



THE LION

EDITION: March 2007

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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ON THE WEB

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SUNDAY EUCHARIST

8:00 a.m. Spoken – Chapel
10:00 a.m. Choral – In the Nave
with Sunday School & Childcare
7:30 p.m. Informal - Chapel

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

12:10 p.m. Wednesday & Friday In Chapel

STAFF

The Rev. C. Robbins Clark, *Rector*
The Rev. Ellen Ekström, *Deacon*
George Anton Emblom, *Director of Music*
Vanessa Capino, *Office Coordinator*
Courtney Storm, *Property Manager*
Ed Silberman, *Child Care Supervisor*
Raymond Arnold, Karen Jones, *Sextons*

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Revv. Kate and Jason Alexander,
Gary Brower, Arthur Holder,
Micah Jackson, James B. Jones,
Scott Sinclair, Owen Thomas,
Patricia Walker-Sprague, Louis Weil

VESTRY

John Harding, *Senior Warden*
Bob Kolenkow, *Junior Warden*
Bob Williams, *Treasurer*
Bruce Alexander, Fran Carlson,
Kevin Crispin-Alfieri, Jay Gaskill,
Chrissie Grover-Roybal, Laura Jackson
Meg Mealy, Jeff Pace
W. Wayne Ritchie, Tim Sullivan.

Celebrate Holy Week and Easter with St. Mark's

As the forty days of Lent draw to a close, you are invited to come celebrate the solemnity of Holy Week and the joy of Easter at St. Mark's. This year's services are as follows:

April 1, Palm Sunday (no fooling!): Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. (choral with procession), and 7:30 p.m. (informal)

April 4: Tenebrae (the "service of shadows") at 7:30 p.m.

April 5, Maundy Thursday: liturgy with footwashing at 7:30 p.m.

April 6, Good Friday: the "Three Hours" from 12-3 p.m., proper liturgy with choir at 7:30 p.m.

April 7, Holy Saturday: liturgy at 9 a.m.

April 8, Easter Sunday: the Great Vigil at 5:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. (choral, with reception and egg hunt following), and 7:30 p.m. (informal)

Don't forget to Spring Forward!

Daylight Savings Time starts early this year, on Sunday, March 11. Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead the night before, or you'll wonder why you're walking into St. Mark's just as the service is concluding...

Report from the Vestry Retreat

The Vestry Retreat took place at Bishop's Ranch from February 2 to February 4. The Vestry collectively sought to identify ministries of excellence and strategies to maintain and expand; to identify areas for new initiatives; and to ensure cooperation and communications between the many disparate groups that constitute St. Mark's.

The Vestry identified stewardship, adult education, liturgical music and worship as current areas of excellence. Kevin Crispin-Alfieri and Fran Carlson elected to continue to lead the Stewardship drive. Subsequently, Bob Kolenkow stepped forward as Junior Warden. Bob Williams will continue as Treasurer, and Wayne Ritchie will lead the Tenant Relations Committee. Jay Gaskill and Bruce Alexander agreed to work as Vestry liaisons to groups working on Adult Formation. With four members of the choir now on Vestry, the formal choir liaison role has been discontinued, although the four choir members will informally continue this work. Finally, Robbin Clark volunteered to assist in virtually every ministry.

Two areas were identified for new initiatives – Family Ministry and Community Development. Jeff Pace elected to devote his energies to improving family ministries. Jay Gaskill announced his attention to help develop and connect parishioners to communities of interest in St. Mark's. (You've already noted the first fruits of their labors at the Sunday announcements) Meg Mealy will continue her efforts to bring visitors into the St. Mark's community. Laura Jackson agreed to serve as vestry coordinator for Pastoral Care.

The Vestry committed itself to an effort to improve communications within St. Mark's. Tim Sullivan will head an effort to coordinate the communication efforts of the website, the Lion, and the weekly bulletins. Bruce Alexander will work on Outreach and assist with the website and with the development of the Church's database. Chrissie Grover-Roybal will assist in this ministry, as well as continuing her work in Outreach with Bruce before she leaves for college. An initial communications project will be updating the guide to the congregation's groups, formerly known as the "Red Book."

Under Robbin's guidance, the weekend touched on the fundamentals of Christian and Episcopal life. A discussion of the goals of St. Mark's examined Matthew's Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you," and the Episcopal Church's catechetical writings: "The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ;" and "The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love."

