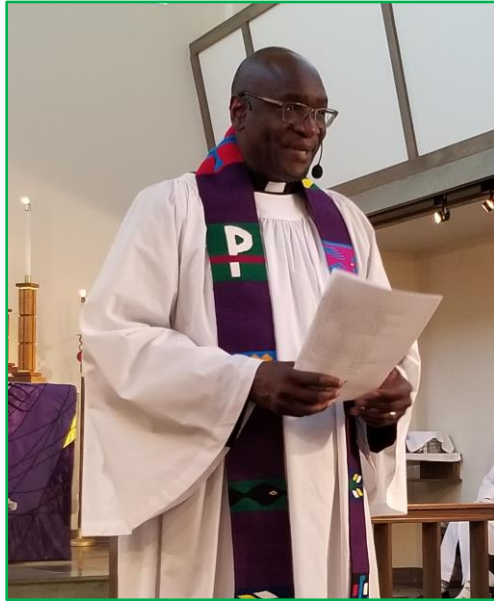




# THE LION'S ROAR

May – June – July – 2023

## From Fr. Robert Magoola



Dear St. Mark's family,

Praying that you all are doing as well as can be. So much good is happening at St. Mark's on the Campus, for which our gratitude is due.

Congratulations to Nita Sipple and Brody Ptomey upon their confirmation, a commitment to continue in the Christian faith, fellowship, and the breaking of bread; to Todd Sandsted upon his reception into this communion, and to Bob Kuzelka, upon his reaffirmation of Christian vows. Thank you all for participating in receiving Bishop Barker and Canon Easton. Per the Bishop's email following the visit, they had a fabulous time here with us. And you helped make that happen. Thank you for such a lovely day!

Ross is with us until early fall when he goes to graduate school. In our next edition of The Lion's

Roar, he will write more about his future plans. In the meantime, our Personnel Committee, which is made up of former wardens, has started the process of replacing Ross. Please keep both Ross and SMOc in your prayers. May the Lord lead us in this process.

Justice in Action's *Nehemiah Assembly* on May 4 will mark the climax of our first year. At that time, we will ask our public officials to respond to proposals coming out of more than 1,000 hours of research collectively carried out by our Justice in Action teams. We are making friends all around the city and county as well as with our neighbors at UNL.

The Day of Pentecost will fall on May 28. Please consider taking a reading in a tongue other than English. Let us know by writing or calling the office so we can have you on the list. Liturgically, our Lord's resurrection ushers us into the season of the coming and the far-reaching effects of the Holy Spirit. It is the season of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles and the apostles' writings to the early congregations. In the spirit of the season, I am sharing a poem inspired by a deep reading of Acts 3 during my seminary days.

Let us continue sharing in this beautiful fellowship "with glad and sincere hearts". May we continue being a light at our corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and R, and that God will continue doing many good things among and through us.

With God's love,

Robert +

## BEHOLD, THIS IS MY DAY!

There he sat in shimmering sunshine  
Inhaling and eating dust by day  
That rose to his frail legs calloused and  
weather-beaten

From feet on paths well-trodden  
He knew sandals and shoes, bare feet and  
hooves,  
Sauntering to and fro,  
Daily by the gate

Yea, to his fingers and palms open to  
receive,  
Coins and crumbs  
That any could give,  
Thoughtless or thoughtful... just *anything*

On sunny days and rainy alike  
There he sat, down by the gate  
Awful his experience  
Beautiful the gate he sat at...

As crowds upon crowds flocked the Temple  
To worship and appease  
To slaughter and sacrifice  
And he, only to beg . . .

Yet this day in the crowd  
As he watched sandals and shoes, bare feet,  
and hooves,  
As dust rose and settled upon rising dust  
endlessly raised...  
Came two guys unusual...

And he as usual begins to beg, not looking  
Will you... just *anything* sirs...  
Only what I have do I give you  
Says one...

What! Did I hear that well?  
In Jesus' Name, the Nazarene? Will I walk?!  
What, that is really strange!!  
Do I even believe it? Am I walking  
Halleluiah! Praise to God!

