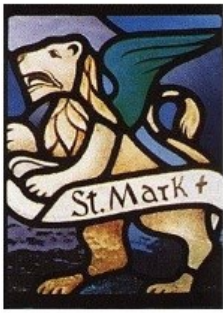


July 23, 2021

St. Marks Episcopal Church

Called into community to do God's work.

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 508 261 4066 or Pat Dent at pjdent@verizon.net 508 404 6550.

"Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"
John 6:1

As the multitudes descended upon Jesus, his first instinct was to offer hospitality--to feed them physically and to nourish them spiritually. The question above from John 6 verse 1 is asked of Philip by Jesus. John the Evangelist is quick to point out that Jesus asked this question to "test" Philip. And that may very well be the case--but I also do wonder if Jesus is slightly stumped and is struggling with how exactly to proceed.

This leads me to my own question: Can we make space in our lives where the fully divine and fully human Jesus is stumped and struggles (after all that is such a human trait--not at all sinful--and as such Jesus must have experienced such realities or he would be less than human rather than fully human).

As we awake from the more isolated measures of Covidtime, it isn't unusual for some of us to feel overwhelmed and to struggle with social interactions and groups. One person recently related that it feels like time itself was stolen from them--and that fitting back in, catching up, picking relationships back up is utterly exhausting even though it often comes with such joy. That comment reminded me of returning to school after a particularly difficult bout of chicken pox in fifth grade. When I returned my desk was quarantined to the back of the room--my classmates had moved on and I now had to figure out how to catch up and immerse myself back into the class. It took time. It required patience on everyone's part. It required work and real struggle. But I eventually got to where I needed to be.

Jesus and the disciples also got to where they needed to be. Whether it was a test and Jesus knew all along how it was going to work out or whether the divine and human nature worked hand and hand, in real time, to bring about the desired outcome; doesn't so much matter to me. The lesson is to persist, to show up with grace and allow the awesomeness of God to work through you and others...if we do this...all will be well.

Fr. Ed

Join us for the Sacrament of the Sick Sunday, July 25th



Many of us have endured and continue to experience physical and emotional challenges, sickness, and loss over the last 18 months. To lift these struggles up and offer an opportunity to receive a special sacrament, Fr. Ed will be administering the Sacrament of the Sick following the Sunday Service.

We invite those who are feeling the burdens of illness, depression, and depletion, or are caring for loved ones who are ill, to join us and receive God's healing along with the support and compassion of our faith community.

Ministry Spotlight

Youth Engagement

The Youth Engagement Program provides religious education and service opportunities for our youth. Youth from Pre-K to high school are welcome throughout the year and new parishioners are invited to observe the classrooms and the curriculum.

Catechesis 1 (Pre-K and K)

This class uses the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-based program. The goal of this class is “To know and love Jesus”. Using parables, altar materials, and life experiences, the children who Jesus is and how we make the connections between Him and the church liturgy.

Catechesis II (Grades 1, 2)

Continuing the work from Catechesis, this class is working towards their Solemn Celebration of the Holy Communion in grade 2. Their instruction includes studying the books of the Bible, the Timeline of the History of the Kingdom of God, and the gestures of the liturgy service.

Older Youth

We are currently discerning the programs to be offered and would love your input! Traditionally, Grades 3, 4, and 5 and 6, 7, and 8 have had classroom instruction with older youth participating in Confirmation preparation.

Childcare

Many of our older students have volunteered for child care during the Sunday service which allows the parents of young children to attend the service knowing their children are engaged.

The future of St. Mark's Youth and Family Programs needs your help!

The Youth Engagement Committee is seeking volunteers to help organize education and a variety of other activities for our youth. From Faith Formation (aka Religious Ed) to ministry engagement activities, we are seeking adult volunteers to teach, lead and play! No previous experience or extensive knowledge of Episcopalian Doctrine is required - just a desire to help kids learn that God loves them no matter what. Work with a team of other adults who are here to support both one another and St. Mark's amazing youth! For more information or to volunteer please contact Rebekah Zabinski at rebekah@zabinskimusicstudio.com.

Help Us Update Our Youth Info Database!



We are updating our demographics for Sunday school religious instruction! If you have a child or children ages 3 years through high school, please follow the QR Code and fill in the accompanying form or you can visit <https://stmarksfx.breezechms.com/form/3d8e9b>

We plan to offer programming for ages 3yrs- 2nd grade; Grades 3-5; Grades 6-8; High school (Confirmation). Please respond by August 1.

Email office@stmarks.org with any questions. Keep a lookout for a Summer Youth and Family Get Together—coming soon!

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Backpacks and School Supply Donations Needed!

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Annual Summer School Supply Collection so far. ***IT'S NOT TOO LATE*** to add your donations for the Foxboro Discretionary Fund Fresh Start Program. The items collected will be distributed in mid to late August to students in need. The items most needed are:

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

Target, Walmart and Staples offer weekly bargains on school supplies, so keep an eye out for discounts on these items. A large red and black waterproof box is near the front door of the church for collection of your donations. Please contribute to this annual appeal and help area youth start the school year on a great note!
Many thanks!



CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS — LET'S CLEAR BRUSH!

It's time to tackle the last grounds clean-up of the summer. Let's make our side yard, sloping down to the Memorial Garden, look as good as the rest of our church property. Join our crew and bring your rakes and clippers and hand saws to clear the brush and small 'volunteer' trees in this area. This is a GREAT way for our high school students to earn community service hours and beef up that college resume! Please RSVP by calling or emailing Janet Pineault, 508-543-6252 or jpineault@comcast.net



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. Deadline for submission is the Tuesday before the Friday distribution.