



St. Mark's Episcopal
Church

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*The voice of the Gospel
in the
Episcopal tradition
for the Juniata Valley
since 1823.*

St. Mark's Hosts Bazaar & Apple Fest

On October 6th, St. Mark's will host an Apple Festival and Bazaar. We hope for the support of all members of the parish. Before the event, we need good cooks to help with the baking and Arts & Crafts folk to assist with the bazaar.

Because of the time of year we will hold the event, any craft items are welcome that will recall the holiday seasons of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

As any baker knows, there are so many

things that can be done with apples. We can bake pies (hmmmm), apple dumplings (a Central PA favorite), cider (soft, of course), apple crumble and so much more.



Please consider getting involved in an effort that can help us to get to know one another better, provide an opportunity for fellowship and fun, and, of course, help support the parish financially.

All proceeds will assist the operating fund of the parish, especially the increasing utility bills we will face in the months ahead.

You can contact Cynthia to assist in any way by calling her at 717 248-9903

We're on the web!
www.stmark-lewistown.org

The Messenger

2012, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2012

Annual Pledge Drive set for October 14th-28th

By Stewardship Committee

Beginning on Sunday, October 14th, you will hear a lot about bearing fruit because our annual membership pledge drive will focus on this theme: *Bear Fruit for Christ: His Grace and Power at Work within You.*

Fruit trees are one of the many wonders of God's creation. To see the beauty of the tree and its fruit, to enjoy its taste, and to realize that it all came from a tiny seed is almost beyond our comprehension. An apple seed is planted in the ground, and, with water and sun as nourishment, miraculously a seedling surfaces that develops into a fruit tree. After a time, the apple tree fulfills its mission by bearing apples.

We, as Christian disciples, are like that apple tree. We, too, have been fed and nourished by God so that we can bear fruit. AS Jesus tells us in John's gospel, "*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last*" (John 15:16). The life and power of any plant is found in its vine, it's trunk. The trunk uses the branches to produce fruit. The branch is simply a growth of the trunk, produced by it and appointed to bear fruit. The branch exists only because the rest of the tree makes it possible.

Fruit characterizes the life of the Christian disciple. When we stay firmly connected to Jesus, we are told that we "*will bear much fruit.*" Christ has given his disciples the task of ministering to the needs of others and spreading the Gospel. To the extent that we stay connected to him through Word and Sacrament, we discover God's perfect will for us, and we are empowered to please him by bearing fruit (Colossians 1:9-10). God has created us to bear fruit (Ephesians 2:10), but only through Christ is it possible for us to do so.

As children of God, we have this fruit only because the Spirit of God lives within us. Even our sinfulness does not stop our capacity to bear fruit. Instead because it is by God's power that we do so, we are always able to

Go and bear fruit!

When you receive your personal information about the annual membership pledge drive, take some time to reflect on what fruit God has called you to bear, how St. Mark's has empowered you to bear that fruit, and how we can take a little of that fruit to provide the seeds for the future. More information on our annual membership pledge drive is available at the parish's website www.stmark-lewistown.org

From the Senior Warden

"Where did this summer go?" everyone seems to be saying? But, ready or not, all our autumn projects as well as the restart of the programs we took a summer break from are beginning again. I must say, however, I think our attendance throughout the summer was good. We all enjoyed our church in the park in August, which was well attended. Many, I hope had a great summer and enjoyed a vacation or at least some rest and relaxation.

As autumn approaches many of the committees have programs already in the making. The vestry will again be meeting on its regular schedule and stewardship time will very shortly be upon us. And with great expectation we anxiously await the return of the windows in the sanctuary. Yes, summer is all but over and we have an exciting but busy autumn ahead. It is with prayer I hope many will participate in all the programs in the coming months as we reach out to do our Lord's work with and to each other, our church, and our community.

Blair Hannon

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COMING EVENTS

Breaking Bread Dinner
Sep 27, 5:30-6:30 PM
Parish Hall

Exercise Program Begins
Sep 25 at 3 PM
Parish Hall

Apple Festival & Bazaar
Oct 6

Dedication of New Sign
Oct 7, 9 AM Worship
At the sign (weather permitting)

Blessing of Animals
Oct 7, 12 Noon
Memorial Garden
(weather permitting)
(In Church if raining.)

