

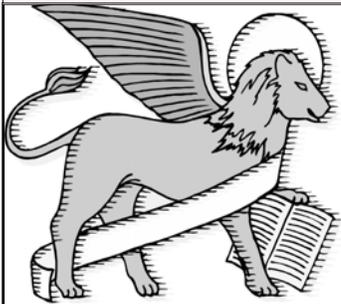
April 2015

The Lion

Volume 27, Issue 4

Easter Message 2015

From the Presiding Bishop



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL

The Lion

It's still dark when Mary ventures out to find the tomb. The graveyards around Jerusalem don't have much greenery today. The earth is mostly rock and stone, and it is far from easy to make a place to secure a body. Jesus' body was put in a cave-like space, with a stone rolled across the opening to close it up. Mary has made the journey from wherever she's sheltered over the last day, through darkened streets, perhaps hearing cocks begin to crow and townspeople start to stir.

She nears the place, but somehow it seems different than they left it—this can't be it, can it? Who moved the stone? A trip begun in tears and grief now has added burden—confusion, anger, shock, chaos, abandonment. His very body has been stolen.

She runs to tell the others. The three tear back to the tomb—no, the body is not there, though some of the burial cloths remain. Who has torn away the shroud and stolen him away? Why must the cruel torture continue, sacrilege and insult even after death? Who has done this awful thing? The men run away again, leaving her to weep at even greater loss.

She peers in once more—who are these, so bold appearing? “Fear not, woman... why do you weep?” She turns away and meets another, who says the same—why do you weep, who are you looking for? This gardener has himself been planted and now springs up green and vibrant, still rising into greater life. He challenges her to go and share that rising, great news of green and life, with those who have fled.

Still rising, still seeking union with Creator, making tender offering to beloved friends—briefly I am with you, I am on my way. Go and you will find me if you look.

The risen one still offers life to those who will look for evidence of his gardening—hope, friendship, healing, reunion, restoration—to all who have been uprooted, cut off, to those who are parched and withered, to those who lie wasting in the desert. Why do we weep or run away when that promise abides?

We can find that green one, still rising, if we will go stand with the grieving Marys of this world, if we will draw out the terrified who have retreated to their holes, if we will walk the Emmaus road with the lost and confused, if we will search out the hungry in the neighborhood called Galilee. We will find him already there before us, bringing new and verdant life. The only place we will not find him is in the tomb.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church



Deacon's Corner

It seems that every time I go to a church meeting of any kind that deals with planning or programming, at some point we always end up talking about how to get younger people involved in our parishes. The talk usually feels a little desperate about having any success.

Here at St. Mark's, I see the 20-30 year olds involved in significant ways. Three months ago we started up our Theology Pub with great success under the leadership of Dan Buckler. And while it isn't just young adults, the leadership and much of the attendance is. It is wonderful to see them talking about their faith and how they are trying to find their way as Christians.

And last week at our Thursday Adult Formation program, I listened to a St. Mark's couple, Katie and Ryan Hemmer, talk about how they find their spiritual development in various writings of church fathers, monastic disciplines, and even contemporary fiction. I was captivated by their maturity and devotion to the church. It was awesome!

I am so hopeful about our St. Mark's community. I always have been. But now, seeing our younger generation take up leadership in such significant ways fills me with gratitude and hope. We need to listen carefully to our younger members and give them the opportunity to become leaders and shapers of our common life. We will be the richer for it.

My prayers for you and our entire community as we enter the Easter season.

~Deacon Michelle



Common Ground Spring Delegates Assembly

Wednesday, April 29 at 7 p.m.

Location: Mt Mary University
Alumnae Dining Hall

Enter parking lot on the west side of N. 92nd St.
between Burleigh & Center. Walk towards
Bergstrom Hall and follow signs down walk and
through glass doors.



