As our neighborhoods erupt with spring, giving us one of nature’s best flower shows, I am reminded of our late deacon Joan’s tremendous love for flowers and gardening.

She always had kind words of encouragement for those less proficient and abundant generosity to share her love of all things that grow. Perhaps this is what nurtured in her that pastoral wisdom and dedication to children and those who need just a little tending by the Holy Spirit.

As we approach the anniversary of her loss on May 10, we remember her with varying degrees of familiarity. Personally, I have found this past year quite difficult as I have struggled to be present and pastor the people of Saint Mark’s through other losses as well.

Reading the Gospel on Christmas Eve and Easter morning was something Joan always did, and I admit it was impossible for me to do so without hearing her Texas accent and the sincere inflection and conviction she gave to every phrase.

On another personal note, this has been the first year of the holiday seasons without another deacon in my life—one who more importantly was my mother—who left us in February of last year.

For anyone familiar with the stages of grief, we know that they know no order, and are relentless at re-presenting themselves—while often teaming up against those who grieve.

I am thankful for the “Ministers of Saint Mark’s—the entire parish family” for being present with me in this last year. In talking with a Stephen Minister, those wonderful parishioners trained to follow their care receivers through many of life’s situations, I was told that “year two is different, and has its own no-less-easy challenges”. Golly!

The only constant we have in life is the promises of God to be our companion—through others and more mysteriously through the Holy Spirit.

Every blessing to you during this Easter season, upon those we love “but see no longer”, and upon those in our midst who walk beside us still on this journey.

Father of all, we pray to you for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.
The Rev. Christopher C. Richardson

As we enter the Easter season, it’s fitting that my thoughts would be drawn toward renewed life. Specifically, I have been thinking about what gives me the feeling of renewed life. There are, of course, the obvious things: more sunlight, flowers blooming, seeing animals that had gone into hiding for winter coming back out, etc., etc. Cliché as they may be, all of those truly give me a sense of renewed life. Perhaps you find the same is true for you, as well. Regardless, those are not the things that have occupied my thoughts. Instead, I have been focusing more on my specific passions.

It should come as no surprise that I am a self-proclaimed nerd. I have preached multiple times on my computer engineering degree and my love of mixing science and religion. My deep appreciation for the science-fiction and fantasy genres is, I hope, readily apparent. Maybe a bit less evident is my borderline obsession with dragons (and I know of at least a few people who would say my use of the word “borderline” is debatable). That I would find immense enjoyment in a fantasy game that involves dragons should be a no brainer.

If you haven’t guessed it by now, I am referring to *Dungeons & Dragons* (*DnD*). If you’re only vaguely aware of *DnD*, allow me to give you a bare-bones explanation of what it is. At its core, *DnD* is a collaborative storytelling game set in a fantasy version of medieval Europe. (There are a few different settings that are fantasy medieval “other places”, but the most popular setting is definitely Euro-centric.) The basic structure of the game is that someone takes on the role of narrator while the remaining players take on the roles of specific characters in the story. The narrator describes the environment, the players describe what they want to do, and dice are used to determine how successful (or unsuccessful) the players’ actions are. The rules of the game serve only to consistently facilitate this process.

All of this to say that *DnD* is something that brings me a lot of joy and happiness. With the resurgence of *DnD* in our culture, I imagine there are many people in our church that feel the same way. Because of this, I have been slowly working on developing my own setting for *DnD* that is meant to be a way to get together and tell the Christian story in a fun and exciting way. With a bit of obviously riding the coattails of Lent Madness, I am incorporating the saints as a core part of the story to be told.

In the Fall, I will be offering this as one of the options for our growing connection with the Columbus Area Youth gatherings. Before that time comes, however, I am looking for three to four people to be play testers and help me fine tune the story over the next few months. No experience with *DnD* is necessary. In fact, having at least one or two people with little to no experience will be especially helpful in offering feedback on how things work out for someone new to the hobby.

