

The Grapevine
St. Mark's Episcopal Church



September 2011

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

Web site
www.stmarksjohnstownpa.org

Our Staff:

Priest Rev. Martin Wright III
Organist: Dolly Lopresti
Bell Choir: Annis Rogers
Treasurer: Larry Shaffer
Secretary: Joanne McKinley
Sexton: Nikki Forsythe

The Vestry:

Senior Warden: Pam Hysong
Junior Warden: Todd Wagner

2011

Amy Whitlow
Larry Shaffer
Dolly Lopresti
Kitty Batrus

2012

Greg Lilly
Todd Wagner
Lucie Whittle
Lorraine Zitnay

2013

Richard Burkert
Cynthia Greig
Jack Herbein
Pam Hysong

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

From The Rector's Desk



It's a pivotal time for St. Mark's. I can tell from the many informal conversations I have had with many of you since I got here two months ago how very much you love your church. Many of you have expressed to me your concern for the future of St. Mark's. Some of you have told me about other nearby congregations facing similar issues, but in even more dire straits. I share your concern. I truly believe that if we discern what God is calling us to in this place, at this time, and focus our efforts accordingly we will see Him do some very wonderful things among us. To this end I believe it essential to identify that vision and deploy what resources we have in achieving it. I urge you all to pray fervently that God will help us in these endeavors.

Dawn and I are excited about coming to St. Mark's and being a part of what the Lord is doing here. These early weeks are for us a time of getting acquainted/reacquainted and coming to better understand your situation and the challenges that face us. We have already seen some very positive signs.

One of the priorities identified in your parish survey was ministry to youth. I had a few people talk with me about the possibility of developing some kind of youth worship. I was told that several of the young people were talented musicians. Our son Jake agreed to use his experience as a worship leader to help us put something together. We've now held two "rehearsals" and it appears that we may indeed have the makings of a worship band. Our oldest son Adam has also come on board to play bass. We have an incredible opportunity to establish a whole new way for our young people to take part in the mission of the church as well as a way to attract new people by developing a different kind of worship experience. I hope you will pray for this new ministry and support it in any other way you can.

It appears the new Angel Food ministry is off to a good start as well. I was amazed to learn that no other churches in Johnstown were utilizing this ministry, so it too represents a great opportunity for us. One of the keys to church growth is identifying who it is in our community that we might reach and attract to the church. Angel Food presents the possibility of an outreach to the less fortunate, which has been a staple of Christian ministry since its beginning. Being in the forefront of a new ministry in the community may also create more "visibility" for us. All these things represent hope for future growth at St. Mark's.

Of course many wonderful ministries already exist here and you will have the chance to see them and speak with people already involved in them on September 11 at the Ministry Fair. I hope you will consider what new or different ways you might become a part of the work our church is doing. Remember when you are tempted to think that the minister ministers and the congregation congregates that you are not using a Biblical model. In Ephesians 4:11-12, Paul tells us "It was he who gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, that is, to build up the body of Christ..." Hence my job is to equip you for your ministry and my goal is to do that very thing.

September will be a busy month for us with the Ministry Fair, a special 9/11 service, the annual meeting and things I'm sure I have forgotten to mention (my sincere apologies to those). We are looking forward with great expectation as we enter what is for us a new season of ministry and pray that God will move among us with power in the revealing of His love. May He richly bless you all!

Marty+



ANIMAL WELFARE MINISTRY

St. Mark's is proud to announce the establishment of a new ministry. We now have an Animal Welfare Ministry.

This Ministry will help animals in various ways. This includes saving Shelter Animals' lives, helping provide the needs of our local shelter, promoting spay/neuter (to prevent unwanted animals), etc.

This is an exciting and groundbreaking event, not only in our own Diocese, but in the entire Country as well. We have already been contacted By many throughout the nation in the Episcopal Network for Animal-Welfare, who want to follow our examples.

St. Mark's believes that we recognize St. Francis' teachings and show love and compassion for all of God's creatures.

