



The Postmark

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

News & Notes
June 2010

New St. Mark's Arising

St. Mark's will be welcoming a summer intern and recent Hendrix graduate, Hannah Hooker. Hannah is interested in the priesthood and will shadow and assist Fr. Carey and staff for six weeks this summer. She will begin her time with us on Monday, June 14.



The Ladies Lunch Bunch will gather for their regular monthly meal on Thursday, June 3, at 11:30 at Trio's. All women of the church are welcome to attend. If you would like to carpool, plan to meet at St. Mark's by 11:20.

Our building renovations are in full swing! The new roof is on schedule to be finished by the end of June, despite some recent rain delays. If you drive by St. Mark's at night, you may notice lights on and people working. That's Environmental Protection Associates completing our asbestos removal.



Upstairs Willcox building interior

Nabholz Construction Company has begun renovations on the Willcox Building. You would be amazed to

see that the interior of the building is nothing but a shell with standing studs. Nabholz is on schedule to have the building completed in time for the Day School to begin in September and for St. Mark's to begin the new Sunday School year on Rally Sunday.

Renovation of the Youth Building is set to begin in July, and it, too, should be completed by September. Luke Gilbert is posting pictures and videos on the St. Mark's website (<http://st-marks.com/>) to enable us to view the progress. To see these posts, go to the website and click on the About Us page, then click on Construction Updates.

Needless to say, this construction isn't free. Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to this capital campaign. Please keep your pledges current. I would also like to encourage you to pray about making a commitment if you haven't yet. If you feel led to make a pledge, please contact Karen Blissit (225.4203) to set that up.

Please keep all of those involved in this process in your prayers. Know that all of you are in mine.

John Jaco
Junior Warden

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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

*During his sabbatical, Fr. Danny has asked that we use excerpts from *Twelve Keys to Prayer* by Jerome Kodell, O.S.B. The author has granted permission for this use. The book is available through *The Liturgical Press*.*

A Rich Tradition

I have gathered some pointers about prayer handed down from elder brothers and sisters in the Catholic tradition who have gone before us in the sign of faith leaving a legacy of prayer experience. I call them "Twelve Keys to Prayer" but not "The Twelve": these are just some of the many that have been handed down to us, but they are a good start.

1) *Prayer is a relationship.* Prayer can be explained and defined in various ways, but we always return to the realization that prayer is a personal communication between a child of God and God. There are millions of words and ideas to assist us in prayer, from the liturgical rituals to the personal prayer books to the Bible and other books and articles about prayers. And there are rosaries and crucifixes and other images and symbols (sacramentals), all very helpful in our journey of prayer. But all the words and things of prayer must lead to personal communication with God; otherwise they may become subtle substitutes for prayer or even superstitious objects.

God has created each of us personally and uniquely. There are no copies. Neither are any two relationships with God identical. The spiritual life is a voyage of new discovery. If we spend time with God, we are gradually drawn into communion, learning to pray by praying. We can never quite explain it, any more than we can explain other love relationships.

2) *True prayer, like true love, is a decision, not a feeling.* In even the most intimate loving relationships, feelings come and go. Spouses or children or friends inspire us at one moment, nauseate us the next. This may be independent of anything they have done or any change we can detect. To a great extent, our feelings have a mind of their own. What cements a relationship is decision and commitment. We cannot judge the fervor of our prayer by the strength or weakness of our feelings: the coldest day of prayer may really be the warmest. Fervor proves itself in the living out of the commitment.

The making of a commitment may be flooded with powerful feelings. Think of a wedding day, a religious profession, an ordination. In those moments there is no darkness, only light. After that, though, feelings come and go, often leaving us high and dry at critical times. It is precisely in those moments that the promise is an anchor, holding us true to our purpose and carrying us through. Fidelity to prayer is a more reliable guide to spiritual growth than prayer's varying quality from day to day.

Carey's Corner

"We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together."

--From the prayer for the Mission of the Church, BCP p.838

This article could be summed up by the title "Laity on the Loose!" In a time of sabbatical we certainly miss the presence and ministry of our rector.

As an associate, I am acutely aware of the many ways Fr. Danny shares the load and enhances the life of this parish.

On the other hand, I am also equally aware of how blessed we are with such a gifted and caring staff. Each of them are stepping up in important ways that make a huge difference! Finally, we are loaded with gifted and caring parishioners. The catechism describes the ministry of lay persons: "The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church." (BCP p.855) Many members of the laity are doing their part in these days to minister to the needs of others in meaningful and practical ways.

Hospital Visitors are visiting the sick and Parish Care Guild members are meeting many practical needs after a death or hospitalization. The new ChristCare groups are already spreading the love of God within their groups and beyond, by identifying missions beyond themselves. One group has identified an underserved population within our parish – shut-ins and those living in nursing homes. Some are teaching classes, tending to our grounds, or serving on committees while others are monitoring the progress of our new renovations. I am especially grateful to our wardens, Philip Tappan and John Jaco, for keeping a close eye on our capital improvements and being such a pleasure to work with. It truly is a joy to see so many serving in so many ways, making St. Mark's the wonderful place that it is--a community of love gathered in the name of Christ to spread God's love with the gifts they have been given.