If you are interested in being a play tester, send me an email (AssociateRector@SaintMarksColumbus.org) with your name, how much experience with *DnD* you have, and at least two dates and times you would be willing to meet with me to go over further details.

Regardless of your interest in *DnD*, I hope that you find something this Eastertide that gives you a sense of renewed life. Find that sense in your life and find God waiting for you there.
Four Choristers to Attend RSCM Summer Camp in Washington, D.C.

I am pleased to report that four choristers from the Canterbury Choir will be attending a Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) summer camp this year. Choristers Matilda D., Hannah M., Alexander S., and Lukas S. each were accepted to the annual Washington, D.C., RSCM Course for Advanced Choristers, scheduled for July 22–28. The choristers will join a group of about 50 singers from across the nation, perfecting a set of challenging choral repertoire during their camp week. Performance venues will include the majestic Washington National Cathedral (pictured above), where they will sing three services of Choral Evensong (Thursday, Friday, and Sunday) as well as Sunday morning Eucharist. The music director of the DC course this year will be Michael Kleinschmidt, the Director of Music at St. Mark’s Cathedral in Seattle.

Choristers in the Canterbury Choir are eligible to receive a scholarship from the Gary L. Garber Scholarship Fund, which pays up to half of their RSCM camp tuition.

If you are interested in making a donation to this fund in order to assist future choristers, please contact Matthew Bester (directorofmusic@saintmarks.com).

Choral Evensong by the Canterbury Choir

Please save the date of Sunday, May 19, at 4 p.m. for a service of Choral Evensong, led by the Canterbury Choir. Music will include canticles by Simon Lole and anthems by Felix Mendelssohn and Robert J. Powell. Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully received in support of the Canterbury Choir Fund, which assists in the training and enrichment of the choir, including its annual spring outings. Please come and support our young choristers, who work so hard throughout the year to enrich our worship services with beautiful and inspiring music.
The Outreach Ministry normally meets on the second Sunday of the month in the Canterbury Center right after church. Contact Marilyn Smith or Pat Iams if you would like more information.

NNEMAP

NNEMAP Needs Volunteers!! Really....
We have been blessed for many years to have a great group of volunteers at NNEMAP. But as we continue to see more people every day, the need increases as does our need for more volunteers. Here is what our volunteers do: Interview, Front Desk, Shoppers, and Stockers. This time of year is especially important to add volunteers as our OSU students are leaving for the summer. Our hours are MTWF 9-12 and Saturday 11-1. Please contact Roy Clark at director@nnemappantry.org.

Volunteer Luncheon is planned for Saturday, April 27 at Northwest Christian Church
This is the 50th anniversary for NNEMAP. Our luncheon will be held this year at Northwest Christian Church on Fishinger Road in Upper Arlington from 11:30 until 1:00. It will be catered by LA Catering, a part of Life Care Alliance. Check our website for details.

Current Needs in the Pantry: canned meats/tuna, dog food, cat food, and toilet paper.
Note: Other hygiene items are always low! We always need dental items, razors, and shampoo. We can also use feminine hygiene items. Please keep these items in mind as you ask for donations at your church.

St. John’s Street Church

Many thanks to the following parishioners who helped with the meal for St. John’s Street Church on March 31:
Marilyn Smith helped prepare the food and Ellen Berndt, Maggie Grosso, Jim Keyes, Pam Thurston and Dan and Roberta Morton helped to serve the meal at Broad and Central.
Saint Mark’s next time to help with Street Church is June 30. If you would like to take part in this vital ministry, please contact the office (614-486-9452 or OfficeManager@SaintMarksColumbus.org).

St. John’s Town Street Dinner

A big thank you goes out to the following for another successful night at St John’s Town Street: Park & Craig Zimpher, Barb Keyes, Dianne Silliman, Marilyn & Bill Karl, Karen Gebhart, Leslie Winters & Cullie Rechner. We have so many devoted regulars! Can’t thank you enough for your support on this worthy cause. Thank you Barb & Dianne for the “miracle ingredient” that creates the marvelous rice dish!
Next dates are: Wednesday 10/23/19 (changed from 9/18/19) & 11/6/19.

