

St. Mark's messenger

From the **RECTOR**

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell

We Episcopalians sure are a messy lot. That is never more evident that during these years of General Convention when all of our laundry, clean and dirty, is aired for the world to see, read, criticize and comment upon. At the same time, I think this is one of our gifts to the world. We are not afraid to plunge into difficult questions, seek God's will for us and try to figure out how to bring the kingdom of heaven a little closer.

This is hard work. It challenges us to remain in conversation recognizing that we are all serving Jesus Christ. It asks us to respect those with very different beliefs than our own. It does not let us off the hook by telling us what to believe.

It is not the place for everyone because few will tell to what to believe or what the right decisions are. We seek this through reading of the scripture, reason and our tradition. It informs and challenges our

conversation as we find our way through this complicated modern world.

If it occasionally gets to be a little too much, I offer you this wisdom from Robin Williams.

10 reasons to be an Episcopalian

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry - none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.

And the Number One reason to be an Episcopalian:

1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

Blessings,

Kelly



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NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

In the Spring of 1939, as the British were facing the looming war with Germany, King George the VI sought ways to reassure his people and lead them through that difficult time. The British Ministry of Information produced several posters containing messages of reassurance from the King. One of those posters had a picture of the crown with the simple statement “KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON”. The Vestry here at St. Mark’s would like to send this same message to all.

St. Mark’s, like many other organizations has been affected by the current and continuing economic crisis. However, The Vestry has been very busy developing a strategic plan that, with your assistance, will keep St. Mark’s alive and vibrant and moving to a new era as a parish. The plan will consist of financial belt tightening, evaluation of gifts/talents and Growth. We anticipate this plan will place St. Mark’s in a prime position for growth and ministry.

In the next few months, you will be asked to participate in the laying of a foundation for a vibrant urban church presence in Toledo. The things that we will be called to do will not be easy but with God’s help, we can insure the spiritual principles that we as a congregation stand for will be known in this community far into the future. As we move boldly towards our future, always remember:

“KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON”

If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to know how you can help, please contact any Vestry member.

Regards
Bob Morris
Sr. Warden

OUTREACH

The August Community Meal is on Sunday, August 30. St. Timothy’s in Perrysburg will be sending volunteers to help.

AUGUST CALENDAR

August 15 – Recital
August 23 – Parish Picnic
August 26 – Worship Team
August 30 – Community Meal

LOOKING AHEAD to September

September 1 – ECW Meeting
September 27 – Community Meal

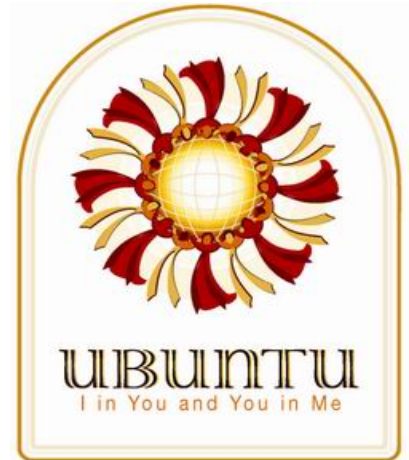
GENERAL CONVENTION 2009 IN ANAHEIM: A RECAP

Well, or at least as much of a recap as we can on July 13, given that GenCon runs through July 17. The Right Rev. Gene Robinson summarizes GenCon well in his blog: sublime, ridiculous, glorious, mundane, joyous (<http://canterburytalesfromthefringe.blogspot.com/>). Administrative Robert's-rules stuff, challenging budgetary issues, deeply personal sharing on issues important to our brothers and sisters, making new friends from around the world and renewing old friendships, worshipping God together, and finding God in the small moments.

Here are a couple of interesting bits that I've gleaned so far (and of course, there is much more!):

Many of the blogs that I've read reported that the Integrity Eucharist was again a meaningful part of Convention for them - even those who weren't physically in Anaheim appreciated the videos and transcripts of the homily. Apparently the quote of the service was from the Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, former Suffragan Bishop of Massachusetts, referring to the controversy of gay and lesbians in the church, and gay and lesbian clergy in particular: *Don't initiate us into the church and then PRETEND we've only had a half-^\$\$ed baptism.*

(For more info, see http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79901_112351_ENG_HTM.htm)



The resolution recommending adoption of the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation (http://formationcharter.com/Home_Page.php) was passed by the House of Deputies (lay people and clergy) on July 10. This document, requested by the 2006 GenCon, provides a philosophy of Christian formation in the Episcopal Church, how it is important for people of all ages. The framework of the charter: Through the Episcopal Church, God invites all people...God inspires all people...God transforms all people. I feel this is important because we never reach the point where God is finished with us (at least while we are still in this life!), and our parishes and dioceses need to help us on our journey so that God can more readily form us.

