

# The Lion



## Rector's Reflections A Yearly Remembrance

Dear Friends,

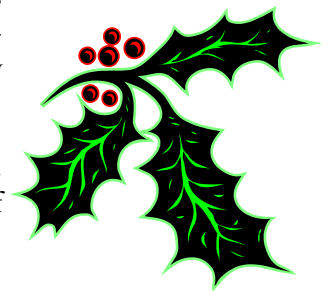
Every year at this time, the church calendar begins anew with the Season of Advent. The cycle of the church year traces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from his birth to his resurrection. In Advent, we enter into the time of waiting and expectation that precedes Jesus' coming. We hear of John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, the prophet who foretells the coming of the Messiah. We hear the song of Mary as she receives the good news that she is the one chosen to bring him into the world. Every year as Christmas nears, the Sunday School children dress up as angels and shepherds, innkeepers and animals, to tell the story of Jesus' birth.

In a world marked by change, in a world where progress and profits are held up as measures of success, we return again each year to begin the same liturgical cycle over again. Each year's celebration of Advent and Christmas is a little different, the actors playing the roles in the Christmas pageant vary, the choir may learn a few new pieces, and parishioners try out different recipes for the delicious food shared at church during this joyful season. The story, though, remains the same. God's own son is coming into the world, wrapped in the flesh of our humanity. He comes to save us, to set us free.

It is important, I believe, to keep these traditions: the lighting of one more candle each week in a dark time of year, the reading of the hopeful words of the prophets, the songs of longing, the prayers for peace. They remind us that our hope is grounded in the Living God, the One who came among us in Jesus Christ.

We find both challenge and comfort in the rhythms of the church year. Every year at this time, we find ourselves out of step with the frenzy of the world around us—the packed parking lots, the commercial excess, the political attack ads, the clamor of life. We are challenged to pause for breath, to set our hopes on the future that God is preparing. In the season of Advent, the church bids us to join our voices with those of the prophets and with Mary herself, as she prays for the turning of the world to God's ways, the tumbling of tyranny, and the lifting up of those who are lowly. This is not always easy to do, with so many things pulling for our attentions, and a world that is sending us messages of a very different sort.

And yet, we find comfort in our yearly observances. We light candles in the dark of winter, symbols of God's light shining forth into the shadows of our



*Continued on page 2*

# Rector's Reflections



world. Our Advent songs are prayers for justice, prayers of hope, prayers of belonging to a future that is still being shaped by God's love. We see the children in their costumes retelling the story that we have heard time and time again, and we remember that God came to us in the poverty of the stable, and that the babe of Bethlehem would save the world. We hear the angel's words, "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy," and they make our hearts glad.

Each year, we gather to watch and to pray, to hear this story told once again. In doing so, we remember that God has kept these promises throughout the ages, and we hear again God's call to live as children shaped by the hope that we carry in our hearts this blessed season.

May the light of Christ kindle your hearts in this glad season, that your lives may shine with his glory and give light to the world.

Brightest Blessings,

***April***

## Another Banner Year for the Pumpkin Sale

Many thanks to all the fifty-one volunteers who sold pumpkins this year as again we sold out for the second year in a row. Thanks also to those who were involved in unloading pumpkins from the delivery trucks or who helped out in other ways. Our total sales were \$11,113 and the net profit for our Outreach giving was \$7,898. Both figures were new records and just exceeded the 2010 numbers. Listed below are the names of those sellers who helped to make this year another successful one.



Melissa Beckman, Brooke Bennett, Marj Bjornstad, John & Peter Boyland, Patty & Jim Buckley, Steve Butcher, John Cain, Barbara Costanzo, Melinda and Patricia Davies, Kris Devitt, Nikki & Todd Domenget, Marquita Edwards, Meg Edwards, Simon Eichinger, Darin Fawley, David Francyk, Mary Goode, Don Green, Kristen Guidero, Chris Hansen, Cheryl Johnson, Jeff Jordan, Kathy & Vince Katter, Brad & Kirstin Kirschner, Sophie and Hannah Dion-Kirschner, Kris Kreuziger, Leslie Luetscher, Sharon Maier, Janet & Andy Martin, Christina & Dan McCotter, Ellie Mixter-Keller, Gaby & Monique Mlengana, Michelle Mooney, Andrew Muriuki, the O'Hear family, Norm Reynolds, Sue Rhode, Stacy Roller, Richard Runkel, Jane Shero, Bill Stotts, Sandi & Ron Tunis, Yetta Welland, Kay West, and Steve Wolff. Thank you for your support!