Alert!
Do you sew or knit?
Are you interested in helping newborns?
Calling all knitters and stitchers to action.

The McArthur layette ministry is a new project for Saint Mark’s Outreach. We will be supporting Trinity Episcopal church in McArthur as they provide layette bags full of items new moms and babies need. Vinton County is among the poorest in the state of Ohio and the need for newborn layette items is critical. We are looking forward to helping Trinity be able to increase the number of mothers and babies they can help.

Some of the items we are providing and knitted hats and booties and fleece baby blankets. We need knitters for the hats and booties (very easy directions can be provided) and stitchers to hem precut baby blankets. If you would be willing to help with this project please contact the office for more information.
Dear Members of St. Mark’s,

On behalf of over 200 human trafficking survivors that we support annually with supportive services or employment training, I’d like to thank you for your recent donation of $717.50 to support our mission. By offering this generous contribution to Freedom a la Cart, you play a key role in our ongoing work to empower survivors to build a new life of freedom and self-sufficiency.

Restoration, personal development and workforce training occur over a period of time and your donation supports this continual process of transformation.

Your gift will help survivors like Mandie who spend years recovering from the effects of trauma, addiction and shame suffered as a victim of trafficking. After successfully completing Freedom’s workforce training, Mandie has regained custody of her son and is thriving in her new career as a Treatment Assistant where she is able to work with others recovering from addiction.

“Thanks to Freedom I was able to make the right steps in getting my dream job and my son back. My life has purpose now. I love helping others in recovery.” - Mandie

Again, thank you for helping transform the lives of survivors!

Sincerely,
Paula Haines
Executive Director
Freedom A La Cart

Pastor Paul St. Germain,
On behalf of NNEMAP’s board, staff, and volunteers, I want to thank you for the support you give our pantry and our mission. During the 2018 year St. Mark’s Episcopal Church donated:

- Food and other items: $5,335.81
- Cash donation: $1,000.00
- Totaling: $6,335.81

We also want to thank your volunteers who have supported us both at your church and at the pantry. We literally cannot serve as many as we serve without the partnership of those who come every day! Please pass on our thanks to your church congregation.

Sincerely,
Roy Clark, Executive Director
NNEMAP
Waving

Lately, Barb and I have spent time at Lakeside Chautauqua Ohio. While walking around the place, I have noticed a wonderful thing: people wave to each other while walking, sitting on their porch, or driving by. Sometimes people stop and chat, say hello to our dog, Lucy, or discuss the weather. Most often, however, people just wave.

I have wondered why such waving happens at Lakeside and not at other places as well?

Of course, we do wave in other situations. Like when we see someone we know. Or when a driver makes room for us to change lanes (sometimes). Or when we are trying to get someone else’s attention.

Maybe the answer lies with the idea of “community”. People form communities all the time – families, co-workers, neighbors, folks with whom we feel we have something in common.

But what about everyone else in the world?

Holding doors for others

While at the OSU School of Music, I became aware of a very special thing almost everyone did. People held doors open for others. It hardly ever failed: the first person in a row of several others would hold the door open and then go in last. Sometimes these were people who knew each other. More often, they did not.

During my four-and-a-half years there, I never figured out why this kind gesture happened.

After nearly twenty years, however, I think maybe it had to do with “community”.

OSU staff, faculty and students were tied together by coming to campus everyday to do their work and, maybe to play. Race, country of origin, sexual orientation, income, or family background simply were not a concern.

What if, I now wonder, we could consider ourselves members of communities – America and the world – and conduct ourselves accordingly?

That would be a God Moment.
SUNDAY SCHOOL
This is the season that the Sunday School year is coming to a close and on May 5th, our teachers will be celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. service. Our teachers have not skipped a beat this year, spending time preparing and teaching over 20 students.