Common Ground Update

Timing has brought Common Ground's Fair Play and Milwaukee Rising campaigns together as we put pressure on city government to seek money from Nationstar Mortgage to remediate the problem of vacant and deteriorating houses throughout the city. Buck's co-owner, Wesley Edens, is a prominent board member of Nationstar and former board chairman.

With anticipation building regarding design and funding agreements for a new Milwaukee Bucks arena, CG is putting pressure on the Mayor and Common Council to, in turn, pressure Nationstar to donate money to the City of Milwaukee's Challenge Fund for rehabilitating city-owned foreclosed properties.

Bucks Arena

While CG is not opposed to a new arena, we argue that it should be privately funded. After all, there is no evidence that the Bucks and their wealthy owners need our money—just that they want it.

Furthermore, CG believes that a higher priority for the use of public money is the renovation of outdoor athletic facilities that our children use every day. Leaders of CG's Fair Play team continue to work on finding public money for the Fair Play renovations that we have proposed.

CG's Demands of Nationstar

On April 1, Common Ground announced a proposal we had presented to Mayor Barrett, praising him and City Council President Michael Murphy for opening discussions with representatives of Nationstar that day. CG leaders gathered to pray publically that the Mayor and Nationstar "do the right thing" for the health of Milwaukee's neighborhoods.

The proposal we presented to Mayor Barrett calls upon Nationstar to donate at least \$30 million to the city to address foreclosures. Specifically, Common Ground asked Mayor Barrett and Council President Murphy to put forward the following to Nationstar:

1. That Nationstar donate \$25 million to the City of Milwaukee Challenge Fund to improve foreclosed properties. (This fund was established to stimulate rehabbing of city-owned forecloses by local non-profits, but its current allocation is only \$1 million.)
2. That Nationstar donate \$5 million over five years to fund 5–10 housing counselors to go door to door to work with the 1,624 families who have delinquent and underwater loans that Nationstar services. The goal is to prevent future foreclosures.
3. That Nationstar assign a full-time person on its staff to work with Milwaukee housing counselors to restructure mortgages.

Background

Common Ground research has found that Nationstar services at least 3,101 loans in the City of Milwaukee and is in the process of buying additional servicing rights from Ocwen Financial, another national servicing company. The 1,922 houses with problem loans serviced by Nationstar include 217 in foreclosure and 81 that are real estate owned.

When Common Ground visually inspected these particular properties, our teams found many abandoned and in bad condition. We know that these properties are likely to be "charged off" by their loan servicer. That means the servicer lets the property go to the city in tax foreclosure for nonpayment of taxes. Currently, the City owns 1,100 tax-foreclosed properties that have come from Nationstar as well as from other companies and banks. CG calculates that rehabbing just 300 of these homes over the next four years (2015–2018) would, by 2037, increase property values to the point of adding a total of more than \$20.5 million to the city's property tax revenues.

~Virginia Chappell

Helping the Hungry



Riverwest Food Pantry Wish List Items

- Canned pears, pineapple, or mandarin oranges in natural juice
- Low sodium canned beans
- Flour, sugar, and seasonings
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes



Save the date: May 9

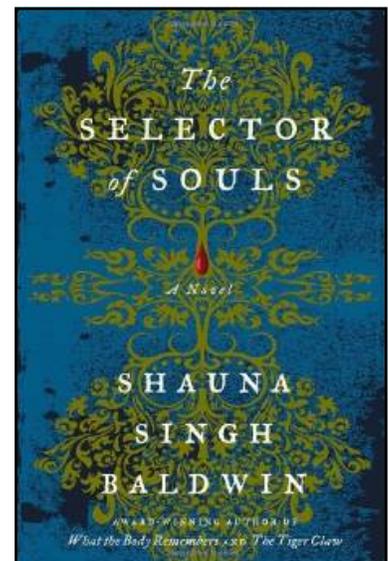
**St. Mark's Serving
at The Gathering**
Christian Faith Fellowship
Church East
27th and Layton



Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will be meeting on Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m. at the home of Carolyn Davies. The book to be discussed is *The Selector of Souls* by Shauna Singh Baldwin. The author will be present with us that evening and so will be able to answer our questions about this story set in India. What do health, justice, education, and equality mean for women during this changing time?

