



The Postmark

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

July 2009 News & Notes

Saints & Sinners - an evening of fun for all St. Mark's members, visitors and friends - will gather **Friday, July 17, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Michele Moss's home, 3624 Faulkner Road, Little Rock.** Bring hors d'oeuvres to share plus \$4 for adult beverages.



Register for the summer series of discussion courses at Heifer Village and start to change your world today! *Food for Life: Making the Connection between the Food We Eat and How It's Produced*, Tuesday evenings, July 7- Aug 18, 5:30 pm - 7 pm. There is a growing need to consider the larger implications of our food choices and how they can have a significant effect worldwide. Reserve your space by email: HeiferVillage-Registration@heifer.org or phone (907.2697). Fee: \$40 Payable by cash or check. Mail checks to HeiferVillage, One World Avenue, Little Rock AR 72202

Bravo! To An Afternoon for the Future

My reponse to "An Afternoon for the Future," --- WOW! And thank you so much to everyone who attended. What a great day in the history of St. Mark's.

When I was asked to spearhead this meeting we faced several issues. We had some data (not all that we needed) we had lots of unanswered questions, and about three weeks to make it happen...and by then "everyone would be gone on vacation." Wrong, the people of St. Mark's pulled out all the stops.

Brent and Linda Walker did cartwheels and backflips to publicize the event. Staff did likewise on the presentation data, AV support and taking reservations, especially Luke Gilbert and Kathy Roberts. Cindy Miller, Kristen Braunfisch and Doug Stroud decked out the room and got us quickly fed with a great lunch thanks to Crave Catering. Philip Tappan and John Jaco pulled our campus visuals together so we'd see where we were.

Our facilitators initially told us they'd be happy with 100 participants -- we had 180. Thanks go to Vicky Starling for her help in the turnout, as well as our Vestry for personally contacting people. The facilitators said gathering our demographic data was optional, we had over 200 surveys returned. Don Deems diligently plotted our zipcode information onto a large map. Thanks to all of you!

So what will we do with all that we learned? A lot! When we started this process, our committee agreed that we were about a lot more than, "just fixing the roof." and that if we really listened to God and where we were heading, the other things we needed to do would become more clear. You said our thinking was right by the input you gave and the number of you who participated. If you were not able to attend, the presentation which was made is available in the office. The tabulated results from the meeting are also available.

Thank you again, St. Mark's. With what I see coming, I've never been more proud or excited to call St. Mark's my church home.

Holly Tilley

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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

Jesus to His Disciples: Let's Go Across to the Other Side

Early in Jesus' ministry in Galilee, things were working quite well. The sick were healed, the hungry were fed, the outcasts were included and the demons were driven out. In fact, things were going so well that some of the disciples didn't want to leave the eastern shore of Lake Galilee. Galilee was a comfortable place. Nevertheless, when the time was right, Jesus said to them, "Let's go across to the other side."

Jesus' journey to the other side was not simply a trip to another Jewish town. It was a new and possibly risky chapter in the ministry of Jesus and his disciples; this was their first mission to Gentile territory. No longer would their ministry be "for members only." It would now include non-members, even enemies of the Jews. For "the other side" was the home of the Gerasenes and the notorious "Gerasene demoniac." Yet Jesus and his disciples obeyed God and went to this new place.

If the life of Jesus and his disciples is instructive for the church, and I think it is, then this story says a lot about what it means for us to journey with Jesus. Sometimes even when things are working, Jesus calls the church to go to a new place, "across to the other side." Things may be comfortable, but God calls the church to continue the journey.

I believe that this is part of what is happening at St. Mark's right now. Through cottage meetings, mutual ministry reviews and our recent workshop, "An Afternoon For the Future," we have been listening for God's call and God's direction to a new place. From our workshop, it seems clear that this "new place" will include more young adults, youth and children. It will include a focus on spiritual growth and discipleship that forms mature people of faith.

One thing that seems clear about this "new place" is that God's work through St. Mark's is not only for members of St. Mark's. I believe God is calling us to a deeper commitment and to a new emphasis on mission and outreach to others. St. Mark's has much to offer our community, and with God's help we will get "to the other side."

