

# **THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

## **Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Westhampton Beach, New York**



**September 13, 2020**



**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AGENDA**  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 10:00 am**

1. Call to Order – John Kern
2. Opening Prayer - Stephanie L. Zayicek
3. Motion - Appointment of Clerk of Meeting.
4. Motion - Election of a Presiding Officer to preside over the meeting. This must be one of the Wardens as we do not presently have a Rector to preside.
5. Approve Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting.
6. Motion to amend the By-Laws. Request that the Presiding Officer Read the Amendment into the Record.

**AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS OF ST. MARK’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF WESTHAMPTON BEACH**

WHEREAS, the Vestry of St. Mark’s must often vote upon and pass quickly various urgent practical needs between regularly scheduled Vestry meetings for the good running of the parish and need to make motions and resolutions for the good order of the Church; and

WHEREAS, to expedite for the practical urgent need to act between Vestry meetings to vote upon and pass these motions and resolutions; it is now hereby

RESOLVED, that the Vestry may vote on such motions and resolutions of urgent and practical need electronically via email or otherwise, and the motion or resolution shall be deemed passed with the same full force and effect as if the motion or resolution had been voted upon in person provided;

A. It is voted upon by a quorum of the Vestry; and

B. The motion or resolution is passed unanimously and entered into the minutes of the next Vestry meeting. In the event the motion or resolution is not passed unanimously it shall automatically be placed upon the Agenda for the next upcoming Vestry meeting.

**Yea** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nea** \_\_\_\_\_

7. Report of the Nominating Committee – Carol Fitton

**Candidates for Warden:**

John Kern – Warden for one-year term

Diane Stewart – Warden for two-year term

**Candidates for Vestry (three-year term):**

Diane Feil

Tom Horan

Ashley McLean

8. Reports

**Wardens' Report** – Diane Stewart / John Kern

**Update on Priest Search** – Marjorie Kulesa / Diane Stewart

**Treasurer's Report** – Tom Simson / John Kern

**Stewardship Report** – Barbara Pettus / Stephanie Zayicek

**Investment Committee Report** – Barbara Pettus / Pamela Sheiffer

**LEM / Acolyte Reports** – John Kern / Jean Scopinich

**Altar Guild Report** – Ki Nobiletti / Diane Stewart

**Usher Report** – Steve DeCaro

**Buildings and Grounds** – Judith McDermott / Steve DeCaro

**Garden Report** – Ashley McLean

**Love in a Dish** – Joyce Lankenau / Steve Turner

**Bright Beginnings** – Dawn Orban

9. Open Discussion

10. The next Annual Meeting will be May 2, 2021.

11. Polls will continue to be open to satisfy the required minimum limit; or Motion to accept the Slate of Candidates and nominate the Presiding Clerk of the Meeting to cast the vote of all present members.

**Yea**\_\_\_\_\_

**Nea**\_\_\_\_\_

12. Installation of new Vestry members.

12. Closing Prayer

13. Adjournment

## St. Mark's Annual Parish Meeting Minutes, May 19, 2019

Father Michael called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. Thirty-seven members were in attendance. Father opened the meeting with a prayer (Prayer for Church Convention or Meeting). He appointed Eileen Becker as Secretary of the Annual Meeting.

**Minutes:** Father Michael gave us five minutes to review the minutes of the Annual Meeting from May 20, 2018. A motion was made by John Kern, seconded by Tim Feil, to accept the minutes as written.

**Nominations:** Father Michael presented the following slate for a Three-Year Vestry Term:

- Steve DeCaro
- Marjorie Kulesa
- Steve Turner

Father Michael called for any additional nominations from the floor. None forth coming, a motion was made by Diane Stewart, seconded by Lloyd Becker, to close nominations at this time.

### Reports:

- **Wardens' Report:** Diane Stewart reported that there are many great activities occurring at St. Mark's. She thanked us all for our contributions. John Kern reported that we are leasing out our cell tower thanks to Kurt Hofmann.

