

St. Mark's messenger

September 2009
ten (nine)

From the **RECTOR**

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell

How often do you push the edges? Children do it all the time. They are continually pushing the boundaries – physically, mentally, sometimes emotionally. Parents experience this constantly. As we grow older many of us lose that desire to push the edges of life. We settle into a place that is comfortable, safe, familiar. We do not like to be stressed out about the parts of life that we can control since there is so much potential for stress in places we can not control. This is definitely true of me. I figure there is enough stress in everyday life that why would I add some.

These thoughts were going through my head as Daniel and I left our house on that Sunday afternoon to drive to Anaheim. We were hoping to reach the Anaheim Convention Center by Wednesday afternoon which meant 3 days of hard driving followed by 2 days of intense planning followed by 10 or 11 days of riding our bikes day and night. Who needs that kind of stress? Most people thought that we were crazy for even trying to ride across the country in 10 days. At the same time, it felt like a challenge that I wanted to take. It would be pushing all kinds of edges for me. It invited me to find out how far I

could go. It turns out the answer to that question is pretty far.

We left Anaheim on our bikes on Friday, July 17 at 5:45 pm to begin our journey to New York City. The first 12 hours went very well with teams of 2 riders taking 6 hour shifts. We had put some serious miles behind us by 6:00 am on Saturday. That was when Daniel and I took our first shift riding. It was already 92° when Daniel got on his bike. After about an hour, I took my turn and the temperature had climbed above 100°. Three hours later we had both been climbing uphill for several hours and were completely exhausted, overheated and wondering how we were going to get through the desert. Finally, we could go no further and the next team took over. The temperature topped out at 120° that day and we all had to stop riding. We had all found an edge beyond which we could not pass.

As it is with our physical lives, our spiritual lives are no different. It is good for us to push the edges, to ask hard questions, to seek the answers, to not let God or one another off the hook. It stretches us, invites us to grow and leads us into new places just like the desert.

Where do you need to push an edge right now? What is God inviting you to learn? I now understand why the desert is so often used as a metaphor when one is searching and pushing edges. It is clearly the place to do so.

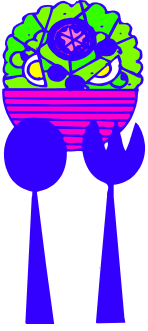
Blessings,

Kelly

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

St. Mark's ECW will meet **Wednesday, September 9** at 12:30 pm in the Schilling Room. All are welcome. Please bring a lunch. Business will begin at 1:00 pm..



Please continue to save your cancelled postage stamps to benefit Heifer Project, International. When cutting them off envelopes, leave at least ¼ in paper around the edges. This prevents damage. Just place them in the basket next to the drinking fountain in the parish house. Church Women United collects stamps from many area churches for volunteers who prepare the stamps for sale to a dealer. The money earned is donated to Heifer Project.

Toledo Deanery ECW will meet on **Monday, September 21**, at Side Cut Metropark - Island View Area, River Rd. Please bring a sandwich. Beverages & dessert provided.

TOO EASY TO DISAPPEAR

This summer, I had an unplanned but eye-opening experience. Work's been a little rough the past few months, and I needed to slow down. In church-terms, that meant attending 8:00 am service instead of 10:30 am. After five or six weeks of attending the earlier service, I realized that I could count on one hand the number of folks who checked in with an email, call, or Facebook message. That made me wonder, how many people stop attending Sunday services - either a deliberate decision or not - and never come back because no one missed them? We do a great job at making people feel welcome, but I'm really not sure about letting folks know we miss them when we haven't seen them in a while.

I invite you to look around on Sunday mornings. Who's been missing for more than a week? Take some time that week to send them a note or email, or give them a call.

Here's what doesn't count: (1) mentioning to Kelly that you haven't seen so-and-so in a while, (2) talking to folks at coffee hour about so-and-so not being here in a while, and (3) learning that so-and-so isn't at church because of X, Y, or Z, but he/she's okay. You may be expressing interest and concern for so-and-so, but if you don't let that person know that you miss them, the concern is for naught. We can't assume that someone else will make the contact; we each need to take it upon ourselves to reach out. If you need help with contact information, check with the church office.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 3 – Choir Rehearsal
September 20– Congregational Meeting
September 21– ECW meeting
September 27 – Community Meal

LOOKING AHEAD to October

October 25 – Community Meal

PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY

When the phrase “passionate spirituality” surfaced at St. Mark’s my mental ‘knee jerk’ response conjured images of ‘come to Jesus’ events. I couldn’t imagine an Episcopal tent meeting although I expect John Wesley, who was originally Anglican, pulled it off. Having been raised a Methodist with a father who, for a time, was assistant to the General Secretary of Evangelism of the entire Methodist Church; I was familiar with altar calls and other evangelistic church programming and experiences.

Time has given me the realization that passionate spirituality is a concept encouraging Episcopalians to open up with each other; sharing life’s struggles and experiences and developing support for and growth with one another. St. Mark’s is not an exception. How much do you really know about the persons worshipping with you on Sunday morning?

