



THE LION

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER, 2008

The newsletter of
**ST. MARK'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

1509 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201

847.864.4806
847.864.5970 (fax)
office@stmarksevanston.org
www.stmarksevanston.org



Dear Ones,

As I write this, the Olympics are going full throttle. Every evening I turn on the television to participate in the Olympics. I cheer. I cajole. I yell my head off. As if by the interest and enthusiasm working itself out in my living-room I can encourage the athletes on to greater achievements.

It is heartwarming and encouraging to hear their stories. A boy who learned to swim after nearly drowning, a living reminder that life's trials can impel us on to do great things. A forty something mother returning to the Olympics for another medal, proving we don't ever get too old to follow our dreams.

I love hearing the stories—stories of folks, like you and me, resolutely setting their hearts and minds on the example of generations upon generations of other talented athletes. I am edified by their sacrifice and determination, their resilience and pure grit. I am particularly touched by the team spirit, not just in the team sports where you'd expect it, but in the individual sports as well.

As this Lion goes to press, I have no idea which nation will claim the most medals. And to some extent I don't care. Because each of the athletes who walked into that crowded stadium during the opening ceremony is a champion in his or her own right. They stand as examples, as an inspiration, of the indomitable human spirit. Indeed, we are at our best when honor, character and courage are the compass points that guide us.

It is no small wonder then that St. Paul uses the language of athletes in his Letter to the Philippians. *Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.* Paul goes on to say, *Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and*

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straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:12-14)

Again in his Second Letter to Timothy, Paul uses athletic language when he speaks of his coming death. *As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness. (2 Tim 4:6-8a)*

The goal Paul seeks is the prize of the call of God in Jesus. He seeks a crown, not of royalty, nor an olive wreath, but the crown of righteousness.

I wonder what might be possible in our little corner of the world if we were to pledge ourselves to team St. Mark's, not for our own glorification, but for the building up of the Kingdom of God in this place. What if we were to strain for the prize of that heavenly call? And pour ourselves out as a libation, an offering, for others, and so gain the crown of righteousness?

As we begin a new program year at St. Mark's, my hope and prayer is that we will stand unified in the name of Christ, and serve one another and the world in his name. And with faith, hope and love as the compass points that guide us, I am convinced that we can.

Pressing on... Go team!
Mo. Mandy+

Worship Hours

Sunday.....8, 9, and 11:00 AM

St. Mark's Staff

Mother Mandy BradyInterim Rector
rector@stmarksevanston.org

Rev. Jennifer Tucker Assistant Priest
assistant@stmarksevanston.org

Rev. Lee Gaede.....Deacon
deacongade@stmarksevanston.org

Rev. Joan Barr-SmithDeacon
deaconjoan@stmarksevanston.org

Mrs. Joann Baraksa
Parish Administrator
office@stmarksevanston.org

Mr. Richard Brooks Treasurer
treasurer@stmarksevanston.org

Mr. Les Bailey..... Associate Treasurer
asst-treasurer@stmarksevanston.org

Mrs. Caroline Frowe.....
Contributions Secretary
accounting@stmarksevanston.org

Mr. Cornell Gist Sexton

Are You Ready?

I remember as a child the excitement I felt at the beginning of September when it was about time to start school again. I was ready to have something to focus on, ready for something new, and anxious to get going.

I'm feeling that way right now, as we await the beginning of our program year here at St. Mark's. The lazy, hazy days of summer are almost over, we will soon be back at the church for all of our worship services. A mixture of old and new programming and activities is awaiting us.

I'm also feeling hopeful. We are heading back after vacation, and after taking some time for reflection and for healing. We are ready to tackle with renewed enthusiasm the missions and ministries of St. Mark's, and to get involved in one or more of the areas around which our programming is planned. I'll be working on various health and healing ministries - reviving the home visitors and home communion ministries, organizing Cooks Who Care to provide meals for those parish family members who are in crisis, doing hospital and home visits and taking communion to those who are unable to be at church, making sure flowers are delivered after church to shut-ins, and that our healing service is appropriately and regularly staffed. I'll be asking for help with those things, hoping to engage as many as possible in those acts of Christian love that we are so capable of delivering.

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Invitation to Rally Day—Sunday, September 7th at St. Mark's

As we move into fall, one particular St. Mark's Rally Day comes to mind: it was, a very warm Sunday morning in mid September, a morning of such intense enthusiasm and energy that greeting everyone present was impossible. At the time, I remember thinking that Rally Day was simply an opportunity to get people to volunteer for the project that was closest to one's heart. For me—that year—it was the St. Mark's Men and Boy's Choristers. Meanwhile, other parishioners encouraged folks to share in community outreach, Sunday School leadership, fund-raising activities, parish hospitality, etc., etc., the list seemed endless!

