

Rector's Corner

Music at St.
Mark's
Concert:
Artists in
Residence

Sunday,
October 23,
at 4 p.m.

Inside this
issue:

Deacon's Corner	2
Flower Guild	3
Stewardship	5
Pumpkin Sale	6
Common Ground	7
Adult Formation	8
Episcopal 101	9
Music Corner	10

Friends in Christ,

I've had several people ask me lately about membership at St. Mark's. I can see why people would have questions about membership. In the Episcopal Church we have many different ways of entrance into the community, and, in a sense, they all confer membership. Membership at urban parishes (particularly with large student populations) is always a bit permeable, and I thought perhaps it would be helpful for me to break down some of these different ways of belonging at St. Mark's.

Baptism: All who are baptized are members of the Body of Christ. Every Christian denomination in the entire world has some kind of baptism—from a dunk to a sprinkle. This is the normative initiation rite into the Christian life, and in this sense, anyone who has been baptized is, in fact, a member of the Christian church.

Confirmation: People who were baptized as infants have had some kind of opportunity as adults to have that baptism confirmed when they were old enough to make decisions of their own—usually some time in the teenage years. Catholics and Lutherans in particular have a robust tradition of going through a Confirmation class and becoming adult members. People who were confirmed in the Episcopal Church are considered to be adult members in our denomination.

Reception: People confirmed in other denominations have the opportunity to be received into the Episcopal church. This is simply a matter of coming before the Bishop and being welcomed during his visit. Our next Bishop's visit is November 6, and, if you would like to be received, contact me (ian@stmarksmilwaukee.org).

Giving: Members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church make financial and time commitments to the community. This can be anywhere from one penny up to many thousand dollars.

The AMOUNT of the financial and time commitments matters less than the ACT of the commitments. To be a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church requires some kind of financial and time commitment on record.

Communing: A member in good standing at St. Mark's will receive communion at some point during the year. I realize that nearly everyone comes much more regularly than that, but I like to make sure I'm seeing everyone at the Lord's Table at least once during the calendar year.

So you can see why that word membership is tricky. It can be referring to so many different things. Am I a member of the Body of Christ? Or of the Episcopal Church? Or of St. Mark's? The answers can be a little different for everyone. I always tell people at St. Mark's to come at their own pace. However you chose to define your membership at any time during your journey of faith, you are welcome and supported here at St. Mark's. If you have questions about membership, feel free to contact me.

Hope the definitions help a little,

Fr. Burch
(Ian+)



Deacon's Corner

This month I'd like to tell you about two groups at St. Mark's that are open to all. One has been around for close to ten years, the other only since this summer. The former is Bible Study which meets from 4-5 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons. The latter one is our new group on Spirituality and Aging that meets on Tuesday afternoons from 1-2:30 p.m. about once a month.

The Bible Study group is an informal group where we explore books of the Bible, with refreshments and lots of conversation. We read from the book being studied and explore the themes and meanings. Along the way we find time for tea, fruit, and sweets to enjoy. There is no homework or reading that needs to be done outside of class.



Our experience in reading the Bible ranges from folks who are brand new, to others who have had years of study. No lectures, only good conversation. We have anywhere from five to seven people weekly, so everyone gets a chance to talk. So, if you've ever wished you knew more about the Bible stories you hear in church, this is your opportunity. Just drop in on a Wednesday afternoon and join us!

The second group you might consider joining is one whose theme is Spirituality and Aging. The

Rev. Sue Clark and I started this group this summer to explore what growing older could mean to all of us. We started by reading *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr for six weeks this summer. At the end of the session, many in the group decided they wanted to continue reading other books about Spirituality and Aging. At our last meeting we decided on *From Age-ing to Sage-ing* by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Ronald S. Miller as our next book. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 18, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at St. Mark's.

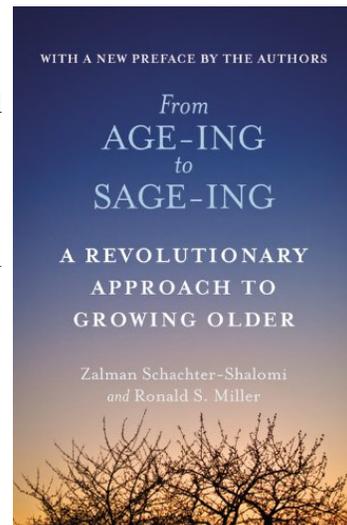


The group has members from several churches in our diocese, as well as from other churches in the area. Meetings currently are alternating between St. Mark's and St. Paul's. This summer we met weekly for six weeks; this fall we are meeting monthly. If you are interested in exploring the challenges and joys of what the last third of your life will hold, consider this group.

