



the EPISTLE



The Monthly Parish Newsletter of SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2012 • ISSUE 169

FROM THE RECTOR

Changes are never easy—and the New Year will bring about yet another in the life of our parish. As many of you know, 2013 will see the retirement of Bruce Smith, Saint Mark's Associate Rector of over twelve years.

Through these years we have come to count on Bruce's faithful and steady presence among us, appreciate his insight and leadership, and look forward to his keen sense of humor.

I have personally valued Bruce's guidance and encouragement in the always complicated process of getting to know a new parish and its many varying facets and personalities.

Bruce has always been a "cheer-leader" for me at Saint Mark's. He has been the first to support new ideas (as crazy as some may have been—such as the time I decided to "fry ice" during a sermon on Trinity Sunday) as well as a presence which "stood firm" in embracing the traditions and values that we have come to cherish as Anglicans and Episcopalians.

Bruce has also stepped forward with unfailing energy and dedication in support of our common pastoral ministry to one another. He has represented Saint Mark's on more diocesan commissions and task forces than I can remember, looking

forward to the health and ministry of the broader church. He has done so with skill and good cheer which Saint Mark's has come to value and respect.

As Bruce's time among us draws to a close, we are taking this opportunity to look back on these years with thanksgiving and affection—and send him forth with God's blessing and ours.



Bruce posing for a new webpage picture in the *Chapel of Reconciliation* (top), helping prepare lunches for the *Open Shelter* with Anice Ellis (lower left), and presenting Confirmants to Bishop Breidenthal in 2011 (lower right).

First, cards and letters of remembrance will be gathered to present to Bruce at a catered dinner in the Parish Hall on January 6, 2013, beginning at 6 p.m.

Reservations for dinner will be taken up until December 30 at a cost of \$25.00 per seat.

We will also be collecting a purse to present to Bruce during the dinner, to which everyone is also invited to contribute (see below).

Cards, letters, reservation and payments for the dinner, as well as contributions to the purse may all be sent to Saint Mark's. Please indicate on the envelope: "Retirement Dinner" and designate the funds allocation.

Bruce leaves Saint Mark's with a rich legacy of ministry for which we give thanks to God. Please join me and the Vestry in giving thanks for his time among us, and wishing both he and Susan many blessed and happy years to come.

A special evening has been planned in Bruce's honor this January on *The Feast of the Epiphany*, and the extended parish community is invited to participate in many ways.

BRUCE'S COLUMN—DECEMBER, 2012: *ECCLESIASTES 3*



Dear friends in Christ,

Those of us who are baby boomers (and others as well) remember a top 40 song recorded by the group “The Byrds” back in the 1960’s called “Turn, Turn, Turn”. It was years, I mean years, before I learned that the text of this song was based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Ecclesiastes is a short book found in the Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Bible (what we refer to as the Old Testament). This short “book” is found between Proverbs and The Song of Solomon.

The passage and the song begin with these words, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”. Many of you know the rest. The Preacher (the English translation of the Greek “Ecclesiastes”) summarizes—well, life, really, in verse form.

I have served at Saint Mark’s for my entire ordained ministry (so far). Many of you were present at Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati on June 24, 2000 when I was ordained deacon, and then again on January 6, 2001, when I was priested. On both occasions, members of the Saint Mark’s Choir participated in the service.

Well, for everything there is a season, and that season is approaching for me...for all of us, I guess in some way. Back in the June EPISTLE I shared with you all that I would retire at the end of 2012.

December 31 will be my last official day as Associate Rector of Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church; however, I will be on vacation between Christmas and New Year’s. I will be in and out of the office moving furniture and other personal items back home. (Where to put it all! Oy!)

My last Sunday at Saint Mark’s will be on January 6—the Feast of the Epiphany—and the twelfth anniversary of my ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests. And I am told there will be a big party that evening!

Now, there have been some questions over the last few months about what role, if any, I will continue to play at Saint Mark’s.

The answer is this: I will be leaving Saint Mark’s, and my pastoral relationship with you ends with my retirement. So, as your former Associate Rector, it will not be appropriate to speak with you or listen to conversations regarding church matters. This is as it should be.

Since Susan and I will be living the area, I am sure our paths will cross again in informal settings, where I will look forward to seeing you and hearing how you are.