Then a' jumping and a' shouting  
Through the gates, truly beautiful, he fled  
Into the Temple, to worship the almighty, he  
ran...  
And what a kafuffle in the Temple...

Behold, this is my day!

© Robert Magoola, December 2001



## Doors and Windows Update

This spring and summer there will be some work done at St. Mark's to update some doors and our security systems. Four doors will be replaced, including the three doors from the hallway to the Sanctuary, Fr. Robert's office, and the vesting/bookkeeper's room, and the door between the office and Fr. Robert's office. The new doors will be solid core and have windows. The solid core will provide better sound proofing for the room occupants and the windows will improve lighting. The doors will be replaced as soon as the new doors are delivered – we're waiting...

As the number of outside groups using our facility has increased, it became clear that our security system needed to be updated. The new system will allow us to ensure that the church is locked after groups have left and allow us to open the church for groups without driving downtown. There will be a camera on the outside courtyard as well, which will provide information about how that space is used. Work on the security system will take place soon, and it will likely be finished before the doors are replaced.

We thank everyone who is working on and contributing to the care of our church.

– *Wardens & Vestry*

## The Bishop's Visit

On April 23 Bishop J. Scott Barker and Canon Liz Easton made their annual visit to St. Mark's on the Campus. Bishop Barker presided at the 10:30 am service, at which four candidates were presented: Nita Sipple and Brody Ptomey for confirmation, Todd Sandsted for reception, and Bob Kuzelka for reaffirmation. All four candidates were gifted with their own copy of *The Book of Common Prayer* and applauded by the congregation. Later in service, Connie Backus-Yoder gave Bishop Barker a beautiful handmade quilt (see photo below).

After the service, the Bishop, Canon Liz, and many parishioners enjoyed a potluck luncheon and fellowship in the parish hall. It was a great opportunity for Bishop Barker to talk with all present. He was interested in our work to replace some of our interior doors and replacing our security system to better accommodate our current needs and the use of our church by others. He commended our efforts to keep our church welcoming and safe for all, and complimented Fr. Robert's work.

Many thanks go out to all who contributed to our luncheon, to our service and our music. It was a wonderful day.

-- Sara LeRoy, Warden



*Bishop Barker anoints Todd Sandsted as Canon Easton looks on and Bob Kuzelka waits*



*Connie Backus-Yoder looks on as Bishop Barker and Fr. Robert display her quilt, gifted to Bishop Barker*

**Are you among the talented folk at St. Mark's on the Campus who can speak a language other than English?** If you are, would you consider taking part in our traditional multi-lingual reading of the Gospel on Ascension Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>? To be one of readers that day, please contact the [Church Office](#).

## Justice in Action

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After months of meetings and extensive engagement with law enforcement and mental health professionals in the community, *Justice in Action* is winnowing down to two specific proposals that will be presented to community leaders in May. Under a governing board, with Fr. Robert serving as chair, dozens of volunteers have been researching elements of the proposals. Lucy



Webster, Mark Musick, Todd Sneller, Jeanine Jewell, Pippa Lawson and several other SMOC members have taken an active role in the research and evaluation process. ***Justice in Action's focus areas are mental health and criminal justice.***

***Mental Health*** -- As the research and discussions evolved, it became clear these are complex, interconnected areas of concern. The mental health issue, as outlined in a draft statement, notes that people experiencing mental health issues in Lancaster County are often unable to access timely and appropriate care and often end up interacting with the criminal justice system. This is a costly process, and it robs people of the opportunity to receive the ongoing care they need to lead productive lives. This situation is due to many factors, including inadequate treatment facilities, underserved members of the community, extensive waiting periods before care can be accessed, and too few mental health care workers.

***Criminal Justice*** -- The criminal justice issue involves several components including the growing number of people with mental health and addiction issues being placed or kept in the Lancaster Jail. Many of the people placed in jail are there for non-violent offenses. Some of these offenses are the direct result of inadequate mental health crisis responses. The local mental health care and criminal justice system does not have sufficient tools, discretion, or community-based alternatives to address current needs.

