

St. Marks Episcopal Church  
*Called into community to do God's work.*

August 6, 2021

# BETWEEN THE LIONS

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- Cheryl Dunnington - Clerk
- Eric Bridgham
- Lisa Conroy
- Tracey DeLeskey
- Tina Shinnick
- Christine Smith
- Rebekah Zabinski

**Office Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

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**Pastoral Care:** If you or anyone you know is in need of help please call or email Father Ed at [priest@stmarksfx.org](mailto:priest@stmarksfx.org) 508 261 4066 or Pat Dent at [pjdent@verizon.net](mailto:pjdent@verizon.net) 508 404 6550.

Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday, as I was closing up the church, I noticed a group gathering in our common room. They were discussing youth and family formation--I couldn't be more pleased or proud. First, I am excited that we are going to be trying out new things in the fall to be supportive to our families. Second, this group represents a renewed energy and focus among the parish to deepen our commitment to live into the mission, vision and values that we approved a couple of years ago to bring both stability and growth to St. Mark's. I am so grateful to the various groups that have brought us a new database, a new website, improved streaming, revitalized offices and gathering spaces, new memorial garden landscaping plans, a plan for a regathering and the list goes on and on. If you haven't looked at our website lately--please check it out at stmarksfx.org. If you are on Facebook--but haven't liked our community page--please do so. And by all means--if you have thought about getting more deeply involved in the parish--this would be an excellent moment to do so. Every week there is some chance to help out the parish--so be on the lookout for such opportunities in the weekly bulletin and reach out to the contact group for that ministry or activity.

In closing, a number of you are asking about the impact of the rise in COVID cases and hospitalizations, and I wanted to affirm a few of things.

\*Masks cut down on transmission. I will be wearing a mask again beginning on Sunday. Until we have directives from our re-gathering committee and diocese, I encourage you to wear a mask as well, even if you are vaccinated.

\*\*We will continue to ventilate the sanctuary--including opening all windows and circulating air through the use of fans--and I encourage spreading out in the space by using the side seating. This might be the perfect time to sit in a new spot with a new view.

\*\*\*The sign of peace will be passed by bow or wave.

\*\*\*\*It may make sense for some of our parishioners to solely or primarily connect with St. Mark's via the live stream--this is a valid way of celebrating and honoring Sunday. Do what you need to do to make yourself safe and comfortable--you have my blessing and support. If you desire to receive the Eucharist in person--I am happy to make arrangements for you to receive communion either by picking up consecrated bread or by receiving outside after the service.

\*\*\*\*\*Vaccinations save lives. If you haven't gotten one, please pray on it.

With peace,  
 Fr. Ed



*Youth Music Ministry*

**Join us for our First Youth Music Sunday Service**  
**This Sunday, August 8th**

Featuring worship songs that are NOT part of our hymnals and will be simple, catchy and (most importantly) FUN for all ages to sing!

*Sunday, August 8th*

# Ministry Spotlight

## Music at St. Mark's

Music at St Mark's has a long and strong tradition. The music director's office holds a collection of hundreds of Choir Anthems, Bell Choir pieces and books of sacred music spanning almost 100 years! For our regular Sunday Services we currently rely on the Hymnal 1982, Wonder Love and Praise and Lift Every Voice and Sing II. St Mark's holds a current license to print pieces in our weekly bulletin to make participating in service music as easy as possible. During the regular year the Senior Choir joins our music minister to lead our hymns in four part harmony and regularly prepares an anthem to perform during communion. Occasionally our Bell Choir performs a prepared anthem, and beginning in August, once a month our Youth Music Ministry will take over the music platform to lead in catchy and easy to sing worship music. We love to have as many people participate as possible, which is why all our groups are non-committal. You do not have to commit to participating every Sunday, just on the Sundays and rehearsals that you can attend. Music is a great way to both participate in service and give back to our fellow parishioners. Anyone who is interested in joining any of our music ministries can email the office or talk to our music minister, Esther Zabinski.

