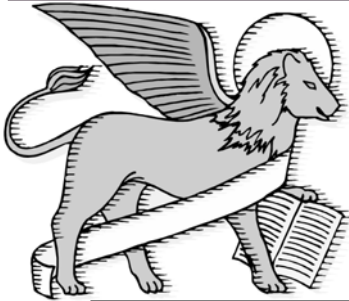


January/February 2012

The Lion

Volume 25, Issue 1



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL

The Lion

Rector's Reflections Spiritual Resolutions

Dear Friends,

As we begin a new calendar year, many of us will be making some resolutions for the year to come. Often, these resolutions have to do with our health: losing weight, eating better, and exercising more. Sometimes they have to do with other things: sticking to a budget, paying off debt, or staying in touch with family members.

None of these things are bad things, but we know that old habits die hard. Gym memberships swell during the month of January, but then taper off as the year wears on. Often, our best intentions give way to daily realities, and we find ourselves in the same place in which we began.

Perhaps we have such trouble keeping our resolutions because they are so dependent on each of our individual wills. Our New Year's resolutions are often focused solely on our own well-being.

What if we took a different approach? What if we involved our neighbors in our resolutions? What if we tied our resolutions to our spiritual life?

What if, for instance, we paired the process of eating with an acknowledgement of where our food comes from, the work that went into bringing it to our plates, the ecological impact of our sustenance? What if before each meal, we gave thanks to our creator for our food, for those whose labors made possible such abundance? What if each prayer before a meal included a petition for those who might not eat this day, and what if each of those petitions brought with it a commitment to learn more about hunger throughout the world and organizations that are working to provide relief? What if each time we sat down at the table we remembered the promises of Jesus, the bread of life, who took a loaf, gave thanks, and broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26. Would these things change the way that we eat?

What if we married physical discipline with spiritual practice? What if, before we set out on a walk or a run or before we rolled out the yoga mat or hopped on the equipment at the gym, we read a passage of scripture three times, and carried those words in our hearts while we worked out? What if we wrote down the names of three people or places in the world each morning, and prayed for those people and places while we exercised? What if we gathered a group of friends to exercise with us, and committed to provide companionship and support? What if, once a week, we sent a note of encouragement to someone

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Rector's Reflections



who is ill or struggling with physical pain or challenges? What if, when we looked in the mirror each day at our less-than-perfect bodies, we gave thanks for all that God has allowed us to do with those bodies, and reminded ourselves that God came to us in Jesus, in flesh and blood. Would these things change our perceptions of the bodies God has given us?

What if, as we organized our household budgets, we took some time to identify and evaluate our financial priorities? What if we committed ourselves to living generously, to setting aside a portion of our resources for the benefit of others? What if we decided to pick three things that we could live without, so that we could allocate those resources so that our neighbors in need might live more fully? What if we not only identified our financial priorities, but also examined the ways in which we allocate our time? What if we started by giving three hours of our time each month to an organization that serves people in need? What if we paused each night for a prayer of thankfulness for the gifts we received throughout the day? Would these things change our views on how we use the resources entrusted to us?

In the season of Epiphany, we celebrate theophanies, or God-sightings. We fix our sights on encounters with Christ. In this season of discovery, we are called to pay attention, to open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and our lives, that we may see and know and proclaim what God is doing in the world.

Altering our approach to the changes that we wish to see in our own lives will help us to work toward the changes that we hope to see, and the changes that God is calling us to make, in the world. It might also help us to be more faithful in keeping our resolutions.

Brightest blessings,

April



Epiphany Dinner Saturday, January 14th at 6pm

Join Saint Mark's Church on Saturday, January 14th at 6pm for our annual Epiphany celebration. Come with children, friends, and neighbors to enjoy an evening of great food and dancing, music, and entertainment, including a spotlight of the many talents of St. Mark's young members. Saint Mark's will provide a wonderful main course and the special Epiphany Cake and ice cream, along with juice, soda, wine, and coffee. Those attending are asked to bring a side dish to share to round out the dinner. The cost will be \$5.00 per person, a family maximum of \$15.00 total, with children ages 6 and under free.