Remedies to help address both issues are being drafted as part of the proposals that will be presented to local officials on May 4. On that day, at 6:30 pm, about 1,000 people will gather at the Lancaster County Event Center for a Lincoln ***Nehemiah Assembly***. They will hear about the research findings and proposed remedies. With the support of the *Nehemiah Assembly*, *Justice in Action* will ask public officials to embrace these remedies which are designed to produce practical, positive improvements to the issues facing Lancaster County in the mental health and criminal justice systems.

You are strongly encouraged to attend the Nehemiah Assembly. It is an opportunity to better understand these issues and the role our faith communities can play in advocating changes that produce better outcomes in mental health care and criminal justice in Lancaster County.

*If you want more information about **Justice in Action** or the May 4 **Nehemiah Assembly**, contact Mark Musick, Lucy Webster, Todd Sneller, or Fr. Robert for details.*

## August Adventure for Ross

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Many of you are aware that Ross Mosier, who serves as our Administrative Assistant and Music Director, has been pursuing acceptance into a graduate program to continue his studies in music and piano. Following auditions at KU, Rutgers, Manhattan School of Music, and Salem College in NC, Ross received acceptance at KU. The relative closeness of Lawrence to Kansas City means Ross will not only be gaining top-notch instructors at KU, but he will be able to play with and accompany a range of different groups (as he has done here in Lincoln).

This is wonderful news for Ross! At the same time, it is a great loss for us at St. Mark's. Ross has not only brought beautiful music to our Sanctuary – both during service and through his promotion of our space for concerts and recitals – but has led the installation our audio/visual system, researched for a new and better security system, communicated with various vendors, and coordinated many other “instrumental” updates to the St. Mark's building operations.

Ross will be leaving St. Mark's in early August. The Personnel Committee met on Sunday, April 16, for a general discussion about hiring personnel for the Music Director and Administrative Assistant positions. Currently, Fr. Robert and the committee are reviewing and updating job descriptions, as well as looking at Ross's suggestions for these positions.

As the personnel committee moves forward, we will keep you updated.

## A Note from the Office

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St. Mark's has been busy as ever this Spring! Many recitals, rentals for events, etc.

Along with new doors and a new security system, we are also upgrading some of our tech and IT infrastructure.

Our Allo internet box and network switch will be moved into a secure closet with the new security system “brains.” Our phone lines are a mess (likely original to the building) and those are getting redone as well! Network cables will now run in the ceiling instead of on the floor in the office. An additional Wi-Fi access point will be installed in the Undercroft where *Justice in Action* works.

Additionally, pending Vestry approval, we are getting a new copy machine that will save the church a large amount of money, and be much more efficient for our printing needs! We are very excited about that!

In conjunction with Jeanine's info (above) about my upcoming Fall departure (more about that in the next issue of *The Roar*), the office hours will likely be changing somewhat, and you might see a new face at the desk (or hear a new voice over the phone) a couple of days a week. My colleague, Brent Shaw, will be helping sub for me a couple of days a week, for at least the month of May, while I start doing some piano tech work at the local piano shop. I will be helping rebuild the Omaha Symphony Steinway Model D, as well as likely do some work on Jackson Berkey's Steinway, wow!! Do not be afraid to ask Brent for assistance if he is in the office. I will still be handling all major things and I'll be in the office the other two days of the week. I'm here until August, so we have the whole summer to allow a graceful transition!



Ross

## Coming Events & Activities

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- \* **Parish Picnic on July 23rd:** Save the date! The 2023 annual parish picnic is planned for Sunday, July 23, at the open picnic shelter at Bethany Park (68<sup>th</sup> and Vine Street).
- \* **Coffee in the Courtyard:** On May 28 (Pentecost), July 2, and August 20, we will have Coffee in the Courtyard after the 10:30 am service. If you are willing to lend a hand one of these dates, please contact [Opal Doerr](#).
- \* **Soup Sundays:** Soup Sundays are finished for the spring, but we will need “souper” heroes to volunteer to provide soup this fall.
- \* **Rangbrook Ensemble Concert:** Friday, June 30, at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Postponed from April, giving you more time to plan to attend (and their pianist to heal).

