



THE LITURGICAL GUIDE AND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Liturgical Day & Color	June 4-5, 2023 Trinity Sunday	June 10-11, 2023 2 Pentecost Proper 5A	June 17-18, 2023 3 Pentecost Proper 6A	June 24-25, 2023 4 Pentecost Proper 7A
Lectionary Readings (Revised Common Lectionary)	Genesis 1:1-2:4a Canticle 13 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20	Hosea 5:15-6:6 Psalm 50:7-15 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69: 8-11, 18-20 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39
	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Saturday 5:00 p.m.
LEM	John Kern	Virginia Gilmore	Rob Perdock	Virginia Gilmore
Lector	Rob Perdock	Virginia Gilmore	Rob Perdock	Virginia Gilmore
Altar Guild	Diane Stewart	Freear Pollard	Freear Pollard	Diane Stewart
	Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:00 a.m.
LEM	Virginia Gilmore	John Kern	Sundy Schermeyer	Madeline Glover
Lector	Tom Simson	Matthew Kern	Tom Hadlock	Bill Glover
Greeter/Ushers	Steve DeCaro Kevin Tunney	Eric Christensen Tim Feil	Sandy Wyman Larry Andria	Bill Glover Tom Hadlock
Altar Guild	Laura Bott Louise Reeves	Edie Hofmann Diane Feil	Victoria Garcia Karen Love	Catharine Nobiletti Ashley McLean

SERVICES AT SAINT MARK'S

chris.jubinski@stmarkswhb.org

WEEKENDS

Sunday—Holy Eucharist 8:00 am & 10:00 a.m.

THURSDAYS

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing

Baptisms, Weddings, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation by Appointment

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND

www.dioceseli.org

To see the readings for the next two
Sundays,
click on the links at the top of the schedule on this
page
or visit lectionarypage.net

FR. CHRIS JUBINSKI *Office:* 631.288.2111 *Cell:* 410.253.3664

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Sunday School Pentecost Sunday (Whitsunday) 8:00am Holy Eucharist 9:00am Coffee Hour 9:15am Chair Practice 10:00am Holy Eucharist 11:00am Coffee Hour 2:00pm Private Party	SOME GAVE ALL Memorial Day Parish Office Closed	30 Book of Common Prayer, 1549 Parish Office Closed 5:30pm Bright Beginnings Parents Meeting	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin 7:00pm Alanon	1 Justin, Martyr, c.167 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing	2 Blandina and Her Companions, The Martyrs of Lyons, 177	3 The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886 5:00pm Mass on the Grass
4 Trinity Sunday 9:15am Chair Practice 10:00am Holy Eucharist 11:00am Coffee Hour	5 Beniface, Bishop and Missionary, 754 Parish Office Closed	5:00pm Bright Beginnings Graduation Ceremony	7 7:00pm Alanon	8 [Melania the Elder, Monastic, 410] 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing	9 Columba of Iona, Monastic, 597	10 Ephrem of Nisibis, Deacon and Poet, 373 5:00pm Mass on the Grass
11 2 Pentecost (Proper 5) 9:15am Choir Practice 10:00am Holy Eucharist 11:00am Coffee Hour	12 Enmegahbowh, Priest and Missionary, 1902 Parish Office Closed	13	Basil of Caesarea, Bishop and Theologian, 379 7:00pm Alanon	15 Evelyn Underhill, Mystic and Writer, 1941 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing	16 Joseph Butler, Bishop and Theologian, 1752 Last Day of School for Bright Beginnings	17 [Marina the Monk, Monastic, fifth century] 5:00pm Mass on the Grass
18 3 Pentecost (Proper 6) 9:15am Choir Practice 10:00am Holy Eucharist 11:00am Coffee Hour	Juneteenth Adelaide Teague Case, Educator, 1948 Parish Office Closed	20 Parish Office Closed 6:30pm Vestry Meeting	21 7:00pm Alanon	22 Alban, Martyr, c.304 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing	23	24 Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Pat Conklin-Time TBA Nativity of St. John the Baptist 9:00am Alanon Workshap 5:00pm Mass on the Grass
25 4 Pentecost (Proper 7) 9:15am Choir Practice 10:00am Holy Eucharist 11:00am Coffee Hour	26 Isabel Florence Hapgood, Ecumenist, 1928 Parish Office Closed	27	28 Irenaeus of Lyons, Bishop and Theologian, c.202 7:00pm Alanon	29 St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing	30	1 [Pauli Murray, Priest, 1985] 5:00pm Mass on the Grass

A LION'S SHARE

The Weekly Newsletter of Saint Mark's Church A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

