



# THE LION

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FEBRUARY

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

1509 Ridge Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201

847.864.4806

847.864.5970 (fax)

[office@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:office@stmarksevanston.org)

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



## Making a Difference

Dear Ones,

We ended January with our Annual Meeting and the election of new members to the Vestry. Many of you were with us for the Annual Meeting. For those of you who were not, my annual address to the parish is below. May God bless us all as we journey and minister together in God's name.

In His love,  
Mo. Mandy+

Well my friends, it has been quite a year!

This community has seen a lot of changes, and we're still here. You have said farewell to a number of your staff. There was Bob Finster, whose ministry as Parish Musician spanned 18 years. And Judy Homer, who shepherded our younger members through the Atria of the Good Shepherd and beyond. And most recently we celebrated Joann Baraksa's faithful presence among us for a dozen years. We sent her off in fine style at the Christmas Open House at the rectory, though it was a hard way to start the holiday.

This time last year you were ably led by your clergy—Jennifer Tucker, Lee Gaede and Joan Barr Smith. And we owe each of them a debt of gratitude, especially Jennifer who filled the void when Tom left. In a time of chaos she moved among you with generosity and grace, and you are stronger for it.

All of you deserve a pat on the back as well, because no single person, clergy or otherwise, is the church. No one person can do it alone. We wouldn't be here today had you not shared the burden of leadership and ministry in this place. And I am grateful.

Your collective efforts are why, even in the midst of some staggering changes, and even in the face of continuing challenges, St. Mark's continues to fulfill her mission as a house of prayer and missionary outpost of the Kingdom of God. Our budget may be leaner, our staff smaller, and our attendance less robust. But we continue to do more with less. And most importantly, we continue to love and worship our Lord, and serve our neighbors.

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Please contact St. Mark's  
+ when a family member is  
admitted to the hospital,  
+ when a new baby arrives, or  
+ when your group plans a  
meeting.

*Annual Address continued from p.1*

For a parish of its size, St. Mark's accomplishes amazing things. The Food Drive, The Mitten Tree, Christmas Baskets, regular deliveries to the Food Bank, Nets for Life. I can't even keep up with it all.

And we don't always remember to include the Hospitality Center, because it happens quietly during the week. But it is open every morning Monday through Friday, rain or snow or shine. With the help of the Interfaith Action Council of Evanston St Mark's continues to offer shelter, job counseling and a filling meal to those who need it most.

This year we reached out to the community with a Bicycle Blessing in June, and the Blessing of the Backpacks for students and educators at the beginning of the school year. And we had the most animals and owners we have ever had at the Blessing of the Animals in October.

Perhaps most important to our common life was the reconciliation work we undertook with our consultant Susan Czolgosz. I am thankful to her for her gentle presence and her wisdom. And I am thankful to all of you who participated, who shared, and listened, and held onto one another through it all. The service with the Bishop was a truly a Service of Reconciliation. Kneeling before our bishop, and receiving absolution and anointing and prayers from him was deeply moving and healing for many.

We still have more to do, of course. Susan will continue to lead us in conversations about Congregational Development as we move forward. And your Vestry will be going on retreat in March to prepare for the year ahead. Much has been accomplished, and I am proud of you all for the work that you have done. And I look forward to the new year and new opportunities to grow and serve and laugh and love with you all.

Last Sunday I napped to the sounds of a football game, a habit carried over for my childhood in a house full of boys. The Arizona Cardinals and Philadelphia Eagles were locked in mortal combat over who would take the division title and advance to the SuperBowl. I am the first to admit I haven't been following either team this season. But I tuned in with about 4 minutes left. Arizona was down 24 to 25 and trying hard to move the ball down the field.

The camera panning the crowd lighted on a red and black lettered sign, held by a cardinal fan. It read: *We are who we thought we were.*

If you were watching the game you know that Arizona scored and managed to hold the Eagles to post a 32-25 victory. So after a lackluster and unremarkable season they advance to the play in the SuperBowl.