Come join us for a lively discussion and learn more about India and what it is like for women. If you need directions to Carolyn's home, please call the church office. Books can be purchased at Boswell for a ten percent discount. All women of the church are invited. Guests are also very welcome.



13th Annual Flower Sale

What's spring without the St. Mark's Flower Sale?

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 17, 2015. We will have the usual assortment of high quality annuals, perennials, and hanging baskets from the Flower Source in Germantown. We are also considering a new vendor for a wider and more reliable selection of herbs and vegetables for the health conscious vegetable gardeners. As many of you know, the Flower Sale proceeds benefit the outreach ministries of St. Mark's. So along with this wonderful opportunity to have a beautiful and healthy garden, you can feel good about supporting such organizations as The Gathering, Guest House, Hunger Task Force, Common Ground, and others.



Volunteers are needed for the weekend of the Flower Sale, May 15–17, with unloading the flowers on Friday, arranging them and filling the orders on Saturday, and having everything ready for pick up on Sunday, May 17.

If you're able to help, please contact Patty Buckley at pklotzbuckley@gmail.com or 414-403-4130 and let her know what your availability is. Patty would also appreciate a partner to help in all the Flower Sale administrative matters such as preparing order forms, coordinating flower delivery, and collecting money.

Order forms will be due May 1.

Flower Sale
Sunday, May 17



Birthdays

4/1 Alice Weinert
4/2 Lisa Krause
4/3 Andrew Arndorfer
4/4 Andrew Maier
4/6 Virginia Schrag
4/9 Jana Troutman-Miller
4/9 Leslie McCormick
4/14 Yatta Welland
4/16 Jessica Newcomb
4/17 Hannah Dion-Kirschner
4/21 Laura Katter
4/23 Anna Katter
4/23 Jane Matheus
4/24 Carol Eichinger
4/24 Grayson Newcomb
4/24 Nicholas Aster
4/26 Richard Runkel



Anniversaries

4/10 Todd & Nikki Domenget
4/26 Brad & Kirstin Kirschner



Right of Parishes to Maintain Columbaria Challenged

As readers of the Diocesan E-News know, columbaria have become quite controversial in Wisconsin. The central question is whether a columbarium is actually a mausoleum and thus can only be located in a cemetery. Our Diocese argues “no”—that these are two distinct structures.

Bishop Steven Miller and Dean Kevin Carroll of All Saints Cathedral have authored an open letter asking parishioners throughout the Diocese for help in preserving the right of parishes to install and maintain a columbarium on church property. Specifically, the bishop and dean urge us to write members of the State Assembly and Senate in support of legislation that would clarify definitions and resolve the conflict.

Noting that “time is of the essence,” the two urge us to write not only our own representatives but two members of the assembly who are working on specific legislation to resolve the issue without threatening church columbaria: Rep. Edward Brooks (R-Reedsburg) and Rep. Joe Sanfelippo (R-West Allis). The Bishop and the Dean point out that “strong financial interests” are involved and that the Wisconsin Cemetery Association is also in touch with legislators.

In common parlance, the difference between a columbarium and a mausoleum is that a columbarium holds only ashes, literally final remains, while a mausoleum may hold either an interred body or ashes, writes Annysa Johnson of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Her thorough Feb. 11 article about the controversy is available on the JSoonline site. Some of her interviewees suggested that Wisconsin’s rules conflating the two types of structure may violate both the First Amendment and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, a federal law that bars state and local governments from using zoning codes to discriminate against religious institutions.

You can find the letter to Diocesan parishioners from Bishop Miller and Fr. Kevin urging action summarizes the controversy on the diocesan website along with a model letter to legislatures.

