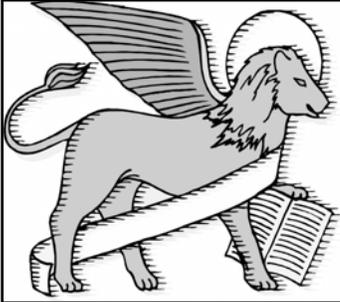


February 2015

The Lion

Volume 27, Issue 2



Warden's Corner

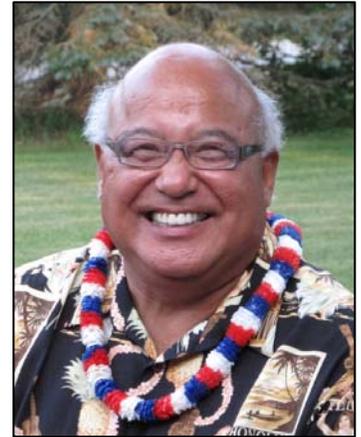
Speech from the 2015 Annual Meeting, Jan. 25

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL

The Lion

Dear St. Mark's Friends in Christ,

It has been an honor serving as your Senior Warden this past year. Your Junior Warden, Virginia Chappell, and I give thanks to all of you for showing us God's grace through your work on all the ministries serving this community. We have much to celebrate today. Despite not having a rector for half of this year, St. Mark's educational programs and community involvement continue to thrive. Our building has seen the completion of many repairs, and the establishment of a true endowment fund with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation will ensure a continued legacy of financial support for the mission and ministry of St. Mark's.



It was an eventful year for St. Mark's, and I would like to briefly mention a few examples of how we minister to ourselves and to the outside community:

I am happy to report the success of a new program that was introduced to our 6th grade thru 12th grade Sunday School students this fall. The new Sunday Exploration group began listening to the book, *Seedfolks*, by Paul Fleishman. This book encourages our students to reach out to those in need within our community.

Education has also expanded with a new adult ministry called "Theology Pub" that meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Paddy's Pub. It offers a Christian experience in an informal setting to discuss theological issues, enjoy food and friends, and imbibe the gifts of God on Milwaukee's East Side. Its first meeting was attended by 23 people. I encourage you to join your friends and support this new ministry.

Our community involvement with Common Ground continues. All campaigns have seen tremendous advancement toward their goals, but two in particular merit mention. Funded with a \$56 million loan from the federal government through the Affordable Care Act on January 1st of this last year, the non-profit, member-governed, Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative was launched. And the Fair Play campaign's goals to strengthen neighborhoods by upgrading athletic and recreational spaces as part of any program that uses public funds for a new arena are also advancing steadily.

The tremendous Outreach efforts at the annual Flower Sale, Corn Roast and Pumpkin Sale would not be possible without the many volunteers who dedicated their time and talents to raise over \$11,000 to be distributed to over a dozen local and international charitable organizations.

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Warden's Corner, continued

Finally, I am excited to share how communicating with St. Mark's members has gotten easier with the implementation of an online directory. See Sara today and she will demonstrate how easy it is to use.

Throughout the year, I witnessed all of you help one another, encourage each other, and pray for one another. Mathew 18:20 speaks to me, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." This scripture has taught me so much about what St. Mark's means to me. I have found the blessing of Jesus in many of you with how you have ministered to each other.

Sunday Worship

Sunday worship brings our spiritual lives together and is the most important time for all of us to join our lives together with the Holy Spirit. We sing praises to God, we proclaim his resurrection, and we receive his body and blood in communion to live Christ's love to us and in the world. Attendance during times of Transition is normally down, and here at St. Mark's, we are not any different. We anticipate that when a new rector is called here, attendance will return to normal and continue to grow.

During the interim, I am pleased to announce that we have supply clergy scheduled every Sunday till April 12, 2015, including clergy for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services. The Rev. John Hickey, Rev. Tom Niehaus, Rev. Pickett Wall, and Rev. Wayne Fehr have agreed to share their talents with us.