In an interview after the game, when asked to comment, the quarterback said to his fans, "When no one else believed in us. When no one else believed in me, you guys did. And we're going to the SuperBowl."

It was a statement of gratitude, and the importance of the community keeping faith. It is about hope realized. I thought again of that poster board sign: *We are who we thought we were.*

My sisters and brothers, despite the events of the last year and a half, *We are who we thought we were.* Despite declining numbers and economic uncertainties, *We are who we thought we were.*

For we stand in a long line of faithful members of St. Mark's. We are children of God and heirs of the Kingdom. Do we face challenges? Sure. Who doesn't? Do we have things we need to attend to? Absolutely. Are there things we could improve upon? Perhaps things we should do better? Without a doubt.

*Annual Address continues on p.3*

## Worship Hours

Sunday

8 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

9 AM Christian Formation/All Ages

10 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2,

1st and 3rd Sunday

Holy Eucharist/Morning

Prayer, 2nd and 4th Sunday

## St. Mark's Staff

**Interim Rector** .....Mo. Mandy Brady

[rector@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:rector@stmarksevanston.org)

**Assisting Priest** Rev. Jennifer Tucker

[assistant@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:assistant@stmarksevanston.org)

**Deacon** ..... Rev. Lee Gaede

[deaconguede@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:deaconguede@stmarksevanston.org)

**Deacon** ..... Rev. Joan Barr Smith

[deaconjoan@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:deaconjoan@stmarksevanston.org)

**Parish Musician** ..Dr. Robert Horton

[music@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:music@stmarksevanston.org)

**Parish Administrator** .....

Ms. Annie Fitzpatrick

[office@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:office@stmarksevanston.org)

**Treasurer**.....Mr. Richard Brooks

[brooksuww@comcast.net](mailto:brooksuww@comcast.net)

**Contributions Secretary/Bookkeeper,**

Mrs. Caroline Frowe

[accounting@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:accounting@stmarksevanston.org)

**Sexton**.....Mr. Cornell Gist

## Heartfelt Thanks

When Jerry and I moved to Grayslake five years ago, we knew I would have a long commute, but we thought I would try it for six months. Six months came and past, and I continued to work at St. Mark's. It was a pleasure working with all of you, and that is why I stayed.

Thank you for your support and friendship through all of my twelve years at St. Mark's. Jerry and I enjoyed our dinner at Dover's Straits, and I am looking forward to my spa treatment. Nothing, however, meant more to me than being an honorary "Lion of the Year". I will always remember St. Mark's and keep you all in my prayers.

Joann Baraska

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# Venture Capital for the Kingdom of God: One Family's Experience

by John, Owen and Helen Baker and their Mom, Cath Carpenter

The Sunday we received our \$10 Venture Capital for God money began a lively, exciting discussion at our house about how to make a difference in the world with just a few dollars! Here is what each of our family members thought about this and what we all decided to do.

**John, Age 11:** "I used my ten dollars to protect some of God's aquatic creations. The River Otters are being helped to return from the brink of extinction during which the River Otter was hunted out of three-fifths of the USA. So I'm helping them back into the wild by giving to Defenders of Wildlife, Time Magazine's Best Wildlife Charity of the Year, that gives 88% of its donations straight to protecting the animals."

**Owen, Age 9:** "I've donated my money to Kiva, which is an organization that you can give loans of \$25 or greater to people in developing countries who are trying to start a job and need supplies. For example, this person's from Samoa and is trying to start a seed business, and has five children and not a lot of money and not a decent home. What Kiva does is it has a website free to anyone who wants to loan money to people and watch their business grow bigger and bigger and then it will slowly get repaid. And the best thing about Kiva is that sometimes the money doesn't just go to the person who gets the job started, it also can help children who are the kids of the person receiving the loan go to school. After the money gets repaid, if you want to (and I will) you can start the cycle again and search for another person to give the loan to and watch the same things happen and help the world be a safer place, put food on the table, give shelter under a roof every night, and be able to make sure that everyone will go to sleep and wake up to a world not filled with poverty, a better place for God's place of living."

