

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

The Lion

February 2017
Volume 29, Issue 2

RECTOR'S CORNER

Travis and I recently bought an old house, and we're discovering that our 1891 purchase has many needs and quirks. When I am stressed out, I can start to think that the list of what needs to be done is infinite and will never be accomplished—certainly not in my lifetime. As I sand, prime, paint, saw, seal and fill each corner of this three-story house, the work can overwhelm.

But then, after a bit of rest and perspective, I start to notice how much we've accomplished in the house after just a few weeks. The rooms are beautifully painted out and comfortable. The curtains and art are hung, and we've already been able to have some guests visit in the second floor guest room. Even though I hate the kitchen countertops (to be replaced this summer!), we've made beautiful meals for friends and family. So, even though the work can be a bit tedious or even boring, I'm proud that we're slowly bringing this old house back to life.

St. Mark's has its needs and quirks. We have a large, aging physical plant, and the list of places that need attention is incredibly long. And, I submit, that when we are tired or stressed out, the list can seem overwhelming or hopeless. But fear not! Your Vestry and Wardens are working incredibly hard to tend to the parts of this physical plant that need tending. Sometimes it's the little things—signs, lightbulbs, landscaping. And sometimes it's quite large—capping a leaking water fountain, fixing the boiler, dealing with a basement leak, installing a new Choir Room floor.

When the needs of our plant begin to overwhelm, remember this: everything we do is focused on the radical hospitality people have come to expect at St. Mark's. We have been entrusted with this building by our spiritual ancestors for the sole purpose of bringing people closer to God and to one another. So, really, the work of maintenance is both holy and timely. And, as Jesus constantly says when encountering people, "be not afraid!"

The next time you walk through these old rooms, give the wall a nice pat (not too hard!) and thank it for its service. The building is not the church; WE are the church. But the building is where we encounter one another and encounter God. It deserves every consideration we can give it so that we might pass it on better than we found it.

Blessings,
Ian+
(Fr. Burch)



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Dates to remember

- Safeguarding God's Children Training—Feb. 4
- Ministry Fair—Feb. 12
- Pancake Breakfast—Feb. 26

DEACON'S CORNER

I CAME, I SAW, AND I WAS WON OVER



Until a few weeks ago, I had not taught Sunday School for about 25 years. This didn't happen without a lot of distancing on my part. Although I was a teacher of junior and senior high school students and really enjoyed it, becoming part of the cut and paste brigade was not my cup of tea. Or so I thought.

This fall our Sunday School was reorganized, and parishioners were invited to teach just one month out of the year, rather than signing up for a full year. We also have a new curriculum that mixes DVDs, short Bible readings and crafts to present each lesson. Each lesson gives the students a good variety of ways to learn and enjoy the stories of the Bible.

After seeing that no one was signed up for January to teach with Jennifer O'Hear, I decided that I wasn't going to let our parish children go without teachers. I had too much pride in our parish and loyalty to our children to say, "Sorry, no Sunday School today." So I did the unthinkable: I signed up for the 3–5th grade students for the month of January.

Ian and I went over the curriculum materials one day, with more than a

little apprehension on my part. I remember the days when teaching the younger children involved thinking up crafts and gathering together the glue, paper, scissors, glitter, etc., that the craft would require. What a pain! I liked talking about the stories of the Bible but was never too sure how to approach children whose ages I had never taught. Deacon's School never included any gems for the teaching uninitiated.

But after Ian and I went over the new materials, I was intrigued by how straight forward the materials were and how varied the activities designed to teach each Sunday's story were. I was reassured, if not equally confident, that I would be up to the job.

A few weeks ago, I presented the Bible story of Jesus at the Temple when He was twelve. It was really quite fun how it was presented and the kids never lost interest or MISBEHAVED (my other secret fear). The time flew by and we just barely got to the end of the lesson before having to go down to church for the Eucharist.

