

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

# THE LION

## RECTOR'S CORNER

Friends in Christ,

At last year's Annual Meeting, I remarked that after three full years of doing ministry together, I had the sense that we were done with our transition time. We'd shored up our finances, attendance, programs, buildings, lay leadership, and staff. And with Herculean efforts by this whole parish, we'd found a way to turn the ship away from a slow but steady decline and to instead sail in the direction of growth, abundance, and outward mission. There was just one catch: while I had helped a previous parish through a crisis, I had never had the honor of helping a parish navigate a season of growth and limitless potential. My "tricks" for helping to fix what was ailing at St. Mark's had run out, and as of January 2019, it seemed to me, the real, deep, and relational work of organization building needed to start. I remember saying something like, "I'm not quite sure what we do next, but I imagine it will have to come from prayer and conversation."

Well, here we are a year later, and I think I may have been on to something. This year has seen a rise in new, varied, and talented lay leadership. It has also seen difficult conversations related to our future — our relationship to our buildings and grounds, blending the spirit of "old St. Mark's" with the vitality and energy of relatively new members, beginning the long and deep process of a capital campaign discernment, and trying to imagine what decisions NOW are required for the resourcing of God's mission in five, ten, and fifty years. This kind of work is necessarily slower and messier than some of the quick fixes: ordering a new boiler, streamlining our communications, hiring talented staff, and cleaning closets.

I've learned a few things this year about accompanying you through our abundance. I've learned that we have a building vs. mission problem. We want to throw open our doors for radical welcome, but our physical plant can barely accommodate members and friends with any kind of mobility issue (which, bear in mind, will be all of us and some point). We want a place where like-minded missional organizations can meet for support and strategy for the healing of our city, but our basement is basically unusable, and our upstairs spaces are not ADA compliant. We want to be a community of impact for the city, and we are sitting on green space that is used for 90 minutes a week, twelve weeks a year for worship, by a few neighborhood gardeners, and as an unlicensed dog park. Not of that helps our mission or our growth. Our needs and our space are not matching up, and I do not see this changing unless we decide to change it. How we do this is an open question, but this year of capital campaign discernment has convinced me that what we are called to be in this city is being significantly hampered by our space.

I also learned, or was reminded, that we have a cracker jack staff. The Wardens, Personnel Committee, and I worked to make sure (along with support from the Finance Committee), that our staff compensation packets were reviewed and that staff who were in need of raises received them with our gratitude for their exemplary work this year. Our staff is now paid at the higher end of the scale for the work they do, and where appropriate, we have funded continuing education opportunities.

February 2020  
Volume 32, Issue 2

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This will support their development as people and as experts in their fields as well as maintain high job satisfaction and retention. If you ever fret over the cost of a raise, please consider the cost of replacement and retraining. I believe that you design your staff for the church you hope to be, and we are fortunate indeed to have this group of people working hard for us.

One staff development that will need attention is the likely seminary attendance of Mr. Matt Phillips in the Fall of 2021. Matt oversees formation from the nursery through young adulthood in our parish. Those are big shoes to fill. This gives us 18 or so months to figure out how to replace the irreplaceable Matt. I've let the Vestry know that I would recommend finding a young priest with a similar skill set to Matt's who can continue to help us grow into a dynamic home for families and college students. I've also let the Vestry know that providing housing for a prospective priest is the wisest way to shepherd your cash flow. Our church doesn't own a rectory, but I believe that looking into church owned housing would be a wise way to plan for a future associate priest. If you have a condo lying around that you want to donate to the church, talk to me or Kathy.

I've learned that there is an upper limit to what I can handle organizationally, and I believe I flirted with this limit a few times this year. If we continue to burn as hot as we have — and I don't see our work slowing down anytime soon — we will need to continually evaluate both the role of lay leadership and the role of staff/additional clergy in our lives. I know that there are sometimes worries about professionalizing ministry, and I do hear those concerns. At the same time, in our insanely busy and fast-paced world, the amount of discretionary time for people — from cradle to grave — has dwindled. For some people, the choice might be to chair a committee or to make sure they're spending time with kids or a partner before bedtime. I fully appreciate that the church sometimes gets put in second place. We will need to keep a vigilant eye on our clergy and staff for signs of over-work or burn out. I don't believe we're in a dangerous place at the moment, but I am aware that the pace of the last year was pretty fast.

