

Mark Your
Calendar:
Rachel
Zylstra in
Concert—
July 19
7 p.m.

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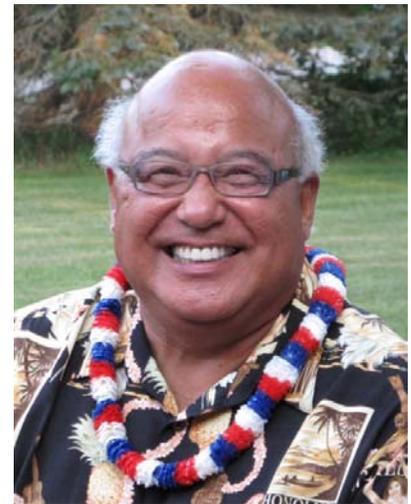
Warden's Corner

Dear St. Mark's Family,

I hope you noticed that I began this as "Dear St. Mark's Family." This warden's report is coming to you from Atlanta, Georgia, where I'm visiting close family friends and of course thinking of my Milwaukee family in prayer and pleasant thoughts. All of you are my family. We in Hawaii are proud of our "*Ohana*" (family) as I am with St. Mark's being my Milwaukee "*Ohana*." Whether I'm here in Atlanta or someplace else, St. Mark's is a part of me. I look up and see our gorgeous stained glass window with the sun shining through and Jesus holding a lamb. I stare up at that stained glass and feel God's peace and know that I am home.

John 10:14-18 "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The stained glass window and scripture message are telling me that God is with us to offer comfort and peace. St. Mark's is that place that reaches out beyond our own community. We volunteer for The



Gathering, our outreach supports many others in need, many volunteer for Common Ground—just a few examples of what we do. Many of us reach out in our daily work and volunteering. God's Grace has helped us to reach many in need and to be kind and welcoming to all that enter our doors. This is all that I think of when reminded that I am away from home. The return home is as joyful as my vacation journey.

Just looking back at the month of June shows what a busy place we are. On the first Sunday, after the service, your Vestry, Wardens, and Discernment Committee members all met in the library, inviting all of you to join us with your questions and comments. The news that we must re-open our Rector Search had left all of us very disappointed, but we are encouraged by all of you that we are going in the right direction. Onward will take us a little longer. We are very grateful for all of the work that the Discernment Committee has done and we will use most of their information to lead

Warden's Corner, cont.

My personal thank you to the Discernment Committee for their many hours of fruitful work to move us on, with God's help, to choose a minister who will minister to us.

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Tuesday of the third week was a busy day with the Theology Pub meeting and also a Vestry meeting. One item was that the new Search Committee was announced. Some members from the Discernment Committee were not able to continue to serve because of other personal commitments, and the Vestry replaced those not able to serve with Vestry members. The new discernment committee will be called the Search Committee and will include the Wardens as co-chairs and the following as members: Jackie Adams, Lloyd Campo, Barbara Costanzo, Meg Edwards, Susan Rhode, Ron Tunis and Jaime Zingler.

As the Search Committee's work continues we will be reporting how things are progressing. As we have said before, "we are disappointed by the need to extend the search, as we imagine most of you are. Nonetheless, we are energized by the challenges ahead and optimistic about the ultimate outcome. This is a wonderful and strong parish. Our new rector is out there—we just have to find him or her, and help him or her find us."

As I write, I'm looking forward to Saturday, June 27, the day of the Downer Classic Bicycle Races and our Corn Roast. This event is an all-day event where you can volunteer for a couple hours or as long as you would like. I enjoy this day so much it is an



Frank operating the corn roaster at last year's Downer Classic.

all-dayer for me. There is nowhere else that you can meet the neighborhood folks and their children, laugh and eat good food, than this day while raising money for St. Mark's Outreach at the same time.

Please keep your Vestry, Wardens, Search Committee and the St. Mark's Family in your prayers.

Peace and Blessings,
Frank West, Sr. Warden

Lion Deadlines

The September *Lion* will be out on September 1. All articles will be due on August 19. Thanks!

Deacon's Corner

Being in between a pastor often seems to some people that other than Sunday morning, church work and ministries grind to a halt. Nothing could be further from the truth. Being in an in-between time, means that the lay people of the parish must rise to leadership, sometimes for the first time. Many great leaders have been developed during this time.

