For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12
In the last four months a lot has happened. St. Mark’s voted not only to come for the winter but for the year and share a pastor with Prince of Peace. Prince of Peace heard a passionate speech in worship by one of their saints, and overwhelmingly voted to invite St. Mark’s over for a year. As the day for the move came close, people at St. Mark’s had an understandably difficult time which got better as the weeks went on after the move.

The people at Prince of Peace had an understandably hard time after St. Mark’s moved over as they sat in a rearranged sanctuary, met a group of new people and changed worship to try to be more welcoming. On top of all that, the first six weeks of the year saw bad weather every Sunday. Worship was cancelled twice. Ice, snow and slush were up and attendance, giving, joy and hope were down. Then on the third Sunday in February the sun came out and the roads were dry and we had visiting families and 81 people in worship... then 86 the next week... then 25 the next week when winter reminded us it was still here... then attendance in the 80’s until Palm Sunday which was over 100 and then Easter with almost 180! All of that has helped make things better.

We continue to host 40-60 kids, parents and grandparents at Mustard Seeds on Sunday afternoons. There are young families from Prince of Peace, other Episcopal churches and some from no church at all. One family without a church has asked that their two kids be baptized at Mustard Seeds!

There are other things happening. Not all of them roses and lollipops of course. There are folks from both churches who are still struggling for a number of reasons with the changes, and we will continue to hold them in our prayers knowing everyone deals with change differently. However, I see more and more people who are smiling, meeting new friends, joining in new ministries, working together and sharing each other’s gifts every time we come together. My hope is that as those who are able, would continue to live into our new arrangement joyfully and that eventually everyone will be swept into that new life together.

BUT PASTOR, WHAT’S THE PLAN? The plan has been to allow time for the initial shock that comes with any major change to subside and allow connections to begin. Those connections are happening beautifully in places like choir, worship, coffee hour, prayer, property, study and social outreach. Next, on April 15th, we’ll plan our calendar for the rest of the year. What will we do together? What will we let go for this year? We will plan for events that both reach in and build the community inside our walls AND reach out to serve the community outside our walls. I want us to plan a FEW things to be done VERY well, rather than try to do everything and risk burning people out or doing projects half way. After that planning comes the doing! We’ll begin to DO our plan together, have fun and celebrate our successes. We’ll also need to keep our eyes and ears open, because the Holy Spirit has a tendency to throw new opportunities like a wrench into the intricate plans carefully created by faithful Christians!

Soon after Labor Day we will launch our stewardship program and pledge drive so that early in the fall we will know what resources we can expect for next year and can begin to explore what 2016 might look like. Neither bishop is asking us to make a permanent decision for next year. Neither bishop has an agenda for us (other than to love one another) or a destination in mind for us. Both want to support us on our continuing journey wherever that may lead.

It is tempting to want to sort out that future now, to select a destination and plow forward with heads down to that goal. It is tempting, but for us as Christians, we are not people of the destination. We are people of The Way. For us the journey matters as much, and maybe even more than, the destination, so for now we will plan what we can, do what we can, stay open to the Spirit and do our best to enjoy all of God’s blessings together along the Way.

Rev. Erik Karas

Priest in Charge - St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Transitional Pastor - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH , 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

Dinner & Planning Event

Calling all leaders, members and those interested in planning our future together. Dinner will be provided. You provide the dates and events for PoP & SMC Calendar. We'll be looking for your ideas and energy to act on continuing past events or adding new activities to our "Ministry Year". Think along the lines of an annual outing to the SeaDogs baseball game, the Helping and Heating Supper and Fundraiser, Vacation Bible School, a Bold Women's Day, Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast and so on. What do you have in mind? Come on the 15th to share your ideas. For the sake of planning the meal, please call the office at 623-9486 or email office@princeofpeacemaine.org if you plan to attend.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!
What makes you happy? What makes you smile? As I was hanging laundry to dry yesterday, I realized that socks make me happy!

I have a large collection of cute ones. I have socks for Christmas, Valentine’s Day, Easter, and Halloween. I have pairs of socks with Santa, snowflakes, flowers, cats, moose, rabbits, flamingos, and penguins! I even have socks with quilt patterns on them! The most unusual pairs I have are from Japan; gifts from my sister-in-law. These have two sectioned toes so that you can wear them with flip flops!

What do socks have to do with church? When I leave the altar after Eucharist, I anticipate feeling refreshed and renewed. My worn socks have been replaced with a new pair. I hope that we all experience that peace.

It’s time to talk about what’s next for us. St. Mark’s Vestry and Prince of Peace Council will begin this conversation on April 15. Please come and share your thoughts with us.