- **Treasurer's Report – Tom Simson**

**Bright Beginnings:** Tom reported total income was \$1,003,000 with total expenses of \$1,005,000, yielding a slight net loss of about \$2,000, essentially a break-even point. Bright Beginnings covered \$9,000 of the building's utility expense. He reminded us that Bright Beginnings is an outreach program that is not intended to be a source of revenue, but rather a community service that provides high quality childcare at a reasonable cost.

**St. Mark's:** For 2018 there was a net loss of about \$166,000 on total revenue of \$323,000, although year-to-date weekly donations are up from 2017. Drawdowns on our Endowment continue to be relied upon to cover the annual deficit. For the 2019 budget, some changes were made to more accurately identify line items.

Kurt Hofmann mentioned that Steve DeCaro has been working on changing out our lightbulbs from incandescent to LEDs, because it should save us money. Tom mentioned that while savings is important, we need to generate more income through growth. Diane Stewart added that we could make \$500 - \$800/month by renting out our Parish Hall, so we need to encourage the use of our facility. Jennifer Marwood asked if the Library will continue to rent our facility and Diane responded that once the renovations at the library are completed, the Library will hold virtually all of their programs in-house at the Library. Tom Simson stated that money coming in is one piece of a bigger solution. John Kern made a motion, with Richmond Gardiner seconding, to accept the Treasurer's report. Passed.

- **Stewardship Report:** Father Michael read from the Stewardship Report prepared by Co-Chairs Barbara Pettus and Stephanie Zayicek. The Stewardship Committee would like to thank each of the donors to the 2019 Campaign. As of April 15<sup>th</sup>, there are pledges of \$172,039 from 73 pledging units. This is 2.1% above last year's pledges. However, it is below the goal of \$200,000.

- **Acolytes:** John Kern thanked Aimee Ralph for her hard work and assistance. We have eight young people serving as acolytes.
- **Eucharistic Ministers:** Father Michael reported that we have two new LEMs: Virginia Gilmore and Kurt Daisley.

**Open Discussion:** Father Michael called for any comments and a discussion followed about the use of our facility. It was made clear that we cannot advertise but church members can sponsor if someone would like to use our church. There will be a Guitar Camp here at St. Mark's during the second week of July from Monday through Friday.

Sandy Wyman brought up the Main Street renovations which are due to begin this September and will prevent access to the Church parking lot. Diane Stewart briefly outlined plans that had been discussed at that last Vestry meeting to deal with this issue, which would involve accessing our parking lot from the other side of the Beineke Building by taking down part of the fence and putting a drive in behind the businesses there. Discussion followed.

**Opening of Polls:**

A motion was made by Bob Wachter, seconded by John Kern, to have the Secretary cast one ballot for the three nominated candidates. The motion carried. The Vestry was so elected.

**Next Year's Annual Meeting:** will take place on May 3, 2020.

**Adjournment:**

Father Michael ended the meeting with a blessing. Motion made by John Kern, seconded by Judy McDermott, to adjourn.

The meeting concluded at 12:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Becker, Clerk of the Vestry

## CANDIDATES' BIOGRAPHIES

### **FOR WARDEN: For a One Year Term**

#### **JOHN KERN**



John is a sole practitioner attorney with an office in Southampton NY. John moved with his family to the Remsenburg / Westhampton Beach area in 2002. He has been a member of St. Mark's Church since then. John is a cradle Episcopalian who was confirmed and served as an Acolyte at Christ Church Christiana Hundred in Wilmington, Delaware. Here at St. Mark's, he has served one term as Warden, four terms on the Vestry, and continues in his role as Counsel (Attorney) to the Church. He has served on the Remsenburg-Speonk Elementary School Board as a Trustee and as President. He has also served on the Remsenburg Association Board of Governors as a Board Member, Vice-President, and President.

### **FOR WARDEN: For a Two-Year Term**

#### **DIANE STEWART**



In 1972, my teaching career started in St. Mary's County, Maryland. John and I were married in Trinity Episcopal Church, St Mary's City, Maryland.

