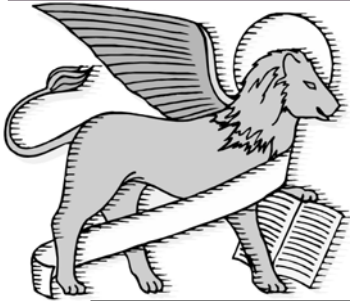


November 2011

The Lion

Volume 24, Issue 11



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL

The Lion

Rector's Reflections Morning by Morning

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, we sang, "Great is thy faithfulness," a hymn that is an old favorite of mine. I remember singing it in church growing up. I remember singing it with my father on the night before he died, as I kept watch with him in those last hours of his life. His soft voice joined in on the baritone parts, and I marveled at his ability to not only sing, but to sing in harmony, as the cancer that wracked his body brought him nearer to his last breath. As I sang this song with you on Sunday, keeping in mind the struggles and the joys that exist side by side in our community here at St. Mark's, my heart swelled with gratitude. I was reminded that God is faithful.



I selected this hymn to be sung on the Sunday that marked the beginning of our Stewardship Campaign this year because it contains these words, "Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me." The joy of giving begins with the ability to see God at work in our lives, even in the midst of difficult times.

This hymn is based on a passage from Lamentations 3, recorded after the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians and the subsequent exile of the people of Judah. In the surrounding passages, the prophet describes the desolation of a holy city, and details the atrocities committed by human beings against one another. He recounts the broken spirit of a people who had experienced great loss. Against the backdrop of these crumbling ruins, the prophet pauses from his lament, and words of thanksgiving and praise flow from his lips.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'"

Amid the ruins, the prophet dares to trust in God's mercy. Even in the midst of desolation, the song of his heart gives voice to God's goodness.

Are we giving voice to God's goodness? When people see us, and the way we live our lives, do they see that we are grateful?

During last Sunday's stewardship sermon, I spoke about the early Christian community described in Acts 2. The people in that early fellowship of believers received the Holy Spirit. They were moved to care for one another. They shared

Continued on page 2

Rector's Reflections



their gifts according to the needs of the community. Rich and poor alike, each contributed what he or she had, and they did so “with glad and generous hearts.” Others around them saw what they were doing, they saw God at work in their loving actions, and, the Book of Acts tells us, “The Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

Since before the time that I arrived here at St. Mark's, this parish community has expressed a desire to grow. When we think about adding to our numbers, when we think about sustaining this community, there is one thing, more than anything, that will show God's love and power—glad and generous hearts. When people see us sharing the gifts that God has given us with joyfulness, they will sense the power of the Spirit. When they see us, even in times of challenge and struggle, stopping to praise the one who gives us life, they will glimpse the source of the life that we share. When they find people here bearing witness to God's power to bring life out of death, people sharing generously of their time, their talent and their resources, they will know that God is here in the midst of us. And they will want to be a part of it.

We belong to God. We belong to God in such a way that the most devastating events, the most grievous acts of humanity, and the most ruinous calamities cannot separate us from God's love. Everything that we have, everything that we are, everything that we hope to be belongs to God, who is loving, merciful and kind. In Christ, we are redeemed from ruin. We are forgiven and we are loved. We share in a life that is greater than our own; we will be rejoicing throughout eternity. How can we keep from singing?

In this season, we at St. Mark's ask you to consider your gifts to this parish in the coming year. As part of your discernment, I ask you to pray and to give thanks. What are the mercies God shows you morning by morning? What have you needed that God has provided? How has God been faithful?

And then, what will be your song of thanksgiving? What are the gifts of your grateful heart?

Brightest Blessings,

April

East Side Churches Thanksgiving Eve Worship Wednesday, November 24th at 7pm at Plymouth Church



Join with our sisters and brothers from Plymouth Congregational, Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Lake Park Lutheran, and St. Mark's as Plymouth Congregational hosts this year's East Side churches Thanksgiving Eve Service.

