



The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
CANTON, OH



Rector's Ramblings with Fr. RJ

Friday, July 30, is the commemoration of William Wilberforce. Wilberforce was a member of Parliament and is best known for his fight to abolish slavery in the British Empire. He introduced his first anti-slavery motion in the House of Commons in 1788. The motion was to end the slave trade. The motion was defeated, and Wilberforce introduced the same motion every year for the next eighteen years until the slave trade was abolished in 1806. Wilberforce went on to fight for the abolition of slavery itself and drafted a motion that passed four days before his death in 1833.

A study of Wilberforce's religious life is also instructive. In his mid-twenties, Wilberforce underwent a conversion influenced by the Evangelical wing of the Church of England. He began to spend time in prayer and the study of scripture each morning and attended church every Sunday.

At the time, religious devotion was frowned upon in the upper and middle classes. This caused Wilberforce to examine whether he should remain in public life or study to become a member of the clergy. Under the influence of John Newton, he discerned that his vocation was to remain in the Parliament and push for social reform in that capacity. It was this decision that led him to continue his struggle against slavery.

Throughout the rest of his life, Wilberforce struggled with self-criticism. He constantly questioned whether he was devout

enough, or used enough of his time in the service of God. It is quite likely that he suffered from what we would recognize today as depression. This was likely exacerbated by his use of opium, which was prescribed by his physician.

It is healthy to remember that even the greatest saints of the church have had their struggles. Wilberforce's contribution to the abolition of slavery is in no way diminished by his struggles with depression and addiction. Those struggles are rarely discussed. It is, however, important to bring them to light in hopes that we might be able to encourage those who are struggling with those issues to seek the help that will enable them to find healing.

Fr. RJ



Being a greeter prior to our service is one of the most joyous ministries at St. Mark's! To greet fellow parishioners and to welcome visitors, plus answer their questions, are ways to show the love of Jesus. Typically, Greeters work in teams of two and wear a GREETER tag or badge. There are 4 ladies who comprise the Welcoming Guild. One of the purposes of the Guild is the "recruiting" of greeters. Soon one of us will be calling you for your opportunity to participate in this ministry.

Thanking you in advance,

Judy Hixon, MaryAnn Kiesling, Pat Silagy Wesson, Tory Willoughby

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

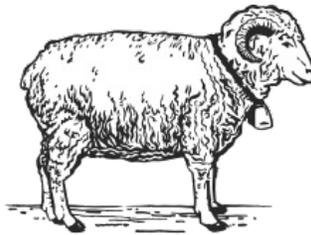
SAVE THE DATE



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH

Pilgrimage at Bellwether Farm



Bellwether

FARM

CAMP • RETREAT • EDUCATION CENTER

A Pilgrimage will be held at Bellwether Farm on Saturday,

August 28 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. **Registration** is required. The cost is \$30.00 and includes lunch. You will have an opportunity to enjoy the serenity and beauty of hiking on the trails at Bellwether Farm. A pilgrimage is a spiritual retreat. It is a time when you can set aside your daily concerns and open yourself to the holy. Come spend time with God; experience the healing power of walking in nature. Feed your soul by setting aside time in peace and quiet and allowing God to speak to you. Please contact Betty Kondrich at bkondrich@dohio.org if you have questions or would like more information.

Outreach: Blessing Box at Hope Outreach Ministry

Volunteers have built a unit to provide for the homeless when the shelter is not open. "The Blessing Box" will be filled with personal items and some food and emergency items.

Items we can help with: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, toilet paper, tissues, hand sanitizer, paper towels, deodorants, band-aids, and other personal care products, cans of fruit, applesauce, tuna fish, crackers, and any ready-to-eat items. Remember that anything in a can should have a pull top since can openers are not necessarily available. Please place them in or near the Hope Chest, located across from the coatroom.

Please remember to bring in personal care items for Blessing Box at Hope Outreach. The need is great. Special thanks to Marilyn and Barrie Thorp who sent in a bag of 300+ hotel items gathered up by their family.



The Diocese has continued to offer easy online giving. To use this, please select "St. Mark's Canton" from the dropdown, and choose either a one-time or recurring gift. We thank you for your continued support.

**Designate a Gift to St.
Mark's**

Sunday, August 1

Morning Prayer at 9 a.m.