*Venture Capital continues on p.4*

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*Annual Address continued from p2*

But we need to remember first and foremost... *We are who we thought we were.*

We are a people who follow Jesus. We are a people who seek to love and serve the Lord, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We live in hopeful expectation of the perfection of creation. We meet to raise our voices in praise. We offer hospitality in Jesus' name. We support one another in times of crisis. And gather in times of celebration.

*We are who we thought we were.* For we are beloved of God and servants of the gospel. And when that is the foundation of our words and actions we bring glory to God and strengthen this community, which is the Body of Christ. May it always be so.

## Formation for Adults

### *Adult Program February 8th*

Ever wonder how the words in the hymnal get to be part of a hymn? Join us during adult formation on February 8th for a class on metrical hymns. We'll take them apart, learn how they work, and try writing a few of our own. Led By Dr. Rob.

### *Adult Program February 15th*

We will take this opportunity to reflect on our experiences at the current combined service. We will have a conversation about what is working well, what is in need of fine tuning, and what the future might look like. Mo. Mandy will facilitate the conversation. We hope you will come and be part of it.

### *Adult Program February 22nd*

We will consider issues of Social Justice and what one person, or what one congregation, can do.

## New Face at St. Mark's

We extend a warm St. Mark's welcome to Annie Fitzpatrick, our new part-time Parish Administrator. Annie is also the Parish Administrator at St. Luke's. She has worked in many nonprofits over the years, most recently as administrative assistant at the Evanston United Way. During her off hours Annie is an avid reader who loves to cook. She lives in Evanston and is the mother of two sons.

You can find Annie in the office at St. Mark's office on Monday 1:45 – 5:00 p.m., Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Wednesday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



# Making a Difference: A Word of Thanks

## St. Augustine's Indian Center

Our collections of food through the year, as well as the treasures from our Mitten Tree go to the St. Augustine's Indian Center, 4512 Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois 60640. They sent us a heartfelt thank you note, which we want to share.

6 January 2009  
Feast of the Epiphany

Dear Priests, Deacons, and Faithful of St. Mark's Church, Evanston,

Heartfelt thanks for your most generous gifts of fine food, warm jackets, and fine warm clothing at ChristMass. Doffie DeMarrias, our Receptionist from Taos Pueblo, has written next to your name on our contributions sheet, "Tons of food!" And what a joyful reality that notation was. Small wonder no words can express the warmth of the thanks we send your way.

Here is a breakdown of the people served by our pantry during 2008.

	<u>Families</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
<u>Native American</u>	360	989
<u>African American</u>	240	433
<u>Caucasian</u>	165	258
<u>Hispanic</u>	55	154
<u>Total</u>	790	1834

Our prayer was that we could generously provide for all coming to St. Augustine's Center at Christ-Mass tide. Thanks to God, whose love so wondrously radiated by you, that prayer became reality.

God grant you a New Year of endless blessings, with lifetimes of blessings as well!

Gratefully in Christ,  
All St. Augustine's Indian Center  
Through Father Peter J. Powell

## Nets For Life Bishop's Challenge

Dear St. Mark's:

Thank you for St. Mark's Episcopal Church's generous contribution of \$3,632.00 to Episcopal Relief & Development. Your gift was designated for the Malaria Relief Fund /NetsforLife®.

Your contribution helps Episcopal Relief & Development to alleviate poverty, fight disease and respond to disasters around the world. We partner with the worldwide church and ecumenical agencies to serve people in need. Through your gift, the lives of vulnerable individuals, children and families are being transformed in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

The compassion and generosity of donors like you make it possible for us to provide communities with critical tools that restore lives today and build hope for tomorrow.

