



August 2018

the Lion's Roar

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

Jesus said to them,
"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."



Every Easter season I usually make some sort of announcement that goes something like this: "The Council of Nicaea, which met in 325AD, and which authored the first version of the Nicene Creed, forbade kneeling during the Great 50 Days of Easter." And then I encourage the whole congregation to remain standing for the whole Easter season.

The thing is... I was wrong about the Council of Nicaea. While recently reading a book on the ins-and-outs of the council I learned that they NEVER said that kneeling during Easter was forbidden. I don't know where I first heard that, but I've been leading congregations wrong for 15 years now.

So, here's what the Council of Nicaea actually said: They forbade kneeling during worship for EVERY Sunday. Not just Easter, but every Sunday of the church year. The documents which led up to the council and which came out of the council note that this wasn't even controversial, and may in fact have even been a tradition that went back to the first apostles.

They don't indicate "why," but it's not hard to figure out. Sundays are days of celebration. Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection. Every time we gather for Eucharist, it's a CELEBRATION of the Eucharist. There are times when it is appropriate to get on your knees, repent, and consider our failures and sinfulness, but not when there's something like the resurrection to celebrate. That celebration is meant to get us on our feet over and over again.

Now, subsequent church traditions ignored this particular edict from Nicaea. And then when we started putting pews into churches (about 500 years ago) we started affixing kneeler to those pews. In some places people would even kneel the ENTIRE service, from beginning to end.

I'm not a fundamentalist on kneeling. I think you should do whatever helps you worship, and if kneeling helps you worship in a deeper way, then I say that you should go for it.

But, I DO think we need to recapture the understanding of what we do on Sundays

A CALL TO ACTION:

Consider coming to one of the last two sessions on "Grateful." August 6 and 20, 7pm in the Heritage Room.

- Come. Grow. Here. -

St. Mark's is a place to grow. It's a place to grow closer in our connection to God. It's a place to grow closer to the needs of the world, which God places on our hearts. It's a place to grow among and with other people, from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

as a "celebration." As something exciting. As something to look forward to. Where worship becomes something to get energized for, and something to get energized during, so that when we leave we are fueled up for the week. And, some of that is on me and the worship commission - to craft worship as something that resembles and inspires celebrating. But, some of it is on all of us, and the kind of energy and expectations that we bring to our celebration of Jesus' resurrection, and Presence among us.

Rick +

ST. MARK'S FALL 2018 RUMMAGE SALE
SEPTEMBER 14TH AND 15TH, 2018
SAVE THE DATES
MARK YOUR CALENDARS
GIVE OF YOUR TIME

SET UP: Saturday, September 8th 9:30am
SORT: Sunday, Sept 9th – Thursday, Sept 13th, 2018
DONATIONS: Accepted from Sunday 1:00 PM until Wednesday, Sept 13th
BAKE SALE: Baked good delivered Thurs PM or Fri/ Sat AM
SALE: Friday, September 14th (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM)
Saturday, September 15th (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM)
CLEAN UP: Saturday, September 15th – 2:30 PM

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS:

Those lazy, hazy days of summer are soon to be a blessed memory but with their passing comes a new opportunity for memorable moments with the opening of our 2018/2019 Youth Group year. Please join us Sunday, 9 September 2018, as we kick-off our program with a special interactive parish presentation where parents, students and congregants are invited to come and get to know our program. Class tables and staff will be on hand to discuss and answer questions about curriculum, service projects, events, activities, etc. as well as register students. There will also be ample opportunity to commit your time and talents to this wonderful ministry. So don't forget to mark your calendars as we prepare to rekindle fellowship, learning and discipleship together!

We need significant donations of your unwanted and un-used items to make this sale the best ever. Tell your friends and family of the opportunity to donate their unwanted good to the St. Mark's Rummage Sale.

A Favor Please:

Toys - please bundle parts together
Men's suits and jackets – please mark the size and pin to lapel.
Mark linen sizes

Please look for the sign-up sheet and help make this another successful fundraiser for the church. We look forward to working with you and sharing in the fellowship.

Harry Woods, Kit McLaughlin and Annabelle Wilmer

FELLOWSHIP



Save the Date!

Sip and Savor

Saturday, October 27, 2018
Fun★Food★Fellowship

Come enjoy wine, dine with your friends, and bid on auction items.