"Link" Presentation
Oct 10, 11 AM
Parish Hall

Vestry Meeting
Oct 16, 5:30
Library

Folks of A Certain Age *by Jackie Leight*

You have been hearing about "Third Age Ministries" as the newest effort within our Jubilee Ministry Center. Many people were confused by the name so the committee decided to look for a new "moniker." Quite by accident we came upon a new name: *Folks of A Certain Age*. The idea behind this name is to make clear that our efforts are not aimed only at what we normally consider "senior citizens" but also at any folks who within sight of their golden years. At a recent committee meeting, Father Zwifka described it simply as "the AARP crowd." Anyone who has reached their 50th birthday is well aware that one need not be a senior nor retired to be part of AARP. The same is true of *Folks of A Certain Age*. It sounds vague, we know, but that is our intent. Depending on what activity or program is being offered, its appeal won't necessarily depend on being, well, into one's senior years. Also important to note is that this outreach ministry is designed for all members of the community, not just parishioners at St. Mark's.

In addition to discussions about identity, the committee's work throughout the summer sought to prepare a launch of program-

ming this Fall. You may have already seen fliers with information for an on-going **exercise program** with Michelle Lasher as leader. Michelle is trained and experienced in leading exercise programs with *Folks of A Certain Age*. Light or minimal impact is the rule and all experience levels are respected. The *weekly* program begins **Tuesday September 25 at 3 PM in St. Mark's Parish Hall**.

Kathy Dralsbaugh from the Area Agency on Aging will join us in the parish hall on **Wednesday, October 10th at 11 AM** (after mid-week service) for a **presentation on the "Link" program**, designed to link *Folks of A Certain Age* and their families with the many programs and services available through our area agencies. We hope to have a similar program each month on the second Wednesday at 11 AM.

Soon more information will be available on a regularly scheduled Bible Study to be facilitated by our Senior Warden, Blair Hannon.

Remember, activities of *Folks of A Certain Age* are not limited to senior citizens. Extended families and others are always welcome to participate.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Renovations Completed

By Elta Lauver

If you haven't been over to "The Cupboard" lately, you should take a peak. Thanks in part to a Congregational Development Commission Operating Grant made to St. Mark's in 2012, what had been the rectory kitchen is now an efficient, well lit, work and distribution center for the many bags of food that assist people in need. As the number of people and families served continues to increase, it became necessary to reconfigure the space used by the Cupboard to provide a comfortable work area for our many volunteers. Non-functional kitchen cupboards and unused appliances were removed. Metal shelving was added that helps to make storing, sorting and packing much easier. Wire shelves help keep the area clean should breakage occur. Lighting fixtures were updated and comfortable, new flooring installed. The hallway has been patched, painted and re-floored to make our clients feel more comfortable as they come to ask for assistance. Most of the work was done by our own sexton, Jim Cherry, with the help of several volunteers as needed. Grant funding allowed St. Mark's to make these much needed renovations and freed up other moneys to be used in the provision of goods and services to those who seek them.

Did You Know . . .

. . . that Episcopalians started meeting in Lewistown as early as 1818, formally organized a in 1823 and were chartered as a parish by Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1824?

Jubilee Center Anniversary Celebration

Earlier this year, *The Messenger* indicated that it was a real possibility that The Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts-Schori, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, might join us for the observance of our Jubilee Ministry Center's 30th Anniversary. Bishop Baxter recently received word that the Presiding Bishop's schedule will not permit her participation. Bishop Baxter indicated that the Presiding Bishop was equally disappointed that she could not attend. Nonetheless, plans will continue for a tremendous celebration. Already, we are searching for exciting alternative speakers!

For a small diocese, Central Pennsylvania, has an unusually large number of Jubilee Ministry Centers among its parishes. Current plans hope to use this significant anniversary (marking St. Mark's as the first such center in the Church) to reinvigorate not only its own ministry but also the ministries of all Jubilee Ministry Centers in the diocese. Workshops and networking opportunities for people involved in Jubilee Ministries in our own diocese and, perhaps, neighboring dioceses as well are part of the vision. A grand festival Eucharist with Bishop Baxter will be a key part of our celebration. We will keep you updated as plans progress.