In August of 1975, my family moved to Long Island so that John could continue his career at Grumman. My career continued at BOCES Westhampton Beach Center until I retired in June of 2011. Our first Sunday on Long Island, we were encouraged to visit St Mark's Church. It quickly became our parish and I became involved in Sunday School, Couples Club, Youth Choir, and the Women's Seabury Group.

Throughout the years my role has changed. From the years of teaching Sunday School, Co-Chairing Coffee Hour, Co-Chairing the Bread and More Program, and Assisting in Youth Events and overnight Ski Trips.

In recent years, I have been involved with the Holiday Luncheons, Chili Cook-Offs, Grubby Sundays, Social Events, serving on the board of Bright Beginnings and the Altar Guild.

It has been my pleasure to serve with dedicated vestry members who give of their time and talent freely to ensure that the business part of running our Church Home is dealt with and that spiritual activities happen. I look forward to serving our Church Family as we prepare for the future.

## **FOR VESTRY: For a Three-Year Term**

### **DIANE FEIL**



As members of Saint Mark's with my husband, Tim, and two children, we have been blessed to come to know many other members of the church and are equally blessed to call them good friends. Through the years at St. Mark's, my children have joined the children's choir, have been acolytes, and one even joined the adult choir for a time. My husband has been on the Vestry and was in charge of Building and Grounds. As for myself, coordinating coffee hour became my task for several years, which then led to volunteering on the Altar Guild and joining the choir. Helping to decorate the church for Christmas was then added to the list with pleasure. For us, being members of the church means much more than just attending church services on Sundays and the special holidays. Being part of the church means

participating and helping whenever we can. That being said, I would like to be considered for a position on the Vestry to do whatever I can to help in whatever capacity I may be needed.

### **TOM HORAN**



I would like to volunteer to serve on the vestry at St. Mark's. I have been a member of the church for about five years and an usher for about two and a half years.

My wife and I started to attend the St. Mark's at the suggestion of my sister-law. We were impressed with the warm reception we received from church members and also by Father Michael's sermons.

I am a seventy year old retiree, living in Yaphank with my wife and adult son. We have resided here since 1986. I graduated from the Adelphi University School of Social Work in 1977. From 1981 until my retirement in 2010 I worked for the Connetquot School District. Prior to that I had worked for the Nassau County Social Services Department and then at the Smith Haven Ministries in Lake Grove.

My primary hobby is music, playing guitar and piano. I swim and bike ride for exercise.

I have not served on a Vestry before but understand that the purpose is to act in an advisory capacity to the church's priest and to help conduct church business.

I think I am a common sense, grounded person who can contribute to St. Mark's and hope that you favorably consider me as a Vestry member.

## **E. ASHLEY McLEAN**



I have been a lifelong Episcopalian having been raised attending The Church of The Heavenly Rest in New York City. I was a willing participant in the Christmas pageant (with live animals!) and I worked my way up to Head Acolyte in charge of scheduling the 4 teams of 6 that we rotated throughout the month. In high school, when I was not acolyting, I taught Sunday School to Kindergartners. As a sophomore in high school, I was elected as my school's Head of the Social Service Board and was able to link our students to social service programs carried out by Heavenly Rest, such as the soup kitchen program, the nights the homeless slept in the church and Bingo nights for seniors. My minister, Rev. Hugh Hildesley, was fantastic and very instrumental to making me feel like a valued member of the church, even as a youth. Under his advisement, I took religion classes at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine which were taught by Bishop Paul Moore, Jr. I took my confirmation classes with the Rev. John Stubbs who had worked in South Africa with Desmond Tutu and was the Assistant Rector of Heavenly Rest.