Bishop Mark, in his sermon at St. Mark’s, referred to Episcopalians as a “messy lot.” The recent church conference displayed the divergent ideals and opinions within the Episcopal Church. It also demonstrated the church’s willingness to accept and share this diversity with the world rather than whitewashing and concealment.

Despite our differences, St. Mark’s stands as a non-judgmental refuge from our daily lives, I know, following my recent health crisis, that not until I was able to return to our worship space and experience the enveloping warmth of our congregation was I truly able to regain the strength needed for healing. This was in spite of the care and support of my medical team, David, Kelly, my family, friends and my personal faith.

Do I expect that God or St. Mark’s will solve all my personal struggles? No. I do, however, expect that St. Mark’s will provide a much needed basis for coping and growth. It is imperative for us to share this experience with one another and with those outside of the church if we wish to achieve future growth.

Thank you, St. Mark’s, for being a part of my life.

Wayne North

SMALL GROUPS UPDATE

Summer has a way of flying by, and fall is here before we know it! We are still moving ahead with small groups, though we won’t be starting the week of September 13 as planned. We will let you know as soon as we have a firm date. Thanks for your patience!

OUTREACH

The September Community meal is on September 27th. St. Michael’s will be coming to help us cook and serve.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who made the celebration of my 10th ordination anniversary so special. It was wonderful to have it remembered. The shirts are great. Kelly

MUSIC NEWS

Welcome back! It's been a wonderfully restful summer in some ways and a very busy one in others. Andrew and I had a lovely visit with friends and family in Los Angeles, but then it was back to work for both of us. We still had plenty of time for visits from friends from Maine, California and Pennsylvania.

It's time for choir to start back up! Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday, September 3rd at 7:30pm. Our first Sunday in worship will be on Startup Sunday which is September 13th. We are in need of singers in all sections - several of our singers have moved on over the summer and we are looking for new singers to help us as we lead our worship. Short term commitments are fine - the first short term block of time takes us to All Saints Sunday, which is November 1st.

Any questions? Please give Christina a call at home (419) 353-2731.

Can't wait to make music with you again!

Christina

RESIGNATION

Dear Friends,

I am writing to tell you that I will not be returning to St. Mark's this upcoming September. As many of you know my life seems to be ever changing and I have found myself steadily moving towards standing at a chalk board teaching rather than sitting at a piano teaching.

In order to best explain my thoughts I take you to the labyrinth on the third floor in St. Mark's. As I was painting Noah's Ark one evening something pushed me to leave my acrylic paints and enter the once empty room. In need of some guidance, I decided to walk the labyrinth in hopes to calm my thoughts and help me continue on my journey of painting.

If you have ever walked the labyrinth you know that you must walk slowly or else the lines blend together and you feel sea sick or that you have gone the wrong way. In the beginning you stay very near to the entrance, moving quickly towards what you think is the end. It brings you close to the end and keeps you even closer to your beginning, never taking you away from your comfort zone. It then unexpectedly throws you across the labyrinth to an untouched path. It is so sudden that you retrace your steps to make sure you did indeed follow the correct path. A few strides later, you are heading home free.

As this change is a part of my path, I must keep faith and walk it.

I am confident that St. Mark's will continue to grow in children's music and in children's ministry. I am thankful for all your kind words and support this past year.

Sincerely,
Krissy Green



If you have any questions or suggestions about St. Mark's, please feel welcome to contact one of our vestry members:

- Bob Morris, Sr. Warden ~ 419-320-0728 ~ rem766662@yahoo.com
Jessica Datta, Jr. Warden ~ 419-861-0944 ~ dattas@buckeye-express.com
Diane Polishuk, Clerk ~ 419-861-0369 ~ dmariopr77@sbcglobal.net
Karen Cornwell ~ 419-861-3932 ~ kcornwell@hotmail.com
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Terry Kahler ~ 419-382-5090 ~ drkahler@sbcglobal.net
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Larry Scharf ~ 419-824-7823 ~ heidiandhans@hotmail.com
Bill Wray ~ 419-729-9312
Lourdes Santiago ~ 419-843-2010 ~ losamil101849@aol.com
David Bingham ~ 419-386-9991 ~ nursebingham59@aol.com
Ted Ligibel ~ 734-854-7990 ~ tedlig@verizon.net
- Vestry meetings are usually the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, except July and August, when meetings are cancelled.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Still collecting school supplies for Glenwood School! If you would like to contribute, Karen Cornwell is accepting donations or supplies.

