

A Greeting from Fr. Burch

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings from Chicago! I am elated to begin our ministry together January 1, 2016. Travis and I are doing a great deal of preparation—logistical and emotional—to wind down our lives in Chicago and to begin our lives in Milwaukee. We already are making lists of the restaurants we want to try and getting our bikes tuned up for the Oak Leaf Trail. Other suggestions welcome.

Several years ago, while I discerned the move from hospital ministry to parish ministry, one of my colleagues asked me a question that had never occurred to me. He said, “What is your perfect church?” After some thought, I replied by saying I wanted to serve a small, liturgical, progressive, justice-oriented congregation on the ocean that wanted to grow. Four out of five ain’t bad. Plus, I think Lake Michigan counts as an inland sea.

Of course I know that no church is perfect as I know that no Rector is perfect. I tell my story only to highlight that I have been thinking and praying about you even before I knew about a church called St. Mark’s. In July, Travis and I combed through the paperwork of parishes looking for Rectors, and I read many, many profiles. In a national search, yours stood out to me. I saw a parish that both over performs (in terms of community impact and care for each other and the poor) and under performs (in terms of membership and neighborhood footprint)—which I think is a strong position in which to be. I saw a parish poised for growth. I saw a



parish full of the love and mercy of God. And I saw a parish wherein Travis and I could make a home.

In the interview process, I had the chance to meet many of you. You cared for Travis and for me when we were strangers in your city. Your kindness, faithfulness, warmth and intelligence shone through the entire process. I knew that I wanted to do ministry with you, and I had a strong sense that my gifts and your needs would be complementary.

And so, I am coming to listen and learn with you. I want to know about St. Mark’s—your people, your stories, your ministries. I want to know where you are feeling called by the Spirit in the city of Milwaukee. I want to partner with you as we live out Jesus’ Great Commission. And I want to break bread and share wine with you in January when we arrive.

Grace and peace,
The Reverend Ian C. Burch
(Fr. Burch)

Fr. Burch’s
first Sunday
with us will be
January 3,
2016.

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Mark your calendar for the Epiphany Dinner on Saturday, January 9. It's a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and music. It will also be Fr. Burch's first social event with us here at St. Mark's.



Welcoming Father Burch to St. Mark's Help from Parishioners is Needed

Moving day is Dec. 15, and Ian and Travis hope to be settled in by Christmas. Their new place is at the corner of Locust and Cambridge.

Here are some ideas in three categories. What can you add? How are you able to help?

Food

Meals for when they are painting their apartment and settling in
Pots of soup for the same

Information

A welcome packet with recommendations for favorite restaurants, dry cleaners, bike shops, and the like, especially in the Downer business area and around Oakland and Locust. What do you want to suggest? WHAT ELSE do they need to know about?

Getting to Know Parishioners

When Pastor April moved here, parishioners were invited to meet and chat with her informally in small groups over snacks and drinks at various people's homes. These get-togethers seemed to have been enjoyed by all. Perhaps a couple of people would volunteer to collaborate on organizing a few events like this over the first couple of months after Fr. Burch arrives?

Please send your transition ideas and availability to the church office.

The Online Church Directory

We would like to make St. Mark's as welcoming a place for Fr. Burch and his husband, Travis Trott, as possible. One way we can make them more comfortable is to make it easy for them to remember our names and faces. Our online directory is a great place to do this. We want to have photos on as many entries as possible. If you do not have a photo you'd like to use, please come to Coffee Hour in your Sunday best on December 6 or December 20, and Paula Wheeler will take your/your family's picture. She will send them to me and I will upload them into the online directory. Alternately, you may upload a picture of your choosing directly to the directory or email me a picture and I can upload it for you.

To access the directory, click [here](#). If you do not know your username and password, I'd be happy to get that information for you.

~Sara Bitner

Deacon's Corner

As I write this "Corner" article for *The Lion*, I am looking forward to having a new priest in our midst. It has been a long haul, and I am thankful and looking forward to the leadership that a new Rector will bring.