I went to Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY, and I graduated with a B.A. in Religious Studies. I was not attending church then but exploring the psychological ramifications of religion with a focus on Christianity. I spent my senior fall in Edinburgh, Scotland at the University of Edinburgh studying Folklore and its Religious Significance to Present Day Scots and also had an internship as the assistant to the rector, Rev. Neville Chamberlain ("no relation", he would always say!) of St. John's Parish Church, a Scottish Episcopal Church in Edinburgh.

After graduation, I moved around a bit until I landed on Long Island. I was living in Baiting Hollow and I attended The Church of the Redeemer in Mattituck under Rev. Nils Blatz. He married my husband and me at the Church of the Atonement in Quogue.

I joined St. Mark's about 9 years ago when Patrick Ward was our interim. And I quickly grew to love the church and the wonderful community that it has. I have never felt so at home so quickly! Everyone welcomed my children and me with open arms.

I have participated in many programs through St. Mark's and its many ministers. I did Habitat for Humanity with Father Mark and have served on the altar guild for some years. I picked up the St. Mark's garden and have been running it for the past two summers almost single handedly and at no cost to the church, relying solely on donations I have sourced.

I have two sons, Connor (who now wants to be called Malcolm) and Devin, both of whom I believe you are acquainted with, and who both served as acolytes before Corona.

Should I be elected to the Vestry, I would be honored to help guide St. Mark's into its next chapter.

## **WARDENS' REPORT – Diane Stewart and John Kern**

While preparing this report, we looked back on all the wonderful years at St. Mark's Church remembering how a small group of parishioners wanted their own house of worship. Those dedicated women and men came together, and with hard work and sacrifice opened Saint Mark's doors for the first service in 1949.

This past year has been a challenge for our Church Family. It has been a year of hellos and goodbyes. We have experienced joy and sadness as we wish our Family Members who moved on the best in life. For those of us who do not like change we appreciate your willingness to meet the challenge.

The challenges of last Spring and Fall seem so small now. The Spring was when we discovered our steeple windows just sitting waiting to tumble out. The news of Main Street and no access to our parking lot at the time was a nightmare. Of course, Father Michael's family moving did not add calm. We faced the tasks of repairs for the Rectory and weeding through years of stuff stored in our church. In addition, our organ stopped working just in time for Advent. The smaller challenges of this year and the many people who stepped up and helped are too many to list. There were many days when Parish Members really came forth and provided not only the moral support but made real commitments to serving our church needs. To all those Parishioners we cannot thank you enough. You made the burdens lighter and showed the true spirit of being part of the Church Family.

Our outreach programs from Love in a Dish, Hurricane Relief Programs, Fall Food and Coat Drive, Maureen Haven, The Retreat for Women and their Families in Crisis, Riverhead Grace Mission, and the Food Pantry, which Canon Lesley has implemented, are ways for us to express our desire to serve our wider community in the name of our Lord. It is our goal to improve and maybe add new programs in the coming year. We are known by our deeds.

Over several months, the COVID-19 pandemic has physically closed our doors, but we are still St. Mark's Church. The church building has given us comfort and a place to celebrate and will reopen. Until that time, we can reach out in faith to support each other and the world around us. Exploring new ways to worship and sharing our ministry with the world. It may take us out of our comfort zone but like those who came before us, the mission is to celebrate our faith as a Church Family.

These are difficult times for all of us and we thank all of you for your continued prayers and support as we plan for the future of Saint Mark's.

God Bless,  
John Kern and Diane Stewart  
Wardens of Saint Mark's Church

## **UPDATE ON PRIEST SEARCH - Marjorie Kulesa**

The following is a recap of the steps to date that the vestry has taken to call a Rector to St. Mark's Church.

**Call to prayer:** Canon Claire Woodley, the Diocesan Transition Minister met with the Wardens and Vestry to learn the process of discernment and to be introduced to our Consultant, Fr. Denis Brunelle, the area Dean and Rector of St. Luke's in East Hampton. Fr. Brunelle held a meeting with the Wardens to review the materials presented by Canon Woodley and to set a proposed timeline. Fr. Brunelle conducted a day-long Vestry Retreat where he called upon us to pray and be open to the Spirit as we journey together through this process. He has since met on several occasions with our Interim Rector and Wardens and Vestry.