If you wish to have a birthday or anniversary included in the newsletter calendar, please contact Patti in the office with the information. (Birth year not required!)

Upcoming events:

St. Mark’s Vestry meeting on April 12 after service.

*Planning for the Future Dinner on Wednesday April 15 5:30-7:30

All are invited to the K-6 meeting with Bishop Lane, on Saturday, April 25 at Christ Church, time to be announced.

_Tina Barden, Senior Warden, St Mark’s Episcopal Church_

685-5523
Spring Clean Up!

We have not chosen a date for the spring clean up yet due to the amount of snow we still have. We anticipate doing it on a Saturday toward the end of April or the beginning of May. Please check your bulletin for a date coming soon.

Stained Glass Window Ideas

As you all know, we are getting new windows in the sanctuary this spring. These new windows will not accommodate the stained glass panes that are currently in the windows. We do not want to get rid of those panes or hide them away in the attic, and I know we have some creative people out there. We are looking for ideas to repurpose the panes in a way that they could be put on display in the CCR room. One suggestion is to shape all the panes into a cross for the wall. Another is to put them into a light box that would also go on the wall. If you have other ideas please pass them on to Becky Pearce either in person or put a note in my mailbox. Thank you!

We are finally beginning the makeover on the men's bathroom! We have agreed on a bid for the plumbing! New sinks and a urinal will hopefully be installed before the May newsletter comes out! Then we'll move on to other aspects of the room like the floor, paint, mirrors and paper towel holders. I'll keep you posted.

Any questions or ideas….please contact Becky Pearce, Property Chairperson at 242-9340 or email her at rebeccaopearce@gmail.com. Thank you!
Maine Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering

ALL women are invited.

Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn, ME
Saturday, May 9, 2015
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Theme: Women of Many Generations
Keynote Speaker: Klara Tammany
Executive Director of Wisdom Women’s Center
Join us for Inspiration, Fellowship, Workshops,
Worship, and Lunch!

Offering: 1/2 to New England Women of the ELCA
1/2 to Wisdom Women’s Center

In-kind Gifts: Hygiene products: Body Wash, Razors, Shampoo/
Conditioner, Feminine Products, Lotion, Toothpaste/Brushes
(full size preferred)

Please mark your calendars. Registration $10., $8.00 for first time
attendees, and women age 20 and under are Free!
This is sure to be a fun and spirit filled day!
We will carpool from Prince of Peace.
Contact Liz Burgess @ 6223570 or email weburgess@gmail.com
What is that Deacon doing?

The role of water is central to our lives as Christians. We first encounter it in the waters of our baptism. The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BCP) states that “The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (BCP, p. 858). As Episcopalians, we’re taught that there are two great sacraments of the Gospel that Christ gave to the Church: 1) Holy Baptism and 2) the Holy Eucharist and it is in the Eucharistic feast where water once again turns up (BCP, p. 857).

A number of people have wondered “why is that Deacon putting water in the wine?” as she prepares the table for the Eucharistic feast. The BCP describes the practice as “customary” and An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church (EDC online) describes this custom as derived from Ancient Jewish customs and notes that this was likely an action that Jesus took as he prepared what we call the Last Supper. A chalice with wine and water is called a “Mixed Chalice” (EDC online).

Some theologians describe the practice as “a sign of union with Christ with his people, a sign of the flow of blood and water from Jesus’ side at the crucifixion, and a sign of the union of Christ’s divine and human natures” (EDC online, Mixed Chalice). The practice of adding water to the wine extends far beyond the Episcopal Church and is a tradition that is incorporated into the table preparation for the Holy Eucharist.

As we journey together throughout this year, ask more questions about why we do the things we do in our worship. I know that I continue to learn about Lutheran practices and keep my Lutheran Handbook close by. Below are the resources used in responding to the question about water in the wine.

The Reverend Rebecca Grant

Resources:


Thank you PoP + SMC Parishioners

To the Parishioners of Prince of Peace and Saint Mark’s Churches, I want to thank all who made the coffee hour between services on Easter Sunday such a huge success. A BIG thank you to those who made announcements, sent out bulletins, helped to set up the room and the goodies tables, brought goodies, helped replenish the tables and helped clean up. All these efforts made the affair an excellent time for visiting each other and sharing in the bountiful goodies. Thank you!  Tom Barden

Basic Essentials Pantry Shopping List

Last weekend all the supplies were given away to recent Iraqi refugees, fire victims and those in deep need. Help us restock the shelves. You can bring items such as bath soap, toilet paper, feminine hygiene supplies, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, dish soap, toothbrushes, deodorant etc. For those of you with Amazon Prime consider ordering a case of toilet paper and having it delivered to 209 Eastern Avenue Augusta, ME 04330. attn: Essentials Pantry or you can donate safely online at www.princeofpeacemaine.org/ Just select the Helping Fund and the amount you desire to give. Pastor Erik ordered a case of toilet paper for $21.00. When you donate online, It would be helpful to send an email to office@princeofpeacemaine.org. That way we can be sure the donations go to the Essentials Pantry. Thank you! Thank you for your generosity.

