



the Lion's Roar

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey

Dear Friends:

In a monastery in Poland is a shrine to one of the most famous icons in the world: Our Lady of Czestochow. It is said to have been created by St. Luke, fashioned from a hunk of wood which served as the table top in the Holy Family's home. It's a haunting image. Dark and beautiful.

One of it's most heralded features though, is its scars. There are two long marks which run down the right cheek of the Madonna. If you look closely, you'll also see another smaller scar running perpendicular to the longer ones.

In one of the several times the monastery was sacked, a soldier is said to have drawn his sword and begun to hack away at her. It is also said that after two blows he stopped, clutched his chest, and died right there on the spot.

Obviously not something to try at home. Don't mess with Jesus' mom.

Apparently there were a couple of times in its history when the icon was "freshened up" and restored. Artists and craftsmen tried to do something with the scars to make her look whole again, but they were never able to accomplish that.

So, her scars remain.

Some say that's because the original may have been created by an encaustic technique which makes it hard to repair. Some say it's because she wants to be scarred - as if she won't let the marks go.

When someone creates a reproduction of Our Lady of Czestochow it is traditional to reproduce the scars as well. Personally, I find that scarred face to have great power. Probably because I am scarred. Not so much on the outside, as on the inside.

The things done to me. The stupid things I have done. The things I was born into. The things which happened on purpose, and the things which were complete accidents.

Scars. All of them.

Some of them I wear as a badge of honor. Others I may carefully share with select individuals. A few I will expend much energy and subterfuge to never let them see the light of day.

I am scarred. I am imperfect. I am flawed.

I am also loved. I am also forgiven. I am also adopted as a child of God. I am also a recipient of grace and mercy. I am also healed. I am also never alone, even when I feel forsaken. I am also alive. And Alive. I am also a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death, life, and resurrection are infused with the power which emanates from real vulnerability. Because of that, the vulnerable flock to him. The diseased. The possessed. The frightened. The lonely. A woman who bled for years. A man with a demon. A mother with a lifeless child. A whole mountainside of hungry people. Whole villages. They all came, those broken people. They came for a brush with God and a glimpse of wholeness.

And we still come, we broken people. We come to this Messiah who ate with sinners, who took little children by the hand, and who offered grace to a woman by a well. We come on Easter Sunday with our pastel suits and brimmed hats to hear of the wonder of resurrection and new life - not free of scars, but with them. Not forgetting the pain, the betrayal, the great drops of sweat, and the abandonment. No, we gather in church which display the cross proudly upfront. We come to celebrate new life, but not discarding the story of death. We come to celebrate victory, but we do not forget that a few short hours before the tomb was empty, it all looked like total defeat.

Towards the end of Paul's letter to the Galatians, he says quite remarkably that he bears the wounds, the marks, the scars, the *stigmata* of Christ *on his body.* Jesus' wounds are his wounds. Jesus' wounds are *our* wounds.

We are wounded people living wounded lives.

But we are also the bearers of an incredible love. We are beloved - by the Creator of the Universe and by countless others.

