



The Postmark

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

News & Notes September 2010

St. Mark's Golf Association's next scramble will be Thurs., Sept. 9, at 9:15 at the Foxwood Golf Club in Jacksonville (701 Foxwood Dr, Jacksonville, 982-7508). Cart and green fees are \$25, plus a \$10 suggested donation to St. Francis House. Feel free to join them at the last minute but, in order for Luke to give them an approximate head-count, please email him (lgilbert@st-marks.com) if you plan to come. All skill levels are welcome.



Saints and Sinners, a social evening for adults, will happen on Friday, September 17, at 6:30 at Ted and Mary Ann Gammill's house (2107 N. Palm St.). If you plan to come, please put your name on the sheets in the Narthex or call the parish office (225.4203). Beverages will be supplied for your \$4 per person contribution. Please bring your favorite party food to share.

Empowering Enlightening and Enlivening Study

Empowering Offerings for Adults

Forum (Parish Hall)

This large, informal group examines a wide variety of topics presented by members of the clergy, parishioners, and outside speakers.

The Church Year: Exploring the Sacred Calendar (Java Loft)

Fr. Carey leads this 4 week class which begins on September 19th.

What's Your Love Language? (Java Loft)

Understanding how your love language affects your relationship with God, yourself, and others. This 5-week class is open to adults of all ages.

Discovering the Bible: A New Generation (Conference Room)

This is a year-long course of Bible study—the people, places, and stories—to point us to where the Bible intersects with our own lives.

Sunday Morning Heretics (Library—9:00)

This group of unorthodox seekers gathers to seek their next book.

Enlightening Offerings for our Youth

Backyard Kids - 3 & 4 year-olds (Willcox Building)

An introductory curriculum for young children which helps them begin to understand the Bible and how our church can be an important part of their lives.

Live B.I.G. - K-5th Grade (Willcox Building)

Through Live B.I.G. (Believing in God), children are encouraged to build ever-important faith relationships with God and their friends. They hear, see, and then live what they learn.

Living the Good News - 6-8th Grade (South Room)

This lectionary-based curriculum encourages young teens to explore the weekly scripture readings and apply them to their lives.

Putting Faith into Action - 9-12th Grade (EYC Center)

Weekly discussion of topics relevant to their lives helps young people explore the issues, values, and faith that will become life-long spiritual resources.

Enlivening Community Fun---PICNIC!

After the 10:30 service--we'll grill hotdogs and burgers and provide all the fixins! There will games for the kids. *Everyone brings side dishes and desserts.*

Rally Sunday Schedule

8:00 Rite I Holy Eucharist
Nursery available

9:15 Adult Classes
Children (3 and older)
Sign Up for Classes
in Willcox Building
Nursery available

10:30 Rite II Holy Eucharist
Nursery available

11:30 Parish Picnic
Tours of Remodeled
Willcox Building

1:30 EYC Wild & Crazy Kids
Games for Teens

5:00 Rite II Holy Eucharist

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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

"Your Word is a lantern unto my feet

And a light upon my path."--Psalm 119:105

In the Episcopal Church, we believe that the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, is the Word of God. "By that we mean that God inspired their human authors, and that God still speaks to us through the Bible."¹ One of the things that impressed me in seminary was a realization that all through the history of the church, men and women of faith have been addressed by God through reading the Scriptures. People like Origen, Augustine, Aquinas, Teresa, Luther, Wesley and Merton all experienced God's transforming power through the Scriptures. World-changing events like the Reformation were sparked by the Bible. St. Paul and Jesus himself studied the Scriptures. And yet as Episcopalians, even though we believe as a church that God still speaks to us through the Bible, many of us are embarrassed that we know so little about this first deposit of God's revelation.

This fall at St. Mark's, in addition to ChristCare groups and the weekly men's Bible study, we will offer yet another opportunity to learn about the Bible. This one is especially for people who may not know much about the Bible. There are no prerequisites for this study except a desire to know God and to learn about God's Word. The class is called *Discovering the Bible: A New Generation*. It will be a basic, comprehensive introduction to the Bible "as a whole." "As a whole" seeks to underscore an interest in seeing the inter-connections among the many parts of the Bible, as it speaks to us of God and faith and people.

