

St. Mark's messenger

March 2010
Eleven (Three)

From the

RECTOR

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell

I noticed for the first time the other day that the birds were singing when I took the dog out in the morning. The days are beginning to seem a little longer and the air felt softer, not warmer, but spring was beginning to be felt. I don't know about you, but I am definitely ready for it. I am ready for the feeling of renewal and newness, the recognizing of possibilities as the earth begins to change day by day.

I am feeling the same way about Lent. Lent always brings with it the promise of possibilities, the death of old behaviors and ways of being relationship with God and the creation of new. As with all things, the more I put into the observance of Lent, the more I get from this holy season.

I hope that you are finding this Lent a time to renew and reconnect, a time to see the possibilities and be open to God.

Blessings,

Kelly

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 1 - Holy Eucharist with stripping of the altar, 7:00PM

Good Friday, April 2 - Tenebrae with Communion from the reserve sacrament, 7:00PM

Easter Vigil, April 3 - Vigil with Baptism, 7:00PM

Easter Sunday, April 4 - Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30AM

Celebrating Ohio Day at Washington National Cathedral

Join your fellow Episcopalians from across Ohio to celebrate at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The Diocese is providing free transportation that will leave from Toledo on Friday, April 23. Individuals are responsible for hotel and food costs. For more information, please check out www.dohio.org.

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LOOKING FOR READERS AND WRITERS

I was going to say looking for a few good readers and writers, but that's not true. I'm looking for readers and writers of all skill levels for our blog (<http://stmarkstoledo.wordpress.com/>; you can also get there from our web page: <http://stmarkstoledo.org/>).

So far, I've been posting some reflections and have shared some resources that I've found informative; I hope you've enjoyed reading them. The blog would be better if there were more kinds of postings. For example, it could be used to advertise upcoming activities and report on events (parish, deanery, diocesan and even non-church events that deepened or challenged your spirituality). It would also be better if there were more voices. I'm happy to write for the blog, but I am one person, coming from one perspective; we as a community are many people, coming from different perspectives. What strikes me as meaningful and worth sharing will be different from what strikes you as meaningful and worth sharing - thank God for that!

A couple of people have expressed an interest in posting to the blog - thank you! I invite everyone else to consider participating too. It doesn't matter how old or young you are (as a parent, you may want to share some of your children's comments or stories; they are some of our best windows to God). It doesn't matter how knowledgeable or experienced you feel you are about church, God, liturgy, spirituality. We're not looking for theological tomes, although if you do have that sort of expertise, feel free to share it. Your skill at writing doesn't matter (though if you'd like help, I can do that). What is needed is people willing to share.

I hope your interest is piqued. Contact me (jolene278@gmail.com or 419.244.2519) and I let you know more. If you want to talk about your ideas for the blog, I'd love to hear them.

Note: What the heck's a blog? A blog (shortened from web log) is an easy way to share information online - announcements, observations, "hey! look at this great web site!", etc.

- submitted by Jolene Miller

MARCH CALENDAR

March 2 – Children & Youth Team
March 3 – Lenten Book Discussion
March 7 – Outreach Team
March 10 – ECW
March 10 – Lenten Book Discussion
March 12 – Stations of the Cross, 7 pm
March 15 – Deanery ECW
March 17 – Lenten Book Discussion
March 17 – Vestry
March 19 – Stations of the Cross, 7 pm
March 24 – Worship Team, Lenten book discussion
March 27 – Seder Meal
March 28 – Palm Sunday
March 28 – Community Meal

LOOKING AHEAD to April

April 1 – Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm
April 2 – Good Friday Service, 7 pm
April 3 – Easter Vigil, 7 pm
April 4 – Easter Sunday
April 21 – Vestry
April 25 – Community Meal

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will walk the Stations of the Cross at 7:00PM every Friday night during Lent beginning February 26. This Lenten service takes about 30 minutes and invites us to walk with Jesus during the final day of his life.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

Easter Sunday is April 4th. We encourage interested individuals to donate memorial flowers to adorn the sanctuary. The cost of the memorial flowers will be \$12.00 per plant. Please send payment to the church office prior to March 20th.