But I also want to celebrate how spectacularly our lay members and leaders have taken up the challenge and brought us successfully through this interim time. I have never in my years in this parish, since 1973, seen such an outpouring of effort by so many of you.

You have remained faithful to the call of supporting many members in times of crisis, celebrating special times, and simply keeping the place well maintained, all while spending time calling a new Rector.

Your leadership and involvement have been just super, and I am very thankful of your efforts. I hope you will continue your giving of time and gifts, as we help a new priest come into our midst. He will need your support as he begins to shepherd us in our parish life.

I am always thrilled when I experience the extravagant talent and commitment that this church community has. It has been a consistent joy to be a part of it for these past 42 years. But I have never been prouder than I have been this past year of all the lay talent and commitment that I have seen.

Thank you, and God's blessings in the coming Advent and Christmas seasons.



~Michelle

Christmas Flowers and Plants



The St. Mark's Flower Guild is planning to have our usual big red and green Christmas season, with cut flowers, poinsettia-filled urns and poinsettia trees, and several varieties of seasonal greens.

Starting on Sunday, November 29, the Flower Guild will be placing envelopes in service bulletins for members of the parish to use to make contributions towards Christmas flowers and plants for St. Mark's holiday services. There will be a form included for indicating dedications (e.g., memorials, thanksgivings) to appear in holiday service bulletins. The deadline for having these included in holiday bulletins this year is Sunday, December 20. Christmas flower contributions can be made after this date, but due to the busy season, the office will not be able to include those details in holiday bulletins. As always, contributions will appear on pledge statements and are fully tax-deductible.

The Flower Guild members welcome anyone who would like to help arrange the Christmas flowers and plants to join us and our families on Wednesday, December 23, starting at 10 a.m., in the Guild Hall. Thanks in advance from the Flower Guild for your contributions, help, and company.

~Judy Young

Notes from Your Parish Administrator

- Ministry Leaders, we will have a **Communications Meeting** on Dec. 13 to plan the calendar for Epiphany and Lent.
- The Office will be closed on Dec. 24 through Dec. 30.
- Lion articles for the January Lion will be due on Dec. 16.

~Sara

2016 Stewardship Campaign

On Sunday, November 22, we blessed those pledges received so far with these words:

“The pledges which we make are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us, and they are offered in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become, in this place.”

But we are far from over with this year’s Pledge Campaign. As of November 22, we are at 56% of our pledge goal of \$240,000. It is never too late to get your pledge in.

Why pledge? Yes, the money matters. We have bills that need to be paid just to keep our doors open to our community. Far more importantly, your pledge, no matter how large or small, is your commitment to God and to yourself by giving back to God that which He has given to you in abundance. It’s that simple. And you will feel great for having pledged.

~John Cain, Stewardship Chair



Riverwest Pantry Wish List Items

- Brown or white rice
- Spices and herb seasonings
- Bar soap
- Olive or canola oil

We also need plastic bags. We are grateful for all the contributions to feed the hungry in our community.



Harry Moseley, Hannah Kiger, and Bill Stotts gathering donations for the pantry.

St. Mark's Christmas Pageant

Please mark your calendar for the annual pageant.

Date: Sunday, December 20, 2015

Time: During the 9:30 a.m. service

Preparation will begin in December with pageant practice during Church School on December 13. The dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 19 from 3:30 p.m.–5 p.m.

If your child would like to participate, please contact Jane Lacy at Janelacy@me.com or 414-801-7169.



Caring for Our Neighbors at Christmas

The Church School is collecting small gifts that Eastside Senior Services (ESS) will deliver to its clients during the month of December. You may drop items off at the church office or bring them to church on Sunday, December 6. The items most requested by the clients are gift cards to local businesses, nonperishable foods, gloves, hats, scarves, small pine trees, wreaths, and greeting cards/stationery with postage stamps. Also requested are homemade cookies and candies. Please add a label to homemade items so that they can be delivered in a timely manner. Deadline for gift-giving is December 6. The children, youth, and interested adults will wrap gifts during Church School and Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 6. Thank you so much!