# Deacon's Corner



With the Advent season almost upon us, and Christmas not far away, most of us will wonder again, “How do we keep Christmas from running away with us”? I have a great suggestion that may help.

First, try to immerse yourself in the beauty and themes of Advent. Let the sense of expectation and hope that defines Advent carry you into a blessed Christmas.

Secondly, try to let yourself stay in Advent time until at least the Sunday before Christmas. On December 18th, we will have the celebration of the “Greening of the church”. We will start by having our Christmas Pageant, which is woven into the Sunday service.

Immediately after the service, during the special coffee hour and brunch, we will begin to hang the Christmas wreaths, install the big red bows, and move our beloved creche into the church.

Meanwhile in the Guild Hall, the children will be making home made ornaments to decorate our parish Christmas tree. You, of course, can make a few too!

All of these time-honored activities will be accomplished in community. All of us together will begin the preparations that will mark our experience of Christmas.

So come and share in our special time. Prepare to stay through lunch time. There will be a special and plentiful brunch with great food for all ages.

See you there.

*Deacon Michelle*

## Bible Study Wants You

Bible study is in full swing again for this year. We meet every Wednesday from 4-5pm in the church library. We will be starting to read Isaiah, starting with chapter 44, sometimes called, “Second Isaiah.”

No outside reading is required, as we start each session by reading together the passage discussed that day. Just bring a Bible, if you have one, and your desire to learn more about your beliefs.

Bible Study will not meet on December 21 and 28 because of the holidays, but will resume again in January. If you'd like more information, please call Michelle Mooney at (414) 964-3118.



# Advent and Christmas at St. Mark's



## **Festive Friday on Downer Avenue, December 2 from 5:30-8pm**

On Friday evening, December 2, the Downer Avenue Shops will remain open to holiday shoppers until 8pm. St. Mark's church will fling wide our doors to welcome visitors, serving up cookies and warm beverages beginning at 5:30 pm. Kids will have the chance to make a Christmas craft, and St. Nicholas will be around to offer a bit of good cheer. Shop for gifts from local crafters (many from our parish) and fair trade groups. Join the St. Mark's choir for some carol singing. Invite your friends to stop in for an evening of neighborhood fun.

## **Advent Lessons and Carols, Sunday December 4 at 4pm at St. John's on the Lake**

The St. Mark's choir joins with our friends at St. John's on the Lake for a service of Advent Lessons and Carols featuring choral music, hymns and readings for this season of joyful expectation. All are welcome. The service will take place in the chapel at St. John's, located at 1840 N. Prospect Avenue in Milwaukee.

## **Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 18 at 9:30am**

Join us for this joyful worship service featuring the children of St. Mark's as they offer a retelling of the story of Jesus' birth. Following the worship service, all are invited to stay for refreshments and the Greening of the Church. Help us decorate the church and trim the tree.

## **Christmas Eve, December 24**

### **4pm Family Service with Holy Eucharist and Carols**

Join us for a family-friendly as we celebrate Jesus' birth. The 4pm Christmas Eve service will feature a Children's sermon and familiar carols.

### **9:30pm Choral Prelude**

The St. Mark's choir will offer a prelude of Christmas anthems

### **10pm Festival Holy Eucharist**

Celebrate Christ's nativity and the wonder of the holy night of his birth. The 10pm Christmas Eve service will include carols, selections by the St. Mark's choir and a candlelight recessional.

## **Christmas Day, December 25 at 9:30am Holy Eucharist with Carols**

### **Sunday, January 1 at 9:30am Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist**

Sing out in joyful response to Christ born among us in this special service of Lessons and Carols.

Hear the ancient words of Scripture that point to the promised Messiah and tell of his glorious birth.

Need a ride for Christmas services? Please contact the parish office.



# Poinsettias for the Altar

## Christmas Flowers and Plants for St. Mark's Holiday Services

Beginning on Sunday, December 4, the Flower Guild will be placing envelopes in service bulletins for members of the parish to be able to make a contribution towards Christmas flowers and plants for St. Mark's holiday services. There will be a form included for indicating memorials, thanksgivings, etc. to appear in the holiday service bulletins. The deadline for names to be included in holiday bulletins is Sunday, December 18.

