



Saint Marker

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.

December 2003

Advent and Christmas Events

St. Nicholas Party

Sunday, December 14, at 4:30 p.m.
Come and help decorate Langley Hall, pack food boxes for the needy, visit with St. Nicholas, sing carols, and enjoy fellowship during the spaghetti supper!

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21, at 10:00 a.m.

Family Eucharist & Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 24, at 4:30 p.m.

Festive Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 24, at 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.

Epiphany Service

Tuesday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m.

Worship Schedule

Saturdays

Holy Eucharist 5:30 pm

Sundays

Holy Eucharist
8:00 am and 10:00 am

Weekdays

Morning Prayer
Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am

Healing Service
Tuesday 10:00 am

**Reconciliation
and other Sacraments**
by Appointment with the Clergy

Highlights

Advent and Christmas
Events

Holiday Bazaar

Every Member Canvass

Outreach

Holiday Music

Nine Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 21, at 10:00 a.m.: The adult choir and soloists with Laura Elder, harp; Nancy Urbscheit, flute; and handbells rung by the Bellaires.

Family Eucharist and Christmas Pageant, Wednesday, December 24, at 4:30 p.m.: Christmas carols and scripture lessons with Mendy Cumberledge, soprano, and Laura Elder, harp.

Festive Holy Eucharist, Wednesday, December 24, at 10:30 p.m.: Music will begin at 10:15 p.m. The adult choir and soloists will sing selections from Britten's Ceremony of Carols; Jesus, thou the Virgin born (Gustav Holst); What is this Lovely Fragrance? (Healey Willan); O Holy Night; and the Sussex Carol (Vaughan Williams). Laura Elder will play the harp.

Did You Know...

Advent is the first season of the church's liturgical year, from the fourth Sunday before Christmas (Advent Sunday) until the first Eucharist of Christmas. Advent is a season of preparation for remembering Christ's incarnation at Christmas and for the fulfillment of his promise to return in power and great glory. This accounts for the emphasis in many of this season's biblical readings on the end time and on God's promises for the people of Israel and the church of Christ. Advent has received renewed emphasis in recent years as the church has sought ways to counter the secularization of Christmas as a cultural holiday characterized by conspicuous consumption. The liturgical color is blue (or in some places purple).

The Advent Wreath is a circle, usually covered with evergreen foliage, with four candleholders. Candle colors may vary: four purple or white, or three purple and one rose or pink. A purple candle is lit on the First Sunday of Advent and each day thereafter until Christmas. A second purple candle is lit on the Second Sunday of Advent, and so on until all four candles are lit on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. If a rose or pink candle is used, it is first lit on the Third Sunday, reflecting the tradition that the lessons for the Third Sunday are more celebratory than on the other Sundays. A recent development in Advent wreaths is

the Christmas Candle - usually a larger white candle in the center of the wreath, lit on Christmas Eve midnight services. While large Advent wreaths are used in churches, smaller versions can form the focus of family devotions during the season.

Holiday Bazaar

St. Mark's Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Buy your Christmas gifts at the Bazaar and help support St. Mark's ECW. Proceeds are used for St. Mark's and for local outreach. Among the numerous items we offer are the Louisville, Alabama, pecans for \$6.00 per pound; various sizes of cutlery; kitchenware; baked goods; white elephants; and crafts made by local vendors. We will also raffle a DVD/VCR. Santa will be here from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; pictures will be made for \$3.00 each. Hotdogs and chili will be served at reasonable prices

Evening Women's Group

St. Mark's Evening Women's Group will hold their annual Holiday Gathering on Tuesday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Joyce Martin. All women of the parish are cordially invited to attend this special event which promises delicious food and wonderful fellowship. Each person is asked to bring a \$5.00 gift to exchange and a can of food for the United Crescent Hill Ministries food pantry. Please RSVP to Joyce (412-8881) or sign up in the Information Center.

St. Nicholas Day Celebration

St. Mark's will celebrate St. Nicholas Day on Sunday, December 14, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the decorating of Langley Hall. We will pack boxes of food for the needy, visit with St. Nicholas, sing carols, and enjoy a spaghetti dinner.

Gifts for your "angel" are due on this day. These gifts will go to underprivileged children at Lincoln Elementary and to four children from the Family Assistance Program at UCHM. Please remember to attach your "angel" to your wrapped packages.

St. Mark's youth have volunteered to wrap your purchased items. Also, if you wish, they will also shop for your "angel's" gifts.