Beginning in January, I will be worshipping at other churches in the area until I find a home parish, and I will continue my monthly visits to Trinity, McArthur, OH, as their Priest-in-Charge.

I know that you and I share a love of Saint Mark’s and want what is best for it—and that I can count on your support in maintaining these clear boundaries as each of us moves forward in responding to God’s continuing call to us.

The last 12 years have been a real blessing for me, and I thank you all for the opportunity to share in ministry with you for so many years. I will keep you all in my prayers and I ask that you keep Susan and me in your prayers.

May the Peace of the LORD be with you all!

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MATTHEW BESTER

December is a very busy month for the music program at Saint Mark's, as our parish family observes the season of Advent and celebrates the joyous coming of Christmas.

The month begins with a busy and exciting first Sunday of Advent on December 2. In the morning, the young choristers of our Canterbury Choir will provide the music for the 10 a.m. service, as they do every first Sunday of the month. For their anthems, the choir will sing a festive two-part arrangement of the well-known carol "People Look East" by the American composer and organist Craig Phillips and a challenging setting of the traditional text "Adam lay ybounden" by the Anglo-Welsh composer Philip Heseltine, a.k.a Peter Warlock.

That same morning, the Canterbury Choir will kick off its fall fundraiser. This year we are trying something a little different from our traditional fall sale of Buckeyes. Instead, we will be selling homemade soup mixes, packaged decoratively in glass canning jars. The mixes are perfect for a quick, tasty meal at home, and they also make great holiday gifts for friends, co-workers, and teachers. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Canterbury Choir Fund, which helps to pay for group travel and other choir activities.

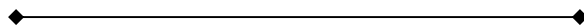
In the afternoon of December 2 at 4 p.m., the Saint Mark's Choir and the Canterbury Choir will join together for our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols. This beloved parish tradition, which alternates Advent-themed lessons with inspiring anthems and favorite seasonal hymns, is modeled after the famous Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge. Music will include anthems by Thomas Foster, George Frideric Handel, Herbert Howells, Judy Hunnicutt, Boris Ord, Craig Phillips, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Healey Willan. A lovely reception will follow.

Following our Festival of Lessons and Carols, both choirs will turn their attention to preparing for Christmas. As usual, the Canterbury Choir will lead the music for our beloved Christmas Pageant service at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Our choristers already are very excited to begin working on such Christmas favorites as the "The Friendly Beasts" and "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine," and they are eager to discuss who will be singing the various solos.

Later that evening, the Saint Mark's Choir will lead the moving 11 p.m. service of Holy Eucharist, preceded at 10:30 by our annual Carol Sing for choir and congregation. Music for the service will include works by John Gardner, John Rutter, and Christopher Tye. Both Christmas Eve services conclude in the dramatic setting of candlelight, a visual reminder of the Light coming again into our broken world.

Of course, the Christmas season does not properly end until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. This year we are fortunate that this major feast day falls on a Sunday, and to celebrate the occasion both of our choirs will be present for the 10 a.m. service that morning, singing works by Malcolm Archer and Felix Mendelssohn. The day will be even more joyous as we celebrate the ministry of Bruce Smith on his final Sunday as Associate Rector at Saint Mark's.

Wishing you all a joyous Advent and a very Happy Christmas!



CANTERBURY CHOIR FUNDRAISER

The Canterbury Choir will be selling Soup Mixes on December 2 and 9 after the 8 and 10 a.m. services. Would you like to have something for a night when you are not sure what to make for dinner? Do you need a gift for your teacher or a friend? Buy a soup mix for \$10 each. All proceeds benefit the Canterbury Choir Fund. Thank you!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT SAINT MARK'S

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

The Flower Guild will be accepting contributions In Memory or Thanksgiving of Loved Ones on December 2, 9, and 16 to decorate the church for Christmas. A sign-up sheet and box for contributions of any amount will be on a table in the Parish Hall on these dates. Please contact Virgene Heckman (766-4785) if you have any questions.

ADVENT QUIET DAY

“COMFORT YE, MY PEOPLE”

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:30 A.M. TO 12 NOON

(includes light lunch)

AT THE HOME OF

Bruce and Susan Smith

99 Indian Springs Drive, Columbus, OH 43214

TO REGISTER:

Contact Bruce and Susan: revabs@att.net or 614-263-5961

This Quiet Day is limited (by space) to 8 participants.

SAINT MARK'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Below are the dates for the Christmas Pageant sign-up and rehearsals. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Amy Keller (740-548-8545; AmyLKeller@frontier.com). All children and teens are welcome!

Sunday, December 2

Sign-Up (If unable to attend that day, contact Amy Keller to sign-up)

Sunday, December 9

Sign-Up and Costumes

Sunday, December 16

Sign-Up, costumes and scripts passed out

Parent meeting after church

Sunday, December 23, 11:30 a.m.

Rehearsal with Canterbury Choir

Sunday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.

Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Pageant



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES AT SAINT MARK'S

CHRISTMAS EVE—MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Saint Mark's Annual Christmas Pageant

5 p.m.

Music by Canterbury Choir

Carols for Choir and Congregation

10:30 p.m.

followed by

Solemn Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11 p.m.

Music by Saint Mark's Choir

CHRISTMAS DAY—TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10 a.m.

SAINT MARK'S YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2012

Each event begins at 4 p.m. (note earlier time) and ends at 6 p.m.
Contact Brad and Crystal Essex (youthministers@saintmarkscolumbus.org) for more information.

Sunday, December 2

TBD

Sunday, December 9

Chiller Dublin Skating Rink

Public Skate after lunch \$10 to skate and rentals

Sunday, December 16

Game Night

Sunday, December 23

Christmas

Sunday, December 30

TBD

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
A CELEBRATION IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE MINISTRY OF

The Rev. Bruce Smith

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
AS ASSOCIATE RECTOR
OF SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday, January 6, 2013

BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

*Please make a dinner reservation by December 30, 2012
at a cost of \$25.00 per seat*

PLEASE WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR YOUR INVITATION LETTER AND RSVP CARD OR
CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE: (614) 486-9452 OR OFFICEMANAGER@SAINTMARKSCOLUMBUS.ORG

IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK'S

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS NAMES

Saint Mark's Nominating Committee is seeking names of people who might be interested in serving on Vestry beginning in February 2013. If you are interested or know someone you would like to recommend, please fill out the slip and drop it in the box on the table behind the pews. If you are recommending someone besides yourself, please check with that person before submitting their name. If you have questions about serving on Vestry, please talk with Paul, Bruce or a member of the Nominating Committee: John Goettler, Ted Keller, Dianne Silliman, and Darlene Sullivan, whose phone numbers are listed on the outside cover of this newsletter.

SAINT MARK'S SERMONS NOW ON YOUTUBE

"Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

Book of Common Prayer, page 225



Videos of Saint Mark's sermons are now available through the Saint Mark's website (www.saintmarkscolumbus.org) by clicking on the Worship dropdown tab, and then clicking on Sermon Video Archives. From here you will be able to view recent sermons right from our Saint Mark's website!

IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK'S



WINDOWS INTO HEAVEN: AN INTRODUCTION TO ICONOGRAPHY

Join Paul St. Germain for a multi-media presentation on the history and spirituality of icons. This series will introduce Saint Mark's "Icons for Meditation" - an ongoing display of icons in the Chapel of Reconciliation in which great iconographic works of Christendom are presented seasonally for study and contemplation.

Session One: December 2, 2012 Writing Icons; "Christ the Redeemer" - 15th Century
5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Canterbury Center. Tea and sherry will be served.

NOW IN THE CHAPEL: **CHRIST THE REDEEMER**—ANDRE RUBLEV (1360 - 1427)

Christ the Redeemer was discovered by accident in a dilapidated woodshed near Moscow Oblast, Russia in 1919. With several other icons stored nearby, it was attributed as the work of Andrei Rublev painted for one of Zvenigorod's cathedrals in the 1420s. It is currently exhibited in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

Andrei Rublev is considered to be the greatest painter of Russian Orthodox icons and frescoes of the medieval period. He was canonized a saint in 1988 by the Russian Orthodox Church, and is honored in the Episcopal Church each year on January 29. In Rublev's art two traditions are combined: the highest asceticism and the classic harmony of Byzantine mannerism. His work has come to be perceived as the "ideal" of Church painting and of Orthodox iconography. The characters of his paintings are always peaceful and calm, inviting the beholder into a place of divine serenity - often alluding to the mystical truths of human salvation. Gazing at Rublev's works has been likened to an invitation into the presence of the "holy" - or "numinous" - presence of God.