Deacon's Corner



As I sit at the pumpkin patch and see adults and children looking for their choices, I am struck how their behaviors seem to model ways that we behave in the larger world.

While I don't pretend to see this as any sociological study, I am struck how the pumpkin patch seems to illustrate some important learnings. Three examples come to mind.

The first is one where I see individuals and families that come and take such delight in picking out a pumpkin. The kids run around the plot, excited to be there and thrilled to being able to pick "their pumpkin." There is a lot of talking that seems to be putting forth the qualities of their favorite pick. Adults and children alike, ooh and ahh while championing their favorites. Happiness is the rule of the day.

The second example is one of a young couple and their one-year-old toddler. The little girl was weaving among the pumpkins, clearly excited to be able to run free. She would stop and try to pick up a really big pumpkin and then go on to find another one that she could possibly haul around. The parents were obviously delighted at her activity and just followed her around taking pictures, encouraging her in her pursuits. They told me, with great pride, that this was their second visit to the patch. They had come last year, when she was just five days old. It was her first trip out. They said they planned to make this an annual ritual for their family.

The last story is of a mom and her daughter that came to buy a pumpkin. They parked on the lot and walked over to the pumpkins. The mom said, "pick out a pumpkin" and upon her daughter pointing to one, she said, "fine". She brought it up and paid for it and then left with her daughter following behind.

I was really struck how different the experiences were for these three examples of pumpkin buyers. Some were obviously just living in the moment and making this experience a great one for each other. The last one seemed to be an over-worked mom who just had to check off another part of a to-do list for the Saturday.

All of these examples raised for me some important lessons in living life every day. Do we approach how we do our tasks with all the joy that they could summon? Or do we see everyday life as a series of needed items to be slogged through. I suspect we do both at various times.

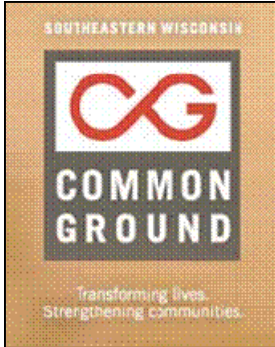
I hope, for my part, that I can resist the "just get it done" mentality and try to keep some joy and relationship building and supporting into my daily life. It's all about making our everyday life more sacred and life giving.

Deacon Michelle

Stewardship Packets and Quarterly Reports

Stewardship packets and quarterly reports will be distributed at the Stewardship Brunch on Sunday, October 30th. If you are unable to pick them up at this time, please contact the church office and we will mail them to you.

Common Ground



What is next for Common Ground: Changing the Political Culture of Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin

The following is the speech given by lead organizer, Keisha Krumm
at the 2011 Delegates Assembly on October 4th

Hello, Common Ground. I'm Keisha Krumm, your Lead Organizer. Stuart and I moved to Milwaukee in January of 2011. I chose to come to Milwaukee because I was captivated by the challenges and opportunities facing this region.

Milwaukee reminds me of my hometown, Wichita Kansas. I grew up on a side of town where people would say, "Oh, you're from that side of town." The children from my neighborhood were seen as "those children." My church's response to this reality of injustice in jobs for our men and lack of quality education for our children was for us to pray and let God take care of the rest. Coming to Milwaukee and working with Common Ground gives me an opportunity to work with others to right the wrongs in our society.

Common Ground, we have heard inspirational stories tonight. We have seen the fruit of our labor in Milwaukee Rising. We have heard about the change we need to create in education and healthcare. Have these stories inspired you? Excellent; that is what our team hoped.

So, Common Ground, what's next? Let me suggest to you that while we will continue to develop leaders, identify more issues, and accumulate more wins, this is not the broader purpose of what we are doing in Common Ground. If developing more leaders, more issues and more wins is not our goal, than what is? What is the heart of what we are doing? What is all this work about?

The work of Common Ground is to change the political culture of our region. Let me explain. When I say political, I am not talking about partisan politics—Democrats or Republicans. That is the kind of politics where you have to pick a side and it becomes us against them. What I mean by politics is the Greek word (*politika*), modeled on Aristotle's "affairs of the city," or in our case the affairs of our region. In essence, "political" refers to the social relations involving "authority or power," the regulation of public affairs within our region, as well as the methods and tactics used to formulate and apply policy.