As a result of the retreat, the Vestry envisions its chief work this year as assisting the community in bringing the gospel message to new members, helping existing community members to live the gospel message, and ensuring the transmittal of the gospel message to families, especially those raising the next generation of Christians.

--Timothy J. Sullivan

BACKCHAT

One good suggestion for improving parish communication has been to solicit short letters or articles from parishioners for publication in the Lion. Politeness would be requested, but formality would not, and the hope is that some of you will speak to the issues that concern you: religion, politics, knitting, or any other hot-button topic. Jokes are also welcomed. In short (and we do need submissions to be short enough to fit on one page or less), if you have something to say, please submit your contribution to the office (office@stmarksberkeley.org), attention: Backchat.

I will get the ball rolling with a small witticism:

Q: How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Two. One to mix a pitcher of martinis and one to call the contractor.

--John Harding, Senior Warden

A Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm not much on blogs and blogging and tend to think that there are more opinions put forth in cyberspace than I find helpful. That is one reason I have resisted until now a general sharing of my thoughts about all that is going on vis-a-vis the Anglican Communion at this time. There are many other sources of information (and/or 'dys-information'), opinion and prediction out there, which I know many of you are much more on top of than I am. Nevertheless, because many at St. Mark's are wondering what effect all the statements and possible future actions will have on our life at a parish, I'll try to offer my 'take' on the situation.

We at St. Mark's have a higher than average awareness of our relationship to the Anglican Communion. We have been blessed to host scholars, clergy and other visitors during their time in Berkeley. Many of us have visited or lived overseas and have deep personal/professional connections with members and leaders of our worldwide body. Our experience helps us appreciate these brothers and sisters in Christ and also to understand that, just as in our own Episcopal Church, opinion in the other Provinces is not monolithic. We know, in addition, that hierarchical structures and who gets to decide and to speak for the church varies widely place to place. So I would encourage a dash of salt to flavor all the rhetoric that is going around.

We at St. Mark's have also been blessed with a longer record than many congregations of acceptance and inclusion of Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered people and have benefited greatly by their ministries. We have engaged in several programs of study about human sexuality over the past two decades, which have revealed a high level of consensus that such inclusion and celebration of gifts differing constitutes faithfulness to God's Word and intention for us and all God's people. There is no way we could or would want to turn back the clock. Many, in fact, eagerly await further movements and are sick and tired of having issues of sexual orientation dredged up over and over again. I know how frustrated and discouraged I get when I hear issues of feminism and of women's ordination still being dragged out. I so want all that to be a done deal and simply to get on with the important tasks of ministry. At the same time, I know that individuals, communities and whole societies must go through the journey toward respect and full inclusion for all God's people at their own pace and that powerful forces of fear often hold them hostage. Seeing the pain these forces inflict on people I hold dear both saddens and angers me. I believe we at St. Mark's must make special efforts to support those who are most personally wounded by the current media melee.

As to the output from the recent meeting of Anglican Primates in Dar es Salaam, it seems much less has been decided than is commonly supposed. I refer you to the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion News Services (on the internet) for the documents themselves and various commentary. And there are always the blogs. I strongly support our own bishop's statement of response, available at www.episcopalbayarea.org. As he reminds us, any actual decisions must be made on a General Convention level. That is our polity. Convention is next scheduled to meet in the summer of 2009, though calls have been voiced for an extraordinary meeting this summer. (There is precedent for this, back in the 1960's to deal with issues raised by the civil rights movement.) What is being asked of our church is to consider ourselves bound by the Windsor Report and the 1998 Lameth Conference resolution on human sexuality. This would mean a moratorium on consents to the election of persons in same-sex unions to the office of bishop and a refusal to authorize rites for such unions until there is worldwide consensus on these matters. I personally doubt that the Episcopal Church will take what amounts to a huge step backward for a great many of us and also an unprecedented interference by the Communion in the life of a member church.

The question of interference looms as large as that of same-sex unions. Conservative elements within our own church have distanced themselves from our leaders and from decisions made in Convention, and overseas bishops have taken over jurisdiction within our boundaries, spawning huge legal battles over property. These realignments based on like-mindedness and a sort of litmus test of doctrinal purity trouble me deeply because they fly in the face of treasured Anglican values. Comprehensiveness and freedom of thought within the framework of common worship have been defining characteristics of our church among the various churches. I find it most distressing that those who are, in fact, breaking our polity insist that it is we and not they who are abandoning the church.