Please join us May 5th as we give thanks to our teachers who light the path for our children each Sunday. If you are interested in joining our growing group of teachers, please contact the office (614-486-9452 or OfficeManager@SaintMarksColumbus.org).

SPRING GRADUATES?
Saint Mark’s wants to recognize our graduates this spring. If you or your family member(s) are graduating from high school or college or another program, please let us know! Please email the parish office (OfficeManager@SaintMarksColumbus.org) as soon as possible!

SAINT MARK’S MEMBER CARE
Saint Mark’s Member Care ministry provides meals to parishioners who are in need of some help due to illness, recovery, or other situations. If you or someone you know could use some help with meals, please contact the office. We have a team of parishioners who are happy to serve in this way.

We also have a New Baby ministry which provides a welcoming rose and muffins to families with a new baby in the house. If you know of a family with a new baby, please contact the office with this information. In addition, if you are interested in helping with either meals or the new baby ministry, please contact the office.

WELCOME KNITTERS
(and other Needlework Enthusiasts)
The Saint Mark’s Knitting Circle meets the first and third Thursday of each month in members’ homes. We meet from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM to work on prayer shawls, baptism blankets and lap blankets for church members and others in need. We are also knitting scarves, hats, and other warm apparel to distribute to the community in the fall and winter. We welcome knitters of all ability levels including beginners! Anyone who is interested in this ministry, please contact the office for further information.

PROCTOR SUMMER CAMP 2019
Camp open house is May 4, 2019. A schedule of summer camp sessions is below. Please visit ProcterCenter.org/Camp for more information.

- June 7-9: Leaders-in-Training
- June 14-16: Family Camp 1
- June 17-22: Youth Camp 1: 3rd-9th Grade
- June 24-29: Youth Camp 2: Senior High
- July 5-7: Family Camp 2: Sagrada Familia
- July 11-14: Family Camp 3
- July 15-20: Camp RISE Grief Camp
- July 22-27: Youth Camp 3: 3rd - 9th Grade
- July 31-August 3: Family Camp 4
IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK’S

FLOWER GUILD NEWS
Thanks to all of you who so generously gave to our Easter Flower Memorial Fund. In addition to purchasing the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday flowers and plants, we will also be using some of the money to plant the outside pots along the Parish Hall windows. The potted plants will be planted around the church by Rick Wheeler. The other blooming spring flowers you may have noticed are from previous Easters, also planted by Rick.

IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY!
This year Saint Mark’s is looking for home gardeners who might want to share the bounty of their gardens with others during our annual Bake Sale. Held on Monday of Labor Day weekend, we are hoping to add fresh produce to our wonderful bake goods and provide buyers with healthy choices of vegetables and herbs.

As you begin to plant your gardens this spring why not plant a few extra plants of your favorite veggies for our produce table. We’re looking forward to having our first produce market this fall. As they say, it’s never too early to get started! Happy Growing! If you have questions please see Jill Hinton or Barb Keyes.

SUPPER GROUP
This year is winding down and we will end with our June Celebration on Saturday, June 1st 6:30 p.m. Leslie Winters has offered to host this celebration. Hoping all members, subs, and anyone interested in joining our group will hold this date open. For new members, it is a great way to get to know one another better. Signup poster will be available in May. For more information please contact the office.

2019 CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP
Be Still and Know that I am God.
– Psalm 46:10

Thomas Merton has described centering prayer as a method of meditation used by Christians that places a strong emphasis on interior silence. To begin to build a community of practice around contemplative prayer, an offsite retreat was held during the first weekend of Lent. Two meetings were held in April and two more meetings are planned for the month of May – Wednesday, May 1 and Wednesday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bishop’s Library. All are welcome to participate. Background information can be found at https://bit.ly/2vh871h.

JUNE EPISTLE DEADLINE
The deadline to submit all news, photos, and articles to the office (OfficeManager@SaintMarksColumbus.org or 614-486-9452) is May 27, 2019 by 12 Noon. Volunteers will prepare the May Epistle for mailing on Thursday, May 30th at 10:00 a.m. in the Canterbury Center.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER
We celebrate the following births:
Chris & Celeste R. (brother Wesley) have a new baby born April 9, 2019, named Calvin Andrew R. Grandparents Cullie & Sally R. couldn’t be more proud!