Anyone who would like to help the flower guild arrange the Christmas flowers and plants is welcome to join the guild members on Friday, December 23, starting at 4 pm. No experience is necessary; there are lots of different types of jobs involved. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

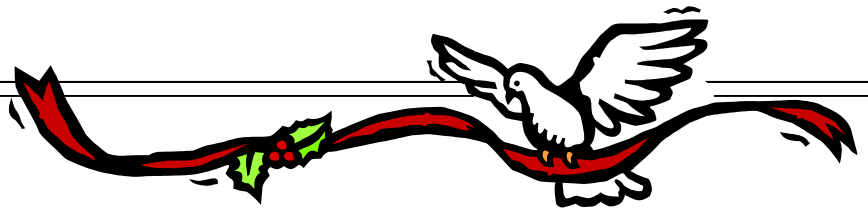


## St. Mark's Craft Fair

Friday, December 2nd from 5pm to 8pm

Saturday, December 3rd from 9am to 2pm

Don't miss the St. Mark's Craft Fair on Friday, December 2nd from 5pm to 8pm and Saturday, December 3rd from 9am to 2pm. Bring your friends and support local crafters and artisans at the St. Mark's Christmas Craft Fair. There will be something for everyone, and it is the perfect opportunity to fulfill your Christmas gift list! Christmas ornaments and decorations, handmade fur bears, jewelry, writing cards, handmade purses and gifts from Fair Trade organizations, and other various gifts will be for sale. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to purchase unique treasures from the East Side and around the world.



## Help spread the news of St. Mark's Holiday services

Every Easter and Christmas time, St. Mark's makes an effort to reach out to our neighbors and invite them to our special holiday services. We are always in need of volunteers who are willing to canvas the neighborhood to distribute our door hangers.

Perhaps you enjoy a brisk walk while taking in the sights of the season? If so, this is the perfect volunteer opportunity for you. It is especially fun to do with a friend. Please contact the church office if you can spare a few hours this joyful season.

# Outreach Spotlight



## Safety, hope and healing.

Helping young people in need take charge of their lives, connect to others, and contribute to the community.

### Pathfinders Drop-In Center for Homeless and Exploited Youth

At the stroke of midnight on their 18th birthday, a child becomes an adult. But as any parent of a teenager knows, that legal technicality does not magically transform a youth into a responsible, well-functioning, sensible adult. For a teen who is homeless, due to conflicts with parents or other reasons, that overnight change in legal status means they are no longer eligible to stay at the Pathfinders Shelter, where youth under age 18 receive shelter, food, clothing, and crucial mental health services, with the goal of returning to their families.

The Pathfinders “Drop-In Center for Homeless and Exploited Youth” was created to serve the needs of that vulnerable population from ages 18 through 25. Youth homelessness is an invisible, yet dramatic social problem in our city. It is estimated that each night over 400 youth are homeless in Milwaukee. Some find shelter with friends and extended family. Half don’t find the shelter they seek, and only 16 emergency beds exist in our community. These youth are very vulnerable, and do not have the resources to meet even their basic needs. Two-thirds will trade sex for food or shelter within three days of living on the streets. The long-term consequences in terms of educational achievement, substance abuse, violence, and mental health are staggering.

The Drop-In Center provides day services to the many homeless youth encountered by shelter and outreach staff, including food, clothing, hygiene and laundry facilities, health and risk reduction resources, computer access, job support, and case management.

St. Mark's member, **Nerissa Eichinger**, started volunteering at Pathfinders 13 years ago. For the past two years, she worked at the Drop-In Center under the AmeriCorps program where, for each year of service, workers receive money toward their education. Now having completed her service under Americorps, Nerissa is a student at UWM, but still volunteers at the Drop-In Center. Nerissa's mother and long-time St. Mark's member, **Marian Byers**, has also been a volunteer at Pathfinders for many years.