PASSOVER SEDER MARCH 27

We will be having Passover Seder on Saturday, March 27, at 5:30 pm. Come enjoy traditional Passover foods and hear again the story of God rescuing the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, remembering that God never stops bringing any of us out of bondage. The meal is \$10 per person; kids under 7 are free (and especially welcome). You must RSVP by Wednesday, March 24 to the church office or to Jolene Miller, jolene278@gmail.com or 419.244.2519. Friends and family are welcome! (Let us know if you are vegetarian or vegan.)

Things to bring with you to the seder for each person: place setting, water glass, wine glass. Bring a bottle of kosher wine and/or grape juice. (If you don't like sweet, cough-syrupy kosher wine, ask your wine sellers about kosher wine; they'll point you to some good ones.)

As many of you know, seders in general involve a lot of prep work, and one the size of ours even more so. If you are interested in helping with prep work, cooking, set-up, serving, and/or clean up, please sign up in the Schilling Room or contact Jolene. Look forward to seeing you there!

JOURNEY INTO SILENCE RETREAT MARCH 11-14

Longing for a time and space to go apart and enter the sacred place of your heart? Do you desire time alone to be with God? Gather for four days (dinner on Thursday through early afternoon on Sunday) to experience contemplative prayer through silence, solitude, and communion with God. You'll meet with a retreat director once each day. This is ecumenical event is being held at Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, with all meals (except Thursday dinner) taken in silence. \$260, single occupancy, meals, and direction sessions.

For more information or to register, contact the Dominican Center at Marywood: <http://www.domincancenter.org> or 616.454.1241. If you've never been on a silent, directed retreat before, this is the perfect opportunity! It's a great length of time, and you'll be with others in the silence. If you are interested in hearing about personal experiences of this sort of retreat, contact Jolene Miller, jolene278@gmail.com or 419.244.2519.

On a related note, Jolene will be on silent retreat in Cincinnati, March 8-13. Prayers sent her way would be welcome.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY AND DISCUSSION

Lenten Book Study and Discussion

Our Lenten book study will be Marcus Borg [Reading the Bible again for the First Time](#). We will be joining with folks at Trinity for conversation about this great book on Wednesdays of Lent beginning on Wednesday, February 24 at 6:30PM. We will meet for a simple supper followed by discussion.

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time is Marcus Borg's follow-up to [Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time](#). Like his earlier book, this one is written for lay people whose faith has been frustrated by their misapprehension that fundamentalism's claim to be the one true faith is valid. Borg, a professor of religion at Oregon State University, describes an alternative to fundamentalists' so-called "literal" readings of scripture. (He believes that such "literal-factual" readings do not live up to that description, and that the limitations of such readings have alienated many people who would otherwise remain part of the church.) Borg calls his alternative "historical-metaphorical" reading, a way of "taking the Bible seriously without taking it literally." *Reading the Bible* begins with a history of recent conflicts regarding biblical interpretation. Borg navigates the minefields of his subject with sensitivity and precision, explaining, for example, the important distinction between evangelical and fundamentalist readings of the Bible. He then offers historical-metaphorical readings of some key texts from both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Throughout, Borg writes with calm assurance and respect for those who would disagree with him. *Reading the Bible* is a credible guide to the project it names. It is a faithful exercise of reason, undertaken to help Christians hear more clearly the many voices recorded in the Bible. --Michael Joseph Gross

THE NEW WEST MISSION AREA

Diocesan Convention 2009 voted to re-organize the deaneries in Mission Areas. St. Mark's is now part of the new West Mission Area which encompasses parishes from the Toledo area west to Napoleon and Defiance and south as far as Sidney and Bellefontaine.

The inaugural meeting was held on Sunday, February 21 at St. John's, Bowling Green. About 35 laity and clergy from 9 different parishes attended to form the Mission Area Council, elect officers, and begin a conversation about what our work together might be. Jane Hamilton was elected Secretary of the Mission Council.

The Mission Council will meet 4 times a year and will serve to connect parishes more closely and hopefully facilitate mission work together.

St. Mark's is entitled to 2 representatives on the Mission Council and there is still one position open. If you are interested or would like more information, please speak with Kelly.