This year, we are in a different place—that special transitional space between what was, and what can be. If we are to recharge our spiritual batteries, rebuild our parish bridges, and revitalize our congregation we need a different paradigm. To this end, the work has already begun:

In April, we welcomed the Rev. Mandy Brady to St. Mark's. In June and July a number of well-attended meetings brought us together to discuss forgiveness and reconciliation. Worship Services continued on schedule and our clergy met with homebound and hospitalized parishioners. Over the summer months, our wardens and vestry were given no opportunity to doze in their hammocks, no matter how appealing that seemed. Staff members and dedicated office volunteers kept our community foremost in their prayers and work throughout the summer. But now, as fall approaches, I am led back to the comment I raised above, i.e., the need for a new paradigm for Rally Day.

Yesterday, as I thought about St. Mark's upcoming Rally Day on September 7th, the image of Teddy Roosevelt charging up San Juan Hill immediately came to mind. Here was a person of action! I know the militaristic analogy is not politically correct these days but we can take from Teddy his amazing enthusiasm for intentional action. In recent times we have learned that keeping the faith—like Teddy's charge up San Juan Hill—can sometimes be an upward struggle! As a community we have come such a long way this past year. I hope you agree that this year's Rally Day will be a corporate celebration for St. Mark's. Please make a special effort to be present, and to give thanks for the re-energized ministries and services that we provide to this community. You know that everyone is welcome, so invite a friend or neighbor to join you. Together, we can appreciate the many blessings we receive, and the genial hospitality that continues to characterize St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Evanston.

Welcome Back!

Jane McCarron

Report by the Treasurer

At 1 o'clock on Sunday September 28th our treasurer, Dick Brooks, will share the results of the audit undertaken by your Vestry at the end of November of 2007. We have been working diligently to clarify our financial picture, restore the integrity of our endowment fund, and rectify the negative balances held in some of our designated funds.

The report will let us know how we are doing in regards to our efforts, as well as hopefully provide an accurate baseline for our various accounts and set the course as we move into the future with the financial health of the parish as a priority. Please join us to educate yourself and to offer your support for our efforts on your behalf.

Formation at St. Mark's

Children's Formation

The children will begin work in the Atrium again starting September 14th. Anne Heinz and Lori Goede will continue their wonderful ministry amongst our youngest theologians.

Adult Forum

Join us for *The Theology of Dr. Seuss*, a class for adults exploring the whimsical works of the late Dr. Seuss. The class will meet at 10 o'clock starting September 14th and will run through September 28th.

Rally Day

The Fall season is a time of rejuvenation and change for all of us. It signals the ending of summer and the activities which are so much a part of it – the outdoor activities such as time at the beach, picnics in the park, backyard activities and travel away from home.

For us, Rally Day signifies the beginning of the fall worship season within the walls of St. Mark's, the renewing of friendships as well as welcoming new parishioners at the beginning of the church's activity year. With the Fall comes a coolness in temperature and a changing of the leaves. It is also a time of anticipation of things to come.

This is particularly meaningful this year, as St. Mark's is blessed with an interim minister who is helping us through a traumatic period of transition, who reaches out to us for healing and for strength and growth. It is a time for reconciliation, to nurture those of us who continue to stay through the transition, and to reach out to those who have left. It is also, hopefully, a time for growth and change during an extended period of time, when several important church staff positions are to be filled. For the vestry, it will be a challenging time

during which budgets must be prepared, Sunday school started and the beginning of programs and activities which have been the hallmark of St. Mark's.

This fall will be a continuing time of reflection upon who we are, as a parish, and in what direction(s) the parish's activities will lead us. It will also be a prayerful time, when reflection and working together need to continue as important components of our parish life together.

Bob and Edie Molumby



Back to School from a slightly younger perspective

I am really happy to go back to school. I can't wait to see my friends and old teachers. This year one of my old teachers, Mr. V, is going to be my new homeroom teacher. I am going to have a teacher who has been given a bad reputation from a lot of the kids. The last time I had a "bad teacher" I got along with him really well.

Last year I went to an afterschool program called HANDS (Haven and Northwestern Do Science). It was fun at first but then I got bored. It was held in a room that my new science teacher taught in and she stayed for a few extra minutes after school so I already know her. This year I have to be at the high school at 7:15 in the morning for my math class. I am both excited to go to the high school and annoyed at the idea of having to get up at about 6

in the morning so I can get there on time. This is going to mean going through a new morning routine since in the summer I could sleep in later.

This summer I went to a camp called Camp Echo. It is a sleep away camp. I went for 3 weeks. I bet I would have gotten lonely if I hadn't been with my friends. I also went to CTD at Northwestern. CTD is the Center for Talent and Development. This year was my 4th year at CTD; I was in the Physics and Engineering class.