ST. MARK'S CHURCH

40 Main Street P.O. Box 887 Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

> Phone: 631.288.2111 E-Mail:

kate.gabrielsen@stmarkswhb.org Website: www.stmarkswhb.org

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WEEKEND SERVICES

(SAT.) 500 p.m.—Holy Eucharist (SUN.) 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (Livestreamed)

THURSDAY SERVICES

11:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing



The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano
Bishop of Long Island
The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf
Assisting Bishop of Long Island
The Rt. Rev. Daniel Allotey
Assisting Bishop of Long Island
The Rt. Rev. William Franklin
Assisting Bishop of Long Island

The Rev. Christopher D. Jubinski Rector

Email:

chris.jubinski@stmarkswhb.org

Cell: 410.253.3664



THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, 6/26 Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, 6/28 7:00 p.m. Alanon 12 Step Meeting (Atwater Room)

Thursday, 6/29 10:00 a.m. Bible Study – "Women of the Bible" Session 5 of 12

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in Rector's Office

12:30 p.m. Threshold Singers in the Atwater Room

Saturday, 7/1 5:00 p.m. "Mass on the Grass" come as you are Holy Eucharist (Columbarium Garden)

Sunday, 7/2 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice in the Church

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Church

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Participating	in Today's Service	Next Week,	July 1st and July 2nd
Saturday at	5:00 p.m.	Saturday at	5:00 p.m.
LEM/Lector Altar Guild	Virginia Gilmore Diane Stewart	LEM/Lector Altar Guild	TBD Freear Pollard
Sunday at 1	0:00 a.m.	Sunday at 1	0:00 a.m.
LEM	Madeline Glover	LEM	TBD
Lector	Bill Glover	Lector	TBD
Ushers	Bill Glover, Tom Hadlock	Ushers	Steve DeCaro, Tom Horan
Altar Guild	Catharine Nobiletti, Ashley McLean	Altar Guild	Lee Wadelton, Diane Feil

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Carol Johns in loving memory of her parents Dorothy & George Nostrand and by Barbara Pettus in celebration of Jessica & Nolan's wedding.

June Birthdays	Service Attendance		
8 Yolande Hadlock	Saturday, June 17, 2023	5:00 PM	11
11 Jennifer Kast	Sunday, June 18, 2023	10:00 AM	67
21 Emily Smith	Distriction of the Association and the State of the Association and the Association and the State of the Association and the Associati	Total:	78
21 Ryleigh Jayne Morton-Boone			
26 Sibyl Piccone	(Service was not streamed last week.)		
27 Julienne Boone		•	
29 Arthur Connolly	6/22 Bible Study	6	5
	11 am Holy Euchar	ist é	\$
June Anniversaries	*		
2 Carol & Robert Laube			
6 Suellen & Kevin Tunney			
17 Allison & Dr. Eric Christensen			
30 Karen & Bob Love			

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship During the Summer: Saturdays at 5 p.m. is truly "come as you are" so feel free to dress comfortably. You will also notice that we will be simplifying the liturgy for Saturdays and Sundays by reducing the overall amount of singing we do during the service.

Bible Study takes place on Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Rector's office. The current topic is "Women in the Bible".

"Women in the Bible" sheds new light on familiar characters like Mary Magdalene in the New Testament and Sarah, Abraham's wife in the Hebrew Bible. It also studies characters who are less well known to many Bible readers, such as the city of Babylon, styled as a whore in the Book of Revelation. Through the stories of these women, discover how gender can inform your reading as you explore how these stories relate to your own faith journey.

- Gluten Free Communion Wafers are now available during each service. If you require one, please ask Fr. Chris at the communion rail.
- If you are a new parishioner, we would most appreciate your filling out our Parish Survey. There are blanks at the back of the church for your convenience. Completed forms can be returned to the church office. Thank you.
- Altar Flowers: If you would like to dedicate Altar flowers for the Altar contact Laura Bott at 631-722-4749 or email her at <u>laura.bott17@gmail.com</u>. In May there is one vase available for the 7th and 14th. Each vase is \$40. <u>Kindly Note:</u> checks should be made out to \$1. Mark's Church with "Flowers" in the memo section.
- Ways to Help the People of Ukraine...(AS of 6/1/2023) A complete list is posted on the bulletin board next to the church office. Please help us collect as much of these necessary items as we can. There is a box for them in the narthex. You can also visit our website at www.stmarkswhb.org for ways to help.
- Maureen's Haven: "Thank you" for donations to Maureen's Haven. A box for donations, along with a list of suggested items such as individual containers of non-perishable food, is in the office lobby.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 7th at 6:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social to meet Rosanna Davis, our new Preschool Director.

