mark's Wants You

Consider serving as a Lay Eucharist Minister (LEM) or as a Layreader/Chalice Bearer. Training will be provided.

Please contact Cindy Leap 536-0045 or Jack Green 255-5488.





We are the light to the world. All we can do is "punch holes in the darkness". This is the message we received during The Very Rev. George Werner's visit to St. Mark's in January. That is our mission: to be a light to the world. No one person can do it all. But together we can punch quite a hole.

Each of us is needed to be Saint Mark's. We need altar guild, coffee hour, ushers, lay readers, Sunday School teachers, dishwashers, ECW, choir members, and committee members for financial, pastoral care, and fellowship. But most of all we need to be the light of Christ to each other. Annis Rogers

CALLING ALL CONFIRMANDS!

St. Mark's will be beginning a class for those interested in seeking confirmation in the Episcopal Church. Those 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who wish to be confirmed as well as any adults interested in starting this class should contact Joanne in the church office (535-6796).

On Sunday, Feb. 22nd, after the 10 a.m. service, all participants and their parents will meet with Bishop Johnson and the class instructor, Lisa Bell Loncella. Many thanks to Lisa for her willingness to conduct this class for our church again.



ST. MARK'S NURSERY

We need your help to staff the nursery for the youngest members of our church family! We are asking parents of young children and interested teens and adults to contact Amy Whitlow (255-4425) or the church office for more information. Your commitment to help once a month will ensure nursery services are always available.



HURTS INTO HALOS

WOULDN'T IT BE A GREAT WORLD, IF THERE WASN'T ANY HURTS.

HURTS OCCUR TO ALL OF US NOW, AND THEN, ON THIS JOURNEY OF LIFE.

HURTS HAPPEN IN MANY FORMS, SUCH AS WITH THE LOSS OF A LOVE ONE, OR A FRIEND, AND EVEN A PET. THE BREAKUP OF A MARRIAGE,

BROKEN PROMISES, AND BROKEN FRIENDSHIPS.

SOMEWHAT LIKE WHAT HAPPEN TO ST. MARK'S ONE DAY, JAN. 11, 2009.

THERE WAS NO WINNERS THAT DAY.

EVEN THOUGH ONE SIDE WON, AND ONE SIDE LOST.

HURTS MAKE US SAD AND CRY.

IT'S LIKE FALLING OFF OF A BICYCLE, OR A HORSE, OR FAILING YOUR DRIVING TEST, THE FIRST TIME.

YOU GOT TO GET BACK ON THE BICYCLE AND THE SADDLE OF THAT HORSE, TO LEARN HOW TO RIDE.

GET THE ANSWERS RIGHT, SO THAT THE TEST IS A BREEZE, THEN YOU KNOW YOU PASS.

THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.

THERE IS NOTHING PERFECT IN THIS WORLD OF OURS. LIFE IS A CHALLENGE, THERE IS NO DOUBT.

BUT, IF WE COULD TURN OUR HURTS INTO HALOS, THEN WE WILL SUCCEED.

THAT'S WHAT ST. MARK'S HAS TO DO.

IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER AND NOT CRITICIZE ONE ANOTHER, AND WITH GOD'S HELP.

ST. MARK'S WILL TURN ITS HURT INTO A HALO, TOO.

MARVIN W. RIPPLE

Episcopal, Lutheran congregations share worship, ministry

By JACK SHAUM
Staff Writer

STEVENSVILLE — "This has been an extremely good move for us."

The Rev. Mark Walters, pastor of Living Water Lutheran Church, was referring to the ecumenical agreement under which his congregation has been worshipping at Christ Church Episcopal Parish's Stevensville complex since early October.

"Our hosts have been more than gracious. The welcome we've gotten from the people has been wonderful," Walters said.

The *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* defines ecumenism as "a movement promoting worldwide unity among religions through greater cooperation and improved understanding."

Living Water Lutheran Church, affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, does not currently have its own sanctuary. It previously worshipped at the 1880-vintage county-owned Christ Church building in old Stevensville.

"Making a move from such a historic spot doesn't come easily. We considered our futures back in August and the Church Council (of Living Water) and Vestry (of Christ Church) met," Walters explained during an interview at Christ Church. "It takes time for an idea to percolate and we started holding services here in October."

"A friendship of two people



Photos by JACK SHAUM

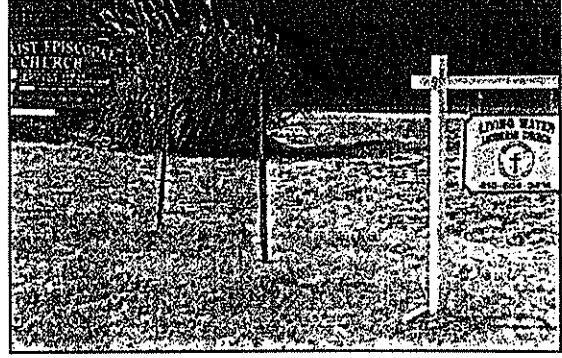
The Rev. David Green, rector of Christ Church Episcopal Parish, left, and the Rev. Mark Walters, pastor of Living Water Lutheran Church, stand at the altar in Shand Hall at the Christ Church complex. Living Water Lutheran has been holding services there since early October. It is part of what Green described as an "innovative ecumenical endeavor God has gifted us with."

is part of the seed bed," said the Rev. David Green, rector of Christ Church, referring to his relationship with Walters. Both men have headed their respective churches for five years and have known each other for some time.