When I talk about the word "culture" I am talking about the habits, behaviors, and symbols commonly understood and reinforced by a majority of people.

I see the political culture of our region as one in which ordinary folks are basically powerless to create the change we wish to see. We see this powerlessness in our region by the daunting and overwhelming issues we face.

- We see this powerlessness in education, where our area has the largest achievement gap between black and white students in the U.S.

What is next?

- We see this powerlessness in joblessness: staggering 53% of African-American males of working age between 16-64 are unemployed.
- We see this powerlessness in transportation: Our transit system does not look at regional strategies to get people where the jobs are.
- We see this powerlessness in foreclosures that riddle the suburbs and urban areas
- We see this powerlessness in health care cost and lack of access, for individuals, small business and non-profits.
- Finally, we see this powerlessness in the concentrated poverty in our urban areas.

I see a political culture in our region that divides us and drive us into isolation and hyper-partisanship. We meet with people who are like us, and we talk to people we see as one of us. We live in a culture that does not see political activity as a way of changing the realities we face. People become cynical, apathetic or depressed. People go into their homes, close the doors, shut the windows and close the curtains. We retreat. Those that do come out figure out the best they can do on their own—in their house, their neighborhood, their school—but not in a relationship with others.

Common Ground is about changing the political culture of our region- Milwaukee and Southeastern, Wisconsin. So, Common Ground, what do we have to do to change the political culture of our region?

First, we have to recognize that all people have value and worth because they are made in the image and likeness of God, that we all have full potential, and if given a chance to flourish, we will be wonderful. We have to develop a culture that believes this, lives this and fights for this. We have to change the fact that where you live determines your and opportunity and that the color of your skin determines your possibilities for a future.

Second, we have to act. Through action there is huge meaning to be found in acting in concert with others: urban and suburban, black and white, rich and poor, because we are stronger together than alone. The fate of our cities and suburbs are interconnected. We share common destinies so we need to develop relationships, actions and policy where we rise together.

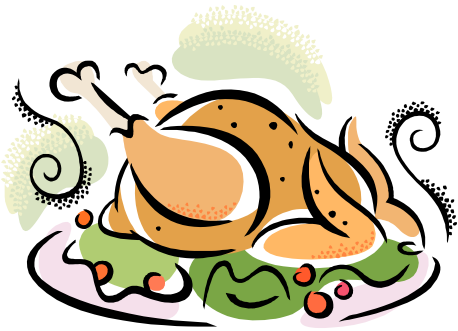
Third, we have to imagine that we can continue to create change you can see: a region where all of our children have access to great schools; a region where the jobless are connected with jobs; a region where healthcare is affordable and accessible to everyone; a region where neighborhoods are restored and resettled; a region where all families have the ability to create hope and a future.

So, Common Ground, are you up for the work it will take to change the political culture of our region? This is an audacious goal that will take us decades.

Common Ground, are you ready to do the hard work to change our regional reality in: Jobs, Education, Healthcare, Foreclosures?

Ok, let's continue the work.....

Turkey Chefs Needed!



Turkey pick up is Sunday, November 6th after the service

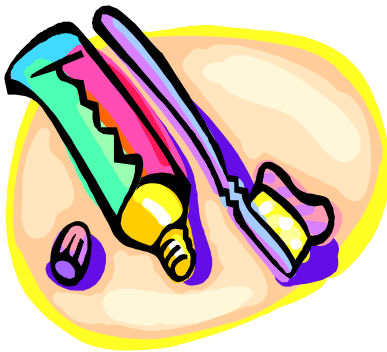
The Gathering Meal Program will serve
Thanksgiving Dinner to 600-700 guests
on Saturday, November 19th at three Milwaukee locations.

