



**Welcome to the New Lion** – With this edition the cub is retiring to a den somewhere and the Lion comes out in its new manifestation as a weekly publication of Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church. Here you will find the usual articles that you have enjoyed in the past, profiles of members, reports on different ministries, and educational pieces on liturgy, music, and social ministry. Hopefully, there will be a poem as well. The key to this is the participation of writers, photographers, and other contributors. Thus, if you have material that you would like to see in the Lion, please submit it to the Rector. In the near future we will be bringing together an Editorial Group who will be responsible for the materials in the newsletter. As always your comments, suggestions, and questions are welcome.



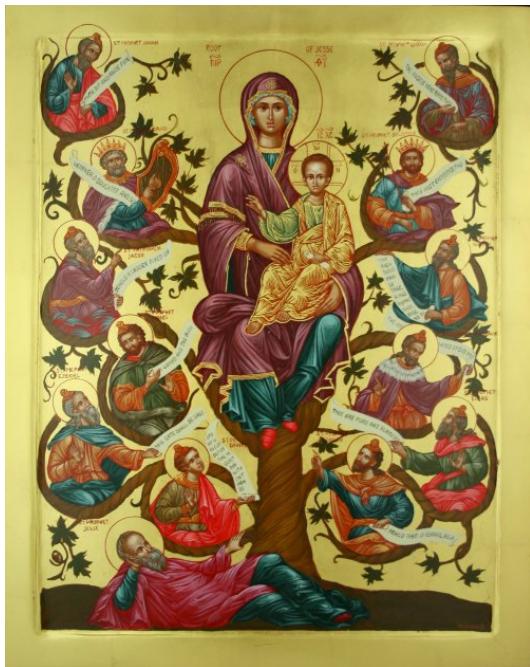
**Figure 1 - Parishioners and guests gather for Thanksgiving dinner**



**Figure 2 - Rev. Scott Sinclair presides over Thanksgiving Eucharist**



Figure 3 - Floral Arrangement for Thanksgiving



**Constantly Present** – Advent, a season of anticipation and expectation, remembers the Christ who came to us at Christmas, and the Christ who promised to return again. Thus we as Christians live between a past and a present reality. The temptation is to think of this period of time as a void – an empty place where God sometimes seems oddly absent.

We occupy this space with prayer, liturgy, everyday decisions, and the stuff of life. The question that we might explore in Advent, however, is how Christ might be consistently and constantly present even in this quiet period.

There are several devices that we use during this holy season that may be of help to us as we wait *with* Christ. On the First Sunday of Advent we explored the Jesse tree, the mosaic of which is by the door to Lions Hall. That image reminds us of the connectedness that is the property of every human being. If I have the time and can take the time, I can access on-line resources to see the long line of women and men who came before me, and begin to understand where I stand in that lineage. Matthew and Luke saw Jesus also in that lineage, and like other human beings participating in that long line of persons that contributed to the whole.

Then there is time itself, as we progress through the weeks and days of the season. Aids in seeing this are the Advent Wreath with its succession of lighted candles and its circular form. Also helpful is the Advent Calendar (with or without the chocolate) in which we observe the passage of time, and the development of the story.

Finally, there are the prophets of Advent. Here we owe a great debt to Isaiah, who is the most used of the prophets in the three cycles of the Lectionary during Advent. But there are more: Jeremiah, Malachi, Baruch, Zephaniah, and Samuel. The on-going and ever developing witness of these men, who announced God's word for the crises and in the chaos of their times, becomes a word for us as well, as we journey through time to the expected and anticipated kingdom. Through these means, especially the Sacraments, Christ remains with us, quieting our loneliness and stilling our fears. Such benefits fall to us for the entirety of time, not just one season.

**Vision/Mission** – This is the promised report out from the Adult Forum that was held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, 4 December 2016. About 25 people gathered to look at the “Vision Statement” of Saint Mark’s Church. Some helpful history had been shared with Fr. Hiller by Priscilla Camp regarding the “Vision Statement” and the apparent lack of a “Mission Statement.” A lively discussion was held in which the group agreed to use the following segments of the old Vision Statement to construct a spare Mission Statement from which further statements of vision might flow. The statement is:

**Our vision is to be the Good News of Jesus Christ through our worship, liturgy, music, and social action we give voice to the Holy Spirit flowing through us.**

Although this is not an official statement, such would have to be approved by the Vestry, it can serve as a starting point for discussion as we move to preparing materials for calling a Priest-in-Charge.