Note: The St. Mark’s Memorial Garden, where ashes are placed directly in the ground, not in an urn, is not a columbarium.

~Virginia Chappell

April 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 6:30 PM UWM: International Cuisines 7 PM Choir	2 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday Seder & Eucharist 8 PM AA 9 PM–9 AM Night Watch	3 12 PM Good Friday Service 4:30 Children's Good Friday Service 8 PM AA	4 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 10 AM Flower Set-Up
5 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	6 Church Office Closed 6 PM SWEATnDANCE	7 All Day Elections 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 12:30 PM EfM/St. John's 3:30 PM Yoga 3:30 PM UWM: Midwest Foods 6:30 PM UWM: American Cuisines	8 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 4 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM UWM: International Cuisines	9 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	10 8 PM AA	11 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
12 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and Sunday School	13 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:15 PM Finance Committee 7 PM Women's Book Group	14 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 12:30 PM EfM/St. John's 3:30 PM Yoga 3:30 PM UWM: Midwest Foods 6:30 PM UWM: American Cuisines 7 PM Outreach Committee	15 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 4 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM UWM: International Cuisines 7 PM Choir	16 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	17 8 PM AA	18 9 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 10 AM Quilting Circle 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
19 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and Sunday School 11 AM Communications Meeting 3 PM Music at St. Mark's Concert Series: Steve Wolff	20 6 PM SWEATnDANCE	21 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 12:30 PM EfM/St. John's 3:30 PM UWM: Midwest Foods 3:30 PM Yoga 6 PM Theology Pub 6:30 PM Vestry 6:30 PM UWM: American Cuisines	22 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 4 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM UWM: International Cuisines 7 PM Choir	23 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	24 8 PM AA 1 PM Archive Committee	25 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
26 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and Sunday School 3 PM Music at St. Mark's Concert Series: Hector Torres	27 6 PM SWEATnDANCE	28 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 12:30 PM EfM/St. John's 3:30 PM UWM: Midwest Foods 3:30 PM Yoga 6:30 PM UWM: American Cuisines	29 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 4 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM UWM: International Cuisines 7 PM Choir	30 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	1 8 PM AA	2 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop



Archive Projects

Coffee Hour

Bill and Sandy Are Seeking Help!

The Archive Committee is looking for parishioners to help sort through church records from the year 2000 to present and properly identify them. We generally meet on the first Friday of the month from 1:00–3:00 p.m., but we can always meet on another day and time for your convenience. You may be an old member or a new member. We currently have a couple of projects in mind for our 125th anniversary in 2018 and would gladly hear new ideas. If you are interested, would you contact one of us or talk to us after church? We can further explain what we have been doing, what needs to be done, and how best to make the files accessible to church members.

~Sandy Boltz and Bill Stotts

Thank you to Michelle Mooney, Ginny Schrag, Sandi and Ron Tunis, Jackie Adams, Judy Young, Marian Byers and Kevin Hanus for hosting coffee hour this Winter. And a big thanks to all of you who brought your Easter goodies to share at Easter Sunday coffee hour. You help make St. Mark's a wonderful and welcoming community!

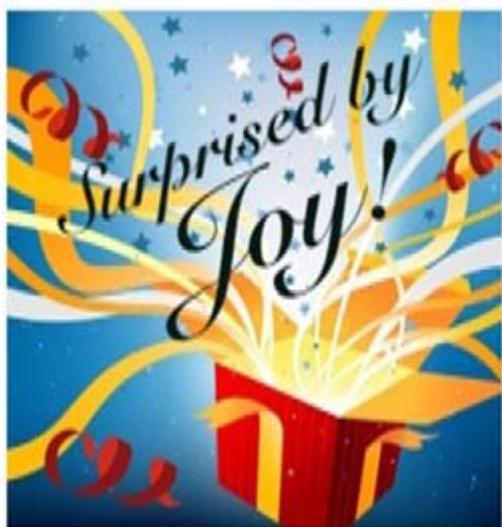
Would you like to be part of St. Mark's tradition of hospitality? We would love to have you be a coffee hour host. Please sign up on the list in the Guild Hall, or online (signupgenius.com). Questions or concerns? Just call or email me.

