

# Connections



## Rector's Reflections

The Rev. Brian Shoda

June is a special month because the weather is generally mild and many people choose this month to celebrate their wedding. Many people want to be a June bride. That tradition goes way back, but it is now not so important because people found it difficult to reserve a hall or a church in the month of June so we now have weddings at any time of the year.

June is also the month that many priests are ordained to the transitional diaconate or priesthood. This is especially true for those who are seminary educated as their classes end in May and most want to be ordained as soon as possible. I was ordained on June 6, 1987, which is the anniversary of the D-Day invasion at Normandy. I found that appropriate. Many of my priest friends were ordained in June or late May and I like to keep them in my prayers throughout the month.

June is a good month because the flowers are in bloom, the trees have their leaves, and it is said that during this time people turn to thoughts of love. I think this is a good reflection for all of us. Take time this month to remember and honor all the people you love and those who love you. Any relationship requires hard work and sacrifice, try to consider just how much effort you put into maintaining or renewing the relationships of your life. I can recall that people in college or seminary would be so disappointed when the mail came and their box was empty. A common phrase was, "I guess nobody loves me." The quick response was to ask how many letters did they write in the last month. Bishop Schmidt said to me one-time years ago that this was like the man who kept a horse in a local stable but never fed it. When he complained that he did not get any manure for his garden, the stable boy reminded him, "You only get out what you put in."

That's a crude example, but I do find it humorous and it is true in the friendships and loves of

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### Congratulations Eliza!

Eliza Caperton was named Valedictorian of this year's graduating class at Berkeley Springs High School. Well done Eliza!

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

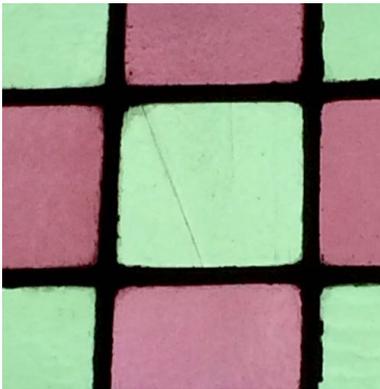
1 Corinthians 13:13

### St. Mark's

Our beautiful stained glass windows need some tender loving care. Please donate now to make sure they remain beautiful for years to come.

## Restore, repair, and protect our windows

At first glance the stained glass windows look beautiful, and they are. A closer look reveals many problems, some minor and some very serious. A campaign is underway to revitalize them to their original beauty and preserve them for future generations.



Cracks, like the one in the middle pane above are seen in many of the windows.



Pieces of glass are missing in some places.



The most serious problem may be the bowing in several windows. This will eventually cause them to collapse.

### St. Mark's Episcopal Church

#### The Diocese of West Virginia

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer,  
*Bishop of West Virginia*

The Rt. Rev. Mark Van Koevering,  
*Assistant Bishop of West Virginia*

#### Clergy and staff

The Rev. D. Brian Shoda, *Rector*  
Margaret Place, *Organist*  
Eileen Stotler, *Sexton*

#### Vestry and officers

Arlene Verge, *Senior Warden*  
Judy McBee, *Junior Warden*  
Sandy Buzzerd, *Treasurer*  
Beth Curtin, Melinda Golden, Kim Kelly, Linda Lockhart, Andrew Michael

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#### Newsletter editor

Michelle White



Some holes in the glass are more obvious than others.

Even our intact windows are not energy efficient and the openings that exist now make that situation much worse. Restoration and preservation is essential for all of this and more. Please consider making a gift to further this important project.



## Getting to know you

Pat Lerner

Pat lives across the street from the high school in a house next to her son Keith and his wife Nancy. She is still in the process of moving from her home in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

Pat has been a life-long Episcopalian. She was born in the home of her aunt in Clifton, New Jersey. Clifton was home throughout her early life and she was confirmed there at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Her family moved to Long Island when she was about 12-years old.

After completing her formal education and graduating from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pat went on to teach school in Maryland. Even though there was a shortage of teachers in Maryland at the time, there were obstacles in place for women. Pat's degree was in science with biology as her focus. Under two different principals she found herself teaching almost everything but science because each principal thought it wasn't an appropriate subject for women. In both schools she was called on to coach the men assigned to teach science as they were no more prepared to handle those classes than she was the ones assigned to her.

She and her husband, Earl, married in 1950 and later became parents to two boys, Keith and his older brother, Eric. Earl died as the boys were moving into their teenage years, a very difficult time indeed. Pat describes her sons as being absolutely obnoxious as teenagers and is very happy to report that they are all good friends now. She has two grandchildren and especially enjoys her three great-grandchildren.

Pat likes reading, movies, and music and has an extensive collection of records. Musicals are her favorite. She is also quite interested in genealogy.

Pat has been active in the church and involved in many church activities over the years. She has taught Sunday school, lead youth group, participated in Bible study, and as a member of the Lady's Guild supplied food each week to the Salvation Army.

Pat misses Eric, who lives in the home she is leaving in Glen Burnie. Her two dogs have remained with Eric and that makes the move even more difficult. She finds great pleasure in her new life here. She enjoys her new home and the proximity to her family next door and the school across the street. The students are friendly, quiet, and polite, with the exception of their very fast driving as they leave school each day.

Pat is happy to be an Episcopalian and agrees with Robin Williams who said that as Episcopalians we are not asked to leave our brains at the door. She describes the people of St. Mark's as friendly and welcoming and we say the same of her. It is a delight to have her join us in Worship and fellowship.

### In a word: Deacon

A deacon is one of the three forms of ordained ministry (along with priests and bishops).

In a liturgical setting, the deacon wears a stole diagonally across the chest.

He or she is responsible for reading the gospel or chanting it at a festival Eucharist, inviting confession, setting the table, and dismissing the people.

## Vestry Update – May meeting

Arlene Verge, Judy McBee, Beth Curtin, Melinda Golden, Linda Lockhart, Andrew Michael, and Sandy Buzzerd, were present at the meeting.

### Updates on old business:

- Treasurers from St. Mark's and Mt. Zion will meet to discuss financial matters of both churches at a date still to be determined.
- Brochures for the window campaign have been printed and will be distributed.
- Upcoming yard sale proceeds will go toward the window campaign.

### New actions:

- Judy, Lisa, and Father Brian will be painting the office kitchen.
- Tony Verge will be replacing the doorknob on the ladies room in the undercroft.
- Arlene will work with Jim Russell to understand operation of the church bell system before he leaves the area.
- The quilts in the church sanctuary will be cleaned.
- A request was discussed about changing times of Holy Week services to 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. to accommodate those who work during the day. This will be discussed with Father Brian.
- The possibility of a Vigil Service on Maundy Thursday will be discussed with Father Brian.

### Announcements and general information:

- Although Andrew volunteered to take on the vestry position vacated by Jack Kelly, unfortunately he will be moving to Hawaii in the next few months. A new vestry member will be chosen.
- The yearly request for the Parochial Report to the national church has not been received. Arlene is requesting the form.

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## Rector's Reflections – continued

our life, especially with God. We have to take time to share and be present with these special people, we have to call or send letters, or take time to pray. We can never take for granted the people who are special to us. If we are not careful, they will be gone and then we will wish that we had that time back again. Life needs to be lived without regrets. Take this month as time to celebrate and renew our relationships. This will help the month of June to be a time of love and joy for you and for the people that you care about.

God Bless! *Fr. Brian*