## Regular On-Going Activities

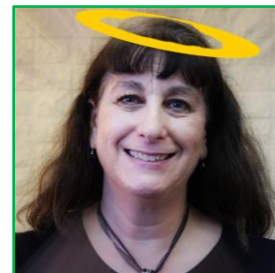
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- \* **Sunday Worship:** We worship at **8:30 am** and **10:30 am** on Sundays. This includes in person in the church and (at 10:30) via [Facebook Live](#). Later that same day, the video can be viewed on our *YouTube* channel (search for **SMOC Lincoln**) and linked from our [website](#).
- \* **Adult Forum:** Meets at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings, in person, in the Parish Hall. Come enjoy the discussion over a cup of coffee or tea. Mark Musick will discuss his book, **Boxes**, in May.
- \* **Healing Service:** Deacon Rich leads a Healing Service at 9:00 am on the first Saturdays of the month. All feeling a need for healing of any kind are welcome.
- \* **Mondays** are Fr. Robert’s day off.
- \* **Church Office hours** are Monday through Thursday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- \* **Communications Committee:** Meets via *MicroSoft Teams* (very similar to Zoom) on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Contact Opal Doerr or the [Church Office](#) (or 402-474-1979) for the link.
- \* **Vestry:** The Vestry meets monthly in person in the Allington Room at 12:15 pm, usually on the 1st Sunday of the month. Meetings are open to all parishioners via MS Teams. If you would like to attend a vestry meeting, contact the Church Office for the link.
- \* **SMoC choir practices** are on Wednesdays, at 5:30 – 6:30 pm, in the Sanctuary. If you are considering joining, drop in! Choir gets the best seat in the house on Sundays!

## Kim Wins SMoC Golden Halo!

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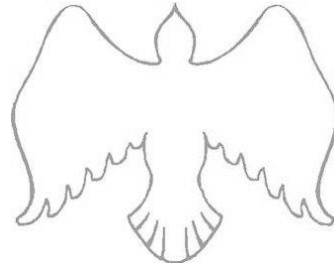
Kim Thomason won our parish competition to correctly predict outcomes in the *2023 Lent Madness* online tournament. Kim's prize for her prophetic ability is a Lent Madness Swag Bag (to be awarded later). *Lent Madness* presents daily matchups of 32 saints and collects virtual votes in a four-round quest to attain the Golden Halo. The saint who triumphed this year was **Jonathan Daniels**, an Episcopal seminarian who gave his life to save a young woman during the Civil Rights movement.



## Pentecost Art Challenge

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The St. Mark's on the Campus Pentecost Art Challenge is underway! Participants have signed out kits with a canvas and instructions. The finished artworks will be returned by Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, and will be displayed in the Sanctuary walls from May 14 through May 28 (Pentecost).



## Updated SMoC Directory

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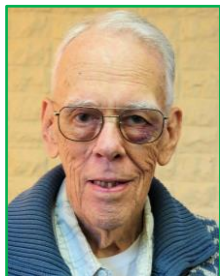
When you receive this issue of *The Lion's Roar*, you will also receive an updated St. Mark's on the Campus Directory. It is a simple roster-style directory with name, address, phone, and email (as available) for each St. Mark's "regular" as well as some friends of St. Mark's. The actual paper size of the directory is 8.5 x 14 inches. If you want/need larger print, contact the [Church Office](#) (or 402-474-1979) to request an enlarged version (11 x 17 inches).

## Farewell, Friends...

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March was a tough month. Two longtime St. Mark's parishioners passed away: Don Steinegger (on 3/15/23) and Roger Wait (on 3/20/23).

Don, 87, retired from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as Professor of Horticulture. He was well known in the community as a longtime panelist on Nebraska Public Media's Backyard Farmer. He loved his family, he loved his garden, and he loved St. Mark's. We miss his intellect and his steady, gentle presence.



Roger, 88, worked for the Journal Star for many years as a copy editor. He was a Deacon at St. Mark's on the Campus from 1985 to 2005. Besides his niece and her husband, St. Mark's folk were Roger's family. We miss his humor and his love of books.



Give rest, O Christ, to your servants Don and Roger along with your saints.

