



THE LION

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JANUARY

Make All Things New

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

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Dear Ones,

Each year as the New Year draws close I get caught up in conversations about New Year's resolutions. Many resolve to get organized, eat better, exercise more, spend more time with their families, correspond more often with friends and loved ones. The list of possibilities is endless. But, too often by the end of the first week we have failed yet again, and head into the darkest months of the year feeling like a failure, our mood as dark as the night sky.

This year I'd like to propose something different. What if we forget the to-do lists and simply try to live more simply—more faithfully? What if we were intentional about bridging the distance between the God stuff we do on Sunday mornings around God's table and what happens at home around our kitchen tables?

This year I invite you to start your New Year and Epiphany season off with a blessing instead of a punch card of self-improvements. Call the church office if you'd like for us to gather with you and those you love to bless your home and celebrate the many ways God reveals God's self in our daily lives.

May the New Year find you and yours healthy and ready to celebrate all that God is doing in our midst.

In His love,
Mo. Mandy+

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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.

Epiphany Service and House Blessings

The season of Epiphany begins with a feast remembering the Magi, who traveled a great distance to see where the holy child lay. They spent time with the holy family and offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

On Tuesday the 6th of January we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, which marks the beginning of the season between Christmas and Lent. In Greek, the term *epiphania* means “to bring to light,” “to show or make known” and “to reveal.” The lessons we hear during this season begin to reveal to us the nature of the gift we have received in the Nativity. We watch and wonder as we encounter Jesus at his baptism; Jesus teaching and healing; Jesus being transfigured. And during this holy season of light and revelation, as we come to understand more about the nature of God as revealed in Jesus, the church re-evaluates and renews her mission and ministry in the world in light of the Incarnation.

In many places it is traditional to have ones home blessed during the season of Epiphany as we remember the visit of the wise men to that humble abode so long ago. During the short service prayers are said to bless the home, and chalk is used to write C M B on the doorstep. C M B has a double meaning, representing the traditional names of the three Magi: Casper, Melchior and Balthazar, as well as the Latin *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, or *May Christ bless this dwelling*.

Call the church office if you'd like for us to gather with you and those you love to bless your home this Epiphany Season (Jan 6th – Feb 24th). And may Christ bless you, your home, and those you love.

Mo. Mandy+

Combined Service Schedule Continues!

St. Mark's continues a two service schedule on Sunday mornings. We will continue through the Epiphany season and with a chance to reflect on the experience in February.

Sunday Schedule

- 8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Chapel
- 9:00am Formation for all Ages
- 10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Church
with Morning Prayer as the Liturgy of the Word
on 2nd and 4th Sundays,
and Children's Chapel for younger elementary school children

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 RectorMo. Mandy Brady

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Mrs. Caroline Frowe

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Sexton Mr. Cornell Gist

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

Ring out the old, ring in the new! The old New Year's cry is particularly apt right now. It is a good time for a new beginning. We about to have a brand new Christ Child, a baby whose birth we just celebrated. We have a brand new year, full of promise and the hope of new resolutions. We are about to have a brand new president, who was elected on a promise of hope and change.

It is time to make a new beginning at St. Mark's, to move forward after the pain of the last year and the difficult work of reconciliation which has occupied us.

There is so much to be done, and so many ways we can explore, discuss and then commit to meet the challenges before us. We have a new Sunday schedule, which we hope will bring new vitality to our basic weekly worship services, and a renewed sense of community as more of us worship together. Our interim rector is introducing exciting innovations in the liturgy, to inspire and challenge us.

We are being asked to do more with less. Our budgetary problems are real. We need to make a new beginning with volunteer efforts for two reasons. One is the

limitations of our ability to pay for some of the vital ministries that we want to and must support. The other is that the joy of Christian ministry is one that can and should be shared by all of us who are able. Outreach, administration, liturgy, welcoming of newcomers, parish life, evangelism, parish and home communion visiting, choir and readers and Eucharistic ministers - all need new vitality, new faces to ease the burdens on those who so valiantly carry the load, and to widen the influence of Christ's message of love and service.

Jesus set a path for us, a path that leads us through a life of Christian service, service that demonstrates our faith to the world around us. As the old hymn said, "they will know we are Christians by our love." Let us start this year renewed by the promise of the Christ Child, whom God so lovingly gave to us. It is time to return that love by renewing our commitment to our God, our church, and to God's children both within and outside of St. Mark's. Let us make all things new, including our faith and our joy in loving service.

Rev. Deacon Joan Barr Smith

A New Thing: Jr. High Ministry Starting 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

We will begin a Sunday morning program for middle school and junior high students with a lock-in at the church. So if you are in 6th, 7th or 8th grade, mark your calendars and prepare to have fun!

For further information, or if you'd like to be part of this new endeavor, contact Deacon Lee, deacon-gaede@stmarksevanston.org or Mother Mandy rector@stmarksevanston.org.

