



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

85 East Main Street, Mount Kisco, New York 10549

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SEPTEMBER 2014

Dear Members and Friends of St. Marks's:

Summer and vacation times are speeding to a close. I am tempted to say: "Labor Day falls on Monday, September 1st this year, and then the deluge: back to school, back to college, back to work, and I hope, BACK TO CHURCH!" Actually, I want to thank all who were able to make summer church going a priority – our attendance numbers at both the 8 and 10 a.m. services was consistently stronger than in recent summers!

Our buildings have been the focus of much energy and activity this summer. Under the very skilled leadership of Frank Tortorello, the renovation of our boiler and heating system is well under way. Demolition, including unanticipated asbestos removal, is complete, necessary new equipment has been delivered, and the building permit now has been approved by the Village and Town of Mt. Kisco. We anticipate that construction will probably begin on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. We expect to have an operational new system working before heating season.

This year, our Welcome Back Sunday will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2014. This will include the return of the choir at the 10 a.m. service, registration for Sunday School under the leadership of Jennie Lewis, our Christian Education Director, and a Parish Brunch for all after the 10 a.m. service. Representative of several guilds, programs, and projects in the parish will be ready to share information and to invite your participation. I hope very many of you will be able to attend.

I want to thank those who were able to keep their Annual Pledges fairly current through the summer, and also those who have been able to begin payments on their Special Pledges to the Heating Renovation Project. We still need some additional pledges towards the Heating Renovation Project and any pledge payments that can be made in the near future will reduce the amount that we have to borrow temporarily from the Reserve Fund of the St. Mark's Endowment.

Yesterday, I was working in my office about 3:45 p.m. when an older couple from California walked into my office. They were on the East Coast on vacation and had made a pilgrimage to Mt. Kisco to visit St. Mark's. Some time ago, they had read Tib Sherrill's book in which St. Mark's figures quite prominently. They wanted to see the Chapel, the Resurrection window, and the red tile floor about which they had read! They reminded me of what a very holy and special place St. Mark's Church has been in so many lives – both over more than a century and in this very day and time!

I wish you all blessed new beginnings this September. Remember that it is a delight when we see you in church; but if you need pastoral care, a listening ear, or Holy Communion brought to you, all you need to do is ask!

The Rev. Bill Doubleday, Priest in Charge



22 August 2014
Chesterton, Bicester, UK

Reflections on a Musical Pilgrimage By Geoff Smith

I am writing this on the final day of a remarkable journey to Winchester and Oxfordshire, England. Seven times last week I participated in worship at Winchester Cathedral just as choristers, lay clerks, and organists have for the last 400 years, by leading the spoken and the sung word at daily Evensong, and Sunday Matins & Holy Communion—seven services in five days. I attended services on Saturday and Sunday before our residency, as a member of the congregation when the choir from the Cathedral in Boise, Idaho led the services. Seated in the choir stalls and still very much jet-lagged at 5:30 on my first Saturday afternoon, I had an epiphany the moment the choir appeared, processing through the great 19th century Choir screen. We live in a world torn by strife, hatred and oppression, yet there we were, gathering as people had gathered in that great temple for 900 years – there has to be something more to this! It was overwhelmingly, breathtakingly right that we were there, joined in an act of love, praise, thanksgiving and devotion to our Creator. There was no apology for what was done or how it was being done (BCP 1662). The language transcends the ages. It melds with the music and the space, and together they produce a confluence of spirituality, reverence and faith.

In Christ's love and peace,

Geoffrey Smith
Associate for Music

SAVE THE DATE:



**ST. FRANCIS DAY OBSERVANCE: BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2014 – 4 p.m.**

St. Francis Day, a day traditionally associated with the blessing of animals, is observed on October 4 in the Episcopal Church. On that day, St. Mark's Episcopal Church will offer the St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals.

This as a very special opportunity to acknowledge the importance of companion animals in our lives and to reach out to the wider Greater Mount Kisco community. PLEASE INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS! This is a truly an Ecumenical and Interfaith event. We will bless Jewish Cats, Moslem Birds, Anglican Dogs, Agnostic Snakes, and Spiritual, but Not Religious, Hamsters.

At the end of the Blessings, there will be a very short Service of Remembrance for Companion Animals who have died in the past year.

Location: On the circle in front of the Parish Hall

What Must I Bring: Yourself and an animal if you wish

There will be light Refreshments for Human Guests and Treats for Animals

ADULT FORUMS PLANNED FOR 2014-2015

During the **2014-2015** program year, we will experiment with a monthly Adult Education Forum in the Parish Library between the two Sunday services on the First Sunday of Each Month. We will begin at 9:10 a.m (SHARP) and we will adjourn for church-going no later than 9:50 a.m. Coffee and Tea will be available in the Parish Hall.