Sifting through the diplomatic language of the Communiqué from the Primate's Meeting, I find much less concern about 'intervention' than about what they term 'innovation'. Incursions across judicatory boundaries are all but excused on the basis of 'pastoral need' while there is little or no recognition that our church's actions might be based on deeply faithful theological development or on pressing pastoral need. This is where the Anglican 'shoe' really pinches for me. I do not foresee any worldwide consensus on matters of human sexuality any time soon, just as there is still no consensus on the role of women, especially regarding ordained ministry. But neither theological uniformity nor identity of practice have ever been what binds us together. My hope is that we can weather this time of stressed relationship without breaking apart. This will be difficult in light of the current stand-off. Our Presiding Bishop and General Convention have endeavored to be conciliatory (more so than many would like) but have stopped short of the full submission, which is being asked for. At this point, I do not think further appeasement will work. I see no opening for an honorable negotiated compromise. My only hope is that the deliberately lengthy decision-making (particularly as regards the adoption of a covenant) may give us time to discern a productive way forward. That said, I cannot place our relationship with the Anglican Communion above God's call for dignity and inclusion for all God's children. Let us pray together that the Holy Spirit will guide us to a place where that choice will not become necessary.

A Few Words From the Deacon . . . One

Last year in May, I was trying to work on a chapter of the prequel to "The Legacy" and had the television on. I need to work with background noise – comes with living in a large family and having a noisy bunch of children at home, not to mention parakeets that always have an opinion . . . but I digress.

So I'm sitting there editing, when I notice George Clooney, Pat Robertson and Bishop Frank Griswold in a black and white commercial, making statements about ending global poverty, and then Jewel, Orlando Bloom, Matt Damon, Penelope Cruz. Yes, Orlando got my attention. Whoa, I thought, back up the truck -- Frank Griswold and Pat Robertson with George and Orlando -- what is this? The end of the commercial had a frame that simply read, ONE.org.

I checked it out and got excited. ONE.org is an organization anyone can join and be a part of a global effort to end poverty. No party lines, no 'us versus them', just a call for people to get together and do something for the poor and marginalized.

Sounds like a diaconal clarion to me!

On the web site, you can find information on mobilizing local efforts to join the campaign, as well as watch video clips and read statistics. I signed the petition and signed up for the e-mail newsletter.

Perhaps you've heard of ONE.org, or maybe you've heard of The Rev. Paige Blair's "U2charists", which are celebrated in churches throughout the United States, and use the Irish rock band U2's music within the liturgy.

I've started up a Yahoo! Group called ONE St. Mark's Berkeley. Check out the group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ONEstmarksberkeley>. Join and engage in the discussion on how we can do a bit more to eradicate global poverty. It's a daunting task, and one that may be near impossible. Think about it – we've already started by hosting the Hot Meal on the third Saturday of the month and cooking every Thursday night for YEAH!

In the next few weeks, I'll be writing about this on my website's blog, offering brochures and leaflets to read; I'll have the ONE.org bracelet. One of the deacon's ministries is to stir up people to work for the common good. I've just put the spoon in the pot and I'm starting to stir. Maybe you'd like to add to the brew.

With God's love and mine,

--Ellen

The Ministry of Music

George Anton Emblom, Director of Music

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE CHOIR TOUR TO ENGLAND? The St. Mark's Choir Association cordially invite those of you who might be interested in joining the choir on their tour to England this summer, July 13-27. At the time of this writing, there are only approximately five spaces left that available on the tour. The choir will be in residence for one week at Lincoln Cathedral and for two days at Durham Cathedral. Additional outings on the tour will include visits to York, Stamford, Burleigh House, and Lindisfarne. The tour will end in Edinburgh, Scotland. For further information, please contact the Director of Music at music@stmarksberkeley.org or 510.845.0888.

The twenty-first season of the Second Sunday Evensong/Organ Recital Series continues March 11 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Evensong will be sung by the St. Mark's Schola Cantorum, followed by an organ recital by **Mas-simo Nosetti**, Professor of Organ and Composition at the National Conservatory in Cuneo and organist at the Basilica of Santa Rita in Turin. He will perform works of Bruhns, Morandi, Bach, and Giavina. A festive reception will follow the program.

Got Brass? It's not too early to be thinking about supporting the cost (\$2000) of having a Brass Qunitet on Easter Day. A donation form is included in this LION.

