



The Postmark

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

News & Notes
August 2010

The deadline for articles for the September Postmark will be Wednesday, August 11.



I still remember my Sunday school teachers, and my guess is that many of you do, too. I remember all the games, crafts and songs but more importantly, I remember that my teachers were there for me every Sunday. I would not be who I am without all of the things I learned from my Sunday school teachers.

If you would like to help mentor St. Mark's youth and help create memories for our next generation, please contact Luke Gilbert (lgilbert@st-marks.com).



Put me in, Coach!

I attended a conference at which the speaker said, "You can't sit on the bench and be a Christian!" I wish I could remember who that speaker was because I sure agree with what he said! God calls us to be active participants in this world, not bench sitters. In Ephesians 5:8-9, Paul asks followers of Christ to "Walk in the light, openly revealing to the world the fruit of God's Holy Spirit." It is my hope that the lights in our newly renovated Willcox Education Building will reveal the presence of God's Spirit here.

I hope we are actively and prayerfully ready to invite others to share the presence of that spirit. After all, God doesn't have multiple plans for evangelizing the world, God has only one plan and that's us. God's love is new every day because we need it every day. There are people we meet every day who need to feel God's love. In truth, we all need to feel God's love every day.

This renovation project was undertaken to help St. Mark's continue to share the Gospel with others for many years to come. However, this building is only a building without you and your energy and commitment! There will be many opportunities for ministries which this building can house. We will need new adult and children's Sunday school teachers, ChristCare small group leaders, Day School and youth group volunteers, nursery helpers, family event organizers, adult lecture and study leaders, ...the list is endless.

Rally Day is set for Sunday, September 12. Prior to that day, every member of St. Mark's staff will be seeking your time and talents to help with that endless list of ministries. When we put out the word that we need help in bringing these ministries to life, please pray about what God may be calling you to do. You don't have to wait for a member of the staff or a committee head to ask you to volunteer. If you feel called to bring God's Spirit into this our new building in any way, don't just sit on the bench—call the St. Mark's office. We would love to put you in.

God's Peace,

Luke Gilbert

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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

This month brings our final installment from Jerome Kodell's *Twelve Keys to Prayer*, used with permission from the author. Fr. Danny will return from his sabbatical and write in this space next month.

5) *Short times of prayer daily are better than one long time weekly.* This doesn't mean that shorter is better, but is rather an emphasis on frequency and consistency. Long or short is not the issue. Like any relationship between persons, prayer flourishes by contact. Absence may make the heart grow fonder; or it will make the heart forgetful. As we grow in familiarity with God, it becomes easier to slip into prayer without worrying what we will say or whether we will say anything. Just being in one another's presence is communion.

Awkward silence is a worry when we do not know one another, because it threatens uncertainty or emptiness, "dead silence." Between friends silence does not have to be artificially filled; it is already filled with shared presence. In God's case, this is definitely graced presence. To enter that sphere daily is like going regularly back to the well.

A regular pattern of frequent prayer also makes prayer easier. Contemporary writer Richard Foster has noted: "It is harder to pray inconsistently in the same way than it is harder to play a good game of tennis when we practice only once in a while."

6) *Public prayer will not make up for private.* Vatican Council II stated the priority of the liturgy in the prayer life of the Church.

"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fountain from which all power flows" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, #10). But the Fathers also noted that the full effectiveness of this public prayer depends on the fervor of the individual participants (#11).

This kind of fervor comes from a personal relationship with God established and fostered outside the times of community worship. Without that, an individual's participation goes up or down with the emotions, or settles into a dull boredom.

Sad to say, it is even possible to participate in public worship without faith, perhaps from social pressure or force of habit. The antidote for that is personal prayer, because it is impossible to continue consistent private prayer without faith.

Sunday Nights@ the Movies



More Sunday night movies in August! Join film buff Gary Wood at 6:30 in the Parish Hall Parlor for a movie and discussion, and bring a snack if you'd like!

August 1 *The Great Gatsby* (1974) PG

August 8 *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962) PG13

August 15 *Nobody's Fool* (1999) R

August 22 *Phantom of the Opera* (the musical, 2004) PG13



*"Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us . . .
Such as composed musical tunes, and recited verses in writing . . ."*

-- Ecclesiasticus 44

I'll never forget one morning I spent in Westminster Abbey. There was so much history in that one place it felt like the collected breath of the ages was blowing on my neck. I particularly enjoyed lingering in the part of the abbey known as "Poet's Corner." Many of the great poets from ages past are buried there.

Recently I discovered the work of a living poet, David Whyte, whose work I find quite moving. He was born in Yorkshire, UK and now lives in Seattle. You may find out more about him and his work by visiting his website: www.davidwhyte.com I wanted to give you an introduction by sharing a portion of one of his more arresting poems, "What to Remember When Waking".