Pumpkin Sale 2015 Report



The Outreach Committee is happy to report that we had a very successful Pumpkin Sale this year. We had a record profit of \$9,074.27! Our gross sales were \$12,520.92 and our expenses for the pumpkins and promotional materials were \$3,446.65. We asked for and received a good number of colored pumpkins and gourds. Those seem to sell very well.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the sale. We had a bumper crop of good pumpkins and a bumper crop of great volunteers!

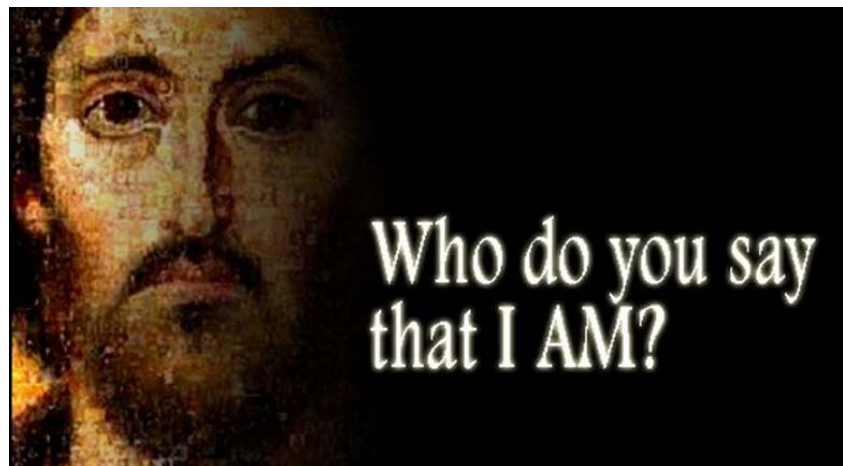
~Ron Zingler

Who Do You Say I Am?

Adult Forum—Sundays, December 6 & 13

Healer. Teacher. Prophet. Revolutionary. Best Friend. Messiah. Savior. Son of Man. Son of God. Jesus has been seen as all these and much more. Through the Four Gospels and Art, this class will explore the many faces of Christ to engage what we as individuals and as a community find in Jesus. As we will discover, there is no one right answer. Classes will be held after the service in the Library.

~John Hickey

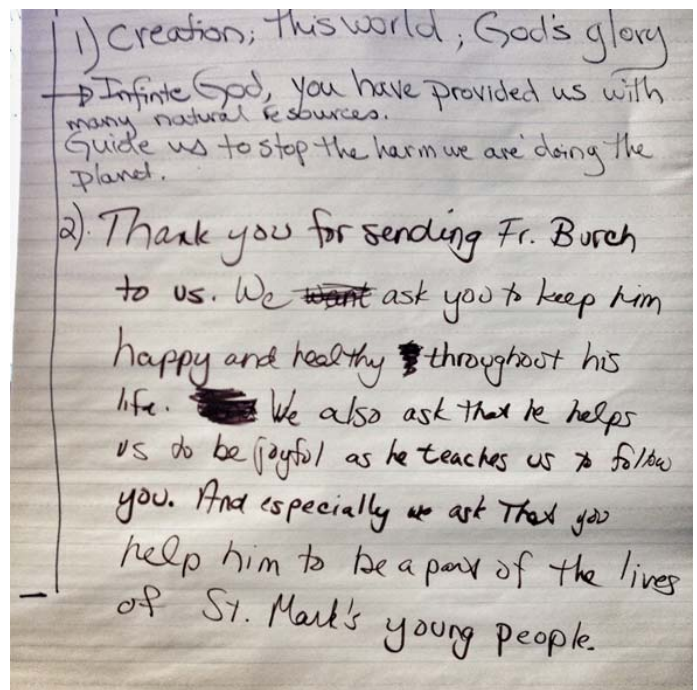


Sunday Exploration

The Sunday Explorers have spent the fall looking at the [Prayers and Thanksgivings](#) in our *Book of Common Prayer*. Starting in September with *Prayers for the World* and continuing through November with *Prayers for the Church* and for *the Social Order*, we read through the prayers and decided on an activity based on a prayer that particularly speaks to us. We then wrote a prayer of our own to share with the parish in anticipation of our next Youth Sunday.