St. Mark's Classifieds:

Baldwin Organ for Sale - \$100 plus moving costs

Electric Baldwin console for sale, suitable for use in a home or a small church or theater. The model number is either T690H8 or YH8 0091. It has 3 presets and ranks for pedal, solo, accompaniment and percussion. It needs a cleaning, tuning and possible some fixing of keys. We are motivated in finding a new home for this instrument. It is at St. Cuthbert's Church, 7932 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, (Take Rt. 580, exit Keller Ave.) Buyers will be responsible for moving the instrument. For questions, contact Shivaun: (510) 635-4949 or email stcuddy@aol.com.

Knabe Studio Upright Piano for Sale - \$2,000 plus moving costs.

Wm. Knabe & Co., Studio Upright Piano for Sale – 45" high, 24" deep, 55" wide. It was bought brand new in 1985 for \$5,000 and has rarely been played. The brown mahogany case is in excellent condition, on wheels. The ivories, felts, hammers, strings are as new. It was recently tuned in 1/2007. Buyers in addition should pay for moving costs. If you are interested or want more information call Pamela: (510) 655-7243 or pcranstn@pacbell.net.

Berkeley Library needs volunteers

Many of you will remember the plethora of books that turned up at our Book Sale last fall. After many were sold, recycled or tossed because of poor condition, the remainders were donated to the Friends of the Berkeley Library used bookstore on Channing Way. Books from all over Berkeley come through the store weekly and we need more volunteers to sort, price and shelve them. If you have 3 hours/week available and you'd like to help support your Library, why not consider giving your time as well as your books? See Andrea Foley, 524-8378, if you have questions.

Upcoming Children, Youth and Family Events

The Children, Youth and Family Ministry is delighted to announce a series of events that will be convened over the next several months. We're hopeful that families with children or youth at home – and anyone else at St. Mark's who wishes to participate – will join us. As you've been hearing recently, all of St. Mark's ministries will be working hard this year to enhance community and shared experiences among us. The ministry to families with children or youth at home will be working toward delivering expanded and more engaging services on Sundays as well as social and community service opportunities for folks at St. Mark's.

Some of the events scheduled below are on Saturdays, and some are scheduled during the week for caretakers-at-home with younger children in their care. We plan to kick things off with a pajama party at the Paces' house in Alameda in early March, and the major community service event this spring will be a pastoral visit to Children's Hospital in April to read stories and provide comfort to kids receiving care there. We'll also be creating Easter baskets for YEAH! participants on Holy Saturday.

Exact times will be announced as we get closer to the scheduled dates, but each event, except for the pajama party (grown ups can wear pajamas or day clothes, as they feel inspired, by the way!), will typically begin mid-morning. Please join us, and get to know your parish neighbors better. Contact me for more information at (510) 701-4302 or JeffP@UnityCouncil.org. --Jeff Pace

- ❖ Pace Pajama Party, Alameda-Mar. 10 (3- 7p.m.)
- ❖ Children's Hospital, Oakland -April 21 (Sat)
- ❖ Habitot Children's Museum, Berkeley –Mar. 26
- ❖ Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley -May 4 (Fri)
- ❖ Easter Baskets for YEAH!, St. Mark's-April 7
- ❖ Oakland Zoo, Oakland -May 19 (Sat)

Let's Have Fun with Family Ministries – Come Join Us!

St. Mark's Family Ministries Committee (the committee formerly known as Christian Education) held its first meeting of the year on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007. We welcome Jeff Pace as our vestry liaison, and new members, Barbara Oliver (though she's a veteran to this ministry) and Anna Roope, who join stalwarts Priscilla Camp and Mary McWilliams and Robbin Clark from the former committee. We also welcome Jason Purcell to the corps of Sunday School teachers.

I am re-joining the committee after a few years hiatus and I will be assuming the role as committee chair. Anne Smith, after an accomplished term as chair of the Family Ministries Committee and as a Sunday school teacher, has relinquished these jobs in order to concentrate on her seminary studies. Kate Adams has also retired from the committee as she and her family prepare to return to the UK in July. Both Anne and Kate will be sorely missed. They have both given much time, energy and imagination to this ministry, and I would like to thank the both of them for all their brilliant work, and for laying a strong foundation for those of us who will follow.