Yours in Christ,
Carey+

What to Remember When Waking

*In that first hardly noticed moment
in which you wake,
coming back to life from the other
more secret, moveable and
frighteningly honest world where
everything began, there is a small
opening into the day which closes
the moment you begin your plans.
What you can plan is too small
for you to live.*

*What you can live wholeheartedly
will make plans enough for the
vitality hidden in your sleep.*

*To be human is to become visible
while carrying what is hidden as
a gift to others.*

*To remember the other world
in this world is to live in your
true inheritance.*

*You are not a troubled guest on this earth,
you are not an accident amidst other
accidents
you were invited from another and greater
night
than the one from which you have
just emerged...*

Food and Fun

St. Mark's Suppers is a small group concept in which groups of about eight folks meet in each other's home for food, fun and fellowship. The groups consist of single and married adults, ages 21 and up, who meet for approximately four months and then have a get-together with all the groups.

The next session of St. Mark's Suppers will begin soon. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex, or you may contact Pat Petkoff (pat.petkoff@gmacfs.com or 224.3741) to sign up.

If you have never participated in St. Mark's Suppers, consider joining -- you'll have a wonderful time. It is also a great way to get to know people you probably only say, "Good morning!" to on Sunday.

Help a Student, Change a Life

Can you be an Amigo? For the past 5 years, a faithful group of parishioners has gone to Baseline Elementary School to work with Hispanic students who need a little help with English. It has been a wonderful experience for everyone!

We're going again this fall (Thursdays, 12:30 - 2:30) and would love to have more volunteers. You do not need to speak Spanish! Please contact Kathy Roberts for more information (225.4203, kwilsonrob@gmail.com)

Always Asking for Money?

Do you get the feeling the church has become more like a political candidate in this campaign season? Just when you have written a check for what you feel is a “stretch donation” you receive another email or letter asking for more. Similar to a successful candidate, a well-run organization talks often and openly about its financial status and doesn’t fear the subject of money.

Currently the Vestry is reading a book supplied by Fr. Danny named “5 Keys for Church Leaders” written by one of our very own Episcopal leaders from Texas. Even though I cringe at the thought of having to say, “I learned something from a Longhorn,” the book is quite inspiring. In the chapter titled “Raising the Bar on Stewardship” the author notes two key points in discussing the topic of “Always Asking for Money”

First, Jesus himself talked about money on many occasions. He understood that how we handle money reflects greatly upon our spiritual condition.

Second, the notion that we are always asking for money is simply not true. Few churches ever talk too much about money. This complaint is often an excuse from low-commitment people! We have talked recently about the positive side of our money raising efforts—expanding buildings, re-roofing our facilities and, most importantly, growing our community of outreach and mission. These are all signs of a progressive and growing organization and money is required to maintain that direction.

Our Capital Campaign has completed the first half year of a three year payout. With only 16.66% of the time period allowed for the campaign (6mos/3years) we are proud to stand at 30.18% of all Capital Campaign gifts received. The reality must be repeated however, while we have a line of credit for borrowing **we will be spending over 98% of the total campaign dollars this summer.**

With the completion of 50% of the operating year behind us, we have collected only 38% of pledges for our operating budget. With an \$800,000 budget for 2010, we ideally would have collected \$400,000 at this point. Instead, we stand at only \$310,510 collected. In spite of all the focus on the Capital Campaign, our annual operating budget supports our ongoing expenses at St. Mark’s. Please consider making your operating pledge current, or even paying in advance if you are current.

In October, we will launch a Stewardship Campaign for the 2011 operating budget and once again we will be “Asking for Money.” I believe all this talk about money is an outward and visible sign that Christ is active and working through St. Mark’s. A lot is happening in our congregation and I like the sound and feel of it.

Yours in Christ,

Philip Tappan
Senior Warden



Meals for New Parents

Have you noticed all the new babies at St. Mark’s lately? We all know that new babies mean new parents--weary new parents! One of the ways we can help these overwhelmed folks is by preparing meals for them.

St. Mark’s provides meals to families for the first two weeks after the birth of a child. If you would like to join the list of people who help prepare these meals, please contact Luke Gilbert (lgilbert@st-marks.com). There are two families expecting in August, so your help would be appreciated immediately!

One Good Turn Deserves Another

Last spring, when St. Mark’s Day School vacated the Willcox building for renovations, they were able to hold classes in the Youth Hall because of the kind offer of partitions loaned by Ron King, a friend of our Junior Warden, John Jaco. As it turns out, Ron helps lots of kids.

Two years ago he began an outreach group called Recycle Bikes For Kids. They provide bicycles to children who would not otherwise have one. They have received nearly 1,000 donated bikes which they have repaired and given to needy kids. If you have a bike (or even parts of a bike!) he would love to come pick it up and turn it around for a child. You may call Ron (952.4581) or, if you’re on Facebook, look for his organization’s page Recyclebikesforkids.

Youthapalooza

Magic Springs Magic Wednesday

St. Mark's EYC is planning a trip to Magic Springs for a day of fun on Wednesday, August 11. We will meet at St. Mark's at 9:00 in the morning and return by 6:00 that evening. The trip will cost you \$13 for admission and around \$15 to cover snacks, drink and lunch. Please let Katie know by Wednesday, August 4 if you plan to go.