There's a lot more happening!

Check out the GenCon Media Center (<http://gchub.episcopalchurch.org/>), Episcopal Life Online (http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79425_ENG_HTM.htm) or the main web site (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm>), with news stories, videos, and more!

RECITAL AT ST. MARK'S

You are invited to a recital at St. Mark's on Saturday, August 15 at 3 pm. Marlayna Maynard will be singing a variety of sacred and secular pieces, including a cantata to St. Anne by Barbara Strozzi; songs by Purcell, Mendelssohn, and Barber; and Johann Strauss's high-flying *Frühlingstimme Walzer* (springtime-voice waltz). Old West End resident, Kevin Bylsma, will be joining her on organ and piano. The program will also feature duets from *La Traviata* with tenor Jake Wilder, a BGSU senior, and Schubert's *Auf dem Strom* with St. Mark's own Andrew Pelletier on horn.

WORSHIP TEAM

The Worship Team will meet on Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00PM at Kelly and Fran's home, 2602 Parkwood Ave.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

St. Mark's ECW's next scheduled meeting is **Wednesday, September 19**. Should the need arise before then, a special meeting will be called after church on a Sunday. As always, we are "on call" whenever there is a need, such as receptions after funerals.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR A SMALL GROUP!

The Small Groups Steering Team is pleased by the response to their initial request for people who might be interested in a small group this fall! There is still time to complete an interest form. You can find them on the table in the back of the church; complete the form and place it in the offering plate. The interest card is just that - a way for you to express your interest, not a final decision (though we hope that you feel called to participate!). If you have non-St. Mark's friends who are interested in joining a group, have them complete a card too.

At this time, we do not know specific days/times (this will depend upon the availability of small group facilitators), however, we expect that groups will meet twice a month for six months. The initial format of the group is that there will be a set structure of the group that will allow for sharing our stories, praying with and for each other, and seeing where God is at work in our lives. In the future, there will be an opportunity for more focused groups to form, perhaps Bible study or a program like Renovare.

As always, please keep our fledgling small group ministry in your prayers! You are in ours!

If you have any questions or suggestions about St. Mark's, please feel welcome to contact one of our vestry members:

Bob Morris, Sr. Warden ~ 419-320-0728 ~ rem766662@yahoo.com
Jessica Datta, Jr. Warden ~ 419-861-0944 ~ dattas@buckeye-express.com
Diane Polishuk, Clerk ~ 419-861-0369 ~ dmarieprn77@sbcglobal.net
Karen Cornwell ~ 419-861-3932 ~ kcornwell@hotmail.com
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David Bingham ~ 419-386-9991 ~ nursebingham59@aol.com
Ted Ligibel ~ 734-854-7990 ~ tedlig@verizon.net
Vestry meetings are usually the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, except July and August, when meetings are cancelled.

ST. MARK'S MEN'S CLUB

St. Mark's Men's Club meets on the first Thursday of each month. Next meeting is **September 1**, at 9:00am at old Café Marie now called the Red Star Café, 7327 Lewis. For directions or more information, call Dick Entenmann (419.868.6586).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

8 Jolene Miller & Donna Steppe
10 John & Julie Sanders
22 Fran Carr & Kelly O'Connell
22 Cathy Martineau & Russ Ely
23 Dick & Nancie Entenmann
31 Hugh & Kyle Greffe

SUNDAY FLOWERS

2 The people of St. Mark's in loving memory of those who have died.

9 Margaret C. Tennant, Nancy C. Gressley and Edna C. Waterman in loving memory of their parents, the Rev. & Mrs. George M. Chester.

Mrs. John Joseph, Sr. in loving memory of her husband, John Joseph, Sr.

23 The people of St. Mark's in loving memory of those who have died.

30 The people of St. Mark's in loving memory of those who have died.

For information on how you can provide Sunday flowers in memory of someone, or in honor of someone or some event, contact the Church Office.