If you would like to become a part of this ministry or find our how you can help, please contact Steven Hoover at 814-410-3832.

The extra collection for the First Sunday of each month will go towards the needs of our Animal Welfare Ministry.

Steven Hoover

IN SEARCH OF Candidates for Vestry!

This year's retiring Vestry class consists of Amy Whitlow, Larry Shaffer, Dolly Lopresti, and Kitty Batrus. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your service to the Church. We are looking for other candidates for the election of a new Vestry class at the annual meeting at the end of September.

Serving on the Vestry offers a member a real insight into the business and operations and property management details of running a parish. A member may find Vestry service very fulfilling and a chance to serve as stewards of a parish and a way to give back to St. Mark's and to serve the Lord. It also offers leadership experience and a chance to work as a team to build a parish that has a mission and offers what its members need. You have to be a member of St. Mark's in good standing to be considered for nomination, but there are no age or experience requirements and prior service doesn't make you ineligible.

Vestry meets on the Third Sunday of every month after the 10 am Service for regular meetings and additional involvement is encouraged and expected. Once elected, a Vestry member serves a three year term.

If you are interested, please contact me. If you'd like to suggest someone to me to contact, that is OK, too. Any member of Vestry will be happy to answer any questions that you may have about service. We hope to offer at least 6 names to the members for consideration at the annual meeting.

You can reach me at 241-7106, or email me at twagner67@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you with your recommended nominations.

Todd Wagner,
Nominating Committee Chair



10th Anniversary

September 11, 2001

Please join us at the 7:30 am or 10:00 am Service on Sunday, September 11th for the 10th Anniversary of 9/11.

This day changed America. This was the day that heroes were born. We all share in the grief of the losses that occurred on that day, but we were also inspired by the bravery of those involved.

America has always been a Country built on family, hard work, love and respect for our fellow man. We must always strive to do what is best.

Set time aside on this Sunday to come together in Prayer. To pray for those who were lost and to remember that we, as Americans, must never take for granted our founding principles of liberty and freedom.



Annual Parish Meeting

Date: Sunday, September 25, 2011

Following the 10:00 am Service

Purpose: Election of 4 Vestry Members

Review State of our Church

**Nominations from the floor will also be accepted
that day.**



A busy season is beginning for the ECW.

The United Way

The United Way will once again be having their business meetings at St. Mark's and have chosen to have breakfast instead of lunch. Those dates are:

September 29th
October 27th
November 17th

Breakfast is scheduled for 8:00 AM.

This is a very successful fundraiser because everyone donates their time and energy, their laughter, when we are so tired. I know that I can count on everyone at St. Marks to help.

Thank-you everyone who ever has or ever will support our efforts.

Also, the ECW Ladies need to meet sometime in September. Please call me with dates and times you are available.

Julie Follansbee

You can reach me at 255-7742 or julief1@atlanticbb.net to sign up to help.



BIBLE STUDY

When: Every Tuesday
Time: 9:00 AM
Where: Sorella-Sorella Espresso
828 Diamond Boulevard

Our Bible Study has moved to a new date, time, and location. Please take time from your busy schedule to join us.

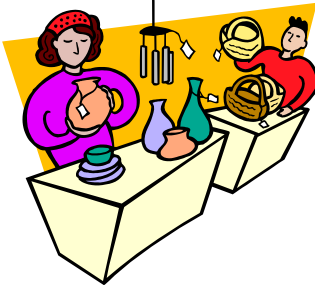
For more information, please contact Lucie Whittle, 535-6601.

RAC AGAINST HUNGER UPDATE

The RAC Against Hunger Competition between District 4 & 2 against Districts 1 & 3 began in July and will continue through October 31st.