Helpers are needed for set-up and clean-up. Please sign up in the Guild Hall if you wish to participate.

Deacon's Corner



“Just do it!” is a tag line for a tennis shoe company that advertises on television. The message is that to get active, you need to stop thinking about it so much and just start doing it. Not bad advice, it seems to me.

Philip Chard, a psychotherapist, author, and Christian, who has a weekly column in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, states that cultivating a sense of gratitude and doing acts of altruism or service to others can help bring us happiness in life.

Things like engaging in life-long learning, connecting with something greater than one's self, living healthy, having pets, practicing self-acceptance, and forgiveness/repentance can also contribute to a greater sense of personal happiness.

But as Chard says:

“There's a catch. Research also indicates that when we think too much about our own happiness, we are less likely to actually to be happy. There seems to be an inverse relationship between how much time and energy one spends pondering or even obsessing about happiness and the odds of actually achieving it. What gives?

Well, happiness is about doing and being, not cogitating. Most of the ‘keys to happiness’ that are supported by research have one thing in common: action—doing something that contributes to a greater sense of well-being.

On the other hand, thinking about happiness, ‘Am I happy?’ ‘Why not?’ often gets in the way of acting upon it. Sometimes we tell ourselves that this kind of thinking is part of ‘trying’ to be happy, but too often it is how we procrastinate about taking those actions that might leave us more fulfilled.”

I love it when modern research tells us something of value about ourselves that we also find in the Bible. We see figures in the Bible that are often called to service by God before they have gotten it “all figured out.” They drag their feet, whine, and moan about how they just aren't up to the task. But then they go out and just do it. God carries them on.

In the New Year, I am going to think less about myself and try to carry out what I understand to be my missions in this world. I'm going to try to be more loving, more kind, and fight more for justice in concrete and specific ways.

Who knows? Maybe more happiness will catch up to me in the coming year.

Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Deacon Michelle



St. Mark's Newsletter

The St. Mark's Lion is enjoying a brief winter break and will be combining the monthly edition for January and February. Stay tuned to our Weekly Happenings emails and Sunday bulletin notes to stay up-to-date throughout the next two months. And if you have any questions regarding any event, or you would like to add something to the announcements, you can always contact the church office at (414) 962-0500.

Annual Meeting



St. Mark's Annual Meeting Sunday, January 29th

Please mark your calendars for the St. Mark's 2012 Annual Meeting, which will follow the 9:30am service on Sunday, January 29th. This important meeting in the life of our parish will include a look back on our life together in 2011, election of wardens and vestry members, presentation of the 2012 budget, and plans

for growing St. Mark's programs and deepening our life together in the coming year. If you have any 2011 pictures to share for the slide show, please send them electronically to stmarks_mke@sbcglobal.net.

The nominations committee is in the process of recruiting candidates for Vestry members. Nominee biographies will be distributed at Sunday morning services and via parish email prior to the Annual Meeting.

A special note to church leaders of ministries and programs:

your annual reports are due no later than *Wednesday, January 18th*. Within your report, please describe the nature of your work and what is meaningful/mission-centered about the work of your ministry. Are you looking for new members to join? If so, please describe duties and time commitment. What does it mean to be part of your ministry?

Usher Rally Sunday, January 22, 11am

The St. Mark's Ushers, as well as anyone who has an interest in joining this ministry, will meet for training and reflection on Sunday, January 22 following the 9:30am service. We will discuss the important work of welcoming guests to worship services, reflect on the joys of welcoming others into our midst, and generate ideas and plans for how to improve the ministry of greeting newcomers at St. Mark's.

