



The Postmark

The monthly newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Little Rock

June
2009

Crisis Response Team to Form

A group of people from Trinity and St. Mark's are forming a Crisis Response Team so that our churches might respond more effectively to our community and region in times of disaster and crisis.

There will be an organizational meeting at the home of Robert and Joanna Seibert, 27 River Ridge on Wed. June 10 at 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to be a part of this group, please contact Joanna Seibert (372.0294 or jjs@george.archchildrens.org) or Susan Lyon (960.5515 or drsusanlyon@gmail.com) or call the church office.

Kids Will Live on The Edge at St. Mark's Vacation Bible School



Each morning from July 6-10, children ages 4 years through 5th grade will learn that their strength and might come from God. At this activity-packed Bible school program children will learn to live their faith through these Daily Pledges:

- God is with me. I will stay close to God.
- God guides me. I will follow.
- God teaches me. I will learn.
- God loves me. I will love God and others.
- God sends me. I will go.

Each morning that week, children will gather at 9:00 for an opening event. Following that they will rotate through a block of activities, each lasting about 20 minutes. The group will re-assemble about 11:00 for closing activities and be ready for pick-up at 11:30.

In order to make this exciting program as successful as possible, there needs to be a committed core of volunteers. Adults and teenagers are encouraged to consider this an opportunity to serve. A nursery will be provided for the children of volunteers.

In order for us to purchase supplies, you must register by June 28. Register by contacting Luke Gilbert (225.4203 or lgilbert@st-marks.com) or online at: cokesburyvbs.com/stmarksvbs/ce/

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Submissions to the Postmark may be made by the 15th of the month via e-mail to:
linda@soundscapes.com
or by fax to: 280-0175
Linda Walker

Rector's Reflections

Justice in the Bible

Recently I've been inspired in my readings about God's justice in the Bible and also in reading for the second time, *The Little Book of Biblical Justice*. Being a former lawyer, my notions about God's justice were influenced by my legal training. But I have been discovering that God's justice is a much more far reaching and expansive concept than I had ever imagined.

In our legal system we think of justice as being impartial, but when it comes to God and social justice, we find that God is actually partial towards those who are most vulnerable in the world, for example, the widow, the orphan, and the sojourner (immigrant), as well as victims of discrimination. God's will for all creation is what the Bible calls Shalom. Shalom is sometimes translated peace, but it means much more than that. Shalom is when things are the way they ought to be; Shalom is when everyone has what they need to live an abundant life. Shalom is when all are treated with dignity and respect.

Because God is just, God actively pursues justice in the world so that all creation moves towards Shalom. In the legal system, we may think of a judge as waiting in the courthouse to decide cases, but in the Bible when God judges, God goes into the world and actively seeks to vindicate those who don't have what is needed for Shalom. That's why when, for example, we help St. Francis House, we are not merely extending compassion, rather we are acting justly, in furtherance of God's justice, and to further God's deep desire for Shalom. So it is with other outreach ministries. Providing medical care for those who cannot afford it is not only compassionate, it is an act of justice.

And here's the kicker—God's justice is not optional. You and I are commanded to work for justice in the world. Because we are made in God's image and likeness, you and I are called to emulate our Creator in the world. And so when we learn of injustice, we should not be surprised that God calls us to act. Of course, working for justice in the world is extremely difficult, as many structures and powers in the world are opposed to God's vision of Shalom. The financial pressures opposed to God's justice are many. Yet let us always remember that God longs for Shalom, and thus let us heed the words of the prophet Micah, "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." This is true religion.

Fr. Danny⁺

Eco ReMark



You may safely dispose of household chemicals, electronics, fluorescent bulbs & more each Thursday 7-9:30, 3:30-5:30, and the first Saturday of each month 7-noon, at these locations: 10001 Kanis Rd., the back parking lot of LRPD and the corner of Jr. Deputy and Kanis. More information is available at www.regionalrecycling.org, or 340.8792.



Fostering Reflection and Discussion
at the Intersection of
Faith and Contemporary Life

Our theme this summer in Adult Christian Education will be *Life Lessons from Great Books*. We will look at our lives and place our unique experiences into a larger perspective through the lessons from great books.

June 7- *Disciples: Who are They? Am I One?* Fr. Danny Schieffler and Mark Davis will lead our discussion of discipleship and how we may live into our calling to be Jesus' disciples.

How can our spirits endure much hardship without crumbling? Dostoevsky and Weisel present the struggle to survive both the inner battle of the human spirit against its own sins and the individual's fight against external evils.

June 14-*The Unconquerable Human Spirit: The Brothers Karamazov*

June 21-*The Unconquerable Human Spirit: Night*

What is the true meaning of patriotism? Washington called for the avoidance of savage partisan strife, and Roosevelt offers timeless views on patriotic characteristics such as honesty and integrity.

June 28- *Patriotism: Autobiography of Theodore Roosevelt*

July 5- *Patriotism: Washington's Farewell Address*

How can humor console us in times of trouble? George Orwell used pointed satire to skewer Communist ideals, and Aristophanes wrote comedies such as *Lysistrata* to propose that Greeks "make love, not war."

July 12- *Laughter and Irony: Animal Farm*

July 19- *Laughter and Irony: Comedies*

Two great plays from Shakespeare remind us that love can bring both pain and pleasure. Love can be a chivalric romance or manipulative, as shown by Lady MacBeth.

July 26- *Romance and Love: Tristan and Isolde*

August 2- *Romance and Love: MacBeth*

How do we find the strength within ourselves to face life's challenges? T.E. Lawrence reinvented himself to discover inner strength during WWI, and Albert Schweitzer reached out to people in a remote African village to provide medical care.

August 9- *Adventure and Courage: Seven Pillars of Wisdom*

August 16- *Adventure and Courage: Out of My Life and Thought*

How can we cope with the trials and tribulations of youth? Of old age? Goethe wrote of the passion of youth, and Cicero counsels us on the importance of old age and the wisdom that comes with it.

August 23- *Youth and Old Age: The Sufferings of Young Werther*

August 30- *Youth and Old Age: "On Old Age"*

The Heretics, an irreverent book discussion group, will be reading *The First Paul* by Marcus Borg and John Crossan. The group will meet in members' homes **Thursday evenings from 6-8** to share a simple meal and discuss the book. Meeting dates will be **June 11 & 25 and July 9 & 23**. For more information contact Linda Walker (666.6178 or linda@soundscapes.com)

Mission to Mena

"Preach the Gospel at all times and use words if you HAVE to." --St. Francis of Assisi

On the first Saturday in May, 13 people left St. Mark's parking lot armed with four chain saws and a wheelbarrow to "preach the Gospel" in Mena, Arkansas. Storm clouds were low, but our spirits were high. Our group consisted of Kevin Raney, Phil Rickels and son C.J., Don Phelan and two friends from Habitat for Humanity, Edie Foot, Susan Lyon and her oldest son Thomas, who brought four of his friends. Betty Dungan, Sandra Cone and Kathy Landes supplied us with food and drinks, and two St. Mark's gentlemen gave generously for other needs.

It was a very wet adventure taking apart fallen trees and dragging their remnants to the roadside. No one complained. Who could after witnessing such devastation in this small town? Whenever the rain and lightning became too intense, we took shelter on the front porch of the lady whom we were helping and listened as she told her stories of the tornado. The clothes dryer ran non-stop in her gracious effort to keep us dry. Because of the thunderstorms, we could not stay a long day, but a lot was accomplished both physically and spiritually: the Lord protected and blessed us. We thank the people of St. Mark's for prayers and support, and look forward to other outreach projects to bring Christ's love to many of His children.

Susan Loy Lyon

Food, Fun & Baseball!

Thursday, July 16, St. Mark's will treat the veterans from St. Francis House to a picnic and Arkansas Travelers' ballgame at Dickey-Stephens Park. The picnic begins at 6, the ballgame will start at 7:00 pm. The cost of the event will be \$15 which includes a ticket to the game, all-you-can-eat hamburgers and hot dogs, and a reserved seating area with picnic tables, seats and a fantastic view of the field. We will need some volunteers to help transport the veterans to and from the game. Please contact Kevin Raney (664.6870) or Deacon Len Griffin if you can help with transportation.