THE MAN. THE MAGIC. THE MYTH?: THE WORLD OF C.S. LEWIS



C.S. Lewis has been called the greatest Christian writer of the 20th Century. Of his over thirty books, including adult and children's literature, science fiction, Christian apologetics and scholarly works all remain in print to this day. Christians of all denominations have found in his work hope for the human condition and a reinforcement of faith in a personal God who created a fantastic universe - and filled it with hope, some would say "magic", and unconditional love. Holding the pen of these works is a very human figure whose life was filled with tragedy, joy and an unparalleled imagination. Join Lewis devotee Paul St. Germain for a look at the life, legacy and "myth" of this eminent Anglican scholar. For more information contact Paul (rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

January 27, 2013

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Columbus

7:00 - 8:30 pm

"CHRISTIANITY MEANS A LOT MORE THAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP."—BILLY SUNDAY

While Mr. Sunday was certainly correct, your membership is still important! Being a member of Saint Mark's means you have a vested interest in the life, worship, and ministry of the congregation. Saint Mark's has begun a comprehensive review of the information available for all of our members, and some of this information has been found to be out of date, incorrect, or just plain missing! Please help keep our records current and accurate by filling out the form that is enclosed in this EPISTLE. The form has two sides; the first side is for personal history and contact information and the second side is to gauge interest in the many ministries that take place at Saint Mark's. By noting interest in any ministry you are not committing to it, instead this is meant to be more of a barometer of where God calls us—both individually and as a congregation. Please complete the form to the best of your ability or level of comfort and return the form either by mailing it to the Parish Office (2151 Dorset Rd. Columbus, 43221) or by bringing it to any service and placing it in a marked receptacle at the rear of the Church. For more information, feel free to contact Chad Slater, one of our Parish Interns, at chadwicklater@yahoo.com.

 OUTREACH OPPORUNITIES

COOKIE WALK

Saint Mark's will hold a Christmas Cookie Walk on Sunday, December 9 following the 10 a.m. service. We are asking you to provide your favorite cookies (including recipes if you would like) to be sold by the pound. This is a fun way to buy a variety of cookies for your holiday festivities and to share your recipes with others. We will find out who our great bakers are! All proceeds will go to Episcopal Community Services Foundation, to assist parishes in the Diocese with food banks, soup kitchens, and counseling for those who are homeless and out of work. We are also going to be selling homemade items in small jars or packages individually priced. This a large project, so are in need of volunteers for setting up, arranging cookies, weighing cookies, taking money, and tearing down. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Anice Ellis (529-9597).

ST. JOHN'S STREET CHURCH MEAL

Saint Mark's is again responsible for providing the meal and volunteers for St. John's Street Church Ministry on Sunday, December 30. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the meal on Saturday, December 29 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the Saint Mark's Kitchen. On Sunday, after the 10:00 a.m. service, we will be packaging the lunch, and then at 12:15 p.m. we will be traveling to St. John's to join their parishioners and the congregants of the Street Church Ministry in Franklinton in worship and fellowship. If you are interested in participating in this rewarding, hands-on ministry, please contact *Roberta Morton* (614-268-7021; notvmorton@gmail.com). This is a wonderful way to end 2012 and look forward to serving in 2013! Please join us.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES DELIVERED!

"On the morning of November 19, my daughter, Jan, and I delivered 49 shoeboxes to the Shekinah Menonite School in Plain City, Ohio, for pick up that morning—which happened while we were there! Our shoeboxes were quickly packed in larger boxes (24 shoeboxes in each) and these larger boxes quickly disappeared into the back of a huge truck, which takes them to a larger center in the United States. From these centers the huge boxes are loaded into airplanes destined for delivery all over the world for children. It felt really good to be a part of such efforts bring the joy of Christmas! Thank you to everyone who participated!"—*Joy Sargent*

WINTER WARMIES COLLECTION

Saint Mark's will soon host a Christmas tree whose "ornaments" will be mittens, hats and scarves to be donated to children at the Homeless Families Foundation. Check the Parish Hall soon for this special tree. The winter winds will soon be blowing – let's be part of keeping children warm!