*Next Steps:* Our next forum will be held in the Library on Sunday, 11 December 2016 immediately following the coffee hour. The focus of the forum will be to see what kinds of vision and actions are suggested by the proposed mission statement. It is very important that as many people as possible attend these fora. Your ideas, and your

reactions to life at Saint Mark's are crucial as we move forward. Should you have questions about the process, please see either Bruce Alexander, Sr. Warden, or Fr. Hiller.

Here is the proposed schedule for future for a:

- Sunday, 11 December 2016 – From mission to vision
- Sunday, 8 January 2016 – The SWOT Analysis
- Sunday, 15 January 2016 – Our Congregation
- Sunday, 22 January 2016 – Music and Liturgy
- Sunday, 5 February 2016 – Mission and Ministry
- Sunday, 12 February 2016 – The Rector Profile
- Sunday, 19 February 2016 – The How of Family Ministry

The schedule is subject to change depending on the discussions that precede any one given item. ***Again, come and be a part of talking about and doing ministry.***

## **Parish Announcements**

**Reminder to make your Stewardship Pledges** – The Stewardship Ingathering was on November 13th and we want to thank all of you who brought or mailed in your pledges already! If you haven't pledged yet, please make that a priority as we work toward our budget for next year. Pledge cards are available in the pews and you can put them in the offering plates or in the Green Stewardship Box in the church office. Thank you!

### **STUDY HALL UPDATE**

#### **It Made Our Day**

We invite the students who use the study hall to fill out evaluation forms. Here is one that caught our eye:

"I came in this afternoon for the first time (Dec. 6th). I was walking down Bancroft and just happened to see the sign out front...I sat and studied and noticed how peaceful it was. This is hands-down become my favorite place to study and I am so incredibly grateful to the people of this church for opening a space that students can use. This is one of the kindest and most gracious things I have experienced in Berkeley so far, and my heart is so full!"

She goes on to offer to donate or volunteer for the project. But she didn't stop there. She went out and composed a Facebook page advertising the study hall. It received 800 "likes" and we have gotten full houses ever since. Gary Lindsay, who was study hall host that evening called us about 5 p.m. and said, "I have 29 students in here and I need...." We have had to turn students away for lack of space, which is sad. But the word is out and we need more donations, brothers and sisters, and more food. Thank you and thank the good Lord!

Alda

Alda Morgan ([ammorgan@pacbell.net](mailto:ammorgan@pacbell.net))

Donn Morgan ([dfmorgan@icloud.com](mailto:dfmorgan@icloud.com))

**Patrick Mitten**, beloved husband of Melissa Coco-Mitten, parishioner and member of the St. Mark's Choir, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. His Requiem Mass will be on Saturday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00pm, here, at St. Mark's.

**2017 Vestry nominations** – Interested in running for a three-year term on the vestry? Let Fr. Hiller or Senior Warden Bruce Alexander know.

**Hot Meals giveaway** – We need warm socks for the December giveaway. I can also take any toiletries, dental supplies or anything else the homeless could use. These will be given out in March. There is a box in each narthex. Thank you! Please contact Elaine Parker at [parkereleit@aol.com](mailto:parkereleit@aol.com) if you have any questions. Please put "Dec." in the subject line.

**Telling the Truth** – Copies of Frederick Buechner's book are available from Fr. Hiller. Please see him to receive yours.

**The New Lion** – with the resignation of Diana Blackwell as our wonderful and talented editor of the newsletter, we are going to make some changes to the Lion. There will still

be articles and calendars, photographs and activities, but it will be published on a weekly basis, replacing the

Cub. What we need are people who are interested in writing or helping with the new newsletter. If you have such an interest or talent, please see Fr. Hiller.