We welcome you to join us and consider inviting some guests. We'll need all hands on deck to make this another successful St. Mark's event and we appreciate your support in any way you can. We are looking for volunteers to help with organization, set-up, and clean-up. Please also consider donating a basket or auction item for the night. Please contact Betsy Coffin (908-766-0158), Gerry McDonnell (908-255-7747), or Lea O'Shea (908-803-9462) if you are available to help.

We have so much good news to report this month!

Keansburg - Despite the crazy weather this winter that caused several cancellations, we have served 922 meals this year so far. By August, we will surpass 1000 meals! Way to go and thanks for all of your contributions!

God's Giving Garden - Are you ready for this? We have already donated over 700 **lbs** of fresh produce to the food bank. This time last year, we were under 600 lbs. Can't imagine what it will be by the end of the season.

Saturdays in Somerville - Once again we will be manning (or womaning) the food distribution in Somerville for each Saturday in September (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th). We are looking for volunteers. Think about work hours for your teens. Please call Jackie Taylor 908-221-0378 or email djjataylor@aol.com.

Can't volunteer? - Please donate instead! We'll need toilet paper, sturdy shopping bags, bars of soap, and small laundry detergents. You can place your items in the link.

REFLECTION

NOTICE:

Please refrain from placing chocks under doors to hold them open. This is not only a violation of current fire regulations, but chocks ruin our very expensive self-closing hinges, which when they don't work, causes us to fail our fire inspections and requires us to invest a considerable amount of money to have them repaired or replaced. Based on the current fire regulations, we are also not allowed to use bungee cords or rope to hold open the doors.

There are no fire suppression systems in our buildings, but instead each room and hallway has a self-closing door which is required by current fire regulations to be closed as a fire prevention method. If you need to hold a door open for a short period of time, please arrange for someone to hold the door open so we remain compliant with current fire regulations. If you have any questions please speak to either Jim DeCoste our parish expert on current fire regulations, Martin Hale our Parish Sexton, or Jeff Hooper our Vestry member responsible for Buildings.

Thank you for your cooperation.

SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

Father Rick will be on vacation from August 13th thru August 24th

The Parish Administrator will be away the last week in August



Keansburg Soup Kitchen
8/1 & 8/15

Morristown Soup Kitchen
8/29

Birthdays



8-1	Adelene Sant Foster	8-18	Robert Buesser
8-2	Carole Pasquale		Jeffery Heiner
8-3	Danielle Lupo		Kristen Lunny
8-4	Bill Coffin		Kiyomi Urbas
8-6	Samantha Glass	8-20	Emie Williams
	Lia Knill		Miles Kocek
8-7	Morgan Defeo	8-21	David Taylor
	Samantha Lunny	8-22	Sophia Donelan
8-11	Bill Walsh		Tom Mooney
8-12	Lisa Keenan	8-23	Colleen Luongo
	Laura Mooney	8-25	Bruce Walker
8-13	Sarah Post		Tosan Eweka
8-14	Jean Kendall		Matthew Seitz
	Kevin Larner	8-26	Jessica Solon
8-15	Ed Kirch	8-27	Hannah Richardson
8-17	Emma Hale	8-28	Kevin Lazo
	Peter Phillips		

Anniversaries

8-6	Mike & Ann Millan
8-9	Robert & Jennifer Phillips
8-10	Joe & Lorri Layton
8-27	Bill & Betsy Coffin
8-28	John & Theresa Wojnar



MONTHLY CALENDAR

August 5 - Jesus begins his teaching on how he is the "Bread of Life." It's a good Sunday to ponder how we hunger and thirst, and what we Hunger and thirst for.

August 12 - People start complaining about Jesus' sermons. This is a good Sunday to ponder how complaining about sermons is a thing we shouldn't do. (This is a test to see who actually reads this...!)

August 19 - God asks Solomon what he wants from Him. Solomon gives it a thought... and ends up asking for something pretty profound.

August 25 - The people listening to Jesus' sermon on eating his flesh and drinking his blood are scandalized. We'll talk today about why they were scandalized, and what Jesus was actually saying to them and to us.

Worship:

Sunday
8am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am Holy Eucharist, Rite II & Sunday School
9am Wednesday in Post Chapel
No Chapel 8/15 & 8/22 while Father Rick is away

8/2
Ridge Oak, 10am

8/7
Holly Manor, 10am

8/9
Fellowship Village, 11am



WARDEN'S CORNER:

We are living in challenging times.