We ask that you remember those for whom prayers are requested: Noah Berger (Req. by Jenn Kast), Stan Billie (Req. by Jenn Kast), Deana Chiusano (Req. by Jinny Gilmore), Darrie Cosban (Req. by Jinny Gilmore) Nancy Fraser (Req. by Ki Nobeletti), Roberta Good (Diane Stewart's Sister), Cheryl Grove (Friend of Marj Kulesa), Elaine Hanes (Req. by Kate Gabrielsen), Barbara Ireton (Req. by Carol Smith), Cathy Jones (Farmers Market), Stephen Jones (Req. by Kate Gabrielsen), Gretchen & Jim Jubinski (Fr. Chris' Parents), Campbell Kast (Req. by Jenn Kast), Cole LoRusso (Marj Kulesa's Nephew), Fred Meyer (Parishioner), Jock McLean (Parishioner), Sean McLean (Req. by Jock McLean), The Reverend Abigail Murphy (Priest in EDLI), Jeanette Navas (Req. by Jinny Gilmore), Sudie Nostrand (Carol John's Sister), Paul Oele (Parishioner), Cassie Panzarino (Req. by Jinny Gilmore), Joan Petrella (Parishioner), Rosemary Rees (Victoria Garcia's Sister), Betty-Rose & Stuart Richardson (Req. by Victoria Garcia), Jean Scopinich (Parishioner), John Stewart (Parishioner), Sarah Witters (Req. by Victoria Garcia), Jocko Calvez (Req. by Larry Andria), Marjorie Kulesa, Helen Horton, Michael Warner, Louise Reeves, Owen Foster (Diane & John Stewart's grandson), and Morgan Reilly Nicotra (Req. by Chris Adams).

If there are any names that can be removed, kindly contact Kate in the church office 631-288-2111.

<u>We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:</u> Amanda E. Degener, Kyle M. Degener, George L. Degener, Jesse Fritz, Nicholas LoRusso, Joshua Rudd, Michael Keegan, Rob Scribner.

Please Pray for Your Parish Every Day at 12:00 Noon And Remember the People of Ukraine and Sudan too!

Maureen's Haven Homeless outreach

We Are Always in Need Of:

Personal Hygiene Items (preferably travel-sized):

- Disposable Razors
- Deodorant
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soap/body wash
- · Toothpaste/toothbrush
- · Feminine hygiene products
- · First aid kit products

•

Lightly Used or New Clothing:

- Coats
- Boots
- Hats/gloves
- Socks/underclothes
- Jeans

Food: (preferably individual sized, non-perishable)

- Coffee/tea/milk
- Canned goods (vegetables, fruits, soups, etc.)
- · Ramen noodle soup
- · Nut butters and jellies
- Microwavable meals
- Snack bars
- Fresh fruit
- · Non-perishable food items & beverages
- · Paper products

•

COVID-19-Related Items:

- · Cleaning products
- Paper towels
- Toilet tissue
- Hand sanitizers
- Masks



Donations in Support of Ukraine

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church of Riverhead greatly appreciates the support demonstrated since the invasion started and the many inquiries made about how one can help Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

The list below of items they need is from their website as of 6-1-23.

There is a box for donations in the narthex and in the office lobby. You can also visit the St. Mark's website at www.stmarkswhb.org for ways to help.

MEDICAL:

Antibiotic creams, all kind of gauzes, any hospital or doctor's office medical supplies, cold medicine, vitamins, any wound care products, blood coagulants, and burn care products, Neosporin, and antibiotic creams, painkillers: acetaminophen (Tylenol), aspirin (Bayer), ibuprofen (Advil) and naproxen (Aleve), Medical gloves.

Water filtration products (specifically to make "dirty" water drinkable/ potable) flashlights, lanterns, blankets, sleeping bags.

We also accept crutches, wheelchairs, and walkers.

FOOD:

Ready to eat foods, dry foods (cereals, oats, trail mixes, ramen noodles, energy bars). Cocoa, Tea, Coffee (Plastic containers ONLY!)

TOILETRIES: All Kinds for adults and children.

DIAPERS: Children's and Adult's, sanitary wipes.

Men's NEW dark color underwear, t- shirts, socks, sweaters, pants.

Children's NEW all sizes and both genders underwear, t- shirts, sweaters, socks

Feminine products and NEW dark underwear

NO TOYS OR BOOKS PLEASE!