**Prayer walks:** Neighborhoods were identified that our parish family is from and those that we can reach out to. Prayer walks were conducted in these communities and results were submitted for Vestry review and future opportunities for outreach.

**Survey:** Parish survey was sent out via email and hardcopy to persons on our parishioners and friends of St. Mark's list.

**Profile:** Utilizing information from the surveys and previous history of St. Mark's, the vestry has been working with Fr. Brunelle to develop the parish profile and update the website. The parish profile information is available on the St. Mark's website under the Rector Search tab.

In light of the pandemic and recent events Bishop Provenzano has advised the Wardens and Vestry that the search process will need to be re-organized. He has determined that the best path forward for St. Mark's is to appoint a three-year Priest-in-Charge with an opportunity to elect that person after 1-2 years as Rector or to start another search. He will select two or three individuals who have the leadership skills and creativity to be a good fit for St. Mark's. After an interview process the Vestry will select one of them to become Priest-in -Charge for St. Mark's.

The Wardens and Vestry would like to thank those of you who responded to the survey and ask you to please to keep St. Mark's in your prayers.

## **TREASURER'S 2019 REPORT – Tom Simson**

Your financial support is necessary to help meet our Parish financial needs, to continue our own spiritual journey as well as fund our outreach missions.

The results of the 2019 fiscal year continue the previous year pattern of expenses exceeding income by a large margin. When expenses outpace income, the shortfall has been closed by utilizing funds from the Church's endowment fund.

Donation income was up by a small amount which is encouraging. Facility income was up by over 12% which was excellent. Additional income from the cell towers and weddings provided most of the increase.

Approximately 26% of the Church's expenses are covered using Endowment funds. This is clearly not a sustainable situation and must be dealt with over the next 5 years to keep St Mark's operating as we know and love it.

It is important to note that St. Mark's does not have an expense problem. The human resources and physical plant necessary to have a viable church require a series of variable and fixed expenses that must be managed, but we are operating at as low a number as can be expected and still maintain a quality product that attracts and keeps congregants.

The Church is able to share expenses with Bright Beginnings, which serves to cover a portion of the church expenses. Our goal is to share as much of the fixed expenses with the school as possible and still allow the school to generate sufficient capital to maintain safe operations and provide for continual improvement of the services it provides.

With respect to income, St. Marks has the ability to leverage our large high-quality facility and generate more income to support the church. This is an opportunity we should use to generate more income while attracting new members.

Simply put St. Mark's needs to generate more income from Church operations and from the facility. That means more members, members that contribute higher amounts, and better income streams from the facility, including the cell towers and use of the church facilities by outside entities such as the Westhampton Library, weddings, parties, etc. that use the facility on a paying basis.

The Vestry of St. Mark's will continue to review expenses and downsize overall spending in order to extend the life of the Church's endowment. Members of the Church should consider including St. Mark's in their estate planning – as this can help the next generation of the St. Mark's family.

## **STEWARDSHIP 2019 REPORT – Barbara Pettus/Stephanie Zayicek**

On behalf of the Rector and the entire Vestry, we would like to thank each of the donors to the 2020 Campaign. As of June 1, we have pledges of **\$155,000** from **64** pledging units. This campaign has been less successful than last year, however, when 75 of you pledged 175,000. This fell considerably short of our hoped for goal of \$200,000. Although the formal stewardship period has ended, there is still time to make a pledge for this year or increase the one you have already made so that we can get closer to our goal.

As a reminder, several years ago the Vestry passed a resolution that its goal for parish financial support of the church was twofold - 1) that 50% of the operating budget would be covered by pledges and 2) that two-thirds of the active families would participate. With this year's results, our pledges cover about a third of our operating expenses and about half of our active families pledged to support our operations. 24 of you have increased your pledge from last year and 8 of you are new pledgers this year - thank you and welcome!