Through a process of reading, reflection, discussion and creative expression you will discover people, events and places and encounter a variety of biblical ideas, which we hope will lead to new understandings and experiences of faith and life. Please call the church office and reserve your copy of the course book now. The cost is \$30, but the book will be used for an entire year, September – May. The only other required text is the Bible itself. You may use any Bible that you already have. Plus, St. Mark's has Bibles that can be checked out.

I am excited to be teaching this class at St. Mark's beginning Rally Day, September 12, as I personally have been blessed, countless times, through the reading and study of the Scriptures. I hope you will join me.

Peace,
Danny

¹*Catechism, Book of Common Prayer, p. 853*

Welcome to our new members in August. The following folks joined St. Mark's last month: **Pat & Robin Badley, David & Ashley McCoy, Susan Jeter, Anna Jeter, and Patricia Shurgar!** Please look for these new faces and say Hello!

Here's an easy way to reach out to St. Francis House clients. Clip the advertising section coupons from the Sunday paper, bring them to the church, and place in a box in the Narthex, choir room, or office. They'll be sorted and sent to St. Francis House for clients' use.



The Mystery of Suffering

Question of the Day: *How do I use religion as an excuse for not facing my fears and doubts?*

An awful lot of religion is an excuse for not facing our fears, our self, and our doubts. True religion is not denial of doubt but a transformation of it; and often, to be honest, a temporary deepening of our doubt and darkness to get us there.

God walks with us into our fears, to feel them, to own them, to let them teach us. During that time we are often in darkness and cannot uphold ourselves. It even feels like a loss of faith. It is then that we slowly learn to let Someone Else hold us, and we come out enlarged and more hopeful. As long as I have lived, I cannot explain the chemistry of this transformation, but those who have gone through it know it to be true.

--mediation by Richard Rohr



Shrimp Boil is Soon and We Need You!

Fabulous food and fun for the whole family while raising money for the ministries of St. Francis House—that's what Shrimp Boil is about! Five years ago who could have imagined that St. Mark's would raise over \$65,000 to aid St. Francis House by having a festive evening with great Cajun shrimp.

For those of you new to St. Mark's, you're in for a treat. Saturday, October 2, from 5-9 our grounds will be filled with hundreds of people tempted by the spicy scent of half a ton of shrimp and fixins served on butcher paper "plates" to patrons seated in the Parish Hall or the upper garden. When you've finished with dinner, relax in the lower garden as you sit at an intimate table, sipping a cool beverage, letting the "jump swing" music of the Greasy Greens, led by St. Mark's own Ron Hughes, wash over you!

Advance tickets are \$25 and \$10 for children 12 and under through Monday, September 27. After that, and at the door the price will be \$30 and \$15. Hot dog dinners are available for children or anyone who doesn't care for shrimp. Dinners are also available "To Go" at the drive-through from 5-7.

For all this to occur, we need over 200 volunteers--so volunteer for a one hour shift before, during or after the event. Please stop by the volunteer recruitment table after church and sign up to help—there is the perfect volunteer slot for everyone, and we're only asking for one hour of your time. To help, or get more information, contact Celia Martin (thecook7@att.net) or Kristen Braunfisch (kpbraunfisch@att.net).

Training New ChristCare Leaders

St. Mark's now has nine ChristCare small groups with over 60 members! Clearly, we're on the right track and now we need some new leaders to begin more of these small groups. ChristCare groups are safe and trusting small group communities where people can support, nurture, encourage, and care for one another, while spending time with God. ChristCare groups meet together to follow four growth paths: Community Building & Care, Prayer & Worship, Biblical Equipping, and Missional Service.

A 12 week training session for new leaders will begin Sunday, November 7. The sessions will be on Sundays from 2-4:30. If you are interested in being part of the leader training, please contact Luke Gilbert (lgilbert@st-marks.com) or Celia Martin (thecook7@att.net).

Young Adult Happy Hour

Wednesday Happy Hour reconvenes in September. The first gathering will be Wednesday, September 15, and will continue on the third Wednesday of every month.

This evening for young adults (20ish-30ish) begins with a Communion service at 5:30 in the Chapel. Following the service, there's a social hour in the Parish Hall Parlor with food and beverages. If you can't make the service, please feel free to come at 6 for the social hour!