WE CURRENTLY ARE NOT ACCEPTING WINTER CLOTHING!!! NO DRESS CLOTHING





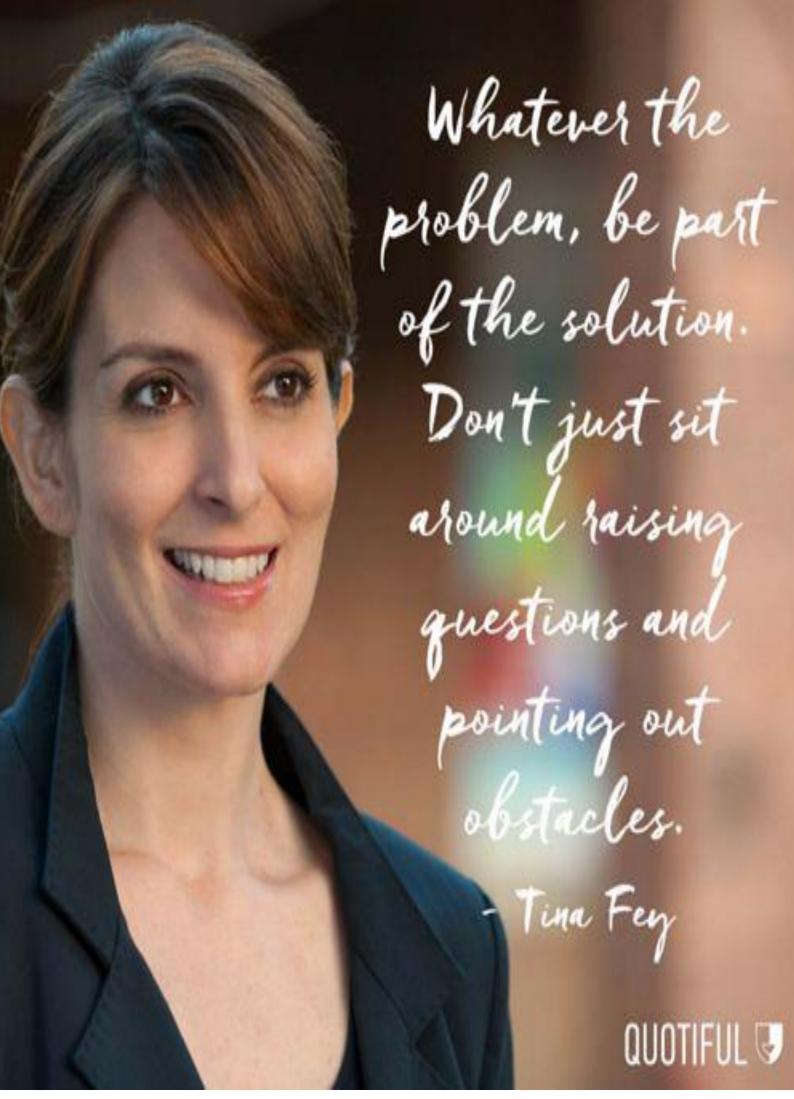
Youth Sunday on June 18th



C & C Landscaping hard at work!

Diane Stewart, one of our Wardens dressed in RED for Pentecost Sunday.







Explore the Way of Love: BLESS

The Christian tradition calls us not just to believe, but also to bless the world with the Good News that we have learned.

As the writer of Mark's Gospel tells us, Jesus said, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." When we incorporate the practice of Blessing others into our lives, we are putting our love *into* action by becoming the Good News for others.

As part of the Way of Love, Blessing gives us a way to follow the example of Jesus. Just as Jesus was a leader and a teacher, he also was a son, a friend, a servant. Jesus understood the need to know and be known by those in his community and beyond. He understood that being seen, invited, and welcomed are ways of sharing blessing.



Likewise, we are called to know and be known, in the name of love. We are called to see, invite, and welcome as living examples of Good News. Just as the apostles were called to give and teach and heal, we are called to give the gifts we have to bless, as God has given so much to us. To seek, name, and celebrate the presence of God's love in our lives and the lives of others is part of being good news.

We are called to work together as we share this love so that we are not alone in our work, but acting together as the Body of Christ, being his hands and feet in this world, we bring the Good News to life for people here and now.

Being part of a worshiping and serving community is part of the Good News. As the writer of Hebrews tells us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." We are called to give freely of our resources, our stories and experiences, our time and our attention. And we are called to invite others into this Way of Love. We blessed *ourselves* in the process. *Others* will be blessed in the process.

This is how the world will come to know who we are and what we believe: Through the way we bless them.

Will you commit to the practice of blessing others? Are there others you know who are blessing others, who you can join with to multiply those blessings?

Learn more about the Way of Love at episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. You can find suggestions on getting started and going deeper with Blessing at iam.ec/ewol.