## May Adult Forum

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During May, the Adult Forum will feature presentations by Mark Musick. On May 7th, May 14th, and May 28th, Mark will be discussing the book he wrote entitled, **Boxes**, which chronicles controversial issues surrounding the life and death of Howard Hughes. Mark has done extensive research and interviewed key people involved with Mr. Hughes. Be prepared for some surprises! Adult Forum meets every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:20. Everyone is welcome!

## Chelsea Ordained!

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Fr. Chuck Peek reports that Chelsea Vaught (our former Music Director) was ordained Sunday, April 16, 2023, at Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson, Nebraska. Wonderful news! Congratulations, Chelsea!



## Weekly Schedule – May 3 – June 30

*See Page 8 for regular, ongoing activities not listed here.*

|     |         |                                      |                        |                    |
|-----|---------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Thu | May 4   | Nehemiah Assembly                    | Lancaster Co Event Ctr | 6:30 pm            |
| Fri | May 5   | Private Event                        | Parish Hall            | 11:00 am - 3:00 pm |
| Sat | May 6   | Healing Service                      | Sanctuary              | 9:00 am            |
|     |         | ▸ Private Recital                    | Sanctuary              | 3:00 pm            |
| Sun | May 7   | Vestry Meeting                       | Allington Rm           | 12:15 pm           |
|     |         | ▸ Spring Pot Pourri Recital*         | Sanctuary              | 3:00 pm            |
| Tue | May 9   | Pentecost Art Challenge – Turn In!   | Office                 | before 3:00 pm     |
|     |         | ▸ Private Recital – Tentative        | Sanctuary              | 7:30 pm            |
| Wed | May 10  | Private Recital                      | Sanctuary              | 6:00 pm            |
| Sun | May 14  | Gabriel Marks Recital*               | Sanctuary              | 7:00 pm            |
| Sat | May 20  | Pro Rail                             | Allington Rm           | 8:00 am            |
|     |         | ▸ National Federation of the Blind   | Parish Hall            | 9:00 am – Noon     |
| Thu | May 25  | Private Recital                      | Sanctuary              | 7:00 pm            |
| Fri | May 26  | Private Recital                      | Sanctuary              | 7:00 pm            |
| Sun | May 28  | Pentecost, Gospel in Tongues         | Sanctuary              |                    |
|     |         | ▸ Last day of Pentecost Art Display  |                        |                    |
|     |         | ▸ Coffee in the Courtyard            | Courtyard              | 11:45 am           |
| Sat | June 3  | Healing Service                      | Sanctuary              | 9:00 am            |
| Sun | June 4  | Vestry Meeting                       | Allington Rm           | 12:15 pm           |
| Wed | June 7  | Last Day of Choir Practice until Aug | Choir Loft             | 5:30 pm            |
| Fri | June 30 | Rangbrook Ensemble Concert*          | Sanctuary              | 7:30 pm            |
| Sat | June 17 | National Federation of the Blind     | Parish Hall            | 9:00 am – Noon     |
| Sat | July 1  | Healing Service                      | Sanctuary              | 9:00 am            |
| Sun | July 2  | Vestry Meeting                       | Allington Rm           | 12:15 pm           |
|     |         | ▸ Coffee in the Courtyard            | Courtyard              | 11:45 am           |
| Sun | July 23 | Parish Picnic                        | Bethany Park           | Noon-ish           |

\* *Parishioners are welcome at these Recitals and Concerts*

*The Lion's Roar* is the quarterly newsletter of St. Mark's on the Campus Episcopal Church at 1309 R Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. This is the May-June-July 2023 issue. For information about items in the newsletter or to include an item in the next newsletter, contact the editor, Opal Doerr, at [odoerr811@gmail.com](mailto:odoerr811@gmail.com), or the church office, [smoc.office@stmarks-episcopal.org](mailto:smoc.office@stmarks-episcopal.org). Photo credits: Opal Doerr, Connie Backus-Yoder, Craig Lawson, Ross Moser, Peg Sheldrick, Chelsea Vaught, Justice in Action, and *Art Explosion* (owned by the editor).