



January 2019

the Lion's Roar

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

Love is patient;
love is kind; love is
not envious or
boastful or arrogant
or rude. It does not
insist on its own
way; it is not
irritable or
resentful; it does
not rejoice in
wrongdoing, but
rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
1 Corinthians
13:4-7



Friends,

My guess is that many of us joined the other 2 Billion people worldwide who watched the royal wedding of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry. If you did, then you were treated to the sermon by The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Curry. He took a traditionally staid and stuffy affair, and he blew the lid of it with his exposition on the power of love.

With that one sermon, he became an international hit, and when he returned he made the round of the morning shows and the radio interview circuit. He didn't just capitalize on the branding and promotional opportunity that this sermon brought him, he also took the sermon itself, and worked on it more and more, pushing the topic of love deeper and deeper. And more practical.

Instead of just a nice idea - that love changes things - HOW does it change things? If love is the way of Jesus, what does that way of love look like when the rubber meets the road?

Bishop Curry took the way of love, and divided it into seven parts: turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, and rest. He then took each of these parts and broke them down into easy-to-digest and inspirational thoughts, practices, and actions to help us all walk the way of love, the way of Jesus.

Beginning January 6th, we're going to explore the way of love in our Sunday Forum. We'll be using material provided by the Presiding Bishop, and some supplementary material that I'm working on right now.

I'm kind of excited about it. This sort of thing could become a gimmick pretty quickly, but it's anything but a gimmick. It's thoughtful, insightful, practical, and grounded in the reality of the world and the reality of God.

I hope you'll join us on Sundays at 9AM in the Heritage Room to work on this together!

Peace, Rick

A CALL TO ACTION:

Watch the video of the Presiding Bishop talking about the Way of Love on the front page of the St. Mark's website: stmarksbr.org

- 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.

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS:

A hearty thanks to all those who participated in our Youth Group Family Night at St. Mark's Center for Community Renewal in Keansburg at the end of November! A wonderful time was had by all! It is our hope to host one more event there before June 2019, possibly working with a USDA food delivery the next time around. So please keep an eye on your email.

Also, as a follow-up to youth group meetings being held between St. Bernard's and St. John on the Mountain, Mother Beth has designed a four-week training program to help participants destress from their busy lives through the ministerial practices of a good listening skills and encouraging presence. Techniques (along with refreshments) will be served at each session. This interfaith series is open to both teens and their parents and will begin 13 January 2019 at St. Bernard's and run every other Sunday evening, from 4:00 - 5:15 PM, until 24 February. RSVP's are not necessary but would be greatly appreciated. Flyers will be available. For further information, please contact Tammy.



There was some miscommunication in getting Father Rick's new Epiphany initiative underway.

FELLOWSHIP

Sunday December 9th was our annual Advent brunch, we enjoyed food, fellowship, omelets and ham with about 80 of our fellow parishioners. Many thanks to all who brought food to share and to all who participated in set up, clean up and worked in the kitchen. Special thanks to Jim Martucci, who sliced the ham, Martin Hale and Jeff West at the omelet station. Carole DeCoste for putting together the center pieces. Our talented and fun kitchen staff Annabelle, Kit, Joan, Nancy, Anne, Lorri, Christina and any one else we pulled in. Thanks for all your help!

Please also remember coffee hour is fun too and we are looking at a fresh new year and lots of spots to sign up, so please take a look to see when you can participate! Betsy Coffin



Birthdays



1/3 Lance Marshall
1/4 Laura Taylor
1/6 Ryan Hargy
Andrew Hargy
1/9 Christopher Hale
1/10 Francis Sanchez
1/11 Norm Graff
Nancy Wojnar
Kathleen Kendall
1/17 Lauren Keenan
1/19 Webb Winter
1/20 Katie Lyga
Tim O'Shea
1/21 Gordon Ahalt
1/22 Julie Corson
1/23 Claire Buesser
Dev Ittycheria
Alisa Lerner
1/26 Jeremy Richardson
1/27 Libby West
1/28 Dottie Dauernheim
Miyako Urbas

OUTREACH

A big THANK YOU to all who donated to our Holiday Giving. Whether it was a turkey, a chicken, or money, we were able to deliver 90 donations this year from Thanksgiving to Christmas! Great job St. Marks!! A special thanks to Jan Williams and her daughter Emie for making the deliveries!