As we talked about what we are thankful for at St. Mark's and what we would like to ask for on behalf of the church, our excited group of Explorers asked if they could have a special event of their own to meet our new rector. As a result, they are putting together their first Youth Group Event designed around meeting Fr. Burch, watching a movie, and of course, having some pizza—a winning combination! Come January, we will work with Fr. Burch, the Explorers, and their parents to set a date.

~Jackie Adams, Jane Shero, Paula Wheeler



Have a Holly (and Ivy), Jolly Time at the Boerner Botanical Gardens



Why do we sing about the holly and the ivy, or kiss under the mistletoe, or chop down an evergreen and dress it up in colors? Join us to celebrate the holiday season by learning about the plants that play such a large role in traditional holiday celebrations. We will hike around the gardens and talk about the biology of, and traditions behind, such holiday plants as mistletoe, holly, ivy, poinsettias and, of course, the Christmas tree.

Date: Saturday, December 5

Time: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Level: Easy

Location: Meet at the Boerner Botanical Gardens, 9400 Boerner Dr., Hales Corners

Leader: Dan Buckler

Please RSVP at daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com or 330-261-2088

Coffee Hour

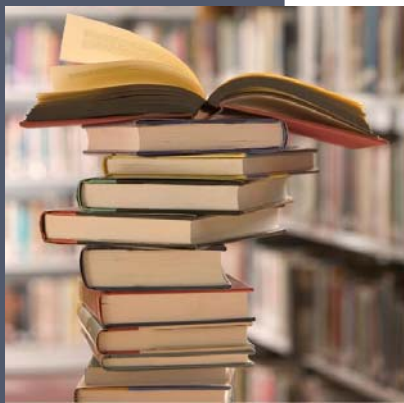


We've enjoyed some great coffee hours this November. Thank you to our hosts: Judy Young, Nikki Domenget, Sandy Boltz, the Lacy & Mortara families, the O'Hear family, and Jamie and Ron Zingler.

It was at Coffee Hour that I decided to join St. Mark's. I don't remember what was served that summer day, but I do remember the welcoming members of St. Marks, people whom I now count among my friends. Please help us continue that warm welcome by signing up for a Sunday. I'll be happy to partner with you and initiate you into the secret rite of coffee making (or you can read the easy instructions on the cupboard door). Use the sign-up board in the Guild Hall or ask Jane Shero to add your name to Sign-up Genius on the web.

~Barbara Costanzo

Women's Book Group



The Women's Book Group will be meeting on December 7 at 7 p.m. at the home of Judy Young. This last meeting of the year is when we pick the books for 2016. This is a great time for new members to join us. Please come with several suggestions that you would like to recommend. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please contact Ellie Moseley with your book titles. Please only recommend books that you have read.

If you need directions to Judy's home, please call the church office. All women of the church are invited. Guests are also very welcome.

~Ellie Moseley

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 12/1 Barbara Costanzo
- 12/2 Gabrielle Mlengana
- 12/2 John Dudek
- 12/2 Jyoti Bratz
- 12/7 Erin Mullen
- 12/10 Ellie Moseley
- 12/11 Elizabeth Kuehl
- 12/11 Georgia Cain

- 12/13 Maja (Akerblom) Hassinger
- 12/15 Justin Mortara
- 12/16 Peter Boyland
- 12/18 David Huntington
- 12/19 Kris Kreuziger
- 12/20 Joan Blaicher
- 12/20 Judy Young
- 12/21 Amy Diliberti
- 12/22 Kate Johnson
- 12/29 Russell Graef

Anniversaries

- 12/3 David and Mary Huntington



The Holiday Season at St. Mark's



Advent and Christmas

Advent Lessons & Carols at St. John's on the Lake—Sunday, Dec. 6, at 4 p.m.

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

Christmas Pageant—Sunday, Dec. 20, at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for this joyful worship service featuring the children of St. Mark's as they tell the story of Jesus' birth.

Greening of the Church—Sunday, Dec. 20, at 11 a.m.

The Flower Guild welcomes anyone who would like to help arrange the Christmas flowers and plants to join them on Sunday, Dec. 20, starting at 11 a.m. Stay for refreshments in the Guild Hall.