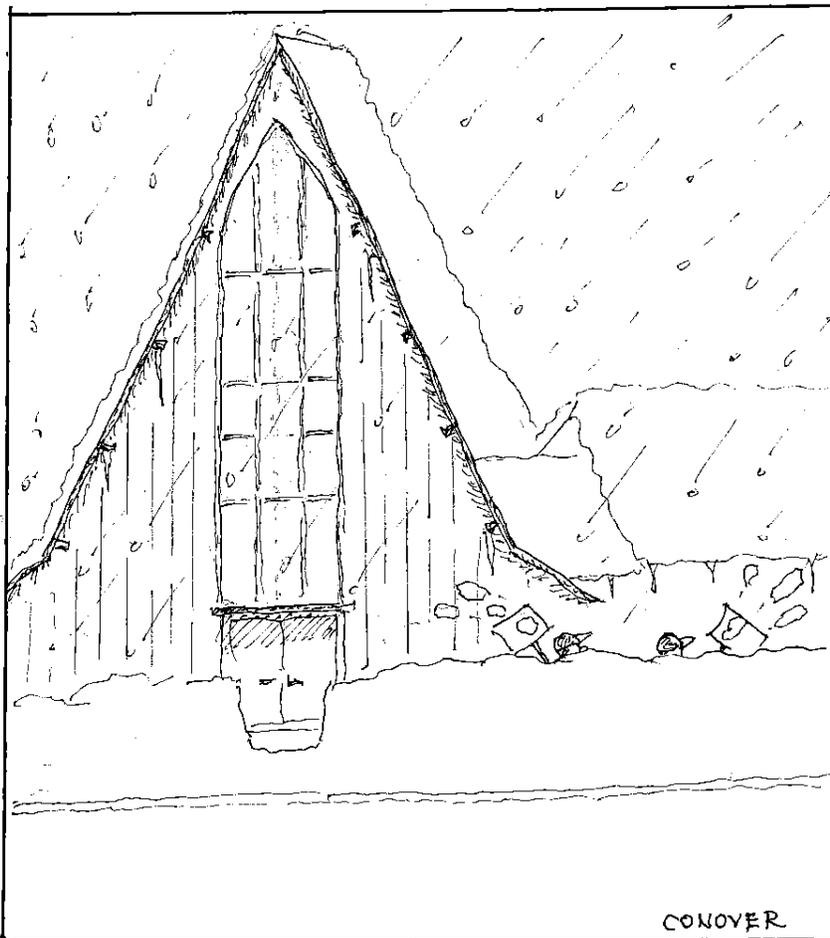
But, there is a greater way, to rise new and full of life with faith, hope, and love, and with our scars intact. To live with a whole heart hiding under the shadow of the wings of the God who loves us with his whole heart.

Scars and all.

Have a holy Lent,
Fr. Rick

(At the quiet day on March 7th much more will be said about the icon referenced above.)

LAUGHTER IN THE PEWS



“Hey, Kevin, have you ordered the mulch for next Saturday’s Spring Clean-up?”

NOTICE:

**PLEASE STOP PUTTING
CHOCKS/WEDGES UNDER
THE DOORS TO HOLD
THEM OPEN**

They ruin our very expensive self closing hinges, which when they don't work, causes us to fail our fire inspections and require us to invest a considerable amount of money to have repaired.

There is no fire suppression system in our buildings, but instead each room and hallway has a self closing door which is required to be closed as a fire prevention method. The Buildings Commission has installed bungees to hold doors open when it is necessary for a particular function. This method does not ruin the hinge. We all need to cooperate in this effort. If you need to hold a door open and there is not a bungee for that purpose, please speak to our Buildings chair to have one installed.

Warden's Corner

Music has always been a big part of my life. My undergraduate degree was in music. I enjoy listening to music every day and also composing when I can find some spare time. I remember when I was a kid and first heard the story of Mozart. By the age of 5, he was an accomplished musician, playing violin, piano and composing music. Even at my young age I realized that he possessed a special gift (from God) that enabled this rare ability in a human. If I could spend every hour of my entire life trying to write the works that Mozart did, I would not even come close to what he accomplished in his first musical year.

Here at St. Mark's, our funding for our fine music program comes from our operating budget as well as the Chittick Fund, in memory of David Chittick. David was a St. Mark's parishioner and musician who enjoyed music (and especially singing). Back in 1995, our Director of Music, Bill Corson approached David's wife, Eileen with an idea to start a fund in David's name to support the music program at St. Mark's. This idea stemmed following a successful concert and show - now titled "September Song". I recently sat down with Bill as I wanted to understand a bit more about the history of our music program and get his perspective on what music means for him. "We wanted to name a fund after someone who was musical and who represented the perfect icon for someone who loved music at St. Mark's." Bill explained, "but who also understood why music should be great here at our church."