~Jane Shero



Calling all Church Women

39th Annual Women's Mini Week 2015



Theme: SURPRISED BY JOY!

When: Thursday dinner, August 13, to Sunday brunch, August 16

Where: Camp Lakotah, in Wautoma, Wisconsin

For registration materials and to answer questions, please visit: www.womensminiweek.org.

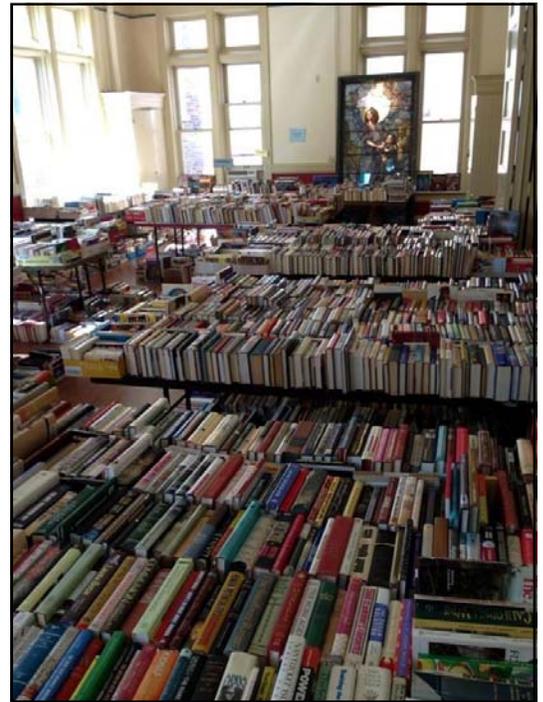
Email us for an invitation:
womensminiweek@gmail.com

Start Gathering Your Old Books

The 34th Annual Hunger Book Sale

Spring has officially arrived. We have, we hope, made it through another long, cold winter, during which most of us probably did a lot of reading. Please consider gathering the books you have finished reading this year and/or those you no longer want to keep, to donate them to a great cause: the Hunger Book Sale, which has taken place each summer for 34 years at All Saints' Cathedral. The Hunger Book Sale raises funds for mostly local and some national and international hunger causes (e.g., The Gathering, St. Ben's Community Meals, St. John's Cathedral Open Door Café, Sojourner Family Peace Center, and the Episcopal Relief and Development).

Starting Monday, June 15, you may drop off your books, CDs or DVDs (no magazines, ex-library or textbooks over five years old, please) at All Saints' Cathedral, 818 E. Juneau Ave., Monday–Thursday, at the back door (there will be a sign) or call the Cathedral at 271-7719 for a pickup anytime now. The 2015 deadline for donating is July 22.



The 2015 Hunger Book Sale will open Thursday night, July 30, from 6–9 p.m. for a preview and run Friday, July 31, through Tuesday, August 4, from 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Communications Meeting



Sunday, April 19, at 11 a.m. in the Library

Ministry leaders: We will be planning the calendar and serving schedule for the next few months, so come prepared to discuss dates and events that will affect the calendar through the summer. If you are unable to attend the meeting, make sure that someone will be present to represent your group.

Meta House

Dear Friends:

Would you join me for lunch on May 1 to celebrate Meta House? You will hear from incredible women who have changed their lives and saved their families because of Meta House. You will also learn about an exciting new program Meta House will open in just a few months.

The event is free. It's a fundraiser, so you will be asked to consider making a gift or pledge. But I'm not going to pressure you. I just want everyone to know about the fabulous work at Meta House. Please invite your friends!