In-Person and Live Stream (*inside*)

[Lessons](#) (Track 2)

[Bulletin](#)

[Live Stream](#)



Wednesday, August 4

Evening Prayer, 4 p.m.

[Bulletin](#)

[Zoom](#)

July 30 - August 9, Fr. RJ is on vacation.

On the Schedule? Keep track [here](#).

Bob's Music Notes

In those first days for me at St. Mark's, we found the choir folks most interesting. Tenor Dr. King was quite a jokester with a ready wit. I used to tell the choir, in an effort to boost their tonal support, to pretend they had just heard a joke from Dr. King and their bodies would be convulsed with energetic laughter, perfect for happy singing. And he invited the choir to his Avondale home for parties. I well remember his wife Janet being concerned that everyone have enough to drink, and Dr. King loved showing off his garden. I asked him to do the solo part in J. Varley Roberts' standard anthem "Seek Ye the Lord." Another favorite of his was Roberta Bitgood's "The Greatest of These," based on First Corinthians 13, the "love" chapter.

Sidelight on this anthem: Ms. Bitgood was the youngest woman to win a Fellowship Degree from the American Guild of Organists. She eventually became President of the Guild and as such visited Canton for a choral festival of her works, the most famous of which was "The Greatest of These." She told me that when she walked into the publishing offices of the H. W. Gray Company in NY who printed her works, the staff would shout "Here comes the Greatest!" since her anthem earned a tidy sum for the company.

The choir room downstairs was ample in size with a studio upright Charles R. Walter piano that had been given to the church as a memorial to Jim Bains, a charismatic choirmaster, who frequently visited me when I was downtown at the Methodist Church. We would compare anthem lists and talk about our favorites. I added his ideas to the choral library.

An upgrade to this room a few years later was crowned with an inscription from Bach: "Music: for the refreshment of man and

the glory of God." It was painted on an overhang by none other than our gifted Olivia Mull, who, I learned, had been on the artist staff of Hallmark Cards. Her work on that script is a model of perfection. We later had to change the choir room location, but I requested that the motto on that overhang not be painted over. It would be a travesty to destroy that masterpiece of Livvy's.

July Birthdays

9 Jane Schutrum
10 Bob Kennedy
13 Eloise Hochwalt
27 Brynn Pelger, Rachel Crowl

July Anniversaries

13 Beth and Rick Crowl
24 Bruce and Judy Hixon
29 Katie Cerrone-Arnold and Chris Arnold
30 Kent and Pamela Clark
31 John and Kathy Wise

Prayer Concerns

Jim Weaver, Jane Schutrum, Ron Hill, Amelia Rowland, Ron Brookes, Jack and Pauline Briggs

Family and Friends: Eddie Hornsby (friend of Father RJ); Gail (friend of the Kieslings); Ray Slinger (friend of Bob Morrison), Janet Sheatzley Morgan (Barb Siegfried's sister); Chuck Schuerer and Beth Conley (friends of Cricket Boyd); Lynnda Hoefler (friend of Sue Little); Caleb (nephew of Mandy Pelger); Carol Jones (daughter of Buck & BJ Jones); Steve O'Krepki and Corinna (family of Beth Crowl); Dr. Angela Peters & family (friend of the Kennedys); Judy Evans & Bobby Guerin (friends of Pam McCarthy); Addelyn, (friend of Judy Hixon); Eddie Hornsby (friend of Father RJ); Sandy Snyder (friend of the Rands); Jerry Burris (friend of the Thorleys); Linda Kendrick (friend of the Kieslings); Lesley, Rob & Holly (friends of Paulette Frech); Jim Bellamy (friend of Marcia Tirpak); Marc Hostetler (brother of Susan Hostetler); Baby David (friend of the Schaub); Bob Patterson (friends of Diana Cornell); Camila

Guzman family and Pastor Marilyn Roman (friends of the Mulls); Johnny Willoughby; Jim Mesko (friend of Jim Weaver).

For all those serving in the Armed Forces.

For all those who have died.

Please update Bobbi or Katie on the status of your friends or family members as to when they may be removed from the prayer lists.

PRAYER CHAIN:

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for the specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at ggordon24@sbcglobal.net

Prayer requests may be placed on the private Prayer Chain or on the Prayer Concerns list appearing in The Lion's Pause and Sunday bulletin or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference. Unless otherwise instructed, names will be listed as we receive them.



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We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

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