At this time we project the following series of events, which will generally begin with a short presentation, followed by discussion and questions:

October 5, 2014: Any Questions for Our Pastor? Let's Play Stump the Priest?

November 2, 2014: What Do Anglicans Believe about Death?

December 7, 2014: The Infancy Narratives of Jesus: How Do They Speak to Us Today?

January 4, 2015: The Worldwide Anglican Communion: What It is and What It Does

February 1, 2015: Perspectives on Science and Religion

March 1, 2015: What Do Anglicans Believe about Forgiveness?

April 5, 2015: NO FORUM – EASTER SUNDAY

May 3, 2015: What is Happening in the Episcopal Church? 2015 is a General Convention Year!

June 7, 2015: Theological Reflections on Summer and Sabbath Time



A NEW PARISH DIRECTORY

We are about to go to press on a new Parish Directory. If you have any change in your information, or are not presently included in the directory we would be happy to hear from you. We'd also love to get either an updated photo or a new pix if one is not included in the directory. You can email a digital picture to the church at: stmarkschurch@optimum.net. A working draft is on a table in the parish hall and outside the side door of the church.

***October Markings Deadline for articles;
Monday, September 22, 2014***



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE – SEPTEMBER 2014

		SEPT 7	SEPT 14	SEPT 21	SEPT 28
Altar Guild	8 am	Ruann England	Irene Linares Deb Lunn	Jill Finch	Irene Linares
	10 am	Karen Kelley	Sue Hewitt	Annette Steiner	Celeste Lynn Elizabeth Schreiner
Chalice Bearers	8 am & 10 am	Ted Raymond	Mary Lynn Windsor	Zoher Saour	Ted Raymond
Lectors	8 am	Ruann England	Kedrick Carr	Robert Niedzwiedz	Mary Ann Niedzwiedz
	10 am	Doug Catalanello	Alex Antes	Raimo Bakis	Jennifer Lewis
Ushers	8 am	Gary & Brendan Ford	Ted Raymond James Cottingham	Mary Ann & Robert Niedzwiedz	Gary & Brendan Ford
	10 am	Alex Antes Shirley Russell	Jim Hewitt Raimo Bakis	Shirley Russell Tim Ghriskey	Zoher Saour Jim Hewitt
Acolytes	10 am	Sofia Cuccia	Kathie Bannon	Neil Steiner	Kathie Bannon
Flower Guild		Shelagh Bosch Gloria Kissell Anna Stone	Grace Gibbons Rosemary Valenti	Nancy Weeks	Fran Osborne Joan Robinson Annette Steiner
Hospitality		Amanda Allen Helen Williams Eileen Marks	Ann Bakis Irene Watts Susan West	Kendle Arcidiacono Shelagh Bosch Fran Osborne	Heather Baker-Sullivan Patricia Staunton Ivette Figueroa
St. Ann's Drivers		Ann & Raimo Bakis	Vinnie Tuccillo & Dale Schweizer	Charlie Williams	Alan Guthrie



SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Participants with developmental challenges and their care-givers from throughout Northern Westchester communities attend this service. Parishioners are needed to assist. The September service is planned for Tuesday, September 23 at 7 pm. Please arrive at 6:45 pm to assist our friends to get into the church, or to help set up the refreshments in the parish hall. The event is over and all volunteers are finished before 8 pm.

You receive a lot of blessing for an hour's time! Hope to see you there!



PRAYER CORNER... from Verann England

God, You created us for fellowship with You. We are designed to walk with You and delight in Your ways. But every day, we choose not to do that. We choose to go our own way. We put up a sign on our heart: KEEP OUT.

You could just let us wander off.
You could see that sign and walk away.
But You don't.

You seek after each one of us, and You sent Your Son, Jesus, among us to call us back. Back to a full, open and loving relationship with You. Back home.

Help us turn away from ourselves and toward You. We are awestruck at this amazing fit You offer – life with You forever. It is hard to comprehend such a gift. All we can do is touch it at the edges. But where knowledge fails, faith and love succeed.

Give me faith in Your saving power. And thank You for the love that rescues me. In the name of Your Son, my Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

AMEN

Financing the St. Mark's Heating/Boiler Renovation Project

The St. Mark's Church Heating/Boiler Renovation Project is well underway. After some weeks of preparatory work, actual construction is expected to begin on September 2, 2014, and we expect to have the new system up and running for the 2014-2015 Heating Season. We are very grateful to Frank Tortorello, the Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, who is generously heading up this project.

