



Saint Mark

St. Mark's strives to be a community of healing, fellowship and inspiration, sharing love with joy in Jesus Christ and challenging all to life anew.

January 2002

Annual Meeting

The Christmas season has ended and it is time for the parish to begin the new year in earnest. In the Episcopal Church, a parish meeting is held every year to present financial reports and to elect new persons to the Vestry. This year's meeting will be held January 27 following the 10 am service.

The agenda for this year's meeting will include annual reports from the various committees of the parish, the election of new Vestry members, and a financial report.

Please plan on attending as we prayerfully conduct the business of the parish.

Catechumenate: Preparation for Confirmation

Confirmation is the rite where we express our faith and commitment to Christ, and through prayer and the laying on of hands by the bishop, receive strength from the Holy Spirit to continue a life of faith and commitment. Confirmation preparation consists of a period of study and the reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

For information on confirmation, please telephone the parish office and ask to speak with Ms. Becky Bleiden. Deadline for registration is January 7th.

Worship Schedule

Sundays

Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM

Weekdays

Morning Prayer
Monday-Friday 9:00 AM

Healing Service
Tuesday 10:00 AM

Reconciliation and other Sacraments

by Appointment with the Clergy

Highlights

*
Annual Meeting, page 1
*
Confirmation, page 1
*
Epiphany, page 4
*
Outreach, pages 2 & 3
*

Endowment & Outreach

The Endowment Committee distributed a total of \$25,750 during the year 2001, including gifts to the following: United Crescent Hill Ministries, Wayside Christian Mission, Home of the Innocents, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief.

Women's Interfaith Program

The Temple Sisterhood cordially invites the women of St. Mark's to their annual Interfaith Coffee and Program on Monday, February 4, 2001 at 9:30 a.m., for coffee in the Heideman Auditorium at the Temple. The Program will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The Interfaith Program provides a unique opportunity for the sharing of information and interaction between all faiths. This year, the program will be "Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue." Participating in the program will be Rabbis Joe Rooks Rapport and Gaylia R. Rooks.

Please join the Temple Sisterhood on February 4 for a morning of fellowship and sharing. To make reservations, call The Temple office at 423-1818 by February 1st.

Women's Group

The Evening Women's Group will next gather in the Parlor on Wednesday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the "New Year, New You!" A Mary Kay consultant will be present to offer makeovers. Paul Gill, St. Mark's Parish Nursing Coordinator, will introduce fitness regimens designed to enhance wellness of body and spirit. Women of all ages are cordially invited and urged to attend this special program as we launch into the new year.

Funding Future Ministry

To give or not to give. That may be the only choice you see when considering gifts to charity. You may decide not to give during lifetime, preferring instead to make bequests in your estate plans when you no longer need the assets. You may hesitate because you are already subject to itemized deduction cutbacks. You may not know that you have a third option—lending money to charity. Taxpayers may lend up to \$250,000 interest free to any number of charities. This alternative might benefit you in several situations:

- ◆ If you do not itemize currently, you receive no tax benefit from your generosity. Taxpayers over age 65 may find it difficult to exceed the standard deduction threshold of \$9,400 (married couples) or \$650 (single filers). An interest-free loan to charity, while it does not produce an income tax charitable deduction, can reduce the donor's interest income, thereby saving taxes. Consider a couple who currently gives \$2,500 annually to their favorite charity. They could, instead, make an interest-free loan of \$50,000 cash from a maturing CD that paid 5%. Assuming the funds are invested at a 5% return in the coming year, charity receives the same \$2,500 gift. The couple reduces their interest income by the same \$2,500, saving \$675 in their 27% tax bracket.
- ◆ High-income taxpayers, while often able to itemize, may be subject to the 3% cutback in certain itemized deductions, including charitable gifts. Although their deductions for mortgage interests, real estate taxes, and state income taxes may be more than sufficient to absorb the cutbacks, the perception that they lose part of their charitable deduction may cause some people to reduce their giving. An interest free loan allows high-income taxpayers to provide help while also lowering taxes, just as if they were getting a charitable deduction. A donor in the 38% tax bracket who lends charity \$100,000 could reduce his or her gross income by \$5,000 (assuming a 5% return), saving \$1,930 in income taxes. *Note:* This cutback is due to be phased out under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, beginning in 2006.
- ◆ Some donors are so generous that they have already reached the deductible limit of 50% of adjusted

gross income for cash gifts and 30% for gifts of appreciated property. Excess deductions may be carried over for up to five additional tax years, but even that may not be enough for some donors. An interest-free loan could be an attractive alternative for clients who wish to give more to favorite causes and organizations and still receive tax benefits.