This year, we will partner with more than two million people in 40 countries to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals which aim to reduce global poverty in half by 2015. Globally, Episcopal Relief & Development is committed to working with communities by supplying basic necessities after disasters, providing people with livelihood training that generates income as well as protecting children and families from illnesses such as malaria and HIV/AIDS.

You can learn more about our programs on our website, [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org). Your partnership with us is transforming the lives of vulnerable people worldwide.

Faithfully,  
Robert W. Radtke  
President

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## The Warming Center at St. Mark's

Interfaith Action of Evanston is a non-profit organization of faith based people whose purpose is to bring together communities of faith and spirit to serve people who are hungry and homeless and to express our shared values through action and interfaith dialogue. One of our main ministries is the Hospitality Center for the Homeless. Since 1986 the Hospitality Center's homeless clients have been the guests of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Each morning 25 to 30 men and women come to the center. They are greeted by a friendly volunteer at St. Mark's door and directed to the hospitality room. They are provided with a light breakfast and healthy snacks. There are tables to sit at, mats to rest on, games to play and books to read.

All our guests have an intake with a caseworker from Connections for the Homeless. If the person is ready to work they are referred to our job counselor. The job counselor's "office" is Cunningham Hall. He helps guests make a resume.

We also provide a voicemail account so the person can have a personal phone number. We provide FAX and computer services as well as help with interview skills. And people receive transit cards to get to and from interviews. We also help people get drivers licenses and professional licenses. For example, one gentleman had let his license lapse since he didn't have a car or money. We helped him get his license back and also a commercial driver's license. He was hired as a long distance truck driver. The truck had a sleeping compartment so he got housing as well as employment!

We also help people learn other special skills and get licensing, such as computer training and CNA certificate. Once a person gains employment we help with special needs such as uniforms or steel toed boots. And they get encouragement! This is a very difficult time to be looking for a job!

The Hospitality Center also provides the opportunity for people in our community to serve. Volunteers greet

guests as they enter St. Mark's. Other volunteers join the guests in the hospitality room to play games and have interesting conversations. Most volunteers never want to leave! The opportunity to meet people and listen to their stories is a gift! And some of their stories are not that different from our own. One of the volunteers wrote the following poem.

### Everybody Looks Like Me

As I sit by the door of the shelter,  
everybody looks like me.

The slim drawn woman with the unkempt hair,  
wrinkled dress and vacant stare,  
out for a cigarette, out for some air,  
out of her mind – we have much to share.

The goateed grandfather, prosperous and free,  
knapsack stuffed with treasures, stops to look at me,  
stops to find his missing book, stops to look at me,  
stops because he fears to go, just like me.

The fat sad woman with clothes too tight,  
mourns her lost baby, mourns alone at night  
Tells me again that it's just not right  
waddles down the sidewalk, waddles out of sight.

Hour turns to hour, and still they pass my chair,  
searching for a future in a world that barely cares,  
hour turns to hour – how shocked I am to see,  
that every single person here looks just like me.

Thanks to the community of St. Mark's, the homeless of Evanston have been able to find shelter and respect each morning for more than 20 years. Every day at 6:30 a.m. as I walk down the hallway and up the stairs to our comfortable room, I am grateful to each one of you. And when I unlock the door at 7 and hear "good morning" from so many people, I know that each person who passes through is appreciative of the shelter you provide.

Sue Murphy

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## Notes from Around the Diocese

### Bishop Lee on 30 Good Minutes

Bishop Jeffrey Lee will be a guest on Sunday, Feb. 22 on *30 Good Minutes*, the award winning TV program which airs on WTTW Channel 11 in Chicago and in syndication in other U.S. cities. It features many of America's great religious thinkers, selected from a broad range of denominations and faith traditions. The program explores topics of faith through short meditations, documentaries, interviews and commentaries. The February 22 program, "Wounded Gifts," will be broadcast at 5:00 PM on WTTW 11 and WTTW HD (and posted on the Sunday Evening Club web site Friday, February 20). The program also includes a segment profiling [Shakeela Hassan](#), a Muslim American doctor and film producer, and a reflection by [Rabbi Michael Siegel](#), Senior Rabbi of Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago. [Lydia Talbot](#) and [Lillian Daniel](#) are the co-hosts.

### UBE sponsors Annual Celebration of Absalom Jones

The Chicago Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians is sponsoring the 26th annual celebration of Absalom Jones, honoring the work of the first African American priest in the Episcopal Church who was ordained priest in 1804. Observances will take place the weekend of February 7 and 8. The theme for the weekend will be "Speaking Truth to Each Other". **Dr. Gerri Outlaw** will be the keynote speaker for Saturday's event, **February 7**, at St. Margaret's of Scotland, located at 2555 E. 73rd Street, Chicago from 1-4 p.m.

**The Rev. Jeremiah Wright**, rector emeritus of Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago and noted author and speaker on the black church experience, is the keynote speaker at the observance on Sunday, **February 8** at 3 pm at St. Thomas parish, the mother church of black Episcopalians in the Diocese of Chicago. The February 8 observance will feature hymns and anthems from several choirs, and remarks by UBE Midwest Regional Director Patricia Abrams. St. Thomas parish is located at 3801 S. Wabash Chicago. For more information contact Alice Brown at (773) 643-5162 or [alice.brown@ameritech.net](mailto:alice.brown@ameritech.net)

### Phyllis Tickle at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary

Author and theologian Phyllis Tickle will be sharing her insights on the epoch shifts underway in church and society, some thing she terms **The Great Emergence**, at a presentation at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary on February 20th and 21st. In her recently published book, **The Great Emergence**, Tickle brings her encyclopedic knowledge of American religion to bear on current shifts in the Christian landscape with her Southern wit and charm. We are all affected by this significant reality, whether we are aware of it or not. Young and old, lay and clergy, church member or not-understanding the trends and realities we experience enables us to live in the present more fully.

The cost for the two-day session will be \$50, which is \$20 per day plus \$10 for lunch on Saturday. Session one will run from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Friday, Feb. 20, and then snacks will be provided. Session two is from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. On Saturday, Feb. 21, Session three is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, followed by lunch. Session four is from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Presentations will be at the Sheil Catholic Center, located just across Garrett Place from Seabury-Western. Lunch will be at Seabury. Some parking is available at Seabury-Western, and the seminary is also easily accessible by using the CTA, with a nearby EL stop on Noyes Street in Evanston.

For more information contact Seabury at <mailto:ron.fox@sea%20bury.edu> or 847-328-9300 x17. You may also register online.

# Calendar of Events

# February, 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Formation 10 AM Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist	2 7:30 PM Mission & Ministry	3 9:15 AM Staff Meeting	4 7:30 PM Formation for Children	5 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 6:30 PM Friday Night Dinner Out at Noyes Cafe	7 8:30 AM Men's Group 9:30 AM Gentle Yoga 10:30 AM Baptismal Prep
8 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Formation 10 AM Baptism and Holy Eucharist	9	10 9:15 AM Staff Meeting  7 PM Centering Prayer 7:30 PM Worship & Spirituality	11	12 6:30 PM Rector & Wardens 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 7:00 PM Not Quite Valentine's Party (Gen X/Gen Y)	14 9:00 AM Buildings & Grounds 9:30 AM Gentle Yoga
15 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Formation 10 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Executive Committee	16 OFFICE CLOSED For President's Day 7:30 PM Vestry	17 9:15 AM Staff Meeting  6:30 PM ECW Potluck at Betsy Sagan's	18	19 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 Phyllis Tickle at Seabury ----	21 8:30 AM Men's Group 9:30 AM Gentle Yoga ----->>>
22 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Formation 10 AM Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist	23	24 SHROVE TUESDAY 9:15 AM Staff Meeting  6:00 PM Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras 7 PM Centering Prayer	25 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 7:00 AM Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist 12:00 PM Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist	26	27	28 9:30 AM Gentle Yoga

## Celebrating Birthdays in February

February 3	Stephen Christy Mary Hair Bette Schindler
February 6	Gregg Tomlinson
February 8	Astley Bent
February 09	Katie Latimer
February 10	Helen Whitmore
February 11	Louise Behrends
February 12	Heidei Heller
February 14	Emily Furlong James Staples Louis Crow
February 15	Tom Lyons
February 16	Henry Austin, Jr. Paul Montgomery Judith Mueller Manel Valdes-Cruz
February 17	Tracy Caldwell
February 18	Molly Lettner
February 19	Lorraine Westerberg Anne Burket
February 20	Alexander Rocca Evelyn Skelton
February 22	Carolyn Brooks Richard Miller
February 23	Nonie Morris Calvin Yanaga
February 24	Rev'd William Mueller Barbara Brown
February 25	Robert Lockwood Charlie Lettner
February 26	Seth Himrod Ann Sagan Antoinette Collman
February 27	John Bitner Thomas Bergman Amanda Flarrey

## Celebrating Anniversaries in February

February 26	Nancye Kirk & John Lucadamo
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## The Vision Keepers Dinner

The annual fundraising dinner for Interfaith Action of Evanston will take place on Sunday, February 22 at 5:30 p.m. at Hotel Orrington. Award-winning news correspondent and PBS personality Judith Valente, whose work focuses on religious aspects of the news, will be the keynote speaker. The cost is \$65 per person (\$35 of which is tax deductible).

Our Vision Keeper honoree this year is *Sally Lufkin*. For reservations or more information contact Deacon Lee at [deacongae@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:deacongae@stmarksevanston.org) or 847-702-0891 by February 8.

## Making a Difference: Jr. High Ministry at St. Mark's

*Rite-13* is a comprehensive youth program, which supports and nurtures young men and women in Christian Community as they journey toward adulthood. Lay leaders, clergy and the parish at large partner to establish a framework for friendships which model faithfulness, bridge gender stereotypes, and encourage full inclusion in the life of the congregation.

*Rite-13* focuses on celebrating the individuality of each young person and their creative potential. The *Rite-13* liturgy is the community expression of this and a rite of passage from childhood towards adulthood. The liturgy is loosely based on the Jewish bar/bat mitzvah tradition and is a way for the entire congregation to celebrate the unique gifts and abilities of its young teens. The two years of *Rite-13* focus on recognizing the gifts God has given us, celebrating our creative potential, and learning to interact as a community of faith

Guiding Scripture passages are:

- Psalm 139: Lord, you have searched me out and known me
- Genesis 1:26-31: Human beings are created equal and are co-creators with God
- Luke 2:42-52: The boy Jesus in the temple
- Matthew 25:14-30: The parable of the talents

For further information, or if you'd like to be part of this new endeavor, contact Deacon Lee, [deacongae@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:deacongae@stmarksevanston.org) or Mother Mandy [rector@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:rector@stmarksevanston.org).

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## The ECW is Meeting. Calling all Women!

All women of St. Mark's are cordially invited to a Potluck Dinner at 6:30pm Tuesday February 17th at Betsy Sagan's home (1314 Forest Avenue). We hope you can join us! Please RSVP to Tacia Johnson at 312/853-7761 or [tjohnson@sidley.com](mailto:tjohnson@sidley.com) or Dorothy Laudati 847/864-7741 or [daalaudati@email.com](mailto:daalaudati@email.com). We will enjoy an evening of fellowship, friendship and food. Please feel free to bring wrapped gifts for the women of the shelter.

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**1509 Ridge Avenue**  
**Evanston IL 60201**

Postage