Bill Doubleday, our Priest in Charge has been spearheading the Capital Campaign for this project. So far we have received approximately \$180,000 in pledges towards this estimated \$220,000 project. That means we still need more pledges totaling at least another \$40,000, if we are to successfully pay back our bridge loan from the Parish's Endowment Reserve Fund! The more pledges that are paid in in whole or part in 2014, the smaller that bridge loan will need to be, which in turn will reduce our income loss during the period of the loan! The generosity of the members and friends of the parish has been awesome!

So far 32 households have made pledges and either begun payments on that pledge or confirmed the pledge in writing. This is already a very impressive level of participation from the parish. A very few households have made oral pledges which have not yet been confirmed in writing or by partial payment. Several others have indicated they intend to make a pledge towards this important project which will ultimately save the church a huge amount of money on fuel and will greatly enhance the comfort and usefulness of our entire physical plant.

Clearly, we need some additional pledges for this project, whether they are \$50, \$100, \$1,000, \$3000 over three years, or more. We would appreciate written confirmations of oral pledges – either by mail, e-mail, or a note to Bill Doubleday. It is also helpful for the church to know how a pledge will be spread out over 2014, 2015, and 2016. For further information or assistance, please e-mail, call, or speak to Bill Doubleday.

billdoubleday@stmarksmtkisco.org



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MINISTRY TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

By Bill Doubleday and Jennie Lewis

This summer, our new Sunday School/Christian Education Director, Jennie Lewis, and I have been trying to imagine what sort of Christian Education programming might work for our congregation today. Jennie has been in contact with many of the families in the parish who have children, as well as talking with her own children and their friends and their parents.

We ended up identifying the fact that for some families and some children the reality is that Sunday morning no longer ever works for them – they have athletic and other commitments. We ran up a trial balloon: “What about a monthly Family and Children’s event at 5 p.m. on the fourth Saturday of the month, including a brief Eucharist, supper, and a movie or other activity.” The response was very positive and we will begin this new experiment on the fourth Saturday in September – September 27, 2014 - and on through at least the autumn of 2014.

Meanwhile, we will continue our One Room School House Sunday School – begun under the faithful leadership of Heather Baker-Sullivan last year – only on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, beginning at 10 a.m., with the children coming into church at the time of the offertory.

I will also be proposing to the Vestry that we remove some pews in the rear of the church on the south side of the building, and replace them with soft carpeting, child and parent friendly furniture, and some toys and art supplies so that whenever children are in church – whether for the whole service or part if it - there will be a safe and hospitable corner for them. This is as yet a work in progress – but we hope it can come about very soon! We will also be following up on the reported need for a changing station for parents and young children somewhere in the parish house.

We will also be looking at new ways to involve children in the liturgy. Our hope is that at least one Sunday a month we will see children and young people ushering, reading lessons, collecting and presenting the offerings, and serving as acolytes. This will take a period of recruitment and training, but is clearly one of our goals. If you or your children are interested in this kind of involvement, please let us know.

Like last year, we plan to create several opportunities for children to work with our Organist and Choirmaster, Geoff Smith, and members of the Choir, in preparing to share their singing or their instrumental musical gifts.

We recognize that we live in an increasingly digital age in which electronic communication of various kinds are a part of the lives of both adults and children. We are investigating some sort of electronic educational resource that could be sent to parish children, even if they are not able to attend regularly. When we have zeroed in the right resource, we will share it with parents and seek permission to send it to the parents or to the children themselves.

We would add that we are looking for three or four adults who might be willing to contribute one or two Sunday mornings in each semester to staffing or leading the One Room School Sunday School on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. If you have gifts with story-telling, arts and crafts projects, music, or other age-appropriate activities we would love to hear from you!

We recognize that we are presently dealing with a small number of children. Our hope is that some of these new initiatives will make it more possible for adults and children to find welcome, nurture, and spiritual formation at St. Mark’s in the months and years ahead. We welcome your ideas, feedback, and consumer reports at any time!

COULD YOU HELP WITH WORSHIP AT ST. MARK'S?

Over the years, St. Mark's has been blessed by a wide array of adults and teenagers who have contributed to the worship life of our parish. It is time to refresh and renew the ranks of various guilds and activities in the parish. Here are some of the areas where we need help:

MUSIC:

If you would like to sing in the Choir, regularly, or for special occasions, please speak to Geoff Smith, the Organist and Choirmaster. If you have an instrumental gift which you would like to share, he would also be pleased to hear from you!

LECTORS:

Would you like to be trained to read the Scriptures at Services and become a Lector? Speak to Father Bill Doubleday.

