

May 2009

THE PARISH POST



St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109
(717) 652-6700

www.stmarksharrisburg.org
e-mail: stmarkslutheran@verizon.net
The Rev. James E. Person, 717-695-7525
Seminarian, Cassandra Lamb

— Along with almost 250 visitors and parishioners, enjoyed the young people's dramatic presentation of the Passion of Our Lord on Palm/Passion Sunday. He hopes this annual tradition will be repeated next year.

— Dropped in on the Palm Sunday and Easter Coffee Hours. Saw lots of new faces, heard an endless happy chatter, and nibbled on a few scraps of goodies on the floor.

— Understands that the daffodil cross on the front lawn was pretty spectacular as is the butterfly on the bell tower. These symbols of new life were the handiwork of church members and are truly appreciated.

— Looks forward to hearing on May 3rd the presentation of the Mission Bells in support of the carillon project and to Pentecost Sunday when the church will be filled with geraniums, the smell of which is not popular with cats.

— Watched with sadness as one of his favorite hiding places, the old printer was taken away. He felt a little better when he learned that it was going to be put to use by a church less fortunate than St. Mark church.



On May 31, Christians around the world will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It's often remembered as the church's birthday. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon those who believed in his resurrection.

Three thousand people were gathered in Jerusalem when the Spirit came upon them. They were so touched by the Holy Spirit that they began to worship regularly, especially on Sundays, the day of Christ's resurrection.

To symbolize the "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3, NRSV) that came upon the people present at Pentecost, liturgical churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday. Many people attending worship wear red on that day.

SPECIAL DATES

- Christian Family Week, May 4-10, 2009
- National Day of Prayer, May 7, 2009
- Mother's Day, May 10, 2009
- Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2009
- Ascension of the Lord, May 21, 2009
- Memorial Day, May 25, 2009
- Pentecost, May 31, 2009

| | |
|---|--------------|
| PURPOSE STATEMENT - St. Marks is a church that | |
| P raises God | Worship |
| R elishes Relationships | Fellowship |
| A cts as God's Ambassadors | Evangelism |
| Y earsn to Learn | Discipleship |
| S erves God and Our Neighbors | Ministry |

FROM THE PASTOR

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

When we think of the date May 31st, it might at first cause us to think of Memorial Day, that important day on the U.S. calendar when we remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the freedom and principles of our nation. In my memory, Memorial Day was traditionally associated with “the last weekend in May.” Since the move to celebrate more holidays on Mondays, though, Memorial Day is now the last MONDAY in May and so this year, at least for many folks, it seems to be coming a week early.

As I said, I think Memorial Day is an important part of our American heritage and we will surely mark its observance in some way here at St. Mark’s. The moving of the holiday to Monday, though, along with the timing of Easter and its influence on the church year gives us a somewhat unique opportunity this year. We can still celebrate the last weekend in May but not as a memorial to the deceased; it will instead be a celebration of new life.

May 31st this year is The Day of Pentecost. On that day we celebrate with great joy the gift of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon the disciples and through them, the Church. The church will be dressed in red, as will many of us, in celebration of the fire of the Holy Spirit that danced upon the heads of the disciples and burns brightly within the heart of St. Mark’s today. It will surely be a great day to celebrate (and, since it will not be a holiday weekend, we should have good crowds to celebrate with!)

The fire of the Spirit is truly evident in the life and ministry of St. Mark’s recently. Most obvious has been the attendance at our regular Sunday worship services, and the number of visitors we welcome each week. Many of these visitors are being warmed by the spirit of this church and have decided to make it their church home, and we are truly thankful to have them. Our attendance has reached the point, in fact, that **WE WILL NOT BE CHANGING WORSHIP TIMES FOR THE SUMMER!**

That’s right; if our attendance continues through the summer as it has been (and I expect it to!) seating would be too close for comfort, so we will continue our regular worship times yearlong. We are planning to have one combined worship service though, probably near the end of summer, to celebrate the unity of our congregation and to get reacquainted with folks we might not see who attend the “other service.”

There are also many other ways in which the fire of the Spirit is evident here at St. Mark’s. New, young, members of the congregation council are bringing fresh ideas, new perspectives, and real enthusiasm to the work of the church even as they appreciate and learn from the experience of more long-time members. Newer members of the congregation have been getting actively involved in a variety of activities and ministries alongside those who have been mainstays for some time. It is as exciting for me to see the manifestation of the Spirit here as it must have been for those present at that first “Pentecost Experience.”