Barbara Pettus and Stephanie Zayicek, Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee

---

## **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Barbara Pettus/Pamela Sheiffer**

Since the last annual meeting the Investment Committee has kept the portfolio at Fidelity in a combination of cash, bonds and equities. As the bonds mature, the proceeds have been moved into cash (combination of a money market fund and a laddered portfolio of CDs). The current allocation is 55% equities, 45% cash and bonds. The bond portfolio is laddered and all bonds will be held to maturity; the latest date is 2022. The CDs are also laddered; the longest matures in May 2021. This gives us close to three years of expenses (draw) in cash.

During calendar year 2019 we drew \$150,000. During the sixteen months since the last annual meeting the value of the account has dropped 8% (\$85,202). At the current draw level, with no large bequests and no material increase in stewardship, we will have exhausted our endowment in about six years.

As of 8/31/20 there was \$985,035 in the account.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Pettus/Pamela Sheiffer, Co-Chairmen

## **ACOLYTE, LEM AND LECTOR REPORTS - John Kern / Jean P. Scopinich**

### **ACOLYTES**

The acolytes of St. Mark's Church are a dedicated group of young people who serve on our Altar on Sunday Services, holidays and special services as well. They are ages ten to eighteen. Their job includes preparing the Altar for service by lighting the candles, leading the procession and recession and assisting the Celebrant to prepare and clean up the Eucharist.

There may be strength in numbers, but there is also strength in passion and commitment. Though our team was small, dedication was large. We are blessed to work with all these dedicated young people and look forward to working and serving with all of them.

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS**

The Lectors and Eucharist Ministers are a group of adults who assist the Celebrant with the Service. The Lectors are assigned readings for that particular Sunday. The Eucharist Ministers lead the congregation in the Prayers of the People and administer the chalice during the Eucharist.

We have a dedicated group that have been serving for years. This year, we welcome William Glover as a new addition to the team. They all have enhanced our worship service and we thank them for their time and dedication.

Yours in Christ, John Kern and Jean P. Scopinich

---

## **ALTAR GUILD REPORT – Catherine Nobiletti**

Preparing the Lord's table is an honor to all our dedicated Altar Guild members. Spending quiet time either in the sacristy or in the sanctuary assembling the vessels, linens, hangings, etc. is a gift of precious time and service to our Lord.

There are 17 women who assist in preparing the Altar over the course of the year for Sunday services, or special times during the liturgical calendar including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Weddings, Funerals, Christenings, etc. Generally, two women work together, one a veteran and the other a trainee. A three-month schedule of service is prepared assigning each member one Sunday a month with a partner. If the timing is not convenient, substitutions can be made.

St. Mark's has been blessed with many gifts to our Altar over the years. This year Canon Lesley was able to procure a beautiful brocade hanging that is on the Altar in our Chapel, as well as several new fair linens. All of our possessions are handled with loving care and reverence.

Please consider joining us. We hope to increase our membership this year. Thank you to our women who faithfully prepare the Altar for us each and every Sunday. Your dedication is greatly appreciated by all.

Blessings, Altar Guild Chairperson, Catharine Nobiletti

## **USHERS' REPORT – Steve DeCaro**

In the past year we have had 22 parishioners volunteer as ushers. We would like to thank them for their time and patience as we have moved through different practices during mass. They have done their best to help the congregation to assimilate to new patterns. In the near future they will be an important part of St. Mark's church as we try to get back to regular worship while keeping each other safe.

---

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – Judith McDermott**

With the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic we have held back planting annuals and doing anything extra in the front of the church. We have mulched, sprayed for ticks and fertilized the front lawn and by Bright Beginnings. Diego Perez, our landscaper, has done a good job mowing weekly and removing weeds and putting down mulch where necessary. He also does the Rectory.

Inside the church building maintenance and cleaning has been kept up. Last fall we had taken out the cabinets and painted the Atwater room. When the church is allowed to open, we will be able to have meetings in this newly renovated room.