Among the reasons the

Christ Church complex appealed to Living Water is that it is an "adequate and attractive space" and has a "good visible location" along Route 8, Walters said.

He said his congregation, which numbers between 50 and 60 members, owns a piece of land and continues



Signs along Route 8 welcome worshippers to services at both Christ Church Parish and Living Water Lutheran Church held at the Christ Church complex.

to work toward eventually building its own church.

"Building takes a lot of time and resources and I could see us staying here to grow our ministry until there's a reason to move," he said. "There may come a time when our people say we need our own space."

Until that time comes, Living Water Lutheran is holding its Sunday 10 a.m. service in Shand Hall, the parish hall of Christ Church, which had been the parish's sanctuary until its new church opened in the fall of 2007. Christ Church holds services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and there is a sign with arrows outside directing each congregation to its service location.

While the two congregations will remain separate entities, they are embarking on sharing their worship and ministry. "This is truly an innovative ecumenical endeavor God has gifted us with, and we look forward to watching it unfold as they days increase," Green said.

So far, their Sunday School classes have been combined, there have been joint breakfasts, they share office space, and the two clergymen share and discuss ideas. Soon, however, the relationship between the two congregations will move into a new area.

"Sometime in February there will be a joint liturgy (church service) in Shand Hall. It will be in the context of a regular meal with people seated around tables, and will allow for conversation," Green said. The service will include the liturgy of Holy Communion and preaching and will be jointly celebrated by Green and Walters for members of both congregations.

The liturgies of the Episcopal Church and the Lutheran Church are quite similar and under an agreement called a Concordat they can share clergy and Holy Communion, the cler-

gymen said.

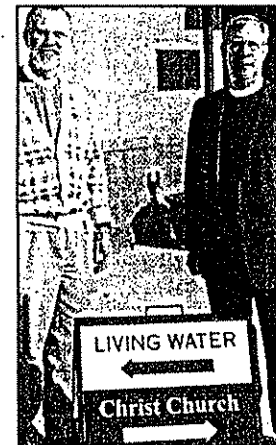
"Jesus calls us to be in loving unity. We all have gifts to offer," Walters said. He said that while Christians don't always agree on everything, "we shouldn't let differences destroy the unity we have in Christ."

"The vastness of God's love brings us together," Green said.

Plans for the joint liturgy are taking place as churches around the world prepare to observe The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from Jan. 18-25, a worldwide event designed to heal divisions among churches and promote dialogue among the various denominations.

Green invites people living in the area to come and see how ecumenism is working at Christ Church and Living Water Church.

Information on the two congregations can be obtained by logging onto www.livingwaterlutheran.org or www.christchurchkentisland.org.



The Rev. David Green, left, and the Rev. Mark Walters stand outside the Christ Church complex on Route 8. The Lutheran congregation previously worshipped in the old Christ Church in historic Stevensville.

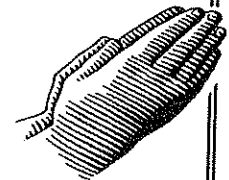
Fr. David, a son of St. Mark's,
is the son of Jack Green and the
late Nancy Green

Remember Today In Your Prayers: Charles Henger, Evelyn Bates, Herb Larison, Britt Gocella, Bill Berresford, Dana, and Shirley Markley.

Family and Friends Serving Our Country:

Jason Medsger, Clint Cable, Bill Pulliam, David Fagan, Justin Erdley, Chad McLaren, Michael Lopresti, Michael Custer, Jeff Bright. A. And Dan Kell..

Please Continue To Remember In Your Personal Prayers: Igor Islamoff, Herb Larison, Ethel Arthur, Marjorie Ajay, Chris Marlowe, Tom Harder, Angela Hardwick, Agnes Wright, Maggie Lesosky, Lois Bender, Bill Knipple, Cindy Leap, Evelyn Bates, Sue Kelly, Penny Langworthy, Janet Henger, Emily Just, Marvin Baker, Jim Hargreaves, Maxine & Glenn Davis, Robyn Taylor, Gloria Coulson, Ruth Ripple, John Miller Phyllis Miller, Becky Schrock, Marvin Ripple, Helen Fry, Ethel Thomas, Gordon C. Gladden, Catherine Woods, Kevin Boyden, Joy Howard, Mary Lou Pappert, Dave Maxwell, Joanne Howard, Helen Leap, Linda Russell, Ray Beabes, Boyd Thomas, Bob, Shirley & Dorothy Hindman, Evelyn Glasgow, Ralph Brown, Joe Guydo, Jr., Theresa Groves, Patricia Cisar, Lucille Pittman, Jill & Julia Bauer, Marlene Claycomb, Kathryn Thorne, Susan Goncher, Barb Gatto, Barbara Rose, Brother Joe & Wanda Allen, Brian & Rick McKinley, Doug & Pat Shaffer, Gene & Margaret Totten, Msgr. Orbanek, Nancy Evans, and Dana.



Pastoral Care

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the fourth Sunday of each month (Feb. 22nd) for our Pastoral Care. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Pastoral Care.

Rwandan Orphan:

All families of the church are encouraged to donate \$1.00 on the third Sunday of each month (Feb. 15th) for our Rwandan orphan, Chantal. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Chantal.