

“St. Mark’s Turns 50”

THE PARISH POST

**St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109
(717) 652-6700**

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The Rev. James E. Person, 717-695-7525**

PASTOR’S NOTES

Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally. Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20 (The Message)

Soon we'll be hearing that familiar rhyme, "April showers bring May flowers." That little ditty is meant to help us through the rainy days of April and look forward to the fresh, blooming results of that wet weather; the beautiful flowers of spring. I'd like to suggest that from now on when we find ourselves showered by the skies of April we take the opportunity to also remember something else that involves water and fresh, new beginnings; our Baptism.

Martin Luther suggested that whenever we get wet, in the rain, in the bath, or in any way, we remember our Baptism. Baptism is so central to the Lutheran faith that we should be reminded as often as possible that we are baptized children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. I can think of no better way to talk of the gift of Baptism than to use Luther's own words from *The Small Catechism* published in 1536:

1: What is Baptism?

Answer: Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word.

What then is this Word of God?

Answer: Where our Lord Jesus Christ says in Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

2: What gifts or benefits does Baptism grant?

Answer: It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the Word and promise of God declare.

What is this Word and promise of God?

Answer: Where our Lord Jesus Christ says in Mark 16:16, "The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned."

3: How can water do such great things?

Answer: Clearly the water does not do it, but the Word of God, which is with, in, and among the water, and faith, which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the Word of God it is a baptism, that is, a grace-filled water of life and a "bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit?" As St. Paul says to Titus in 3:5-8, "He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the

Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure

4: What then is the significance of such a baptism with water?

Answer: It signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned through daily sorrow for sin and repentance, and that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

Answer: St. Paul says in Romans 6:3-4, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

I hope this suggestion is helpful when we find ourselves sitting by the window, watching the raindrops fall. Those raindrops bring life not only to the flowers of the earth, but also, when collected in the font as the waters of baptism, bring new and eternal life to all who believe.

Your brother in the family of God,
Pr. Person

CAMPING IS FUN!!!

THE 2008 CAMPING SEASON IS UPON US. CAMP IS A GREAT PLACE TO MEET AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS OR VISIT WITH OLD ONES. CAMP CAN ALSO BE EXPENSIVE FOR MANY FAMILIES. ST. MARK'S OFFERS SOME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE CHILDREN INTERESTED IN GOING TO CAMP. LACK OF FUNDS SHOULD NOT KEEP A CHILD FROM GOING TO CAMP. THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION OFFERS CAMPERSHIPS FOR THOSE FAMILIES WHO NEED THEM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE SEE YOUR CAMP PERSON REPRESENTATIVES (MOLLY AND DAVID STANTON) OR PASTOR PERSON. THE CORPORATION IS OFFERING A NEW DISCOUNT THIS YEAR. ANY CHILD WHO INVITES A FRIEND TO EITHER CAMP KIRCHENWALD OR NAWAKWA, WHO HAS NEVER BEEN BEFORE,

WILL RECEIVE A \$25 DISCOUNT AS WILL THE FRIEND BEING INVITED. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT MOLLY OR DAVID STANTON (657-7725)

AVAILABLE DISCOUNTS

CAMP PERSON DISCOUNT - \$10

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION - \$15

SECOND CHILD DISCOUNT - \$25

THIRD CHILD DISCOUNT - \$50

INVITE A FRIEND - \$25

ST. MARK'S DISCOUNT - \$125 (MUST BE A MEMBER TO RECEIVE THIS)

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE FOR ST. MARK'S CHURCH.

WE WILL HAVE A COVERED DISH DINNER, PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE, AND A CONCERT BY CHRISTIAN SINGER JUDY HALL. JUDY IS THE FORMER ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO SHAWN SMITH. SHE PERFORMS MANY TIMES A YEAR IN HER HOME STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AS WELL AS CONNECTICUT. JUDY'S STYLE OF MUSIC IS EASY LISTENING, BOTH CHRISTIAN AND SECULAR. (AMY GRANT, THE CARPENTERS, ANN MURRAY, TO NAME A FEW) JUDY WILL BE WORSHIPING WITH US ON SUNDAY MORNING WHICH MEANS THAT YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO MEET HER BEFORE THE EVENT IN THE EVENING.

