



# THE LION

EDITION: April 2007

## ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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### ON THE WEB

[www.stmarksberkeley.org](http://www.stmarksberkeley.org)

### 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*  
Nancy Hayes, *Clerk*  
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.

## Celebrations at St. Mark's

### Holy Week and Easter:

**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. with festive Easter breakfast following, Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. (choral with brass quintet, reception and egg hunt following), and 7:30 p.m. (informal)

## Looking ahead...

**Save the date!** Sunday, May 27 is **Pentecost**, the end of the Great Fifty Days of Easter. We will be celebrating the **baptism** of some of our newest members at the 10 a.m. service, and also marking the **25th anniversary** of our rector Robbin's ordination. Stay tuned for further details!

**Save the Date!** Jason Alexander's **Ordination** to the priesthood June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00 am at Grace Cathedral

**Reminder: Summer Camp** season approaches. Now is the time to sign-up for one of the fabulous offerings at the Bishop's Ranch and St. Dorothy's Rest. There are programs for kids, teens and whole families. More information is posted outside the parish office and / or you can look on the diocesan web site: [episcopalbayarea.org](http://episcopalbayarea.org)

## *A Few Words from the Deacon: Humanity on Public Transportation*

I officially started my new secular job last Friday. The office is in downtown Oakland on Franklin Street, a hub of sorts. My commute is quicker but interesting – let's say a lot more interesting. I usually take the 72 bus down San Pablo Avenue because it's closer to home than BART. I'm usually the token white chick on the bus, once in a while there's another "woman of a certain age" who rides at the same time. Most of the people are plugged into CD players and iPods, some are reading newspapers a day old, some are doing homework, there's a lady who likes fantasy novels and reads her favorite parts out loud to whoever sits beside her. I have my iPod on – listening to a podcast of Morning or Evening Prayer while I stare out the window from behind my RayBans, or try to knit on a crowded bus. This morning, one of the regulars decided to read out loud from Revelation. Yep, a pulpit is where you put it and where you decide to preach.

It's an interesting ride. I wonder if you knew that there was a day care center sandwiched between a church and a liquor store? Or that there's a taco stand next to a vacant lot filled with old tires and junk, where homeless people sleep? Someone's made a 'fort' out of some of the tires.

Once in a while, I take BART. The riders are a bit more uptown and professional, but the ubiquitous white iPod ear buds are everywhere, as are PDA's and cell phones, the Sporting Green and the Wall Street Journal. I took BART home last night. Glancing about I wondered, if Jesus had to take public transportation, which would he choose? BART or the 72?

That's a tough question. I'm guessing he'd ride both, depending on where he wanted to go. The best and worst of humanity use both modes of transportation. I've met interesting people, people who later became my friends and acquaintances, on the bus and on the train. What I've discovered from my observations this morning is that if you want to spread the Word, it's a crapshoot during the commute hour. There are people who don't want to hear about God and Jesus while they're trying to catch ten minutes more of sleep before going to the office, or finish a homework assignment; there are people who think you're nuts. I had my prayer book open in my lap one afternoon and the man beside me asked what kind of Bible it was. He had a Bible with him and we exchanged books for the duration of the ride. His Bible was well-loved and worn, notes on the margins, verses underlined – especially in Paul's epistles. Our conversation centered on how difficult it was to be a Christian. Once in a while there's a person who is receptive to the Word, it's infrequent, and you can start a dialogue. Even if you don't agree on whose holy book or whose dogma, the Spirit is there, getting two strangers to talk, to engage in something. My knitting starts conversations and when I mention it's for the prayer shawl ministry, I learn that someone else on the bus is doing that, too; the conversation starts to bend and turn like a journey – you keep moving and there are surprises on the road, and you eventually reach your destination.

Hopefully, you're both standing before the Lord.

With God's Love and Mine,

--Ellen+

## A Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recent discussions about potential development of our church property have prompted a healthy interest in mission. What is our mission as a parish? How ought we to pursue it? How can we keep from getting in our own way? What actions and attitudes will best help us fulfill our mission? I am delighted that we are thinking in these terms because they return us to the consideration of our core identity and purpose as one local manifestation of the mystical Body of Christ.

These days, just about every organization and business has a mission statement to serve as a focus for its work. Projects and decisions are evaluated according to how well they 'fit' with or support/promote the stated mission. There are multiple levels of statements regarding mission, from the broad over-arching 'vision' down to specific goals and objectives and actions plans.