For more information about either group, contact me (michellemooney5@gmail.com).

Enjoy a lovely fall,

~Michelle Mooney



Flower Guild Facts

We thought that some of you at St. Mark's might wonder how the flower arrangements happen to find themselves around the church on Sundays, holidays and at special services. Here are a few explanations of how this happens.

- St. Mark's Flower Guild is a group of people who enjoy arranging flowers. Currently we have seven volunteers who work around once a month, arranging flowers we have selected at some local market. On some Sundays in the summer we pick flowers from Mary Williams's garden.
- It is thanks to those who sponsor a Sunday that we are able to purchase flowers. Sponsors sign up on the Flower Chart on the board to the left of the Library doors in our Parish Hall. It costs \$50 to sponsor flowers for a Sunday; you are welcome to find someone with whom to share a Sunday.
- I mail a reminder form to sponsors well before their chosen Sunday. The form includes a line for you to dedicate the flowers for an occasion of your choosing (e.g., celebrations, memorials, thanksgivings). Sara will write the dedication in the service bulletins for that Sunday. You will also receive information about paying online as well as a return envelope.
- For Advent and Christmas greens and flowers, you will read in *The Lion* how to contribute; we also will put envelopes in service bulletins with a form for you to fill out. All flower contributions are tax-deductible and will appear on your giving statements.



We hope that this helps you a bit to know about how the Flower Guild functions here at St. Mark's. Please feel free to ask one of us if you have questions; you can find guild members' names in the Sunday service bulletin, which lists the person who does each Sunday's arrangements.

~Judy Young

Coffee Hour

I'd like to thank Jane Shero for all the hard work and dedication she has put into organizing years of Coffee Hours. She's done a wonderful job. I'd also like to thank all those who have signed up month after month to provide us with many tasty treats that ultimately lead to fine Sunday morning, post-worship conversation. I am taking the reins from Jane. I think someone saw me turn on the dishwasher and figured I could handle the rest! With all your help, I'm sure I can. I encourage everyone interested in helping with Coffee Hour to sign up in the Parish Hall, or contact me. I'll gladly find someone to co-host with you. Thanks in advance for your participation.

~Jamie Zingler



Celebrations



Birthdays

10/5 Melinda Davies
10/6 Mark Diliberti
10/9 Nick Katter
10/15 Michelle Mooney
10/16 Bill Davies
10/18 Sandy Boltz
10/19 Sharon Maier
10/27 Griffon Patnode
10/31 Nikki Domenget

Anniversaries

10/1 Bill Stotts & Richard Runkel



Blessing of the Animals
Oct. 2, 2 p.m.
North Lawn

Upcoming Dates

Blessing of the Animals—October 2
Diocesan Convention—October 7 & 8 (Middleton)
Fall Music at St. Mark's Artists in Residence Concert—October 23
All Diocese All Saints' Day Service—November 1 (All Saints' Cathedral)
Bishop's Visit—November 6
Thanksgiving Eve Service—November 23



Riverwest Pantry Wish List Items

- Brown or white rice
- Whole-grain, low-sugar cereals
- Flour, sugar, and other baking ingredients
- No-added-sugar canned or dried fruits
- Olive or canola oil

We are always grateful for egg cartons, reusable bags, and for the continuing generous donations for the hungry in our community!

Stewardship Campaign 2017

Hello friends!

Your 2017 Stewardship Committee has been hard at work crafting an engaging and faithful Stewardship Campaign for this fall.

For folks who don't know, most Episcopal churches have some kind of pledge drive in the fall before the next calendar year begins so that the parish can use the incoming financial commitments (pledges) to create a budget for mission and ministry for the following year. Think of your public radio or public television pledge drives, and you can get a sense of how we operate.

For seven weeks this fall, the Stewardship Committee and Rector will be sharing all the things that we love about the parish family at St. Mark's—all the ways that we support each other and impact the world as we live out the Christian calling in our lives. We intend to secure \$225,000 in pledges for the mission of St. Mark's in 2017. We also plan to increase the number of pledges from last year's drive by five.