I suppose the last thing I've learned this year is that the oldies are still the goodies: focus on radical welcome to the visitor, vibrant worship and music, children and adult formation, and opportunities for outreach to the community — bake it with some good humor and smart mid-range planning — and you'll have a feast of growth and abundance. My focus hasn't changed much in four years, and I think we're doing pretty well. I'll add some additional thoughts about specific events or ministries below under bold headings.

## **Holy Orders**

St. Mark's is currently the leading parish the diocese in terms of people seeking discernment for Holy Orders. At the moment, we have two Aspirants (those discerning at the parish level): Nathan Self and Crawford Wiley; one Postulant (those discerning at the diocesan level and awaiting their education): Matt Phillips; one Candidate (those awaiting ordination having completed their education): Kirsten Guidero. I believe that vibrant parishes engender vocations, and as we have grown, so has the sense of call for many of our people. While the Episcopal church is set up with a strong sense of discernment for priests and deacons, we are less skilled at discernment for lay ministries, which is silly since many, many more people act out their lay vocations than do priests and deacons. Perhaps this next generation at St. Mark's can help us figure out a better way to support lay people in their ministries.

## **Finances**

See the Treasurer's Report, but I would just echo his observation that our building is an outsized drain on our resources and will continue to be unless we figure out something clever to do about it. Imagine taking the capital and repair budgets and putting them toward staff, or church planting, or supporting local non-profits.

## **Bishop Search**

I have been asked to co-chair the search for the next Episcopal bishop of Milwaukee, and I have accepted. This means that for the next 18 months, I will have significant duties outside of these walls, and it will additionally mean that you may notice some response times to increase and some availability to decrease. Since we are in a season of raising up addition, strong lay leaders, perhaps this is a great time to practice. I believe our diocese, and St. Mark's, could greatly benefit from new leadership in the bishop's chair, and it seems to me that one way to help make this happen is to bring some of the life and hope of our parish to a national search. I would be fibbing if I didn't also say that I do find professional challenges exciting, and so there are ways in which this task will let me exercise some diocesan leadership that I don't often get to exercise.

## **Growing Smaller**

There's an adage in church growth literature that says "as you grow larger; you must grow smaller." Evangelicals are really good at this — making sure that members belong to some kind of small group that meets outside of a Sunday. It goes a bit against the Episcopal grain to be assigned to a small group, but I'd like to spend this year working to create more opportunities for people to connect in small groups. Perhaps this is social — such as monthly potlucks or foyer groups. Perhaps this is devotional — prayer or wellness circle groups. Or perhaps this is affinity based — bible studies, age-peer groups, hiking clubs etc.. I don't know what this looks like, but I'd like someone to help me. Are you out there with experience getting people organized into small groups? If you're willing to help me, I'd like to learn, AND I'll take you to lunch.

## **Three Years**

The Vestry and I have agreed to a three year contract beginning January 1, 2019. This, I believe, will give the church a chance to relax into these next 36 months knowing that there will be leadership stability, and it will give me a chance to grow deeper in my ministry with you as we work through years 5, 6, and 7 together. I would like to say that I am very grateful for the Vestry's willingness to be generous and forward-thinking. Often, churches don't think strategically about their priests, which can cause priests to begin seeking greener pastures. I feel like the senior leadership here understands the vision I try to cast, and they show me in concrete ways that my work is appreciated. So, thank you, and here's to the next three years!

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Ian Burch, Rector

## DEACON'S CORNER

January and February can be gloomy months in Milwaukee. But there is nothing better to beat the “blahs” than having friends over for a pizza night.

Every New Year's Eve some friends of mine get together to make pizza and play board games. Two of us provide the pizza dough and everyone else brings the toppings. We have such a good time and the pizza is beyond yummy. We some time change things up, and instead of having a red pizza sauce we make a white one.

