



St. Mark's messenger

November 2009
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From the **RECTOR**

The Rev. Kelly O'Connell

My first year at Episcopal Divinity School, I was at Chapel one morning when our dean stood up during the Prayers of the People and prayed that someone give the school one million dollars. A few people were scandalized because they thought that you should not talk about money in church much less pray for it. But it made sense to me that if God really wants to hear about all of our needs and concerns then for many of us, I would guess that money pops to the top of the list on a fairly regular basis. I know that it does for me. So I have been praying about money lately. I am praying for those who have lost their jobs, those who can't make ends meet, I am praying for St. Mark's and the upcoming decisions about our budget, I am praying for our pledge campaign and I am praying for a million dollars because it certainly can't hurt.

I believe that God works with us when we do the work that is needed for our own health and success. We are doing that work

right now at St. Mark's in the conversations that we are having, keeping the heat turned down and being open and honest about our financial life together. It is a time that is easy to let the fear grab hold and in fact a time when the evil one tries to wiggle his way in magnifying that fear and stirring up trouble. This doesn't only happen in church communities but at home as well. I believe that prayer serves to both calm us down and drive the evil one away leaving the space available in our hearts and minds to be filled with God's vision and plan.

We will be hearing a lot about pledging and stewardship in the coming month. I invite you to take some time to pray about money in your life and then listen to what God may be telling you.

Blessings,

Kelly

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

St. Mark's ECW coordinated two funeral receptions during October. Thank you to all who helped on either or both days. The next ECW meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 9** at 12:30 pm in the Schilling Room. All are welcome. Please bring a lunch. Business will begin at 1:00 pm. Should the need arise before then, a special meeting will be called after church on a Sunday. As always, we remain "on call" whenever there is a need.

Toledo Deanery ECW will host a special program on **Monday, November 16, 10:00 am** at All Saints' Episcopal Church. Two Diocese of Ohio delegates to the Triennial Meeting of Episcopal Women in Anaheim last summer will share their experiences. Triennial always meets at the same time and place as the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. All Saints ECW will provide lunch. Free will offering will be taken. Please mark your calendar now so you won't miss this opportunity to support our All Saints sisters, meet the delegates and learn about what happened in Anaheim.

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 a future newsletter.

Rector's Cake! ECW will host Coffee Hour on **December 13**. Special "Rector's Cake", baked by several parishioners, will be served. If you would like to bake one of the traditional special cakes, please contact Jean Schaefer or Dorothy Damm for the recipe. The purpose of this annual Advent event is to encourage contributions to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, as needs for assistance become greater during winter months. Your generosity will make it possible for Kelly to respond to more such needs.

UTO

St. Mark's fall United Thank Offering ingathering will be on **Sunday, November 8**. Last year the Episcopal Church Women gave over \$2 million dollars in grants to projects in the US and around the world. Please give generously.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

November 6 – FOCUS Gala
November 8 – UTO Ingathering
November 13-14 – Diocesan Convention
November 15 – Time & Talent Sunday
November 18 – Vestry
November 29 – Advent wreath making
November 29 – Community Meal

LOOKING AHEAD to December
December 6 – Pledge ingathering
December 13 – Rector's cake Sunday
December 24 – Christmas Eve
services 5:30 pm and 11:00 pm

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Diocesan Convention is November 13 and 14 at Trinity Commons in Cleveland. Your delegates this year are – Mary Beroske, Jane Hamilton and Bob Morris. To prepare for Diocesan Convention, Bishop Hollingsworth is asking parishioners and congregations to "give the shirt off your back, or at least the T-shirts off your shelf."

In what he thinks of as: "Been there, done that, got the T-shirt, and am giving it away," the bishop is urging each communicant in the Diocese of Ohio to gather up all the T-shirts that are no longer essential to your wardrobes, launder and fold them, deliver them to your parish, and have your delegates to the convention bring them to the Convention Eucharist on Saturday morning. "If your home is anything like mine," he said, "the accumulated number of T-shirts from past events, travels, sports teams, and causes that are not regularly worn constitutes a valuable amount of clothing from which others can surely benefit. Let's see how many T-shirts we can give away!"

STAYING CONNECTED

How can we stay better connected?

Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, LinkedIN, text messages, blogs, e-mails, phone calls - with all of this available to us you would think that we would stay well informed about our life together. Well, sometimes we do and sometimes we don't. Do you know that St. Mark's has a Facebook group? Do you ever look at it? Would you be interested in posts from me on Twitter? Would you read them?

I often hear from parishioners that they did not know that one thing or another was happening in spite of the fact that it was in the newsletter and in the Sunday announcements which means that either folks are not using those resources or are not receiving them. In the coming months, I hope to try a variety of ways to keep us better informed about life at St. Mark's. If you have any ideas, please share them with me.

FOCUS GALA

The FOCUS gala is coming on Friday, November 6 from 6:30-10:00PM at the Sullivan Center located at GESU Church. Come enjoy a fun evening with your friends. Tickets are \$50 and are available from Kelly, Lindsay Potts or Kyle Grefe.