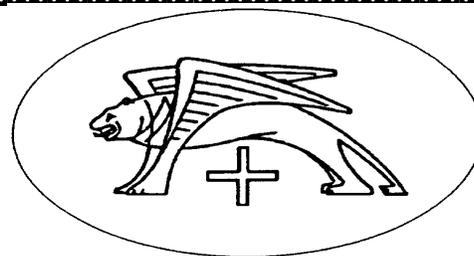
For the past 20 years, Bill and his wife Luran, Executive Producer and Artistic Director, have been producing and directing September Song, one of most popular and largest annual fundraising events at St. Mark's. Each year, net proceeds of the first \$12,000 go to fund our choir section leaders, while the remaining proceeds go back into our operating budget. Section leaders are paid professional musicians who serve to help lead the choir in rehearsals and performance. I have the opportunity to visit other churches usually several times a year. I don't like to make comparisons, but I can truly say our choir, musicians, and music programs are outstanding in my opinion. St. Mark's does music right. No, I don't believe this is just coincidence or luck, but should be attributed to all the people who worship through music by practicing, rehearsing and presenting - from the adult choir, to the bell choir, youth choir and solo performers who perform throughout the year. Bill further commented, "We all don't come to worship at St. Mark's for the same reasons or even in the same way. My gift to the church along with my wife Luran is to offer our experience and talents for those who value music as much as we do, in the hopes of making our musical worship as meaningful as possible".

An excerpt from Ephesians 5:19:

Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; singing, and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

So while at church, sing loud and proud, and praise God in any way you feel right. And if you are like me (not much of a singer), just sit back, worship, and enjoy the music.

God's Blessings,
Jim Martucci
Senior Warden



2015 Vestry

Rector

The Rev. Richard M. C. Morley

Senior Warden

Jim Martucci 604-2256

Junior Warden

Dawn Knill 303-7351

Grounds

Kevin Larner 766-1218

Buildings

Martha Winter 953-2009

Outreach

Jan Williams 690-8480

Finance

Martha Heiner 973-224-7045

Stewardship

Jenny Phillips 630-0807

Christian Education/Youth Ministry

Ashley Balavoine 973-543-2327

Communications/Evangelism

Christine Thoma 542-9421

Fellowship

Anne Post 766-6621

Membership

Chris Marshall 350-3371

Non-Vestry Positions:

Warden Emeritus

Teri Passarello 696-0375

Treasurer

Buck Kirch 350-7129

Recording Treasurer

Doug Post 766-6621

Sunday School Director

John Lyga 766-5880

J2A Activities Coordinator

Jackie Taylor 221-0378

March Birthdays



- 3/1 Nicholas Hale
- 3/3 Carson Spuma
- 3/5 Marcie Hanhart
Kaitlynn Iantosca
- 3/6 Leah Hubert
Christopher Richardson
- 3/8 Louise Hale
Abigail Spindler
- 3/11 Caroline Graff
- 3/13 Lois Buesser
Jim DeCoste
Sharon Defeo
Jim Lunny
- 3/14 Pat Hall
Nathaniel Pasquale
- 3/17 Phillip Leblebicioglu
- 3/18 Robert Phillips
- 3/19 Kristen Glass
Julia Sanchez
Gregory Tuthill
- 3/20 Luran Corson
Conner Starr
- 3/21 Daphne Kress
- 3/26 Gregory Heiner
James Heiner
- 3/27 Carol DeCoste
Matt Gubitosi
Martin Kendall
Ann Millan
- 3/28 Kathy Krell
Marilyn Lyga
- 3/29 Don Jones
- 3/30 Hannah Pavlini
Hannah Solon

Anniversaries

- 3/7 Jeff & Libby West
- 3/21 Doug & Anne Post
- 3/22 Glenn & Susan Sefchick
- 3/23 Martin & Jean Kendall
- 3/24 Paul & Linda Saccone