Communications Meeting Sunday, January 15th at 11am in the Library

All ministry leaders: we will be planning the calendar schedule and serving schedule for the next few months, so come prepared to disclose dates and events that will affect the calendar through Holy Week. If you are unable to attend the communications meeting, please make sure that someone will be present to represent your group. Thank you!



Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time of reflection, repentance and turning our hearts to God in preparation for our journey through Christ's death and resurrection. On Ash Wednesday, we hear the invitation to fast, pray and to take on disciplines of reflection and self-denial. In the Ash Wednesday liturgy, we acknowledge our sins and pray for forgiveness and renewal of life, asking God to turn our hearts away from those things which separate us from God and one another.

The following worship services will be held at St. Mark's on
Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012:

4:30pm Children's Ash Wednesday Service

7:00pm Liturgy for Ash Wednesday with Holy Eucharist and Choir

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. Popcorn will be provided, but bring your own beverages. We gather at 6:30 pm in the Guild Hall, and films will begin promptly at 7pm with a short discussion led by John Hickey following the viewing.

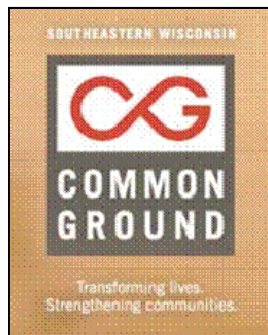
Friday, January 6 – The Big Lebowski & Mark 1:4-11

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

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



Progress with Common Ground



The big news with Common Ground is the submission of a \$62.5 million request to the U.S. Department of Health and Social Services for founding a self-insured health cooperative whose aim is to provide affordable and quality health insurance to small businesses (100 and under) and non-profits. Individuals who are self-employed may also apply.

The start-up loans, not grants, are being made to various cooperatives across the country as part of the health insurance purchase exchanges that will be available statewide in 2014. Having private cooperatives, as well as private for-profit insurance companies on these exchanges, is part of the Affordable Health Care Act.

A decision about the loan will be announced in mid-January. So far, the signals from Washington have been positive.

St. Mark's parishioners Harry Moseley, Andy Martin and Deacon Michelle Mooney have all participated in the Common Ground Health Care team that worked to write the grant. "It was an awesome sight to see this over-300-page grant be submitted through the work of one paid grant writer and a host of community volunteers from Milwaukee and even across the state," said Michelle Mooney.

Both Harry Moseley, with his experience in the health care field, and Michelle Mooney are on the formative board for the Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative. They will continue to serve alongside other members of Common Ground and the larger eastern Wisconsin health care community until a first board is established after 2014.

All of Common Ground owes a debt of gratitude to Bob Connolly, chair of the Common Ground Board and a member of Gesu church, for his vision and work to get this project to finality. Bob is a great example of a business owner who was troubled by the increasing cost of providing insurance for his employees. He didn't give up, but rather rallied thousands of citizens, public officials, small business owners, health care community providers and professionals into a group that inspired successful action.

It is a hopeful sign that vision and action, coupled with hard work and commitment can bring about change in our community.

I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the cooperative will be funded in mid-January.

-Deacon Michelle Mooney

Update your contact information for the new directory

If your contact information has changed, or if you want to add additional information to your listing, please notify the church office. If you wish to see what the office has on file, a current listing will be available to refer to in the Guild Hall. Updates must be received prior to Friday, January 20th to be included in the new directory that will be distributed at the annual meeting.

Outreach Update



J2A youth group participated in the 2011 Crop Walk and raised \$620 for the event in October.

Outreach Ministry supports fourteen organizations

At its December meeting, the Outreach Ministry committee completed the distribution of funds for 2011. A total of \$12,600 was distributed to local and international organizations. The local organizations include Our Next Generation, Sojourner Family Peace Center, Our Space, Pathfinders, East Side Senior Services, The Gathering, Hunger Task Force and Guest House. International organizations include Nambale Magnet School in Kenya, Haiti Project of the Diocese of Milwaukee, Tour DioMil and the Episcopal Relief & Development's Disaster Response Fund for Somalia famine refugees. We continue to

participate in the work of Common Ground, enabled by a membership fee based on a percentage of pledges.