**Berkeley Pines needs you!** On the first Sunday of each month we visit the Berkeley Pines Convalescent Hospital and do a half-hour service of the word, hymns and Communion. A few more people are needed to fill in the team. No experience is necessary. We especially need folks who can drive to get us there and back. To be part of this rewarding ministry, the time commitment is not huge: 4 - 5 times a year on the first Sunday of the month for less than 1 hour. Questions: contact Jan Robitscher (510) 549-1575 or see Jan, Barbara Koerber or Gregory Willmore at the Connections Table at Coffee Hour after church.

### **Pastoral Care**

*Are you able to provide a ride to a parishioner?* It may be just once or it may be more frequently. There are members of the parish who need rides to attend medical appointments, to do errands or to come to church. We are currently working on a list of people who can be available to provide a ride. If you are interested, please email Fran Carlson ([racfmc@aol.com](mailto:racfmc@aol.com)), our Practical Pastoral Care vestry liaison. You are welcome to give parameters in terms of what areas you can travel to and from or days and times you may be available. If transporting a person who is in a wheel chair is not possible for you, let us know. Even if your availability is very limited, it is helpful to know that you are open to being asked occasionally. Ride requests will be handled centrally.

### **Are you on the email list for the bulletin and the Lion?**

If you would like to receive the bulletin and the Lion via email, please contact Sterling Hada, the Interim Office Coordinator, at (510) 848-5107, or [office@stmarksberkeley.org](mailto:office@stmarksberkeley.org)

## **Music Announcements**

This Sunday, we thank **Nicole Chernavsky** for offering the organ voluntary at the end of the liturgy. Nicole is a fourth-year Bioengineering student at UC-Berkeley. She received classical piano instruction from age four through the end of high school. At Berkeley, she decided to pursue a music minor and joined the University Baroque Ensemble. Always having had a dream to learn the pipe organ, she is grateful to now be taking lessons with George Emblom. Since January, her love for the instrument has only grown, and she is very appreciative of the kindness and opportunity St. Mark's has offered.

Many of you asked about the communion hymn we sang last Sunday, Hymn 69. "What is the crying at Jordan?" was written in the 1950s by **Carol Christopher Drake**, a former member of St. Mark's Choir. Carol also wrote the parish centennial hymn "Gather us in, God make us One." It voices a response to John the Baptist's "crying in the wilderness," of his demand that people change their lives in preparation for the coming of the Messiah. She wrote this text specifically for the present tune, *St. Mark's, Berkeley*, which in her words "evoked a sense of mystery and awe." The tune's first American use was in the children's songbook "Sing for Joy," compiled and edited by **Norman and Meg Mealy**, who "were attracted to it for its haunting and simple

quality.” It came from a Gaelic collection, *Dánta Dé* (Dublin 1928). The tune had no name in *Dánta Dé*. A former beloved choirmaster of St. Mark’s, Norman named it for St. Mark’s, Berkeley, his home parish, where he served as choirmaster from 1948-1962. He also served as Professor of Church Music at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific - Episcopal (CDSP) here in Berkeley from 1952-1987 and at the Graduate Theological Union from 1976-1987. We thank Norman and Meg for this gift to the church here and at large.



The 31<sup>st</sup> season of the **Second Sunday Evensong/Organ Recital** continues today, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. St. Mark’s Schola Cantorum, will offer Evensong followed by a recital offered by organist **Parker Ramsay**. Mr. Ramsay is known in the United States, Europe and Asia both as an accomplished soloist and accompanist, having been the first American selected to serve as Organ Scholar at King’s College, Cambridge. Born to musician parents in Nashville, Tennessee, Parker maintains a lively interest in the interactions between music and society, running a blog about the life of a working musician and student in New York City ([www.harpington.live](http://www.harpington.live)). In 2014, Parker was awarded First Prize at the Sweelinck International Organ Competition. He has performed in venues including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Washington National Cathedral, Princeton University Chapel, the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, and the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. Festival appearances have included the Gergiev Festival in Rotterdam, the Dubrovnik Summer Music Festival, the Cambridge Summer Music Festival, the Cambridge New Music Project, the 800 Jahre Thomana Celebration in Leipzig, and the 2012 American Guild of Organists National Convention, premiering a newly commissioned work, *Phos*, by Diana Burrell. Parker is currently pursuing a master’s degree in harp performance at the Juilliard School where he studies with Nancy