Online giving is now available! Check out the website for the Give Now button and you can set up a one time offering, weekly offering or other planned giving to be directly deposited to the Prince of Peace OR St. Mark's bank accounts. We will provide additional information to those interested, just let someone know you need some help. At this point ask any Council or Vestry person and they can get the answer or direct you to someone who will help you take advantage of this opportunity. Think….no more envelopes, no more checks, and no more trying to catch up when you miss a Sunday. Putting God first is a conscious decision and On Line Giving makes it easy.
World Malaria Day is April 25, offering us an opportunity to do something significant for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Five years ago we started this campaign, dreamed big with our Lutheran companion churches and partners, and set out to raise $15 million by 2015 for programs to fight malaria. The time to make this dream a reality is now.

Together, we have already raised more than 90 percent of our goal. We are looking to you and members of this church to help the ELCA Malaria Campaign reach the $15 million mark.

Thanks to the faithful support of people like you, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is currently at work with Lutheran companion churches and partners in 13 African countries. We have had great success, but we’re not done yet. We need your support to reach our goal and ensure all of the malaria programs will be fully funded.

Learn More at elca.org

Help Stamp Out Malaria!
HAPPY BIRTHDAYS
4  Ethan McGuire
5  Nancy Grover
8  Willi Hartung
9  Tom Benn
11 Dick Belisle, Beth Brooke
14 Liz Praul, Kathi Ruopp
15 Bill Burgess
16 Joshua Lajoie, Robert Harvey
17 Betty Balderston
20 Joe Scott
25 Bunnie Picher
29 Paul Joslyn

APRIL SERVANTS

DEACONS:
12  Lloyd Balderston/Rebecca Grant
19  Myrna Duplessie/Rebecca Grant,
26  Tom Benn, Rebecca Grant

LECTORS:
12  1st-Connie McDonald, 2nd-Becky Pearce
19  1st-Doug Burdin, 2nd-Tina Barden
26  1st-Liz Praul, 2nd-Roland Pease

USHERS:
12  Bill Burgess/Beth Pfeffer
19  Dan Stevens/Gene Kaler
26  Daryl Praul/Connie McDonald

ALTAR CARE:
12  Dan Stevens/Myrna Duplessie
19  Joseph Riddick/Mary Dube
26  Linda Ames/Joyce Bagnall

OFFERING COUNTERS:
12  Beth Pfeffer/Doug Burdin
19  Darryl Praul/Myrna Duplessie
26  Willi Hartung/Gene Kaler

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:
12  Betsy Esancy, Vin Tschamler, Mary Dube,
    Barbara Shockley, Linda Ames, Liz Burgess
19  Nancy Bell, Kathy/Tracym, Emmy Warming,
    Carlene Kaler, Melani McGuire
26  Tina & Tom Barden, Joan Lane, Kathy Sproul,
    Bethany LeBrun, Phyllis Tessman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
5  Gene & Carlene Kaler
9  Danny & Jennie Dawe
12 Dennis & Laurie Curtis
17 Doug & Bobbi-Jo Burdin
18 Todd & Mindy Jorgensen
19 Darryl & Erika Praul
PRINCE OF PEACE COUNCIL

President - Don Sproul 622-5785
Vice President - Bobbi-Jo Burdin 582-3070
Secretary - Ave Chepervich 933-4001
Financial Secretary - Darryl Praul 968-2023
Congregational Life - LouAnne Story 549-7377
Learning - Beth Pfeffer 514-4289
Property - Becky Pearce 242-9340
Service - Bev Savage 446-1238
Witness - Tom Benn 557-5513
Worship - Heidi Joslyn 623-2284

Trustees: Don Sproul-Chair, Tom Benn, Bobbi-Jo Burdin, Ave Chuprevich, Beth Pfeffer

Nominating Committee: Bobbi-Jo Burdin, Liz Burgess, Ave Chuprevich, Myrna Duplessie, Paul Rhoda

Endowment Fund Committee: Bill Burgess, Darryl Praul, Paul Rhoda, Bud Walters, David Wheelock.