You can be a part of that celebration by cooking one of the 90 turkeys needed. We will have 15 of these turkeys for volunteers to take home and cook - available in the kitchen after the service **on Sunday, November 6th**. Disposable pans, cooking instructions and zip lock bags come with each turkey. We ask that you **bring them back to the church – cooked, deboned and frozen - on Sunday, November 13th**. Whether you have never cooked a turkey before, or whether you have cooked hundreds, this is a simple way to put your faith into action.

For further information contact Ginny Schrag at
vrschrag@thegatheringwis.org or (414) 272-4122 - or just show up
in the kitchen after the November 6th service.



**Thank you for making another person's
Thanksgiving brighter.**



'Sundries from the Avenue' collection for St. James'

The holiday season is coming and Christmas will soon be upon us. As we prepare for the holidays and ensuing festivities, it is important to keep in mind that other people who are less fortunate.

The Central City Churches Outreach programs (Sundries From The Avenue and others) provide hygiene supplies to numerous needy and indigent folks living in the impoverished downtown/central city area.

Please consider donating your new and unused travel-sized or regular:

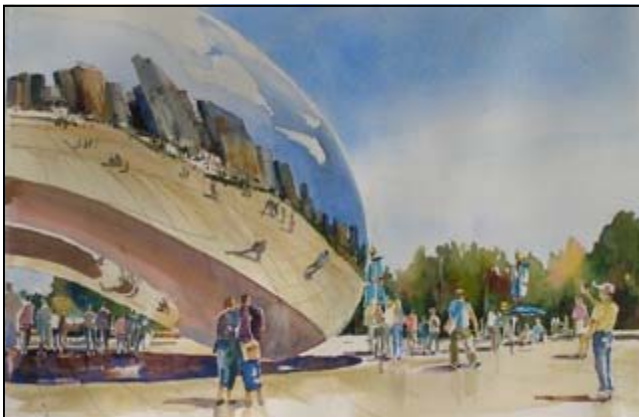
Soap/Shower gel, Shampoo/ Conditioner, Lotion, Tampons, Deodorant, Laundry supplies, Mouthwash, Razors, Toothbrushes/toothpaste, Combs, etc, to help those less fortunate in this holiday season.

Donations can be placed in the collection box located in the Guild Hall, and questions can be directed to ctl123@live.com or call (906) 396-3129. For larger donations, tax-deductible paperwork is available. Have a blessed holiday season.

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. If you're interested in offering gifts of music during this joyful season, or would like a fall schedule of seasonal choir practice, please talk to Steve Wolff (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.

November Rehearsal Schedule: Advent and Christmastide 2011

Wednesday, November 2	Rehearsal	7-9pm
Wednesday, November 9	Rehearsal	7-9pm
Wednesday, November 16	Rehearsal	7-9pm
Wednesday, November 23	East Side Thanksgiving Service - No Rehearsal	
Wednesday, November 30	Rehearsal	7-9pm



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.