As the Committee talked through the things that make St. Mark's such a special place, a theme for our 2017 Stewardship Campaign began to emerge: Open Doors + Giving Hearts. The image of St. Mark's red doors seemed an apt one for our faithful giving. They welcome us into the Sanctuary. They are our portals from the altar into the world. They say something distinctive about our place on this corner and in the city. They signal love, refuge, and welcome. You'll see images of our Open Doors throughout the drive, and we hope they will welcome you into discernment about your gifts for our extraordinary parish.

The Committee is also celebrating all the ways that the people of St. Mark's are generous—in their time, in their money, in their talents. These Giving Hearts make the church run. The people at St. Mark's are constantly answering the Christian call to generosity.

Pray for our campaign. Pray thanksgiving to God for the bright future of St. Mark's. Join our Stewardship Committee in our excitement about the Open Doors + Giving Hearts Campaign for 2017. You are warmly invited to our campaign kick-off party on October 9 during Coffee Hour.

Yours faithfully,



Ms. Sandi Tunis, Stewardship Chair



The Rev. Ian Burch, Rector



Pumpkin Sale 2016



Our Outreach Group works hard to raise funds for some wonderful charitable organizations. Our most profitable fundraiser is the Pumpkin Sale. This year our pumpkin sales will start this Saturday, October 1. The sale works best when we have lots of volunteers sharing the work.

We need volunteers for the following:

- Weekdays from 1–7 p.m.
- Saturdays from 10 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Sundays from 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

The weekday shifts are two hours long and weekend shifts are two to three hours long.

Sign-up sheets are available in the Parish Hall. Alternatively, click [here](#) to sign up for a slot. Check your calendars and choose time slots—lots of them—that fit your schedule. Stay tuned to the weekly eblasts to learn when we'll need help unloading the second delivery of pumpkins.

The Historic Downer Avenue is hosting a Haunted Halloween event on Saturday, October 22, from 1–4 p.m. There will be chalk artists, trick-or-treating at the businesses along Downer Ave., and a pumpkin carving contest. Join us for a fun afternoon.

Together we can make this sale a huge success!



Friends of Common Ground Campaign

Just a small reminder that Common Ground is starting its annual fund drive called Friends of Common Ground 2017. If one of the St. Mark's Core Team members approaches you with a packet containing a 2016 Annual Report with a request for a donation, I hope you will give it serious thought.

In order to remain an independent grass roots organization that takes no government grants or other monies that would compromise its ability to work for justice, CG needs to raise about \$130,000 annually from its member organizations.

I hope you will read the CG Annual Report, which, by the way, was written and edited by our own Virginia Chappell and other volunteers. It tells the story of our work in all the areas of CG. Members

of St. Mark's work in all these areas, and much has been accomplished by CG in this past year.

Although we try to solicit donors during late September and early October, donations can be given any time in late 2016 and 2017 for the 2017 program year. If you did not receive a packet and would like to donate to the work of CG, contact me (michellemooney5@gmail.com). I will be glad to talk with you about various donor options.



Transforming lives.
Strengthening communities.