THE DINNER WILL BE SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008 AT 5:30 PM WITH THE CONCERT TO FOLLOW AT 7:00 PM. PLEASE COME AND HELP US COMMEMORATE THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE AND CELEBRATE THE 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY WE HAVE SHARED AT ST. MARK'S. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE; SUE BENNICK, STEPHANIE CARL, MIKE HENGST, MOLLY AND DAVID STANTON, PASTOR JIM PERSON.

MUSICIANS WANTED:

We are looking for people who are willing to play at the Alternative Worship Services. We are looking for percussionists, guitarists, pianists, brass, etc. If you would like to volunteer, or know someone who would, please contact any member of the Alternative Worship Team; Janice Alloway, Betty Briner, Dennis DeFrank, Charles Reddinger, David Stanton, Molly Stanton, April Trout, Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk and Pastor Jim Person.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AT FREY VILLAGE — Saturday, June 7, 2008 8:00 AM — 2:00 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC — The scent of Strawberries will soon fill the air here at Frey Village. There will be a variety of items for sale including: Strawberry Tarts, Chocolate covered strawberries, candy, crafts, baked goods, books, plants, jewelry, sticky buns, animal balloons, vendor tables, white elephant items and soft pretzels. There will also be a Silent Auction at 1:00 PM.

Lunch will be served from 10:00 AM — 1:00 PM.
Lunch menu: Pork Barbeque, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, strawberry desserts, ice cream and beverages.

HI WAY CLEAN-UP

The next clean-up of our two miles of Oak Grove Road is scheduled for **Sat. April 5 at 9 AM**. If you can help, please contact Calvin Smith (652-3808.) We will meet at the parking area of the Resurrection Cemetery at 9 AM. Those interested may meet for breakfast at the Skyline Restaurant at 8 AM. Thank-you for your help.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY OUTREACH — TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008

WE NEED YOU TO HELP! Give one hour to: Serve coffee, tea, cold water, cookies, give Invite Card to interested voters on Election Day.

BAKE COOKIES to be served to voters. Please bring your donations Sunday, April 20th or early Primary Election Day. (Place cookies on the stage in Fellowship Hall.)

SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL BE AT BOTH ENTRANCES — Please decide ASAP.

DONATIONS FROM VOTERS WILL BENEFIT OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP.

THANK YOU & MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

You may call Alice Houck at (717) 545-1068 with any questions.

NEW ADDRESS

Holly Lechleitner
11 Harrogate Drive
Hummelstown, PA 17036

YOUTH GROUP

- 6 Youth Group Meeting "The BIG Picture"
6:00 PM to 8:30 PM
- 13 Youth Group Meeting "Movie with a message"
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- 25 - 27 Senior High Retreat 6:00 PM

PURPOSE STATEMENT - St. Marks is a church that	
P raises God	Worship
R elishes Relationships	Fellowship
A cts as God's Ambassadors	Evangelism
Y earsns to Learn	Discipleship
S erves God and Our Neighbors	Ministry

THANK-YOU NOTES

Fellow members,

A sincere thank you to the entire church family for the wonderful display of Christian love showered upon our family during the lengthy illness and recent death of my mother, Louise Stohler. The numerous inclusions on the prayer chain, cards, altar flowers and visits by Pastor Jim were all greatly appreciated and cherished. Our entire family is grateful for the love and caring shared throughout these trying times. We are blessed! May God Bless each of you.

Tom and Terry Stohler

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Thank you for the many prayers, cards, meals and visits during my dad's recent illness. Your care for our family during this very difficult time has meant so much to us.

I would ask that dad is kept on the prayer chain and in your hearts.

We are taking him home with Hospice Care for his remaining time.

Thank you again for all the prayers and care. You and God have held me up through this.

God Bless,
Sand McClain

Rev. Person and Congregation,

I want to thank you and your congregation for the warm welcome while I was here in Harrisburg. I only lived here for 4 months, but you made me feel like I had worshiped at St. Mark's for years. Thank you and God Bless.