Penny Pearson, Fran Reagan, Susan Gray and Scottye Ghent will do the shopping for the items for the food boxes. If you would like to contribute money to help purchase food items, please make your check payable to "St. Mark's Episcopal Church", noting that it is for the food boxes, and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the parish office.

ECW News

The December ECW meeting will be Tuesday, December 16, at 12:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Home. This will be a luncheon with St. Mark's ECH residents as the invited guests. Each person is asked to bring a small gift to be given to the St. Markers who reside at the home. There are eight men and women who live there. Please sign up in the Information Center by December 10 if you plan to attend. Let's have a large turnout for this holiday activity.

ECW has pecans for sale. They are \$6.00 per bag (one pound). These may be purchased any Sunday at church or may be ordered and picked up at church any time. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase outstanding pecans for your holiday baking.

Every Member Canvass Update

As of November 15, the Every Member Canvass has collected a total of 99 pledges for \$231,156. The numbers: 41 pledging units to increase their pledge from last year; 9 pledging units to decrease their pledge from last year; 36 pledging units to remain the same; and 13 new pledging units. Several pledge cards have not yet been returned. St. Mark's is on track to have \$300,000 in pledges for 2004.

The most frequently asked question these days concerns the dollar amount of lost pledges for the 2004 budget year. To answer that question we asked the financial secretary to "run the numbers." When the 2004 Every Member Canvass is compared to the 2003 Every Member Canvass, here are the results: Pledging units that have left the parish - \$20,920; Pledging

units who have pledged \$0.00 - \$10,620. In addition to the above, we have, as we do every year, lost some pledging units to death or relocation. Deceased - \$1,400; Moved - \$100. Total to date of lost pledges: \$33,040.

Upcoming Outreach Events

St. Mark's will once again have a Habitat for Humanity Saturday workday in either January or February. Check your bulletin for more details.

In April we will host a Derby Party at the Alzheimer's Share Care Day Care and will again serve dinner at both the Ronald McDonald House and the House of Ruth. Stay tuned for these and many more volunteer opportunities to come. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Eirk in the Outreach office.

Somali-Bantu Family

We are winding down our sponsorship with the Mwehoza family. Hussein and Lujendo (father and son) have secured jobs and the children are all settled in school. There are some loose ends and medical issues still to deal with, but overall they are learning to navigate in their new world.

Thanks to all who have volunteered with this ministry. They still like visitors, so contact Ellen Eirk if you'd like to visit them.

Sympathy...

Is extended to the family of

Mary Minton Eitel on the death of her brother;

Cy Radford on the death of his sister;

Alice Covell on the death of her mother;

Ed Perry on the death of his mother-in-law; and

C. Ann Gittings on the death of her father.

Thank You

Thanks to Susan Schueler, who designed and created the beautiful banner for last month's baptism.

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 of 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 Tuesday, January 6, and we will be celebrating this special day with a festive Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. The Ceremony and Ritual of the Liturgy will follow the Anglo-Catholic pattern: The Eucharist Prayer will be sung and incense will be used.

UTO

The Fall UTO Ingathering at St. Mark's was again a big success--\$533.00 was collected. Again St. Markers generously gave to further the work of the church worldwide.

Christmas Poinsettia and Wreath Memorials

The giving of a poinsettia
or wreath recognizes and remembers loved ones
or acknowledges blessings and also assists the Altar Guild
in decorating our church for Christmas services.

ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY DECEMBER 8.

Name: _____

Poinsettia(s):
(\$8.00 ea.) _____

Wreath(s):
(\$15.00 ea.) _____

Dedication: (In Memory of; In Thanksgiving for; or In Honor of)

(circle one)

- I would like to keep my poinsettia: Y / N
- I would like my poinsettia delivered to the homebound: Y / N
- I would like to deliver my poinsettia personally: Y / N
If yes, poinsettia will be delivered to: _____

Parish Life

Birthdays

Martha Ormsby	December 2
Carolyn von Almen	December 2
Ruth Alexander	December 4
Caroline Cronan	December 5
Richard Ruthers	December 5
Scott Shafer	December 9
Samuel Gray	December 9
Lynn Boone	December 10
Evie Day	December 11
Jack Gill	December 11
Cyrus Radford	December 16
Ann Davis	December 17
Frances Blackshear	December 18
Sarah Jones	December 18
Will Alexander	December 19
William Hawkins	December 21
Ann Cousteau	December 22
Debbie Mercer	December 25
Kathy Scherer	December 27
Katie Gullett	December 27
June Richards	December 28
Paula Becker	December 28
Stacey Ousley	December 28
Norma Lawrence	December 29
Julia Jones	December 29

Prayers for Healing

Prayers are offered for a portion of the following list at each service on Sunday and the entire list at the Healing Eucharist on Tuesdays.