Massive amounts of literature and cadres of consultants are available to help groups work through the creation of such statements and their implementation. We at St. Mark's may well avail ourselves of some of these resources as we continue our discussions and discernment process. But as a church, we have other sources to draw upon as well.

In the Catechism of the Episcopal Church, three statements deal specifically with mission:

- ❖ The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.
- ❖ The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace and love.
- ❖ The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

The mission of any individual congregation needs to be congruent with these statements and take into account its particular history, current situation and the special gifts and challenges it faces.

But the Episcopal Church is not the highest level of our accountability. We take our 'marching orders', as it were, from the One whose Body we are, our Lord Jesus. The more fully each one of us endeavors to live our own lives in imitation of Christ, the closer we, as a group will come to continuing his ministry through our parish. We get many examples and directives from scripture. Two have stood out for me in the midst of our discussions. The first is what is known as the '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 observe everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age." (Matthew 28: 19-20) The second speaks to me especially in light of our coming celebration of the Paschal Mystery. Jesus utters these words just as the outset of Holy Week. "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:32) I imagine many of you will have personal 'touchstone' texts, which you return to again and again for guidance in your own life as you discern your own mission and ministry. And I wonder what St. Mark's might identify as its 'touchstones' from scripture as we seek to articulate our common mission as a congregation. One that has been with us for decades is from the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25, [Inasmuch] as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Our touchstones need not be confined to scripture. Some people are compelled by the life of a particular saint or stirred by particular writings. I encourage us all to reflect on what drives and empowers us in our Christian walk and to share those things with one another. I would very much like to hear what you think are the core text/ideas/examples which motivate St. Mark's, so we can use them in our discussions about mission.

These are exciting times for St. Mark's. We are on the brink of "the next big thing." What a perfect time to be celebrating Easter. Let us all pray for the grace and courage to embrace the new life offered to us by our risen Lord!

## Someone's in the Kitchen with Coffee

Could it be you, for an hour before and after church 6 times a year? Coffee hour hosts and hostesses are desperately needed to set up and clean up coffee hour with a team of 3 each Sunday.

There is training and it is an easy and pleasant job. The food you bring (simple store-bought cookies, fruit, etc.) can be reimbursed by the church. There are substitutes available if you cannot make your scheduled Sunday. There are written instructions for the whole operation and coffee, sugar, etc., are already at the church. You only bring cream, simple food (unless inclined to be more elaborate) and yourselves. Some families have done the chore for several years; other groups are arranged by the coordinator.

It takes about 30 to 45 minutes before church to make the coffee, set out the food, etc. After the service you put out the food and refill plates. Then as they empty you clear and put them in the dishwasher along with the coffee cups. Turn on the dishwasher and walk out. The post-service phase takes between an hour and an hour and a half.

There are two Sundays now with no one scheduled to do the job. We really need help or maybe we will not have coffee one Sunday a month. Not very hospitable, eh? Call Fran Carlson at 510-526-9545 or Kathryn Segalle at 510-258-1981 to volunteer.

What if you want to help, but you can only commit to one Sunday per year? Make that one Sunday Easter! We could really use more volunteers to put on the special Easter coffee hour that everyone is expecting to enjoy. Please don't let St. Mark's wonderful tradition of fine refreshments become a thing of the past. Call Kathryn at 510-258-1981 to volunteer.

## BACKCHAT

Got an opinion? We want to hear it! Send your (short) letter to [office@stmarksberkeley.org](mailto:office@stmarksberkeley.org), attention: Backchat.

## Report From the Worship Committee

Lots of changes in the worship-related guilds since the new year and some confusion, I'll admit! Scott Sullivan has now moved from chairing the Lectors & Bidders, to chairing the Acolytes. Barbara Oliver has assumed the chairmanship of Lectors & Bidders on an interim basis. Kevin Crispin-Alfieri has resigned as Head Verger, as reported in the annual report and, as of now, there is no Head Verger. The Rector will be coordinating the scheduling and duties of our three Vergers, Scott Sullivan, Maggie Grover, and Kevin, who is staying on as Verger.