Capital Campaign Financial Statement July 2009–July 2010

Pledges to Date \$1,784,626

Income

Pledges Received (32.0%)	\$571,006.68
Interest	\$556.81
Loan Proceeds	\$10,000.00
Memorial Designations	\$3,185.00
Roof Insurance Proceeds	\$59,335.80
Youth Contributions	<u>\$2,803.01</u>
Total Income	\$646,887.30

Expenses

Campaign Cost	\$91,647.57
Construction & Design	\$543,390.81
Financing Cost	<u>\$5,635.00</u>
	\$640,673.38

Cash in Bank \$6,213.92

Temperatures are rising and so are the activities and expenses of our construction project. We have entered new territory this month as we have begun to draw on the line of credit for construction. Look for the draws to be substantial in August and September. Campaign pledges are 32% collected and that has been a true blessing.

Hopefully, you are seeing the end results of the work and planning of so many of us over the past several years. Our prayers for an improved St. Mark's campus are becoming a reality and that is very encouraging.

We plan to publish the Capital Campaign status every few months during the 3 years of the campaign. We have a separate ledger for all the entries related to the collection of pledges and expenses related to any of the Campaign activities.

Thanks for your contributions and input which have made our dreams a reality

Philip Tappan
Sr. Warden

The Skinny on Kid's Christian Formation Plans This Year

A new year of learning about God and God's world is upon us. You may register your children for classes in the Willcox building at 9:15 on Sunday, September 12, then join us for carnival games outside. Here's a preview of our offerings:

Three and four year-olds are invited to join the Backyard Kids. This introductory class for young children explores Bible stories appropriate to each season of the church year. Children are given choices of several activities to express their thoughts and ideas about the Bible stories presented each week. This is a first step in their understanding of the Bible and how our church can be an important part of their lives.

Older students, K- 5th grade, will learn with Live B.I.G. (Believing in God). This curriculum encourage kids to build ever-important faith relationships with God and their friends. We use the different ways in which children learn—hearing, seeing, tasting, touching, smelling— and then give them tools to live it in the world.

Live B.I.G. is more than just a Sunday morning program. Our teachers use the multifaceted lessons to encourage the kids to grow as children of God and take what they learn from Sunday school into their everyday lives.

Arkansas Youth Event at Camp Mitchell

The Arkansas Youth Event is a great weekend of fun, faith, music and Camp Mitchell goodness open to all 6th-12th grade youth. The weekend is being planned by the current Diocesan Youth Committee (DYC), so expect a great time. At AYE we also elect a new DYC and Diocesan Convention Youth Delegates. For more info about these positions, or to download a form, check out www.eycarkansas.com.

We will meet at St. Mark's at 5:30 Friday evening, September 24, and return around 12:30 on Sunday, September 26. Bring money for dinner on the way there and lunch on the way back. Contact Katie if you have any questions (kmcdonald@st-marks.com or 225.4203).

Youthapalooza

Sundays @ EKC

Sun., Sept. 12, 4-6pm...This is the time to invite your friends, for a "Blast-off" party as EKC begins!

Sun., Sept. 19, 4-6pm...We've waited all summer which has been a bummer, let's play capture the flag, not freeze-tag.

Sun., Sept. 26, 4-6pm...Here's this week's plan, we are playing Superman!

Wednesdays @ EYC

Wed., September 1, 6-8pm...We are now in the groove of school, let's go to Buffalo Grill to keep our cool.

Wed., September 8, 6-8pm...Fr. Danny and Ms. Judy have invited us to their pool, to eat and have fun is the #1 rule.

Wed., September 15, 6-8pm...We plow a garden, not a field, and the Chenal Rehab and Healthcare Center will use the produce it will yield.

Wed., September 22, 6-8pm...B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O... Easter Seals is a go.

Wed., September 29, 6-8pm...Come help with a service project for the Shrimp Boil, we have lots of fun it won't be all toil!

EYC Lake Trip

Slather on the sunscreen--Saturday morning, September 18, we will meet at the church at 9:00 and head for Lake Hamilton! Thank you, Robins family and Miller family, for inviting us to your lake houses again! Lunch and snacks will be provided. We will return to the church by 5:00. If you plan to come, need more information, or are interested, please contact Katie (kmcDonald@st-marks.com).

HELP! It's Rally Sunday!

Sunday, September 12, "Calling all youth to help with Rally Day's Picnic!" We will be running the games during the Rally Day picnic and I need your help. After the picnic is over EYC will be playing Wild & Crazy Kids. Make sure you bring some old clothes because it is going to get messy!!!!



The Family Ministries Committee gathers to make plans for fun and fellowship for families with young children this year.

