

THE GRAPEVINE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

March 2009

From the Vestry

At the special parish meeting on February 15, 2009, five new members were elected to join the Vestry. These new members will be filling the unexpired terms of those members who resigned after the majority of the parish voted to stay with the Episcopal Church.

Obviously, the Vestry has a lot of items of critical importance to address. We need to appoint a new Senior Warden. We need to continue to monitor and fine-tune our finances, both revenue and expenses. We need to address the issue of our worship leaders and determine if we are ready to hire a priest now or want to use supply priests or ask for an interim appointment. We need to determine the future of the Rectory. We need to determine how best to serve the members of St. Mark's in mission, ministry and we need to market St. Mark's to increase our membership. We also need to finalize the bell tower issues and continue to make sure preventative maintenance occurs on our property. We seek your input and want to listen to your concerns and suggestions. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or share your concerns with any member of Vestry. We pledge to continue to keep you informed and updated as we move forward.

Again, we greatly encourage you to get involved. Go to our website - www.stmarksjohnstownpa.org. Ken Leap developed the website and members of St. Mark's are underwriting the hosting fees. We are also reaching out to the community with weekly newspaper ads that members are underwriting. Probably our greatest outreach in the next few months will be our Lenten lunches. We need all the volunteers we can get to make these lunches a success and allow us to present ourselves to the community

Your support is critical as we move ahead. Please bring a friend to church, and share the good news.

*Pam Mayer,
Junior Warden*

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

335 Locust Street

Johnstown, PA 15901

814-535-6797

Email: stmarks@floodcity.net

Our Staff:

Organist: Becky Schrock

Bell Choir: Annis Rogers

Treasurer: Larry Shaffer

Secretary: Joanne McKinley

Sexton: Nikki Forsythe

The Vestry:

Senior Warden: Pam Hysong

Junior Warden: Pam Mayer

2009

Jack Herbein

Dan Thompson

Lucie Whittle

Lorraine Zitnay

2010

Pam Mayer

John Rogers

Pam Hysong

Richard Burkert

2011

Amy Whitlow

Larry Shaffer

Dolly Lopresti

Kitty Batrus

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

The Catechism defines Confirmation as



The Rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.”
(BCP p 857)

Do you remember when you were confirmed? Most of us do – certainly to a greater extent than our baptism. I remember the classes ... not so much what I learned, but what I experienced. I was in the fifth grade; my family lived in Bogotá, Colombia and attended St. Alban's Episcopal Church. Fr. Franklin wore a black cassock and we met in the chapel; the chairs were not very comfortable. The Bishop's daughter was my age; our mothers had a carpool and we checked each other's homework on the way to class. Back then confirmation was the entry point to receiving communion. Interesting the things we remember. There is so much more to it.

According to the rubrics of the Prayer Book, confirmation takes place when Christians, baptized at an early ages are ready to “make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop” (BCP, p 412). Last Sunday, Bishop Johnson confirmed five of our young people at St. Mark's: Sierra and Trevor Buchan, Meredith Herman, Rachelmae Pulliam and Sam Whitlow. We did this in “backwards order” so to speak. Usually the confirmands receive training before making this public reaffirmation of their Baptismal Covenant. There will be training; classes begin this Sunday, March 1.

I wish to point out some underlying principles about the program. Confirmation classes are not designed to prepare our young people to “join the church”; we were made members of the Body of Christ at our Baptism. This is not a course in the history and practice of the Episcopal Church; such a course might be offered later for the whole congregation. The outline is based on the Catechism found in the Book of Common Prayer, and the theological and liturgical stance of the Episcopal Church form the basis of the course. By the end of program, we will have read quite a bit of scripture, the young people will have memorized some the Ten Commandment, the Apostle's Creed and the 23rd Psalm, and we will have talked about the history and doctrine of the Church. But more importantly, my hope and prayer is that in this process, we will explore and express our relationship with God and how Jesus works in our lives.

Confirmation is a sacrament of the church, an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. Confirmation is a “joyful expression of a growing desire to know and serve Christ in and through the Church”. This sacramental act is an “outward and visible sign of a process through which the young per-

The quoted passages are from the introduction to the curriculum we have chosen.

son is living and a mark of an ongoing growth in the knowledge and love of God through Jesus Christ”.