This is because the parish needs it to happen. Many of the planning, pastoral, and formation activities must continue to work without the support of the rector. Sometimes that is uncomfortable, but I have found that it can also be a time when people rise to these challenges and do wonderful work.

I would like to suggest that the one thing that all of us can do during this time, is to get to know at least one other person or family that are only faces to you now. Some of us call these "one-to-ones," where one parishioner arranges with another to have coffee or perhaps lunch or dinner and really get to know each other.

These are not meetings where you are trying to recruit this person to your parish committee or to make her the "head" of a new program. You are meeting just to get to know this person better and to share with them somethings about yourself.

You might ask her why she came to St. Mark's, if she is a long time parishioner, or what has kept her here. Maybe he shares an interest in something you volunteer in. Certainly share how he might get involved too. Most people are just waiting to be asked.

If you can share a little of your life story, then maybe your coffee partner can share some of theirs. To be better understood by at least one other member of the parish, can open up new friendships for them and you as well.

Another great thing is for members of the parish who are shut-ins to receive notes from fellow parishioners. You don't have to know them well to send an encouraging note of kindness. A visit is great too, but not necessary. If you would like the names of a few people to drop notes too, feel free to contact me at my home phone or e-mail.



My last suggestion, and one of my personal favorites, is to make it a point to sit down at one of the tables during coffee hour and really talk with someone you don't know well. It could be a visitor, a newcomer, or a 20-year member of St. Mark's that you just have never really gotten to know.

If we could all do at least one of these suggestions over the next few months, I guarantee you we will have a closer parish, ready to take on new leadership. Try it, you might like it.

~Michelle Mooney

Communications Meeting

Sunday, August 23, 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.



Garden Guild

Take a stroll through the courtyard memorial garden and see what the Garden Guild has been doing! The pots are planted with annuals, the rose trees are blooming, and we are working hard to keep the weeds out of the brick path.

And please take a moment to thank the following for their diligent weeding: Barbara Costanzo, Meg Edwards, Mark Heffron, Michelle Mooney, Ginny Schrag, Judy Young, and Jamie Zingler. You are wonderful!

Interested in joining us? We meet every Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. and work for about an hour. And we always have time for refreshments and fellowship! Call or email Jane Shero.

Downton Abbey English Tea



Do you have the summer doldrums? Are you weary, or bored, or heavy laden? Afflicted with ennui? We have a remedy for you:

After the 9:30 service at St. Mark's on Sunday, July 12, we will be having a Downton Abbey English Tea at Coffee Hour. You may still get coffee, but you can also have proper tea fare— scones, tea sandwiches, madeleines, and other treats, plus excellent tea of several kinds. So come and relax and have a leisurely, relaxing, stress-free experience. Take a deep breath and smile.

~Mary Bellis Williams

Riverwest Pantry Wishlist Items



- low-sugar whole grain cereals, oatmeal
- low-sodium canned specialty soups, ravioli, or Spaghettios
- canola or olive oil
- canned pears, pineapple, or fruit cocktail, in 100% juice

Thank you for helping stock our shelves with healthy food choices!

Rachel Zylstra in Concert on July 19



Photo by Beka Gonzalez-Olson

Songs on Faith and Doubting

Sunday, July 19, 2015

7 p.m.

St. Mark's Church

“Smoky, sweet and verbose (in the best ways) (Scoutmob.com),” Rachel Zylstra is a New-York-based confessional songwriter and performer whose music finds a home in church sanctuaries and in dimly-lit music bars alike.

With formidable piano and plaintive vocal, Rachel delivers lyrics rich in wit and narrative. She has self-released three albums, opened for cult favorites including Over the Rhine and David Bazan, and this summer will introduce a new full-length album recorded with her band, [The Tacit Turn](#).

A recurring theme in Rachel's music is the paradox of the difficulty and essentiality of faith in the face of uncertainties. The program “Songs on Faith and Doubting” explores this theme by way of original songs and new hymn arrangements given to provoke worship, empathy, inspiration, and conversation.

Having presented this concert in whole or in part in cities as diverse as Dublin, New York, and Grand Rapids, she's excited to bring it to St. Mark's Milwaukee this July 19.

To listen and read more, visit rachelzylstra.com.

Please join us.



Outreach Spotlight



St. Mark's has supported this agency for many years—in the past 12 years, we have provided a total of \$9,350 to further its services. In addition, several parishioners have volunteered their time in support of its work.

