

St. Mark's E-News - November 11, 2018



Thank you to everyone who made All Saints Sunday such a joyous celebration. We praised our noble saints of old in a great litany at 8 AM, had a delicious breakfast, told numerous campfire stories as we recognized Doug and Marie Cutchin and then had two joyous baptisms as well as remembered our deceased loved ones.

But we have much to celebrate this Sunday also. We will recognize our parish veterans on this special holiday.

We encourage everyone coming to church to bring their pledge envelopes that were sent out this week.

We also resume adult education with a stimulating discussion on controversies on immigration and refugees in light of the gospel.

Finally, there are two great concerts in the afternoon and Community Conversations in the evening.

Please join us.

And the candidates for election of the next bishop have been announced.

The slate for the election of the tenth bishop of Maine was released on Nov. 8. Please go to bishopquest.episcopalmaine.org for information or printed materials of the candidates for election are available in the narthex.

Sunday, November 11, The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist, Book of Common Prayer, Rite I

Rev. John Balicki's Sermon Title, "All In". We will have our monthly prayers for healing at both services this Sunday. We will also have our in-gathering of pledges at both services and conclude with a prayer for our veterans.

Adult Education continues at 9 AM with "**Reclaiming Jesus**": A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis. Today's topic is "**Go into All Nations Making Disciples**". We will discuss the section of the declaration that states, "Our churches and our nations are part of an international community whose interests always surpass national boundaries. Therefore, we reject 'America first' as a theological heresy for followers of Christ". The class will continue for four more weeks as we move to a curriculum that discusses the importance and practice of civil discourse in our national life.

9:30 Children and Families gather to hear stories from one or more of our parish veterans and to do a service project.

10:15 AM, Holy Eucharist, Rite II with choir and nursery

We have no Coffee Hour host signed up for this Sunday. If someone can put the coffee on, that would be great.



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Beginning this Sunday in the **Prayers of the People**, we will begin to pray for a different parish ministry or parish group each Sunday. Believe it or not, it will take us over six months of Sundays to mention everyone.

2 PM Gospel Concert at Lorimer Chapel, Colby College with visiting gospel artists, David Dupree and David Powell.

2 PM Waterville First Baptist Shines Spotlight on Female Organists. There will be a free concert with Sharon Saunders, Christina Minster Rao, Mary Matteson and Lynne Burney. All welcome to one of the final events that celebrates the 200th anniversary of First Baptist. Corner of Elm St. and Park St.

6:30-8:30 p.m. “Home: What must we give—and give up—to be American?”

- This year, **Community Conversations** will bring Waterville’s diverse constituencies together to engage in three conversations guided by the theme word “home”. The events will take place in the new Chace Forum—a communal events space on the first floor of the Bill & Joan Alford Main Street Commons in Waterville.

Thought leaders: Bethashley Cajuste and Rabbi Erica Asch.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

So far this year we have given 17 blessed prayer shawls to people for healing/comfort. We now have 3 blessed shawls. If you are interested in knitting a shawl we have homespun yarn, directions and assistance. Yarn, needles and directions will be available Sunday in the Narthex. See Vicky Dawson or call with any questions: 314-4154.

Thank you for considering this ministry.

We also gather every Tuesday 1-2:30pm in the Radley Room.



Wed. Nov. 14, 1 PM, and all Wednesdays through the fall; Reminder that everyone is welcome to come join in the fun in St Mark’s Kitchen on Wednesday

afternoons and help make **soup for the Evening Sandwich Program**. St. Mark's has been feeding the hungry for 26 years in Waterville and cooking the soup on Wednesday takes some of the load off our regular Thursday volunteers. The menu for next week is chili.

Sunday, Nov. 18 – St. Mark's at the Movies returns with a 2 PM showing of "Won't You Be My Neighbor", an exploration of the life, lessons, and legacy of iconic children's television host, Fred Rogers with discussion to follow. Wear your favorite cardigan!

Sunday, Nov. 18 - 9 AM Outreach Committee Meeting. Please join the Outreach Committee for a meeting to disburse funds to community organizations. We will have a brief visit from KV-CAP to tell us about their programs.

Sunday, Nov. 18 at 11:30 AM there will be a coordination meeting for all table chairs and organizers of the Christmas Fair.

Sunday, Nov. 18, 4 PM Taize service at church, Join us for an hour service with silence, chant, and Eucharist.

Sunday, Nov. 25 will be our fall ingathering for the United Thank Offering. We will be distributing boxes and envelopes this Sunday.

Christmas Fair, Saturday, December 1, 9:00 to 2:00 We have all the table chairs in place. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board across from the rest rooms for help with set-up and clean-up as well as Harvest Kitchen help.