And, as the Adams/Webster family returns to the UK, we will also lose Ian as one of our Sunday School teachers. Ian has been a steadfast and engaging Sunday School teacher over the last few years, and I know that he will be missed – especially by the children. I've had the pleasure to co-teach with Ian, and I have seen firsthand his gentle and natural rapport with the children that allows them to feel relaxed and accepted as they explore Bible stories and enjoy the related projects (I will certainly miss both his and Anne's arts and crafts skills).

Thank you, Ian.

As you will see from Jeff Pace's related article, our main focus for the coming year will be to build community for children, for families, for youth and for those who are interested in participating in this ministry. We will also explore Sunday School curriculums, and ways to enrich the nursery and youth group.

So – we have some work ahead of us. And I firmly believe that with the energy and foresight that surrounds this ministry at this time, we can accomplish great things. I would like to invite the entire parish to join us in this adventure. If you are interested in joining us as a committee member, Sunday School teacher, or have some other related gift to offer, please let me know. I promise you it will be a rewarding, and fun, experience.

--Lisa B. Key, Family Ministries Committee Chair

Sparks at St. Mark's!

What do 37 of us have in common as of Sunday, February 18th? [Hint - Q: What links a "Chick flicks" group, a Walking-hiking group, six other newly or almost formed groups with 16 guilds and special ministries? A: They are all part of the St. Mark's growing network of communities that bind us together as a congregation.]

The "Sparks@St. Mark's" fellowship connections project is off to a great start.

Following the Vestry retreat, the happy task of building up St. Mark's internal fellowship communities became a major new parish emphasis for 2007. This effort is coordinated by Jay Gaskill and other members of the *Sparks* team.

The goal is to nurture and grow the internal connections within the larger St. Mark's community that knit us together around our common interests and avocations. Every visitor who entertains the idea of coming back to St. Mark's one more time is asking the same question: Is there a vibrant community here for me or my family? Almost every parishioner, friend or visitor who returns to St. Mark's seeks a spiritual experience but is particularly drawn by the expectation of finding a community of spiritually minded friends. We come back for that above all.

This initiative began at the new Welcome & Connection Table at coffee hour on February 11th when parishioners, visitors and friends began finding new opportunities to connect and reconnect with each other. Eight new groups have already formed up, and four more are close. We already have active, growing lists for the following groups:

Families in Church (Jeff Pace has this vital ministry and fellowship project off to a great start); Walking/Hiking (5); Theater (2); CHICK FLICKS (9); Theology Discussion (5); DOGS – Walking / Resource (4); Legal Lions (or "Sharks@StMarks" – includes paralegals, office administrators, secretaries and law students) (10); BRIDGE (2); KNITTERS! (2).

Among the list of interests and activities (provided by you so far) that are poised to generate new fellowship groups:

Photography; Cat sitting; Sushi/dim sum making; Learning or Playing Musical Instruments- esp. Guitar or Recorder; Spoken Word Group --Poetry/Plays/Prose; Bible Study; International Cooking Group; Crocheting and/or Quilting Bees; Adopting a Homeless Family; Tutoring ESL Students; Ballgame Goers; Elder Care; Spur of the Moment post-movie talks; Movie lovers (short notice companions); Drama lovers; Concert goers; Support group for parents whose kids have academic problems; Group spiritual direction; Poetry enthusiasts; Exercise buddy groups (especially for women) Breakfast prayer group... and many more... ;In General – More Groups for Singles.

So stop by the Table, let us know your interests, start a new group or join one. And help Jay with "Sparks @ Saint Marks". Our First Ministry is to Each Other in Community. Want to work on community development and fellowship connections? Contact: Jay B. Gaskill -- jgaskill@yahoo.com, (510) 679-8123.

3rd Annual Pilgrimage . . . In the Footsteps of Paul and John

You are invited to join David Abernethy-Deppe on a 14-Day Pilgrimage to Greece, Turkey and Rome, including a 7-Day cruise aboard the Orient Queen with announced lecturer, Dr. Edgar Krentz, Christ Seminary—Seminex Emeritus Professor of New Testament and Archaeology. Visit Athens, Corinth, Thessaloniki, Philippi (traditional site of Lydia's Baptism), Pergamum, Sardis and Miletus, Ephesus (Mary's House), and Patmos (Monastery and Cave of St. John). Then on to Rome to see the newly discovered site thought to be the burial place of St. Paul, Paul's prison, the catacombs, Coliseum and Roman Forum, and the Vatican (including the Sistine Chapel). Dates: October 31 to November 13, 2007. Cost: \$3,385 (including airfare from SFO, Athens, Rome and return; 7-Day cruise; hotels; most meals; and excursions). E-mail: davida@diocal.org for information and registration. Limited to 35.