Agency Overview:

Established in 1975, forty years ago, its mission is to transform lives impacted by domestic violence. Its vision is to create peaceful communities in which domestic respect and a life free from violence is the right of every woman, man, and child. Its overarching goals are to ensure the safety of victims and their children and to provide them with a pathway out of violence to self-sufficiency and freedom from abuse. In 2009, The Task Force on Family Violence, Inc. merged with Sojourner Truth House, Inc., to form Sojourner Family Peace Center, Inc.

Sojourner Family Peace Center is the largest nonprofit provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, serving thousands of clients each year. Sojourner provides an array of support aimed at helping families affected by domestic violence achieve safety, justice and well-being. Sojourner has expertise in the development of collaborative and effective programs with partners that include the Milwaukee Police Department and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office as well as for-profit and nonprofit agencies working to address the issue of family violence. As experts in the field, the staff at Sojourner has a

proven track record of providing safety, support, and emergency assistance to families in need.

Last year, Sojourner made 64,707 contacts with 8,501 women, children and men in the greater Milwaukee area.

Approximately 80% of its clients are women and girls. Last year, approximately 58% of their clients identified as African American, 24% Caucasian, 13% Hispanic, and 5% as Asian, Native American, Mixed Race or other. More than 80% of these clients had household incomes below \$20,000 per year.



Raquel's Story

Sojourner clients have overcome tremendous challenges, navigated the justice system, and created new pathways for personal achievement. Raquel is one such client. She was referred to Sojourner Advocates located in the Milwaukee

Outreach Spotlight, cont.

County District Attorney's Office because she was assaulted by Joseph, a former boyfriend and the father of her son.

Raquel was terrified of Joseph and was extremely concerned for her safety. Consequently, during her first appointment with Sojourner Advocates, they discussed safety planning activities such as obtaining a restraining order and changing the locks on her doors. At Raquel's request, Sojourner Advocates helped file for a Domestic Abuse Restraining Order as well as provided her with emotional support and advocacy throughout the process. Sojourner staff also sat with her during the criminal court process and provided her with support and reassurance when she testified against Joseph.

Today, Joseph is in jail and Raquel has a restraining order to protect herself and her family. Raquel said that the help Sojourner staff provided allowed her to continue to live independently and maintain employment. She is no longer afraid and is finally able to experience peace.

Core Program Areas

- **Crisis Housing and Basic Needs:** Sojourner provides crisis housing, support and assistance for women and children fleeing violence in their homes. Sojourner Truth House, their 46-bed emergency shelter, was established in 1978. Shelter residents have access to an array of supports and services, including safety planning and assistance with obtaining restraining orders, support groups, job readiness education, assistance in securing safe housing, legal assistance, onsite AODA counseling and linkage to medical and mental health services as well as assistance with basic needs.



New integrated services building under construction



- **Systems Based Advocacy:** Building a peaceful community necessitates that Sojourner addresses the root causes that keep women and children in unsafe environments. Creating lasting social change requires grassroots advocacy focused on keeping victims safe, helping them make positive changes that will elevate them out of violent situations, and advocating with a variety of systems, on their behalf, for justice and access to services. To this end, Sojourner actively partners with community professionals, including the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, the Milwaukee Police Department, educators, health professionals and others to assist survivors as they navigate the many systems that may impact their lives after a violent incident. Advocates help survivors access the resources they need to be safe and address the violence that has happened to them.
- **Individual Support Services:** Sojourner provides one-to-one and group support for survivors and offenders. Services include domestic violence education, emotional support, legal advocacy, job readiness training, parent education, financial literacy programming and assistance finding housing and securing employment.

Volunteer Information

Sojourner is always seeking persons to help achieve its goals. If you are interested, you will find applications and a list of its current volunteer needs are available on its website at <http://familypeacecenter.org/getinvolved/volunteer/>.

Youth Sunday—June 14



We are so grateful to have such wonderful youth and children in this church community.

Thank you for doing such a wonderful job with Youth Sunday. Thank you also to our Sunday Exploration leaders, Jackie Adams and Jane Shero, for your assistance and guidance in the weeks leading up to the service. We also had many other church leaders who helped our students.

