

The Messenger

2013, ISSUE 4

SPECIAL EDITION
AUGUST 2013

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to Visit St. Mark's Church



The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori will visit St. Mark's Episcopal Church in conjunction with the celebration of 30 years of Jubilee Ministry in The Episcopal Church. Bishop Katharine's presence will recall the beginnings of Jubilee Ministry as a formal endeavor when The Most Reverend John Allyn, then Presiding Bishop, joined the Right Reverend Charles McNutt and The Reverend Canon Peter Greenfield in a celebration that named St. Mark's the first Jubilee Ministries Center for Outreach in the Church. At that time, St. Mark's joined with 7 other centers across the Church to initiate a bold endeavor that sought to declare "A Year of Favor from the Lord."

Along with Bishop Katharine, St. Mark's will also welcome The Rt. Rev. Nathan Baxter, Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, and The Right Reverend Charlie McNutt, our Diocesan Bishop-Retired. Joining them for the celebration will be The Reverend Canon Peter Greenfield, who was Rector of St. Mark's in 1983, The Reverend Canon Mark Schenneman and The Reverend Dolores "Dee" Calhoun, both of whom served as Diocesan Officer for Jubilee Ministries

Presiding Bishop to Join Local Volunteers and Parishioners for Prayer Service & Fellowship

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will join the parishioners of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and local volunteers of our Jubilee Ministries (Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Parishioners' Outreach, Breaking Bread Together, Environmental Stewardship, and Folks of A Seasoned Age) for a prayer service shortly after she arrives on **Saturday, September 7**. Parishioners and volunteers are invited to join us at **10:30 AM in the Church** for a brief service. Following the service, Bishop Katharine

will join all in a time of fellowship and conversation about the work of the Jubilee Ministries in the parish close (behind the church). The area will be tented to assure the comfort of all rain or shine. At the same time and for the remainder of the morning, other Jubilee Ministry Centers in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania will have displays describing their efforts and will be available for the exchange of information and ideas in the Parish Hall.

JOIN US ON THE WEB!

St. Mark's will enjoy national attention as it again broadcasts the afternoon Eucharist on the internet. As when it has "live streamed" its worship services on Christmas and Easter, St. Mark's will again provide access to this special event for all who have internet access. Because this is a special anniversary celebration of Jubilee Ministries, many people across the Church may join us. The link is available on St. Mark's and diocesan websites.

Schedule of Events for the Visit of The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts-Schori

A History of Jubilee Ministry at St. Mark's Church

By The Rev. Dolores "Dee" Calhoun

As part of a full day of activities, Bishop Katharine will not only spend time at St. Mark's to celebrate the parish's role in Jubilee Ministries but also with representatives of Jubilee Ministries throughout the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. St. Mark's, noted for its "intentional hospitality," will welcome clergy and visitors from every part of the diocese. The schedule of events has been worked out in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and our own diocesan Office of Communications and

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Beginning at 10:00 AM, Jubilee Ministry Centers from around the diocese will highlight various ministries occurring throughout the diocese (Parish Hall)

- 10:00 AM Presiding Bishop arrives at St. Mark's
- 10:30 AM Prayer Service with people of St. Mark's and volunteers of Jubilee Ministry Center. Theme: *Preparing for a Third Century of Ministry—Church*
- 10:50 AM Informal gathering with people of St. Mark's and volunteers from Jubilee Ministry Center—Parish Garden
- 11:30 AM Presiding Bishop meets with diocesan clergy—Church
- 12 :30 PM Luncheon with representatives of Jubilee Ministry Centers throughout the diocese and diocesan clergy—Undercroft
- 2:30 PM Festival Eucharist Celebrating Jubilee Ministry in the Episcopal Church—Church/Parish Hall (overflow)
- 4:00 PM Breaking Bread Together Picnic begins Parish Garden
- 5:30 PM Presiding Bishop departs



A full house at Breaking Bread Together

Not long after, the idea of establishing a specific new ministry in The Episcopal Church, based on the concept of Jubilee (the renewal of a strong commitment to a season of sharing God's blessing, compassion and goodness, from a sense Christian purpose and justice) was initiated.

At that time, The Rt. Rev. Charlie F. McNutt, Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, believed that St. Mark's, Lewistown embodied this kind of ministry. At Bishop McNutt's urging, St. Mark's applied to be recognized as a Jubilee Center for outreach Ministry and was the very first Parish in the U.S. to receive this designation. The then-Presiding Bishop, Rt. Rev. John Allin, came to St. Mark's personally to present the certificate.

In the late 80's, under the leadership of a new rector, St Mark's recommitted to the concept of ministry by establishing a Jubilee Chapel. The Window in the Chapel speaks the Jubilee Message to all who enter.

Today the concept of Jubilee is still the guiding principle for ministry at St. Mark's. In fact, the parish recently received a grant of \$20,000 from the diocese to reclaim and strengthen its identity as a center for Jubilee Ministry in light of changing circumstances.

As economies and demographics shift in Central Pennsylvania, so does the emphasis of the Center. Today the Center orients its activity around five major areas:

The development of Jubilee Ministry as the guiding concept of mission at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, in Lewistown, Pa., was the direct result of two significant circumstances.

In 1972, Hurricane Agnes brought massive flooding and destruction to the Lewistown area. Then, as a consequence of the flooding, one major industry shut down its operation altogether, and another was forced to dramatically reduce its work force.

Additionally many homes in the downtown area were either severely damaged or destroyed. People in the area were left reeling, many were unemployed and others had lost all that they had.