Here follows the white sauce topping. I hope it lifts your spirit during these gloomy months.

### Jayne Heffron's white pizza sauce

First, cook 25-30 cloves of garlic. Put the garlic in a small saucepan covered with oil. You can use either vegetable or olive oil, the garlic oil will be reusable after cooking the garlic. Bring it barely to a simmer and keep it as low as possible while still getting bubbles in the oil, stirring occasionally for 25-30 minutes, until the cloves are just beginning to brown. Take it off the heat and leave the cloves in the oil for at least 15 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon. The garlic should be very, very squishable. Squash it/chop it with a knife (the cooked garlic can be used at this point for anything you would use roasted garlic for.)



The sauce:

Grate 2 cloves raw garlic on a micro plane. In a small skillet, melt 2 Tbsp butter in 1/4 cup olive oil. Add the raw garlic and cook 45-60 seconds, stirring. Add the garlic puree, and keep stirring/cooking for another 2 minutes. Be careful not to singe garlic. Add 1/2 cup milk and at least 1/2 cup heavy cream or more. Toss in salt and pepper to taste and a good slug of chili pepper flakes. Bring to a boil, stirring. It will thicken quickly after coming to a boil. Take off the heat.

This sauce is good for any topping, even shellfish, if you want.

I can't describe properly just how good this is, used instead of a red sauce. Make some up and have a great pizza party. Enjoy a night with family and friends for a little joy.

*~Michelle*



### BIRTHDAYS:

2/1 Bob Canary	2/14 Bill Wainwright
2/2 Mimi Wainwright	2/16 Michael Weinert
2/6 Ashley Green	2/17 Vince Katter
2/10 Jennifer O'Hear	2/22 Mary Goode
2/13 Joan Martinie	2/24 Kim Uding

Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed?

Send Sara an email with the details!

[sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org](mailto:sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org)





## RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY

- Olive and canola oil
- Low sodium canned tomatoes and vegetables
- Canned tuna and chicken
- Whole grain cereal and oatmeal

Thanks as always for your generosity to our pantry community!

## COMMON GROUND

Common Ground (CG) has just finished its Friends of Common Ground campaign and raised just shy of \$22,000. The 23 members, to date, made it possible with their gifts given in 2020. This generosity has made Saint Mark's the leader in dollars raised among all member groups within CG.

This campaign saw 24 givers from our parish alone. The money goes to support Common Ground's issue campaigns and projects.

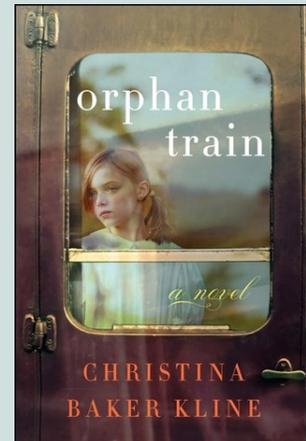
Thank you for your giving. It will fund important work in 2020. It is not too late to donate, just see to Michelle Mooney or Jennifer O'Hear.

If you'd like to explore working with CG and joining our team here at Saint Mark's, You may contact Michelle Mooney ([michellemooney5@gmail.com](mailto:michellemooney5@gmail.com)) or Jennifer O'Hear ([jenniferohear@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferohear@gmail.com)). We'd love to have you.

*~Michelle*

## WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group will meet on Monday, February 24, at 7 p.m., at the home of Janet Martin. Our book for discussion will be *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. Between 1854 and 1929, so called trains carried 250 thousand homeless children to homes in the Midwest. This is the story of what happened. Many were first generation Irish Catholic. Come join us for a thoughtful discussion.



### **The following is a list of books for the rest of the year:**

- April 6- Newcomers by Helen Thorpe
- May 11- The Souls of Black Folk by W. E. B. Debois
- June 22- San Miguel by T.C. Boyle
- August 3- The House of Broken Angles by Luis Urrea
- September 14- Belonging: A German Reckens with History and Home by Nora Krugd
- October 26- Summerlong by Dean Bakopoulos
- November 9- Book Selection night
- December 14- Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

~Ellie Moseley

## COFFEE HOUR



Thanks to all who have hosted coffee hour in recent months. As evidenced by the full pews in church, the numbers coming for coffee have increased also. I feel that co-hosting with 2 or 3 people makes for more fun and lighter work. Please consider gathering some friends and giving it a try some week.