November 2011 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Stewardship Brunch 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30AM Sunday School 11AM J2A 4PM Music Concert	31	1 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 8:15AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 5:30PM - 6:30PM Pastoral Meeting 6:30PM - 7:30PM Common Ground Core Team - Library 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous-Gathering Room	2 4PM - 5:50PM Argentine Tango 4PM Bible Study Library 7PM - 9PM Choir	3 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	4 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	5 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop
6 Feast of All Saints Gathering Turkey Pick-up NO Sunday School Sunday School Blessing 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 11AM J2A 11:30AM - 1:30PM Creative Circle	7 5:30 PM Adult Formation Committee 6:15 PM Fundraising Meeting	8 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 6PM - 7:30PM Common Ground Core Team - Library 6PM Shepherd Meeting 7PM Outreach Meeting 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous-Gathering Room	9 4PM - 5:50PM Argentine Tango 4PM Bible Study Library 7PM - 9PM Choir	10 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	11 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	12 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 12PM - 4PM Common Ground Baby Shower
13 Bill Davis Art Gallery Opening 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 9:30AM Sunday School 11AM J2A 11AM Welcome Team Meeting 4PM Music Concert	14 6:15 PM Finance Committee	15 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 8:15AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 6:30PM - 8:30PM Vestry Meeting 7:30PM - 9:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous-Gathering Room	16 December Lion Deadline 11AM Lunch Bunch at UWM 1PM Staff Meeting 4PM - 5:50PM Argentine Tango 4PM Bible Study Library 6PM - 7PM Stewardship Meeting-Library 7PM - 9PM Choir	17 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 5:45PM - 6:15PM Mark's Bistro Dinner 6:15PM - 7:30PM Mark's Bistro Discussion 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	18 5PM Wedding Rehearsal 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	19 9AM - 10:30AM Light House Meeting 9AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 3PM Engdahl/Ketterhagen Wedding
20 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30AM Sunday School 11AM J2A 11:30AM - 1:30PM Creative Circle	21	22 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous-Gathering Room	23 Thanksgiving East Side Service @ Plymouth 4PM - 5:50 PM Argentine Tango 4PM Bible Study Library 7PM - 9PM Choir	24 Thanksgiving Day 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous 	25 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	26 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop
27 Advent I NO Sunday School 9:30AM Holy Eucharist 11AM J2A 	28	29 7:15AM - 8:15AM Yoga 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 7PM - 9PM Cookie Exchange 7:30PM - 9PM Alcoholics Anonymous-Gathering Room	30 4PM - 5:50 PM Argentine Tango 4PM Bible Study Library 6PM - 7PM Stewardship Meeting-Library 7PM - 9PM Choir	1 7:15 AM - 8:15 AM Yoga 5:45PM - 6:15PM Mark's Bistro Dinner 6:15PM - 7:30PM Mark's Bistro Discussion 7:30PM - 8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	2 6PM Festive Friday 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 	3 10AM - 1PM Craft Sale 10AM - 12PM Thrift Shop 

Important Dates



BIRTHDAYS

11/07 Barry Eichenger
11/07 Michael O'Hear
11/08 Scarlett Rose Gibbs
11/10 Don Green
11/13 April Berends
11/13 Helen Brewer
11/14 Kathryn Slocum
11/15 Kristen Babe
11/22 Charles Parker
11/24 Gabriel Foster
11/27 Joan Kuehl
11/27 Ron Tunis

ANNIVERSARIES

11/04 Joe and Melissa Beckman
11/12 Janice Rhodes and Greg Burce
11/15 Norm and Elaine Reynolds
11/26 Charles and Sophie Parker
11/26 Peter and Wendy Slocum



Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to adjust your clocks back one hour on **Sunday, Nov 6th!**

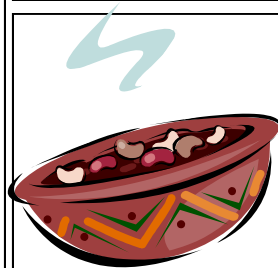
The Women's Book Group

The Women's Book group will meet on Monday, November 14th at the home of Judy Young.



We will not be discussing a book at this gathering but will select books for the following year. Please come with two or three books that you feel would be good for the group to read and discuss. If you need directions to Judy's home just give her a call.

At our December 12th gathering we will be discussing *Freedom: A Novel by Jonathan Franzen*. The location of this meeting has not yet been determined. All women of the church are invited. New members are very welcome.



Lunch Bunch on November 16th

University Christian Ministries is our official presence on the UWM campus, and each Wednesday during the semester, they serve a free lunch. (Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch!) We at St. Mark's will be providing and serving food on **November 16th.**

This is a chance to show the campus that we care about the students and that we are engaged with the UWM campus. It's a chance for students to meet real live Episcopalians!

Please help out either by providing food (chili, side dishes, desserts, etc.) or by being on site (2211 E Kenwood Blvd) serving food and meeting students at the lunch. There's also the need for set up and clean up.

A sign-up list will be available in the Guild Hall. Get involved! For more information, contact John Boyland at (414) 964-3227 or boyland@uwm.edu.