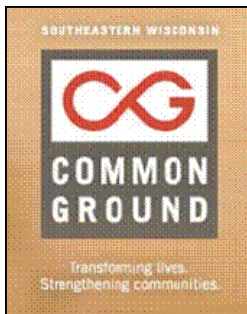
# Pathfinders Drop-in Center

Nerissa speaks highly of the services offered at the Drop-In Center. She explains, “It’s a resource center for everything you’d need if you were homeless,” including food, clothing, bus tickets, showers, laundry, storage for personal possessions, caseworkers and mental health counselors, assistance finding permanent housing, and a job board. There is a structured schedule of ongoing programs offering conflict resolution skills, healthy cooking, job-seeking skills, sex education, 12-step recovery, LGBTQ support, and much more.

The mission at Pathfinders is simple, yet profound: Safety, Hope, and Healing. Helping young people in need take charge of their lives, connect to others, and contribute to the community.

This Christmas season, keep the youth and staff at Pathfinders in your prayers. To find out more about volunteering or donating, visit their website at [PathfindersMke.org](http://PathfindersMke.org).

Kris Devitt, Outreach Ministry Member (Outreach Ministry is seeking additional members!)



## Common Ground at St. Marks

### Milwaukee Rising: A Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative

If you happen to find yourself on the 2400 block of North 48th street, don’t be surprised to find Janet and Andy Martin. They’ve adopted this block as part of Milwaukee Rising’s neighborhood revitalization initiative. Other Common Ground members have adopted additional Sherman Park blocks as well.







What does it mean to the Martins that they have adopted that block? They have committed to getting to know the neighborhood by becoming familiar with the block’s housing stock, house by house, and the people who live in them-which homes are stabile, privately owned and occupied, which are already targeted by Milwaukee Rising for renovation, and which are problematic. The problematic homes are highlighted for further research to identify who owns them and their status.

The Martins are making an effort to get to know the residents of the block. They are introducing themselves, inviting the neighbors to an open house, and following up on the concerns the residents have identified in the Martins’ conversations with them.

Janet and Andy and others are taking the Milwaukee Rising commitment to creative solutions for pressing social problems one step further-to the building of personal relationships with those most affected by Milwaukee’s foreclosure crisis, thereby strengthening this neighborhood. Way to go, Martins!

(reprinted by permission of Common Ground)

# December 2011 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 Advent I NO Sunday School</p> <p>9:30AM Holy Eucharist</p> <p>1 AM - 12PM J2A</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga</p> <p>10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop</p> <p>7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous- Gathering Room</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4PM - 5:50PM Argentine Tango</p> <p>4PM Bible Study</p> <p>6PM - 7PM Stewardship Meet- ing-Library</p> <p>7PM - 9PM Choir</p>	<p>1 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga</p> <p>5:45PM - 6:15PM Mark's Bistro Dinner</p> <p>6:15PM - 7:30PM Mark's Bistro Discussion</p> <p>7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>5PM Festive Friday 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>3 9AM - 2PM Craft Sale</p> <p>10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop</p> 
<p>4 Advent II 9:30AM Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:30AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30AM ESS Gift Wrapping Event</p> <p>11AM - 12PM J2A</p> <p>11:30AM - 1:30PM Creative Circle</p> <p>2PM Church Space Rental</p> <p>4PM Lessons &amp; Carols at St. John's</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:30PM Adult Formation Committee</p>	<p>6 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga</p> <p>8:15AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander</p> <p>10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop</p> <p>5:30PM - 6:30PM Pastoral Meeting</p> <p>6:30PM - 7:30PM Common Ground Core Team - Library</p> <p>7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous- Gathering Room</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4PM - 5:50PM Argentine Tango</p> <p>4PM Bible Study</p> <p>4:30PM - 5:30PM ESS Board Meeting - Library</p> <p>7PM - 9PM Choir</p>	<p>8 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga</p> <p>5:45PM - 6:15PM Mark's Bistro Dinner</p> <p>6:15PM - 7:30PM Mark's Bistro Discussion</p> <p>7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>10 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop</p>
<p>11 Advent III 9:30AM Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:30AM Sunday School</p> <p>11AM - 12PM J2A</p> <p>11:30AM Creative Circle</p> <p>4PM Music Concert</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:15PM Finance Committee</p> <p>7PM Women's Book Group</p>	<p>13 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga</p> <p>10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop</p> <p>6PM Shepherd Meeting</p> <p>7PM Outreach Meeting</p> <p>7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous- Gathering Room</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4PM - 5:50PM Argentine Tango</p> <p>4PM Bible Study</p> <p>7PM - 9PM Choir</p>	<p>15 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga</p> <p>5:45PM - 6:15PM Mark's Bistro Dinner</p> <p>6:15PM - 7:30PM Mark's Bistro Discussion</p> <p>7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>16</p> <p>J2A Movie Night</p> <p>7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Pageant Rehearsal</p> <p>9AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast</p> <p>10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop</p>
<p>18 9:30AM Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:30AM Sunday School</p> <p>11AM Greening of the Church</p> <p>11AM - 12PM J2A</p> <p>11:30AM Creative Circle</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga</p> <p>8:15AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander</p> <p>10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop</p> <p>6:30PM - 8:30PM Vestry Meeting</p> <p>7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous-Gathering Room</p>	<p>21 1PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>4PM - 5:50PM Argentine Tango</p> <p>4PM Bible Study</p> <p>7PM - 9PM Choir</p>	<p>22 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga</p> <p>7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4PM Arranging of Christmas flowers by Flower Guild</p> <p>7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>4PM Christmas Eve Family Service</p> <p>9:30PM Choir Prelude</p> <p>10PM Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>25</p>  <p>NO J2A</p> <p>NO Sunday School</p> <p>9:30AM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7:15 AM - 8:15 AM Yoga 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alco- holics Anonymous- Gathering Room</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4PM - 5:50PM Argentine Tango</p> <p>4PM Bible Study</p>	<p>29 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 3:30PM - 4:30PM Yoga</p> <p>7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>31 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop</p>