Always,
Kristie McIsaac

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Thank you for the many cards, calls, prayers and concerns for me throughout my diagnosis and operation for tracheal stenosis. The spiritual and moral support was so very much appreciated. A special thank you to Margie Stouffer who drove me to Philadelphia, visited me there at Jefferson Hospital, delivered meals to the house and cared for me during my recovery. I am recuperating well and am looking forward to spring, gardening and going for walks outside again . . . Being able to breathe!

Gratefully,
Susan Simpler

Dear Fellow Servants of Christ,

Thank you so much for your contributions of \$1,000.00 from your Endowment Fund to HELP Ministries and \$18.04 to Christian Churches United. Your generous support of the ministries of Christian Churches United means so much to the people we help and to the Tri-County community. Christ said "as you do to one of the least of my brethren, you do unto me." There is still so much work to be accomplished and your contribution will enable us to continue our action ministry and witness.

We thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

Yours sincerely,
Jacqueline P. Rucker
Executive Director

MEMORIALS FOR STEVE ROTHROCK FROM:

Dottie Bird
Shirley Johns
Ed & Pat Nettling

MEMORIAL FOR EMILY PIVARNICK FROM:

Michael & Claire R. Pivarnik

BIRTHDAY'S FOR APRIL

3 Janet Peter	18 Ethan Flickinger
Margaret Harnish	20 Brenda Kahley
Kristen Tremblay	Danielle Sultzaberger
4 Valerie Martellaro	Zachary Kahley
5 Michelle Sholder	Alice Dormer
Michelle Sultzaberger	Patty Ernest
8 Connie Schwartz	22 Sean Maher
12 Linda Dullen	Earl Russell
13 Donald Herbster	23 Kristy Shoaff
Kenneth Shillingsford	25 Kimberly Dinger
14 Gail Russell	Ross Moody
15 Susan Simpler	26 Denise Harr
16 Harriet Mark	Melva Neifert
Anthony Weldon	Karin Senft
17 Lauren Rausch	29 April Trout
	30 Mary Evanoff

"I wish I'd said that!"



Thinking is like loving and dying. Each of us must do it for himself.

Treasurer's Report Summary February 2008

	RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURES
	<u>Feb. 08</u>		<u>Feb. 08</u>
Operating	\$19,748	Operating	\$23,707
Benevolence	<u>2,291</u>	Benevolence	<u>1,888</u>
Subtotal	22,039		25,595
Hunger	271	Hunger	180
Building Fund	937	Building Fund	0
Memorial Fund	25	Memorial Fund	0
Designated Funds	892 (1)	Designated Funds	406 (2)
Nursery Sch payroll	<u>2,974</u>	Nursery Sch payroll	<u>2,974</u>
Total	\$27,457		\$29,155

(1) Receipts include: Nursery School Scholarships \$79; Youth \$154; Seasonal Flowers \$319; Mission Partner \$117; Transportation Fd Interest \$80; Retreat \$80; CCU \$20; Food Pantry \$35; Souper Bowl \$313; and Bunny Breakfast \$14.

(2) Expenditures include: Youth \$100; Fellowship \$50; Communion cups \$35; Estates 10% Benev \$125; Love Boxes \$61; and Misc. \$35.

Calvin Smith
Treasurer

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4200 Londonderry Road
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APRIL 2008**

St. Mark's Church Council

President	James Carl
Vice President	Randy Whitaker
Secretary	Lisa Hand
Treasurer	Calvin Smith
Financial Secretary	Rita Trovalli
Council Members	Zara Bennett
	Greg Bennick
	Reuel Deppen
	Fred Hoover
	Keith Kahley
	Pastor Jim Person
	Charles Reddinger
	Molly Stanton
	Thomas Stohler
	Mary Sultzaberger
	Tracey Swetnam
Organist Emeritus	Betty Briner
Minister of Music	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
Church Secretary	Kim DiPaolo
Youth Director	Jesse Woodrow