Compiling and distributing an integrated rota has turned out to be more difficult than anticipated, causing a good deal of inconvenience to all of those participating in the chancel ministries, including the Altar Guild and the Flower Guild. If there should be some slip-ups or the names in the Sunday bulletin don't match the faces you'll see in the chancel, please bear with us. We are working hard (especially Micah Jackson and the Rector!) at smoothing out these difficulties. In the meanwhile, in the midst of the flux, we are planning more training and clarifying expectations. A second, improved draft of guidelines for the Bidders to adapt the Prayers of the People was reviewed at the Worship Committee on 21 March. Similar guidelines for the Lectors are on the docket, as well as further training. LEM training, which is conducted by the diocese, was held on March 10, and saw one parishioner, Sean McConnell, there from St. Mark's. We need more Acolytes and will be recruiting for that guild, as well. This is a ministry for both adults and young people. Is it one that you might feel called to take up?

*--Alda Morgan, Chair, Worship Committee*

## 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 available. 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](mailto:music@stmarksberkeley.org) or 510.845.0888.

The twenty-first season of the **Second Sunday Evensong/Organ Recital Series** continues **May 13** beginning at 5:30 p.m. Evensong will be sung by the St. Mark's Schola Cantorum, followed by an organ recital by Leon Couch, Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina. Please note that there will be no Evensong/Organ Recital in April, the second Sunday being Easter Day.

Thanks to those of you who have contributed to the Brass Quintet. A complete list of donors will appear in the next issue of the LION.

**HYMNATHON A SUCCESS!** Thanks to the overwhelming response of donors, the Choir Association raised over \$15,000 to help with Scholarship assistance for the July Choir Tour. Over 250 people contributed to the success of this fundraiser. Many of the sponsors include family and friends of the choir members from all over the United States.

Thus, St. Mark's continues to cultivate relationships with folks across the country. Thanks to those of you in the parish who also helped support the event either by sponsorship and/or by attendance the day of the event. It was a wonderful and full day!

**Look there!** The Christ, our Brother, comes respondent from the gallows tree  
And what he brings in his hurt hands is life on life for you and me.

Joy! (joy) joy! (joy) to the hear and all in this good day's dawning!

Good Jesus Christ inside his pain looked down Golgotha's stony slope  
And let the blood flow from his flesh to fill the springs of living hope.

Joy! (joy) joy! (joy) to the hear and all in this good day's dawning!

Good Jesus Christ, our Brother, died in darkest hurt upon the tree  
to offer us the worlds of light that live inside the Trinity.

Joy! (joy) joy! (joy) to the hear and all in this good day's dawning!

-*The Hymnal 1982* (#196)  
John Bennet (b. 1920)

## Adult Formation Announces Forums, Operational Changes

The Adult Formation Committee has announced several events to be held during April and May.

On Sunday, April 29, the Social Justice Committee will sponsor an adult forum after the 10 o'clock service. The forum is titled, "April is Fair Housing Month."

Social Justice Co-Chair Kirsten Spalding points out, "We have the opportunity to manifest our values and our church's teachings as we focus on everyone's right to housing and protection from housing discrimination." The forum will feature speakers from housing advocacy and legal rights organizations addressing the rights of homebuyers, sellers, tenants and landlords under Federal and State housing laws.

In May we'll have a two-part series focusing on our own house of worship. On Sunday, May 6, Donald Drury, the artist who created the series of stained glass windows, *The Six Days of Creation*, for St. Mark's will lead a "walk through" tour in which he'll discuss these particular works, including the process of designing and installing them.

After a break for Mothers' Day, we'll take a more comprehensive look on May 20 at the architecture and decoration of our historic sanctuary under the guidance of *L. Retrospectans*, a.k.a. Len Johnson, who researched the history of our parish in connection with its centennial.

Several St. Mark's parishioners have approached the Committee to suggest operational changes.

- **Time.** To avoid confusion, the Committee has decided that whenever the Choir is singing and the service is likely to be relatively long, after-church forums will begin promptly at 11:45 a.m. and end promptly at 12:45 p.m. (including questions and discussion). We respectfully request that latecomers and early-leavers be as quiet as possible. During the summer, when the Choir is not singing, forums will begin at 11:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m.
- **The cowbell.** It is necessary to provide an auditory reminder that a forum is ready to begin, but we'll try to find one less noisy and intrusive than the cowbell.
- **Change in location?** It has been brought to our attention that some parishioners are allergic to cats and hence cannot attend forums in the library, where the official St. Mark's feline hangs out.