The Gift Table (headed by Dawn Cates and Lee Brock) is gearing up for the Annual Christmas Fair. We are looking for a variety of gently used items to sell at our table. Kitchen items, linens, prints, and small appliances are always appreciated, as well as Christmas ornaments and decorations. Items can be brought to the church and dropped off in the back room (Eustis side). We will be having pricing workshops, starting on Monday, November 12 from 1:30-3:00, and running every Monday until the Fair. You are welcome to come to help for as long as you like. If you have questions, or if you want something to be picked up at your house, call Dawn (680-6897) or Lee (873-3065).



Renovations to the rest rooms continue. If anyone would like a private rest room, the former men's room has been converted to a unisex rest room, available to all, with a locking door. If that door is locked, anyone can use the small rest room in the kitchen. We thank Kennebec Electric for installing the new electric hand dryers in both rest rooms.

THANK YOU! for the Books for Palm Bay Elementary

I write with deep appreciation for the generous response from the parish for books for Palm Bay Elementary School in Panama City, FL! I could hardly believe it when I saw the overflowing box and bags of books that you all donated. I packed them up in 4 boxes and mailed them off on Monday. The boxes will arrive early next week when the students return to school for the first time since 10/9! In addition to significant water and structural damage at the school, many students (and teachers) had significant damage to their homes. Reading material will help the teachers get the students back on track for learning, will give the students a chance to get lost in a story, and may even introduce them to some new things [there were some great stories about snow and Maine in the collection :)]. What a wonderful gift you have given these people! Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

-Jan King



A Reflection on Living Local

Last Saturday, Bishop Lane and four other congregations joined us at St. Mark's for a conclusion to the first phase of **Living Local**. I would like to share a few reflections here in the e-news this week and next week there will be some reflections. Living Local has been a long two-year, sometimes fun, sometimes challenging process. I want to thank Guiding Team members Melinda Corey and Jonathan Knock, Dave and Deb Doreau, Dawn Cates, Harriet Gosnell and Peggy Mansir for committing much time and energy to this process. I also want to thank original Team members Chris Bryan and Sheri Dodge for their energy in getting this off the ground.

The challenge of a new process like Living Local is to discern what to do and to try to communicate it to the rest of the congregation. Luckily we had some diocesan guides and six other congregations in the Diocese to reflect with. The biggest confusion is that many people thought the idea of Living Local was to go out and **"do for"** when the idea was really to go out and **"be with"**. We have many great opportunities where we go out and "do for" (Evening Sandwich Program, July Lunch Program, volunteers at the Homeless Shelter, Food Bank and many other helping ministries) and Living Local was not intended to be part of them. The idea of Living Local was simply to find folks in our many different communities and simply find out who they are and what's going on and maybe find out if there was a need to meet. The Living Local Team began to do this here at St. Mark's with a number of special coffee hours where we learned many things about each other we never knew before. And the Living Local Team went out and encountered a

number of people in their communities and have stories to share about that. But that is hard work. Bishop Lane reflected on this challenge:

When we began, I was clear that the culture of our Episcopal Church, American views on religion as a private concern, and our collective fear of strangers would make this process difficult. I was not wrong... but I underestimated how difficult it might be to create a new culture of religious mutuality and openness, a culture of cooperation with those not a part of our church communities. This has been hard, hard work, and I think we are just beginning to hit our stride as this is ending. Could we actually engage our neighbors with the proclamation that God is and then follow where the Spirit of God leads us? I think that what we've learned is that, yes, we can. We can, for a time and in small groups, let go of our concerns for institutional survival, and we can prepare ourselves in heart and mind to engage with God's world beyond the institution. And we can preach the Gospel. We can share the good news of God's love as a gift, without expecting something in return as repayment. But it's devilishly difficult, and requires intensive time in Dwelling in the Word, extensive time in conversation, and thoughtful, long term reflection on our communities and what God is up to. It's really a journey of discovery, and like the ancient explorers who discovered unknown lands, one can sail for a very long time without ever seeing land. I think the future of this church will depend more and more on our rootedness in our communities and our collaborative work with our neighbors. Churches that try to go it alone, will die alone. Such collaboration will require continued effort to stay focused on the Gospel and to put ourselves in places where we actually can connect and can share.

After two years of Living Local at St. Mark's, I think we are more open and welcoming to each other and those who come through our doors. After two years, I think some of us have the insight that we are called to engage in the life of our communities, through our presence and actions more than our words. I do agree with Bishop Lane that our survival depends on learning how to do this. We will continue to learn. Stay tuned.