



St. Marks Episcopal Church

Called into community to do God's work.

June 11, 2021

BETWEEN THE LIONS

**Let them exalt God in the congregation of the people
and praise God in the council of the elders.**

Psalm 107, Verse 32

Can you feel it? That sense, emotion or experience--that while things may not be going back entirely to the way they were--we are indeed making inroads to former patterns and practices which give us comfort, delight and solace. It happened to me a couple of weeks ago when Al and I went shopping together for the first time in fifteen months and did so without masks. It happened again when we gathered for my sister's 70th birthday party--and my family laughed, hugged and cried at being apart for so long--and we all marveled at how much growing and maturing my grandnieces and grandnephews had gone through in this time apart.

I am sure you have had your own experiences of emerging out of the COVID-19 bubble. For the some, the emergence has been swift. For others, it has been slower with some hesitation and caution. And yet for others, it has not yet happened--anxiety and worry remain. Wherever you are on this journey--we (the clergy, the vestry and the pastoral care coordinator) are here to support you and help. Most of all, we want you to be patient with yourself and with others. This includes coming to church when it feels right for you. It means wearing a mask if that keeps you safe and healthy. It means continuing to access services online if that is what feels like the best choice for you.

For those who are ready--we are about to have another experience together on Sunday, June 13th--that of physically gathering as a church community--without any need for reservations, or caps of attendance, prohibitions on singing or mandated masks. As Psalm 107, it will be a time to exalt God in the congregation of the gathered people. I am so looking forward to it--and being able to see all of you. I have missed seeing you from week to week. While there will be some adaptations and changes--the pattern of in-person prayer and structure will be familiar and, I pray, comforting to us as we try to make sense of all that has happened in our time physically apart.

I am holding many questions: How will this all work out? What has changed? What has remained? What is new? What are the impacts of us not gathering physically gathered together? Who is new among us? How do we use technology to continue of presence on the web as a sanctuary for those who aren't able to come in person? How shall we pick up and move together with Christ to our next tasks of ministry together?

Lots of questions, I know, and still I have more. I am sure you do as well. I believe if we are patient, sensitive, nimble and flexible in these initial weeks of re-gathering--we will begin to get the answers to some of these questions and we can launch one of our strongest programmatic years in the fall of 2021.

You can see from this re-launch of Between the Lions--that we will begin to restore some of the older patterns of communications to keep the parish informed of the various ways we are ministering. I would encourage you to be a part of this effort by writing and sharing pieces with us--we expect to circulate Between the Lion twice a month.

It will be good to be together on June 13th--if you are unable to come in person--please join us online at 10 am. We will be celebrating our high school graduates!

Looking forward to the emergence and re-gathering,

Fr. Ed

Message from the Wardens

We are so excited to be welcoming everyone back to in-person services this Sunday, June 13! As we regather, we would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has contributed to keeping us connected and engaged during the last 15 months -- the Vestry, Compassion Circle Leaders, Community Engagement Team, Pastoral Care Team, Outreach Committee, Altar Guild, Lectors, Cantors, Tech Team, ReGathering Committee, Finance Committee, Confirmation Class and Leaders, our tireless staff – Fr. Ed, Jess, Scott and Esther, everyone who helped with Clean Up Days, and all those who stepped up in big and small ways to help us pivot through this everchanging time. And a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has so generously donated money, food, gift cards, laundry detergent and so much more to support and uplift those in need in our community and beyond. We have persevered and in many ways thrived thanks to your support!

We look forward to returning to full activity in the coming months. There will be many opportunities to join us as we continue to live into our vision, and we will be highlighting these opportunities in the coming weeks and months.

We currently have two opportunities where we are seeking leadership.

1. **Treasurer** – Russ Montal is approaching the end of his term as Treasurer, so we are looking for someone to take his place. This position is a member of the Vestry and the Vestry Executive Committee and oversees the finances of the parish, working closely with the Finance Committee.
2. **Property Committee Chair and Members** – We are seeking several people to join us as stewards of our property. Duties include coordinating improvement projects, scheduling seasonal grounds cleanups, maintaining annual contracts and inspections, and responding to emerging situations. The Property Committee Chair and members work with the Vestry to recommend, prioritize, and coordinate projects and activities.

Each of these areas are critical to the efficient and effective running of the church. If you feel called to either of these opportunities, please contact Fr. Ed or one of the wardens for more information.

Thank you again for continuing to make St. Mark's a welcoming and engaged community. Please feel free to reach out to either of us with any questions or concerns.

Amy Van Dell – javandell@verizon.net and Melissa Read – mread2010@verizon.net



What to Expect This Sunday, June 13th for our Outdoor 10am Service

On June 13, 2021 at 10 am--we will be re-gathering in person for outside worship. Please join in as we begin the process of being physically present to one another as church. For those who are away for the summer, please put September 12, 2021 as the day when we will launch our fall programs. We hope to move back into the sanctuary in a safe, slow and unified manner.