The next week was a repeat of the first one. It was really fun to interact with the children and see

RIVERWEST PANTRY WISHLIST

- ◆ Low-salt canned tuna or chicken
- ◆ Brown rice
- ◆ Unsweetened oatmeal
- ◆ Olive or canola oil

Reusable bags are welcome!



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their enthusiasm for the lessons. Never was there a dead space to drag the time down. It was so different from my past Sunday School experiences. It was really fun and I was hooked.

There are still empty spots on the calendar for sign-ups for Sunday School teachers for the balance of the school year. Maybe you'd like to conquer your fears, reduce your anxieties, and take the plunge. I think you'll enjoy it.

Every time we call a new Rector, parishioners are asked to rank what programs they feel are most important. Educating our children is always one of the highest priorities listed. We say that educating our children is of central importance. And it is not just the parents of children who

respond, but many other parishioners as well.

Maybe it might be time for some of us to stop being "NIMBYS." We prize the educating of our youth highly but hesitate to step up to the plate ourselves. Think about what stops you from volunteering. Maybe, like mine, your fears might be unfounded. It really might be one of the most enjoyable ways of participating in our church life you do this year. And, incidentally, don't let cultural stereotypes keep you away. Men make excellent teachers, too. Enjoy.

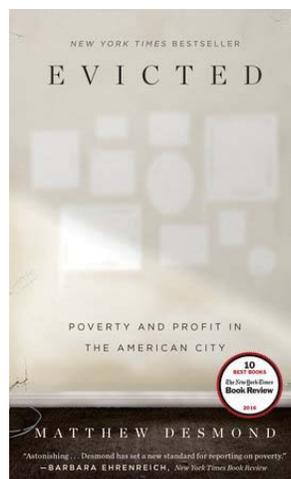
~Deacon Michelle

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group will meet on February 27 at 7 p.m., in the church Library. Our book for this month is *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Mathew Desmond. This brilliant, heartbreaking book takes us into the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee to tell the story of eight families. Based on years of fieldwork and data, this masterful book transforms our understanding of extreme poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving a devastating, uniquely American problem. Janet Martin will be leading the discussion.

Books can be purchased at Boswell for a ten percent discount or borrowed from the library. All women of the church are invited. Guests are very welcome.

~Ellie Moseley



February's book selection

ART GALLERY BYRON S. BECKER

Byron Becker's exhibit will run through the end of February. If you see a piece of art you are interested in buying but that is marked "sold," Byron would be happy to create a duplicate for you. Keep in mind that Byron will be giving half of the proceeds from sales of his work here to St. Mark's.

~Todd Domenget



GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday—9 to 5

Wednesday—9 to 5

Friday—9 to 1

Saturday—10 to noon

Sunday—9 to noon

Also by appointment;
Call 414-962-0500 to
arrange.

DIAPER DRIVE REPORT

THANK YOU, St. Mark's community, for making our first-ever diaper drive a smashing success! Thanks to your generosity, we collected 4,089 diapers and 4,598 wipes (plus four burp cloths, one hat, and three of the most adorable stuffed goats ever). That is enough diapers to keep approximately 22 children in diapers for a month!

I want to extend a special thanks to Ashley Luthern and Marie Wolff for their help in research and planning, as well as to Christine Kuramoto, who helped Ashley, Marie, and me with our Baby Shower Coffee Hour. Thanks also to Sara Bitner and Mark Heffron, who assisted us in loading the diapers up for delivery. On Wednesday, January 11, Lona Long-Velasco and Rebecca Cleary from Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services met us at the church to load the diapers, and it took us two cars to get all the diapers over to Robyn's Nest. Lona and Rebecca were thrilled at the amount of diapers we collected.

Robyn's Nest provides assistance to foster families, especially those taking children as part of an emergency placement, and other families identified by Children's Hospital as having unmet needs. If you are looking for other ways to help, Robyn's Nest also needs volunteers to help with sorting items and other tasks. For more information on Robyn's Nest, or if you are interested in volunteering, you can contact me at frizzellbrooke@gmail.com or [414-477-1270](tel:414-477-1270), or you can contact Lona directly at Lona.LongVelasco@cssw.org.

Thank you again for your generosity with this new and exciting project!

~Brooke Frizzell



EPISCOPAL 101

You are warmly invited to learn more about the Episcopal faith in a three-part conversation with the Rector and each other. For three Thursdays in February, come talk about the Church, the Trinity, the Sacraments... basically all the things the Church assumes we know but we may not! Come with all your questions: Why do some people cross themselves? Why do the clergy wear funny clothes? What is the Book of Common Prayer and why should I care? All levels of churchy



knowledge welcome. And, as always, there will be cake. Bring your questions!

Please RSVP to sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org. This class is especially appropriate for anyone who would like to be confirmed, received or baptized. As much as possible, I would like participants to commit to being at all three sessions.

~Ian Burch

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING

St. Mark's Parish Hall

Feb. 4 · 9 a.m. to noon

For more information and to register
for the training:

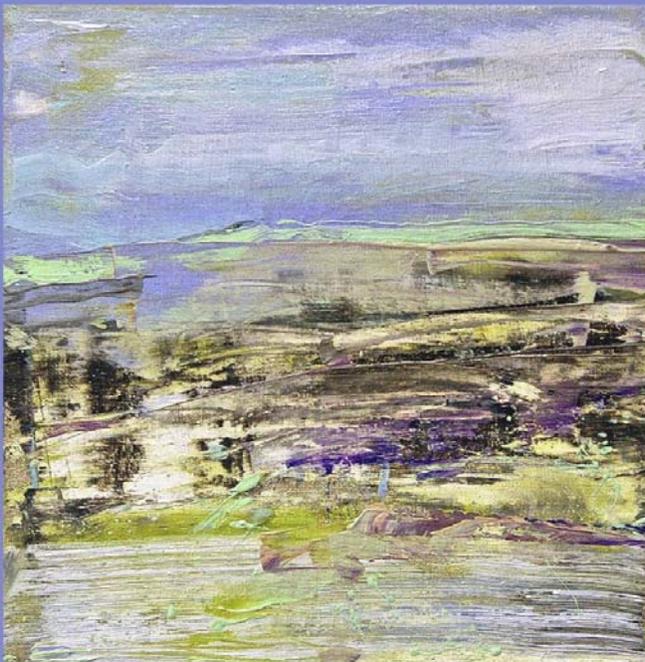
www.diomil.org/forming-disciples/safeguarding-gods-people-misconduct-prevention-training/



"The Afternoon knows what the Morning never suspected." —Robert Frost

Moving Over Uncharted Ground: Aging as a Spiritual Practice

March 5 – 12, 2017
at Saint John's On The Lake, Milwaukee



Irish Study #15 by Terrence Coffman

Learn from eight of the nation's most compelling thinkers interweave scientific findings with music, art and the stories of older adults to illuminate the spiritual depths of aging.

**Register Early –
Seating is Limited**

For More Information,
and to Register, visit:
www.SaintJohnsMilw.org
or call 414-831-6905.

1840 North Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 831-6905

WHO IS COMMON GROUND?

Common Ground is a group of nonpartisan, proactive, everyday citizens in Southeastern Wisconsin, dedicated to identifying pressing social problems facing our community and bringing about creative solutions.

Common Ground's strength is in the commitment of more than forty congregations, neighborhood groups, nonprofits, schools, and small businesses to take action on regional issues. Our 40,000 members live and work in four counties in Southeastern Wisconsin—Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha. We capitalize on the power that our diverse member organizations bring to our common goals.

Common Ground is part of a national network affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest institution of professional organizing in the United States. St. Mark's is a member organization of Common Ground.

COMMON GROUND CORE BELIEFS

Following one of the most polarizing and divisive elections in our country's history, Common Ground leaders and our 60+ sister organizations in the Industrial Areas Foundation are recommitting to our core values, which call us to bridge the divides, protect the vulnerable, and take action to build a better future. As we approach our 10-year anniversary, we are publicizing these values to our members, donors, and allies.



1. We demand that people are treated with dignity, honor, and respect in our communities.
We are creating strategies to address and confront intimidation and harassment. We are working to broaden and deepen our power in communities typically disenfranchised.
2. We believe that everyone deserves a voice in our democracy.
We are rebuilding the civic sector by strengthening our institutions—schools, congregations, unions, neighborhood groups and small businesses. We are recommitting to leadership development so that our institutions will be more powerful and prepared to organize.
3. We stand together.
We share a commitment to organizing across lines of race, class, faith, gender, political ideology, sexual orientation, and other identities. Together, we will find creative solutions to our collective problems. We are smarter and stronger when we stand together.
4. We believe that developing public relationships through face-to-face meetings is essential to a thriving society.
We commit our time and energy to face-to-face meetings and building trust to transform ourselves, our communities and the world around us. We will intensify this practice leading up to our 10-year anniversary.
5. People working together have the power to change their communities and their country for the better.

In My Father's House There Are Many Rooms



Our exploration of the many different expressions of Christianity continues at the Sunday Adult Education program in February. Classes will be held in the library following the service on these dates:

Feb. 5—The Evangelicals
Feb. 12—The Pentecostals
Feb. 19—The Pietists

Coming Attractions!

What's God Up To? Confusion, Betrayal, Destruction and Murder in Genesis

Scripture gives us many things—comfort, guidance and, most of all, revelation. But there are several Bible stories that seem confusing and disturbing in their portrayal of God and God's people as jealous, revengeful and violent. Beginning February 26 and continuing through Lent, this Sunday Adult Education program will explore six stories from Genesis to see if the fog is inherent in revelation or of our own making. The first class will look at the Bible's first dysfunctional family in the story of Cain and Abel.

For any questions about the Adult Education offerings, please contact the Rev. John Hickey, rostovdog@aol.com.

Theology Pub (2nd Tuesday of the Month) and Bible Study (Wednesdays at 4 p.m.) are also offered for your theological pleasure.

THE GATHERING

Dear Gathering Friends at St. Mark's

A big move is in store for The Gathering this year—literally! We will be moving our downtown programs from St. James Episcopal Church on 8th & Wisconsin to St. Ben's Community Meal Site at 9th & State. Target time for the move is mid to late March of this year. This is not a merger with St. Ben's; just a change of location and of landlord. The Gathering will continue to cook and serve breakfast Monday through Friday and Saturday lunch at the same times and in the same way. We are currently working with St. Ben's on storage and additional kitchen space and will soon begin talking through policies and programming.

The impetus behind this move is the potential sale of the St. James building. Because we do not know whether or not The Gathering will be allowed to continue in that space once the building is sold, we made the decision to seek a new location and to proceed with the move on our own terms and in our own time. Both St. Ben's and The Gathering come from a faith-based perspective and focus on providing meals to those in need with respect and dignity. Hospitality is the backbone of both of our programs, and we serve many of the same guests.

As you may know, The Gathering began at St. James Episcopal Church in 1982 as an Episcopal ministry with a Saturday lunch and Monday through Friday breakfast, primarily to complement the Sunday through Friday dinner served at St. Ben's, four blocks north. This move has no direct impact on our other three meal locations or office location.

We anticipate the physical move, renovation, and equipment purchases to cost \$40,000–\$50,000 and are running a Capital Campaign to cover those costs. If you would be interested in helping us, please call The Gathering office at 414-272-4122 or email us at soulfood@thegatheringwis.org.

Gratefully,
Ginny Schrag
Executive Director, The Gathering



Breakfast at The Gathering

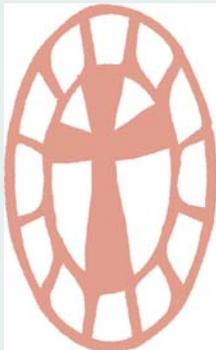


**People in community,
feeding the hungry.**

If you are interested in helping The Gathering, please contact:

414-272-4122

soulfood@thegatheringwis.org



HAITI PROJECT: POST-HURRICANE MATTHEW TRIP

Last November I had the great fortune of being a part of the Haiti Project's trip to Jeanette, Haiti. It was an experience that connected me with God and my faith and opened my mind to the beauty, kindness and spirituality of the Haitian people. I became familiar with the Haiti Project through the experience of Tom Cramer, a retired carpenter and former St. Mark's parishioner, who went down last year. On this trip I was overcome by the power of Christ in this small mountain village and the sense of community that prevailed in their way of living. This trip was not just for the sake of our own spiritual journeys but was devoted to helping having a positive impact for others with limited resources.

This all started when I found out that Heidi Ropa, the project coordinator, was looking to bring on board someone with civil engineering experience for the construction of new latrines, a cistern and hurricane



Alex showing how to properly use a chainsaw.

down a chainsaw and taught men in the village how to successfully operate it and evaluate how it could affect the natural environment.

What the Haiti project has done in Jeanette is nothing less than remarkable. The Haiti Project helps run the church, school, health clinic and community programs which have had a tremendous impact on thousands of people of the years. Over that week of

“What the Haiti Project has done in Jeanette is nothing less than remarkable.”

proof/earthquake resistant homes. I had some reservations about the cost, my limited number of vacation days and my safety while traveling on unsafe roads in crowded vehicles. With the effects of Hurricane Matthew, we had to retool our mission. Not only was this going to be a building project and healthcare focused mission but also a response to the natural disaster. We took



Smiling faces at St. Marc's School in Jeanette

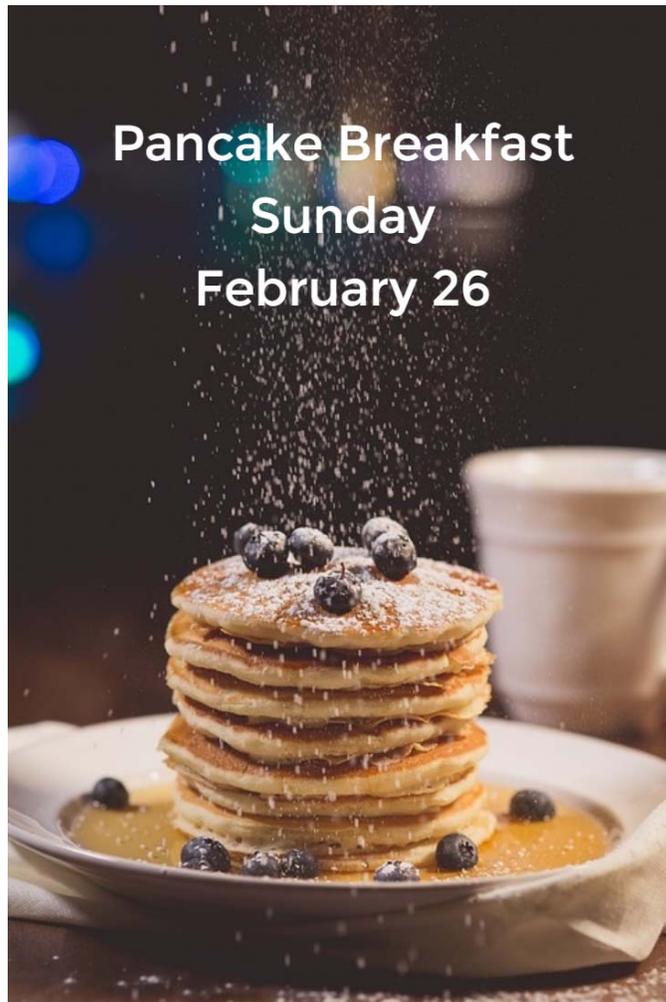
visiting, 200 people were seen at the clinic. The St. Marc's School has over 550 students from kindergarten through college prep. Throughout the week, the St. Marc's campus was full of smiling faces in colorful matching uniforms. I recall our visit with a woman in her home on a new hillside. She knew Cathy Parrill, former Haiti Project coordinator, from years previous and was overcome by joy. She gave us a 10-minute long blessing when we departed her home, which was powerful. The most amazing part of this trip was attending a Haitian Episcopal service and hearing the most joyful and calming Haitian music in God's praise. It gave me a rush knowing there is something more beautiful than words can express.

~Alex Cain

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 Bob Canary
- 2/2 Mimi Wainwright
- 2/6 Ashley Green
- 2/10 Jennifer O'Hear
- 2/13 Joan Martinie
- 2/14 Bill Wainwright
- 2/16 Michael Weinert
- 2/17 Vince Katter
- 2/22 Mary Goode



Leadership Days



February 11
9 am to 3 pm

April 8
9 am to Noon

Nashotah House

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?	Clergy, wardens, vestry members, and other ministry leaders
WHAT WILL BE PRESENTED?	The Rev. Scott Stoner will present on healing and wellness ministries. Learn to create vitality within your congregation and to find ways to connect with and meet the felt needs of your surrounding community.
TO REGISTER	Please contact Ian if you're interested; deadline is February 1
FEE	\$10 to cover the cost of lunch on Feb. 11

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir	2 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	3 Rector's Day Off 4:30 PM Studio Concert 8 PM AA	4 9 AM Safeguarding Training 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
5 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11 AM Adult Formation	6 12:30 PM EfM 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 7 PM Shepherds Meeting	7 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga	8 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir 7 PM Outreach Committee	9 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 7 PM Episcopal 101 8 PM AA	10 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	11 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
12 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Ministry Fair 11 AM Adult Formation	13 12:30 PM EfM 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	14 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Theology Pub	15 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir	16 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 7 PM Episcopal 101 8 PM AA	17 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	18 9 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9:30 AM Quilting Circle 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
19 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11 AM Adult Formation 5:30 PM Confirmation	20 12:30 PM EfM 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	21 ELECTIONS ALL DAY 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga	22 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir	23 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 7 PM Episcopal 101 8 PM AA	24 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	25 9 AM–2 PM Vestry Retreat, location TBA 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
26 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Pancake Breakfast	27 12:30 PM EfM 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 7 PM Women's Book Group	28 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga				
<div style="background-color: #d3d3d3; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> For the most current update, please view our calendar on our website: www.stmarksmilwaukee.org </div>						

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Mark's is a growing, welcoming parish on Milwaukee's Eastside. We are a vibrant community of sojourners and seekers. We are young and old, families, singles and couples, gay and straight, from a variety of races and ethnic backgrounds. Together we represent a diverse array of perspectives and life experiences. We believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives and in the world and that we are called, both as individuals and as a community, to share Christ's love with our neighbors. We hope that the community at St. Mark's will help you to grow deeper in your faith and that you will find yourself enlivened by service to God and to God's world.

The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, Bishop of Milwaukee
The Rev. Ian C. Burch, Rector
The Rev. Michelle P. Mooney, Deacon
The Rev. John Hickey, Priest Associate
Stephen Wolff, Director of Music
Virginia Chappell, Senior Warden
Ron Tunis, Junior Warden
Bruce Jacobs, Treasurer
Sara Bitner, Parish Administrator
Bill Davies, Bookkeeper
Jyoti Bratz, Housekeeper
Skrauss, Sexton

Vestry Members
Jackie Adams
Marian Byers
Paula Wheeler
Tom Lacy
Ellie Mixter-Keller
Brooke Frizzell
Cheryl Johnson
Michael O'Hear

Sunday Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday Eucharist 6:00 p.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Eastside Senior Services: 414-210-5881

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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