~Deacon Michelle

Meet Jennifer, New in the Nursery

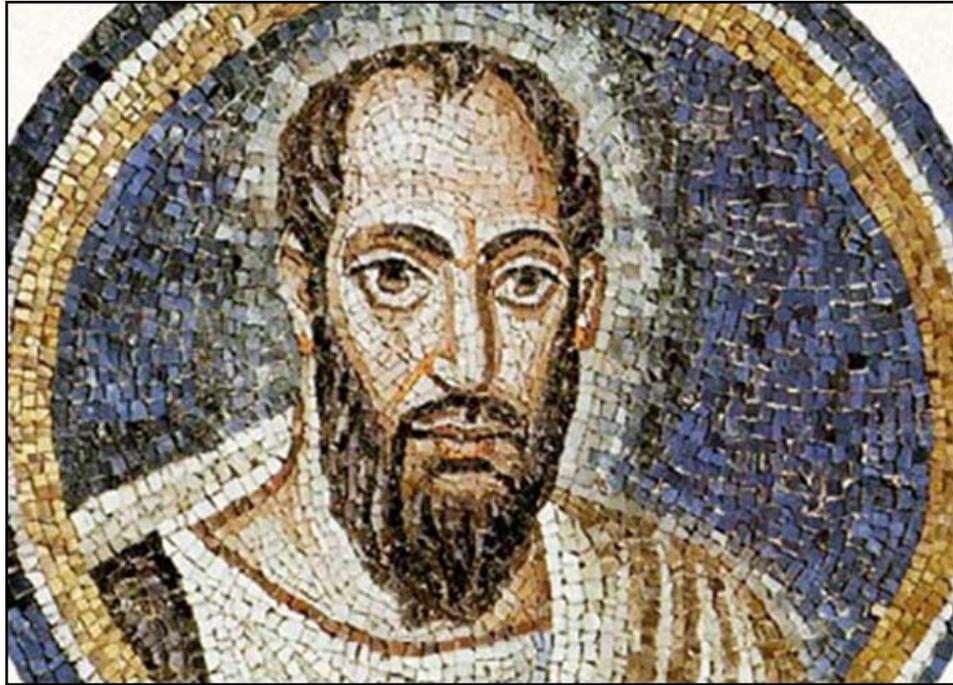
We welcome to our new Sunday morning nursery caregiver, Jennifer Kaye, someone with lots of child care experience. Jennifer, who is 25, especially likes imagination games with young children, which is perfect for our nursery's multiple toy stoves and cookware. She comes to us after several years' experience with the former MOPS (Mothers Of Preschoolers) program at Christ Church, Whitefish Bay. She has the enthusiastic endorsement from a mother of triplets who have now "aged out" of preschool and are entering kindergarten.

Jennifer received a BA in psychology from UWM with a minor in French. During the week, Jennifer works full-time as a Crisis Stabilizer for Milwaukee's Human Development Center, assisting young people in crisis. In her free time, she enjoys running and practicing yoga.



Jennifer Kaye

St. Paul and Prophets for Our Times Adult Education for October and November



After reveling in heresies, it's time for a bracing return to orthodoxy with a series of classes on that most influential of Christian thinkers, the Apostle Paul. We will follow Paul on his journey from persecutor of the church to persecutor of false brethren, and thus hopefully discover why his theology still matters. The programs will be held in the Library after worship on these Sundays:

St. Paul: Apostle, Theologian and Curmudgeon – October 2, 9 & 16

The Sunday Adult Forums will then continue with discussions sparked by viewings of Old Testament Scholar Walter Brueggemann's DVD, *Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture: On Confronting Today's Pharaohs*. The Brueggemann Prophets class will continue for through remainder of November:

Brueggemann on the Prophets – October 23 & 30; November 6, 13 & 20

Please note that the time for Theology Pub has changed to 6:30 p.m. It will still take place on the second Tuesday of the month (October 11 for this month) at Paddy's Pub, 2339 N. Murray Ave. Weekly Bible Study is also available in the Library on Wednesdays, at 4 p.m.

~The Adult Education Committee



Theology Pub time is changing to 6:30 p.m.
starting this month.

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 October, 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 church-y knowledge welcome. And, as always, there will be cake. Bring your questions!



Thursday Evenings at 7 p.m.

October 13, 20, & 27

Ian's Office

Please RSVP to sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org. This class is especially appropriate for anyone who would like to be confirmed, received or baptized when the Bishop visits our church on November 6. As much as possible, I would like participants to commit to being at all three sessions.

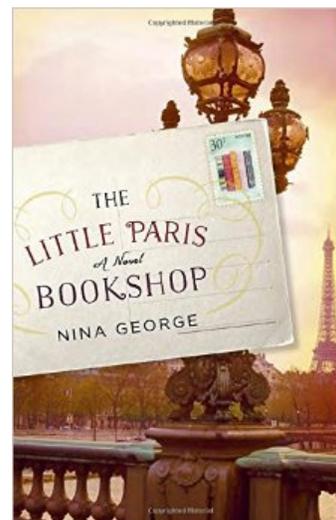
~Ian Burch

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet on October 31, at 7 p.m., at the home of Stephanie Dudek. Our book for this month is *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George. The main character, Jean Perdu, has devoted his life to his floating bookstore, the Literary Apothecary, a barge docked on the Seine. He can diagnose a shopper's ills and select the correct literary remedy. Come join us to discuss this charming novel set in the south of France.

If you need directions to Stephanie's home, please call the church office. Books can be purchased at Boswell Book Store for a ten percent discount or checked out of a library. All women of the church are invited. Guests are also very welcome.