Allen. Prior to his studies in New York City, he served as Organ Scholar at King's College, Cambridge, serving under the direction of Stephen Cleobury, whilst undertaking undergraduate studies in history. His tenure as organ scholar included two international tours, four recordings, as well as numerous television and radio broadcasts, including the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 24, 2012. In addition to accompanying the choir of King's College, Parker has also had the opportunity to play for the Royal School of Church Music America summer programs, and has accompanied choirs such as the Vienna Boys Choir and the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge. Following his tenure at Cambridge, Parker went on to complete a master's degree in historical performance at Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied organ with James David Christie and harpsichord with Webb Wiggins and Lisa Crawford.

Parker's program will include: **William Byrd**: *Fantasia in D minor*, Camphuysen Manuscript (Anon. 17th Century) *Daphne*, **J.P. Sweelinck**: *Ricercar non tono*, **J.S. Bach**: Chorale Prelude on *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659 and **Nicolaus Bruhns**: *Praeludium in E minor*. A festive reception follows the program. Tax-deductible donations are welcome at the door, but you are also invited to help support the series at one of the following levels: \$1-74 Supporter /\$75-124 Friend /\$125-249 Sponsor /\$250-499 Patron /\$500 - \$999 Sustainer / \$1000+ Benefactor. Please make your check payable to St. Mark's Choir Association, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. **Thanks for your ongoing support!**

**From the Director of Music:** Because music is an important and vital aspect of our ministry together, and the fact that our parish is very much in a position to broaden and expand our musical gifts to the city of Berkeley and throughout the Bay Area, with the support of interim rector and worship committee, the choir has began offering the "Choral Mass Project" this fall on the Second Sunday of each month at the 10:00 a.m. liturgy. As is known, many "seekers" who come through church doors desire mystery, awe, and an authentic connection with the Divine. Music is one way to support and cultivate this need and desire. Offering such musical services will continue to build our musical and liturgical traditions, as well as to speak to the "now" as well as to the future. Musical highlights for the remaining months of 2016 include:

- Sunday, December 18, 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 24, 10:30 p.m.
- Sunday, January 8, 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, January 8, 5:30 p.m.

**A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
George Malcolm: *Missa ad Praesepie (Mass at the Crib)*  
**Choral Mass:** George Oldroyd: *Mass of the Quiet Time*  
**Evensong and Organ Recital:** Paul Ellison: "*Music in Honor of Our Lady*"

**Looking Ahead:** *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, Sunday, December 18 at 4:30 p.m. here at St. Mark's. A festive reception will follow. **Early Seating is advised.**

## Events This Week at St. Mark's

<i>Sunday, December 11</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent, Matthew 11:2-11</i>	
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	Chapel
8:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Lions Hall
10:00 a.m.	Choral Mass	Nave
11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Lions Hall
12 noon	Forum – Parish Profile: SWOT Analysis	Lions Hall
5:30 p.m.	Evensong/Second Sunday Organ Recital	Nave
<i>Monday, December 12</i>		
<i>Tuesday, December 13</i>		
<i>Wednesday, December 14</i>		
12:10 p.m.	Holy Eucharist with Healing	Chapel
5:30 p.m.	Bridge Group	Lions Hall
6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee	Conf. Rm.
7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Parish Hall
<i>Thursday, December 15</i>		
6:30 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer	Nave
7:15 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer	Chapel
8:00 p.m.	Compline	Chapel
<i>Friday, December 16</i>		
11:00 a.m.	Bible Study	Library
12:10 p.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with Healing	Chapel
<i>Saturday, December 17</i>		
4:00 p.m.	Patrick Mitten Funeral	Nave
<i>Sunday, December 18</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent, Matthew 1:18-25</i>	
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	Chapel
8:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Lions Hall
10:00 a.m.	Choral Eucharist, Rite II	Nave
11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Lions Hall
4:30 p.m.	Lessons and Carols	Nave