### **HELP US SOLVE THIS PROBLEM**

Wanting its offerings to be fully accessible to all parishioners, the Committee is considering various possible solutions to the cat allergy problem. Will you please share your own opinion with us? Contact Caroline Summer ([carolinesummer@earthlink.net](mailto:carolinesummer@earthlink.net)). Here are some possibilities:

- A. Discard the carpet and overstuffed furniture in the room. Replace furniture with clean-lined pieces that have removable slip-covers, so that they can be frequently washed.
- B. Buy and use several large air purifiers.
- C. Have forums in other locations. Our small chapel would be one possibility, though attendees would have to be reminded that they could not bring food or beverages into the room. Hodgkin Hall would not be a feasible location, because having a forum there would disrupt coffee hour. Having forums in the Choir area of the church proper might be a possibility, but forums in this location might interfere with cleaning and would also prohibit bringing in refreshments.

--Caroline Summer

## Notes from the Social Justice Committee

1. **April is Fair Housing Month.** This year, we celebrate the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act, a landmark piece of legislation that promised freedom from discrimination in housing issues. The Social Justice Committee will host a forum with the Adult Formation Committee on April 29<sup>th</sup>, featuring a speaker from Housing Rights Inc. focused on the rights and responsibilities of landlords, tenants, homebuyers and sellers. As we as a St. Mark's community strive to live out our beliefs and values in our community, this forum presents with an opportunity to discuss housing needs and injustices in Berkeley and resources to address local housing concerns.
2. **CROP Hunger Walk.** To continue our work for the YEAH! Shelter and to address hunger issues globally, St. Mark's Social Justice Committee will participate in the CROP Hunger Walk on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Walk is sponsored by Church World Service and this year will make donations to YEAH! as a local organization focused on hunger issues. The Social Justice Committee is looking for walkers and sponsors. If you would like to walk, contact Kirsten Snow Spalding at [kss@well.com](mailto:kss@well.com), 510-845-5709 or at coffee hour. Walkers will be soliciting sponsors at coffee hour on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a St. Mark's relay walk team for children and others who would like to walk a distance shorter than the full 3 miles.
3. **The East Bay Sanctuary Covenant** is looking for a St. Mark's member to join the EBSC Board. St. Mark's participated in the founding of the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant to address the crisis needs of refugees in the Bay Area. The Board meets bi-monthly. For more information about the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, or the specifics of Board member commitments, contact Sister Maureen Duignan at [maureenduignan@yahoo.com](mailto:maureenduignan@yahoo.com) or 510-540-5296.
4. **Community Organizing Training.** This summer the Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership (CALL) is offering a class with PICO, a national network of faith-based community organizations working to create innovative solutions to problems facing urban, suburban and rural communities. The class will run from July 5-7 at CDSP. St. Mark's has been invited to bring a team (preferably one clergy and two lay persons) to be trained in community organizing. Faith-based community organizing helps people find the strength and spiritual guidance they need to overcome the fear and apathy that prevents transformation, enabling them to work to create heaven on earth as proclaimed in the Gospel. This program uses the resources of the seminary to educate lay and ordained ministers in strategies for mobilizing the resources of their own churches to improve the wider community. Working in teams invigorates church leadership by forging deeper relationships between clergy and lay leaders and strengthening their sense of evangelical mission. Teams skilled in community organizing are better equipped not only to run their own churches, but also to follow the core mission of Jesus Christ by working for social justice in their communities. Participants in this workshop will not only learn to better understand and articulate their Christian faith, and thereby inform and inspire their congregations, but will also be able to better understand and articulate the relevance of their Christian faith to the world around them. If you are interested in the training, contact the Social Justice Committee and we will see if we can put together a team for the training.
5. **Join the Social Justice Committee.** The committee welcomes all to participate in the varied social justice and social concerns ministries at St. Mark's. Join our e-mail list, or call us. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Yit Arn Teh and Charley Robinson co-convene the committee while Leroy Howard is on sabbatical. We welcome participation in our meetings (even if you can only attend sporadically) as meetings provide an opportunity for us to discuss new items of interest or calls for participation. We generally meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in Hodgkin Hall. Given Easter week, the April meeting will take place a week early, on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 and the May meeting will happen on the regular date May 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.