A WORD FROM OUR TREASURER

St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Evanston, IL 60201
Treasurer's Report for January, 2008 through November, 2008

St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Evanston, IL 60201 Treasurer's Report for January, 2008 through November, 2008 (OPERATING FUND)

Account Number	Account Name	Current Month	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income					
	Member Contributions	\$29,196.83	\$243,905.03	\$251,405.00	\$274,260.00
	Visitor and Open Collection	\$820.00	\$5,137.38	\$8,250.00	\$9,000.00
	TOTAL Contributions	\$30,016.83	\$249,042.41	\$259,655.00	\$283,260.00
	Trust, Endow., Interest Income	\$1,383.47	\$4,012.50	\$880.00	\$960.00
	from Designated Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	from Subscriptions	\$0.00	\$3,850.00	\$4,125.00	\$4,500.00
	from Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$144.43	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Other Income	\$100.00	\$3,319.19	\$2,585.00	\$2,820.00
	TOTAL Non-Contribution Income	\$1,513.12	\$11,211.34	\$7,590.00	\$8,280.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$31,500.30	\$260,224.10	\$267,245.00	\$291,540.00
Expense					
	Diocesan Contributions	\$1,700.00	\$18,995.00	\$18,700.00	\$20,400.00
	Interim Expense	\$7,641.06	\$49,791.80	\$50,326.00	\$56,616.00
	Staff Clergy Expense	\$0.00	\$1,753.95	\$2,750.00	\$3,000.00
	Occasional Clergy Expense	\$0.00	\$8,749.12	\$8,470.00	\$9,240.00
	TOTAL Clergy Expense	\$7,641.06	\$68,879.79	\$69,416.50	\$77,442.00
	Parish Admin. Expense	\$3,622.74	\$38,089.69	\$38,170.00	\$41,640.00
	Sexton Expense	\$1,595.37	\$17,329.49	\$18,469.00	\$20,148.00
	Occasional Admin Staff	\$238.00	\$1,528.74	\$1,562.00	\$1,704.00
	SUB-TOTAL Admin. Staff Expense	\$5,456.11	\$56,947.92	\$58,201.00	\$63,492.00
	Office Expense	\$3,565.08	\$19,910.01	\$20,212.50	\$22,050.00
	Building Expense	\$8,702.74	\$79,915.24	\$85,415.00	\$93,180.00
	Grounds Expense	\$0.00	\$2,876.91	\$3,740.00	\$4,080.00
	Rectory Expense	\$269.70	\$4,365.88	\$4,620.00	\$5,040.00
	SUB-TOTAL B&G Expense	\$8,972.44	\$87,158.03	\$93,775.00	\$102,300.00
	TOTAL Administration Expense	\$17,993.63	\$164,015.96	\$172,188.50	\$187,842.00
	Music Personnel Expense	\$2,532.42	\$18,291.41	\$18,771.50	\$20,478.00
	Music: General Expense	\$27.00	\$1,353.66	\$1,705.00	\$1,860.00
	TOTAL Music Expense	\$2,559.42	\$19,645.07	\$20,476.50	\$22,338.00
	Formation Director Expense	\$0.00	\$7,379.00	\$6,765.00	\$7,380.00
	Childcare Expense	\$362.48	\$4,557.00	\$4,675.00	\$5,100.00
	Formation: General Expense	\$62.16	\$206.83	\$1,485.00	\$1,620.00
	TOTAL Formation Expense	\$424.64	\$12,142.83	\$12,925.00	\$14,100.00
	Vestry Program Expense	\$110.00	\$3,921.56	\$6,297.50	\$6,870.00
	TOTAL Other Expense	\$110.00	\$3,921.56	\$6,297.50	\$6,870.00
	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$30,428.75	\$287,600.21	\$300,004.00	\$328,992.00

Presented here is a summary of Operating Fund results through November 30th, 2008. The parish has a history of deficit budgets and the Vestry and Interim have been working hard to create a balanced budget, where expenses are in line with anticipated income. Through the summer we were able to do just that—being diligent in prioritizing and tracking expenses and not filling vacant staff positions. You can be proud of their work on your behalf.

At the Annual Meeting in January, we presented a 2008 Budget calling for \$40,000 in income from the Endowment Fund (AKA the 1930 Trust Fund). However, in the wake of the recent market crash and subsequent volatility the fund has fallen below the level of inviolable principal, which means we are not able to receive money from the Trust and will therefore not receive \$40,000 in income as originally planned. Unfortunately we once again find ourselves with a deficit budget, this time through no fault of our own. If you would like to make a donation in order to help the Vestry deal with this deficit, please contact me at 847-424-8422 or brooksuvw@comcast.net.