~Ellie Moseley



Music Corner

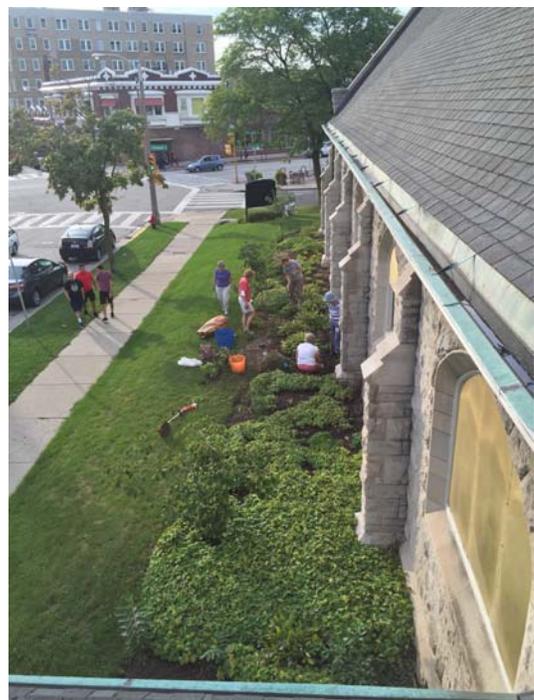
Mark your calendars and plan to attend! Our talented Artists in Residence will be featured in a concert on Sunday, October 23, at 4:00 p.m. This event will be a first for us at St. Mark's. Our various Artists in Residence have provided such wonderful music (and so much of it) at our Sunday services for over ten years. How grateful we are for their offerings of gifts. Here on our fall concert of the Music at St. Mark's Concert Series, we will celebrate their significant contributions to our worship throughout the year. Come and listen to Bob Estland, flute; Aaron Zauner, cello; Todd Domenget, string bass; Mike Keegan, horn; and Steve Rohde, organ. It promises to be a splendid event and a marvelous display of talent. Come, bring a friend or two, introduce them to St. Mark's, and listen to some great music.

~Steve Wolff

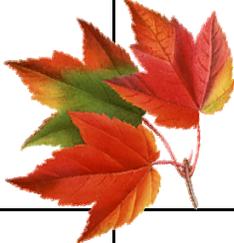


Garden Guild

Summer's end. Garden Guild members did a great job of planting, weeding and keeping St. Mark's gardens looking beautiful. Thanks!



October 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Pumpkin Sale Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekdays from 1–7 p.m. Saturdays from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Sundays from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. 				1 First day of Pumpkin Sale 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
2 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11 AM Adult Formation Series 2 PM Blessing of the Animals	3 6 PM EfM 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE 7 PM Shepherds Meeting	4 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga	5 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir	6 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 8 PM AA	7 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	8 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
9 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Stewardship Kick-Off 11:30 AM Adult Formation Series 3 PM Studio Concert	10 6 PM EfM 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:15 PM Finance Committee	11 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Theology Pub	12 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir	13 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 7 PM Episcopal 101 8 PM AA	14 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	15 9 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 7 PM 20/30s Potluck
16 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11 AM Adult Formation Series 5:30 PM Confirmation	17 6 PM EfM 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE	18 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Vestry	19 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir	20 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 7 PM Episcopal 101 8 PM AA	21 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	22 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
23 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11 AM Adult Formation Series 4 PM Fall Concert: Artists in Residence	24 6 PM EfM 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE	25 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 3:30 PM Yoga	26 4 PM Bible Study 4:30 PM ESS Board Meeting 6 PM Midweek Eucharist 7 PM Choir	27 7:30 AM Yoga 3:30 PM Yoga 7 PM Episcopal 101 8 PM AA	28 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA 	29 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
30 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Sunday School 11 AM Adult Formation Series	31 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 6 PM EfM 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 7 PM Women's Book Group	Our calendar is available on our website: www.stmarksmilwaukee.org				

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



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414-962-0500
stmarksmilwaukee.org
sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org
ian@stmarksmilwaukee.org

Sunday Eucharist 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.

Eastside Senior Services: 414-210-5881

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
Barbara Costanzo, Treasurer
Sara Bitner, Parish Administrator
Bill Davies, Bookkeeper
Jyoti Bratz, Housekeeper
Skrauss, Sexton

Vestry Members

Barbara Costanzo	Jackie Adams	Tom Lacy
David Kiger	Marian Byers	Ellie Mixter-Keller
Susan Rohde	Paula Wheeler	Andrew Muriuki

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