NNEMAP

Current needs at the pantry include baby food of all kinds, cereal, diapers, wipes, and juice. Homeless clients need sardines, Spam and other meats/fruits, canned ravioli/spaghetti, etc., with pop top cans. The food bins are located inside the main doors and inside the east entrance to the Parish Hall. Visit <http://www.nnemappantry.org/> to learn more about NNEMAP's mission, ways to donate to NNEMAP or about volunteer opportunities. Thanks to all of our loyal supporters and for your support on the Grooming Kit project.

 ASSOCIATE RECTOR BRUCE SMITH'S SUNDAY SCHEDULE
December

December 2 – Off

December 9 – At Saint Mark's as Celebrant

December 16 – at Trinity, McArthur as

Celebrant and Preacher

December 23 – at Saint Mark's as Preacher

December 30 – Off

January

January 6 – At Saint Mark's as Celebrant (Feast of the Epiphany)

FINANCE REPORT

To: Vestry, Wardens, Rector and Associate Rector
From: Dot Yeager, Treasurer
Subject: Finance Report for the period ended October 31, 2012
Date: October 31, 2012

- **Overall results:** Year-to-date receipts of \$424,614 compared to disbursements of \$458,593 resulted in a year-to-date loss of (\$33,979).
- *Revenues*
 - Although member contributions year to date, of \$374,013, were lower than the amount estimated of \$399,421, based on the balance of pledges outstanding, the revenue projection for the year is still on track with the estimate of \$483,560.
 - All quarterly installments of income from the Endowment Fund have been received in the amount of \$10,379, which is slightly higher than budget.
 - Plate revenue is significantly higher than budget due to a large gift in January.
- *Disbursements*
 - Staff expenses for the period include the pension payments for the clergy pension plan and the fee to the recruiting firm for hiring the new office manager.
 - Administration expense is over budget by \$4,000, primarily due to printed materials costs and copier maintenance expenses which are \$1,700 higher than budget year to date. The old copier had reached the end of its useful life. The new copier was installed in August and the new monthly cost is consistent with the annual budget.
 - Facilities expense is under budget by about \$1,000, despite natural gas and water and sewer expenses higher than the amount budgeted to date.
 - The formula for calculating Diocesan mission share changed on January 1, 2012. Churches have the option of sending the mission share to the Diocese based on either an annual percentage or a fixed monthly amount. Saint Mark's is using the percentage approach: thus, the amount, at 14.22% of the normal operating income for the period, calculates to \$60,382. For the same period last year, the amount was \$81,561.
 - Vacation Bible School expenses that were over the amount budgeted of \$500 were reimbursed from the spring plant sale fund raiser and are included in the receipts as "reimbursements from other funds".
 - Music expense includes the budget for the substitute organist. There is a question about whether we should expect a reimbursement of \$200 from the Diocese for the Regional Confirmation.
- *Fund Raising*
 - A total of \$16,184 was donated by members of Saint Mark's toward the Fred's Fund matching gift offer.
- *Annual Audit*
 - The annual audit was submitted to the Diocese on August 31, consistent with the filing requirement. Bob Gillette, the church's independent certified public accountant, identified no issues in performing the audit.
- *Capital Campaign Construction Loan*
 - The loan balance of \$52,500 was paid off on June 30, 2012, from unrestricted bequests, capital campaign cash and \$17,622 from the Trinity Guild. As outstanding capital campaign pledges are fulfilled, they will be deposited in the Trinity Guild.

YEAR END GIVING TO SAINT MARK'S

Donations to fulfill your 2012 pledge or to prepay your 2013 pledge can be made until December 31. A donation of stock can be made by contacting Dot Yeager, preferably prior to December 17, to allow adequate time to transfer. Saint Mark's maintains several brokerage accounts, including the Columbus Foundation, and regularly receives stock transfers for payment of pledges or other gifts. Please contact the Parish Office (486-9452) or Dot Yeager (626-1255) for more information.