I’ll admit that there are some places where the flame is not burning as brightly. Some of us seem more suited to sharing the heat rather than fanning the flames, and that’s OK. If there is something that “lights your fire” and it is available at St. Mark’s, please get involved. If it is not available, let us know and we might be able to make it available. For a fire to continue to burn brightly it constantly needs fresh fuel. Your involvement, ideas, ministry and stewardship are the fuel that keeps the fire of the Spirit burning brightly here at St. Mark’s.

Your partner in ministry,



SAVE THE DATE!

St. Mark’s Prayer Partners will host a retreat on Saturday, May 30 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Wittel Farm. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us for a relaxed day to learn about prayer, pray together, and share our faith.

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Anyone interested in becoming a Communion Assistant should contact Pastor Jim or Stephanie Carl. There are opportunities to assist with pouring or with the common cup. Training will be provided.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

5/5/09 - Sewing & Project Day 9:00 a.m.
 5/12/09 - Esther Circle 9:30 a.m. Memorial Day Service
 5/26/09 - Eve Circle 7:00 p.m.
 5/27/09 - Parish Post Assembly 12:30 p.m.
 6/8/09 - Unified Meeting 6:30 p.m. Covered dish
 dinner & election

W/ELCA Christian Service Projects:

We are no longer collecting the fronts of greeting cards.
 We are collecting full size flat sheets for quilts.
 Lap robes for the Veteran's Hospital can either be knitted, crocheted or a fleece throw 48 x 48 in. square with a small hem.

- Old cards are no longer needed.
- Gently used full flat sheets are needed for quilting projects.
- Esther Circle will be having their annual Memorial Day Service on May 12 at 10 a.m. in the chapel. The congregation is invited to attend.

If you have a veteran you would like to add to our honor roll please call Pat Nettling or Pearl Engleman.

ST. MARK'S NURSERY SCHOOL

It is hard to believe that this is our last month of Nursery School. The children have all grown in so many ways. We have worked hard to help the children understand that God loves them and that words in the Bible are words that they should live by. Nursery School is not all about the learning but about fun as well. Together we have painted in pudding, made soft pretzels and Stone Soup, played on the playground and with a variety of classroom toys. We have expanded our creative play by having fun in the office, pet store, beauty shop, kitchen, grocery store and at the camp ground. We have played games, learned many songs and made many new friends.

I would like to thank our dedicated teachers- Mrs. Paese, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Keen for the love they have shown to the children and for their

hard work all year long. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated people as part of our staff.

We have earned \$910 from the Giant Rewards Program. Please remember the Karn's receipt collection continues all year even if we are not in school. Thanks for your help.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped make the Bunny Breakfast the huge success that it was. Over \$2000 was raised and a good portion of that will go into our scholarship fund. A special thanks is given to those of you who helped the day of the event. Without all the volunteers we could not provide the amount of games and activities that we do, nor feed the crowds that we have attracted.

I have a special thank you to the Confirmation Class who filled all of our eggs for the egg hunt and to the Youth Group for their help the day of the event. It gave me great pleasure to see several of my former students serving as volunteers. Missing from this picture is Maddie and Clay Spencer and Kimberly Stanton. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.



Lynn Oliver

FREY VILLAGE

The Annual Frey Village Strawberry Festival will be held on Saturday, June 6th from 8:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.. Rental table cost \$20.00 if table needs to be provided, or \$15.00 if you provide your own table.

If you would like to donate one or more items to be sold at the Frey Village craft tables, items can be dropped off at the Frey Village's Activity Room to Tracey Kleins' attention, please note that they are for the Strawberry Festival.

If you would prefer to make items for either the candy or bake tables that would be appreciated as well. Any question please call: (717)930-1200.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you to Pastor Person, the Youth Group, Mrs. Carla, Mary Sultzaberger, and other people in the congregation who had visited me in the hospital. Thank you all who had had me in their prayers.