Treasurer's Report

2011 Budget to Actuals Comparison

	2011 Budget	9 Month	Actual Jan. - Sept.	Deviation
INCOME				
<i>Pledges and Offerings</i>	205,221	153,916	148,306	-5,610
<i>Other Income</i>	13,535	10,151	25,579	15,428
<i>Fundraising Income**</i>	15,000	11,250	13,913	2,663
<i>Fundraising Match</i>	15,000	11,250	0	-11,250
<i>Investment Income</i>	0	0	8,125	8,125
<i>Capital Campaign</i>	9,470	7,103	3,285	-3,818
Total Income	258,226	193,670	199,208	5,539
EXPENSES				
<i>Personnel</i>	172,446	129,335	119,251	-10,084
<i>Property</i>	53,658	40,244	43,485	3,242
<i>Office</i>	13,673	10,255	6,610	-3,645
<i>Program</i>	4,900	3,675	6,760	3,085
<i>Diocese</i>	45,047	33,785	33,489	-296
<i>Other</i>	1,000	750	455	-295
Total Expenses	290,724	218,043	210,050	-7,993
NET GAIN/-LOSS	-32,498	-24,374	-10,842	13,532

Legend:

2011 Budget The full amount for 2011 approved by the Vestry and presented at the January Annual Meeting

9 Month Budget The proportional amount of the budget for the period reported

9 Month Actual The actual amount of income and expense for the period reported

Deviation Difference between budget and actual.

****Note: Not all bills for TOES expenses have yet been received and processed**

Above is a summary of our performance against budget as of September 30, 2011. As you can see, we are ahead of plan in aggregate at this point in time, although we are showing a net negative year to date. This is due to a number of factors – pledge receipts are \$8600 behind pledges expected by the end of the third quarter. Capital improvement receipts are also \$3800 behind the amount pledged to date. On the positive side, we received a \$4500 grant from the Diocese to assist in the second floor improvements for the Nursery and Sunday School, as well as \$5000 in undesignated Memorials. In addition, the Diocese Challenge Grant came in at \$2,000 versus the \$1,000 we had anticipated and Loose Plate collections are \$3500 higher than anticipated. On the expenditure side, personnel costs are lower than budgeted due to the payment from UNUM to cover April's maternity leave. As always, this is still a moving target – not all bills have been received for TOES expenses, nor have we received any matching funds for the extra fundraising. We continue to be current with payment of our Diocesan assessment. Please let me know if you have questions about our status or need additional information. -Sandi Tunis, Treasurer

Welcome back to Sunday School!



The Sunday School is very busy this school year learning God's word, praying for our friends and neighbors, and acting on our faith. Which is why we are excited to move into the newly renovated classrooms. The fresh, bright paint on the walls and the new tiles and carpet are a welcome change to our space. We thank the many volunteers: John Cain, Georgia Cain, Michelle Mooney, Frank West, Meg Edwards, Jane Shero, Ron Tunis, Yatta Welland, Ginny Schrag, Andrew Muriuki, Jennifer O'Hear, Mary Ross, Todd Domenget, Vince Katter, David Reber, Skrauss and all others who moved furniture, scraped walls, painted, scrubbed, ordered supplies, cleaned toys, and gave of themselves to bring this project to completion. We are also grateful to the parish for funding it, and to the Diocese of Milwaukee for a \$4,500 grant from the Meachem Fund.

We invite you to see our "new" space on **Sunday, November 6th** during coffee hour. Pastor April will say a blessing and the children will show you around.

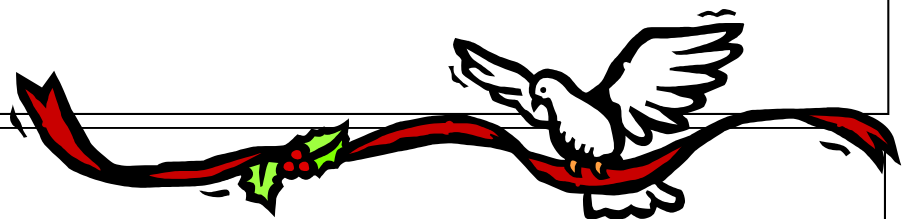
The older kids started a mural in the upstairs hallway based on the parable of the wedding banquet (Matthew 22:1-14). They discussed what they would serve for a feast and how they would decorate the table. It's not finished yet, but should be done or close to it at the time of the blessing.