---

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT - Steve DeCaro**

During the last year, our sexton Chris Adams, aided by Vestry Members Steve Turner and Steve DeCaro have gone about changing the light bulbs throughout the church and the school to LED bulbs. Through this action, we have cut the electric costs due to lighting to about 10 percent of the old. Additionally, all the sconces have been cleaned throughout the church proper.

The overgrown bushes that surround the property have been taken back as we used the new driveway from the rear parking lot to the front lot while Main Street was being repaved.

The PA system that was inoperable for years is now working and will be upgraded in the future.

We have also spent quite a few hours ridding ourselves of accumulated junk throughout the grounds and in the attic that we have saved over the decades. The grounds are less of a fire hazard now and the remaining church files are now easier to access.

## **GARDEN REPORT – Ashley McLean**

I have been running the St. Mark's Garden which was established last year by Beth Ann Bentley and Aimee Ralph. The idea behind our garden is to help provide fresh produce for our food pantry and the soup kitchen, Love in A Dish, which we do once a month through the organization Bread and More at the First Congregational Church in Riverhead. It is estimated that 1 in 7 Americans typically use a food pantry to supplement their diets. The need for food pantry donations is higher than ever due to the pandemic's effects on employment and I hope that our fresh produce contributions will make a big difference.

In the fall I planted garlic which should be ready for harvest in a few weeks. This spring, the garden received donations from the H.O.G. Farm in Brookhaven which included seedlings of onions, broccolini, squash and cucumbers. We received tomatoes, eggplant and green pepper seedlings from Reeves Farm and I am picking up a flat of San Marzano tomatoes today that were organically grown by a local Master Gardener.

I have just completed a Master Gardener course through the Cornell Extension Program and I have realized I have much still to learn. I welcome any advice or suggestions from you which will help our garden thrive. I will also welcome any physical help anyone is able to give, especially regarding weeding or weed whacking. We could set up a social distancing schedule. My phone number is (646) 957-5694.

I hope you are able to enjoy this beautiful weather and that I will see you all soon, Ashley McLean

---

## **LOVE IN A DISH REPORT – Steve Turner/Joyce Lankenau**

Volunteers from St. Mark's have participated in a food program once a month since May, 1998. We call our St. Mark's volunteer effort "*Love in a Dish*".

St. Mark's volunteers serve dinner once a month -- usually on the first Monday of the month -- to between 35 and 90 homeless and hungry people at the First Congregational Church in Riverhead. (The number of guests varies widely due to the schedule of the farmworkers who comprise a majority of our guests). We provide an entrée, soup, a side dish and fruit. Local businesses donate baked goods, bread and rolls. Dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:30. Cleanup takes about 30 minutes, so we are finished by 7:15. Nearly 30 members of St. Mark's have contributed to the food program in donating food or money, in shopping for food, and in preparing and serving the meal. There are many St. Mark's volunteers who help with the meal on our Monday night. The main cook, Robert Nathan, prepares and cooks the meal on the spot. The St. Mark's volunteers gather in the kitchen of First Congregational Church by 3:30 and help with the various duties: helping prepare the food, setting up tables, bagging bread for the guests to take home, making a salad, putting together the side dish, baskets of rolls, drinks and dessert.

Our food program is partially supported through contributions made by St. Mark's parishioners. We are grateful to all of you who contribute funds, food and time to this special outreach Program. It helps us be a faith community that brings God's healing and caring ministry to our members, our community and the world. We look forward to resuming this ministry once COVID-19 restrictions permit.

**To volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact Joyce Lankenau or Steve Turner:**  
Joyce: 631-878-0964, [jdll@optonline.net](mailto:jdll@optonline.net). Steve: 631-909-1283, [Sturner430@aol.com](mailto:Sturner430@aol.com).

---

## **DOUGLAS GRAHAM SCHOLARSHIP REPORT – Stephanie Zayicek**

To our St. Mark's Family,

It is my pleasure to share that we have three recipients of the **Douglas Graham Scholarship** this year.