Worship Committee Announcements

We were sorry to say good-bye to Kevin Crispin-Alfieri, our former Head Verger, who has decided that he cannot be both Head Verger and Co-Chair of Stewardship this coming year. Knowing the dedication and thoughtfulness Kevin brings to his responsibilities, we sent him on his way with our blessing. Kevin came to the Worship Committee several years ago with a proposal for beginning a Verger ministry at St. Mark's. Frankly, many of us were skeptical about it, but were willing to try it on a provisional basis. Due not only to his hard work, but also to his patient persistence, we now enjoy the benefits of such a ministry.

Being a Verger includes a great deal more than verging various liturgical ceremonies. Most of their work is done behind the scenes, compiling and maintaining the rota (a task now carried out by Micah Jackson, bless him!), sending reminders to those assigned to each Sunday, developing procedures to ensure a more orderly and reliable process "backstage" for all liturgical ministers (sign-in, notifying the office when unable to carry out the assigned task and finding substitutes, etc.), acting as stage manager prior to services to make sure that all is covered and everyone is in place, and conducting ongoing evaluation of our liturgies. They trouble-shoot, encourage training, and work with the staff in designing and planning for the high feast days. They conduct rehearsals for the big liturgies. It has made a huge difference for us, even though so much of the work is not immediately visible to the congregants.

So, we owe a big thank-you to Kevin and the other Vergers, Scott Sullivan and Maggie Grover, for this contribution to our "work of the people". And members of the Worship Committee are happy to join with me in saying thank you, especially to Kevin. Happily, he will continue as a Verger, just not Head Verger.

Among other things, Vergers often suggest, carry out, and evaluate innovations in our liturgical practice. During Epiphany, we have tried a new way of doing the Gospel procession, by eliminating the processional cross in an effort to focus more on the Gospel Book and the act of proclaiming the Gospel dramatized therein. The 18th was the last Sunday in Epiphany, so we encourage you to share with the clergy and members of the Worship Committee your responses to this new practice. Please tell us how it worked or didn't work. Our next meeting is 28 February 5-6:30 p.m., in the Parsons Library. You are welcome to attend it for that part of the agenda. If you plan to be there, please contact the parish office or me (848-8977 or ammorgan@pacbell.net).

--Alda Marsh Morgan, Chair

Adult Education in Lent

This season brings three exciting educational opportunities to St. Mark's: Adult Forum this series (after the 10 a.m. service) focuses on the Gospel of Luke. Topics and facilitators still to come are as follows:

Adult Forum: Study as Prayer and Action

March 4: Jesus as a Student and Teacher (Mary Anne Oliver)

March 11: Jesus on the Nature of Prayer (Bruce Alexander)

March 25: Prayers, which Take the Form of Action (Mark Koop)

God Onstage: the Religious Impulse in Drama this evening series will run every Thursday in March (7:30-9:00 p.m. in Hodgkin Hall) Remaining topics and presenters will be as follows:

March 8: Greek Tragedy as Religious Ceremony (William Anderson)

March 15: English and American Dramatists Wrestle with Angels (Caroline Summer)

March 22: Thornton Wilder the Iconoclast (Barbara Oliver and Charley Robinson)

March 29: Christopher Fry's A Sleep of Prisoners (Barbara Oliver, Charley Robinson, and Donn Morgan)

Psalms in the Jewish and Christian Traditions

Once again St. Mark's and Congregation Beth El will engage in a joint study this spring. We will examine how Jews and Christians have interpreted the psalms and used them in prayer and worship. One session will focus on the psalms in Passover and Holy Week service. The sessions will be on Wednesday nights from 7-9 pm on March 21, March 28, April 4, and April 11. Enrollment will be limited to 12 members and requires a commitment to attend all the sessions. Please contact Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski at 510-204-0718, email: djoslynsiem@cdsp.edu, or talk to him in person if you are interested.

Development at St Mark's: how shall we begin to think about it?

On March 25th we will hold a forum to discuss development at St Mark's. This will be a time for each of us to listen and engage with each other to understand what development at St Mark's means to all of us. It will be a time when we can consider creating a framework within which we can discuss development in the context of our mission and the constraints of the practical situation. It will be a time for us to challenge each other with our own hopes for the development of the Parish.