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
Diane Polishuk , Clerk~ 419-861-0369 ~ dmariopr77@sbcglobal.net
Karen Cornwell ~ 419-861-3932 ~ kcornwell@hotmail.com
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Dolores Gulotta ~ 419-261-4882 ~ Dolores.gulotta@spcorp.com
Vestry meetings are usually the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, except July and August, when meetings are cancelled.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

7 Diane Polishuk in loving memory of her father John Polishuk Jr & in thanksgiving for her sons Alex & Andrew Schmidt

14 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Racine in loving memory of his mother, Lillian Racine Smith and the Luscombe Family.

21 Mrs. John Joseph Sr. & Family in loving memory of her husband, and their father and grandfather, Mr. John Joseph Sr.

28 The Musgrave Family in loving memory of The Rev. Frank D. Musgrave.

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

6 Dee Schultz
9 Daryl Krosws
10 Pat Squire
13 Jenn McCullough
20 Jolene Miller
26 Rachel Thurston
28 Neisha Joseph
30 Ted Gillespie

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

9 Daryl Kross/Kellie Muster
25 Eric & Linda Lehman

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.)



March 7
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 21
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

March 28
The Liturgy of the Palms
Luke 19:28-40
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

March 14
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Liturgy of the Word
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 23:1-49

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

St. Mark's ECW will meet **Wednesday, March 10** at 12:30 pm in the Schilling Room. All are welcome. Please bring a lunch. Business will begin at 1:00 pm. The agenda will include discussion of the June Luncheon.

St. Mark's will host **Northwest Ohio Deanery ECW** on **Monday, March 10**, 10:00 am. The Lenten Program, "Crosses of the World" will be presented by Judy Pfaffenberger, retired teacher and world traveler. If you enjoyed her program at last year's June luncheon, be sure to come to this equally inspiring presentation. Lunch will be provided. Come and bring friends!

World Day of Prayer, sponsored by Church Women United, will be celebrated in Toledo on **Friday, March 5th** at 1:00 pm at First United Methodist Church in Sylvania. The theme of the worship program, written by women of Cameroon, is "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God". It will be followed by a tea. Tickets are \$2.00. Please see poster on parish house bulletin board.

Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting will be Saturday, May 1. This is a change from recent years, when the meeting was on a Tuesday and Wednesday. More information in next month's newsletter.

BANNERS

St. Mark's has begun using banners to adorn the sanctuary. Unfortunately our banner inventory is very limited. For Easter we have selected 2 new banners from a national commercial supply house. Each banner is 2' x 6' and retails for \$199 but is now on sale for \$129. I anticipate with shipping we will probably have expenses of \$280 for both banners. If this is a project you would like to assist with please send your contribution to the church office. Please note "banners" in the memo line of your check.

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

Prayer Cycle for March

Ryan Disher
Linda Keblesh
Brad Bingham
Jordan Stone
Ray Tarsha &
Family
Natalie Jackson
Monica Lothamer
Khy Grant
George Rowe
Mike Coyne
Andrew Schmidt
Karen & Ken
Dunipace
Jeff Daniels

Family of Lydia Di
Dio
Dave Beckwith &
Lindsay Potts
Robert LeRoux
Garrett Eastman
James Gregg
Tom Ahl
John Kelly

Recently Deceased

Lydia Di Dio

March 7 – Parish
Abel Family, Chris Adams, Terrell Allen & Family
Bill & Connie Babcock & Family, Dave Beckwith & Lindsay Potts and Family

March 14 – Parish
Mary Beroske, Mark Bigelow, Jason Binder, David Bingham & Wayne North, George Brown

March 21 – Parish
Tim Brumbaugh, Bob Butler, Fran Carr, Confer Family, Kelly Corisis & Terry Kahler

March 28 – Parish
Karen Cornwell / Deborah Wright Family, Dorothy Damm, Datta Family, Ben & Dan Davis, Disher Family

Others to Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Kelly, our priest; Bob Morris, our senior warden, and David Bingham, 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

APRIL

newsletter deadline:

March 15

mailto:stmarkstol@aol.com

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 ~ David Bingham
Clerk ~ Diane Polishuk

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell