



THE GRAPEVINE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

May 2009

As we celebrate the season of Easter, we rejoice that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead as proof of his deity. We who believe and trust in the Lord Jesus are children of God; reborn not from human passion or plan but from God. Easter brings us to a new day... a brand new day full of dreams, hopes, opportunities and blessings! Yesterday is past, tomorrow is not yet here, but today? Today is a gift of God, a present that we should relish and be grateful for with our whole body, soul and mind.

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that "Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses." He sets the time for birth, the time for death, the time for growing, the time for pruning and the time for healing. The time for loving is always present for He is love and without love we would not be.

For St. Mark's, the time for pruning is finished, and the time for healing is here. As a healthy tree that re-routes its energies and grows stronger after pruning, so St. Mark's is already doing. St. Mark's leadership is already working, re-routing its energy to strengthen the congregation and to stimulate the growth and fellowship of the same. How are they doing it? By both prayer and action!

The writer of the book of Proverbs advises us to "Trust in the Lord with all our hearts." Never solely rely on what we think we know. We are to remember the Lord in everything we do, and expect that He will show us the right way. We are never to let ourselves think that we are wiser than what we really are, but to obey the Lord. If we do, it will be like good medicine, healing our wounds and easing our pains. We are to honor the Lord in all we do and we will be blessed more than we may even think or imagine.

Let us pray that the wisdom of the Lord will be with us, guiding us to the right and godly decisions to be made for the benefit of us all.

Father Vicente

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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Johnstown, PA 15901

814-535-6797

Email: stmarks@floodcity.net

Web site:

www.stmarksjohnstownpa.org

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



ECW Update

We enjoyed another successful series of Lenten Lunches here at St. Mark's! Angie and I figured that we served 750 meals! As usual, the ham loaf was the biggest draw. So much so, that we are **toying** with the idea of serving a meal every six weeks or so. We need feedback though from you, our loyal helpers and supporters whether it would be feasible, since we'd need the same army of helpers as for the Lenten lunches and contributions of cakes and salads to pull it off.

This Friday, May 1st, St. Mark's will be hosting the May Friendship Day for Church Women United. Please call me if you can help serve. You'd need to be at the church by 10:00 AM.

Once again, we'll be rewarding our kids for attending Church, Sunday School, and Confirmation Classes, reading, and helping with special services like the Seder and Tenebrae by allowing them to purchase items with their St. Mark's Bucks at the end of the month. Please call me if you would like to make a donation of an item to this worthy cause or put your envelope marked "St. Mark's Bucks" in the collection plate on Sunday.

Don't forget May 9th is the ECW gathering in Somerset. See Gwen Santiago for more information.

Julie Follansbee

Rwandan Orphan:

All families of the church are encouraged to donate \$1.00 on the third Sunday of each month (May 17th) for our Rwandan orphan, Chantal.

Please mark your donation separately for Chantal.

Pastoral Care

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the fourth Sunday of each month (May 24th) for our Pastoral Care.

Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Pastoral Care.

Finance Meeting

Tuesday, May 12th

5:00 pm

Vestry Meeting

**Sunday, May 17th
After 10:00 am service**



The Preacher's Wife: Practicing Resurrection Life

“We’re moving!” Vicente bought a house. Moving? After 22 years in the family home? What about the memories? Friends? My life? Confused and frightened ... one thing I knew ... things were about to change. We were in transition and we were moving on...

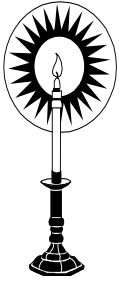
After the resurrection, the Apostles, confounded, were huddled in that dark Upper Room. Jesus had risen, but they were still looking fearfully back at the cross. Plagued with confusion, anger and self doubt, they were longing for the past and simpler times. They, too, were in transition. Jesus wouldn't let them stay where they were. He had made them a people of the resurrection. A people made to live in joy. They were moving on...

Eventually, because of love and faith, I was able to overcome my doubts and fears and accept our transition. This was a joyful, new day. I made some mistakes, but because I knew Vicente loved me, I was able to move on and make a new home, new friends and a new life. The Apostles, because of their love and faith in Jesus, overcame their doubts and fears and built a new faith. But in order to do this, they had to move on from the shadow of the cross and the past and daily practice living eternally and joyfully in the resurrection.

At St Mark's, we are alive! A Jesus family in a time of transition. We, too, are moving on from the shadow of the cross into resurrection life. We are Children of the Resurrection! We have passed through winter into spring, whole and hale. It's moving day! A new day and a new life! As we move into summer, like the Apostles, we are called to practice living resurrection life with our church family ... to practice living in joy! If we make a mistake, its okay, because we worship a forgiving God who loves us and wills for us a good hope and a future. Children of the Resurrection! Practicing resurrection life!

Gwen Santiago





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 Amy Whitlow with your requests.

We have openings for the following dates:

5/31 (1), 5/24 (1), 5/31 (2), 6/7 (1), 6/14(1), 6/21(2), 6/28 (2)
7/5(1), 7/19(2), 7/26 (1), 8/9 (1), 8/16(1), 8/23(2)
9/20(1), 9/27 (2), 10/4 (1), 10/18(2), 10/25(2),
11/1 (1), 11/8 (1), 11/15 (1), 11/29 (2),
12/6(2), 12/13(2), 12/20 (2). 12/27 (1)



Remember Today In Your Prayers:

Liz Hysong, Mark Thompson, Hassell & Polly Sledd, Teddy Wright, Gavin Williamson, Jeff Gates, and the Gaydos Family.

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:

Emily Williams, Herb Larison, Ethel Arthur, Marjorie Ajay, Emily Just, Joy Brehm, Angela Hardwick, Agnes Wright, Maggie Lesosky, Lois Bender, Cindy Leap, Sue Kelly, Charles & Janet Henger, Jim Hargreaves, Gloria Coulson, Ruth Ripple, Phyllis Miller, Marvin Ripple, Jack Green, Andrea Mulligan, Helen Fry, Ethel Thomas, Gordon C. Gladden, Catherine Woods, Kevin Boyden, Joy Howard, Dave Maxwell, Joanne Howard, Linda Russell, Ray Beabes, Boyd Thomas, Bob, Shirley & Dorothy Hindman, Theresa Groves, Kathryn Thorne, Barb Gatto, Nancy Evans, Shirley Markley, Msgr. Orbanek, Martha & Brian Reisinger, Gail Rhoads, Bill Berresford.



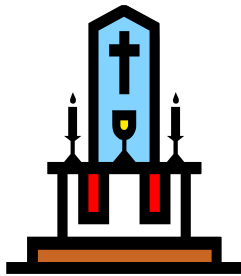
FYI:
**NOTES CONCERNING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

More than any other church in the worldwide Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church is deeply rooted in a representative form of church government. This is because the birth of the Episcopal Church in America coincided with the birth of the nation. The constitution of this church was signed the same year in which the Constitution of the United States was ratified. It was also signed in the same city (Philadelphia) and in the same building (Independence Hall).

Lay participation in the governance of the church is a hallmark of our identity. Authority is conferred through representatives duly elected by the people. Vestry members are elected at the annual parish meeting; the vestry elects parish representatives to the annual diocesan Convention; and the diocesan Convention, made up of all canonically resident clergy and lay representatives from each parish, elects deputies (four clerical and four lay) to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which meets every three years.

It is important to remember that the Episcopal Church has a representative form of government and is not a pure democracy. Decisions on parish matters are not made by congregational meetings, except to elect vestry representatives. The vestry, along with the rector, is charged with making the decisions affecting the life and ministry of the parish. Authority, whether of the bishop, the rector or vicar, or the vestry, is conferred by the representatives of the church assembled in council at the various decision-making levels. This is a unique form of government for a church.

(Note: From the Vestry Handbook of the Diocese of South Carolina, compiled by Deborah E. Baker)



ALTAR GUILD NEWS

HELP WANTED

Position Open:	God's Housekeeper
Work Hours	3-4 Hours Per Month
Job Duties:	Preparing the Sacraments for Service, Filling Altar Candles, Readyng Altar Linens for Sunday Service, Placing the Flowers on the Altar.
Pay Rate:	Receiving God's Blessings two-fold. Enjoying working with other Altar Guild Members.

If interested, please call Doris Horner at 536-8220.

CONGRATULATIONS

Michael S. Virus, will receive the Eagle Scout Award this afternoon here at the church. Michael is the 18 year old son of Mark & Pam Virus. He is a member of Scout Troop 183 which is sponsored by St. Mark's. What a wonderful accomplishment and a moment of pride for all!