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND VISITORS:

Would you like to be trained and licensed to administer the chalice at the Eucharist and/or to take Holy Communion to the Sick or to Shut-Ins, please speak to Father Bill Doubleday

CRUCIFERS AND ACOLYTES

We would welcome both Adults and Teenagers who would like to learn to carry crosses and candles in procession and to assist with the setting of the Altar. Please speak to Don Ford, the Verger, or to Father Doubleday.

ALTAR GUILD

We need more people to assist with the preparation of the altar, with the clean-up after services, and with the care of the church's holy things. Though traditionally a ministry of women, men may also volunteer! Please speak to Irene Linares, Sue Hewitt, or Karen Kelley for more information.

FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild is responsible for the arrangement and care of flowers and for the decoration of the church for Christmas and Easter. Please speak to Shelagh Bosch if you are interested in the Flower Guild.

USHERS

The Ushers welcome worshippers, distribute bulletins, take up the collection, count the congregation, pick up after services, and assist with the processing of the offerings after services. Please speak to Alex Antes if you would like to be trained to be an Usher.

BELL RINGING

The Bell Ringers ring the church bells at the end of the service and on special occasions. Please speak to Vinnie Tuccillo or Dale Schweizer to learn how to become a Bell Ringer.

SEE SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE HERE AT ST. MARK'S WITH WHICH YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP?

Speak To Father Bill Doubleday.

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PARISH LIFE CALENDAR ~ SEPTEMBER 2014**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church office Closed in observance of Labor Day	2	3 Holy Eucharist 6:45 am	4 Church office closed	5 Church office closed 7:00 -9:00 PM House of Prayer	6
7 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm House of Prayer	8	9 7:00 Officer's Meeting	10 Holy Eucharist 6:45 am	11	12 7:00 -9:00 PM House of Prayer	13
14 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm House of Prayer	15 7:30 Vestry Meeting	16	17 Holy Eucharist 6:45 am	18	19 7:00 -9:00 PM House of Prayer	20
21 Welcome Back Sunday Brunch Choir Returns 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm House of Prayer	22	23 Special Service 7:00 pm	24 Holy Eucharist 6:45 am	25	26 7:00 -9:00 PM House of Prayer	27 Family Service Supper & Program 5 pm
28 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm House of Prayer	29	30				

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PARISH LIFE CALENDAR ~October 2014**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Holy Eucharist 6:45 am	2	3 Church office closed 7:00 -9:00 PM House of Prayer	4 St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals 4 pm
5 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm House of Prayer	6	7	8 Holy Eucharist 6:45 am	9	10 7:00 -9:00 PM House of Prayer	11
12 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm House of Prayer	13 Office closed in observance of Columbus Day	14 Officer's Meeting 7:00 pm	15 Holy Eucharist 6:45 am	16	17 7:00 -9:00 PM House of Prayer	18
19 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm House of Prayer	20 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm	21 Family Services Volunteer luncheon 11-12:30 pm	22 Holy Eucharist 6:45 am	23	24 7:00 -9:00 PM House of Prayer	25 Family Service Supper & Program 5 pm
26 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm House of Prayer	27	28 Special Service 7:00 pm	29 Holy Eucharist 6:45 am	30	31 7:00 -9:00 PM House of Prayer	

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend William A. Doubleday, Priest in Charge
Geoffrey Smith, Music Director Misael Enamorado, Sexton
Jeanne Goldberg, Parish Secretary Jim Terhune, Financial Administrator
Jennifer Lewis, Director of the Sunday School

WEEKDAY SERVICES AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

6:45 AM Wednesday - Holy Eucharist
Additional services and events as announced

Our Parish website is: stmarksmtkisco.org
Our parish Facebook Page is: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mt. Kisco, NY
The Priest in Charge may be contacted at billdoubleday@stmarksmtkisco.org
The Parish Secretary may be contacted at stmarkschurch@optimum.net
The Director of Music may be contacted at geoffsmith@stmarksmtkisco.org
The Director of the Sunday School may be contacted at jlewis@burke.org

OUTSIDE GROUPS MEETING WEEKLY AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

ESL Classes: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9 am to 12 Noon

Al-Anon: Thursdays: 7 pm

Special Needs Yoga: Monday: 6 pm to 7 pm

VESTRY MEMBERS

Stella Terhune, Churchwarden
Kedrick Carr
Karen Kelley, Clerk of Vestry
Chris Meyer
Robert Niedzwiedz

Eileen Marks, Churchwarden
Fran Osborne
Elizabeth Schreiner
Annette Steiner
Frank Tortorello
Vinnie Tuccillo

Timothy Ghriskey, Treasurer

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