Pastoral Care Funds	\$422.00		422 points
Food Items	209	Food Items*	209 points
Volunteer Hours	20	Volunteer Hours	200 points
Bulletin Inserts	20	1 per month	20 points

*71 Items received from Angelfood Ministry



MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday September 11th
after the 10:00 am Service

Acolytes
Altar Guild
Animal Welfare Ministry
Bell Choir
Book Study
Boy Scouts
Breakfast Club
Choir
Cursillo
ECW
Education
Eucharistic Ministers

Fellowship Committee

Finance Committee

Labyrinth
Layreaders
Martha's Circle
Pastoral Care
Prayer Circle
Ushers
Vestry



2010 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.

We have openings for the following dates:

Sept. 11 (1), Sept. 18 (1), Sept. 25 (2),
Oct. 9 (1), Oct. 16 (2), Oct. 23 (2), Oct. 30 (2),
Nov. 6 (1), Nov. 13(1),
Dec. 4(1), Dec. 1 (1), Dec. 18(2).

Remember Today In Your Prayers:

Polly Sledd, Mary Hider, Jack Cromb, Helen Leap, Ignacio Panebianco.

Family and Friends Serving Our Country:

Jason Medsger, Clint Cable, Bill Pulliam, Justin Erdley, Chad McLaren, Michael Custer, Jeff Bright, Dan Kell, Valerie Hantke, Ryan Bracken, and Gary Hogman.

Please Continue To Remember In Your Personal Prayers: Lois Bender, Liz & Don Hysong, Joy Brehm, Dorothy Veale, Jack & Carroll Green, Angie & Jack Herbein, Regina Hoover, Cindy Leap, John Michyna, Bernice Ketterer., Ed and Marjorie Ajay, Gloria Coulson, Betty McGrath, Louis Hoffer, Sue Kelly, Ethel Arthur, Hassell Sledd, Maggie Lesosky, Deneen & Blanche Brant, Stanley Gimza, James Hargreaves, John Fry, Vivian Marple, Joan & Bill Berresford, Phyllis Miller, Ethel Thomas, Gordon Gladden, Catherine Woods, Joy Howard, Dave Maxwell, Linda Russell, Msgr. Orbanek, Jeff Gates, Chris Marlowe, Barbara Mileto, Hal Trevenen, Connie Derzack, Carole Caroff, Marvin Ripple, Tim Whitford, Bob Armstrong, Keith Barkley, Peter Keitsock, Jeff Nelson, Bill Eidenire, Carole Vindish, Kelly Plowchin, Frankie Weaver, Agnes Swarney.



MONTHLY REMINDERS

Rwandan Orphan

All families of the Church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the third Sunday of each month (Sept. 18th) for our Rwandan Orphan. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Chantal.

Outreach/Pastoral Care

All families are encouraged to donate \$1.00 on the fourth Sunday of each month (Sept. 25th) for our Pastoral Care/Outreach Needs. Please be sure to mark your envelopes separately for our Pastoral Care/Outreach.

Vestry Meeting

Sunday, September 18th

After the 10:00 am Service

Finance Meeting

Tuesday, September 13th

5:00 pm

ANIMAL WELFARE MINISTRY

**First Sunday of Each Month
Sunday's Extra Collection**



Happy September Anniversary!

*Shawn & Lisa Rager
September 21, 1991*

Happy September Birthday



<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Cathy Lilly</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Patrick Bragdon</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Ivan Mulligan</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Margaret Herman</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Bill Horner</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Shelby Boyden</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Lida Thompson</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Frances Garman</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Jan Wolfe</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Andrea Mulligan</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Jane Strittmatter</i>	<i>13</i>		

If we have forgotten your Birthday or Anniversary, please let us know. Call the office with your Information (535-6797) or e mail us at stmarks@atlanticbbn.net.

Thanks, Joanne

Soup & Study

Most Tuesdays 6 - 8pm

At the home of John & Annis Rogers
538 Tioga Street

Join us for an evening of delicious homemade soup
(or other light fare) and lively discussion in our home.

We look forward to seeing you on September 6th.

Everyone is welcome!

Contact Annis Rogers 539 – 2295