Tunes for Teeth

Liberia, a country of three million people on the west coast of Africa, has only three licensed dentists in the whole country! Trinity Dental Clinic was founded a year ago by Dr. Keith Chapman of St. Bartholomew's, Nashville and Frieda Schmidt (both of whom were previously involved with Mercy Ships). Created to address the need for dental care and surgery in a country where the average person makes less than \$1 a day, Trinity Dental Clinic provides care for those suffering from dental pain and life-threatening infections caused by lack of dental care.

Founder and dentist Keith Chapman is a singer/songwriter and is selling his CD of original Christian music to help support the clinic. If you want to support this project, or simply hear Keith's music, visit Trinity Dental Clinic at www.trinitydental.org.

Words from the Warden

Have you ever known someone who was ill and put off going to the doctor for weeks, only to discover when they went, the medication provided immediate relief, causing them to wonder why they had not made the appointment sooner? Then, once on the road to recovery, they pronounced themselves "well" and quit taking the medicine and following the doctor's advice only to have the symptoms return.

I truly believe that God has given our congregation wisdom and healing in the last year in response to our prayers and our search for His desires and plans for St. Mark's. For this I am humbled and grateful. My concern is that we will pronounce ourselves "well" and forget that there is much work to be done inside our church and in the world to help bring the true joy of Christ to ourselves and to others. We have asked for His guidance and, in many respects, we have listened and felt the relief and joy of His healing powers. We must continue to ask God for wisdom and strength and, when given the direction of His will, we need to continue to avail ourselves of that "prescription" for our own good spiritual health and those we are called to serve.

Jim Tilley, Sr. Warden

YOUTHAPALOOZA

Youth Mission Trip to Gulf Coast

Since Katie will be at camp all summer, Jeannie McCabe has graciously invited our EYC to go with her youth group from St. John's, Fort Smith to Pass Christian, Mississippi. Departure will be Sunday, June 21, returning Friday, June 26.

Participants will help with Trinity Episcopal Church's VBS/Day Camp and continued clean-up in the community. You may sign-up to go on the trip by contacting Katie (225.4203). Please let her know by June 1, if you will be participating.

Thanks for a Wonderful Year

Thanks to all of you who helped with Youth Sunday! This has been a great year and I am glad the congregation got to hear about the many programs the youth have at St. Mark's. I am so happy to be here at St. Mark's working with all of you and I look forward to next year!

Congratulations to all of our Seniors: Laura Allen, Kathryn Gandy, Kayla Harter, Sloan Jaco, Will Jones, Mary Kauffman, Nate Kelch, Kelsey Kirchner, Marvin McLennon, Jordan Miller, Braxton Myers, Dylan Owen, Amelia Smith.

End of Year/Senior Banquet



*Graduating seniors were honored at the final EYC gathering of the academic year at the Buffalo Grill.
Left to right: Nate Keltch, Katie McDonald, Marvin McLennon, Kayla Harter, Will Jones, Sloan Jaco Luke Gilbert, Kathryn Gandy and Allison Brass.*

June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8:00 AM Holy Eucharist</p> <p>8:45 AM Breakfast</p> <p>9:15 AM Christian Education</p> <p>10:30 AM Choral Eucharist</p> <p>5:00 PM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>1:00 PM Knitters</p> <p>4:30 PM Centering Prayer</p> <p>5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm</p> <p>6:15 PM Cursillo/Lib</p>	<p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library</p>	<p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>11:00 AM Parkway Village HE</p> <p>5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm</p> <p>5:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Healing prayer</p>	<p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:30 AM Christ Care/Conf Rm</p> <p>11:00 AM Centering Prayer</p> <p>11:30 AM Lunch Bunch</p>	<p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>11:00 AM OA/Conf Rm</p> <p>6:00 PM AA/Conf Rm</p>	<p>Allie Maxwe...d reception</p> <p>10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm</p>
<p>8:00 AM Holy Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 AM Christian Education</p> <p>10:30 AM Choral Eucharist</p> <p>5:00 PM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>4:30 PM Centering Prayer</p> <p>5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm</p> <p>6:15 PM Cursillo/Lib</p>	<p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library</p> <p>4:30 PM Grief Support Group</p>	<p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>5:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Healing prayer</p> <p>5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm</p>	<p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:30 AM Christ Care/Conf Rm</p> <p>11:00 AM Centering Prayer</p>	<p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>8:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>11:00 AM OA/Conf Rm</p> <p>11:00 AM OA</p> <p>6:00 PM AA/Conf Rm</p>	<p>Megan Allen wedding</p> <p>10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm</p> <p>10:00 AM OA</p>
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June

1	Robert Kennedy	16	Zachary Smith
	Wyatt Weems		Betty Dungan
3	Lucy Jackson	17	Bick Satterfield
4	Katie McDonald	18	James Gammill
5	Jennifer Miller		Lisa Moriconi
	Bobby Starkey	19	Marilyn Ryburnn
	Doug Hardin	20	Shelley Myers
7	John Barr		Adam Mann
	Avery Ramsey	21	Sydney Gilbert
8	Kay Russell	23	Eddie Jo Damm
	Maggie Burgess	24	Aleta Mullins
9	Joe Bryan	25	Mary Rae
	Cindy Miller	26	Kay Christensen
	Jennifer Simmons	27	Bill Adcock
	Jane Homeyer		Susan Bannister
	Fletcher Smith		Jan Johnston
	Alice Brown		Jonathon Raney
10	Betty McDermott		Joyce Cearley
	Nancy Cranford	28	Falicia Morris
	Fred Stone		Suzanne Waldron
12	Bo Mittelstaedt	29	Brooke Ault
13	Kermit Tracy		Briana Ault
	Melanie Dancy	30	Patty Hickman
15	Robert Garrison		Stephanie Maxwell
	Jane Texter		Glenda Lucy
16	Mark Davis		

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Saturday,
September 26
Be There!

EfM: Creating More Effective Ministers

When Bishop Benfield was with us last month, he suggested our congregation could be more effective as ministers if more of us were involved in Education for Ministry (EfM). EfM is an extension course from Sewanee which helps people identify their ministries and prepares them to pursue these ministries. Each of us has a ministry--we can't expect that ministry is an activity only done by the ordained clergy!

The course takes some commitment in both time and money. The cost for the course it is about \$340 per year. This is a reduced rate, since Arkansas is a sponsoring diocese. Additionally, there has been some scholarship support from St. Mark's in the past, should cost be prohibitive. Groups meet weekly during the school year (i.e., for about 9 months) and the entire course takes 4 years.

There are three aspects to the course. The first is *Education*: Year 1 focuses on Old Testament, Year 2 looks at New Testament, Year 3 deals with church history, and Year 4 explores different theologies. There are course readings from Sewanee (now available on CD-ROM!), and these readings are discussed by the group at the weekly meetings. The second aspect of the weekly meetings centers on *Common Lessons*, the predominant one being "Spiritual Reflections," in which elements of our tradition (scripture, prayer book, church history) are used to analyze events from our daily lives. The third aspect is *Worship*.

I have been an EfM mentor for 5 years now and would like to start a new group this fall at St. Mark's. In order to start a group there must be at least six individuals and no more than twelve. I am aware of two people wanting to start this fall, one at the beginning level and one at the third year, so we would need at least four more, and could have as many as ten. It is possible, even usual, to have people in the group who are in different years of the course. If you would like more information or would be interested in joining an EfM group, please contact me (KempStephenF@uams.edu or 501.851.1929) or the church office (225.4203).



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Welcome, New Confirmands

The following people were confirmed by Bishop Benfield at his most recent visit to St. Mark's:

- Michael Otis Bearden
- Lawrence Skip Cook
- Charles Vaughan Ellis
- Ashton Allan Griffin
- Kimberly Ann Horton Hoffman
- Alexis Laurel Hughes
- Haley Elise Hughes
- Sarah Elizabeth Pitman
- William H. Riley, Jr.
- John Thomas Starling
- Janet Wagner