Amber Gibson, Lucy Caudill, Ruby Osborne, Patty Irvin, Gloria Helm, Dan Tucker, Vickie Ferguson, Doris Hinnant, Anna Clarke Sawyer, Stacy Harvey, John Claypool, Fred Conrad, Pat Jackson, Betty Sherrill, Dwight Ramsay, Fred Livers, Bradley, Ally, Virginia Peterson, Derooy Scott, Janie Kall, Thom Holmes, Sally Dupree, Richard Dame, Julie Jordan, Nancy Carlisle, Henry Bickel, Dorothy Leason, Marian Calvert, Kennedy Helm, Marjorie Carter, Ed Shannon, Lettie Shawler, Richard Gibson, Dick Day, Steve Howard, Jim Speed, Margaret Dick, Betty Collins, Ann Lamberton, Gordon Caldwell, Perry Collins, Susan Fox, Judy Semonin, Jane Wilson, Mary Deetsa, Bob Scherer, Joan Bickel, Mason Bennett, The Babcock Family, Janice Wood, Nina Radford, Vera Wallace

Parish Register

Transfers Out

Joe and Peggy Conway
(to St. Luke's Episcopal Church)

Transfers In

James and Eleanor Oppel
(from St. Matthew's Episcopal Church)

The Rev. and Mrs. John MacLean
(from St. James' Episcopal Church)

Baptism

Jackson Douglas Ousley
(November 2, 2003)

Anniversaries

Ken & Mary Ann Harvey	December 19
Frank & Virginia Hower	December 30

Parish Prayer List

◆
Anglican Cycle of Prayer

December 7 - Give thanks for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.
December 14 - Give thanks for the Church of the Province of Southern Africa.
December 21 - Pray for the Church of God throughout the world.
December 28 - Give thanks for the Church of Ceylon.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Thomas Church, Campbellsville, KY

Parish Partners

St. Frances of Rome, Our Covenant Parish
The congregations of Crescent Hill United Ministries, especially
Mt. Nebo Baptist Church

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Week of December 7

◆
Jerald Brinley
Sallie Lane Burdette
Tom Burdette
Patricia Campbell
Jerry Cappel

Week of December 14

◆
George Calvert
Jean Calvert
Marian Calvert
Bill Cobb
Liz Cobb

Week of December 21

◆
Alex Campbell
LaForrest Campbell
Alex Campbell, Jr.
Peter Campbell
Nancy Carlisle

Week of December 28

◆
Brent Carlton
Beth Carlton
Shelby Carlton
Emma Carlton
Bill Carrell II

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.

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.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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Staff

Charles Hawkins, Rector

Jan Ward, Choirmaster/Organist

Barbara Rich, Parish Secretary

Pat Elliott, Financial Secretary

Gwen O'Dea, Pastoral Care
and Evangelism

Marti Taber, Education

Ellen Eirk, Outreach

Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

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Masonic Home, KY

Permit No. 51

Mailing Address

December Altar Flowers and Candles

are given to the

Honor and Glory of God...

Flowers

- December 7 by Mrs. William E. Oldham in loving memory of her husband, Dr. William E. Oldham; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Scott; her brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Scott, Jr.; and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Adela Oldham.
- December 14 by Mr. and Mrs. David Pearson in loving memory of his father, E. C. Pearson; her mother, Lena Hill; his brother, Lynn D. Pearson; and his nephew, John Scott Smith.
- December 21 by Mr. and Mrs. Houston Jones in loving memory of their parents, Marian and Otto Funk and Martha H. and Jess Jones; his aunt, Virginia Houston; and Margaret and Sidney Park.
- December 28 Poinsettias

Candles

Eucharist Candles for December by Scottye Ghent in loving memory of her husband, R. Mitchell Ghent; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Copher; her niece, Natalie Clarke Latino; and her sister, Phyllis Clarke.

Five Branch Candles for December by Mrs. Robert Lykins in loving memory of her husband, Dr. Robert Lykins, and her sons, David Allen Lykins and James Edward Lykins.

The Advent Wreath by Mrs. Shirley Elmore in loving memory of her parents, Irvin and Sallie Crouch, and her husband, Donald C. Elmore.