These gifts are enabled solely by the hard work of the parishioners of St. Marks with the Flower Sale held in May, Corn Roast in June and Pumpkin Sale in October. In addition, the Outreach Ministry was the recipient of a bequest from a former parishioner.

Our J2A youth group also raised \$620 for Crop Walk in October, and we applied and received approval in September for a Millennium Development Grant to Five Talents in the amount of \$1,000.



Music Corner

A profound thank you to those singers who joined the choir for the Advent/Christmas Season: Melanie Faust, Jessie Hecker, David Francyk, Marge Bjornstad, Frank West, Simon Eichinger, Matt Reiland, Chris Tunis, Kathy Katter, Anil Ras and Santha Ravi. We are so glad that you were part of our joyful group.

Two new Artists in Residence have signed on at St. Mark's: Jay Hildebrand (classical guitar) and Marquita Edwards (clowning). Marquita has shared her wonderful work with St. Mark's as Blinky the Clown at our Downer Classic event, our Harvest Festival, and most recently, the Festive Friday event, and now she is officially one of our Artists in Residence. Jay is a graduate student in classical guitar at UWM and we look forward to hearing his beautiful guitar music during the liturgy. Thank you both for being part of our community.

-Steve Wolff

St. Mark's Music Director



Music at St. Mark's

Concerts for January and February are as follows:

Sunday, January, 22nd at 4pm: Music for Organ and Piano performed by Steve Wolff. Music of Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Wolff, and others.

Sunday, February 19th at 4pm: Hornucopia with Prata Duo (Mike Keegan and Steve Wolff)

January 2012 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lessons & Carols NO J2A NO Sunday School 9:30AM Holy Eucharist	2 5:30PM Adult Formation Committee	3 7:15AM-8:15AM Yoga 8:15AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 5:30PM - 6:30PM Pastoral Meeting 7PM Common Ground Medical Coop 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous- Gathering Room	4 6PM Stewardship Meeting 7PM - 9PM Choir	5 7:15AM-8:15AM Yoga 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	6 6:30PM Movie Night 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	7 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 6:30PM Movie Night 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous
8 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11AM - 12PM J2A 11:30AM - 1:30PM Creative Circle	9 6:30PM Common Ground Core Team - Guild Hall	10 7:15AM-8:15AM Yoga 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 6PM Shepherd Meeting 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous- Gathering Room	11 7PM - 9PM Choir	12 7:15AM-8:15AM Yoga 7:30 PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	13 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	14 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 6PM Epiphany Dinner
15 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11AM - 12PM J2A 11AM Communications Meeting	16 MLK Day Office Closed 2PM Ruth Mancl Memorial Service	17 7:15AM-8:15AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 6:30PM - 8:30PM Vestry Meeting 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous- Gathering Room	18 7PM - 9PM Choir	19 7:15AM-8:15AM Yoga 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	20 6:30PM Movie Night 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	21 9AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop
22 Usher Rally 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11AM - 12PM J2A 11:30AM - 1:30PM Creative Circle 1PM - 3PM Art Gallery Reception 4PM Music Concert	23 7PM Women's Book Club	24 7:15AM-8:15AM Yoga 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous- Gathering Room	25 4PM Bible Study 7PM - 9PM Choir	26 7:15AM-8:15AM Yoga 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	27 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	28 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop
29 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11AM - 12PM J2A 11AM Annual Mtg.	30 6:30PM Movie Night 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	31 7:15AM-8:15AM Yoga 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 7:30 PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous- Gathering Room	1 4PM Bible Study 7PM - 9PM Choir	2 7:15AM-8:15AM Yoga 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	3 6:30PM Movie Night 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	4 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop

February 2012 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30AM Sunday School 11:00AM Annual Mtg. 11AM - 12PM J2A	30	31 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous -Gathering Room	1 4PM Bible Study 7PM - 9PM Choir	2 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	3 6:30 PM Movie Nights 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	4 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop
5 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30AM Sunday School 11AM - 12PM J2A 11:30AM - 1:30PM Creative Circle	6 5:30PM Adult Formation Committee 6:30PM - 7:30PM Common Ground Core Team - Library	7 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 8:15AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 5:30PM - 6:30PM Pastoral Meeting 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous -Gathering Room	8 Lunch Bunch at UCM 4PM Bible Study 7PM - 9PM Choir	9 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	10 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	11 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop
12 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30AM Sunday School 11AM - 12PM J2A 3:30PM - 6PM Student Recital	13 6:15PM Finance Committee	14 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 6PM Shepherd Meeting 7PM Outreach Meeting 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous -Gathering Room	15 1PM Staff Mtg. 4PM Bible Study 4:30PM - 5:30PM ESS Board Meeting - Library 7PM - 9PM Choir 7PM Common Ground Health Care Coop	16 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 5:45PM - 6:15PM Marks Bistro Dinner 6:15PM - 7:30PM Bistro Discussion 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	17 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	18 9:00 AM Men's Fellow- ship Breakfast 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop
19 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11AM - 12PM J2A 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Creative Circle 4:00 PM Music Concert	20	21 6:30AM - 9PM Spring Primary Election 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous -Gathering Room	22 Ash Wednesday 4 PM Bible Study 7PM - 9PM Choir	23 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 5:45PM Marks Bistro Dinner 6:15PM - 7:30PM Bistro Discussion 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	24 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous -Gathering Room	25 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop
26 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11AM - 12PM J2A	27	28 7:15 AM - 8:15 AM Yoga 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous -Gathering Room	29 4PM Bible Study 7PM - 9PM Choir	1 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 5:45PM Mark's Bistro Dinner 6:15PM - 7:30PM Bistro Discussion 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	2 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous -Gathering Room	3 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop

Inquirers' Class

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.

Women's Book Group

Please consider joining the Women's Book Group in 2012. We have a great selection of books for the year. On January 23 at 7pm, we will meet at the home of Barbara Costanza to discuss *The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss* by Edmund de Waal. Mr. de Waal writes about his ancestors and traces this history with the help of small Japanese wood and ivory carvings called netsuke. Books can be purchased at Boswells for a ten-percent discount. All women of the church are invited. Guests are very welcome.



January Birthdays:

1/03 Stephanie Dudek
1/16 Susan LaBudde
1/21 Sophia Diliberti
1/24 Randy Miller
1/26 Jill Madigan
1/31 Harry Moseley
1/31 Jenni West

February Birthdays:

2/02 Eleanor Wainwright
2/06 Ashley Green
2/06 Melanie Faust
2/08 Kirstin Kirschner
2/10 Jennifer O'Hear
2/13 Joan Martinie
2/14 William Wainwright
2/16 Michael Weinert
2/17 Vincent Katter
2/19 Katherine Kirschner
2/22 Mary Goode
2/26 Joe Beckman
2/26 Rhonda Goldie

January Anniversaries:

1/01/1966 Robert & Kris Kreuziger
1/10/ 1970 David & Diane Borton

St. Mark's Art Gallery



"The World As We See It"

Photographs by Erica Chappellear and Angela Oberdeck
January 12th through March 1st, 2012
Reception January 22 from 1pm - 3pm

Angela Oberdeck:

When I pick up my camera, I'm able to take a step back and appreciate the details around me. I start to notice the light through the trees - the colors of the leaves on the ground - the texture of the moss against the rocks - the dimples on my daughter's fingers - the laugh lines around my husband's eyes - I could go on and on. Photography is my outlet - it helps me keep tabs on myself as I can - literally - capture life as I see it. I opened Bright Eyes Photographs in February of 2011. Through my business I primarily photograph children and families. I also hold a Master's in Social Work and formerly worked with the foster care system - I think this background

helps me bring a different perspective to family photography - those experiences help me reframe the "mundane" to find joy. Through this photography show, I get to showcase a different side of my photography. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity and hope others find some joy seeing the world through my lens.