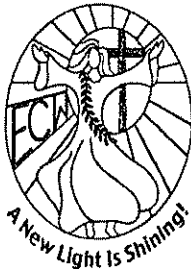
There are three interacting components to the course: the class time, individual reflection on the part of the young person and interaction with a Sponsor. By sharing the story of his or her own walk with Christ, the Sponsor will also help guide the young people on this journey.

The course of study will last 12 weeks – with a break for Palm Sunday and Easter. We’ll be meeting on Sunday mornings between the two services starting at 8:30. There will be a special celebration at the conclusion of classes in June.

I ask your prayers for these young people as they prepare to renew their Baptismal Covenant, for their parents and their sponsors. I also ask your prayers for the leaders of these confirmation classes that the Holy Spirit would be present and lead us all on this journey.

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants Sierra, Trevor, Meredith, Rachelmae and Sam ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (BCP, p. 819)

– Lisa Bell-Loncella



LENTEN LUNCHES

Wednesday, March 11th begins our first Lenten Luncheon.

We could sure use your help!

We need volunteers for the following

**Servers
Coffee Makers
Clean up
Greeters**

We need volunteers for the following

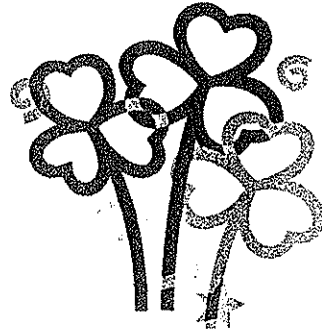
**Baking cakes,
making salads
jello**

If everyone pitches in one Wednesday, it will make a big difference!

New faces are always welcome

Happy March Anniversary!

*Elizabeth & Don Hysong
March 26, 1951*



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!

NAME	DATE	NAME	DATE
Allison Kelly	4	Lauren Burkert Lazzari	17
Jack & Cooper Lorence	11	St. Patrick	17
Ian Mulligan	11	Andrea Mulligan	23
Blanche Brant	13	Don Bender	26
Trevor Buchan	16	Doris Homer	28
Gregory Schillinger	16		

CHURCH HUMOR

"Somebody has said that there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

Submitted by Don Bender



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
335 Locust Street
Johnstown, Pa. 15901

LENTEN LUNCH MENU

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Take outs available

March 11th

Meatloaf with parsley potatoes, corn

March 18th

Chicken Bake, mashed potatoes, green beans

March 25th

Swiss Steak, mashed potatoes, broccoli

April 1st

Ham Loaf, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables

All meals served with salad, dessert, rolls, and beverage

Come celebrate our "economic stimulus package"

Price \$6.00 Per Meal

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

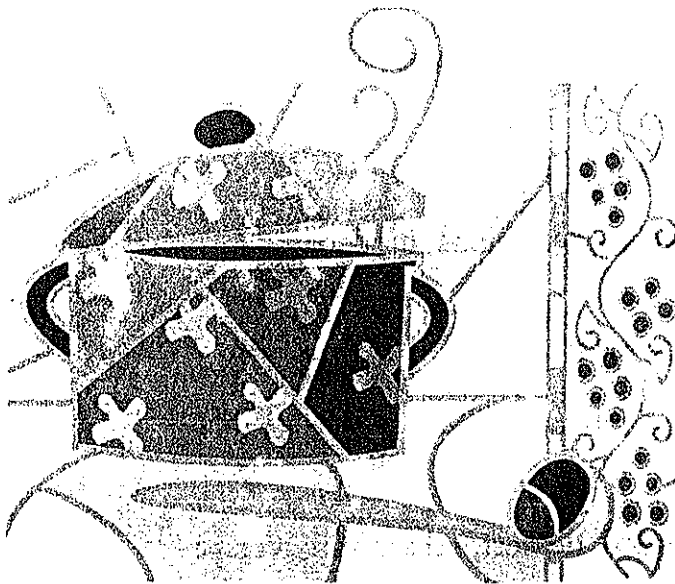
Join us for an evening of delicious homemade soup and lively discussion in our home. We are just beginning a new book, **Rodney Stark's *The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries.*** Paperback editions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

March 4
March 11
March 18
March 25

April 1
April 8

Contact Annis Rogers 539 – 2295



CELLPHONES FOR SOLDIERS

Andrea Mulligan is coordinating a "Cell phones for Soldiers" drive. Your old cell phones can be recycled to give Soldiers "phone cards". If you have an old cell phone that you no longer use, please contact Andrea at 254-0086, drop them off on Sunday, after the Services, or at the office during the week.