Yours in Christ,
Carey+

Progress Aplenty: Billing to Follow

The activity on the campus of St. Mark's is remarkable: roof replacement, Willcox and youth building renovation; and activity in almost every group and committee. The progress we are seeing and feeling at St. Mark's is wonderful. But those of you who have endured even a bit of construction know what else accompanies it--relief, joy and lots of expense.

We are extremely fortunate that almost \$1.8 million has been pledged to date in the "Embracing the Future" campaign. By April 30 we had collected \$412,000 of that total. The current planned work, nearly all of which is underway now, is estimated to be \$2.3 million. You don't have to be an accounting student to understand that requires deficit spending--not always a bad thing.

Much deferred work from the past 10 years is now be-

ing performed. Many project management professionals agree it's better to perform more work at one time than spread it to multiple occasions. Others call it "economies of scale". We also currently enjoy a slightly deflated cost of construction compared to what it has been in the past.

All of you I have spoken with agree this work needs to be done now and done completely. That is what your Vestry has voted to do--proceed with 100% of the \$2.3 million in work and finance the balance. Financing would be an element of this campaign regardless of how much work we do, simply because our pledges are spread over three years and the work must be done at one time.

Your Finance Committee negotiated excellent terms with BancorpSouth, which has offered two loans. The first loan will allow St. Mark's to fund the construction now

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Basking in the Glow

Thanks be to God and to all of our St. Mark's parish family for the lovely recognition of the Day School staff at the 10:30 service recently. We and our families will never forget the kind words and special tribute. It is and has been our pleasure to be a part of such a warm and welcoming community since 1966.

We are especially mindful of the renewed commitment by St. Mark's to the youth of this parish and community. It was such a pleasure to be with so many of you at the lovely reception. We rejoice in this parish's ministry to children and thank you for your continuing support.

The Day School Staff

Vacation Bible School Update



Since we're spending the summer improving our youth and children's facilities, we, unfortunately, won't be able to host a Vacation Bible School. Fortunately, Trinity Cathedral will welcome us with open arms at their Cathedral Camp VBS July 12-16.

Registration forms are now available for children (5 years-5th grade), youth volunteers and adults who want to participate. The forms are on the youth page of our website, st-marks.com, and in the Narthex on Sundays. If you have any questions, contact Luke Gilbert (lgilbert@st-marks.com or 225.4203).

Hospitality Ministry

The Interfaith Hospitality Network serves families who are temporarily homeless by providing housing, meals and job placement assistance on a rotating basis at Central Arkansas churches. St. Mark's partners with First United Methodist Church, which houses the families; and Second Baptist Church, which also provides meals and overnight hosts.

We need volunteers to help with our part of this ministry. St. Mark's has committed to provide an evening meal for 20 people on Thursday, June 10, and Friday, June 11. We also need volunteers to stay overnight those two nights. There are private rooms where volunteers may sleep. Additionally, we need volunteers to entertain the families from 9am until 3pm Saturday, June 12. Suggested activities include (but are not limited to) movies, the zoo and family fun centers. This ministry has been a blessing to those who have volunteered. If you can help, please contact Kristen Mann (dkaamann@sbcglobal.net).

Progress Aplenty

continued from p. 3

but collect the 3 years of pledges when possible. The second loan will allow us the flexibility to arrange repayment of the deficit (approx. \$500,000) over five years. At the end of the campaign our debt of \$500,000 will be the only debt the church has and is very reasonable for a congregation our size with our annual contributions.

You may help this effort further. Your generous campaign pledges are needed as soon as possible. If you need the three years to pay, we understand, and that's why the church has arranged the financing. If you are able to pay earlier, you could save St. Mark's some money in interest.

I pray you consider doing our improvements now to be prudent and will consider paying your pledge as soon as possible.

Philip Tappan
Senior Warden

Youthapalooza

Camp Mitchell Still Seeking CAs

Alison McKeever, Summer Program Director for Camp Mitchell, is looking to fill spots for Counselor Assistants (CAs) this summer. CAs must be at least 15 years old and complete "Safeguarding God's Children", a training program which can be done online.

If at all possible, Alison would like CAs to come to Camp Mitchell for a day during Sr. High camp, probably June 8; to go through CA training, however she is flexible to your schedule. If you are interested, complete an application online (www.campmitchell.org or www.episcopalarkansas.org under the Camp Mitchell tab) and email Alison (alison.mckeever@gmail.com).

Here's a list of what sessions and positions she needs filled:

Female CAs

Robert R. Brown I (June 20-24): 2 spaces
Dick Johnston (July 18-23): 3 spaces

Male CAs:

Robert R. Brown I (June 20-24): 7 positions
Dick Johnston (July 18-23): 3 positions
Middler II (August 1-6): 3 positions
Robert R. Brown II (August 8-12): 6 positions

EYC Mission Trip Texas in July

St. Mark's youth will join forces with St. John's Fort Smith youth and an Episcopal youth group from Austin for a mission trip July 17 - 23, to Houston and League City, TX. We will be staying at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in League City. Participants are being asked to pay \$150 for the week to cover transportation, meals and lodging.