I had an amazing summer that was full of high points like camp and CTD but there was one very big low point. One of my best friends, Ian, went away to Ireland for the year. I can still email him or talk to him in a game we both have, World of Warcraft (WoW). Jacob, my other best friend, also has WoW so we can all be talking and playing together. But because there is a 6 hour time difference it will be hard to use WoW to communicate during the school year.

It will be hard to arrange for WoW time with the time difference and my new school schedule. I'm sure I'll work it out somehow. After all, getting back to school means meeting new friends and seeing old ones and getting into a new routine.

Nicholas Easton

News from our friends at Ten Thousand Villages

ORIENTAL RUG CARAVAN The annual Pakistani rug caravan stop is from September 5 through 13 only at Ten Thousand Villages in Evanston (719 Main Street). Hundreds of rugs in all colors, styles, shapes, and sizes will be on display. The quality is unsurpassed anywhere. These rugs are made to last a lifetime. In addition to regular hours, store will be open Sunday the 7th from noon to five for this special event. **Friday, September 5**, and **Wednesday, September 10, at 7 pm** Yousaf Chaman, son of the Baptist pastor who started the rugmaking project 30 years ago, will present an **introduction to Oriental rugs**, fair trade, and the positive impact being made on the lives of artisans living in troubled places. As one father whom fair trade has enabled to send his son to medical school said, "If my son did not have a pen in his hand, he would have a gun." The project includes workers of all faiths and political stripes. Their common denominator is wanting a better life for their children. Call the store to make a reservation for either seminar: 847-733-8258. Also, tune in to World-view on 91.5 FM to hear Yousaf live speaking about the peace-promoting activities of fair trade rug production in Pakistan.

INDIAN ARTISANS VISIT Monday, September 15, at 2:30 and at 4:30 pm from the projects in south India managed by Marketplace: Handwork of India. Artisans Sharda and Sunanda will be speaking of their successes and challenges in marketing handmade clothing and receiving a fair price. Don't miss this opportunity to meet these hardworking artisans and spokeswomen.

SEASONAL FAIR TRADE MARKET September 20-21 at Oswego Presbyterian Church, Rt. 25 from noon to 4 Saturday and 9 to 2 Sunday. First of our season of offsite sales, this is a large event with many enthusiastic volunteers. If you're in the area, check it out!

SEASONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Beginning in September, we need lots of volunteers to help us gear up for the busy holiday season. For any of these opportunities, call Cheryl at 847-733-8258 to sign up. As always, we need regular volunteers as well.

For the **RUG EVENT**, we need flippers, people to help turn the stacks of rugs for customers.

For **OFF-SITE FAIR TRADE MARKETS**, we need volunteers who can help us set up and tear down, talk to customers at the event and put away crafts afterwards.

For the holidays, we need volunteers to help us **UNPACK SHIPMENTS**, and also to **WRAP GIFTS**. Ten Thousand Villages is a great place to work, with high energy and high spirits prevailing.



Centering Prayer is a practice taught by Fr. Thomas Keating and others, and is present worldwide under an umbrella organization (www.contemplativeoutreach.org). The purpose is to uphold one another in the process of transformation through centering practice, and bring a contemplative approach into everyday life. There are some 30 groups in the Chicago Metro area, supported by a network with quiet days, retreats, workshops, and leadership training.

Our centering circle at St. Mark's has been in existence for two years, and is facilitated by Rev. Liz Stout. It meets twice monthly at 7:00 PM. on second and fourth Tuesdays in Room 05 on the lower level (knock at southeast alley entrance). You will need to be comfortable with 20-25 minutes of silence. Currently this is a small interfaith group, with Episcopal participants as well as Quaker, Jewish, Catholic, Baptist, and Vineyard. Anyone wishing to sample the practice can contact Liz at interfaith@stmarksevanston.org or just come. (In rare instances a meeting is cancelled by mutual agreement, but we hope that's not when you decide to drop in.)

From the Archive

These are two letters written in 1882, concerning a new Communion set. In the first letter, signed by the Rector, Communion **Set** is spelled with one "t" while in the second it is spelled **Sett**. Note the style of the first letter which consists of single sentence paragraphs, while the second has multiple sentences per paragraph, as well as a preference for underlining certain words. A guess would be that the first letter was actually written by one of the "Ladies of the Parish" who then got the Rector to sign it. Could it actually be the text of the "Circular" mentioned in the second letter?

Ruthanne Brule

My dear Parishioner,

We need for use in the Holy Communion, a becoming Communion Set of Churchly pattern, in Solid Silver, and consisting of two Chalices and a Paten.

Fifteen dollars has been secured through Communion Offerings, which is, however, hardly a quarter of the required sum.

Will you not take pleasure in promptly adding something to that sum, so the object may be effected, on or before the coming Christmas?

Offerings given as memorials of departed friends, will be noted in the Parish Register. Old gold or silver can be wrought into the Vessels, and will, hence, be useful.