Please remember Saint Mark's for any end-of-year giving that you may have in your plans. Unrestricted donations are always welcome, for they give Saint Mark's the greatest amount of flexibility to address its constantly changing needs. For those who may prefer a targeted approach, there are funds for reserve or long-term-planning purposes that you might consider, including:

The Trinity Guild Fund: Established to provide reserve funds for major capital maintenance and repairs. As of October 31, the fund stood at \$14,542.

Special Music Fund: Used at the discretion of the Director of Music to supplement the service with additional instruments, such as brass at Easter. This fund has also supported music events hosted by Saint Mark's. The fund balance at October 31 is approximately \$2,000.

The St. Mark's Endowment Fund: Established in 1978 to protect the long-term financial health of Saint Mark's and managed by separately elected Trustees. The fund's yearly investment income is transferred to Saint Mark's for use in the operating budget as needed. As of September 30, the Endowment stood at approximately \$364,000.

In *Grateful and Generous Hearts*, The Rev. Dr. John H. Westerhoff has this to say about planned giving, not just for today's needs but for future generations. "By giving toward the churches' endowments we can be in community with those who will come after us. We demonstrate our trust that God will be present and active in the church after we are gone, inspiring another generation to live faithfully."

The church also keeps an informal wish list for those interested in funding individual projects that are not currently in the budget. If you have any questions, please contact the Rector (486-9452).

 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Stewardship Committee wishes to extend its appreciation to the many members of our parish family that have helped with the *Embracing God's Blessing* Stewardship Campaign this fall:

- We are grateful to all of our members who took time to complete the Stewardship Survey
- We appreciate the dedication and hard work that led to a successful Stewardship Potluck dinner on October 28. The turnout was fantastic!
- And we want to thank, Dwight Anstaett, Ellen Berndt, and Jodi Hess, who so eloquently shared their personal stewardship journeys with us.

An overview of the results of the Stewardship Survey was presented at a Potluck Dinner. There was a great deal of useful information contained in the survey. The Vestry is committed to using the results to help guide our direction for the future. Further discussions of the survey are planned in January for interested members of the parish and at our annual meeting in February.

One key finding from the survey is that "Funding for a full-time Assistant Rector" was clearly the leading financial goal for our members. Achieving that goal will require about a 10% increase in pledges, or about \$50,000 in additional pledged commitments. Our vestry has shown their enthusiastic support for achieving that target by collectively increasing their financial pledges (year over year) by nearly \$15,000.

Please prayerfully consider making a pledge this year to support the ministry of Saint Mark's. Pledged support is important as we prepare the 2013 budget prior to the end of this year and decide if we are able to fund an assistant rector or any of the other worthy aspirations of the parish that were highlighted by the survey. If you have any questions about the *Embracing God's Blessing* Stewardship Survey, please contact either Cecily Alexander or John Goettler.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Pat Barton (457-8055), Joan Maynard (725-1834), or Larry or Cindy Anderson (777-5513).