If you're able to join me, and if you need more information, please get in touch by phone (414-540-2401) or email (jar@felixstreet.net).

~Jan Rhodes

Friday, May 1, 2015
Registration & Networking 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m., Program 12–1 p.m.
The Garage at the Harley-Davidson Museum,
at the crossroads of 6th and Canal Streets

Men's Retreat: Friday, June 5–Sunday, June 7

Garden Guild



Happy Spring? And any day now the weather will make it official!

The courtyard is in need of its Spring clean-up, and I would appreciate any help with the chores. Contact me by email or phone; my schedule is flexible so I'm sure we can find a time to work together.

Thanks!

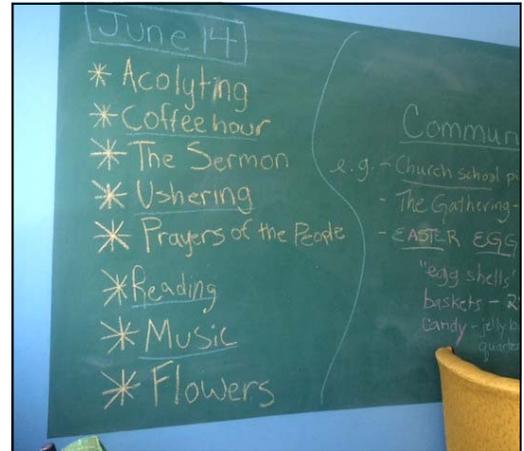
~Jane Shero



Sunday Exploration: Youth Sunday—June 14

As the Sunday Explorers have been reading *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman, we've been actively exploring how St. Mark's works together as a community, both inside and outside the walls of our building. We've planted and tended seedlings in our upstairs meeting space. We've baked Thanksgiving pumpkin pies for The Gathering's community meal program, wrapped Christmas gifts for older adults through Eastside Senior Services, and are organizing the Easter Egg Hunt for our own Easter morning celebration.

The culmination of our exploration will be in organizing our gifts and talents to lead the congregation in worship on Sunday, June 14. This exciting idea came out of a conversation during a Vestry meeting, and resulted in a wonderful discussion and realization among the Explorers of how many ministries and how many people are involved in our Sunday worship services. Beginning with connecting with the leaders of our teams and guilds, we've started the planning which includes all sorts of things, such as baking bread for Communion, giving a sermon (!), buying and arranging altar flowers, and lots more.



Please be sure to join us for this very special service!

~Jackie Adams, Jane Shero, and Michelle Mooney

Sunday School Bake Sale



Sunday, April 19

Bring your sweet tooth and help support the Sunday School Bake Sale benefiting Haitiproject.org and specifically, Jesline, a Haitian student we sponsor at St. Marc's school in Jeannette, Haiti. Funding provides Jesline with a qualified teacher and school supplies, vitamins, medical care, clean water and food, and a chance to hear about Christ's love and a message that someone cares.

~Mary Ross



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 a.m.

Childcare is provided from 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Fri. 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Office Phone Number:

414-962-0500

Deacon Michelle's Office Hours:

Monday 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Eastside Senior Services: 414-961-0661

The Right Reverend Steven A. Miller, Bishop of Milwaukee

The Reverend Michelle P. Mooney, Deacon

The Reverend John Hickey, Priest Associate

Stephen Wolff, Director of Music

Frank West, Senior Warden

Virginia Chappell, Junior Warden

Barbara Costanzo, Treasurer

Sara Bitner, Parish Administrator

Bill Davies, Bookkeeper

Jyoti Bratz, Housekeeper

Skrauss, Sexton

Vestry Members

Nikki Domenget

Richard Runkel

Jane Shero

Barbara Costanzo

Brad Kirschner

Susan Rohde

Jackie Adams

Marian Byers

Paula Wheeler

Transforming lives through meaningful relationships with God in Jesus Christ.