Development is an ambiguous word... it means many different things to each of us. We need to engage each other with our own hopes and desires for the development of St Mark's.

The forum is set within the context of some proposals for the development of the physical resources of St Mark's, but the discussion is not meant to be limited by these proposals. The development of the physical plant is just one reference point for development; there are many other points from which the Parish can approach development.

In this forum there is a hope that we can create a safe place to discuss our various hopes and fears about the future of St Mark's. Our hope is that by the end of the forum we can agree on a framework for considering how we might take the next development step - whatever that next step might be.

--Ian Webster

Parish Celebrates Life and Ministry of The Rev. John Turnbull

John Turnbull, faithful assisting priest at St. Mark's since 1993, died suddenly on February 10, leaving his beloved partner Peter. He will be greatly missed. A Requiem for him was celebrated on February 25 by Bishop Marc Andrus, with well over a dozen priests and scores of friends in attendance. Former St. Markan John Kirkley, who was mentored by John for Confirmation, preached. Below are excerpts from his sermon.

The story of John Turnbull, a magnificent and inspiring story, is part of an even larger and grander story of how God is making all things new. I don't know the whole story (we can never know the whole story), and John's life was perhaps more complicated and multifaceted than most. There were many dimensions to John's person, and I doubt that any one of us saw more than a few of his aspects at any given time; which made him all the more interesting and surprising as one got to know him.

Two things, however, can be said with absolute confidence about John. There were two sacred, inviolable rituals that structured and gave meaning to his life. The first and most defining was the sacrament of Holy Communion that we will celebrate in a few moments. John's central identity was that given to him in baptism and remembered with each celebration of the Eucharist. His particular way of living out his identity as a beloved child of God was as a priest; indeed, as a priest's priest. John's life took on the very shape of the blessed Sacrament that he treasured and celebrated at this very Table right until the last Sunday before his death: a life taken, blessed, and broken open for the sake of the healing of the world; a life given over to the promise and power of love. His life was a Great Thanksgiving defined chiefly by the rite of Holy Communion.

But there was a second ritual, as I mentioned earlier, that also gave structure and meaning to John's life, and I would be remiss were I not to dwell on it a bit: the sacred ritual of lunch. This was the other, and related, table fellowship in which John delighted, revealing his commitment to loyal, loving friendships. To the extent that John ever let his hair down in public, he did so during a long lunch with a friend, sharing his wry humor, his passion for conversation about things that matter (no small talk for John), and, of course, his cantankerousness; which was about a millimeter deep.

I will miss my friend, my mentor, my brother, John. Even though I trust that he has been taken up completely into the eternal life of God's undying love; that God is making of John's life something new and even more magnificent than I can imagine, the reality of my - our - grief remains. God will make something new of that, too, but not yet. Not today.

The LION
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Thank you.



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March 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Mar. 1

YEAH! Cooking
God Onstage

Saturday, Mar. 3

Hymn-a-thon
Volti Concert

Sunday, Mar. 4

Cal Bach Concert

Wednesday, Mar. 7

Stewardship Comm. Mtg.

Thursday, Mar. 8

YEAH! Cooking
God Onstage

Saturday, Mar. 10

Healing Study Course
Healing Prayer Group
Prayer Shawl Mtg.

Sunday, Mar. 11

Evensong/Organ Recital

Monday, Mar. 12

Inquirers' Class

Tuesday, Mar. 13

Adult Formation Mtg.
Family Ministries Mtg.

Wednesday, Mar. 14

Choir Board Mtg.

Thursday, Mar. 15

YEAH! Cooking
God Onstage

Saturday, Mar. 17

Anti-Racism Commission
Hot Meals
Schola Cantorum Concert

Sunday, Mar. 18

LION Deadline

Tuesday, Mar. 20

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, Mar. 21

Worship Comm. Mtg.

Thursday, Mar. 22

YEAH! Cooking
God Onstage

Saturday, Mar. 24

Healing Study Course
Healing Prayer Group
Hatanaka & Yee Wedding

Sunday, Mar. 25

P.M.E Concert

Monday, Mar. 26

Inquirers' Class

Wednesday, Mar. 28

LION Mailing

Thursday, Mar. 29

YEAH! Cooking
God Onstage