BIRTHDAYS

5 Jane Musgrave
9 Carolyn Robinson
11 Fran Tassie
11 Matt Johns
12 Andrew Joseph
14 Elizabeth Tullis
15 Ravi Datta
15 Cynthia Mahaffey
22 Mark Jesionowski
23 Andrea Kanfield
25 David Bingham
25 Janis LeRoux
26 John Forte
30 Jean Schaefer
31 John Joseph III

Missing or incorrect birthdays or anniversaries? Let the church office know!

FROM THE LECTIONARY

Our Sunday readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which is a collection of carefully selected Scripture readings for the church year, which repeats every three years. The RCL is used to varying degrees by many mainline denominations. For more information about the RCL and for it full-text online, see the Vanderbilt Divinity Library web page at <http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary/> (We're in Year B.)



Proper 13 (18) August 2, 2009
2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a or Exodus
16:2-4, 9-15
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

Proper 15 (20), August 16, 2009
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 or Proverbs
9:1-6
Psalm 111 or Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

Proper 17 (22), August 30, 2009
Song of Solomon 2:8-13 or
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 or Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Proper 14 (19), August 9, 2009
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 or 1 Kings
19:4-8
Psalm 130 or Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

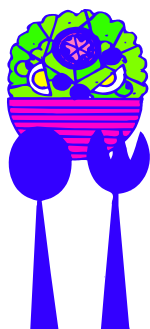
Proper 16 (21), August 23, 2009
1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43
or Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 84 or Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

GENERAL CONVENTION BIKE RIDE

By the time you read this, hopefully, I will be home from the great bike adventure from General Convention in Anaheim, CA. We are hoping to raise \$100,000 for Episcopal Relief and Development to help in their work to eradicate malaria which infects thousands of people every year.

If you would like to support me and the other bikers, please go to www.dohio.org and look under the Bishop's Annual Appeal on the right hand side. You can contribute by clicking on ERD Bike Ride. You can also visit www.er-d.org and follow the instructions or simply send St. Mark's a check made out to Diocese of Ohio with bike ride in the memo line.

PARISH PICNIC



The Parish Picnic will be Sunday, August 23 at Wildwood Park. St. Mark's will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns and drinks. Please bring a dish to share.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

parish prayer list: petitions, intercessions, thanksgivings

We are all invited to pray throughout the month, asking for God's healing and comfort for those who have asked for it. We often do not know the people or what their prayer request is; we are invited, then, simply to open our hearts in prayer for them, asking for the fulfillment of what they need, and for God to extend blessings to them in any way God is able.

If you have a name you wish to have added (including your own), please call the office, remembering that if you want the name to be on the list longer than a month, please call to renew that request.

Those in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity

In Thanksgiving

Ryan Disher
Dick Entenmann
John Merriam
Dennis & Carol
Kanfield
Mark J.
Louise Branam
Billy Naumann
Jeff Palicki
Roberta Toensing
Diane Klug
Chuck Lever
Tyler Yoder

Homebound

Recently Deceased
Bob Brundage

Others to Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Kelly, our priest; Bob Morris, our senior warden, and Jessica Datta, our junior warden; other members of the vestry, parish staff, and other parish leaders
- ◆ Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, his staff, and all parishes in the Diocese of Ohio
- ◆ The Episcopal Church; Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori; the Anglican Communion; Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams
- ◆ Servicemen and women serving around the world and in the US

Please pray also for those groups who find a welcoming space at St. Mark's:

Young People's AA, Monday, 8:00 pm
AA/LLL, Sunday & Wednesday, 8:00 pm
Rainbow Area Youth, Wednesdays, 7:00 pm
AA, Friday, 7:00 pm
SAA, Tuesday, 8:00 pm & Thursday, 7:00 pm
Dignity, Thursday, 8:00 pm

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL; PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY

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stmarkstol@aol.com
<http://www.stmarkstoleo.org>

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you no longer wish to be on St. Mark's
mailing list or contact the church office.

St. Mark's

MISSION

St. Mark's is a diverse and inclusive Christian community,
welcoming all to common ground, to creatively grow in faith
and service to each other, our community, and a loving God.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:00 am** our intimate, meditative service
10:30 am our larger service, with music and
singing; Sunday School or special homily
for children

SEPTEMBER

newsletter deadline:

August 15

<mailto:stmarkstol@aol.com>

RECTOR

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Christina Laberge

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR

Krissy Green

ORGANIST

Michael Gartz

OFFICE MANAGER

Marilyn McCoy

VESTRY OFFICERS

Senior Warden ~ Bob Morris
Junior Warden ~ Jessica Datta
Clerk ~ Diane Polishuk

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell