

# St. Mark's Epistle

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Rev. Edward King, Priest-in-Charge

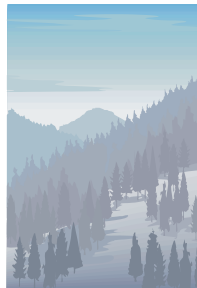
95 Commercial Street, PO Box 192, Adams, MA 01220

*September/October 2009*

*View from the Mountain...*

*A Letter of Thanksgiving and Farewell to  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Adams, MA*

I feel richly blessed to tell you that I have received a call to become Priest-in-Charge with the St. Anne's Parish (Episcopal Church) of Scottsville, Virginia. This is a three year appointment by the Rt. Rev. Shannon Sherwood Johnston, Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Virginia, with the possibility of being installed as the rector in a couple of years. I will begin my ministry with St. Anne's Parish on September 1, 2009. Much in the way you received me into your lives, I have received an invitation to come and stay for a while with these people who believe I have the gifts, grace, and skills to be their spiritual leader in the life of their parish. In preparation for leaving and ending this phase of our relationship, I am drawn to one of my favorite scriptures from the Epistle of Philipians:



*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, **because you hold me in your heart**, for all of you share in God's grace with me...And this is my prayer, that your love may*

*over flow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." (Philipians 1:3-7a, 9-11, NRSV).*

There is a song associated with the Old Regular Baptist Church, a strain of the Baptist tradition found in central Southern Appalachia. The words go something like this:

*"Brothers, now our meeting is over, and surely we must part; and if I never any more see you, I will hold you in my heart..."*

"I will hold you in my heart" is a phrase from this hymn, also echoed in the Philipians' text, which has particular meaning for me as we enter into the final days of my sojourn with you. In our leave-taking, the words, "I will hold you in my heart," express my relinquishing you to God in my prayers. I do this with the knowledge that the Spirit - who brings peace, joy, comfort, guidance, and strength for the journey - gathers us up and gives us the support we need for the changes and chances of this life.

As I leave you, I have a sense of peace knowing you will be provided a new leader to walk with you through the next phase of your journey. Many of you know the Reverend Ed King, who, until now, has been solely the Rector of St. John's Church, North Adams. Beginning September, he will also become the Priest-

in-Charge of St. Mark's Church. I believe you will be greatly blessed by Ed's presence, guidance and friendship as he begins his ministry with you. Both he and Ann, his wife, have a deep well of spirit and heart. I know they already have affection for you and have held you in their hearts from the time before I came to Adams. They were supporting you in prayer during your season without a priest, and Ed, as one of the two Deans in the Berkshire region, has been a continued source of supportive leadership for this parish. I pray, as you come to know them, you grow in appreciation for their companionship on your life's journey.

Through the Spirit of God, we will remain connected. You made a place for me in this faith community when I was a stranger, and as the months went by; you made a place for me in your hearts. We became friends in Christ, a relationship that is not broken by distance and time. Saying farewell isn't easy and no one likes to be the one left behind, at least I don't. We know, however, that this is a part of life, and our task is to do this parting well. When we are led by the Spirit we are enabled to forgive, bless, and do the kind of leave-taking that truly says that Christ is at the center of our lives and the life of this parish. May we learn to pray our good-byes and in doing so, *hold each other in our hearts*, letting go of that which cannot be changed, and placing ourselves into God's care. I will remember you with great affection, thanksgiving, and joy.

God's peace be with you all,

*Ellen+*



Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

is the first day of Sunday School at St. Mark's.

So mark your calendars . . . and don't be late . . .

class begins at 9 o'clock.

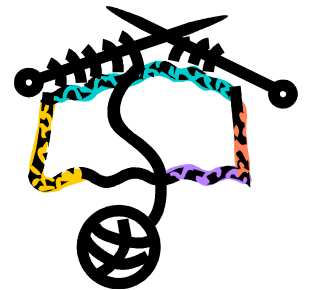
We look forward to seeing the smiling faces of the children.

### *Knit 'n Stitch...*

I try to keep you all informed on what is going on with the Knit 'n Stitch Group...we are busy knitting and are blessed with the fellowship of each other.

God has sent an angel who volunteered to cover the postage for mailing our knitted items to their respective places. God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform.

Rev. Ellen's departure has saddened our group of knitters. She tried to be with us on Monday afternoons sharing laughs and jokes, as well as trying to knit something. Turned out she wasn't the best knitter, but you should see her embroidery! These past 3 years with her have been a blessing to each of us...she will be missed. Each of us pray for God's blessings for her in her new parish.



The Knit 'n Stitch group received a generous donation from Nancy Lanski which will be used to replenish our supply of yarn. Many thanks, Nancy!  
~Barbara Fiske

### *Vestry Hi-Lites...*

Since the last issue of *The Epistle*, we have had two Vestry meetings. The biggest things coming from those meetings follow:

1. At our July meeting we voted unanimously to put \$75,000 of the remaining bequest from Annie Pasotti into a business investment account at the Adams Co-Op bank. The fund will be restricted to not drawing it down below \$50,000. No more than \$5,000 can be withdrawn at one time, and all withdrawals will need prior Vestry approval.
2. We voted to accept the agreement to enter into intentional discernment to explore a possible merger w/St. John's, North Adams, and to have Fr. Edward King be our Priest-in-Charge. Copies of these agreements are available to you just for asking.
3. A laptop computer, projector, and software were purchased with funds donated by Alice Malloy's family. Brass plates have been ordered to put on each piece in her memory.
4. The Parish House and church chimney's need serious and immediate repairs. We are in the process of hiring someone to take care of them for us.
5. Michele Pause, Jr. Warden has arranged for fuel oil from Rowley Fuel at a cost of \$2.29/gal. They will also service both our boilers before the heating season begins, and do not require a contract. A real bargain!
6. The Youth Tag sale was disappointing this year, netting only about \$400. A lot of work for a small return.

~Karen DeOrdio, Clerk

### *Coming Events...*

**Sep 19:** 9:30-12:30 Berkshire Summit at St. Mark's Meeting of rectors and wardens in the Berkshire corridor.

**Sep 20:** The Saint's Meeting, time TBA

**Sep 25,26:** Finding your Spiritual Gifts workshop at St. John's, North Adams. Flyers available at the back of the church.

**Oct 8:** 6:30 pm Girl's Nite Out, place TBA

**Oct 18:** 9 am: The Rev. Canon Sarah Shoftstall will be our guest priest as Fr. Ed will be away that Sunday.

5 pm: Dinner and a movie. Movie title, TBA. Mark your calendar now, plan to bring a dish to share and enjoy an evening of fellowship.

### *A Note from the Editor...*

If you have an item of interest you would like to see in *The Epistle*, please e-mail me at: [kdeordio@gmail.com](mailto:kdeordio@gmail.com) or send hardcopy to me at home: 14 Bradford St, North Adams, MA 01247.

Deadline for the next issue of *The Epistle* is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

~Karen DeOrdio