If hosting seems daunting, but you're willing to bake or buy something to contribute, that would be great too. We need everything from cheese and crackers to sweets and juice and creamer. I'll make a space on the sign-up sheet (which is on the wall

near the northwest door of the parish hall) to add your name and contact info so a host may get in touch with you to see what you can contribute.

Thanks again to all who host coffee hour. It is a wonderful ministry to all at St. Mark's.

*~Jamie Zingler*

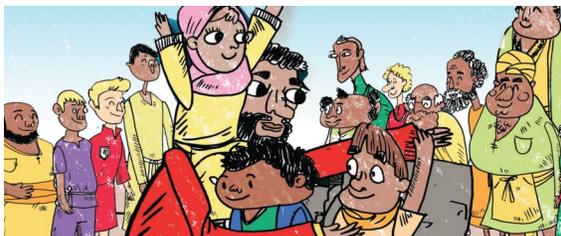
# ASHES WEDNESDAY EUCCHARIST



February 26 | 6 P.M.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

### HOLY MOLY REGISTRATION



All children from K4 through 5th grade are welcome to attend Holy Moly, our church school here at St. Mark's. Join us as we learn a new Bible story each week through video, reading, discussion, and engaging crafts! St. Mark's Church School

gathers upstairs every week for the first part of Sunday worship beginning at 9:30 a.m., and ends in time for students to join their families in church for Communion. To register or learn more about Holy Moly and our Church School, email Matt Phillips ([matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org](mailto:matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org)) today.

### CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

We are in need of Church School teachers for 2020. Not only is teaching Church School important but it's easy, spiritually nourishing, and fun, too! The Holy Moly Curriculum is easy to follow as it gives step-by-step instructions on how to facilitate class each week. Then the students do the rest!

If you would like to volunteer to teach Church School for a four-week block this winter or spring, please add your name to our sign-up sheet, located next to the kitchen in the Parish Hall, or email Matt Phillips ([matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org](mailto:matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org)) today.



### RESPOND: ST. MARK'S YOUTH GROUP



All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join RESPOND, our Youth Group! Join us after church in the Gathering Room (2nd floor) every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. as we share lunch, sing songs, play games, and respond to God's call for us to love and serve our neighbors. To register or to learn more about RESPOND, please email Matt Phillips ([matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org](mailto:matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org)) today.

P.S. Be sure to attend Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 16 where, in addition to our regular snacks, RESPOND will hold a Cookie Sale to benefit Milwaukee Public Schools.

## DINNER CHURCH | CAMPUS MINISTRY + 20S & 30S

College students and adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to come and experience a new way to worship with Dinner Church! Join us in the Parish Hall on the first Sunday of each month during the school year as we share dinner, prayers, and discussion together. Setup and conversation begin at 5:30 p.m. with worship and dinner at 6 p.m. For any questions about Dinner Church or campus ministry at St. Mark's, email Matt Phillips ([matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org](mailto:matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org)) today. Our next Dinner Church will be on Sunday, January 19.



Spring 2020 Dinner Church Dates: 2/2, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3

## DAILY EVENING PRAYER | JOAN OF ARC CHAPEL



All college students and faculty are invited to attend weekly evening prayer at Marquette University's Joan of Arc Chapel. Join us every Thursday evening during the school year from 4:30-5 p.m. for Evening Prayer with music, and stick around after prayer as Marquette's Canterbury Fellowship will have dinner together locally. For any questions about evening prayer, email Matt Phillips ([matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org](mailto:matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org)) today.

## FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For the most current update, please view our calendar on our website: <a href="http://www.stmarksmilwaukee.org">www.stmarksmilwaukee.org</a>						1
<b>2</b> <b>8 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>9:30 AM Church</b> <b>School</b> <b>11 AM</b> Adult Education <b>11 AM</b> RESPOND Youth Group <b>6 PM</b> Choristers Rehearsal	<b>3</b> <b>6 PM</b> Sweat 'n Dance	<b>4</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Breakfast Fellowship @ Café' Hollander <b>8 PM</b> Reclaiming Jesus @ Von Trier	<b>5</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> UWM: International <b>4 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6 PM</b> Midweek <b>Eucharist</b> <b>7 PM</b> Choir	<b>6</b> <b>7 PM</b> Outreach Committee <b>8 PM</b> AA	<b>7</b> Rector's Day Off <b>11:30 AM</b> Campus Ministry Cafe <b>8 PM</b> AA	<b>8</b> Vestry Retreat
<b>9</b> <b>8 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Church School <b>11 AM</b> Adult Education	<b>10</b> <b>6 PM</b> Sweat 'n Dance	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> UWM: International <b>4 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6 PM</b> Midweek <b>Eucharist</b> <b>7 PM</b> Choir	<b>13</b> <b>8 PM</b> AA	<b>14</b> Rector's Day Off <b>11:30 AM</b> Campus Ministry Cafe <b>8 PM</b> AA	<b>15</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting Circle
<b>16</b> <b>8 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Church School <b>11 AM</b> Adult Education <b>11 AM</b> RESPOND Youth Group <b>5:30 PM</b> Campus Dinner	<b>17</b> <b>6 PM</b> Sweat 'n Dance	<b>18 Elections All Day</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Breakfast Fellowship @ Café' Hollander <b>1 PM</b> Spirituality and Aging <b>6:30 PM</b> Vestry Meeting	<b>19</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> UWM: International <b>4 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6 PM</b> Midweek <b>Eucharist</b> <b>7 PM</b> Choir	<b>20</b> <b>8 PM</b> AA	<b>21</b> Rector's Day Off <b>11:30 AM</b> Campus Ministry Cafe <b>8 PM</b> AA	<b>22</b> <b>9 AM</b> Men's Fellowship Breakfast
<b>23</b> <b>8 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Church School <b>10:30 AM</b> Pancake Breakfast <b>11 AM</b> Adult Education <b>6 PM</b> Choristers Rehearsal	<b>24</b> <b>6 PM</b> Sweat 'n Dance	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>7:30 AM</b> Ash <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Eucharist</b> <b>12-2 PM</b> <b>Imposition of</b> <b>Ashes/Prayer</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> UWM: International <b>4 PM</b> Bible Study <b>6 PM</b> Ash <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Eucharist</b> <b>7 PM</b> Choir	<b>27</b> <b>8 PM</b> AA	<b>28</b> Rector's Day Off <b>11:30 AM</b> Campus Ministry Cafe <b>8 PM</b> AA	<b>29</b>

## 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 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  
ian@stmarksmilwaukee.org

**The Rev. John Hickey**, Priest Associate

**The Rev. Michelle P. Mooney**, Deacon

**Stephen Wolff**, Director of Music  
steve@stmarksmilwaukee.org

**Matt Phillips**, Director of Campus/Youth Ministries  
matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org

**Kathy Katter**, Senior Warden

**Bill Hunt**, Junior Warden

**Bruce Jacobs**, Treasurer

**Dan Buckler**, Clerk

**Sara Bitner**, Parish Administrator  
sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org

**Daniel Koplitz**, Children's Choirmaster  
daniel@stmarksmilwaukee.org

**Terry Patterson**, Bookkeeper  
terry@stmarksmilwaukee.org

**Jyoti Bratz**, Housekeeper

**Skrauss**, Sexton

**Kiran-Joy Kuhn**, *Lion* Newsletter Editor

### Vestry Members

David Miyama

Georgia Cain

Ginny Schrag

Dan Buckler

Judith Miller

Graicey Van Spankeren

Steve Martinie

Genevieve Vassell

Judy Young

### St. Mark's Episcopal Church

2618 N. Hackett Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53211

414-962-0500

stmarksmilwaukee.org

#### Sunday Eucharist

8:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

Childcare is provided  
from 9:15-11:00 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