The people of St. Mark's joined with others in the community to try to do all they could to provide relief and support for those in greatest need. In 1976 St. Mark's called a new rector to replace the rector of many years who was leaving to accept a new call.

The Rev. Peter Greenfield presented a vision that challenged the people of St. Mark's to change the focus of their mission from "in reach" to outreach. The people responded to that challenge by engaging in the work of a Center for Jubilee Ministry, even though the term had not yet been coined or the concept formalized.

Under his leadership, with the support and help of several parishioners, Fr. Greenfield launched a series of programs to help those in the community who were struggling. A community garden provided folks with fresh produce. Meals on Wheels set up its operation in St. Mark's kitchen. Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, a community food bank, was opened in the undercroft of the church.



Senior Warden Blair Hannon takes a taste!

The parish initiated community work weeks to provide labor and materials to assist with badly needed home repairs and painting for those in the community who could not manage to do the work themselves. Ecumenical relationships and partnerships were formed with other denominations to provide political, social and spiritual advocacy for individuals and organizations needing sponsorship.

A strong youth program was established that provided an outlet for young people seeking a place to belong. And many, many visits to comfort and encourage and restore people in despair throughout the county were undertaken. St. Mark's truly announced "a year of favor from the Lord" in both word and deed.

Celebrating 30 years of Jubilee Ministry

If Jubilee Ministry were a person, it probably would have started thinking about settling down, putting aside youthful excess, and planning for the future by now.

It was 30 years ago, at the Episcopal General Convention meeting in New Orleans, that delegates finally approved Resolution A080, which established Jubilee Ministry as “a ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people, wherever they are found, to meet basic human needs and to build a just society,” concluding that this “is at the heart of the mission of the church.”

Since then, the General Convention has reaffirmed its commitment to Jubilee Ministry eight times, including at this past convention in Indianapolis in July. Resolution D094, adopted this year, resolves that Jubilee Ministry “be affirmed as a vital expression of the type of relational ministry that is being called forth from local congregations of the church today as they seek to reconcile all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.”

Since the enabling legislation that created Jubilee Ministry and the network of Diocesan Jubilee Officers was adopted, more than 600 Jubilee Ministry centers have been identified.

But in the beginning, there were eight, affirmed by Executive Council in June, 1983:

- St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Lewistown, PA.
- The Episcopal Pastoral Center in Denver
- St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Saginaw, MI.
- Urban Ministries of Durham, N.C.
- Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Miami
- East St. Louis Metropolitan Ministry in East St. Louis.
- Episcopal Ministries of Middle Tennessee/Urban and Regional Ministry in Nashville
- Urban Mission Training Program in Washington D.C.

Of these eight original centers, five remain in one form or another, and they’re continuing to do the work of Jubilee.

Happy anniversary, Jubilee Ministry! May the next 30 be even more productive!



Diocesan Grants Assist St. Mark’s in Jubilee Ministries

The Congregational Development Commission of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania (CDC) has been instrumental in helping St. Mark’s redefine itself around the core ministries of its Jubilee Ministries Center. While the original ministries that formed the basis of the Center in 1983 had changes with the circumstances of the parish, a renewed sense of mission was needed to assure the survival of the spirit of jubilee at St. Mark’s. Through two operational grants (\$20,000 in 2012 and \$10,000 in 2013), the CDC enabled St. Mark’s not only to validate much needed ministries in the area

of basic human needs (Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, Breaking Bread Together, Parishioners’ Outreach) but to expand into new endeavors that were appropriate for Lewistown given new awareness (Environmental Stewardship) and changing demographics (Folks of A Seasoned Age). By allowing St. Mark’s to free up operational funds for these efforts, the CDC became an active partner in reviving the spirit of Jubilee in our community.

(Continued from page 2)



Environmental Stewardship Day

- *Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard* has become the principal food pantry in Mifflin County (open four days per week).
- The parish extends a spirit of intentional hospitality in its *Breaking Bread Together* community dinners that provide not only opportunity for a balanced meal table served by volunteers but also much needed fellowship for over 100 individuals and families in the immediate area.
- *Parishioners’ Outreach* provides emergency assistance to persons in economic crisis (rent, fuel, electricity, and other critical services).
- *Environmental Stewardship* advocates for “green thinking” on a practical level by providing educational opportunities for the wider community on how to care for and preserve our physical environment in everyday ways.
- *Folks of a Certain Age* is the Center’s newest program designed to address issues confronting people 55 years and older from a faith based perspective, as the median age of the area increases rapidly.

St. Mark’s Jubilee Ministry Center continues to forge partnerships with local agencies and other churches. Many of the volunteers that staff the various programs come not only from St. Mark’s but also from local congregations. Financial and in-kind support comes from religious groups throughout the area on a regular basis.

The Jubilee Ministry Center at St. Mark’s thereby provides a kind of “hub” where many individual efforts intersect to create a genuine sense of the Lord’s Year of Jubilee.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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Breaking Bread Together Dinner to Resume



After a brief summer hiatus, our monthly Breaking Bread Together Dinner will resume with a special picnic, SATURDAY, September 7 at 4:00 PM in the parish garden to celebrate the Presiding Bishop's visit. The next regular dinner will be on September 26th at 5:30 PM in the parish hall.



Folks of Seasoned Age Continues Exercise Class

Folks of a Seasoned Age will resume its weekly exercise program on Tuesdays at 3:30 PM on September 10th in the Parish Hall. The Steering Committee continues to explore more programming opportunities. Watch the parish website for more details!