- ◆ There are some people, regardless of net worth, who will not give to charity because they might need the funds in their "old age." Because an interest-free loan can be recalled at any time, the donor may feel more confident about lending money to charity, knowing that he or she is not parting permanently with the funds. If the loan is forgiven at the donor's death, charity would have a bequest and the estate will be entitled to a charitable deduction.

For more information on "Funding Future Ministry" telephone Frannie Heyburn at 895-2677.

Food Pantry

In partnership with United Crescent Hill Ministries (UCHM), the Food Pantry is one of the services that St. Mark's offers to the residents of our area. It is a partnership between the Dare to Care food warehouse, UCHM, and local congregations (including St. Mark's). The Food Pantry is open to the residents in the 40206 and 40207 zip codes, but it mainly serves those in Crescent Hill, Clifton, and Clifton Heights.

Angela Alford, the coordinator of the Food Pantry at UCHM, says that many people incorrectly assume that there are no families that go hungry in this area.

How can I help? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Donate canned goods, paper, or soap products. St. Mark's has two large UCHM Food Pantry baskets located in the narthex and in the hallway just outside the entrance near the baptismal font.
2. UCHM accepts monetary donations for the Food Pantry, however, be certain that your check is made out to "Dare to Care." Otherwise your donation goes to a general fund.

3. The Food Pantry accepts volunteers. Please call Angela Alford at 893-0346 if you are interested in giving your time or talent.

Outreach

Angel Tree

All of the angels on the St. Mark's Angel Tree received a gift! Thanks to all who participated in bringing joy and happiness to others less fortunate during this holiday season.

Mitten Tree

A big thanks to June Richards for organizing the Mitten Tree this year. All items donated to the tree will go to a needy child at Chenoweth Elementary School. A special thanks to all who donated to the tree.

Seaman's Institute

St. Mark's knitted and gave caps and scarves to men and women working on the river barges. A very big thank you and a pat on the back to all those who knitted on behalf of St. Mark's.

Food Boxes

At the Family Christmas celebration on December 9th, St. Mark's put together 15 food boxes that went to feed the hungry in Louisville. The boxes were distributed by United Crescent Hill Ministries and Lincoln Elementary School. A heart-felt thanks to all who worked so hard on behalf of St. Mark's.

Outreach Notes

Outreach, Social Action Ministry, Social Concerns, Community Ministry. The sound of it can be a bit disconcerting. It may make us uncomfortable. The very phrase sounds grandiose and idealistic. However, we committed ourselves to it with our baptismal covenant: "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons?" "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

No matter what you call it, we are all called to do it. Part of the mission of the Social Action Committee is to help the parish of St. Mark's live out this covenant. Here are a few ways that you can help fulfill your baptismal covenant:

1. Support the Food Pantry. Bring a canned good, paper, or soap product for the Food Pantry baskets.
2. Volunteer to serve others. Time is often a more valuable commodity than money.
3. The clothes closet at James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Avenue, needs warm coats, hats, and gloves in all sizes for adults and children. For more information, call James Lees Church at 896-0172 and leave a message.

Children and Youth Epiphany

To celebrate Epiphany, all children and youth are invited to a King's Cake Party held during Church School on January 6th! There will be cupcakes for everyone, and three of them will have Hershey Kisses hidden inside. The three people who find the cupcakes with the Hershey Kisses will be crowned kings for the day!

Church Bazaar

The ECW would like to thank the parish for their generous support and contributions to the Church Bazaar. The

people who work at the Bazaar, donate items, or purchase items make the it the success it is year after year and without them, the event would not be possible. The financial reports will be forthcoming at the Annual Meeting.

Due to inventory, the gift shop will be closed for the first part of January but will reopen towards the end of the month.

Epiphany of Our Lord

The name "Epiphany" is derived from a Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "appearing." The Anglican Prayer Books interpret the word with an alternative title, "The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." The last phrase, of course, is a reference to the story of the Wise Men from the East.

A Christian observance on January 6 is found as early as **the end of the second century** in Egypt. The feast combined commemorations of the visit of the Magi, led by the star of Bethlehem; the Baptism of Jesus in the waters of the River Jordan; and Jesus' first recorded miracle, the changing of the water into wine at the marriage in Cana of Galilee—all thought of as manifestations of the incarnate Lord.

The Epiphany is still the primary Feast of the Incarnation in the Eastern Churches, and the three-fold emphasis is still prominent. In the West, however, including Anglican Churches, the story of the Wise Men has tended to overshadow the other two events. Modern lectionary reform, reflected in the current Prayer Book, has recovered the primitive trilogy, by setting the event of the Baptism as the theme of the First Sunday after the Epiphany in all three years, and by providing the story of the Miracle at Cana as the Gospel for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany in Year C.

The day of the Epiphany is January 6th and we will be celebrating this special day with a festive Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

The Season of Epiphany begins on the Day of Epiphany (January 6th) and continues through Shrove Tuesday (which this year falls on February 12th).