--Kirsten Snow Spalding

## Shelter Season Winding Down

With the advent of Spring, both of the shelter programs with which St. Mark's has been involved will close their doors until next Winter. The Dorothy Day House emergency storm shelter, which has been using the parish hall to house up to 60 people on particularly inclement nights will pack up for the season on April 4. The YEAH! (Youth Emergency Assistance Hostel) shelter will have its last night on Easter. We have cooked for them every Thursday since Thanksgiving (that's 20 weeks of an average of 35 people each week for a whopping total of 700 meals!). As a final gift, we will prepare Easter baskets for these homeless youth. (Find out more about this effort in the Family Ministry article in this issue, or just come along to help at 10am on Saturday, April 7)

Special thanks go to staff members Courtney Storm, KJ, and Vanessa Capino for providing the interface with the storm shelter. And kudos to Kirsten Snow Spalding and Yit Arn Teh for their organization and faithful service in cooking for YEAH! among the many who have helped them consistently are Scott Sinclair, Tim Sullivan, Caroline Summer, Charlotte Blackmer, Emily Schneider and Cornelius Pickett. Thanks to them and to those others whose names are not before me, but whose service is most appreciated. Thanks also to those who donated funds to purchase the food or who made items at home and brought them in. We are already looking forward to being able to reach out in this way again next season.

*--Robbin Clark*

## It's That Time Again

Just as pledge time at St. Mark's is a near neighbor of the season of Advent on our calendars, so Lent, that most sober of seasons, coincides with the most financially sobering, the run up to April 15, when our taxes are due. Reluctantly I welcome the pairing, as a chance to include in the discernment of Lent a fresh examination of where my money comes from and where it goes.

"Money is a good servant but a bad master," runs a Vietnamese proverb. At tax time, as I contemplate the unruly piles of papers on my dining room table, it usually feels like the bad master. I'd rather be picking daffodils! But I know that it's the season to subdue money into that proper servant role again, or at least make inroads in that direction.

It's no accident that alongside the pile of income tax documents is one of requests from worthy causes. When I'm disheartened by the way so many of our tax dollars are misdirected, I make a point of donating to environmental and educational causes that I wish my tax dollars were going to. It's a small way of living in the solution, just as contributing to the caring and serving community of St. Mark's is. Pledge time may be over, but the need to re-examine our role in sustaining our church and its outreach is ongoing.

*--Linda Moyer, Stewardship Committee*

## "AEMCH: Honoring its Past and Envisioning its Future"

As its long-time Chaplain/Coordinator, The Rev. Arlinda W. Cosby, approaches retirement, a program to enable friends of AEMCH (An Episcopal Ministry to Convalescent Hospitals) to explore how the Ministry will continue and what it will look like will be held at St. Mark's on Saturday, April 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Caroline McCall, a member of All Souls' Church, Berkeley, and on the staff of Arete Consulting, will be the facilitator of the meeting. Light refreshments will be available. Everyone who is interested in long-term care ministry in the East Bay and the role of the Episcopal churches of the East Bay in serving local facilities is encouraged to attend and participate.

## Williams Hall Tenancy Update

Preparations have begun for the move-in of the new tenants who will operate schools in Williams Hall under the lease signed and announced in late January. Lease payments are to begin in May for the downstairs portion (Rooms 6-7-8) which will be occupied by a multi-lingual Montessori School to be operated by Vivi Teng, a long-time business associate of new Lessee Sandy Boyd. To meet state licensing requirements, the School will be adding fencing to the play plaza atop St. Mark's parking garage and working with St. Mark's to soften the concrete lip that runs around the plaza and over to Hodgkin Hall. They will also be removing closets to create an open passageway between Rooms 7 & 8. All of these changes are subject to approval of and will be coordinated with St. Mark's Tenant Relations and property staff.

Rental for the upstairs portion and Parish House basement space, planned to be utilized for English-as-a-second-language instruction for international students, begins in July. The operating entity (ELS), which runs similar programs statewide and nationally, has already staged some furnishings for its programs in Room 8. These will be moved upstairs once tenant-financed renovations render the space ready for their occupancy. Planned renovations include removal of certain partitions that were added by Arrowsmith Academy, consolidation of Rooms 1 and 2 to create a single large classroom, installation of floor coverings, and a computer/language lab facility in the Parish House basement.

*--W. Wayne Ritchie for the Tenant Relations Committee*

## Redevelopment Forum

On Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup> the forum concentrated on the issue of redevelopment. About 30 people gathered in the library to discuss the issues surrounding development.