Thank you,
Dameion Frey

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your love and the encouragement and for your recent mission partners donation of \$624.00. We are blessed to have you as our mission partner. Please don't underestimate your help. For those who claim what they give or do is only a drop in the bucket, I ask: "*Well, what do you think the bucket is filled with anyway?!*"

With your help, hundreds of people are helped every month. Every weekday, members of the community wander in search of health, hope, help and companionship. For the mentally disabled gentleman who comes every day to enjoy a sense of belonging; for the young mother worried about her baby's cough; for the freshly arrived refugee trying to start a new life; for the elderly women who cannot afford her eyeglasses; for the homeless couple who want coffee and the use of a phone; for the young woman who wonders if she's pregnant, the man whose own attempts to soothe a rash have failed, the person with a backache that really is a kidney infection: we are here. Thanks to you, we are here.

In Peace,
The Rev. Jody Silliker

To Pastor Person and all my friends at St. Mark's,

Thank you all for my gifts, cards and Prayer Books, they are appreciated.

God Bless You All,
Helen Yontz

Dear St. Mark's Family,

I would like to thank you for all your prayers, phone calls, cards and visits and the beautiful flowers during my recent pneumonia event. A special thanks to Pastor Jim for his support at the ER during a very uncertain time for our family.

All of your care is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Gary Graham

Social Services Ministry would like to thank all who gave to our Lenten Project this year. Because of your generosity we will be able to give over \$300 each to Christian Churches United and The Food Pantry. We may be a small congregation but we are a mighty one and many people will benefit from your help. Once again thank you and God Bless.

PLEASE NOTE in an effort to ensure the continuing quality of the ministry and communication provided through *The Parish Post*, the Mutual Ministry Committee asks that all articles submitted for publication in *The Parish Post* be submitted in complete form, as they will appear in *The Parish Post*. Handwritten or typed articles are OK, but content should be complete when submitted. If an article needs to be written from an outline or other minimal content, it should be submitted by the Thursday prior to the final deadline for submissions. The final deadline for Parish Post information will continue to be the third Sunday of the month preceding the month in which the information is to appear, unless affected by holidays or other circumstances.

Submission dates for upcoming *Parish Post* articles are:
June 21st for the July *Parish Post*
July 19th for the August *Parish Post*
August 16th for the September *Parish Post*

Material submitted after the deadline will appear the following month if the information *is still pertinent*

MEMORIALS

Carrie Young:
 Carol Keiffer
 Ruth McGarvey
 Thomas & Anna Shope
 Ed & Pat Netting
 Mary Lemon
 David & Larue Morgan
 Pyramid Construction Services, Inc.
 Edward Hine
 Dotty Bird
 Ethel Oswald
 Raymond Young, Jr. & Saranancy Young
 Robert Foster
 Skip & Betty Briner
 Robert Foster
 St. Mark's Kitchen Auxilary

NEW ADDRESS

Ethel Oswald

Frey Village
 1020 N. Union St., **Apt. 309**
 Middletown, PA 17057

Scott, Betty, Amber & Trenton Minarich

52 Pine Tree Lane
 Shermansdale, PA 17090
 Home (717) 582-2281

Elaine Kauffman

Jewish Home
 4000 Linglestown Road, Room 226W
 Harrisburg, PA 17112

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

3rd — YG meeting (Senior-led) 6-8:30 p.m.
 9th — Youth Sunday Practice 10:00 a.m.
 16th — Youth Sunday Practice 10:00 a.m.
 17th — Youth Sunday 8:15 and 11:00 Services
 31st — Senior Recognition Sunday 11:00 Service
 31st — Final YG meeting 6:00 p.m.

MAY BIRTHDAY'S

2 Dennis DeFrank
 4 James Stanton
 5 Christopher Smith
 Claire Smith
 8 Norma Graham
 Rachel Geiser
 10 Dwayne Geiger
 12 Stephanie Carl
 13 Betty Bertrand
 15 Lois Hengst
 16 John Herigan
 18 Robert Anderson
 19 Julie Rowe
 Marian Person
 Christie Senft
 24 Joshua Heym
 Rita Trovalli
 27 Lori Bargmann
 Brenda Kiser
 Madison Rausch
 28 Shirley Johns
 29 Stanley Simpler
 31 Alice Hoover
 William Kroah, Jr.
 Ethan Appleby

HELP WANTED ADS

While we have not made a regular practice of posting "Help Wanted Ads" in the Parish Post, due to the current economic conditions we feel it is good stewardship to make folks aware of job opportunities we are aware of. We cannot, unfortunately, publish an extensive list of job openings, but we will do our best to post those with some connection to St. Mark's.