Thanksgiving to all Ministries

At our December Men's Fellowship breakfast, my emotions got the best of me when I was praying together with our group. It was so difficult for me to get the words out because I realized how the Holy Spirit moved not only through this group of men—but also through all of the ministries here at St. Mark's. I thank all of you for your enthusiasm as you share your gifts, talents, and time. I am truly grateful for the smile you offer, the helping hand, and the energy you have to joyfully minister to others whether your ministry is the Flower Guild, coffee hour, ushering, choir, Sunday School or one of the other 35 to 40 different ministries that we actively participate in. It is important to note that we have not missed any programs during this interim period. And most of your good works are done with little, if any, input from your Senior or Junior Warden. I am so grateful to find the Holy Spirit among so many here at St. Mark's. Thank you so very much for your ministries to others.

A good friend of mine gave me a quote from an unknown person. The quote says, "live in such a way that those who know you, but don't know God, will come to know God because they know you." I see this relationship here. I see us talking to newcomers on Sunday mornings gladly welcoming and inviting them into our spiritual home. I see new people being invited to become part of our parish life. Our hospitality to others is how the Holy Spirit is known to others through us, and I am glad to be part of this community that cares so much for others.

Thank Yous

After April's departure, there has been a special person that has ministered to you and to me personally. Deacon Michelle Mooney, I am grateful for all that you do here at St. Mark's. Your love for this place is shown in all the ways that you have cared for us. I have not known you to say no. I have appreciated your discerning mind to help me in growing and being a better fit here at St. Mark's. I see Michelle enriching all of us here. I cannot count your passions—it's more than Common Ground, it's more than welcoming newcomers, it's more than your encouragement to all of us, and it's more than reading the

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Warden's Corner, continued

Gospel on Sunday mornings. Your calling when you were ordained is to serve others, and you do this faithfully. Michelle, you have been that example to this community and to the neighborhood. You are counted in my blessings in how much you have ministered to us. I have learned from you and admire how you share the Holy Spirit with your love to all. Thank you.

I would also like to thank our Junior Warden, Virginia Chappell, for all of the support she has given us this year. Her work with our new parish administrator, Sara Bitner, has made the transition much smoother than anticipated. Virginia's work with "Safeguarding God's Children" and her assistance with the Bride's Walk repairs are just a few examples of tasks that she has handled. Virginia has shown me her faith, her joy to serve us at all times, and how much she cares for her faith community. She is always there to give me support. Thank you, Virginia.

St. Mark's efficient administration support continues with our parish administrator, Sara Bitner, who took over the position from Stacy Roller—whom many of us grew to love. Sara received a few short weeks of training and then filled the position of parish administrator. Sara, without a rector to work with, has performed above our expectations. It is Sara's welcoming voice that greets us when we call the office. Our new rector will discover that we have a very special parish administrator. You will hear from Sara when she shows you how to navigate through the Online Church Directory. Sara, I am grateful for your skills that you have brought to us as parish administrator. Thank you.

Other staff members who deserve to be mentioned include the stewards of the building, sexton and housekeeper, Skrauss and Jyoti. It is with a grateful heart that I thank these people for continuing to offer their gifts to us.

And finally, our choir director, Steve Wolff, whose gift of music has been a blessing to all of us. Steve is always smiling, and his enthusiasm for his concert series and his eagerness to embrace new members at St. Mark's is beautiful things.

Your Vestry members have also given a lot of their time and effort to accomplish large and small projects. Their work is never done. They have approved a responsible budget that fits our needs, and I am thankful for their gifts that they have given to this community. Thank you.

I am thankful for the dedication of our staff members, our vestry and all of you who volunteer to keep St. Mark's an inviting place to worship. With your help, St. Mark's continues to grow.