ST. MARK'S MEN'S CLUB

St. Mark's Men's Club meets on the first Thursday of each month. Next meeting is **October 1**, at 9:00am at old Café Marie now called the Red Star Café, 7327 Lewis. For directions or more information, call Howard Irwin (419) 476-4724.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 18 Joe & Robyn Disher
29 Michael & Penny Tullis
30 John & Carole Forte

SUNDAY FLOWERS

6 The people of St. Mark's in loving memory of those who have died.

13 The people of St. Mark's in loving memory of those who have died.

20 Mrs. Richard Damm in loving memory of her husband, Richard E. Damm.

20 Mrs. James Schoonmaker in loving memory of her husband, James and her parents, Bernice & Harold Serrels.

27 The people of St. Mark's in loving memory of those who have died.

For information on how you can provide Sunday flowers in memory of someone, or in honor of someone or some event, contact the Church Office.

BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Paula Rennels
6 Colleen Grogan
8 Andrew Pelletier
10 Keenan Tullis
13 Christina Laberge
15 Jackie Babcock
17 Jay Treat
18 Chuck LeRoux
19 Jason Binder
21 Dorothy Damm
28 Peggy Clancy
31 John Joseph III

Missing or incorrect birthdays or anniversaries? Let the church office know!

FROM THE LECTIONARY

Our Sunday readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which is a collection of carefully selected Scripture readings for the church year, which repeats every three years. The RCL is used to varying degrees by many mainline denominations. For more information about the RCL and for it full-text online, see the Vanderbilt Divinity Library web page at <http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary/> (We're in Year B.)



September 6
Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 20
Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9: 30-37

September 13
Proverbs 1:20-22
Psalm 19
James 3: 1-12
Mark 8: 27-38

September 28
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Last spring at the end of Sunday School, the Children and Youth Team met to discuss the year and if there were any changes we wanted to make for the upcoming program year. In reflecting upon the past year, what worked, what did not work as well, what seemed to bring life, energy and participation, we have decided to try something new. It is clear that the children's homily during the service is well attended and both adults and children get a lot out of it. The same is not true of Sunday School. Many families choose not to participate in Sunday school and if children arrive late it is very difficult for teachers to work the newcomers into the lesson without beginning again.

This fall, we will not have Sunday school but everyone will be in church every Sunday until after the gospel. At that time, the children will leave for the children's homily and prayer time. They will return to be with their families at the peace. Hopefully this will be enriching for both the adults and children. If you have any questions, please call Kelly at 419-244-3707. We are also happy to receive any feedback.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Your Vestry has been meeting all summer to work on our parish budget and address the financial issues caused by the downturn in the stock market and the loss of principal from our endowment. We would now like to share with you our thoughts and hear from all of you. **Instead of a regular congregational meeting, we will have the conversation in the context of our 10:30am Sunday service on Sunday, September 20.** Please plan to come and realize that the service will run longer than usual. This is a very important conversation for our community right now and everyone's thought and ideas are needed and valued.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

parish prayer list: petitions, intercessions, thanksgivings

We are all invited to pray throughout the month, asking for God's healing and comfort for those who have asked for it. We often do not know the people or what their prayer request is; we are invited, then, simply to open our hearts in prayer for them, asking for the fulfillment of what they need, and for God to extend blessings to them in any way God is able.

If you have a name you wish to have added (including your own), please call the office, remembering that if you want the name to be on the list longer than a month, please call to renew that request.

Those in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity

Ryan Disher
Dick Entenmann
John Merriam
Dennis & Carol
Kanfield
Mark J.
Billy Naumann
Jeff Palicki
Diane Klug
Chuck Lever
Tyler Yoder
Norene Monhollen
Chuck Lever
Margaret Weber

In Thanksgiving

Homebound

Recently Deceased

Roberta Toensing
Bob Brundage

Others to Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Kelly, our priest; Bob Morris, our senior warden, and Jessica Datta, our junior warden; other members of the vestry, parish staff, and other parish leaders
- ◆ Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, his staff, and all parishes in the Diocese of Ohio
- ◆ The Episcopal Church; Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori; the Anglican Communion; Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams
- ◆ Servicemen and women serving around the world and in the US

Please pray also for those groups who find a welcoming space at St. Mark's:

Young People's AA, Monday, 8:00 pm
AA/LLL, Sunday & Wednesday, 8:00 pm
Rainbow Area Youth, Wednesdays, 7:00 pm
AA, Friday, 7:00 pm
SAA, Tuesday, 8:00 pm & Thursday, 7:00 pm
Dignity, Thursday, 8:00 pm

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL; PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY

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St. Mark's

MISSION

St. Mark's is a diverse and inclusive Christian community,
welcoming all to common ground, to creatively grow in faith
and service to each other, our community, and a loving God.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:00 am** our intimate, meditative service
- 10:30 am** our larger service, with music and
singing; Sunday School or special homily
for children

RECTOR

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Christina Laberge

ORGANIST

Michael Gartz

OFFICE MANAGER

Marilyn McCoy

VESTRY OFFICERS

Senior Warden ~ Bob Morris
Junior Warden ~ Jessica Datta
Clerk ~ Diane Polishuk

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell

OCTOBER

newsletter deadline:

September 15

mailto:stmarkstol@aol.com