Christmas Eve 4 p.m. Holy Eucharist family-focused service

Join us for a family-focused service as we celebrate Jesus' birth. This service will feature a Children's sermon and familiar carols.

9:30 p.m. Choral Prelude

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

10 p.m. Festive Holy Eucharist

Celebrate Christ's nativity and the wonder of the holy night of his birth. This service will include carols, selections by the St. Mark's Choir, and a candlelight procession.

Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist—Sunday, Dec. 27, at 9:30 a.m.



In this special service of Lessons and Carols, sing out in joyful response to Christ born among us. Hear the ancient words of Scripture that point to the promised Messiah and tell of his glorious birth.

Epiphany

Epiphany Dinner —Saturday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m.

St. Mark's Annual Meeting—Sunday, Jan. 31, at 11 a.m.

December 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 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 6:30 PM UWM: American Cuisine 6:30 PM Eucharistic Visitor Training	2 4 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Common Ground Core Team 7 PM Choir	3 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	4 8 PM AA	5 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
6 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School/ Sunday Exploration 11 AM Adult Forum 4 PM Advent Lessons and Carols at St. John's on the Lake	7 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6 PM Adult Formation 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 7 PM Women's Book Group	8 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 Cuisine	9 4 PM Bible Study 7 PM Choir	10 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	11 4 PM Studio Concert 8 PM AA	12 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
13 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Pageant Rehearsal 11 AM Adult Forum 11 AM Communications Meeting 3 PM Concert Series: Steve Wolff	14 6 PM SWEATnDANCE	15 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 6 PM Theology Pub 6:30 PM Vestry	16 4 PM Bible Study 7 PM Choir	17 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	18 8 PM AA	19 9 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 10 AM Quilting Circle 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Pageant Rehearsal
20 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and Pageant 11 AM Greening of the Church	21 6 PM SWEATnDANCE	22 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 12:30 PM EfM/St. John's 3:30 PM Yoga	23 10 AM Christmas Flower set up 7 PM Choir	24 Office Closed 4 PM Christmas Eve Service 8 PM AA 9:30 PM Program of Choir/Organ Music 10 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed 8 PM AA	26 Thrift Shop Closed
27 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist No Sunday School/Sunday Exploration	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA		



Common Ground at St. Mark's

In October, we conducted our Friends of Common Ground (FOCG) campaign in the parish. This campaign's purpose is to fund Common Ground's operating expenses. While every member organization of CG pays annual dues of 1% of the pledged income from the previous year, that collected sum is not enough to totally fund ongoing programs and staff.

Common Ground accepts no government funding and guards its independent status by relying entirely on private sources with no strings attached. In order to do this, CG has to have an annual fund drive, in addition to funding from private foundations and local and national church sources.

This years goal for the FOCG is \$100,000. St. Mark's set a goal of raising at least \$6,000 for this purpose. The campaign in the parish was carried out by the CG Core Team members, who lead our efforts on all the issues that are now being undertaken.

The Core Team's efforts have resulted in over \$7,000 being raised to date, with more contributions still coming in. We want to thank all the parishioners who contributed to FOCG for 2016. Your generosity will help CG continue its work of seeking the common good of the Milwaukee Community through its various issue campaigns.

As a parish, we are one of the top five of nearly 50 member organization in the amount of money raised. The Core Team worked very hard, and all of you were very generous.

Thank you very much.

~Michelle Mooney



Janet and Andy Martin at the CG Fall Assembly in November



Common Ground Fall Assembly in November

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



St. Mark's
Episcopal Church

2618 N. Hackett Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
414-962-0500
stmarksmilwaukee.org
stmarks_mke@sbcglobal.net

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.

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 Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, Bishop of Milwaukee
The Rev. Michelle P. Mooney, Deacon
The Rev. 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	Barbara Costanzo	Jackie Adams
Richard Runkel	Brad Kirschner	Marian Byers
Jane Shero	Susan Rohde	Paula Wheeler

**Transforming lives through meaningful
relationships with God in Jesus Christ**