Imagine the look on the faces of the children as they open the gifts so generously given by all of you!

May the blessing of the New Year bring you all peace!



MONTHLY CALENDAR

January 6 - The Feast of the Epiphany. Historically, Christians celebrated the Epiphany for centuries before Christians ever celebrated Christmas. And, in some parts of the world, Epiphany is still a much bigger deal than whatever happens on December 25th. Come hear the story of the Epiphany.

January 13 - The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. The Sunday after the Epiphany is always given over to the commemoration of Jesus' baptism - which is always a great opportunity to remember our own baptism.

January 20 - On this day we'll hear the story of the wedding in Cana, where they ended up running out of wine. And Jesus made some more on the spot.

January 27 - After his baptism, Jesus returned to his hometown, and ended up shocking all of his friends and family with his first real sermon.

Worship:

8am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10am Holy Eucharist, Rite II & Sunday School
9am Wednesday in Post Chapel

Jan 3

Ridge Oak, 10am
Fellowship Village, 11am

Jan 8

Holly Manor, 10am
Fellowship Village, 11am

Meetings:

January 20th
Annual Meeting

Jan 14
Wardens & Finance
Meeting

Spotlight Events

Keansburg Soup Kitchen
Jan 2nd & 16th



WARDEN'S CORNER:

As we transition from the Christmas season into the new year of 2019 and new opportunities, I first want to let you know how privileged I feel to serve St. Mark's as Senior Warden in 2019. And to let you know that we are blessed to have a great group of folks joining the vestry this year, a mix of old-timers and relative newcomers, and a mix of many talents. As we move into 2019, I thought I'd take this opportunity to share what I think are the vestry's principal goals for the new year. The duties of the wardens and vestry members, as defined in the Canons, is to be good stewards of the property and monies of St. Mark's. As for St. Mark's monies, the vestry approved a preliminary budget at its December meeting, a balanced budget that is pretty bare bones and the revenue for which was based on the projected results of our Stewardship campaign. As we move into 2019, we are faced with the fact that our pledge totals are not quite where we projected. So first of all, I urge those of you who have not yet submitted a pledge to do so. As vestry members, we will work expeditiously to finalize a balanced budget based on our committed pledge totals. And longer term, we will need to grapple with the challenge of ensuring financial stability.

As for the properties of St. Mark's, we completed some major, long overdue projects, including new heating and cooling systems for the Parish Hall and repairs to the foundation of the Chapel. We were

able to accomplish this thanks to the financial support of a number of very committed parishioners, who offered financial support above and beyond their annual pledges. Our short term challenge is to complete a few outstanding repair and maintenance items, including the completion of the Chapel repairs and painting of the Sanctuary exterior. And longer term, we will also be challenged with developing a sustainable model for the maintenance of our buildings.

As warden, my additional and frankly most important goal will be supporting Father Rick as we navigate a world in which change continues at a dizzying pace and St. Mark's faces the continuing need to evolve to keep up. Led by our Rector and informed by our invitation to **Come Grow With Us**, St. Mark's has continued our outreach to our community and to newcomers. Recognizing the many demands especially on youth, young adults and young families today, we will need to continue to find new ways to reach people where they are.