Full Time (40 - 45 hours a week) Career Opportunity. Earn while you learn during training phase for position as receptionist/chairside assistant in general dental office. Complete benefit package including medical, dental, vision, vacation, holiday, sick days, 401K. Contact Mary Edna Leedy 657-1392.

Treasurer's Report Summary
March 2009

| | RECEIPTS | | EXPENDITURES |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | <u>Mar. 09</u> | | <u>Mar. 09</u> |
| Operating | \$22,706 | Operating | \$18,751 |
| Benevolence | <u>2,462</u> | Benevolence | <u>2,074</u> |
| Subtotal | 25,168 | | 20,825 |
| | | | |
| Hunger | 187 | Hunger | 220 |
| Building Fund | 824 | Building Fund | 0 |
| Memorial Fund | 830 | Memorial Fund | 0 |
| Designated Funds | 12,264 (1) | Designated Funds | 1,878 (2) |
| Nursery Sch payroll | <u>3,365</u> | Nursery Sch payroll | <u>3,365</u> |
| Total | \$42,638 | | \$26,288 |

(1) Receipts include: Nursery School Scholarships \$89; Youth \$255; Mission Partner \$109; Extravaganza/Bell Fund \$150; Carillon Fund \$320; Evangelism Outreach \$85; Youth In/Out \$1,734; Lenten Project \$517; Seasonal Flowers \$800; Thrivent Funds \$393; Food Pantry \$100; Mellinger Interest \$1,000; Bible Study Books \$25; and Transfer From Krum Fund \$6,687.

(2) Expenditures include: Nursery School Scholarships \$ 506; Extravaganza/Bell Fund \$200; Mellinger Int. \$429; Estates \$ 100; Mission Partner \$624; and Evangelism \$ 19.

Calvin Smith
Treasurer

VOLLEYBALL

Writing this on a cold, rainy April day, it's hard to believe that volleyball season is almost upon us. The Greater Hummelstown Volleyball League pre-season starts in May, with the regular season running through August. This is a mixed league (teams are to have members of both genders), and players must be sixteen or older. Games are Thursday evenings at 6:30, and most of our games are played at home on our sand court. If you have any questions, or are interested in joining St. Mark's team, please contact Dave Stanton (657-7725, stonetown.jd@verizon.net) or Carla Briggs (cashmere16@gmail.com).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE

St. Mark's Vacation Bible School will be held August 26th, 27th, and 28th, not on the dates previously reported. We will meet from 6PM to 8PM each evening. Watch for upcoming important announcements about this exciting time of fun, fellowship, and learning. Volunteers are still needed for a variety of positions. If you would like to help, please contact Marian Person at 695-7525 or Tracey Swetnam at 671-1970. Thank you.

STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

At our April Stephen Ministers' supervision/continuing education meeting we had a very interesting and informative presentation by Mr. Dave DiSanto from Dauphin County Crisis Intervention. Crisis intervention provides emergency mental health services to those in need. We invited Mr. DiSanto to speak to us because, while Stephen Ministers are trained in distinctively Christian caregiving, we are also trained to know the limits of our training and abilities as lay caring ministers.

Mr. DiSanto informed us that Crisis Intervention is not, as sometimes thought, only a suicide prevention hotline. While their staff is trained and available to handle such life-threatening situations, they are also available to help with a wide variety of mental health issues. Of particular interest to us as Stephen Ministers was the reassurance that any contact we have with Crisis Intervention is strictly confidential, as is their work with anyone who contacts them. Mr. DiSanto assured us that we could also contact Crisis Intervention for advice and or information without divulging personal information about our care receivers. If you feel a need for help in any time of crisis, large or small, please contact Pr. Person or one of our Stephen Ministers, or you may contact Crisis Intervention directly at 232-7511.

Remember, Stephen Ministry is YOUR ministry. It is an important way we at St. Mark's care for one another. If you are going through a difficult time, consider having a Stephen Minister. If you know someone else who is facing difficulties, suggest that they request a Stephen Minister. Make use of our Stephen Ministry; it belongs to you!

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May 2009

St. Mark's Church Council

- | | |
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| Treasurer | Calvin Smith |
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| | Melissa McLaughlin |
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| | Mary Sultzaberger |
| | Tracey Swetnam |
| | Lori Ulrich |
| | Donald Young |
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| Church Secretary | Kim DiPaolo |
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