# Important Dates

## BIRTHDAYS



- 12/01 Barbara Costanzo
- 12/02 Gabrielle Mlengana
- 12/02 John Dudek
- 12/06 Peter Slocum
- 12/08 Matt Devitt
- 12/10 Eleanor Mosely
- 12/11 Elizabeth Kuehl
- 12/11 Georgia Cain
- 12/13 Maja Ackerbloom
- 12/15 Justin Mortara
- 12/16 Elena Beckman
- 12/16 Peter Boyland
- 12/16 Sr. Mary Paula Bush
- 12/18 David Huntington
- 12/19 Kris Kreuziger
- 12/20 Joan Blaicher
- 12/21 Amy Diliberti
- 12/29 Russell Graef

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/03 David and Mary Huntington
- 12/14 Frank and Kay West

## The Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will be meeting at the home of Leslie McCormick on December 12th at 7 pm. We will be discussing *Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen. Please come join us for a lively discussion. All women of the church are invited. Friends are very welcome. The books for 2012 have been chosen and a list is available. Please contact Jackie Adams for the list. There will also be a few copies on one of the tables in the Guild Hall. We welcome new members to join us.



## Creative Circle



Join the Creative Circle group on Sunday, December 4th and 11th, to make origami cranes to hang on your Christmas tree or in a window, or to give as gifts!

Our upcoming schedule:  
December 4 & 11: Christmas crafts  
January 8 & 15: Random acts of creativity



## Music at St. Mark's

Music at St. Mark's presents a concert in the church on Sunday, December 11 at 4pm. Music for the Season. Prata Duo and Eastwinds. Come and bring a friend.

## Kindness in the Parking Lot

As the days grow colder, we know that the winter weather will soon be upon us. When you arrive at church on snowy or icy Sunday mornings, please be mindful of the fact that a number of St. Mark's parishioners have difficulty getting around, especially in snow and ice. Please consider parking on the street or in the new parking garage at the corner in order to make room in the lot for those among us who may require a little extra help getting to church in the morning.

# Three Films for Epiphany

## The Slacker, The Amateurs & The Monster

On three Friday nights this Epiphany season, come and see what Jeffrey Lebowski has to do with John the Baptist, why a marginally talented community theater group looks like the disciples of Jesus and how the creation of a monster may cast out other demons. Or maybe not. Feel free to bring some snacks to share. Gather at 6:30 pm, films will begin promptly at 7 pm with a short discussion led by John Hickey following the viewing. The schedule is:

Friday, January 6 – The Big Lebowski & Mark 1:4-11

Friday, January 20 – Waiting for Guffman & Mark 1:14-20

Friday, February 3 – Young Frankenstein & Mark 1:29-39



## Inquirers' Class begins in January

Are you new to the Episcopal Church? Do you have questions about what it means to be an Episcopalian or about Christianity in general? Are you coming to St. Mark's from another denomination, and wondering about the similarities and differences? If so, Inquirers' class is a great opportunity to learn about our faith.