September

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Larry Boston | 16 Stephen Jones |
| 2 Patricia Parkin | Joy Broach |
| Freda Council | Erin Dalton |
| Meryl Greenslade | Heather Young |
| Shannon Stone | 17 Elmer Damm |
| 3 Elizabeth Pitman | Joan Dietz |
| 4 Robert Farrar | 18 Christian Tilley |
| Helen McLennon | Jane Stanley |
| Bill Glasscock | Randy Eckert |
| Fletcher Lee | 19 John Southerland |
| 5 Susan Whisnant | 20 Nancy Tracy |
| Angie Brown | Lynn Taylor |
| 6 Annette Farrar | Natalie Thompson |
| Kristin Braunfisch | 21 Stephanie Trelloggen |
| 7 Cole Herget | Jennifer Trelloggen |
| Gloria Blakney | Charles Betts |
| Carrie Brown | 24 Lucia Trujillo |
| 8 Stephanie Garner | Erin Williams |
| Bill Phelps | 25 Phil Rickels |
| 10 Dick Downing | Paula Vanderpool |
| Pete Hornibrook | Debra Reid |
| Allison Holzwarth | 26 Mike Schaufele |
| 11 Don Phelan | Bradley Rhea |
| Dennis Nunnally | 27 Pamela Boerner |
| 12 Marion Hines | Tracy Spillman |
| Lucy Robins | David Boerner |
| Maxwell Gagliardo | Mike Hardcastle |
| 13 Alexis Hughes | 28 Robin Frazier |
| Haley Hughes | 29 Bob Phelps |
| Billy Judkins | Paul Gilman |
| 14 Peter Thomas | Hannah Delahoussay |
| Shirley Acchione | Gayle Hoffman |
| 15 Art Williams | 30 Beverly Burkhalter |
| Tom Hart | Page Whisnant |

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**

The Forum in September will focus on faith: How do we describe it? Where do we ground it? How do we defend it when there is controversy?

September 5 *Parish Breakfast* We'll look at the scope of Adult Formation for this academic year and make some choices for Forum offerings in the spring.

September 12 *Telling Our Faith Stories: Fr. Carey Stone* Each of us has a faith story to tell ... we'll hear Fr. Carey's journey to the priesthood.

September 19 *Faith Foundations* Deacon Cindy Fribourgh will lead our discussion of where we ground our faith and how we defend it.

September 26 *Fiction and Fact in Christian Faith and Evolution* The Rev. Chris Keller, Theologian-in-Residence at St. Margaret's, will shed light on a topic which has generated controversy for many years.

Besides the Forum, there are several other Adult Formation classes beginning this fall. Fr. Danny is leading *Discovering the Bible*, details of which are in his column on page 2 of this Postmark.

Beginning Sunday, September 19, Fr. Carey will teach a four week class called *The Church Year: Exploring the Sacred Calendar*.

Also beginning Sept. 19, Luke Gilbert is offering a 5 week class based upon *The Five Love Languages*, by Gary Chapman. The book's focus is to help adults of any age understand why they prefer to pray, worship, or study in certain ways; why some are drawn to spend time in theological studies and others prefer to do outreach. None is better or worse, but can be explained by a given person's love language. Join him in the Java Loft.

The *Sunday Morning Heretics*, a lay-led reading group, will be meeting a bit earlier, at 9:00 a.m. in the Library. Their first class meeting, September 12, will be devoted to choosing a new book for study. Seekers of all stripes are welcome.



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Non-profit Organization
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 Little Rock, AR

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Outreach: Reaching Hands, Reaching Hearts

St. Mark's Outreach Committee has been active lately and has even more plans for the future. All 162 Ride Out Sacks (rudimentary supplies for homeless persons in the recent heatwave) prepared by some of our ChristCare groups were distributed to parishioners on one recent Sunday morning.

Now, there's a Race for the Cure team forming. The race is October 16 and there's time--and plenty of options--for you to be involved in this important event devoted to finding a cure for breast cancer. Further information on this event is available from Sandra Cone (223.3177 or sandramcone@comcast.net).

Your Outreach Committee is aware of many ways in which we can reach out to help people in need in our community, and beyond. If you want to be involved, or have ideas to share, contact chair Susan Lyon (227.6512, 960.5515 or drsusanoloyon@gmail.com). You are also welcome to attend committee meetings.