Dick Brooks, Treasurer

Calendar of Events

January, 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 8:30 AM Men's Group
4 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Formation 10 AM Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist	5	6 6 PM Worship & Spirituality 7 PM Feast of the Epiphany	7	8 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	9	10 9 AM Buildings & Grounds 9:30 AM Gentle Yoga
11 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Formation 10 AM Baptism and Holy Eucharist	12 7:30 PM Vestry	13 7 PM Centering Prayer	14	15 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	16	17 8:30 AM Men's Group 9:30 AM Gentle Yoga
18 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Formation 10 AM Holy Eucharist	19	20	21	22 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	23	24 9:30 AM Gentle Yoga
25 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Formation 10 AM Morning Prayer/ Holy Eucharist ANNUAL MEETING Following the 10am service	26 7:30 PM Puris of Wisdom	27	28	29 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	30	31 7:30 AM Men's Group (Walker Bros.) 9:30 AM Gentle Yoga

Celebrating Birthdays in January

01/03	Andrew Heindel
01/04	Patrick Furlong
01/05	Rima Lockwood
01/06	Mrs. Gordon Adamson
01/07	Peter Lettner
01/09	Gerrit Dangremond Henry Peters
01/11	Pearline Jackson John Burnham, Jr.
01/14	Dorothy Adams
01/16	Susan Lewis
01/17	Andrew Howard
01/18	David Himrod
01/20	Walter Clarkson
01/21	James Lettner
01/22	Grace Lettner
01/28	Lindsay Chase-Lansdale

Stretch into the New Year

Gentle Yoga classes will resume on Saturday, January 10 at 9:30 am on the lower level of the Parish House. Make this a New Year's resolution to help you feel better in body and mind. You are welcome to attend a free trial session. Fees are \$12 per class if you drop in or \$8 per class if you sign up for a series. For further information, contact Dick Whitaker at dwhitaker4@sbcglobal.net or Edie Molumby at 847-869-1799.

It's Coming!

Mark your calendars now for the Annual Parish Meeting, which will take place following the 10 o'clock service on Sunday, January 25th.

Celebrating Anniversaries in January

01/01	Tom Bailey and Jack Wiersema Chris and Andrew Schultze
01/14	Anne and Jack Heinz
01/15	Catherin and Bernard Rocca
01/27	Carolyn and Richard Brooks Karen and James Jensen

Concert Featuring the Music of Felix Mendelssohn

2009 is the bicentennial year of Felix Mendelssohn, composer of (among others) the famous "Wedding March" and "Spring Song." Join us in the church on Sunday, January 18th at 2pm for an informal concert by our parish musician, Dr. Rob Horton. Rob will perform a brief program of Mendelssohn's piano music and organ music to celebrate this magnificent composer.

Making a Difference: Thanks from the Cathedral Shelter

Thanks to all who helped make the joy of Christmas a reality in the homes and hearts of thousands in need! The 2008 Christmas Basket Program would not have been possible without the participation of our generous donors and volunteers.

From bright, warm p.j.'s and bed linen, to fine cooking ware and baby dolls, the 2008 season provided 1,526 families, seniors, and homeless individuals with gifts and provisions for holiday food. Family sponsors included 45 Episcopal parishes, 11 corporations, 6 schools, and over 200 individuals. More than 200 volunteers—who made Christmas Basket pick-ups, checked-in recipients, and distributed presents—provided an amazing 1145 hours of service.

From all of us, a special thank you for making all this possible - and the very best to you in the New Year!
- The Rev. Glenn B. Chalmers

The Primo Center for Women and Children,

which provides transitional housing and support services for homeless women and children, is embarking on the Renaissance Project—to raise funds to renovate the facility and expand services. In this economic climate there is an ever growing need for this type of facility and service organization.

Supporting the cause is as easy as eating cake—really! ‘Cake and A Prayer’ is an online provider of “...delectable cakes coupled with spiritually uplifting gifts that will rejuvenate your Spirit and nourish your Soul.” Cake and a Prayer was created “out of a desire to find a tangible and meaningful way to share one’s prayer,” and includes a donation program that enables non-profit groups to earn money whenever someone orders a gift from the designated website. Cake and a Prayer will donate \$10 for each order received via the designated website to the group. You can find information about this from www.cakeandaprayer.com and kcorley@cakeandaprayer.com. Contact Lynette Murphy with questions at (847) 224-9073.

Offering Thanksgiving to God via Altar Flowers

Each week as we gather to celebrate the Lord’s Supper together our altar is adorned with flowers lovingly and beautifully arranged by members of St. Mark’s Flower Guild. One may offer thanks and praise to God in honor of someone special (such as a child or spouse’s accomplishment), in thanksgiving for a special occasion (like an anniversary or birthday), or in memory of a loved one. All you need to do is contact the Office with the date, the occasion and the person to be honored or remembered, and submit a check for \$25 to the church. We’ll take care of the rest, including a notice in the bulletin.

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Evanston IL 60201**