This year's key tasks completed by Sr. Warden , Jr. Warden and Vestry

1. Most of the Bride's Walk water damage repairs are completed. New carpet is to be installed this Wednesday (Jan. 28) and a new coat rack will be installed within the next two weeks.
2. Sara Bitner was hired as our parish administrator. Our office had a smooth transition with Sara performing all her tasks well. Sara had the difficulty of adjusting to our office administration job during April's leaving.
3. April's Departure. On Sunday, July 13, 2014, a festive luncheon for April's leaving was hosted by the Vestry.
4. New folding chairs for St. Mark's Guild hall were purchased with donations from St. Mark's members. Chairs look great.
5. The discernment committee formed with the following members: Kathy Katter and Bill Wainwright co-chairs, Lloyd Campo, Meg Edwards, Janet Martin, Andrew Muriuki, Susan Rohde, Bill Stotts, Ron Tunis, Paula Wheeler, and Jamie Zingler.

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Warden's Corner

6. We now have an Online Church Directory that is user-friendly to use. Sara Bitner, our parish administrator, will help you if you have problems navigating and using the directory.
7. A true endowment designed to support the mission and ministry of St. Mark's was established through the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

As we move into 2015

The biggest news this year will be meeting our new rector. Our Discernment Committee is committed to begin interviewing candidates to serve us. I am hopeful that we will have a rector in place at St. Mark's no later than this summer.

Our average attendance before Christmas was approx. 75, but since Christmas it has only been 55 persons. The holidays and the Green Bay Packer games account for the lower attendance. I am very encouraged when I consider the dedication I have witnessed to so many ministries this past year. I see newcomers coming through our doors, and your hospitality has welcomed all. I am overjoyed by seeing the excitement of our Sunday School students when they enter church to receive communion. I trust that God is calling us to grow and spread the Gospel here on the East Side. I pray that the Holy Spirit continues to move in each and every one of us.

I don't mean to be the bearer of all good news. Sandi Tunis, our treasurer, and John Cain our Stewardship Chair will be giving us their reports. Your vestry has provided a responsible budget with little wiggle room for added expense. Don't be discouraged. The budget maintains all of the ministries that we do to serve others. Our new rector may want to add other ministries to grow a larger presence to our neighborhoods. The news is encouraging, but we have more work to do.

I look at this new year and see us growing our faith in new directions. Our Sunday Exploration class and Theology Pub are examples of successful new ministries and I look forward to watching them grow.

Most of all, I give thanks to God for all of you and your dedication to serving this community. The Holy Spirit lives in each of you and the Holy Spirit lives here at St. Mark's. He is evident in our liturgy and music, our hospitality, and the beautiful and loving smiles we see from all of you within this community. I have been blessed with your prayers. Remember that He will bless us with His Grace in ways that we will not anticipate. I am waiting in anticipation. Amen.

~Frank



The graphic features five vertical panels with symbols: a green palm frond, a blue boat, a yellow chalice, a pink wreath, and a green cross. Below these panels, the word "Lent" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font.

We have received a limited amount of Lenten Devotionals. They will be available on a first come, first served basis at the back of the church beginning Sunday, Feb. 15.

Deacon's Corner

Looking out my study window in the mornings, for the past 4–5 months, I have seen a dog and a family that have been spending enormous amounts of time with this pup. The family, I realized are members at St. Mark's, but that is not as important to me as what they have been doing with what I was to learn was a rescue dog.

I noticed the whole family at different times working with this new pet to their family for many hours, almost daily. They even had a trainer that was working with them from time to time.

Finally one day, my curiosity getting the better of me, I wandered over to them and asked them about all the time they were spending out on the green space with their "new friend." The family told me how they had adopted this dog from the Humane Society, I believe, as a pup and had been having a lot of trouble with him becoming a member of the family.

He sometimes barked at the two children's friends in a way that scared them. He needed what seemed to be a lot of exercise and that didn't entail just letting him out in the yard. He was, in short, not what they had thought they were getting for a "family pet experience."

But at the same time, I could tell that they seemed really committed to the dog, even hiring a private trainer to help them work with the dog. And so it went for the summer and fall, hour after hour.

I talked to them recently about how things were going and they said, "much better." He was really starting to become the family pet that they had wanted and could enjoy for years to come.

Bravo, I thought. Now this is a dog, not their firstborn son, and yet I admired them for sticking at making him a part of their family, and not just returning him to the Humane Society as a dog that was just too much trouble.