- Please bring a chair, limited seating will be available for those who are not physically able to bring one
- Masks are optional outside and mandatory inside (for Sanctuary visits, and restrooms will be open)
- Singing will be allowed and encouraged
- No reservations necessary
- Service will still be streamed online

We look forward to once again coming together in worship!

Memorial Service for Bill Jobin

The Jobin family invites you to join them for the spreading of the ashes in the Memorial Garden of St Mark's Church, on Saturday June 12 at 2 pm, immediately followed by stories, music, and remembrances of Bill's life, plus light refreshments. Masks are encouraged for those who have not been vaccinated, and masks are required to enter the church building.

Call for Volunteers!



St. Mark's Tech Team is looking for creative people of any age to help us implement our new communications strategy. If you are familiar with Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, webcasting, graphic design, photography or marketing and would like to help improve St. Mark's digital presence, please contact Eric Bridgman ASAP at eric@bridgman.com

What's new with Outreach?

This week is SECOND SOAP SUNDAY!!



Each month St. Mark's Outreach Committee and volunteers help **One Family** gather household goods for local families in need. St. Mark's is tasked with gathering the laundry detergent. Please help up do our part to distribute household goods to families in need. (*Bottles can be purchased at the Dollar Store and can be left in the plastic tote outside the main doors of the church.*) If you would like to be involved with this ministry and join the Outreach Committee, please contact Hayden Hawthorne – hhawth@aol.com

Outreach thanks you for your donations and your support!

One Family, A Mission of Unity is a collaborative ministry of five Episcopal parishes in the Attleboro area: All Saints' Episcopal Church, Attleboro; Trinity Episcopal Church, Bridgewater; St. John's Episcopal Church, Franklin; St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Foxboro; Trinity Episcopal Church, Wrentham

Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Ministry is responsible for providing and organizing:

- Eucharistic Visitors who are trained to bring communion to homes, hospitals, and nursing care facilities
- Meals for parishioners during health or family emergencies
- Help with collations after funerals of parishioners
- Cards to celebrate the joys and to acknowledge the sorrows of life

During the challenges caused by COVID 19, we have had car parades, made telephone calls, sent cards and notes, and stood on South Street to say a final goodbye to loved ones. Members of our parish have also had health concerns and we have provided meals and support as needed.

We are deeply grateful for the many of you who are always willing to provide meals. If you would like to join us in this effort, we would welcome your help. If you or anyone you know is in need of help please call or email Father Ed at priest@stmarksfx.org or 508 543 8191 or Pat Dent at pjdent@verizon.net or 508 404 6550.

Memorial Garden Landscaping Committee

With the near completion of the new house abutting our *Memorial Garden*, this new committee has been established by the Vestry to begin developing plans to design a natural screen of evergreen plants along the property line St. Mark's shares with this house.

At our first meeting we met in the Memorial Garden to get a sense of what kinds of plants would best form a natural, low maintenance boundary screen, one that over time will provide dense foliage that will help us maintain the sense of privacy and meditative prayer we experienced there when the adjacent property was thickly treed. Our recommendations will be presented to the Vestry for its approval and our goal is to begin planting in the fall.

Janet Pineault, Chair

Tony Camelio, Diane Bryant, Judy Hartwell

Faith and Spirituality RETREAT

Scheduled, Postponed and now Re-scheduled!

The third time is supposed to be a charm so we are hoping that this third scheduling for our retreat at St. Margaret's in Duxbury will be a date we can keep. As originally planned, we have two buildings reserved, the Farmhouse for men and St. Marina's for women.

Save the date - APRIL 22-24, 2022, FRIDAY through SUNDAY.

Now that we can begin meeting again, the *Faith and Spirituality Committee* will gather in the early fall to plan the details. Please watch ***Between the Lions*** for additional information.

Janet Pineault, Joanna Eva, Ellen White, Pat Penza, Bob Petitti

Prayer Shawl Ministry



During our time away due to COVID 19 our Prayer Shawl Ministry group has continued to meet on Thursday nights via Zoom. We welcome knitters of all level of experience, or who want to learn to knit, to join us. It will be easier to help new knitters when we can gather together in person and hope many will join us. We have continued to make prayer and baptismal shawls; hats, mittens, and scarves for the Giving Tree; and are now making prayer scarves for high school graduates. This is a fun-loving group who would welcome all to join us as we lovingly knit our prayers into shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves for those who will receive them. For more information contact Pat Dent at 508-404-6550 or pjdent@verizon.net



***Rediscover
The New Trading Post***

**Wednesday through Saturday
11am to 2pm**

After a challenging 2020, the New Trading Post has reopened, and many of our volunteers have returned as we continue to offer our community an amazing place to find bargains while serving the mission of St. Mark's.

Stop by and check out our selection of premium brand and everyday women's clothing, classic and trendy fashion jewelry, Men's and children's summer clothing and an eclectic collection of collectibles, housewares and decorative items.

Consignments and donations are accepted anytime. Call us to make an appointment 508-543-5191

***You never know what you will find at The New Trading Post!
Stop by this week and say hello!***