- Carley Cunneen from Westhampton Beach High School. She is the daughter of Maria and Steven Cunneen of Westhampton. She will be attending the University of South Carolina and will be studying finance.
- Spencer Moyle from Westhampton Beach High School. He is the son of Carol Fitton and Rob Moyle from Westhampton. He will be attending Duke University and is currently undecided on a field of study.
- Trevor Moyle from Westhampton Beach High School. He is the son of Carol Fitton and Rob Moyle from Westhampton. He will be attending the University of Miami and will be studying Business Administration.

All three have been active members of St. Mark's church over the years, from Sunday School to Youth Group, and nursery care, and hosts of special projects. They've also all been very active outside of church in sports, theatre and community service. They are all very deserving of this recognition, and we wish them the very best as they start their new journeys in the fall.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Zayicek

## **GREETINGS FROM BRIGHT BEGINNINGS – Dawn Orban, Director**

It is hard to put into words one's feelings and thoughts about this year. Our school year began in September with happy faces welcoming back friends and little ones leaving their parents for the first time. Friends were made, bonds were formed and our school as usual was full of life and laughter. We celebrated Halloween, Thanksgiving and our first ever Santa breakfast for families. It was a huge success with over two hundred people attending over two sessions.

We began our enrollment for the following year and summer 2020 and then we were told to pause! Life as we all know it changed drastically on March 16th when our staff went to the school to prepare to shut it down for what we thought was two weeks. As two weeks turned to a month and then another, we realized our little ones would be missing a great many things but most of all missing the most important function of our school and that is the social part of being in preschool. Our staff did not miss a beat: they quickly turned to virtual learning holding two zoom meetings per class per week. At first, they were so nervous but just this morning I watched a class of three-year old children doing the chicken dance virtually with their teachers. Smiles and giggles were had by all. Children are amazing adaptable little people who we can all learn lessons from. Just seeing their smiles when they see their friends and teachers on zoom makes my heart soar. Our assistants post weekly videos to our Facebook page with craft idea, math lesson and even dancing to silly songs the children know. We also had a family each night read a bedtime story and shared it on Facebook. I always knew Bright Beginnings was a community but the way they pulled together amazes me daily.

I could not do what I do without my assistants Kim and Sara. Kim helped with all of our curriculum development while Sara keeps all of the financial items going. Their biggest job I would think they would say is helping me to navigate through everything and I am so proud to say their lights shined bright through this pause. On top of all of this with the tremendous effort of Canon Hay and Chris Adams a food pantry was being run for East Quogue and WHB school districts. It is quite the undertaking and the number of individuals we helped was astounding. Our Bright Beginnings families donated a great deal of non-perishables along with monetary donations to help fund the pantry. I am so proud of everyone that helped and continues to help with this outreach.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Canon Lesley, the Wardens and Vestry for all of their support during this school year. The support for our staff and help with decision making made it manageable. Thank you to Tom Simson and Mr. Chris for all you do for our school. Here is to re-opening and our "new normal". I wish everyone a healthy and safe restart.

## **BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS 2019**

### **Baptisms:**

Jackson Scott Wickline

### **Weddings:**

John Kanas Jr. and Katherine Hellige

Michael Morris and Kacie Overlander

### **Funerals:**

John Okula

Kevin Smith

Martha Odesso

Spencer Donaldson

Dawn Felshman

The Rev. George Busler

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 887  
Main Street and Potunk Lane  
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978**

**Website: [www.stmarkswhb.org](http://www.stmarkswhb.org)**

**Church Office  
631-288-2111**

**Rectory  
631-998-3023**

**Church Fax  
631-288-7298**

**St. Mark's Bright Beginnings Preschool  
631-288-3310**

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Tom Simson, Treasurer  
Dawn Orban, Preschool Director  
Kate Gabrielsen, Parish Secretary  
Chris Adams, Sexton**