Mid-Lent Brunch

Sunday, March 22 after 10am Service

Sign up in the Link

Casserole or Salad to feed 8-10

Set-up, Saturday Need 2 people to help with chairs & tables

Kitchen help, Sunday 9:30am—Need 5 people

Clean-up, Sunday—Need 6 people

Any questions, call Carol Decoste at 908-766-0408

ST. MARK'S FINANCE COMMISSION

Finance Report as of January 31, 2015

Represented below is a summary of St. Mark's operating income statement

January 2015, Year-to-Date

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Pledges	10,648	26,590	15,942)
All Other Donations	<u>4,422</u>	<u>5,976</u>	(1,554)
Operating Income	15,070	32,566	(17,496)
Operating Expenses	<u>31,086</u>	<u>32,674</u>	<u>1,588)</u>
Net Operating Income	(\$16,016)	(\$ 108)	(\$ 15,908)

Operating income for January is below budget expectations . Pledge donations and Plate donations were well under the budget expectation. Our Building Use Donations area fell short of the budget expectation as well.

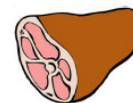
Operating expenses for year-to date 2015 stayed within budget expectations.

Net operating income for January 2015 is significantly under budget.

A snowy month was responsible for some low attendance Sundays, so this is a reminder to try to keep your pledge commitments on as even a basis as possible. Faithstreet is an electronic way to make regular payments which may be of interest to you.

Finance Commission Chair: Martha Heiner

Easter Ham and Turkey Collection for the Food Bank of Somerset County Sunday, March 29



Forget the groundhog — SPRING is coming.....REALLY! As hard as this winter has been on all of us, WOW, it must have really been tough on families dependent on food bank donations.

Thank Goodness, Easter is right around the corner! There will be colorful flowers and glistening crosses around St. Mark's altar once again. Our lives will be filled with jelly beans and chocolate bunnies, and lots of sunshine and smiles!

Please donate, so that St. Mark's can make Easter joyful for a record-breaking number of less fortunate families this year. Families come in all sizes, so any size ham or turkey will be wonderful. If March 29 doesn't work well for you, just leave your ham or turkey in the St. Mark's kitchen refrigerator/freezer *any* day in March, and we'll make sure they get to the food bank in time for Easter. Questions? Please contact Jan Williams at (908) 696-8480 or rjwillia@verizon.net. **Thank you!**

ST. MARK'S SPRING 2015 RUMMAGE SALE **APRIL 17TH AND 18TH, 2015** **SAVE THE DATES** **GIVE OF YOUR TIME** **SUPPORT ST. MARK'S 1ST FUND RAISER**

<u>SET UP:</u>	Saturday, April 11th at 9:30 am
<u>SORT:</u>	Sunday, April 10th – Thursday, April 16th, 2015
<u>DONATIONS:</u>	Accepted from Sunday 1:00 PM until Wednesday, April 15th
<u>BAKE SALE:</u>	Baked good delivered Thurs PM or Fri/Sat AM
<u>SALE:</u>	Friday, April 17th (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM) Saturday, April 18th (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM)
<u>CLEAN UP:</u>	Saturday, April 18th – 2:30 PM

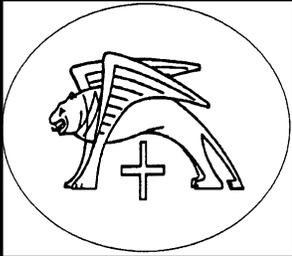
This is the first important fund raiser for St. Mark's in 2015. We need significant donations of your unwanted and un-used items to make this sale the best ever. Tell you friends and family of the opportunity to donate their unwanted good to the St. Mark's Rummage Sale.