JR. WARDEN'S CORNER

STEWARDSHIP, the word that will be popping up a lot in conversations over the next few months at St. Mark's as we prepare our operating budget for 2010.

What is STEWARDSHIP?

The definition that I found in Wikipedia is: *"personal responsibility for taking care of another person's property or financial affairs or in religious orders taking care of finances"*.

I also found this definition on a blog: *"the conducting, supervising, or managing of something ; especially : the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care"*

The second definition kind of spoke to me as I read it, as we are here to manage the earth, all things on the earth and our life that has been given to us by God while here on earth. God has entrusted us to care for the earth, his church and ourselves each and every day of our existence. This definition also goes beyond finances. Don't get me wrong, finances are a **very important** part of stewardship. However, if we are not good stewards of the church (building, community and services) there is no need for finances (treasures).

We have a small team that will be working on the Stewardship campaign this year. My objective is to work on the church aspect of stewardship (time and talent). The Vestry is working on streamlining our committee's or as they will be referred to "the teams" that are needed to make St. Mark's run efficiently and promote growth and vitality. Toward the middle part of November we will have a stewardship day, where these teams (those that exist and those that may be new) will be presented at booths during coffee hour. Each team will provide its mission and objectives, and you will have the opportunity to sign up to help the various team's succeed. This will require both time and talents and give you the opportunity to share in the development of the "New St. Mark's"

As we prepare for 2010 and put 2009 behind us, I invite you to pray the following prayer.

Stewardship Prayer

O God, I resolve to put You first in my life.

I recognize that You have blessed me with all that I have and all that I am.

As your steward, I resolve to sacrifice when necessary but always to do so out of a spirit of sincere love, just as your Son, Jesus, did for me.

I humbly accept the challenge to share from my means rather than from my excess.

I recognize that being a good steward is nothing more than being truly Christian.

Dear God, I resolve, to be generous with my time, talent and treasure, giving in proportion to the gifts I have been given.

I commit myself to taking care of my body and all of creation.

I know there will be times when I will fall to be a good steward, but I pledge to keep on trying.

I will confidently live each day with a spirit of true peace and joy in knowing that I am doing your will. **Amen.**

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 ~ *dmariern77@sbcglobal.net*
Karen Cornwell ~ 419-861-3932 ~ *kcornwell@hotmail.com*
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Bill Wray ~ 419-729-9312
Lourdes Santiago ~ 419-843-2010 ~ *losamil101849@aol.com*
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.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

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

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

15 Judy Stone, Linda Swartz, Peggy Brigham in loving memory of their parents, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Swartz.

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

29 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.

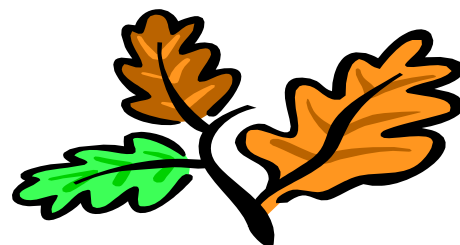
BIRTHDAYS

- 11 Fran Tassie
11 Patrick Boyle
13 Julie Sanders
13 Daniel Davis
14 Elizabeth Joseph-Abel
18 Jonathon Campbell
18 Alan Abel
24 Matthew Joseph
26 Jim Mick
28 Ben Davis

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 13 Mark Jesionowski & Carl Albert

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.)



November 1 –
Wisdom of Solomon 3: 1-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21: 1-6a
John: 11:32-44

November 15
1 Samuel 1: 4-20
1 Samuel 2; 1-10
Hebrews 10:11-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 29
Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Psalm 25: 1-10
1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13
Luke 21: 25-36

November 8
Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78: 1-7
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Matthew 25: 1-13

November 22
2 Samuel 23: 1-7
Psalm 132: 1-12
Revelation 1: 4b-8
John 18: 33-37

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Advent wreath making after both services on SUNDAY, November 29. Materials provided.



WHO ARE WE?

Check this out - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_LahXMV5UY.
It is a new video just released by the Episcopal Church Center about our identity as Episcopalians.

FOOD BASKETS AVAILABLE

Do you know a family who is struggling and could use a Thanksgiving food basket? Kiwanis is donating 20 baskets to St. Mark's so please let Kelly know if you know of someone who could use Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings.



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
Mark J.
Billy Naumann
Jeff Palicki
Diane Klug
Chuck Lever
Tyler Yoder
Norene Monhollen
Margaret Weber
David Mayhew
Ken Cappelletty
Sharon Klay
Dunipace Family

In Thanksgiving

Margaret Weber
Cal Bishop Family
Maria Coates &
Family
Mike Wykoff
Grandma Rouse
Kathleen Thompson
Bill & Emma
Middleton

Homebound

Recently Deceased

John Merriam
Richard Entenmann

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

DECEMBER

newsletter deadline:

November 15

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