I hope I have just half the patience that these folks have when I work with folks that I deal with who are "troublesome." I hope I can have the trust that with time and hard work, some relationships can be redeemed and improved through faith and hard work.

In a society that wants a quick "fix" for all our troublesome relationships instead of expecting and carrying out patience, work, and understanding, following the dog saga outside my window has been inspiring. This family is my hero of the year.

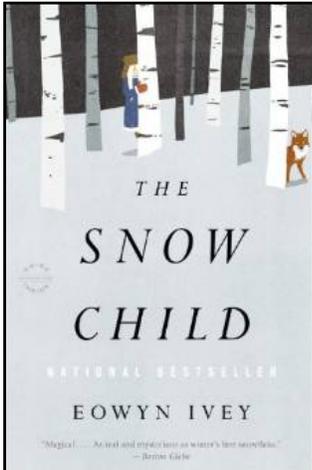
Peace.

~Michelle



Common Ground Core Team will be hosting Coffee Hour on Feb. 22 to honor givers and show our gratitude for your support of Common Ground.

Women's Book Group



The Women's Book Group will not be meeting in February as we meet about every 6 weeks. Our next date to get together is March 2 at 7 p.m. at the home of Sandi Tunis. The book to be discussed is *The Snow Child: A Novel* by Eowyn Ivey. February is a short month so pick up your copy soon from the bookstore or library. You may purchase the book at Boswell for a ten-percent discount.

All women of the church are invited. Friends are also very welcome.

Stewardship 2015 Update

As we come to the close of our Stewardship 2015 Financial Campaign, I am struck by the great generosity expressed by our family at St. Mark's. In a year where we are actively seeking a new Rector, one may wonder what impact that has on such a campaign. Though we are short of our \$240,000 goal to date, we have done very well. Our current 2015 pledge amount is \$205,700, or 86% of goal. Of the sixty 2015 pledges, down a few from last year, 70% are at or greater than last year's pledges (31 greater and 11 same). We have 3 new pledges this year. A few down from last year, but I think that is expected considering we currently do not have a full-time Rector. Of equal significance, the average annual 2015 pledge is \$3,428, which is measurably greater than the Diocesan average and national church average. That is a true testimony to the commitment we all continue to make to our family at St. Mark's.

As always, sharing generously the gifts which God has given us is a way to serve God, who is the giver of all good things. It is also a way to support this community of St. Mark's, the place where we come to worship and to pray, where we hear the good news of the Gospel, and the place where we find encouragement to live out our faith in the world.

Finally, I want to express my sincerest appreciation to all who worked hard on this year's campaign, including our Stewardship Committee of Frank West, Barbara Costanzo, Meg Edwards, Vince Katter, Harry Moseley, Sandra McLellan, Michelle Mooney, and Ron Zingler, as well as those who offered to share their St. Mark's experiences, including Richard Runkel, Mary Ross, Sandra McLellan, and Paula Wheeler. Thank you all!!

Faithfully,
John Cain, Stewardship Chair

*For where your
treasure is, there
will your heart
be also.*

Matthew 6:21

Coffee Hour

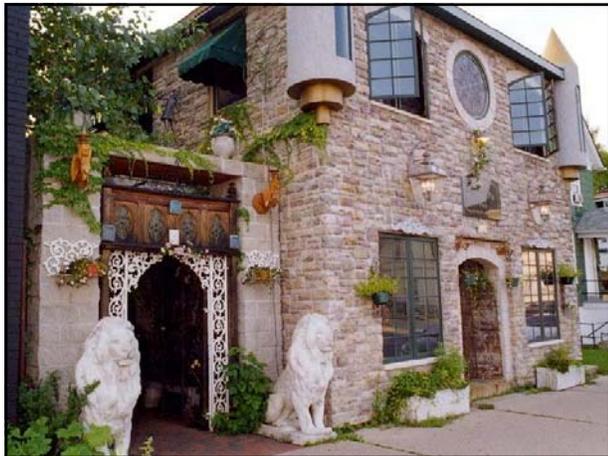
Thank you to everyone who volunteered to host coffee hour during January—Mary and Michael Williams, the Lacy family, Jamie and Ron Zingler, and the O’Hear family.

I hope you will consider taking a turn hosting, and help continue St. Mark’s tradition of hospitality. Perhaps you can make a commitment to sign up two or three times this year?! Please ask me if you have any questions.

~Jane Shero



The Theology Pub Is Open!



Sometimes it takes a very casual setting to open up about one’s spiritual life. Sometimes it takes a drink or two. To help and encourage each other examine theological issues, a monthly Theology Pub series started last month at Paddy’s Pub on Milwaukee’s east side. Events like this have sprung up around the country, and they offer great opportunities to discuss religion in an informal setting. The premise is simple: gather together, grab a drink and chat. Theology Pub is open to all, whether you are religious or not, as long as you are respectful to your fellow explorers of existence.

The first Theology Pub was a success, drawing 23 participants for a fun evening of draughts, conversation, and nachos. We discussed the importance of facts and truth in religious experience (yes, we fell down the rabbit hole of the “what is a fact?” and “what is truth?” questions), as well as the power of community to strengthen one’s faith. Theology Pub will be held on the third Tuesday of every month, and the next one will be at 6 p.m. on February 17 at Paddy’s Pub, 2339 N. Murray Ave. All are welcome to imbibe the gifts of God with us this month and hopefully many more to come.

~Dan Buckler

For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/theologypubmilwaukee>



Next Theology Pub: Feb. 17

Important Notes

Birthdays

2/1	Bob Canary
2/2	Geoffrey Aster
2/2	Mimi Wainwright
2/6	Ashley Green
2/8	Kirstin Kirschner
2/10	Jennifer O’Hear
2/12	Elizabeth Styles
2/13	Joan Martinie
2/14	Bill Wainwright
2/16	Michael Weinert
2/17	Ryan Hemmer
2/17	Vince Katter
2/19	Katherine Kirschner
2/22	Mary Goode



Safeguarding God’s Children Training at St. Mark’s

Feb. 28 · 9 a.m. to noon

For more information and to register for the training:

<http://www.diomil.org/forming-disciples/safeguarding-gods-people-misconduct-prevention-training/>

Riverwest Food Pantry Wish List Items

- No-added-sugar canned mixed fruit, peaches or pears, or dried fruit
- Low-sodium canned peas or spinach
- Low-sodium specialty soups
- Low-sodium or regular tomato sauce or tomato paste

Riverwest Food Pantry welcomes empty egg cartons!

New Parish Officers

Our eleven-member Vestry has three new members: Jackie Adams, Marian Byers, and Paula Wheeler. They were elected to three-year terms at the parish’s Annual Meeting on Jan. 25. Feel free to chat with these three, along with the wardens and the other six Vestry members (listed on the back cover of each *Lion*), about any questions or concerns you may have as we move through the year.

Immediately after the Annual Meeting the new Vestry met briefly to elect a clerk—Brad Kirschner—and a new treasurer—Barbara Costanzo. Both were elected to three-year Vestry terms last year.



February 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	2 5 PM Adult Formation 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	3 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM –12 PM Thrift Shop 12:30 PM EfM at St. John's 3:30 PM Yoga	4 3:30 PM UWM: International Cuisines 4 PM Bible Study 7 PM Choir 7 PM Downer Ave. Meeting with Alderman Kovac	5 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 7:30 PM AA	6 7:30 PM AA	7 10 AM Visitation preceding Funeral Service for Kay West at noon
8 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and Sunday School 11:15 AM Creative Circle	9 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:15 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	10 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM –12 PM Thrift Shop 12:30 PM EfM at St. John's 3:30 PM Yoga	11 3:30 PM UWM: International Cuisines 4 PM Bible Study 7 PM Choir	12 7:30 AM Yoga 12 PM CG Core Team 3:30 PM Yoga 7:30 PM AA	13 9 AM Archive Committee 7:30 PM AA	14 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
15 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and Sunday School 11 AM Pancake Breakfast	16 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	17 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM –12 PM Thrift Shop 12:30 PM EfM at St. John's 3:30 PM Yoga 6 PM Theology Pub 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting	18 4:30 PM Family Ash Wednesday Service 4:30 PM ESS Board Meeting 7 PM Ash Wednesday Eucharist 8 PM Choir	19 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 5:30 PM Shepherds 7:30 PM AA	20 7:30 PM AA	21 9 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
22 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist and Sunday School	23 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	24 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM –12 PM Thrift Shop 12:30 PM EfM at St. John's 3:30 PM Yoga	25 3:30 PM UWM International Cuisines 4 PM Bible Study 7 PM Choir	26 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 5:30 PM Mark's Bistro 7:30 PM AA	27 7:30 PM AA	28 9 AM Safeguarding God's Children Training 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop

Mark's Bistro Lenten Activities Announced



The Mark's Bistro will present a series on Lenten themes entitled **"Recharging Your Spiritual Batteries: Lenten Practices."** The sessions will be presented Thursdays in the Library beginning February 26. Each evening will begin at **5:30 p.m.** with prayer & a meal. The presentation will take place from **6:15 to 7:30 p.m.** Please let Sara in the Office or Deacon Michelle know if you intend to join us for the meal. A donation of \$8 is requested to cover the food. All are welcome!

Other Formation activities include Sunday Lenten sessions after the service led by Rev. John Hickey. More about these activities can be found in the weekly bulletins and e-mails. Please join us as we explore the many facets of the Lenten season.

Sunday School

Hello everyone,

Well, after the excitement of Advent and Christmas, January has been a time to be back in our classrooms with our regular curriculum. Looking ahead to February in Sunday School we have our annual tradition of burying an Alleluia banner on the Sunday (2/15) before Ash Wednesday (2/18). We will create the banner on February 8, so it will be dry by the next Sunday the 15th. Creating the banner often involves quite a bit of paint and glue. We will take down any "Alleluias" in the Sunday School classrooms and the decorations on the bulletin boards.



These activities teach the importance of the church calendar in our shared spiritual life. Before we have the celebration and joy of Easter there is the reflection of Lent. If you would like to help with the banner or have any questions, contact Sara in the office or me.

~Mary Ross



Common Ground at St. Mark's

Common Ground continues to fight for money for our children's playgrounds and sports facilities. Common Ground opposes public money being spent to build a new Bucks arena. The campaign is called Fair Play and it is led by our own, Jennifer O'Hear. Fair Play activists are continuing to plan new and creative ways to insure that the public and private entities that will be deciding this issue never lose sight of what we want, which is Fair Play.

Milwaukee Rising LCC, which develops foreclosed houses gained from banks, along with the City of Milwaukee and other entities involved in improving city housing stock, is going forward well. It is finishing and selling houses almost every day.

The Sherman Park Action Team (SPAT) is working on other issues such as crime, supporting the development of better retail strips to shop at, and other issues that affect living in their neighborhoods.

The St. Mark's Friends of Common Ground has raised their quota of funds for 2015. The quota was \$4,000. In fact, we have well surpassed that, we think, and are awaiting the final numbers coming in. Thanks to everyone at St. Mark's for their generous contributions. We will be hosting the Coffee Hour at St. Mark's on Sunday, Feb. 22, to honor our givers and show our gratitude. We will also have on display some of the latest efforts of all of our issue work.

Thanks to everyone at St. Mark's who have been so generous with their time and their money.



Lent Begins February 18



Fat Tuesday Pancake Breakfast

Join us for pancakes on Sunday, February 15, after the service sponsored by the Men's Fellowship Group. Suggested donation is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child.

Ash Wednesday Services

Join us as we start the season of Lent. Services will be held on February 18. A family-friendly service with no Eucharist will be at 4:30 p.m. and a Eucharist will be celebrated at 7 p.m.

Mark's Bistro resumes Thursday, Feb. 26.

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

Jane Shero

Richard Runkel

Brad Kirschner

Susan Rohde

Barbara Costanzo

Jackie Adams

Marian Byers

Paula Wheeler

Transforming lives through meaningful relationships with God in Jesus Christ.