Parish To Bless Animals in Honor of St. Francis of Assisi

Many of the stories that surround the life of St. Francis deal with his love for animals. Perhaps the most famous legend from tells that in the city of Gubbio, where Francis lived for some time, was a wolf "terrifying and ferocious, who devoured men as well as animals." Francis had compassion upon the townsfolk, and so he went up into the hills to find the wolf. Soon, fear of the animal had caused all his companions to flee, though the saint pressed on.



When he found the wolf, he made the sign of the cross and commanded the wolf to come to him and hurt no one. Miraculously the wolf closed his jaws and lay down at the feet of St. Francis. "Brother Wolf, you do much harm in these parts and you have done great evil," said Francis. "All these people accuse you and curse you...But brother wolf, I would like to make peace between you and the people." Then Francis led the wolf into the town, and surrounded by startled citizens made a pact between them and the wolf. Because the wolf had "done evil out of hunger, the townsfolk were to feed the wolf regularly. In return, the wolf would no longer prey upon them or their flocks. In this manner Gubbio was freed from the menace of the predator. Francis even made a pact on behalf of the town dogs, that they would not bother the wolf again. Finally, to show the townspeople that they would not be harmed, Francis blessed the wolf.

While no wolves threaten our community, we will honor St. Francis again this year by blessing our pets in the Memorial Garden at 12 Noon on October 7. In case of inclement weather, we will move the celebration into the Church.



Bishop Baxter to Make Visitation in January

Every two years, Bishop Baxter fulfills his obligation as our bishop to make an official visitation to the parish. At such a visitation, the

bishop worships and enjoys fellowship with our parish family, celebrates the admission of new members of our parish meets with our Vestry, and examines our administrative records. Bishop Baxter is scheduled to be with us on Sunday, January 20th. This will be a special opportu-

nity for us since the bishop will begin his much-earned sabbatical shortly thereafter.

If there is anyone in the parish that wishes to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation or make a Profession of Faith in the Episcopal Church, please contact Father Zwifka at rector@stmark-lewistown.org by calling the parish office.

Vestry Resumes Work in September

Vestry resumed its work with its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at 5:30 PM in the Parish House Library. Among the many usual tasks facing the Vestry, its work this year will include the Mutual Ministry Review that was introduced by Canon Robyn Szoke at the June meeting. Budget time will quickly be upon us as we begin to look at plans for the next fiscal year. With the hard work of the finance and investment committees of the Vestry, the parish has stabilized its fiscal position. While there is much still to be done in this regard, the parish has been able to sustain its mission and ministry and begin plans for further growth and development.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Vestry reflected on how growth is really the work of God and is not the result of our best laid plans. This doesn't mean that we aren't active in the process but that we need always to keep in mind that we are God's instruments in proclaiming

his lovingkindness to the community in which we live.

The parish's financial situation was discussed as we move toward the end of our fiscal year. The quarterly report from our Investment Committee was received and discussed.

Vestry also heard that the mission of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard remains as important as ever. In August alone, 345 individuals in 121 families were touched. In September to date 25% of the folks who come to The Cupboard are "new," i.e. they have never received assistance from Mother Hubbard before. In recent weeks, shelves had to be restocked with purchases of over \$7000.

Additionally, there was brief discussion about restructuring our Sunday School experience, integrating our children into our Sunday worship, and the impact of introducing music more completely into our Morning Prayer when celebrated on Sunday.



Tony Hatfield-Nicholson asks:

"Men of St Mark's, do you want a Men's Group?"

Nothing is set in stone about how we organize, how frequently we meet, or what we do. To be successful, a group like this needs to respond to the needs of the people it serves. Please let me know if you are interested in any of the following:

- Prayer , bible study, discussion
- Working on church repair projects
- Cleaning up
- Fundraising
- Working on a Church garden

Are you willing to take part in leadership of the group? Are you willing to do breakfast for the group? Please let me know.

Tony

e-mail: www.stinkingrose@pa.net or drop your comments, e-mail and phone number to church office.

ECW Vegetable Soup Sale — October 12th

Just in time for the chilly weather of autumn, the ECW will sponsor its Vegetable Soup Sale at St. Mark's on FRIDAY, October 12. Be sure to place your orders in plenty of time to help the ECW volunteers organize. The profit margin of this "win-win" fundraiser (ECW raises much needed funds as you get such delicious fare) is increased by the donation of ingredients used to make the soup. Please note the sign-up sheet in the parish hall or contact the parish office about making a useful donation to the cause.