A few dates to remember:

November 6th is All Saints' Day. There will be a children's sermon this Sunday and therefore **no** Sunday School.

There is also **no** Sunday School on November 27th the Sunday after Thanksgiving (First Sunday of Advent). In November, the Sunday School will be collecting holiday gifts for the Eastside Senior Services. The Sunday School will be wrapping the presents on Sunday, December 4th (Second Sunday in Advent). If you could donate a small gift, it would be greatly appreciated. For many of the seniors, this present may be the only one they receive this holiday. 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 good present. Look for further information on page 13 and in the Sunday bulletins. Thank you in advance.

-Mary Ross

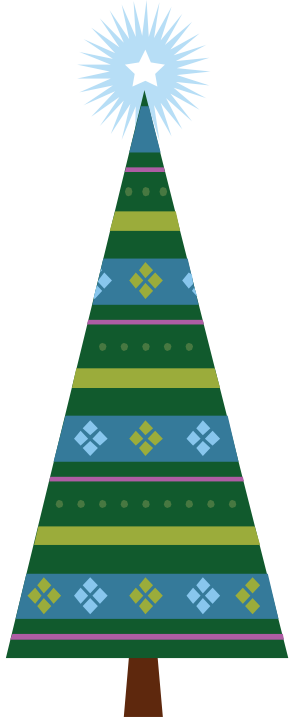


Help spread the news of St. Mark's Holiday schedule

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 seasonal sites? 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 holiday season.

Festive Friday



Festive Friday on Downer Avenue December 2nd from 5-8pm

On Friday evening, December 2nd, the Downer Avenue Shops will remain open to holiday shoppers until 8pm. St. Mark's will fling wide our doors to welcome visitors, serving cookies and warm beverages beginning at 5pm. Kids will have the chance to make a Christmas craft, St. Nicholas will be around to offer a bit of good cheer, and the St. Mark's choir will take to the streets singing Christmas Carols. We will also have on display a number of local artists and crafters selling their wares. (Read more about the craft fair on page 13).

Volunteers are needed to provide a warm and welcoming presence, to help with crafts, to canvas the neighborhood while passing out invitations to join us, and to serve cookies for and beverages for Festive Friday. If you are able to help in making this a fun evening for everyone who comes, please contact the parish office or sign up in the Guild Hall.

Invite your friends to join us for an evening of festive neighborhood fun.



Advent & Christmas at St. Mark's

Festive Friday - Friday Evening, December 2 from 5pm to 8pm

Advent Lessons & Carols at St. John's on the Lake - Sunday, December 4 at 4pm

Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 18 at 9:30am

Greening of the Church - Sunday, December 18 at 11am

Christmas Eve 4pm Holy Eucharist Family-Friendly service

9:30pm Choral Prelude

10pm Festival Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day 9:30am Holy Eucharist

Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

- Sunday, January 1 at 9:30am



St. Mark's Craft Fair



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!

St. Mark's members, Sandy Boltz, Patti Buckley, Kay West, Nikki Domenget and other area local artisans, will have booths offering Christmas ornaments and decorations, handmade fur bears, jewelry, writing cards, handmade purses, gifts and coffee from Fair Trade organizations, and other various gifts for sale. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to purchase unique treasures from the East Side and around the world.

Friday, December 2 from 5pm to 8pm
Saturday, December 3 from 9am to 2pm

Cookie Exchange Tuesday, November 29th at 7pm

Cookies are needed for Festive Friday, and in the past, we have had a number of wonderful volunteers who have baked us a dozen or so to offer to our neighbors and visitors. If you can help with this, please call the office.