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER is a new printed project to enhance communication among parishioners. It comes from a long-standing tradition in the Church of England where certain public records were officially recorded in the great ledgers of their parish church. Remember that all information “From the Parish Register” continues to be available through email by subscribing to this service on our website.
SAINT MARK’S EPISCOPAL RACE FOR THE CURE
SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 18, 2019
Register online by Monday, May 6 or see Dot Yeager soon to sign up by mail

General Race Information
Saint Mark’s has had a team in this event each year since 2009. Most team members do the 5K Walk, but we have had runners in the past as well.
With your help, this year could be bigger and better than ever and raise funds needed to provide breast health services to women in need in Central and Southeastern Ohio. Race participants are invited to recognize those special people in their lives who have been touched by breast cancer. Take this opportunity to celebrate and honor those we love who have faced the challenges of breast cancer. For those who can’t make it on race day, you can also “sleep in for the cure.”
T-shirts are picked up in advance for all participants who register for the team online, no later than Monday, May 6, 2019.

Online Registration is Easy
You can register online at the following link: https://bit.ly/2PsL6lo
The site will walk you through the registration process.
You should see Join a Team, then type “Saint” in the Team Name search box. The full team name should be displayed in the search results.
Contact Dot Yeager if you have questions.

Highlights from Easter Sunday

![Images of Easter Sunday activities](image1.jpg)

![Images of Easter Sunday activities](image2.jpg)
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>8:00 AM Jr Explorer Club</td>
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<td>9:30 AM Al-Anon</td>
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<td>12:00 PM Altar &amp; Flower Guild Set-Up</td>
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<td>10:30 AM Saint Mark’s Staff Meeting and Lunch</td>
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<td>11:30 AM Fellowship Hour</td>
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<td>12:00 PM Youth Group</td>
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<td>4:30 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting</td>
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Preacher: Paul St. Germain
Rector’s Day Off
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Canterbury Choir
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
12:00 PM Youth Group
8:00 PM AA Groups

May 2019
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<tr>
<th>Preacher: Christopher C. Richardson</th>
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<td>Women’s Club Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>12:00 PM Sunday School</td>
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<td>5:30 PM AA - Men’s Group</td>
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<td>Associate Rector’s Day Off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM Jr Explorer Club</td>
<td>8:00 AM Jr Explorer Club</td>
<td>8:00 AM Jr Explorer Club</td>
<td>8:00 AM Jr Explorer Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM First Community Village</td>
<td>10:00 AM First Community Village</td>
<td>10:00 AM First Community Village</td>
<td>10:00 AM First Community Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM Knitting Group</td>
<td>12:00 PM Knitting Group</td>
<td>12:00 PM Knitting Group</td>
<td>12:00 PM Knitting Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM Sitting for the Afternoon</td>
<td>1:00 PM Sitting for the Afternoon</td>
<td>1:00 PM Sitting for the Afternoon</td>
<td>1:00 PM Sitting for the Afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM Dance Group</td>
<td>2:00 PM Dance Group</td>
<td>2:00 PM Dance Group</td>
<td>2:00 PM Dance Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM AA Groups</td>
<td>8:00 PM AA Groups</td>
<td>8:00 PM AA Groups</td>
<td>8:00 PM AA Groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please visit SaintMarksColumbus.org/calendar for the most up-to-date calendar, as changes occur often!
Part of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Saint Mark’s held its first worship service in 1951 in a converted Methodist church in Grandview. Ground was broken in 1953 for the Parish Hall (now the Education Building) where services were held until the current Nave and Sanctuary was completed in 1958. Office space in an adjacent building was purchased in 1989. Major renovations of the entire facility occurred in 2004 and 2008 creating a campus today that empowers Christ’s ministry within and beyond our parish.