Katherine Kirschner, with Jackie’s assistance, arranged the beautiful flowers. Katherine also worked with Meg Edwards on the Altar Guild set up. Harry Moseley guided the ushers: TJ Davies, Claire Mullen, Marie Arndorfer, and Lauren O’Hear. John Hickey advised the explorers in writing the Prayers of the People. Marian Byers worked with acolytes Andrew Arndorfer and Daniel O’Hear. Richard Runkel worked with our readers, Carson Mullen and Sophia Diliberti. Steve Wolff coordinated the fine musicians, Sophie Dion-Kirschner, Sam Diliberti, and Sophia Diliberti.

One of the highlights of the morning, was the homily by Lauren O’Hear. Lauren worked with Deacon Michelle to gather her thoughts and ideas. Since many of you commented on Lauren’s inspiring words, here is the transcript of her homily. Enjoy.

Good morning everyone. I’m going to ask you a few questions and I just want you to answer them in your head. Okay? Here we go.

- Do you have blonde hair?
- Do you have clear skin?
- Are you muscular looking or skinny?
- Do you have “pretty” or unique eyes?
- Are you tall?

Good. I’m going to keep going now.

- Do you have a lot of acne?
- Do you have a big nose?
- Are you short?
- Do you consider yourself overweight?
- Do you have bad posture?

Very good. You may have noticed that all of these questions had something in common. They were all based on appearance. You may have also noticed that the first five I asked were considered attractive physical traits and the second five were the opposite.

Now I’m going to ask you one more question. Remember one of the first five features. These were in the “attractive” category. Now, think of someone you know with this trait and remember when you first met them. Before you even spoke to that person, your brain leapt to conclusions. The first impression. When you judged this person just by their appearance and



“The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

noticed this attractive trait, was your first impression positive or negative? What if you noticed only a negative trait?

And you can really see a good example of this in today's Old Testament.

So, God sends Samuel to find this guy Jesse and God told Samuel that one of his sons was to be king. Samuel goes Bethlehem to find Jesse and Jesse and Samuel go to sacrifice to the Lord with seven of Jesse's eight sons.

And Samuel goes down the line, asking God each time if that son is to be king. He starts out with Eli'ab, who was probably pretty muscular and tall, but God says something very interesting. He says, "Do not look on his appearance or the height of his stature, because I have rejected him." And Samuel is a little confused because here is this tall, strong handsome guy, and God is saying "nope, he can't be king of Israel."

Then God tells Samuel something even more interesting.

"The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

This is something that as people, we forget a lot of the time. So much of our time and energy is consumed by worrying about how others look or how we look or what people will think of us when they see how we look. And we forget that God doesn't even notice our clothes or hair, and what he sees matters more than other people's first impressions of us. And that's pretty cool.

Then Samuel goes on down the line of Jesse's sons, but God rejects each one. And finally, Samuel asks



Jesse if he has any more sons, and Jesse sends for David, his youngest son, who had been keeping the sheep. A shepherd. By now, you probably know who God chose, but the amazing part is, out of all Jesse's sons—some of whom were tall and strong and important looking—God chose the youngest, a shepherd boy. And that shepherd boy turned out to be David, King of Israel.

I'm going to ask you a few more questions now but this time, if the answer applies to you, I want you to raise your hand. Okay? Here we go.

If you love or loved someone, please raise your hand.

If you have ever worked hard to accomplish a goal and felt unstoppable afterward, please raise your hand.

If you ever helped someone even when you didn't benefit at all, please raise your hand.

If you have ever said you were sorry, please raise your hand.

I want you to realize that almost everybody in this church raised his or her hand for every single question. I also want you to realize that every person in this church looks different. Therefore, it is possible to infer that appearance doesn't define what we are capable of. In fact, it is impossible to draw 100 percent accurate conclusions about a person just based their physical appearance.

So let me ask something of you. None of us are God, and we can't see into people's souls, but next time you meet someone, don't look them in the face and judge them; look them in the eyes and understand that the only way to really see who they are is to get to know them.