ST. MARK’S VESTRY

Senior Warden - Tina Barden 685-5523
Junior Warden - Connie McDonald 621-7100
Treasurer - Lynn Allerdng 445-2478
Clerk of the Vestry - Nancy Finnegan 629-0230

Vestry Members:
Steven Graham - 441-5366, Gary Mann - 441-5334, Liz Praul - 441-1317, Sue Smith, Dan Stevens - 622-6631

DEACONS

Lloyd Balderston 377-4293
Tom Benn 549-7186
Myrna Duplessie 923-3128
The Reverend Rebecca Grant 441-7155
Nancy Merrill, Head Deacon 737-8105
Paul Rhoda 845-2437
Duane Scott (on sabbatical)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - Erik Karas 970-590-3540
Parish Secretary - Patti Gardiner 344-9162
Organist - Alice VanDerwerken 397-4214
Choir Director - Alice VanDerwerken
Sexton - Al Cook 623-4654

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Lloyd Balderston 377-4293
Tom Benn 549-7186
Myrna Duplessie 923-3128
The Reverend Rebecca Grant 441-7155
Nancy Merrill, Head Deacon 737-8105
Paul Rhoda 845-2437
Duane Scott (on sabbatical)

REACHING OUT MINISTRIES

Women’s Prayer Breakfast - Nancy Merrill 737-8105
At Your Side Committee - Liz Burgess 622-3570
Helping Fund - Patti Gardiner - POP Office 623-9486
POP Quilter’s Group - Lil Stresser 377-2591
Women of the Church-ELCA Carlene Kaler 622-6863
Dorecas Circle - Jutta Hartung 623-2040
Bread of Life Ministries - Office-Wendy 626-3434
Soup Kitchen on Water St. 621-2541
*Shelter on Hospital St. 626-3479
Augusta Food Bank 622-5225
Chelsea Food Bank - Diane Richard 462-1750
Addie’s Attic - Christina Mitchell 623-9486
Everyday Basic Essentials - Nancy Finnegan 632-9486
<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
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| **5**  
Easter Sunday  
8 AM & 10:30 AM  
Big Coffee Hour | 6  
9:00 AM  
Menswork DR  
5:30 PM  
POP Council | 7  
7:00 AM WPB  
9:00 AM  
POP Quilters  
10:00 AM  
Book Study  
6 PM FA - TR  
5:00-8:30 PM  
Menswork DR | 8  
8 AM-3PM  
Medicare Training CCR  
1:30 - 3:00 PM  
Multi-Faith Mtg. @ SA  
6-8 PM  
Veteran’s TR | 9  
1:00-2:30 FA-TR  
6-9 PM  
Pine Tree Reelers CCR | **10**  
11:00 - 2:00 SG - DR | 11  
8:30–10:00 AM  
Menswork DR |
| 12  
2nd Easter  
9:00 Worship  
Coffee Hour  
10:30 Adult Study DR  
*Worship Asst. Tg.  
*St. Mark’s Vestry  
12 to 4:00 PM  
Piano Recital  
Sanctuary/CCR  
4:00 PM Mustard | 13  
9:00 AM  
Menswork DR  
5:30 PM  
POP Council | 14  
7:00 AM WPB  
9:00 AM  
POP Quilters  
10:00 AM  
Book Study  
6 PM FA - TR  
5:00-8:30 PM  
Menswork DR | 15  
5:30-7:30 PM  
POP & SMC Dinner and Planning Mtg. | **16**  
1:00-2:30 FA-CCR | 17  
11:00 - 12:30 SG - DR | 18  
8:30–10:00 AM  
Menswork DR |
| 19  
3rd Easter  
7:30 Choir  
9:00 Worship  
Coffee Hour  
10:30 Adult Study DR  
*Worship Committee  
4:00 PM Mustard  
Seeds for all ages | 20  
9:00 AM  
Menswork DR | 21  
7:00 AM WPB  
10:00 AM  
Book Study  
6 PM FA - TR  
5:00 - 830 PM  
Menswork DR | 22  
8 AM-3PM  
Medicare Training CCR | **23**  
1:00-2:30 FA-CCR  
6-9 PM  
Pine Tree Reelers CCR | **24**  
11:00 - 12:30 SG - DR | **25**  
8:30-10:00 AM  
Menswork DR  
K-6 Meeting  
Bishop Lane  
@Christ Church |
| 26  
4th Easter  
7:30 Choir  
9:00 Worship  
Coffee Hour  
10:30 Adult Study DR  
*Deacons  
11:30 *Altar Care Training  
4:PM Mustard Seeds | 27  
9:00 AM  
Menswork DR | 28  
7:00 AM WPB  
9:00 AM  
POP Quilters  
10:00 AM  
Book Study  
6 PM FA - TR  
5:00-8:30 PM  
Menswork DR | 29  
1:00-2:30 FA-CCR | **30**  
1:00-2:30 FA-CCR |