Adults and students ages 15 and older will meet together to pray, discern and study as we learn about some of the characteristics of the Episcopal/Anglican tradition and seek to deepen our understanding of what it means to live as followers of Christ in the world.

Bishop Miller makes his biennial visit to St. Mark's in May 2012, which means that any individuals who wish to be confirmed or received as members of the Episcopal Church may do so when he visits. At the conclusion of the Inquirers' class, participants may decide whether or not God is calling them to formally recognize their membership in the Episcopal Church by becoming confirmed or received.

If you are interested in joining the Inquirers' class, please sign up using the sheet in the Guild Hall or send an email to Pastor April. Classes will most likely meet following the 9:30am service on Sunday mornings; however, we may arrange some alternate times depending on the availability of those who sign up.

# Sunday School News



This has been a wonderful Autumn for the Sunday School. The upstairs remodeling project is finished, and the classrooms and nursery look great! The older Sunday School kids finished their mural based on the parable of the wedding banquet. Check it out in the upstairs hallway along with the new "redo," if you haven't already.

**Sunday, December 4th**, the second Sunday in Advent, the Sunday School will be wrapping the Christmas present for Eastside Senior Services. Please consider donating a small gift or a gift card to a local area business. Also, please remember this maybe the only gift a senior may receive this season. Small gift cards, hats and gloves (one size fits all), greeting cards with stamps, puzzle books, and anything else you would think would make a nice present. We'll be wrapping the presents upstairs in the Gathering Room during Sunday School. During present wrapping, we will also be assigning parts and costumes for the upcoming Christmas Pageant.

Rehearsals for the pageant will be **Sunday, December 11th**, during Sunday School, and **Saturday, December 17th, 3:30 - 4:30 pm**. The pageant will be **Sunday, December 18th** during the service, and we hope to see everyone there! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jane Lacy, [jsldesign@wi.rr.com](mailto:jsldesign@wi.rr.com). The kids especially could use some help during Sunday School on December 4th and December 11th.

Have a wonderful Advent season and Merry Christmas!

-Mary Ross

## Music Notes

The choir invites any singers who are unable to make a long-term commitment to singing at St. Mark's to join us for the short period during which we prepare for the Advent Lessons and Carols, the Christmas Eve Eucharist, and Christmastide. (A detailed list of rehearsal and service times follows.) If you're interested in offering gifts of music during this joyful season, please talk to Steve Wolff ([stephen\\_j\\_wolff@yahoo.com](mailto:stephen_j_wolff@yahoo.com)) or a choir member, call the church and leave a message, or just show up. You will be most welcome.

### Advent and Christmastide Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 7	Rehearsal	7-9pm	Wednesday, Dec. 28	Choir off
Wednesday, Dec. 14	Rehearsal	7-9pm	Sunday, Jan. 1	Congregational Christmas Lessons and Carols
Saturday, Dec. 17	Rehearsal	9am-12pm		Choir Off
Wednesday, Dec. 21	Rehearsal	7-9pm		
Saturday, Dec. 24	<b>Christmas Eve</b>		Wednesday, Jan. 4	Rehearsal 7-9pm
	Rehearsal	8:15 pm	Sunday, Jan. 8	Rehearsal 8:30am
	Program of Music	9:30 pm		Liturgy 9:30am
	Liturgy	10pm		
Saturday, Dec. 25	<b>Christmas Day</b>			
	The choir does not sing Christmas Day.			

# Stewardship Update



As of November 30, St. Mark's has received 51 pledges for the 2012 budget year, totaling \$166,600. This amount represents 72% of our pledge goal of \$230,000. Thanks to all of you who have turned in your pledges already. It's not too late to turn in your pledge, and doing so sooner rather than later will help the Vestry to make sound financial decisions for the coming year. We will ask God's blessing on the 2012 pledges during the worship service on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact the Parish Office or Frank West, chair of the Stewardship Team, if you need a copy of the Stewardship packet.



## William Davis: An Artist's Journey II

**"I try to use the loose nature of watercolor.... the flow of the water and paint and my immediate reaction to it as I attack each new painting. I continue to be a student of the medium, hopefully growing in skill and understanding, always amazed at the potential of watercolor art."**

**-William Davis**

Davis is at the beginning of what he sees as a continuing journey of development as a watercolor artist. He finds transparent watercolor to be a challenging medium, and he tries to use its fluidity in a spontaneous way to capture the spirit of his images.