EKC Resumes on Rally Sunday

Episcopal Kids Community (EKC) is a group for kids in grades 3-5. We meet weekly on Sundays from 4:00-6:00pm. We will kick-off this fall on September 12! Please contact Katie Mc Donald (225.4203) if you have any questions.

Wednesday @ EYC

Wed., August 4...Movie Night, more details to come!

Wed., August 11 9am-6pm...MAGIC SPRINGS!!!

Wed., August 18...No EYC, getting ready to go back to school!

Wed., August 25 6-8pm...EYC Fall Kick-off, come find out what we have planned for the fall, you are sure to have a ball!

A Peek Inside the Willcox Building



For more construction updates, including video, go to st-marks.com, click on "About Us", then click on "Construction Updates"

August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</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>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 1:00 PM Kentezsi/Parlor 4:30 PM Centering Prayer 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm 7:00 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Meeting/Lib 10:00 AM ChristCare/Parlor 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library 6:15 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 1:00 PM Parkway Village HE 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 PM OA/Conf Rm 6:00 PM EYC 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM Christ Care 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 6:00 PM ChristCare/Library 	<p>6</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>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm
<p>8</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>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 4:30 PM Centering Prayer 5:30 PM Curstilo/Lib 6:00 PM Curstilo/Lib 7:00 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Meeting/Lib 10:00 AM ChristCare/Parlor 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library 4:30 PM Girl Support Group 6:15 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 PM EYC 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 6:00 PM ChristCare/Library 	<p>13</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>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm
<p>15</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>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 4:30 PM Centering Prayer 5:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg. 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm 5:30 PM Curstilo/Lib 7:00 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Meeting/Lib 10:00 AM ChristCare/Parlor 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library 5:45 PM Vestry 6:15 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 PM EYC 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM Christ Care 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 6:00 PM ChristCare/Library 	<p>20</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>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm
<p>22</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>23</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 Curstilo/Lib 6:00 PM ChristCare/Choir Vesting Km. 7:00 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Meeting/Lib 10:00 AM ChristCare/Parlor 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library 4:30 PM Girl Support Group 6:00 PM Ar. Autumn Awakening Km. 6:15 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM OA/Conf Rm 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 PM EYC 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM ChristCare SEA group 11:00 AM Centering Prayer 6:00 PM ChristCare/Library 	<p>27</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>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM OA/Conf Rm
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Education 10:30 AM Choral Eucharist & Bsp-tism 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 	<p>30</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 Curstilo/Lib 7:00 PM ChristCare/Parlor 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Meeting/Lib 10:00 AM ChristCare/Parlor 12:00 PM Clergy Mtg./Library 6:15 PM ChristCare/Parlor 				

August

1	Kay Rector Tandy Cobb Jennifer Knight	15	Tony Terry Emily Stonestone
2	Hannah Tilley	16	Nicola Gagliardo John Paul Hubbard
3	Kevin Reeder Jack Whitbeck	17	Doug Stroud Craig Chotard
4	Peter Thomas	18	Veronica Raney Peggy Collier
5	Sam Atkinson Carol Jones Renee Sniegocki Dale Johnston Catherine Smith	19 20	Elaine Lee Debra Saylor Celia Martin John Ramsey
6	Aaron Mann Abby Richardson		Solomon Mogbo Clayton Thompson
7	Wayne Waggoner		James Jennings
8	Julie Cantrell Janell Phelan Caitlin Ramsey Kate Roberts	23 24	Lynn Phelps Claude Whitcomb Henry Rector Bev Griffin
11	Tina Bodiak MD Graham	25	Bryant Cranford Marcia Raney Sarah Smith
12	Elise Hahn Sharon Hardin Conner Herget Jane Prather Ethel Trice Mary Ruth Kauffman	26 27	Mason Mauldin Carey Stone Kendall Lynn Jacobs Everett Palacek Margaret Davis
13	Robin Sudderth Elizabeth Tardy		Gwyn Van Valkenburg Kay Lucy
14	Cooper Riley Janet Wagner	28	Nicholas Bryan Derrick Van Valkenburg
15	Mary Frances Hodges Sarah Gornatti	30	Buell James



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

Adult Christian Education for August

The Forum in August will offer a wide variety of opportunities for discussion:

August 1 *Welcome to St. Mark's Breakfast 9 - 9:30*
Full breakfast for the family and welcome to our recent visitors. *Telling Our Stories: Fr. Danny Schieffler*

August 8 *The Gospel of John*

August 15 *For the Bible Tells Me So*

August 22 *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*

August 29 *Young@Heart*

Have you ever been embarrassed by not knowing enough about the Bible? Lots of Episcopalians are! Here's your chance to learn more about the people, places, and stories of the Bible - a way to find where The Story intersects with Your Story.

Beginning September 12 (Rally Day), Fr. Danny will lead a new class, *Discovering the Bible: A New Generation*, on Sunday mornings at 9:15. You will need the resource book for the 30-lesson course, (\$30 - scholarships are available), and we ask that you let us know your interest by September 1 so that books will be available for the first class. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about The Book!

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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