Your friends from the Little Rock area are welcome to come along. Should there be more than two kids from any one church there will need to be an additional adult joining the group.

Activities will include (but are not limited to):

* Working with St. Vincent's Community Center in Galveston each morning: this involves working with pre-school children; repainting murals in the center; working in their thrift store and assisting elderly members of the community.

* Working in the Houston Food Bank one afternoon

Magic Springs Trip Set for August

On Wednesday, August 11, we will head to Magic Springs for a day of fun. We will meet at St. Mark's at 9:00 am and return by 6 that evening.

The trip cost will include the ticket (\$25) plus whatever you choose to spend on lunch. Please let Katie know if you are interested; parents and siblings are invited too!

Wednesday @ EYC

Wed., June 2...No EYC, Katie is out of town.

Wed., June 9...Let's celebrate, we are on summer break! We'll go to Larry's and eat until our stomachs ache.

Wed., June 16...I know--let's go to Easter Seals for Bingo!

Wed., June 23...Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the crowd! Let's cheer on the Travelers and be loud! Pick up and drop off will be at Dickey-Stephens. The game is at 7:15, I'll be there around 6:45. Families are invited.

Wed., June 30...No EYC; Katie is out of town.

June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist ■ 8:45 AM Breakfast ■ 9:15 AM Christian Education ■ 10:30 AM Choral Eucharist ■ 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 1:00 PM Knitters/Parlor ■ 4:30 PM Centering Prayer ■ 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm ■ 5:30 PM Cursillo/Lib Rm. ■ 6:30 PM ChristCare/Choir Vesting ■ 7:00 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:15 AM Staff Meeting/Lib ■ 10:00 AM ChristCare/Parlor ■ 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Book Study ■ 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library ■ 4:30 PM Grief Support Group ■ 6:15 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 1:00 PM ChristCare/Library ■ 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing Prayer ■ 6:00 PM EYC 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 11:00 AM ChristCare/Library ■ 5:00 PM ChristCare/Library 	<p>11</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>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm
<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Food for The Poor Guest Speaker ■ 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist ■ 9:15 AM Christian Education ■ 10:30 AM Choral Eucharist ■ 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 	<p>14</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 Cursillo/Lib ■ 6:30 PM ChristCare/Choir Vesting Rm. ■ 7:00 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:15 AM Staff Meeting/Lib ■ 10:00 AM ChristCare/Parlor ■ 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Book Study ■ 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library ■ 5:45 PM Vestry ■ 6:15 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 1:00 PM ChristCare/Library ■ 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing Prayer ■ 6:00 PM EYC 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:30 AM ChristCare ■ 11:00 AM Centering Prayer ■ 6:00 PM ChristCare/Library 	<p>18</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>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm
<p>20</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>21</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 Cursillo/Lib ■ 6:30 PM ChristCare/Choir Vesting Rm. ■ 7:00 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:15 AM Staff Meeting/Lib ■ 10:00 AM ChristCare/Parlor ■ 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Book Study ■ 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library ■ 4:30 PM Grief Support Group ■ 6:00 PM At- Autumn Awakening ■ 6:15 PM ChristCare/Parlor ■ 7:00 PM Outreach Committee/Library 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 1:00 PM ChristCare/Library ■ 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing Prayer ■ 6:00 PM EYC 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 11:00 AM Centering Prayer ■ 6:00 PM ChristCare/Library 	<p>25</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>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm
<p>27</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>28</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 Cursillo/Lib ■ 6:30 PM ChristCare/Choir Vesting Rm. ■ 7:00 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 9:15 AM Staff Meeting/Lib ■ 10:00 AM ChristCare/Parlor ■ 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Book Study ■ 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library ■ 6:15 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:00 AM Morning Prayer ■ 1:00 PM ChristCare/Library ■ 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm ■ 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing Prayer ■ 6:00 PM EYC 			

June

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



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

June Forum: *Aspects of New Testament History: Selected lectures by Bart D. Ehrman, Ph.D.*

Fr. Carey's class will join the Forum for the summer.

June 6 *The New Testament: An Overview*

June 13 *The Copyists Who Gave Us Scripture*

June 20 *When Was the Canon Finalized?*

June 27 *Authority in the Early Church*

The **Bible study series *Jesus and the Gospels*** will continue to meet in the Conference Room in June.

A Happy Fisherman



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



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The Postmark

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Financial Update

Finance Report Through April

Expenses to date	\$291,784
Contributions/misc income to date	\$263,085
	<\$28,699>

During the summer months, historically, our attendance drops. **With expenses exceeding contributions, please remember your pledge commitment you made for the operating budget.** First quarter pledge statements were recently mailed.

Please review your records to make sure you are current on your pledge. If you are not, please prayerfully consider making your regular contributions. If you have questions, please email KarenBlissit: kblissit@st-marks.com or call her in the parish office (225.4203).