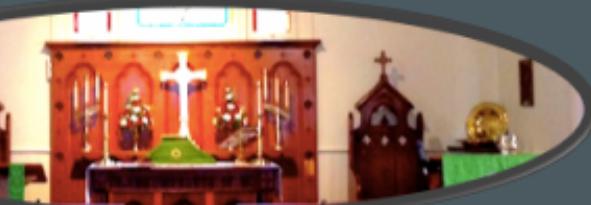


Connections



Rector's Reflections

The Rev. Brian Shoda

I read a very interesting book called, "The Guns of August", by Barbara Tuchman, which details the confusing events that led to the outbreak of the First World War. This is the month that has seen many important battles throughout the course of military history and witnessed the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I wonder why August? Is it because it is too hot? Is it because it is near the end of summer, which is the best month to fight a war?

My opinion, for us civilians in a small town, is that this is a good month to do what needs to be done, to relax and enjoy the summer while we can. We need to go to the pool, go on vacation, or sit on the porch in the early evening when things have cooled down. August is the month that will see a return to school activities, the early beginnings of football, and the reality that if we were going to do anything to the outside of the house then now is the time. This is also the best time for fresh fruit and vegetables (at least I hear some people really enjoy vegetables). In the Muppet Movie of "Scrooge, A Christmas Carol", Scrooge is illustrated as a most disagreeable person so that even the vegetables don't like him.

An event that often happens around this time of the year is a family reunion. We never had one as our family was too small, but I did know other families that had them with hundreds of people in attendance. It is great to see the people that have grown up and to see people that have grown old. That is why this month should be an opportunity for us to reconnect with others. Most of us don't want to go to these events, but after we do we realize that it was fun.

I encourage all of us to take time during this hot month to stop and reflect on how good we have it in this country. We have lots of food, decent places to live, and relative safety to walk and

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The Episcopal Church

At the recent General Convention of the Episcopal Church the Bishops rejected a resolution to begin the process of revising the prayer book.

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong."

Mahatma Gandhi

St. Mark's

See several pictures of the stained glass restoration on our website under News and Notes at StMarksBerkeley.com.



Window Restoration Underway

Father Brian, Tony Verge, and Randy Shoda were on hand as work was getting started.

John, Jason, and Steve are happy to be hard at work, even though the temperatures outside and especially inside the church have been awful. John worked on our windows about 30 years ago and Steve has been at it almost as long. Jason is a newcomer to this work and is learning under the careful supervision of John and Steve.

Some glass was removed and taken to the Front Royal shop to be restored. Wood was scraped before being painted.

It's great to have this much-needed work underway!



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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

Clergy and staff

The Rev. D. Brian Shoda, *Rector*
Margaret Place, *Organist*
Kim Kelly, *Sexton*

Vestry and officers

Arlene Verge, *Senior Warden*
Judy McBee, *Junior Warden*
Sandy Buzzard, *Treasurer*
Susie Barker, Beth Curtin, Melinda
Golden, Kim Kelly, Linda Lockhart,
Swanee Shedd, Cindy Stull

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Michelle White

Upcoming dates to remember

August 3 – Happy birthday Dennis Durity and Tony Verge! 

August 10 (Friday) – Happy birthday Carol Grow! 

August 15 (Wednesday) – Happy birthday Joan Rypkema! 

August 17 (Friday) – Happy birthday Arlene Verge, Gat
Caperton, and Glenn White! 

August 17 (Friday) – St. Mark's volunteers at Starting Points
Community Kitchen, contact: Arlene Verge



Getting to know you

**Beverly (Bev)
McNeill**

Bev embraces life and all it brings her way. She has worked in education for 41 years, cherishes her two children and their families, drives autocross, loves to travel, was a Moody Blues groupie for a few years, enjoys parasailing whenever she gets the chance, and once took a long zip line trip in Haiti.

She grew up in Charleston, West Virginia and has fond memories of playing with her sister, Beckie, in their family's multi-generational endeavor, P.E.Holz & Sons Meat. The refrigeration there was especially nice on hot summer days.

Bev's husband, Dan died in 1989 leaving her with their 1-year old son, Daniel and 6-year old, Margaret. Her family and friends sustained her at this most difficult time.

Fredericksburg, Virginia is where Bev has made her home for many years. A year and a half ago she decided to find a place that would allow her to spend more time with her children and their families and bought a place in The Woods. Living in two places has both its challenges and benefits.

Daniel, his wife Emily, and their new baby boy, Renick (Ren) are currently stationed at Thurmont, not far away. As a Navy family they will most certainly live many different places over the years. Margaret and her husband, Jim welcomed their first child, Lincoln into their family in recent weeks. Their home in The Woods is just minutes away from Bev's.

Bev found her way to St. Mark's after worshiping with the congregation at Mt. Zion for a time. She is most appreciative of our friendly welcome and community involvement. Bev is also drawn to Father Brian's sermons as he talks to us about scripture in an engaging and personal way.

Working with children has been a wonderful experience. She describes her workdays as never being boring and teaching U.S. history delights her. She says that often a student will make her day, but what she treasures most is when she can make one of theirs.

In her career she has been a teacher, central office administrator, and principal. As this phase of her life begins to draw to a close, new joys await. Bev looks to retirement after 400 more days (2 school years) in the classroom. She loves her peaceful home in The Woods and looks forward to living there full-time. We look forward to that time as well and are thankful that we will see more of Bev before too long.

Wonder

You don't have to go anywhere to claim the wonder of life. Just take it in, and with gratitude: each breath you're given, what you can see and sense, touch and create. Life is an absolute wonder. It is wonder-full. The gift of wonder has been seeded into your soul, and that seedling wants to burst through the ground of your being.

-Br. Curtis Almquist
Society of Saint John the Evangelist

Vestry Update – July vestry meetings

Arlene Verge, Susie Barker, Beth Curtin, Melinda Golden, Linda Lockhart, Judy McBee, Swanee Shedd, and Father Brian Shoda were present.

Updates on old business:

- Undercroft water damage repair: there has been some difficulty working with our insurance company to complete work on the undercroft. It is expected that all damage will be covered.
- The company hired to clean and sanitize the undercroft has come back and completed the necessary work; the wood floors had to be removed and the tile floors have been scrubbed with anti-bacterial solution.
- Many items need to be replaced due to water damage. Appliances, cabinetry, and vanities will be purchased from Clarks. Flooring, Kerdi board (for drywall repair), and molding will be purchased from Shenandoah Floors. Carpet on the stairway leading up to the church will be removed and rubber stair treads will be installed. The flooring in the two back rooms is up for bid at this time.
- Installation of a higher capacity water heater to replace the small unit destroyed in the flood is being investigated.
- We will be contacting the Public Service (Sewer) District office and asking to meet with those officials regarding the sewer flooding of our building. This is the second time in four years that this has occurred.
- Window restoration began July 16 and we are nearing our financial goal.



Rector's Reflections – continued

assemble. Too often we focus on what divides us and not on what unites us. Enjoy the warmth since it will snow soon enough. Enjoy fresh tomatoes with balsamic glaze. Jump in a pool when you can and take time to give thanks for all the blessings that we share with the Lord and each other.

God Bless! *Fr. Brian*