### Senior Choir

After many months of a COVID ban on singing indoors, and a delightful summer of getting out and having fun, the senior choir is ready to come back to sing our favorite hymns and anthems on Sunday mornings. Anyone is invited to join us again, simply talk to Esther or send an email to the office letting them know you are interested! All voice types and experiences are welcome and encouraged to join. Senior Choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 in the choir room (downstairs) at St Mark's. We sing most Sunday mornings at the 9:30 service, meeting at 9:00 to warmup and robe. This is NON-COMMITTAL, you do not need to come to all rehearsals or be present for all services to join the choir. Send an email to the office or speak to Esther after service if you have questions or are ready to join.

### Bell Choir

The Bell Choir is looking for new talent! We are very grateful for the youth that have joined us over the years, but many of them have gone off to college and we need to refill our ranks. We are an established bell choir so those who would like to join would be more comfortable if they know how to read music. You don't have to be able to play, but at least be able to follow along in a music score. You do NOT need any experience actually playing the bells, we can teach you that part. If you are interested in playing in the bell choir but don't know how to read music, please talk with Esther. We would be happy to start a beginner bells group if there is enough interest. Rehearsals are not set yet since we don't know who might be able to join us. If you are interested in joining the bell choir, or know someone who is, please send an email to the office or talk to Esther after the Sunday Service.





### **Introducing a new ministry at St Marks: Youth Music Ministry!**

On the 3rd Sunday of the each month youth of the parish will have an opportunity to participate in providing the music for Sunday morning services. Drawing from her extensive experience as a church musician (beginning when she was in 1st grade), Esther has planned worship songs that are NOT part of our hymnals and will be simple, catchy and (most importantly) FUN to sing!

We know that families are very busy and it's difficult to commit to joining another music group for rehearsals and performances. Which is why this is NON-COMMITTAL. Teaching videos will be posted in the weeks prior to the schedule Youth Music Sunday on our website (<https://www.stmarksfx.org/youth-music-ministry.html>) so families can get to know the songs in their time and space.

On Youth Music Sunday, simply come to church a half hour before service to meet in the music room and go over the songs. Then youth can join us on the music platform to experience services from a different perspective, sit with their friends and sing their hearts out! Use the QR code to preview the songs for this week's service. Upcoming Youth Music Sundays will be August 8 (this Sunday!), September 19, October 17, and November 21. We hope you will join us for one, two or several of these services!

### **BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**



### **Backpacks and School Supply Drive Continues!**

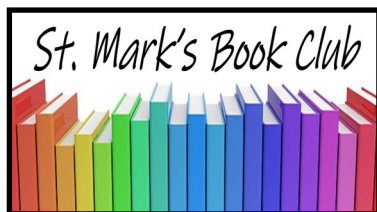
We continue to be overwhelmed with the generosity of our parishioners as we collect school supplies to support the The Foxboro Discretionary Fund's Fresh Start Program. We will be wrapping up our drive in a couple of weeks, so as you head out for your own back to school shopping, please take a moment to pick up something for those less fortunate.

The items most needed are:

- **New, full sized backpacks**
- **Ear buds (wired, not wireless)**
- **3 hole punched folders**
- **binders (any size)**
- **Highlighters**

Many stores have begun their Back to School sales, so keep an eye out for an opportunity to take advantage of discounts on these items. We have placed a large red and black waterproof box near the front door of the church for collection of your donations. Please contribute to this annual appeal as generously as you can!

***Many thanks!***



The Book Club recently ventured to Deb Burke's house on the cape and enjoyed an afternoon of fun and fellowship! Our next meeting is September 9th, and we are currently choosing

the books we will be reading for the fall. Please email Katherine at [kwharton9@gmail.com](mailto:kwharton9@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the Book Club email list and for more info and questions.

*Pictured: Tina Shinnick, Joanna Eva, Deb Burke, Ellen White, Verda Larson, and Sylvia Forster*



*Between the Lions* is a bi-weekly newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Foxboro. If you would like to submit an announcement or information, please email [office@stmarksfx.org](mailto:office@stmarksfx.org). Deadline for submission is the Tuesday before the Friday distribution.