Yours most truly,

St. Mark's Church
Oct. 15, 1882

(s) Fred^R S. Jewell

The second letter is unsigned. Because of what can only be called an "extremely florid" style of handwriting I was unable to decipher some words, but managed all but one with the help of Jane McCarron. In that case, I inserted the symbol (#) for the word that I wasn't totally certain. Jane's biggest coup was the word "**Flagon.**" Thanks Jane!

Evanston, Dec. 9, 1882

The New Communion Sett

Sometime since I called attention to our real need of a becoming Communion Sett, of Churchly pattern and pure metal. A beginning was at once made in Offerings at the Holy Communion for that purpose, through sums deposited in the Alms Box. A Circular was then addressed to the Ladies of the Parish, stating the amount on hand, and inviting their generous co-operation.

The effort has so far been favorably received. I know of no instance of a **narrow(#)** or ungracious word spoken of it. The attendants on the Early Communion have continued their Offerings for it. Of some fifty or more Ladies addressed by the Circular, nineteen have promptly responded. Of these five have made Offerings of generous, some of unexpected, magnitude. Eleven have given liberally according to their means. The promise of further gifts, - necessarily delayed in presentation, has been given by three others.

The amount so far received secures the Paten and one Chalice, and provides in part for a second Chalice. Two are absolutely needed to make the sett respectably complete, and to meet the wants of the Communicants at the larger Communion. To secure the second Chalice, and to prevent the partial sums already given, from failing to be of use, further Offerings are needed. Of these, it is very desirable that about \$20 dollars, should be memorial gifts. This would enable me to make the first Chalice a Memorial Offering entire, and to have it so inscribed.

It is confidently believed, that from the Ladies addressed, or others, who have been delayed in making Offerings, and from the many liberal gentlemen of the Parish who have not as yet been specially addressed, the requisite balance will speedily be secured. From those to whom I have spoken of the progress made, the one opinion has been, that this will be the fact, and that nothing less than the whole sett should be ordered; that we may as well do a handsome thing while we are about it. Lest there should be any doubt as to giving generously, I add, that any surplus beyond the cost of the sett will go towards the engraving of the Memorial Chalice, if there be one, and towards a reserve for securing at some future day, a silver mounted fine glass Flagon for the sett complete.

The sett is now ordered, and is promised for Presentation and Blessing on Christmas Day.

More on Dr. Jewell, from the booklet printed for the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of St. Mark's, April 25, 1939.

Then came Frederick S. Jewell, 1880-1886. The Reverend Dr. Jewell was far sighted, because he organized the Mens' Guild, and began to shame the men concerning the building of the south aisle of the church by the women. So the men built the north aisle. At that time there was a temporary unvested choir. During Dr. Jewell's time, the tower was put on the church, and a bell installed by the same company which now seeks to electrify our present chimes."



Are You Ready? *(Continued from page 2)*

There are many areas awaiting your input and participation. New ideas in Parish Life for events involving all of us. The Millennium Development Goals, so important to our new Bishop, and headed up at St. Mark's by Deacon Lee Gaede, who is responsible for our Outreach and Mission and Social Justice programs. The Altar Guild, the Eucharistic Ministers, the ushers and the choir, are all places one can work for the glory of God and for the love of God's people. The work of the Atrium continues, with it's wonderful program for educating our children in the basics of Christian belief and spirituality. If you have friends or neighbors who have children aged three and up, please let them know of the resource we have right here of Christian education at its very best. There are many exciting ideas for adult education that will be unfolding in the coming weeks.

Our Interim Rector has an enthusiasm that is infectious. The time is right for us. It is time to move into this next year with love and intention and spirited activity, and time to feel the Holy Spirit within us as we practice our faith in worship and in mission.

I'm ready. How about you?

Deacon Joan Barr-Smith

Calendar of Events

September, 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Worship & Spirituality	3	4 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	5	6 8:30 AM Men's Group 9:30-11 AM Gentle Yoga
7 Rally Day 8 AM, Rite 1 10 AM Blessing of the Backpacks	8 7:30 PM Vestry Meeting	9 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Centering Prayer Room 05	10	11 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12	13 9:30-11 AM Gentle Yoga
14 Return to Fall Schedule 8, 9, 11 AM Eucharist 10 AM Christian Formation	15	16 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	17	18 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	19	20 8:30 AM Men's Group 9:30-11 AM Gentle Yoga
21 8, 9, 11 AM Eucharist 10 AM Christian Formation	22	23 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Centering Prayer Room 05	24	25 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	26	27 9:30-11 AM Gentle Yoga
28 8, 9, 11 AM Eucharist 10 AM Christian Formation	29	30 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Puris of Wisdom				

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

1509 Ridge Avenue
Evanston IL60201