The meeting was split into four sessions: a presentation outlining what had, and had not, happened to date; a general session of questions; small break out groups all discussing: biggest fears; biggest hopes; and what should be the next steps and reports back from each break out group

A subcommittee had been formed by the Vestry 16 months ago to look at the commercial aspects of redevelopment its members are Robbin, John Harding, Andrea Foley, Bob Williams, Wayne Ritchie, Phil Caruthers and Ian Webster.

Phil introduced us to commercial real estate broker John Norheim, he subsequently introduced us to 2 developers--Panoramic Interests, and Hudson-McDonald. The committee also engaged with Episcopal Homes Foundation, Avi Nevo, another developer and a second broker.

To date we have draft proposals from Panoramic Interests and Hudson-McDonald. Episcopal Homes Foundation decided not to continue the conversation, and we are awaiting feedback from Avi Nevo and the second broker.

The draft proposals from Panoramic Interests, Hudson-McDonald, both present a 99-year ground lease whereby we remain the owners of the land, and the property reverts back to us in 99 years. They do development and are responsible for managing the property for 99 years. Hudson-McDonald proposed a private dorm, while Panoramic Interests proposed mixed-use residential space.

The developments would initially provide the Parish between \$200K - \$300K income a year, to be compared with \$150K now when new tenant move in. Parking would be retained, as would the program space we use in Hodgkin, Williams Halls, with the potential for more bathrooms.

Vestry recently reaffirmed the work of the committee and the forum is the beginning of work together to understand the next steps

During the meeting a number of great questions were raised. This month space prevents a detailed examination of those questions, but next month we will have a detailed question and answer section on the proposed development – so send any additional questions to [websterij@yahoo.com](mailto:websterij@yahoo.com).

At the end of the meeting a direct question was asked of the members of the Parish at the forum: should the committee continue its considerations of commercial development – the answer of from the meeting was a clear ‘yes’

--Ian Webster, Development Committee Chair

## Family Ministry

Ministries with Children and Families have gotten off to a great start this Spring, primarily through the efforts of Vestry Liaison Jeff Pace. The family Pajama Party on March 10 was a big success. On that same day, the rector and committee chair Lisa Key attended a diocesan workshop on Godly Play, a Sunday School program based on the pedagogy of Maria Montessori. In it, children are presented with parables and other core Christian stories and encouraged to ‘wonder’ about them and engage in individual ‘work’ (art/craft projects, reflective play or study) To appropriate the meaning of the story. The program is widely used in our diocese and very popular. There are some significant start-up costs for training and materials, but it is very inexpensive in the long run. The Family Ministry Committee, after thorough discussion, decided to send Lisa and one other person to a local training in May (call Lisa if you would like to be that person) and begin gathering materials to offer the program in the Fall. This decision represents a real long-term commitment to the children of St. Mark’s. The committee also discussed other program enhancements, including simple story and craft projects for toddlers in the Nursery and a special ‘Bible Camp’ type series of activities over the Sundays of Summer.

On the fellowship front, the Paces have planned several more activities, on weekends for whole families and mid-week for stay-at-home caregivers and babies/toddlers. An email list is in place to facilitate communication about these events and among parents in general. The next event, at 10am on Holy Saturday (April 7), will combine fellowship and service. All who would like to join in are invited to help make Easter baskets for the youth of the YEAH! Shelter, for whom we have been preparing weekly meals all winter. Donations are needed for ‘high ticket’ items such as BART or bus passes, phone cards and movie passes. We’ll also be preparing during that time for our own parish Easter egg hunt.

The Sunday School continues to experience ups and downs in attendance, but our four teachers, Ian Webster, Lisa Key, Jason Purcell, and Anna Roope, remain faithful and flexible and provide a wonderful program for those who come. Recently, on the traditional English ‘Mothering Sunday’, the children made cards and daffodil bouquets for all the moms of the congregation (or anyone who was going to visit their mom or looked like a mom to the youngsters).

St. Mark’s Vestry has named ministry to and for families with children as one of its highest priorities this year. They and the Family Ministry Committee welcome your support and ideas. Just contact Lisa, Jeff or the rector.

--Robbin Clark

## From the Bishop

### A prayerful response to the Tanzania Communiqué: April 30<sup>th</sup>

On Monday, April 30, at 7:00 pm, the Diocese of California will gather in communal Easter worship in the Taizé form at Grace Cathedral.