Please keep in mind the items we cannot accept:

- Mattresses or box springs
- Electronic equipment over 5 years old. No computer without hard drive, with chips older than Pentium or non-color monitors. No dot matrix printers.
- Baby equipment over 5 years old that are not to safety codes
- Sporting equipment over 5 years old
- Exercise equipment
- Christmas tree stands
- Suitcases without wheels
- Analog TV, VHS Tapes or Cassettes
- Books – only current novels, historical or children's books. No text books, travel guides, manuals, magazines, encyclopedias.
- Shoes – only in good condition. No worn out sneakers, please.
- Toys - **please bundle parts together**
- Men's suits, men's jackets and linens – **please mark the size.**

Please look for the sign up sheet and give of your time generously to make this another successful fund raiser for the church. We look forward to working with you and sharing in the fellowship.

Harry Woods, Kit McLaughlin and Annabelle Wilmer



March 2015

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8am Rite I 10am Rite II Contemporary Service	2	3 <i>Daniel Plan,</i> 10am & 7pm <i>Holly Manor</i> 10:45	4 Chapel @ 9am Keansburg Soup Kitchen SmArts, 4pm	5 <i>Ridge Oak</i> 10:00	6	7 <i>Lenten Quiet Day</i>
8 8am Rite I 10am Rite II Healing & Family Service	9 <i>Warden's Meeting</i> <i>Finance Meeting</i>	10 <i>Daniel Plan,</i> 10am & 7pm	11 Chapel @ 9am SmArts, 4pm	12	13	14
15 8am Rite I 10am Rite II	16 <i>Vestry Meeting</i>	17 <i>Daniel Plan,</i> 10am & 7pm	18 Chapel @ 9am Keansburg Soup Kitchen SmArts, 4pm	19	20	21
22 Mid-Lent Brunch 8am Rite I 10am Rite II Healing Service	23	24 <i>Daniel Plan,</i> 10am & 7pm	25 Chapel @ 9am SmArts, 4pm	26	27	28
29 8am Rite I 10am Rite II Palm Sunday	30	31 <i>Daniel Plan,</i> 10am & 7pm				

THE LION'S ROAR

March			
Date	Lay readers	Acolytes	Ushers
3/1/2015	<i>Second Sunday in Lent – 10:00 A.M. – Contemporary Service</i>		
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Doug Post		Boyd McKoane
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Jeanne Wyatt	John Mooney	Bruce Walker
	P&Ch Christian Luongo	Julia West	Jeff West
	LR 2 Glenn West	Rob Pierson	Brandon Pierson
3/8/2015	<i>Third Sunday in Lent - 10:00 A.M. - Healing & Family Service</i>		
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Boyd McKoane		
10:00 a.m. (HC)	Ch Lea O'Shea	Katie Williams	Glenn West
	P&Ch Roger Conover	Hugo Balavoine	Jim Martucci
	LR 1 Nick Sant Foster	Robert Phillips	
	LR 2 Ryan Gogerty	Jenny Phillips	
3/15/2015	<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>		
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Jeff Hooper		Harry Woods
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Chuck Knill	Ben Lerner	Tim Opremcak
	P&Ch Dawn Knill	Jeremy Richardson	Norm Graff
	LR 2 Peter Gilbert	Sean Gogerty	Ryan Gogerty
03/22/15	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent - 10:00 A.M. - Healing Service</i>		
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Boyd McKoane		
10:00 a.m. (HC)	Ch Bill Schmidt	Rob Pierson	Richard Thoma
	P&Ch Marylea Schmidt	Liam Thoma	Martin Hale
	LR 1 Christine Thoma	Spencer Thoma	
	LR 2 Brandon Pierson		
03/29/15	<i>Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday</i>		
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Jackie Kahle		Boyd McKoane
	L&Ch Jeff Hooper		
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Roger Conover	Martin Hale	Jim Martucci
	P&Ch Jeanne Wyatt	Chris Hale	Bruce Walker
	LR 2 Tom Mooney	Sean Gogerty	Joe Layton
		John Mooney	