Celebrations



Birthdays

- 7/3 Michael Williams
- 7/5 Sophie Parker
- 7/6 Demetria Cain
- 7/7 Jamie Zingler
- 7/8 Frank West
- 7/9 Bruce Jacobs
- 7/15 Alice McGuinness
- 7/18 Marie Arndorfer
- 7/21 Elizabeth Jacobs
- 7/21 Marj Bjornstad
- 7/22 David Kiger
- 7/23 Barbara McClendon
- 7/24 Carson Mullen
- 7/30 Jim Buckley
- 7/30 Aims McGuinness
- 7/30 Richard Aster
- 8/8 Mary Maier
- 8/8 Norman Reynolds, Jr.
- 8/9 Alex Cain
- 8/9 Brayden Newcomb
- 8/13 Brad Kirschner
- 8/13 Jackie Adams
- 8/16 Simon Eichinger
- 8/18 Andrew Martin
- 8/18 Meg Edwards
- 8/18 Rosie Maier
- 8/22 Joan Nason
- 8/23 Katie Hemmer
- 8/23 Kathy Katter
- 8/23 Susanna Mortara
- 8/25 Ron Foster
- 8/25 Will Maier
- 8/26 Derrick Sandfort
- 8/26 Mary Weckman
- 8/27 Steve Martinie
- 8/29 Owen O’Hear
- 8/31 Daniel O’Hear

Anniversaries

- 7/17 Mary Ross & Bill Davies
- 7/21 Patty & Jim Buckley
- 7/24 Yatta & George Welland
- 7/25 David & Joan Kuehl
- 8/4 Randy Miller & Jana Troutman-Miller
- 8/8 John & Joyce Tang Boyland
- 8/18 Steve & Joan Martinie
- 8/20 Jennifer & Michael O’Hear
- 8/22 Ron & Sandi Tunis



CG has a new initiative around an important environmental issue—clean water. If you are interested in getting involved or have any questions, contact Molly Canary or Michelle Mooney. and check out the new Watershed website: watershedwi.org



At City Hall, CG members listen to Jennifer O’Hear explain CG’s opposition to public financing of a Buck’s arena as she urges them to send their views to public officials.

July 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	3 8 PM AA	4 10 AM-12 PM Thrift Shop 
5 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	6 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 7 PM Women's Book Group	7 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM-12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga	8 	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 10:45 AM Downton Abbey English Tea	13 5:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:15 PM Finance Committee	14 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM-12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga	15 5:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	16 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 5:30 PM UWM: International Cuisines 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 7 PM Rachel Zylstra Concert	20 5:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 6 PM SWEATnDANCE	21 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM-12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga 6 PM Theology Pub 6:30 PM Vestry	22 5:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	23 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	24 8 PM AA	25 10 AM-12 PM Thrift Shop
26 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	27 5:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 6 PM SWEATnDANCE	28 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM-12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga	29 5:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	30 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	31 8 PM AA	

Downer Classic and Corn Roast

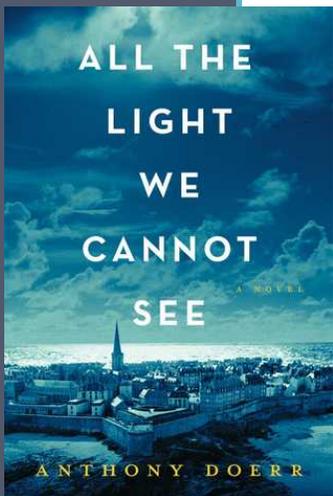


The Lion

August 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
2 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	3 5:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 6 PM SWEATnDANCE	4 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga	5 5:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	6 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	7 8 PM AA	8 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
9 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	10 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:15 PM Finance Committee	11 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga	12	13 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	14 8 PM AA	15 10 AM Quilting Circle 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
16 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	17 6 PM SWEATnDANCE 7 PM Women's Book Group	18 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga 6 PM Theology Pub 6:30 PM Vestry	19	20 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	21 8 PM AA	22 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
23 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	24 6 PM SWEATnDANCE	25 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga	26	27 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	28 8 PM AA	29 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
30 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	31 6 PM SWEATnDANCE					

Women’s Book Group



August Book Selection

The Women’s Book Group will be meeting on July 6 at 7 p.m. at the home of Barbara Costanzo when they will be discussing *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. This story takes place in 1936 involving nine working class boys and how against all odds they brought home a victory at the Olympics in Berlin.

We will also be meeting on August 17 at 7 p.m. at the home of Joan Nason to discuss the book *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. This story is set in France during WWII. It is a wonderful story involving a blind French girl and a young German boy.

Please join us for one or both of these discussions. Books can be purchased at Boswell for a ten-percent discount or borrowed from your local library. Please call the church office for information about directions to Barbara’s or Joan’s homes. All women of the church are invited. Guests are also very welcome.

~Ellie Moseley

Drop off books at All Saints’ Cathedral through July 22.