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Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes April 18, 2023, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

<u>Members Present</u>: Fr. Chris Jubinski, Diane Stewart, Sandy Wyman, Steve DeCaro, Diane Feil, Madeline Glover, Tom Hadlock, Tom Horan, Marj Kulesa, Ashley McLean, Barbara Pettus, Steve Turner, Carol Fitton, Tom Simson

Fr. Chris called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with a prayer for St. Mark's Day.

Check-in Time: Fr. Chris invited Vestry members to share news and prayer concerns.

Minutes: A motion was made by Tom Horan, seconded by Marj, to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2023 Vestry meeting.

Finance Report by Tom S:

Bright Beginnings: March tuition receipts of \$68K were down 2% compared to \$70K in March 2022, while March expenses of \$111K were up 14% compared to \$97K in March 2022. Tom noted that salaries in March are up 16% year over year, consistent with the increase of 17% YTD. Net MTD income for March 2023 was -\$33.2 vs -\$8K in March 2022. Tom pointed out that BB had 3 pay periods in March which makes the comparative results look worse. Net YTD 2023 Income stands at -\$44.1 vs -\$10.4 in 2022 at this point, excluding the effect of grant "income". \$3K in grant money remains on the balance sheet, compared to \$84K in 2022. (The grant money is from NY State to be used for specific purposes, one of which is staff development.)

SMC: Tom S reported a monthly operating loss in March of approximately -\$47K vs a loss of -\$30K in March 2022. March 2023 regular donations stand at \$7K vs \$12K in March 2022, a drop of 17.6%. March 2023 Facility Income of \$520 was down 94% compared to \$9K in March 2022, which reflects the conversion of the former monthly cell tower rental income to the one-time payment received in the summer of 2022. Salary and Benefit Expenses for March 2023 are higher than March 2022, with Salary Expense up to \$21.2K vs \$19K in 2022 and Benefit Expense at \$11.7K vs \$9K in 2022. Tom noted that there were 3 pay periods in March, which obviously makes these expenses higher than the typical 2 payroll month. He also said there was a \$10K expense for the audit. March 2023 YTD operating loss of -\$66.6 compares to -\$73.8 in March 2022.

Endowment: The reported balance at the end of March was \$1,255,826, compared to a balance of \$1,102,749 a year ago.

Balance Sheet: Tom noted that prepaid expenses continue to accrue down as the cost of snow removal and general insurance are expensed each month and that the Unallocated Fund Balances continued to correct down in March. He explained that the unallocated fund balance is used as a balancing account to align the DDA Fund, Restricted Savings Fund, the Investment Fund and Bright Beginnings.

Safe Church:

Tom H sent an email to everyone on the Vestry recently, which contained a list of the required courses to take from Praesidium as well as login instructions. He requested we let him know immediately if we have any issues.

Parish Annual Meeting:

Fr. Chris mentioned the meeting will be held on May 7 and will likely include a potluck lunch.

Announcements / Upcoming Events:

- WHB will be having a "Spring Fling" on Main Street on Saturday, April 22. The Farmer's Market, which has been held in our Parish Hall throughout the winter, will be held outside on our lawn. SMC will have an information table outside as well.
- Fr. Chris mentioned there will be a farewell lunch in honor of Dawn's retirement after the service on May 21, although her last day at Bright Beginnings will be in late June.
- We will go to the summer worship service schedule at the beginning of June with a 5pm service on Saturday and one Sunday service at 10 a.m.
- There will be an Art Show in the Parish Hall over Memorial Day weekend that will coincide with the Art Show being held on the Lawn across the street.

Q&A:

Beinecke Building Leasing: Fr. Chris updated the Vestry that the Diocese has approved the rental and that we are now waiting for approval from the WHB Zoning Board.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Vestry Meeting: Vestry meetings are normally held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is May 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Fitton, Clerk

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes May 16, 2023, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

<u>Members Present</u>: Fr. Chris Jubinski, Diane Stewart, Sandy Wyman, Steve DeCaro, Diane Feil, Madeline Glover, Tom Hadlock, Tom Horan, Marj Kulesa, Ashley McLean, Barbara Pettus, Steve Turner, Carol Fitton, Tom Simson

Fr. Chris called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with a prayer by St. Francis of Assisi.

Check-in Time: Fr. Chris invited Vestry members to share news and prayer concerns.

Minutes: Approval of the April 18, 2023 minutes has been postponed until the June Vestry meeting.

<u>Vestry Norms:</u> Fr. Chris directed attention to the handout on Sample Vestry Responsibilities from the Episcopal Church Foundation in the meeting packet. He discussed the concept of Vestry members' commitment to the church in all different ways including being visible, which communicates the importance of church events to the entire Parish. He reminded us that commitment includes confidentiality on the part of Vestry members and exhorted us to think about all the ways we can dream and work together going forward.