SHROVE TUESDAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

Thanks to everyone who joined us on Tuesday evening.

George (Dr. Zitnay) made the best pancakes that we ever had.

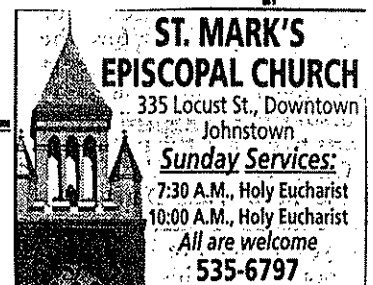
The children made "lots of noise" to bid "Farewell to Alleluia"

SPONSORS NEEDED

FOR OUR WEEKLY RELIGIOUS SERVICE ARTICLE IN THE TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT

The weekly advertisement is \$46.56.

We are billed by the month, so if you are interested, you can drop your check off in the collection plate on Sunday, or mail it into the office, payable to St. Mark's



Remember Today In Your Prayers:

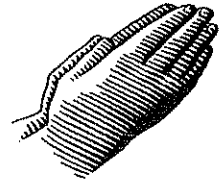
Emily Williams, Joy Brehm, Evelyn Bates, Tom Harder, Shirley Markley, Msgr. Orbanek, Martha & Brian Reisinger, Gail Rhoads, and Bill Berresford

Family and Friends Serving Our Country:

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

Please Continue To Remember In Your Personal Prayers:

Herb Larison, Ethel Arthur, Marjorie Ajay, Emily Just, Chris Marlowe, Angela Hardwick, Agnes Wright, Maggie Lesosky, Lois Bender, Bill Knipple, Cindy Leap, Sue Kelly, Penny Langworthy, Janet & Charles Henger, Marvin Baker, Jim Hargreaves, Maxine & Glenn Davis, Robyn Taylor, Gloria Coulson, Ruth Ripple, 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, Linda Russell, Boyd Thomas, Ray Beabes, Bob, Shirley & Dorothy Hindman, Evelyn Glasgow, Ralph Brown, Joe Guydo, Jr., Theresa Groves, Jill & Julia Bauer, Kathryn Thorne, Nancy Evans, Shirley Markley.



VESTRY MEETING

Sunday March 15th
After the 10:00 am Service

Pastoral Care

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the fourth Sunday of each month (March 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 (March 15th) for our Rwandan orphan, Chantal. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Chantal.

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 USHERS

The Ladies of St. Mark's have graciously volunteered to be ushers on the first Sunday of the Month.

If you are scheduled for a Sunday and are unable to serve, please call me so that I can get a replacement.

Thanks to all who have offered to serve as ushers.

Many hands make light work, so if you are interested in serving as an usher, please call me at 539-4128 for further details.

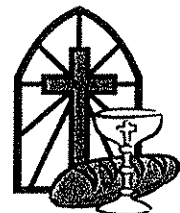
Don Bender

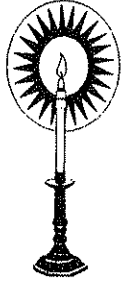
LEM

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.



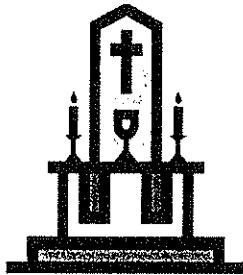


2009 Weekly Altar Flowers & Monthly Altar Candles



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 March: 8th (2), March 29 (2), April 5th (1), April 10th (1), April 19th (1), April 26th (2)



ALTAR GUILD NEWS

I will be away during the month of 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 Horner*