We hear every day from our news sources about many extremely tough issues facing us as citizens of the United States and of the global community. Issues such as how to deal fairly and humanely with refugees and asylum seekers. Criminal justice and prison sentencing reform. Countering the effects of climate change and severe weather events. Keeping ourselves and our children safe from tragic mass shooting events. Maintaining the social safety net while not leaving an insurmountable debt burden for future generations. Etc. And we hear about and debate the policies that our elected government considers to deal with these challenges.

You may be seeking a way to make your voice heard on these and other issues. And you may be wondering what position the Episcopal Church takes in these policy debates.

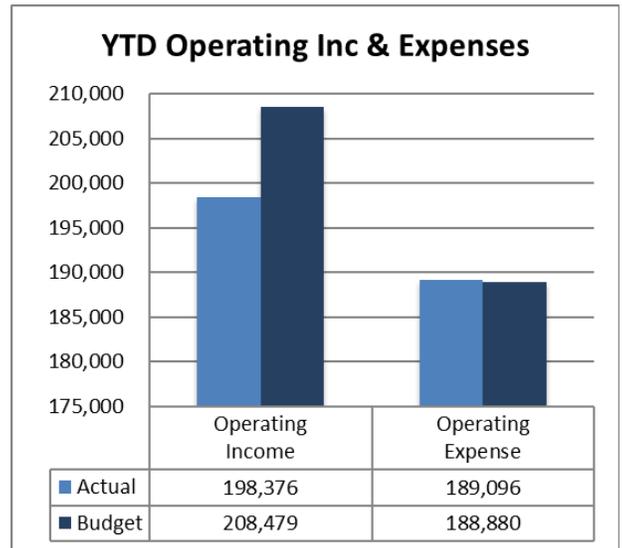
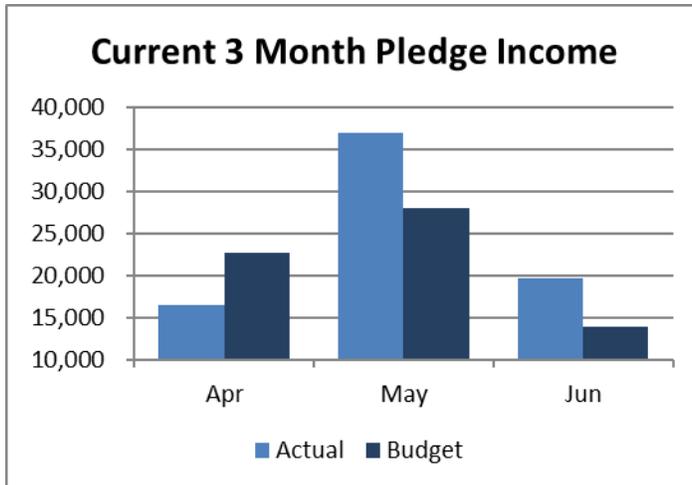
The [Episcopal Public Policy Network](#), which is under the auspices of the Office of Government Relations of the Episcopal Church, provides you an opportunity to add your voice to those of others and make your views known. And as importantly, the EPPN provides you with a further opportunity to stay informed. You may not agree with every policy position that is put forward by EPPN. That's ok, weigh in on the positions with which you agree, and stay informed on those with which you disagree. Sign up for EPPN's Action Alerts and Policy Updates.

Let's not let any political differences of opinion divide us, as unfortunately we see happening all around us. And at the same time, let us work to make our voices heard, both individually and collectively, on the important issues of the day.

In peace, Jim Lunny

FINANCE REPORT

- ◆ Operating Net Income through May is \$198K; -\$10K vs Budget. Thank you to all the parishioners who have made payments these past 2 months. The lower net income is being driven by timing of the spring fundraiser (moved to the fall) and lower building use for which we recently received several inquiries.
- ◆ YTD operating expenses are in right line with forecast. Slightly higher building expenses are offset by lower expenses across other budget categories.



2018 VESTRY

Rector: The Rev. Richard M.C. Morley
Senior Warden: Jim Nishimura
Junior Warden: Jim Lunny
Grounds: Norm Graff
Buildings: Jeff Hooper
Outreach: Lea O'Shea
Finance: Dave Taylor
Stewardship: Gerald McDonnell
Christian Ed. / Youth Ministry: Alisa Larner
Comm. / Evangelism: Eileen Barna
Fellowship: Betsy Coffin

Non-Vestry Positions:
Warden Emeritus: Chip Hughes

Recording Treasurer: Doug Post
Sunday School Director: John Lyga
J2A Activities Coordinator: Tammy Young