Erica Chappellear:

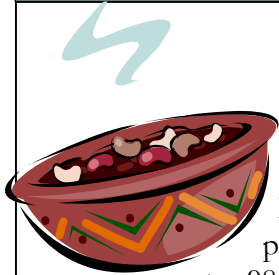
Life is fast. Photography stops everything for a split second, gives time for pause and a chance to look more closely at the details. The photographer provides the focus and then, removed from the situation, the still photos require that the viewer fill in the gaps, create a story and imagine. To me, that is a gift and one of the reasons I naturally photograph details often. My bachelor's degree at UWM's School of Architecture and Urban Planning started me in an architecture office and over the course of several transitions; I now work professionally as the Director of Lay Ministry at Lake Park Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. It's a job that allows me to see details as vital pieces to an overall picture. I see God in the people around me, in the very spectacular or very mundane things that they do. Every once in a while, I get to pause, pick up my camera on the job and combine my passions.

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. Please note: during Stacy's absence, gallery hours might be limited, so if you plan on visiting during the month of January, it is recommended that you call ahead to make certain the office will be open for your viewing.

Kindness in the Parking Lot

As the days grow colder, we prepare for the winter weather that 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.

Lunch Bunch at UWM



On a chilly but sunny December day, St. Mark's hosted Lunch Bunch at University Christian Ministries. We served chili, curried potatoes, salad, bread and desserts to 98 students, and they very much appreciated warm (and spicy!) food on a cold day.

Thanks to everyone who helped out bringing food and/or serving: April Berends, Narissa Eichinger, David Franczyk, Vince Katter, Michelle Mooney, Harry Moseley, Andrew Muriuki, Ron Tunis, Frank West and Steve Wolff. And thanks also to Breadsmith who donated bread for the lunch.

If you would like to volunteer for the next Lunch Bunch date on **Wednesday, February 8th**, please contact John Boyland or sign up in the Guild Hall. We need friendly people to supply the food, serve, and clean up.

One of the recipes we have often brought with us is an easy and delicious side-dish, spicy curried potatoes. For your enjoyment, we've included the recipe...

Lunch Bunch Curried Potatoes

- 2 lb. potatoes
- 1 large onion
- 2-4 T cooking oil
- 1 t tumeric
- 1 t (freshly) ground coriander seed
- 1 t salt, or less
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper

Peel and cube the potatoes and cook in salted water until done. Meanwhile, finely chop onion and fry in oil with spices and salt. When the potatoes are done, add them to the onion mixture and fry briefly.

Freshly ground coriander (coriander seed ground in a mortar and pestle or a spice grinder) has a fresh lemony taste and is far superior to purchased ground coriander.

St. Mark's Office Hours:

Many of you are aware that I am going in for surgery this month, and I am so touched by your expressions of concern and the offering of prayers from all of you. It is sincerely overwhelming and I am so grateful to have the St. Mark's community in my life.

I will be out of the office from January 10th for roughly two weeks. While I am recovering, some truly kind and generous volunteers will be giving their time and talents to ensure the office continues to run smoothly. The phone messages will be checked on a regular basis; however, the normal office hours may not be observed during this time. During my absence, please contact Pastor April with announcements for bulletins, weekly happening emails, and Sunday mornings.

I appreciate your patience and understanding while I am away. And again, I am so touched for all of your prayers and support.

-Stacy Roller

Parish Administrator

Flowers for Church Services



Just a reminder that the Flower Chart is available in the Guild Hall, at its usual location, on the board to the left of the library doors.