Thank You

Gift to the Parish

A wonderful gift of 2 octaves of handbells was given to St. Mark's by Ms. Denise Deutchman in memory of her mother, Ruth Madeline Stream. The handbells were dedicated on December 30th during the Christmas Festival of Lessons and Music and were played by the Bel-laires and solo ringer, Michael Bronnert.

Staff Changes

With the new year, there are several staff changes to announce. First, Ms. Rebecca Bleiden has moved from the "Temporary Education Director" position to permanent status. We welcome Becky to the staff of St. Mark's! Becky's official job title will be Assistant to the Rector for Educational Programming, but we are going to informally refer to her as the Director of Religious Education.

Ms. Christy Brockman, who has served the parish since October of 2000, will be changing positions. She began part-time at St. Mark's helping the rector with special projects. In June of 2001 she assumed the full-time position of Parish Secretary. Now, she will return to a part-time position so that she can further her education. She is working on a Master's degree at the University of Louisville.

Finally, we welcome to the staff, Ms. Barbara Rich. Ms. Rich comes to St. Mark's via the Law Office of Klein, Skora, and Kmetz, where she has served as Secretary since 1999. Before that she served as Secretary to the Jefferson District Public Defender's Office (beginning in 1993). She will be serving St. Mark's as Parish Secretary. We welcome Ms. Rich to St. Mark's.

The Rector would like to thank Mr. Paul Gill and Dr. Bernie Sams for their help on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Just hours before our services the rector became ill. The illness only lasted twelve hours, but it was a crucial twelve hours in the life of St. Mark's! Paul and Bernie (and a great deal of medication) saw the rector through our Christmas services.

In a related matter, the rector reports that he can hardly wait till next Christmas. On his first Christmas Eve at St. Mark's, you will recall, he set off the fire alarm with the incense. On this, his second Christmas Eve at St. Mark's, he was dreadfully ill. He says, "I can hardly wait to see what happens next year!"

Parish Prayer List

◆
Prayer for the Anglican Communion
The Church of England, George Carey, Archbishop

Prayer for the Diocese
Grace Church, Paducah

Prayer for Our Parish Partners
St. Francis of Rome, our covenant parish
The congregations of Crescent Hill United Ministries, especially Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Week of January 6

◆
Robert Scherer
Phil Scherer
Kathy Scherer
Phil Scherer IV
Langley Scherer

Week of January 20

◆
Peter Sewell
Cathy Sewell
Anna Sewell
Dorothy Scott
Judy Semonin

Week of January 13

◆
Kenneth Schueler
Susan Schueler
Scott Shafer
Ann Shafer
Hannay Shafer

Week of January 27

◆
Michael Shannon
Theresa Shannon
Katie Shannon
Sarah Shannon
Michael Shannon Jr.

Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth,
and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far
off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may
seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold;
pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming
of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

At Morning Prayer each weekday, we pray for the Church around the world including members of our parish. If you are unable to join us for Morning Prayer, please remember those listed above in your personal devotions this month.

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Staff

Charles Hawkins, Rector
Barbara Rich, Parish Secretary
Gwen O'Dea, Pastoral Care
and Evangelism Assistant
Becky Blieden, Director of Education
Pat Elliott, Financial Secretary
Jan Ward, Choirmaster/Organist
Willie Bibbs, Sexton

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Mailing Address

Flowers

*Altar Flowers and Candles
are given to the
Honor and Glory of God...*

- January 6, by Frances Heyburn in joyful remembrance of Henry R. Heyburn.
January 13, by Dr. & Mrs. Bernard F. Sams in loving memory of Lewis & Virginia Southwick and their infant sons, Elnora and Bernard Sams, and Dr. Wilbur Helmus.
January 20, by Mrs. Robert Lykins in loving memory of her husband, Dr. Robert Lykins and her sons, David Allen Lykins and James Edward Lykins.
January 27, by Debbie Glenn in celebration of the birthdays of her best friends, Thomas Carlton, Ellen Carlton, Christopher Saletta, Sarah Nielson, Pace Nielson, and the wedding anniversary of Becca & Dennis Epperson.

Candles

- The Eucharistic Candles for January are given to the honor and glory of God by James W. Atkins, Jr. in loving memory of Mr. James W. Atkins, Sr., Mrs. Mary Boatwright Atkins, and Frank A. Atkins, Sr.
The Five Branch Candles for January are given to the honor and glory of God by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Grimm, Jr. in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Grimm, Sr., Mrs. Bessie Thomas, and Donald Eckerle.
The Christ Candle is given to the honor and glory of God by Shirley Elmore in loving memory of her parents, Irvin & Sallie Crouch, and her husband Donald C. Elmore.