

St. Mark's messenger

January 2010
Eleven(One)

From the **RECTOR**

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell

We want to get to know each other better was a recurring theme in our parish conversations more than a year ago. Since then, the Church Health Team, Small Group Steering Team and Group Leaders have been working hard to prepare our small group ministry.

I think these small groups are going to become an important part of our life together. Many of us only see one another on Sundays. We might hear names mentioned on the prayer list or learn from an acquaintance that someone is going through a hard time but we don't always have the time and space to really engage with one another. Small groups will offer us the chance to share our burdens and receive the support and prayer we need.

For me, small groups are a vital part of our spiritual growth and formation. We can only come so far on our own then we need the opportunity to share and learn from others and we travel our spiritual path. Every time I

participate in a group with others whether it was our Advent reflection book, Bible study or other book study, I always learn more by sitting down and listening to the learning and wisdom of others. An observation or reflection is always made that I would not have thought of and deepens my own understanding. I hope that the small groups will do the same for all of you.

More information follows later in the newsletter so take a look for it.

Blessings,

Kelly

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

At the December 9, 2009 meeting, St. Mark's ECW voted to send monetary gifts to FOCUS, St. Paul's Community Center, Family House shelter and Sparrow's Nest (Cherry Street Mission's Women's Ministry). These gifts were made possible by contributions to ECW by those for whom ECW served receptions.



In December, ECW also coordinated the annual **Rector's Cake** coffee hour. Funds raised went to Kelly's Rector's Discretionary Fund.

The next **St. Mark's ECW** meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 10** at 12:30pm in the Schilling Room.

Toledo Deanery ECW will meet again on **Monday, March 15**. Program presenter is to be Judy Paffenberger. If you enjoyed her program at the St. Mark's June luncheon, be sure to save this date for another inspiring presentation. Church location will be announced in next month's newsletter.

SMALL GROUPS

Small groups are finally here! I realize that you have been waiting a long time for our small group ministry to begin. We faced a number of issues that we needed to work through including making sure that there was adequate support to keep this ministry flourishing once it was started and making sure that our group leaders were trained and ready to begin. **Our small group kick-off is Sunday, January 10.** Groups will gather during coffee hour to plan their first meeting and to work through basic logistics.

How will you know which group you are in? Lists will be posted on the bulletin board in the Schilling Room on January 3. The group leaders spent significant time looking through the cards submitted to try and match schedules and create diverse groups.

If you have not signed up to join a small group, there is still time and cards are on the back table in the Sanctuary. I hope that you are as excited as I and the leaders are to begin this ministry together.

JANUARY CALENDAR

January 5 – Children & Youth
January 10 – Sunday School resumes
January 10 – Outreach & Small Group Kickoff
January 20 – Vestry Meeting
January 24 – TSO and Masterworks Chorale at
Rosary
January 28-29 – Building an Ethical Economy
webcast in Sandusky
January 31 – Community Meal

Looking Ahead:
February 5-6 – Winter Convocation
in Perrysburg
February 7 – Annual Parish Meeting

GOOD NEWS COLUMN

Every Sunday we pray for our blessings but it is rare that anyone actually gives voice to one. So here are a some true blessings.

Pledges have come in strong and we are ahead of where we usually are in terms of pledge cards returned and money pledged for 2010.

We received a grant for \$2,000 from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to support our Community Meal for 2010.

St. Andrew's Outreach Team voted to give two gifts to the Community Meal. The first gift was to buy needed items for the kitchen and the second to help install a second water heater to keep the dishwasher running as hot as possible. I have never heard of one parish supporting another in quite this way.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

After experimenting this fall with having children's homily instead of Sunday school, feedback is that parents would prefer Sunday school so it will resume on Sunday, January 10 at 10:30AM.

PLEDGE DRIVE 2010

Thank you to everyone who has returned your pledge for this year. They are vitally important to our ministry.

While pledges have come in very strong, there are still a number of outstanding pledge forms. Please return your form as soon as possible so the budget can be completed. If you lost your form, the office will provide you another.

WINTER FUNDRAISER

Help support St. Mark's. We are asking all parishioners to sell coupon books in January. They are full of coupons for restaurants, auto repair, dry cleaners and entertainment in the Toledo area. They cost \$20 and for every one that we sell, St. Mark's earns \$8 which is a 40% return. Sample books and order forms will be available on January 3.

DIOCESAN WINTER CONVOCATION

The second Winter Convocation will once again be held at the Holiday Inn in Perrysburg, but with a somewhat reconfigured program. The theme is evangelism, but it offers Episcopalians some very practical advice about what evangelism is and isn't and how even we Episcopalians can practice faith sharing in ways we never dreamed. The event begins Friday, February 5, at 5 p.m. with a reception around the pool, then music and worship with our assisting bishop, the Rt. Rev. David Bowman. It continues Saturday, February 6, through 4 p.m., starting with a forum with Martha Grace Reese, author of *Unbinding the Gospel*. The brochure for the [2010 Winter Convocation](#) can be downloaded. You can also register online for [Winter Convocation](#).

"Here is a truth about the Diocese of Ohio and probably about most of the Episcopal Church, as well. We know that living our life with faith in Jesus Christ and living that faith out in the life of the Episcopal Church is great. We know, too, that we really want to share it with others, but something stops us from doing that. [This convocation] is a fresh way to discover how to share your faith in a way that is genuinely exciting and fun. If you've ever wanted to share your faith with others, this will help you do that," said Brad Purdom, Canon for Congregations, who is designing the Winter Convocation.

TOLEDO SYMPHONY PRESENTS "BRUCKNER IN ROSARY CATHEDRAL"

On Sunday, January 24, the Toledo Symphony will present Motets and Symphony No. 6 at Rosary Cathedral at 4:00PM. This performance features TSO principal conductor Stefan Sanderling and the Masterworks Chorals, with Donna Tozer Wipli, their artistic director. With a minimum purchase of 10 tickets, we will receive a 20% discount and have a reserved block of seats. Tickets are normally \$35 but will cost \$28 if we have 10 people attending. Please sign up in the Schilling Room by January 10.

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
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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.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

- 3 The people of St. Mark's in loving memory of those who have died.
- 10 Roger Southward in loving memory of his mother, Ruth Southward and his aunt, Lucille Dodson.
- 17 The people of St. Mark's in loving memory of those who have died.
- 24 The people of St. Mark's in loving memory of those who have died.
- 31 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

- 1 Mary Riddle
3 Donna Steppe
5 Niladri Datta
6 Judson Beckwith
10 Heidi Confer
16 Bettye Jo Hansbarger
18 Nathan Levin
24 Larry Scharf
28 Terry Kahler

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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 C.)



Holy Name of Jesus - January 1
Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21

New Year's Day - January 1
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Second Sunday after Christmas Day - January 3
Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12
Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Epiphany of the Lord - January 6
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord - January 10
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Second Sunday after the Epiphany - January 17
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Third Sunday after the Epiphany - January 24
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany - January 31
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

ANNUAL MEETING

Is God calling you to serve St. Mark's in a new way? There are a number of Vestry slots open. Please consider carefully if you would like to run for Vestry. The Annual Meeting will be Sunday February 7 after the 10:30 service. We will be electing Vestry members and reviewing the past year. Please bring your favorite dish to share for the potluck.

DOES THEOLOGY HAVE A ROLE IN SHAPING A NEW ECONOMY?

Grace-Sandusky, and the Sandusky Area Ministerial Association will host a Trinity Institute interactive webcast, entitled, "Building an Ethical Economy," on January 28 and 29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lay leaders and students of business and economics are invited to attend free of charge. Clergy will earn 2 CSUs for attendance and will be charged \$25. Lunch will be provided both days.

Topics include: Theology and Economics: Two Different Worlds? Is Capitalism a Belief System? What is Wealth? and What Do We Owe the Future? The discussion will be lead by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, Partha Dasgupta, professor of economics at Cambridge University, Kathryn Turner, professor of theology at the University of Chicago; and Bernard Ntahoturi, archbishop of Burundi. For more information, download the flyer [here](#).

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

Ryan Disher
Dennis & Carol
Kanfield
Dave Beckwith
Bob Drees
Mary Riddle
Jen Barczynski
Mike Coyne
Maria Coates &
Family
Matt Boroff
Angela
Dawn Hubbell-
Staeble
Linda Keblesh

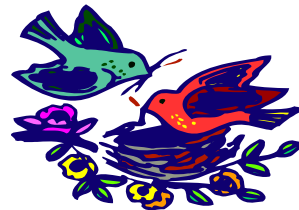
Mike Wykoff
Eddie Tabit

In Thanksgiving

Homebound

Recently Deceased

The Rev Grant
Gallup
The Rev Howard
(Bud) Thomas



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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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; special homily for children

RECTOR

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Christina Laberge

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

FEBRUARY

newsletter deadline:

January 15

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