Danny⁺

Carey's Corner

May God the Lord, who called Abraham to leave home and kindred to journey to an unknown destination, and who led the people of Israel by the hand of Moses his servant through the desert to the promised land: Shepherd you in your pilgrimage, and lead you by safe pathways, for his Name's sake. Amen.

--The Book of Occasional Services, p.266

Well, it's that time again when we start taking some needed time off from our work and daily lives. One of the signs that it is vacation time is that gas prices have once again begun to rise! We will all have to dig a little deeper into our pockets to get us to the Gulf coast, Colorado, the Michigan Lake District or wherever we are going for vacation. Nonetheless, we will make the sacrifice in order to go to some distant and different place and spend time with our families and friends. The hope is that we will be rejuvenated, refreshed and renewed.

If author Wayne Dyer is right (and I believe he is) that, "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having a human experience," then our summer travels may hold a deeper significance. One vacation that comes to mind is a trip I took to the Gulf coast during my period of discerning a call to the priesthood. I travelled from Gulfport to Pass Christian to Bay St. Louis to Biloxi and to Gulf Shores and finally to Pensacola. Along the way I visited the various Episcopal Churches which dot the coast and, if rectors/vicars were available, I picked their brains about going into the priesthood. Some of the memories are now haunting since this was prior to the devastation of Katrina.

There were a couple of synchronicities which occurred that really lodged in my mind. I dropped in on a friend in Hattiesburg (she did not know that I was thinking about the priesthood) and she said that there was a special place she wanted to take me for lunch. She said, "It's just down the road in a little place called Seminary, Mississippi."

After leaving her I took a detour through one of those Louisiana parishes called St. Charles. I got out my saints dictionary to find that St. Charles was the patron saint of seminarians! Little did I know what God had in store – in just about a year I would be in seminary for real!

While the path to seminary may not prove to be a part of your spiritual journey, I pray that your next vacation will be equally meaningful. If we stay mindful of our spiritual connection, our travel can be transformed into pilgrimage. I like the following prayer by Thomas Merton; it reflects the spirit of Abraham, who set off by faith on a journey with an unknown destination.

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that my desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone." - *Sacred Places, Pilgrim Paths: An Anthology of Pilgrimage*

Blessings on your continued journey!

Carey⁺

ChristCare Leader Training Available



ChristCare groups are safe and trusting small group communities where people can support, nurture, encourage and care for one another. This is not your normal everyday care, though; this is ChristCare! The practice of

an unconditional care full of acceptance and forgiveness like what Jesus shared with the world.

ChristCare groups meet together to follow four growth opportunities: Community Building and Care, Prayer and Worship, Biblical Equipping, and Missional service. We are seeking individuals to be trained to lead these ChristCare groups. We are looking for people who are welcoming and compassionate as well as people who are not afraid to organize and communicate with a small group.

A ChristCare leader doesn't need to be a Biblical scholar but does need to be a person who desires to grow spiritually and wants to help others grow along with them. Please contact Luke Gilbert (225.4203) or Celia Martin(868.4303)if you would like to know more about being trained as a ChristCare leader.

Play Ball! And Eat!

Thursday, July 16, St. Mark's will treat the veterans from St. Francis House to a picnic and an Arkansas Travelers ballgame and you and your friends are invited! The picnic is \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids--including a ticket to the game, all-you-can-eat hamburgers, hot dogs, side items and drinks and a reserved seating area with picnic tables, seats and a fantastic view of the field. The picnic begins at 6:00 pm and the game will start at 7:10 pm.

We need some volunteers to help with transportation of the veterans to and from the game. Please contact Kevin Raney (664-6870) or Deacon Len Griffin if you can help .

A Word From the Warden

My thanks to those of you who were able to participate in the "An Afternoon for the Future" event held on May 31. One of the messages that I have heard loud and clear during my tenure as your Sr. Warden is that the decision making processes concerning our church and its health and future need to be the result of our collective thoughts and prayers and not just of a chosen few.