<u>Consent Agendas:</u> Fr. Chris described what a consent agenda is and referred to the handout entitled *The Consent Agenda* in the Vestry Packet, which goes into detail about how to use it. He said that use of this at the Diocesan and Vestry level has become a way of streamlining meetings by allowing routine items to be voted on in a single block.

Safe Church:

Tom Horan thanked all who have taken the courses and mentioned that feedback to Aissa Hillebrand, the Safe Church liaison at the Diocese, has been that the website is not as user friendly as the previous website. He also mentioned that the number of courses that one is required to take depends on one's position/activities within the Parish. For example, 9 courses are required of all Vestry members, while 3 courses are required of Ushers. If anyone needs help or has questions, he is available to help.

<u>Beinecke Building:</u> Fr. Chris updated the Vestry about the WHB Zoning Board meeting that took place on May 11, which delayed approval of the submitted plans because they were different than our understanding of them. A meeting will take place tomorrow with the prospective tenant's representatives to resolve the different understandings and come to an agreement on a final plan that will be presented at the next Zoning Board meeting.

Finance Report by Tom S:

Bright Beginnings: April tuition receipts of \$70K were down 39% compared to \$97.5K in April 2022, while April expenses of \$77K were down 18.7% compared to \$91.4K in April 2022. Tom noted that salaries in April are up slightly at \$64.7K year over year, but up 14% YTD. Net MTD income for April 2023 was \$1.25K vs \$20.4K in April 2022. YTD 2023 Net Income stands at -\$42.9 vs +\$10.8 in 2022.

SMC: Tom S reported YTD April 2023 Church Donations of \$120K vs \$88.7K a year ago, a healthy 35% increase, although Other Income is lower by approximately \$18K in 2023 due to the conversion of the monthly cell tower leasing income to a one-time payment received in July 2022. For the same timeframes, YTD Salaries and Benefits Expenses were \$110.5K vs \$99K. The April 2023 YTD Operating Loss of -\$79.2K compares to \$77.9K a year earlier, however 2022 includes a one-time net item of \$161.9 in COVID Retention Credits. Removing that one-time credit in 2022 results in a comparison figure of -\$84K vs 2023's operating loss of -\$79.2K.

Endowment: The reported balance at the end of April was \$1.247mm, compared to a balance of \$1.106mm a year ago.

Balance Sheet: To be updated next month.

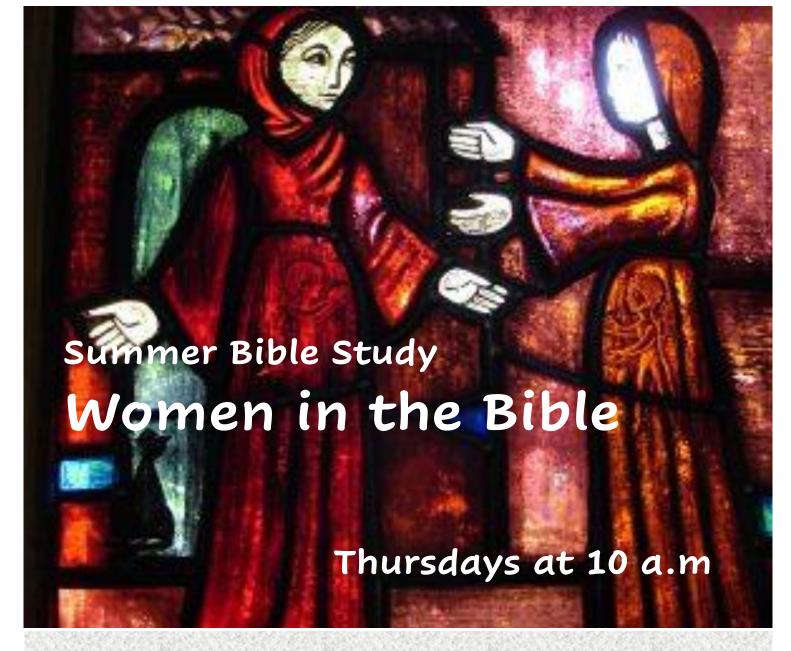
Announcements / Upcoming Events:

- Fr. Chris mentioned there will be a baptism as well as a farewell lunch in honor of Dawn's retirement after the service on May 21. Her last day at Bright Beginnings will be in late June.
- The summer worship service schedule will begin in June with a 5pm service on Saturday and one Sunday service at 10 a.m.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: After a motion by Diane, which was seconded by Sandy, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

<u>Next Vestry Meeting:</u> Vestry meetings are normally held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The schedule of upcoming meetings is: June 20, no meeting in July, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19 at the Rectory, January 16, February 20, March 19, and April 16. The tentative Annual Meeting date is May 5.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Fitton, Clerk



About This Study...

Reading about the women in the Bible reveals a great deal more than simply the stories of a few individuals. Through the women's trials and triumphs, the text offers various (sometimes contradictory) pictures of gender, family life, and relationships. Our modern understanding of gender may not translate directly onto the functions of gender in the Bible.

What are our pre-conceptions about gender in the time of the Hebrew Bible and in the Greco-Roman world? We may imagine that ancient women were universally oppressed or powerless, relegated to their roles as wives and mothers. This unit challenges these pre-conceived ideas as it seeks to understand the many roles women hold in biblical stories. We will read the stories with special attention to the power dynamics, including those surrounding gender, enslavement, and empire.

It is important to remember that these women's stories do not necessarily reveal what was normal or even ideal about gender in the ancient Near East or the Greco-Roman world. Instead, they show us glimpses of those worlds from which the authors of the texts made meaning.

"Women in the Bible" sheds new light on familiar characters like Mary Magdalene in the New Testament and Sarah, Abraham's wife in the Hebrew Bible. It also studies characters who are less well known to many Bible readers, such as the city of Babylon, styled as a whore in the Book of Revelation. Through the stories of these women, discover how gender can inform your reading as you explore how these stories relate to your own faith journey.

Summer Worship Schedule

At Saint Mark's

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

"Mass on the Gras
Starting June 3"

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Starting June 4

Refreshments and fellowship follow each service.

PENTECOST 4

Proper 7 - Year A

This Bible study was written by Charles Lane Cowen of the Seminary of the Southwest in 2017.

Genesis 21:8-21

8 The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. 9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. 10 So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." 11 The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. 12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. 13 As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." 14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Commentary from Charles Lane Cowen

Outside of the book of Genesis, the word "Abraham" appears in the Bible 142 times.
Compare that with Sarah, which appears 24 times, and Hagar who only appears 3 times—once in Baruch and twice in Galatians. Given that father Abraham is remembered for the covenant God makes with him to provide descendants as numerous as the stars (Gen 15:5), it seems strange on the part of the biblical authors to ignore Sarah and Hagar, without whom Abraham would have no descendants.

The author paints a picture in today's story of a jealous Sarah who casts out a helpless Hagar into the wilderness with her young son. Hagar, a servant girl, was forced against her will to have sexual relations with her master, bear him a son, only to be cast by her master's jealous wife into the wilderness - where she and her son will surely die of thirst. Human jealousy, pride, and ambition pit these women against one another. God, however, remains faithful to both Sarah and Hagar. Hagar calls out to God, and God provides water and makes of Ishmael a great nation. Through Sarah and Isaac, God makes another great nation. In today's world, we see over and over nation pitted against nation as we fall trap to the sins of jealousy, pride, and selfish ambition. Perhaps through remembering that God loves and cares for us even when we fall into sin, we can seek to create a world where we love all nations as family.

Discussion Questions

Look at Gustave Doré's famous engraving of Hagar in the Wilderness. Does this image change the story for you in any way? How might you depict the story of Hagar and Ishmael?

Where in your life have you been jealous of the accomplishments of others? How might God transform that jealousy?

What does this story teach us about modern political diplomacy?

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

- 1 Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me, * for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; * save your servant who puts his trust in you.
- 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; * I call upon you all the day long.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, *
 for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, * and great is your love toward all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, * and attend to the voice of my supplications.
- 7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, * for you will answer me.
- 8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, * nor anything like your works.
- 9 All nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord, * and glorify your Name.
- 10 For you are great; you do wondrous things; * and you alone are God.
- 16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; * give your strength to your servant; and save the child of your handmaid.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; * because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Commentary from Charles Lane Cowen

In Psalm 86, the psalmist calls out to God for help against enemies (this becomes far more apparent when we include verses 11–15 which the lectionary leaves out). The psalmist follows a familiar pattern of petitions for God's help, followed by words praising God before asking for deliverance from enemies and moving into thanksgiving even before God provides help (Ps 86:12–13, BCP). The psalmist believes so surely in God's goodness that he thanks God even before the prayer has been answered.

The most important verse of this psalm has been removed from today's reading: "But you, O LORD, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth" (Ps. 86:15).

This is a direct quote taken from Exodus 34:6 where God, speaking to Moses, reveals that I AM is a God who loves mercy over anger. The hope of favor the psalmist holds is not a blind hope like I hold when I say, "I hope I win the lottery." This hope comes from God's own mouth. The psalmist teaches us that when we pray and call upon God for help, we should reach deeply into our scriptural tradition to see how God has worked and is working in the world. Then we can call out with faith and hope to the God who has "helped me and comforted me" (Ps. 86:17).