At the Taizé community, a cross is placed in the midst of the worshippers. Near the conclusion of the service, people are invited to come forward, bringing their prayers to the cross. They touch the cross, with a hand, with a kiss, with their foreheads -- giving to the resurrected Christ all their hopes for reconciliation and healing in their lives.

We will come together in prayer – with the cross of Christ in our midst – to reconcile ourselves to God and to one another, praying that all that is broken within ourselves, in our communities, in our church, and in the world might be healed. The Easter season is a time when we affirm the triumph of Christ over all that destroys the creatures of God. We will fill Grace Cathedral, that great house of prayer for all people, with the full diversity of the people of God: people who differ in mind but not heart; gay and straight people; men and women; the young with the old; the poor and the rich; people of every ethnicity, all together to show our understanding of Christ's gift of new life in the Church.

I encourage all Episcopalians and our friends in faith to come to Grace Cathedral on April 30 for this celebration of new life, and our renewed hope in the kingdom of God.

+Marc

## Visioning Conference: Children & Youth welcome!

Give your children and youth an immersion in the lively culture of the Diocese of California through the Visioning Conference. A fully-staffed, age appropriate program for children and youth will be offered all day, with opportunities to learn from the Keiskamma Altarpiece, play music with Jesse Manibusan, and share a delicious lunch on the Plaza.

Point your browser to [www.episcopalbayarea.org/belovedcommunity](http://www.episcopalbayarea.org/belovedcommunity) where you'll be directed to a simplified online registration process that allows you to register adults (at \$25 each) and children and youth (at \$10 each). Nursery care for children under 5 is free. Please note that there are no congregational team discounts.

**When:** Saturday, May 5, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Where:** Grace Cathedral Close

**Cost:** \$25 per adult, \$10 per child/youth 5-16, childcare free

**Contact:** Julia McCray-Goldsmith at [juliam@diocal.org](mailto:juliam@diocal.org) or 415.869.7826

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## St. Mark's Classifieds:

I have owned my own home for 12 years but the co-owner took a job out of state and I am looking for my own place. I need to move in mid to late April. **Wanted:** Two bedroom, one bathroom apartment or small house for rent within walking distance of BART in the East Bay, preferably in Oakland or Berkeley as I work at Cal. If it is a safe walk, I consider a mile to be walking distance. Off-street parking or a garage would be ideal.

**For:** Professional, non-smoking and quiet mid-50s single woman and perhaps my 24-year-old son who also works full time. I have a seven-year-old, friendly 35-pound dog, who is crate-trained and believes she is a lap dog. My two indoor cats have tried to convince her otherwise, with out success. Please call 925-708-3857 or email me at [nauticaldogs@yahoo.com](mailto:nauticaldogs@yahoo.com) if you know of a likely rental (or jot down the number on a "For Rent" sign you pass!). Thank you, Marguerite Judson --St. Mark's Choir – Tenor II

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Thank you.



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Time Value  
April 1, 2007

Non-profit  
Organization  
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## April 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, Apr. 1**

Palm Sunday

**Monday, Apr. 2**

Inquirers' Class

**Wednesday, Apr. 4**

Tenebrae

**Thursday, Apr. 5**

Maundy Thursday  
YEAH! Cooking

**Friday, Apr. 6**

Good Friday

**Sunday, Apr. 8**

Great Vigil and Breakfast  
Easter Egg Hunt

**Monday, Apr. 9**

Office Closed  
Inquirers' Class

**Tuesday, Apr. 10**

Adult Formation Mtg.  
Family Ministry Mtg.

**Wednesday, Apr. 11**

Stewardship Mtg.

**Saturday, Apr. 14**

Magnificat Concert  
Healing Prayer Group  
Prayer Shawl Mtg.

**Sunday, Apr. 15**

LION Deadline

**Tuesday, Apr. 17**

Vestry Mtg.

**Wednesday, Apr. 18**

Worship Committee Mtg.

**Saturday, Apr. 21**

Hot Meals  
SFBA Chamber Choir  
Concert

**Wednesday, Apr. 25**

LION Mailing

**Saturday, Apr. 28**

Healing Prayer Group  
Prayer Shawl Mtg.

**Sunday, Apr. 29**

Cal BACH Concert