The gathering May 31 provided an opportunity for more than 180 of our parishioners' thoughts and prayers to be heard in one room for the good of the parish. Trust me when I tell you, you were heard! Your vestry is now taking those ideas and attempting to put them into what will become the foundation of our church's mission statement as well as our upcoming capital campaign.

As a final note, I can tell you that we are experiencing vitality and growth in the number of visitors who continue to come to worship with us each week. Repeatedly we receive feedback that our visitors have enjoyed their "St. Mark's experience" because we are are such a warm and inviting congregation. Please say a prayer of thanks that God continues to lead new people to our doors and that we continue to be good stewards of the gift of "new faces."

Jim Tilley, Sr. Warden

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have been overwhelmed by your cards, notes, flowers, memorials, visits, hugs and--most especially--your thoughts and prayers for me in this sad time of my life. There is no way that I could possibly thank each one of you personally, so I am taking this way to express my gratitude for your loving kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity. You went above and beyond the call of duty to express your love and respect for my husband, and I know he is smiling down on you from Heaven.

Our 50 years at St. Mark's Church has been the greatest blessing of our lives, and it is because of you, my friends, as you are the church. I do not understand how people without a church home exist day-to-day, but especially when a tragedy occurs. You have shown me love and compassion beyond compare, and I am deeply grateful for the gift of our friendship.

In His Love,
Betty Dungan

July

1	Peggy Johnston	10	Will Estes III
	Carol Gilman	11	Patty Sheen
2	Pat Petkoff		Anne Virden
	Joan Campbell	13	Heather Terry
	Hannah McNeill	14	Amanda Rhea
3	Hall Ramsey	16	Jamie Deere
	Emma Griffin		Judi Blevins
	William Griffin	18	Rebecca Hardcastle
	Jessica Horton		Ryan Sniegocki
	Laverne Davis	19	Jim McHaney
4	Eleanor Colaianni	20	April Harrell
5	Ed Barry		Lilly Randolph
	Kim Golden	22	Kathy Cranford
	Jim Tilley	23	Eleanor Randolph
	Sammye Johnston	24	John Allison
	Hannah Christeson		Neal Johnston
	Jackie Keisker		Vicki Bennett
7	Kathleen Goff		David Mann
	Rich Robins	25	Conner Jaco
	Lillie Bolton		Vicki McNeill
8	Ellie Robins	27	George Bailey
	Sam Kauffman	28	Sarah Tappan
	Randy Tardy	29	John Myers
	Kristin Mann	30	Nathan Bryan
9	Joanna Fureigh		Janee Miller
	Andrew Kumpuris		Dylan Owen
	Jane Anne Blakney-Bailey	31	Kevin Schulte
			Sandra Cone

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



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

This summer the Adult Forum, which meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall, is focusing on the topic of *Life Lessons from Great Books*. Here is a list of July's topics.

July 5 Patriotism: *Washington's Farewell Address* What is the true meaning of patriotism? Washington called for the avoidance of savage partisan strife.

July 12 Laughter and Irony: *George Orwell's Animal Farm* Orwell used pointed satire to skewer Communist ideals.

July 19 Laughter and Irony: *Machiavelli's La Mandragola* How can humor help to console us in times of trouble? Machiavelli shows us that when we are seduced and betrayed, it is generally because we have seduced and betrayed ourselves.

July 26 Romance and Love: *Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra*

A Note From Our Bishop

17 June 2009

To my friends at St. Mark's,

I want to thank all of you for the extraordinarily generous gift to my discretionary fund upon the occasion of my visit there. That money truly makes a difference in the ministries and support that are possible from this office.

I send my best wishes for your future work.

*Faithfully,
+ Barry*

July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist ■ 9:15 AM Christian Education ■ 10:30 AM Choral Eucharist ■ 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 1:00 PM Kniters ■ 4:30 PM Centering Prayer ■ 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm ■ 6:15 PM Cursillo/Lib 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:00 AM Staff Meeting/Lib ■ 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Lib 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing prayer ■ 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 11:00 AM OA/Conf Rm ■ 6:00 PM AA/Conf Rm 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist ■ 9:15 AM Christian Education ■ 10:30 AM Choral Eucharist ■ 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 4:30 PM Centering Prayer ■ 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm ■ 6:15 PM Cursillo/Lib 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:00 AM Staff Meeting/Lib ■ 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Lib ■ 4:30 PM Grief Support Group ■ 5:30 PM Columbarium 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm ■ 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing prayer ■ 6:00 PM Craftuality 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:30 AM Christ Care/Parlor ■ 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 11:00 AM OA/Conf Rm ■ 6:00 PM AA/Conf Rm ■ 6:30 PM Saints and Sinners 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist ■ 9:15 AM Christian Education ■ 10:30 AM Choral Eucharist ■ 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 4:30 PM Centering Prayer ■ 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm ■ 6:15 PM Cursillo/Lib 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:00 AM Staff Meeting/Lib ■ 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Lib ■ 5:45 PM Vestry 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing prayer ■ 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 11:00 AM OA/Conf Rm ■ 6:00 PM AA/Conf Rm 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist ■ 9:15 AM Christian Education ■ 10:30 AM Choral Eucharist ■ 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 4:30 PM Centering Prayer ■ 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm ■ 5:30 PM Shrimp Boil Mtg. ■ 6:15 PM Cursillo/Lib 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:00 AM Staff Meeting/Lib ■ 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Lib ■ 4:30 PM Grief Support Group 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm ■ 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing prayer 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 11:00 AM OA/Conf Rm ■ 6:00 PM AA/Conf Rm 	

Why I Do What I Do and You Can Too!

One Wednesday afternoon about ten years ago, we had one of those snows that disappears by the time your car is warmed up. Phone call after phone call came from kids and parents worried that I might cancel EYC or EKC. It will always stay in my memory because it affirmed my choice to stay in youth ministry for all these years.

The snow ended almost before it began, and all the teenagers arrived talking about the weather. Rather than wishing there were more of it or that it had lasted longer, they were worried and kept saying, "What if we hadn't been able to have EYC?" It was clear to me that they loved being at St. Mark's and learning about God with their friends. I hadn't realized how important St. Mark's had become to them! As that group grows older, many EYC alums come to see me as young adults and express how important their time at St. Mark's was for them.

I see the same possibilities for joy and fulfillment in community with our Youth Christian Education. The bonds which are formed and the spiritual growth begun will sustain our youth for a lifetime. Wouldn't you like to be a part of that? You can! We need people to help raise these children in the life and faith of our Christian community. Please let me know if you would like to be a teacher, storyteller, or helper. We need mentors for preschool-12th grade. Call me, Luke Gilbert (225.4203) to find out how you can enjoy this role of nurturing and sustaining our youth--now and well into their future.



Katie's @Camp and She's Not Alone!



The summer is in full swing and it couldn't be better! Camp has two full sessions this summer, and this means a lot of people are going to get to experience the sacred place that is Camp Mitchell. The staff is wonderful and the Counselor Assistants (many from St. Mark's!) who come to the mountain week to week are great additions to the summer staff.

I want to thank everyone at St. Mark's for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for camp, the staff, and most importantly, the campers. See you in August!

Katie McDonald, Youth Director



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The **Postmark**

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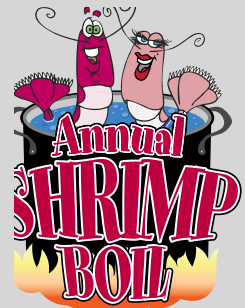
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Laissez les Bon Temps Roulers

Saturday evening, September 26, St. Mark's will host the 5th Annual Shrimp Boil benefitting St. Francis House. In addition to the great Cajun shrimp with all the trimmings, the "jump-swing" music of Greasy Greens (with our own Ron Hughes) will once again fill the air.



Here are just a few stats to remind us of the impact the Shrimp Boil has had in four years: 4400 tickets sold; 3675 meals served; 800 volunteers; \$52,000 donated to St. Francis House. These are impressive and set high standards for this year --it will take many folks to continue the success. If you'd like to be part of the planning process, there's still time and room for you! Contact Gene or Celia Martin (868.4303 or thecook7@att.net).