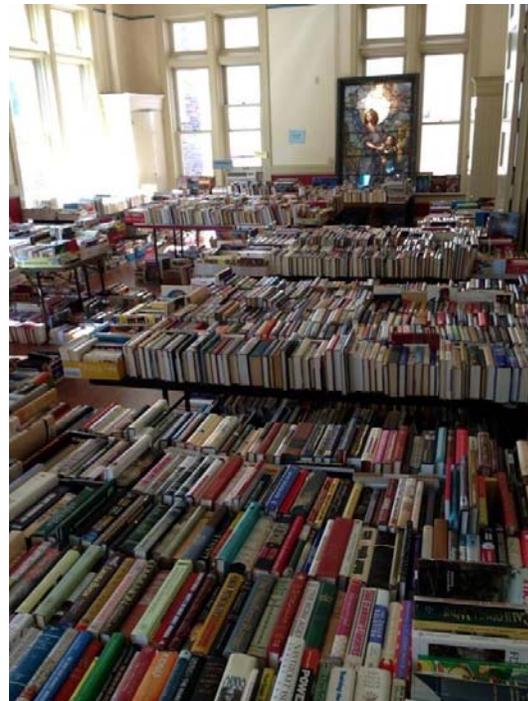
Sale runs July 31–Aug. 4

34th Annual Hunger Book Sale

The Hunger Book Sale is approaching. The sale raises funds for local, 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 Episcopal Relief and Development).

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 pick up 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.



Men's Retreat

The Men's Fellowship Group held its annual retreat the first weekend of June at Harry and Ellie Mosley's cabin on Dutch Hollow Lake, north of Madison. Thanks again to the generous and gracious Mosleys. The weather couldn't have been better (many of the guys slept on the porch); the food was tasty (of course, there was bacon); and a wonderful time of study, prayer, and spiritual comraderie was had by all. The attendees were Dan Buckler, Tom Cramer, Barry Eichinger, Mark Heffron, Ryan Hemmer, Vince Katter, Nick Katter, David Kiger, Harry Moseley, Andrew Muriuki, Norm Reynolds, Ron Tunis, Frank West, and Steve Wolff. There were Compline Friday and Saturday nights and Morning Prayer and Communion on Sunday morning.

Study and discussion for the weekend was centered on the philosophical/theological problem of the nature of evil. The point of departure for conversation was the book *The Doors of the Sea: Where Was God in the Tsunami?* by David Bentley Hart, an eastern orthodox theologian, a respected academic (he has taught at the University of Virginia, the University of St. Thomas, and other institutions), and an author on religious topics. As you can imagine, the subject was serious, important, and intense. Ryan Hemmer was the presenter and moderator of the discussion. Useful concepts for the discussion were *theodicy*, an attempt to justify the ways of God to man; that is, an attempt to reconcile the existence of evil with the goodness and sovereign providence of God (a term established by Leibniz in 1710 although these sorts of writings go back to ancient times; think of the Book of Job) and *privatio boni* (a phrase associated with the scholastics of the middle ages and Thomas Aquinas, in



particular), which is used to explain the nature of evil as an absence of good. The discussion ranged between natural evil (when occurrences such as earthquakes and tsunamis bring harm to human beings), ethical evil (which refers to evil and sinful acts which persons commit), personal experiences of evil, love as the highest good, the notion of God as love, means by which ethical systems may be erected, Dostoyevsky, the truth of faith, the truth of science, political evil (the evil which institutions commit—Andrew Muriuki, social scientist, is exceptionally illuminating on this matter) and so much more. Thanks much to the erudition and skill of Ryan for his leadership through the quagmire of these most interesting, intertwining, and anfractuious topics.

Of course, there were excursions into the beautiful countryside on foot and by vehicle—down to the lake, around the woods, taking the dogs for walks (there were four canine attendees), and, for many of us, there was the ritual visit to the Carr Valley Cheese Factory for purchases and gifts.

This annual retreat with good, thoughtful men of stout heart and faith has become for me a significant part of my spiritual travel. Every year, on my return home, I seem to enjoy for many days afterward a glow of renewed energy and faith. I'm already looking forward to next year. Maybe the Gospel of John? Maybe Revelation? A conversation about science and religion? What exciting things can happen to us when we earnestly study in the comraderie of the Spirit, and when we share our thoughts, feelings, prayer, and beliefs, in sincerity, joyfulness, and truth!

~Steve Wolff



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



St. Mark's
Episcopal Church

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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**