With the holidays such a bustling time, we realize it may be difficult for some of you, but for those who are willing, Office Administrator, Stacy Roller is coordinating a cookie exchange. If you and your family love Christmas cookies, this is the perfect opportunity to expand your varieties. And if you are planning on baking a few dozen cookies over the Thanksgiving holiday for Festive Friday, why not make a few dozen more and exchange them with a few other bakers—and Viola!—you are set for the whole month with a variety to share with friends and family.

If you are interested in participating in the exchange, please contact Stacy at the church office and she will provide more information.



Eastside Senior Services gift program



Sunday, Dec. 4th is the deadline for contributing to the St. Mark's Sunday School students sponsored gift drive for Eastside Senior Services (ESS). This organization is part of the Interfaith Neighborhood Outreach Program that helps older adults (60+) remain independent in their homes. We are collecting small gifts that ESS will deliver to its clients during the month of December and the children will wrap them during Sunday School on December 4th.

We are asking all St. Mark's parishioners to contribute one or two small gifts. Gift cards to East side stores (e.g. Sendik's, Pick n Save, CVS) are very popular as are hats and gloves (one size fits all, please), greeting cards with stamps and puzzle books. We do ask that you not buy any candy or sized items. The collection box will be in the Guild Hall. Thank you!

Taste of the East Side—a splendid evening



A Taste of the East Side



This year's third annual Taste of the East Side (TOES) fundraising dinner and silent auction event was another successful and very fun event!

Guests enjoyed a truly delicious array of food from Via on Downer, topped off with fabulous desserts donated by Bartolotta's Lake Park Bistro restaurant. Steve Wolff, Todd Domenget, and Randy Miller set the mood throughout the evening with their musical offerings, while guests browsed the many wonderful items on the Silent Auction tables.

The event raised approximately \$14,500, which includes the matching donation by a very generous anonymous donor, to whom we are very grateful. The proceeds will be used to help St. Mark's meet its annual operating budget to support programs that enrich the lives of St. Mark's members and the surrounding community.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to make this year's TOES a success—the planning committee, the helpers at the event, those who procured or donated silent auction items, and those who attended. The TOES Committee members and St. Mark's are very grateful for your support.

And a special thank you to coordinators Vince Katter, Patty Buckley and Kris Devitt. We appreciate your good work!



J2A News



The Journey to Adulthood (J2A) is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 7th-10th graders. It encourages relational ministry and uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore the guiding principles of the program. The J2A group gathers to study scripture, discuss the life of faith, support one another, and serve our neighbors. As part of continuing outreach support, St. Mark's J2A group participated in the CROP Hunger Walk and the Harvest Festival at St. Mark's.

CROP Hunger Walk

The 26th annual Milwaukee CROP Hunger Walk was held on Sunday, October 9th. Over ten walkers, including St. Mark's J2A students and leaders, participated on behalf of St. Mark's. The afternoon started with chips and sub sandwiches in the library. Then the group took a picture in front of the pumpkins, and met with the other Crop Walkers from other area churches at McKinley Marina. The weather was excellent, and of course the youth beat the adults back to the lakefront where everyone was given water and cookies. No one reported sore feet, and they all got home in time to watch the end of the Brewers win. It was a very successful day!

The J2A group would like to thank everyone who made contributions to the Crop Walk. They raised roughly \$300 for global disaster relief, hunger relief, and development. The CROP Hunger Walk also collected food for Hunger Task Force which was distributed to food pantries and meal programs throughout the area for free, and our J2A group also had plenty of non-perishable goods to contribute.

Everyone will remember the great time we had, the good weather and most of all being able to help the hungry here in Milwaukee and around the world.

Harvest Festival

Blessings of terrific weather ensured the St. Mark's Harvest Festival was well attended this year. On Saturday, October 22nd, J2A students were on-hand passing out pumpkin muffins, donut holes and apple cider to all pumpkin shoppers. The St. Mark's pumpkin patch was visited by a record number of children who enjoyed the opportunity to make pumpkin crafts and get their faces painted. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a fun and memorable one!



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

Transforming lives through meaningful relationships with God in Jesus Christ.