We hope that members of the parish will want to remember special occasions with flowers for Sunday services on Sundays through February 18 and then after Lent/Easter on Sundays to the end of 2012. Donations for individual Sundays are \$40 and are fully tax deductible. Persons signing on the chart will receive a reminder before the chosen Sunday.

Please see Judy Young if there are any questions.

Sponsor Coffee Hour? Host/Provide or both?

There has been a changing of the guard for Coffee Hour coordination and many thanks to Ginny Schrag and Sandy Boltz for so wonderfully coordinating this important fellowship time here at St. Marks. Melissa Beckman and Barbara Costanzo will be taking over these roles and hope to keep things running as smoothly as they have in the past.

Traditionally hosting coffee hour has meant acting as host and also providing the various food and drink that we so enjoy every Sunday following worship. We want to make sure that we aren't leaving anyone out that would like to be involved in this ministry, and so we are wondering if there are some of you that would prefer to do either just the hosting, just the providing, or both? Please contact Melissa via e-mail if you have an interest and we will let you know what dates we have available. So far we are booked through early April and will get the white board updated in the Guild Hall shortly.

Are you looking for an alternative way to help make a difference and sponsor a service at St. Mark's? Why not sponsor the Coffee Hour following the Sunday Service?

A special contribution of \$25 goes to purchasing the fairly-traded Equal Exchange gourmet coffee used at coffee hour. Sponsorships are monthly, and you can sign-up on the Coffee Hour Sponsor sheet located in the Guild Hall.

However you can help, we are so happy to have you join us for coffee hour every week and share in the fellowship that we have all come to know and love here at St. Marks. If you have any questions, or you are interested in volunteering, you can contact Melissa at jbeckman3@wi.rr.com or by phone at (414) 332-2315.



The Christmas Pageant

Advent was a time of waiting in the Sunday School - waiting for Jesus and preparing for the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 18th.

We had a wide range of parishioners taking part in the sharing of “good news and great joy” including our holy family: Kirsten Guidero, Daren Fawley and Elijah Bunting.

Many thanks to all the angels, shepherds, sheep, wise men and the like for reenacting this wonderful story.



This Christmas Pageant wouldn't be possible without the contributions, time and talents of many dedicated individuals. A special thank you to Jane Lacy, Amy Diliberti, Jane Shero, Susanna Mortara, Mary Ross, Melanie Faust, the voices of the choir, and Steve Wolff, St. Mark's Music Director. And a special thank you to Shantah Ravi for her offering of music in her native language.



Smiles adorned the faces of the St. Mark's Sunday school class as they participated in the Christmas pageant as angels and shepherds.

Festive Friday

On Friday, December 2nd, St. Mark's participated in Festive Friday on Downer Avenue. We collaborated with the Downer Avenue Merchants Association to promote the evening's activities.

Senior Warden, John Cain greeted children in his role as St. Nicholas, Deacon Michelle Mooney welcomed the neighborhood as Mrs. Claus, crafters and fair trade shops sold their wares, and St. Mark's members served up hot cider, cocoa and cookies and offered a special Christmas craft for kids.

Festive Friday provided the chance for our church to be present to our neighborhood in a fun and inviting way. While the kids were busy working on crafts, St. Mark's volunteers, along with Pastor April, welcomed parents and invited them and their families to join us for Christmas services.

A special thanks goes out to all who volunteered their time and provided delicious Christmas cookies.



St. Mark's members enjoyed making beaded snowflake ornaments.



St. Mark's members welcomed our neighbors with smiles and refreshments.



Blinky the Clown entertained children with festive balloon creations.



Thanks to the Flower Guild and Altar Guild for their faithful preparations during the Christmas season. The church looked beautiful! And thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Flowers that beautified the church.



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

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

Our mission is to transform lives by enabling meaningful relationships with God through Jesus Christ.