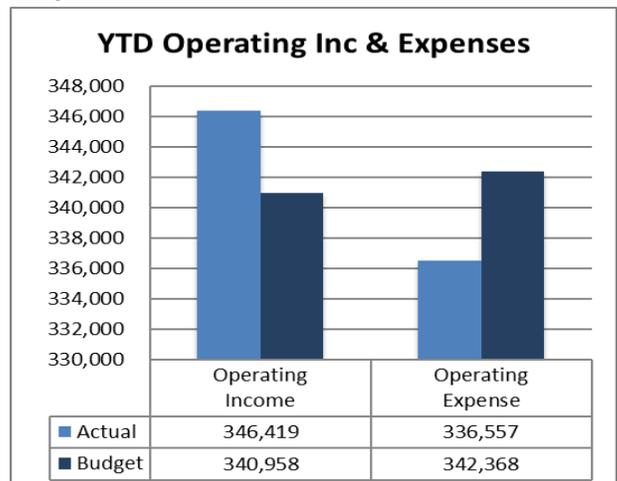
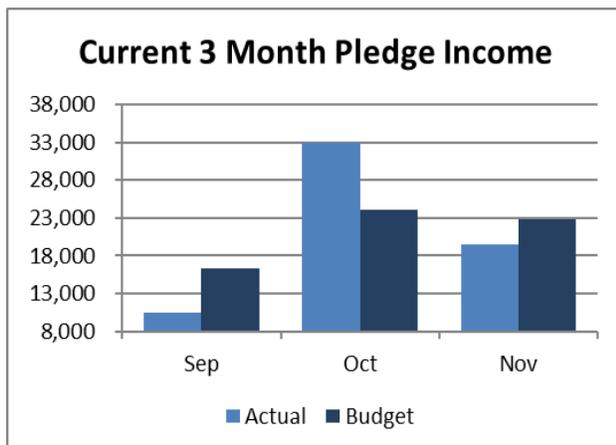
And finally, let me thank my good friend Jim Nishimura who is completing his second term as Senior Warden. Much was accomplished under Jim's tenure, and St. Mark's has been left well positioned to deal with future opportunities.

Happy New Year,
Jim Lunny

FINANCE REPORT

January Lion's Roar (November YTD Results)

- Operating Net Income through November is \$346K; +\$6K vs Budget. Higher than budgeted donations and fundraising is partially offset by lower pledged income.
- YTD operating expenses are slightly below forecast. Increased building expenses are offset by lower expenses across other budget categories and timing of personnel expenses.
- The finance committee thanks you for your 2018 support. We are working to ensure we continue to carefully manage the 2018-year end and have been planning for 2019. More details to come at the annual meeting



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: Dae Taylor
Stewardship: Gerald McDonnell
Christian Ed. / Youth Ministry: Alisa Lerner
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

Sunday School Classes Resume on January 6th

We are continuing to use the Digin program. We are starting a new module this winter, ***Digging Into Discipleship***. Digging Into Discipleship brings a fresh approach to growing a lifelong relationship with God. As kids explore God's character throughout the Bible, God transforms them from the inside out. Kids discover what it means to reflect the heart of God in everyday life.

As a reminder to new families; children preschool up to 5th grade meet in the large classroom by 10 am. We start our Chapel service at 10 where we are joined by the youth groups R13 and J2A for a brief service and singing then back to the classroom for our weekly short video and lesson and most often a fun craft or science project related to the bible lesson. Children are back with their families ahead of communion.

All children are welcome, regular members and visitors alike. Adults of all ages are welcome to help or teach a class. All materials are provided and lessons are available in advance on line.

This Sunday's lesson: God created us in his image – Genesis 1 – an excerpt from the lesson – Light is made up of different colors. We can see that when the sun shines through the rain and makes a rainbow. Every color reflects a different part of the light. But if we had only *one* of those colors, we wouldn't see the full aspect of light!

God made us all different, like the different colors. When we come together, our hearts can reflect what God is like because we're made in his image. And God is creative, so our creativity is one way to reflect his image.

Snow Policy

For weekday/weeknight events and activities, we will follow the Bernards Township Board of Education. If school is cancelled, or if school evening activities are cancelled, then St Mark's will be closed during those times as well.

For Sundays, barring some catastrophic event, there will ALWAYS be at least a 10AM service. All parishioners are strongly urged to use their best judgement, and not to attempt any feats of heroism to get to church. On occasion we will cancel the 8AM service while roads and walks are cleared. This will be communicated by email by 7AM.

The 10AM service is nearly always broadcast live on Facebook: [facebook.com/stmarksbr](https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbr) Every effort will be made to ensure that snowy Sunday 10AM services are indeed broadcast.

Please be sure that you are on the St Mark's mailing list, as any cancellations or notices will be communicated by email. You can sign up for the list on the website, or by calling the church office at (908) 766-9058.