Discussion Questions

What "enemies" persecute you or your community?

What insights do you gain from the scriptural witness?

Romans 6:1b-11

6 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were 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 also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Commentary from Charles Lane Cowen

This poetic passage from Paul's letter to the Romans beautifully summarizes for us the mystery of Holy Baptism. Baptism, especially as it has been made part of public Sunday worship in the 1979 Prayer Book, is a time for the whole church to rejoice in the addition of new members into our community, which is the Body of Christ. Given that in our tradition we practice infant baptism, most of our baptisms carry the double joy of also celebrating new life and growing families.

I certainly do not mean to suggest that the church should not celebrate the births of babies within our churches, but Holy Baptism has nothing to do with earthly birth, and everything to do with death to self and birth into a new way of being. Just as Paul reminds us so beautifully in this biblical song or canticle, through our baptism we, like Jesus, die. In the practice of full-immersion baptism, a person literally goes under water where they are incapable of breathing-death. Rising up out of the water under the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the person takes a new breath as they emerge from Jesus' death into Jesus' resurrection. This is good news! We are no more slaves to sin. but we have a new life in Jesus. We are no longer slaves to death, but we have eternal life in Jesus. Alleluia!

Discussion Questions

What aspects of death are in our baptismal liturgy?

What aspects of birth are in our baptismal liturgy?

What does full participation in the Body of Christ look like? How might we order our lives if we remain conscious of the fact that we are part of the Body of Christ?

Matthew 10:24-39

²⁴ "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

26 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. 27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. 28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted. 31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, ³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷ "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Commentary from Charles Lane Cowen

One common complaint against Christianity brought up by atheists is the problem of theodicy—why does an all-powerful, loving God allow terrible things to happen in the world? This criticism only holds up, however, if one buys into the common misunderstanding, professed by many Christians, that Christianity is a religion of sunshine, rainbows, unicorns, and puppy dogs, completely devoid of suffering and pain. Readers of Matthew's gospel know that the in-breaking of God's kingdom comes with much pain and suffering.

Today's reading begins with Jesus reminding us not to fear the oppressors of this world, but to fear God. Written against the backdrop of the oppressive Roman Empire, Matthew offers words of comfort to worshippers of God that the reign of God is being uncovered. Jesus empowers us to stand in opposition to our oppressors, proclaiming the peace and love of God, yet Jesus is not naïve enough to think that our oppressors will simply give up. Proclaiming the Good News will always make those in power uncomfortable, and sometimes that even means people in our own families.

Discussion Questions

When have you disagreed with someone in your family about politics or religion? Were you able to resolve it? If so, how?

What issues in your local community might be informed by your being a follower of Jesus? How might you proclaim God's justice in places of oppression?

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Vocations Day

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 2023

Location:

Mercer School of Theology 65 Fourth Street, Garden City, NY 11530

FOR PERSONS IN GRADES 8-12
WHO WISH TO EXPLORE LAY AND ORDAINED MINISTRIES IN THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

8:45 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

10:00AM DISCERNING MINISTRY

11:30 A.M. THE DAILY OFFICE PRESENTATION

11:45 AM NOON DAY PRAYER

12:30 PM LUNCH

1:00 PM DIOCESAN (FAMILY) FEUD

2:00 PM CLOSING PRAYER

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 30TH TO LMOORE@DIOCESELI.ORG

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Rites of Passage

June Birthdays

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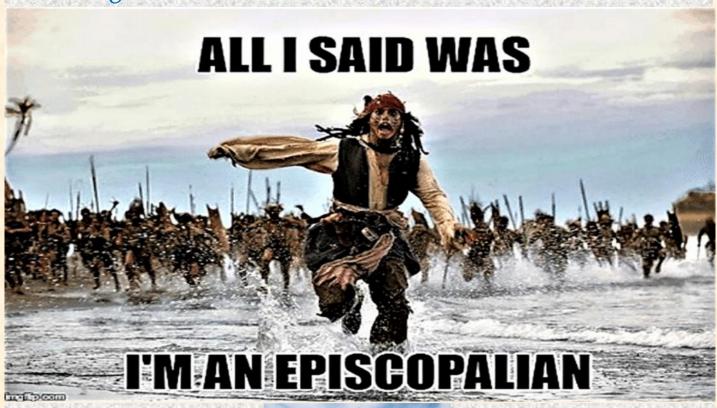
27 Julienne Boone

29 Arthur Connoly

June Anniversaries

2 Carol & Robert Laube 6 Suellen & Kebin Tunney 17 Allison & Dr. Eric Christensen May God give you...
For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.





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