Davis believes that his architectural background results in his strong awareness of form and the definition of it, not only by shape, but by light, shadow, and value contrast and he works to use this in his paintings. Although his work is fairly realistic, he tries to suggest images in an impressionistic way without photographic rendition.

Davis' show, "An Artist's Journey II" will be on display through January 6th.

The Gallery is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9am - 1pm, Wednesday from 9am - 5pm, Saturday from 10am - noon, Sunday from 9am - noon and by appointment by calling (414) 962-0500.

# Tips for Alternative Gifting



This time of year, most of us participate in the tradition of giving gifts. Here are some ways to make the process of gift-giving gentler on the planet, kinder to our neighbors, easier on your wallet, and hopefully, even more joyful.

**Make.** Make stuff! Handmade gifts show love, creativity and thoughtfulness. You don't have to be artistic to put together something special. Look around on the Internet, go to a craft fair, ask your crafty friends for ideas, or gather up a group of friends to share supplies and make projects together.

**Bake.** A tin of homemade cookies or a loaf of warm bread makes a lovely gift, and the person receiving it doesn't have to find a place to put it!

**Share.** Share your time and your skills with the people you care about, to make their lives easier and richer. Give "coupons" for a walk together, babysitting time, cleaning the kitchen, gardening, playing music for them, teaching a skill or sharing an experience. Make sure that you follow up to ensure that your coupon is redeemed.

**Care.** Give to those who are really in need, in honor of your loved ones. Lots of charities now have ways to give useful, sustainable gifts to those in need, with a card to send to your friend telling them about the gift that has been made in their honor. Check out Episcopal Relief and Development ([www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)), the Heifer Project ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)), or the Haiti Project ([www.haitiproject.org](http://www.haitiproject.org)).

**Buy local.** Wisconsin-made crafts, cheeses, cured meats, honey, jams and other food treats make wonderful gifts. Buying locally supports your local economy and reduces the use of fossil fuels to transport goods.

**Buy fair.** "Fair trade" means that the person who made the product was paid a fair wage, enough to live on, and didn't have to work in unhealthy or exploitative circumstances. Buying fair trade gifts is like giving twice. Several stores in Milwaukee carry fair trade gift items: Fair Trade for All, Four Corners of the World and the Third World Handcrafts Shoppe. Online, check out Ten Thousand Villages ([www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com)), and Global Goods Partners ([www.globalgoodspartners.org](http://www.globalgoodspartners.org))

**Focus.** Some families (especially big ones!) move to a system where everyone gets a present for one other person—often excluding kids, who still get presents from everybody. This system keeps shopping under control and means you can choose more carefully for one person.

**Recycle.** Instead of finding yourself at the end of your gift-giving with a pile of wrinkled wrapping paper, why not find other ways to package your gifts? Color or paint grocery bags to create unique wrapping paper, reuse interesting containers, or sew fabric bags from thrift shop clothing for gift wrap that can be used again. Looking for a topper for your present? Stop by the St. Mark's Thrift Shop for a selection of vintage cards and gently used ornaments.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
2618 N. Hackett Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

[www.stmarksmilwaukee.org](http://www.stmarksmilwaukee.org)

## St Mark's Welcomes All Guests and Visitors!

### Sunday Service 9:30 am

Childcare is provided from 9:00 - 11:30am

### Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Wednesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

### St. Mark's Office phone number:

414-962-0500

Eastside Senior Services: 414-961-0661

**The Right Reverend Steven A. Miller**, Bishop of Milwaukee

**The Rev. April Berends**, Rector

**The Reverend Michelle P. Mooney**, Deacon

**Stephen Wolff**, Director of Music

**John Cain**, Senior Warden

**Vince Katter**, Junior Warden

**Sandi Tunis**, Treasurer

**Stacy Roller**, Parish Administrator

**Bill Davies**, Book Keeper

**Jyoti Bratz**, Housekeeper

**Skrauss**, Sexton

### Vestry Members

Meg Edwards

David Franczyk

Marj Bjornstad

Virginia Chappell

Mark Diliberti

Ellie Moseley

Kris Devitt

Transforming lives through meaningful relationships with God in Jesus Christ.