

Connections



Rector's Reflections

The Rev. Brian Shoda

Welcome back to school. Kids, teachers, and administrators are back on the job as well as bus drivers, cooks, and janitors. I hope you are happy in the return of school, that you have good kids and especially reasonable parents to support your efforts with your students.

September means that summer is coming to an end and it's back to work, which is why it is appropriate that Labor Day is the first Monday of the month. Work is a topic that dominates our lives and it is great if you can have a job that you like.

People will routinely ask me if I have to go to work today and my answer is that I need to go to work and to say 'have to go' makes it sound like it is a bad thing. I know what real work looks like since I can remember carrying bundles of shingles up a 30-foot ladder in the hot sun for most of a summer. That was hard work. Being a priest is challenging in its own way, but certainly not as difficult as building roofs in July. It is funny how work has changed in just my lifetime. At a very young age I was a paperboy and before I quit I had 300 customers on my route. It was a difficult day on Sunday with the extra ads, comics, and so on. However, I was very popular with the dogs in our neighborhood as they waited for me each morning, ready to go on an adventure. I don't even know if rural paper delivery people exist except for a few who drive around in their cars.

I can recall the regular visits from encyclopedia salesmen or in our case saleswoman. When I was in college we loved to go to record stores, try to find one today. With Netflix you can hardly find DVDs, much less the other ones, in any store except Walmart. With e-readers even bookstores hardly exist. I can recall complaining that all kids wanted to do was stay inside and play on their computers. Well the joke is on us, they were doing pre-job training, as most of their new, high paying jobs all require competence on a computer. Swinging a hammer hardly gets you minimum wage.

Oh well, the times they are a changing. Happy Labor Day and have a blessed end of summer. Don't work too hard...

God Bless! *Fr. Brian*

The Episcopal Church

Deputies and bishops acted on a record number of resolutions, including readmitting the Episcopal Church of Cuba, at the recent general convention.

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible."

Dalai Lama

St. Mark's

Our September 9 service will be held at Cacapon State Park at 10:00 a.m. A picnic follows with drinks and chicken provided. Please bring a dish to share!



Scott and Tess hard at work



Meet our new 50-gallon water heater

Undercroft work continues

More very heavy rain on August 21 caused another water backup in our undercroft. Fortunately, cabinets and appliances had not yet been installed.

Our contractor, Scott Miller, has excavated the area behind the church building and located the sewage pipe responsible for the flooding. He has installed an automatic shut-off valve that is expected to eliminate future problems of this nature. A great deal of work went into making this work possible and we owe many thanks to Scott Miller and Tony Verge for their hard work on our behalf.

We will be back in the undercroft in the not too distant future.



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 Buzzerd, *Treasurer*
Susie Barker, Beth Curtin, Melinda
Golden, Kim Kelly, Linda Lockhart,
Swanee Shedd, Cindy Stull

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Upcoming dates to remember

September 6 – Happy birthday Barbara Kowalski! 🎉

September 9 (Sunday) – Church service and picnic in the park beginning at 10:00 a.m. There will not be a 9:00 a.m. service.

September 10 – Happy birthday Adam Stocker! 🎂

September 17 – Happy birthday Gren & Shirley Hallam! 🎉

September 21 (Friday) – St. Mark's volunteers at Starting Points Community Kitchen, contact: Arlene Verge

September 25 – Happy birthday Pete Gordon! 🎂



Getting to know you

Lisa McBee

Lisa has lived in Berkeley Springs all her life and been a member of St. Mark's almost as long. She dearly loves both.

The small town atmosphere without the traffic troubles of cities appeals to her. Another grocery store and a few more shopping opportunities might be nice, but Lisa isn't complaining.

Over the years she has seen the town grow with the theater coming back along with the chamber, Ice House, and the wonderful farmer's market.

Since her sister and brother-in-law's store, McKiblerBee's, opened in 2014 Lisa has worked there full-time. She enjoys the opportunity to greet folks, answer questions, and learn a bit about the places from which visitors come.

When she's not working at the store or church she enjoys yard work and shopping. Reading is another hobby of Lisa's. She likes mysteries and books about history most of all.

Vacations have included trips to visit family. One sister's husband is in the Air Force and that has afforded her the opportunity to visit some very interesting places, England most especially. The castles and many of the very old places they visited were particularly interesting. She also remembers well her visit to the Grand Canyon and Sedona's red rocks.

At St. Mark's Lisa has been actively contributing to the church since she was quite young. She served as an acolyte, helped make

the nativity characters we love to see each Christmas, and participated in youth group in her early years.

For the past 20 years or so she has served on the Altar Guild. She was elected to that position in the days of Miss Hilda Seibert and still enjoys setting the altar. Miss Hilda was a good woman to learn from and is remembered fondly by Lisa and many others.

Worshipping with all of us on Sunday is important to Lisa. She appreciates the friendly family atmosphere and comments that since Father Brian has arrived she's learned a lot more about the Bible.

Lisa's life has not been without difficulty. After years of trouble with a kidney it was finally removed when she was 12-years old. Before that she had a bout of Rocky Mountain Spotted Tick Fever and a few years ago she was diagnosed with diabetes. Any one of these problems could slow down any of us, but not Lisa. Her energy and eagerness to do whatever is needed is an inspiration. We thank God for Lisa and her special place in our family.

Children of God

The truest thing about us is not our sins, not the mistakes we have made, not the pain we have caused others. The truest thing about you and me is that we are God's beloved children, fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image – and created for Life and Love.

-Br. Geoffrey Tristram
Society of Saint John the Evangelist

Vestry Update – the vestry didn't meet in August