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
						9:15 AM Canterbury Choir Fundraiser Preparations 9:30 AM OA 10:00 AM Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM Altar & Flower Guild Set-Up 6:00 PM Supper Group Old Fashion Christmas Dinner
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Preacher: Paul St. Germain</i> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Canterbury Choir 11:15 AM Fellowship Hour/Dr. David Morton's Malawi Ministry Presentation 2:00 PM Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 4:00 PM Advent Lessons and Carols 8:00 PM AA Groups	<i>Rector's Day Off</i> 2:00 PM Brownie Troop 2759 5:30 PM AA 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	9:30 AM Al-Anon 10:30 AM Staff Meeting and Lunch 12:00 PM Noon Day Book Group 5:00 PM Weight Watchers 7:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	8:30 AM Tremont Elementary Parent Talk 12:00 PM Noonday Eucharist 4:30 PM Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 4:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision 7:00 PM AA Group 7:30 PM C.S. Lewis Reading Group	<i>Associate Rector Out of Office</i> 6:15 PM AA 7:30 PM Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA	<i>Associate Rector Out of Office</i> 1:00 PM Chair Volleyball 8:00 PM AA Groups	8:30 AM Advent Quiet Day 9:30 AM OA 12:00 PM Altar & Flower Guild Set-Up
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Preacher: Paul St. Germain</i> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship Hour/Cookie Walk 11:15 AM Outreach Meeting 8:00 PM AA Groups	<i>Rector's Day Off</i> 2:00 PM Brownie Troop 2759 5:30 PM AA	9:30 AM Al-Anon 10:30 AM Staff Meeting and Lunch 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	8:30 AM Tremont Elementary Parent Talk 12:00 PM Noonday Eucharist 12:30 PM Bridge Club 4:30 PM Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM AA Group 7:30 PM C.S. Lewis Reading Group	<i>Associate Rector Out of Office</i> 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist at Friendship Village 6:15 PM AA 7:30 PM Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA	<i>Associate Rector Out of Office</i> 1:00 PM Chair Volleyball 3:00 PM Brownie Troop Meeting 8:00 PM AA Groups	9:30 AM OA 12:00 PM Altar & Flower Guild Set-Up
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<i>Preacher: Paul St. Germain</i> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 AM Journey to Adulthood 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship Hour 11:15 AM VBS Staff Meeting 8:00 PM AA Groups	<i>Rector's Day Off</i> 12:00 PM EPISTLE Deadline 2:00 PM Brownie Troop 2759 5:30 PM AA 7:00 PM Sisters in Faith	9:30 AM Al-Anon 10:30 AM Staff Meeting and Lunch 5:00 PM Weight Watchers 7:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	8:30 AM Tremont Elementary Parent Talk 12:00 PM Noonday Eucharist 4:30 PM Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 4:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision 7:00 PM AA Group 7:30 PM C.S. Lewis Reading Group	<i>Associate Rector Out of Office</i> 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist at First Community Village 6:15 PM AA 7:30 PM Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA	<i>Associate Rector Out of Office</i> 1:00 PM Chair Volleyball 8:00 PM AA Groups	9:30 AM OA 12:00 PM Altar & Flower Guild Set-Up
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Preacher: The Rev. Bruce Smith</i> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 AM Journey to Adulthood 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II Sunday School 11:00 AM Fellowship Hour 8:00 PM AA Groups	<i>Parish Office Closed</i> 2:00 PM Brownie Troop 2759 4:00 PM Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist (Christmas Eve: Pageant and Canterbury Choir) 5:30 PM AA 9:30 PM Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 11:00 PM Holy Eucharist (Christmas Eve with Saint Mark's Choir)	<i>Parish Office Closed</i> 9:30 AM Al-Anon 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	<i>Associate Rector Out of Office</i> 8:30 AM Tremont Elementary Parent Talk 12:00 PM Noonday Eucharist 7:00 PM AA Group 7:30 PM C.S. Lewis Reading Group	<i>Associate Rector Out of Office</i> 9:30 AM EPISTLE Folding 6:15 PM AA 8:00 PM AA	<i>Associate Rector Out of Office</i> 1:00 PM Chair Volleyball 8:00 PM AA Groups	9:30 AM OA 12:00 PM Altar & Flower Guild Set-Up
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Preacher: The Rev. Joan Maynard</i> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship Hour 8:00 PM AA Groups	<i>Parish Office Closed</i> 2:00 PM Brownie Troop 2759 5:30 PM AA					

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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SAINT MARK'S

Part of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Saint Mark's held its first worship service in 1951 in a converted Methodist church in Grandview. Ground was broken in 1953 for the Parish Hall (now the Education Building) where services were held until the current Nave and Sanctuary was completed in 1958. Office space in an adjacent building was purchased in 1989. Major renovations of the entire facility occurred in 2004 and 2008 creating a campus today that empowers Christ's ministry within and beyond our parish.

SAINT MARK'S VESTRY MEMBERS' PHONE NUMBERS

Phil Glandon, *Senior Warden* – 486-5806

Kelly Kelleher, *Junior Warden* – 598-1069

Trent Porterfield, *Youth Warden* – 457-9598

Cecily Alexander, *Stewardship* – 459-5215

Elizabeth Anstaett, *Formation* – 538-0564

Anne Botti, *Formation* – 457-6227

John Goettler, *Stewardship* – 488-0818

Jill Hinton, *Outreach* – 442-0561

Ted Keller, *Communications* – 740-548-8545

Martha Lentz, *Fellowship* – 354-8614

Dianne Silliman, *Small Groups* – 488-8589

Sam Slee, *Communications* – 442-8338

Darlene Sullivan, *Small Groups* – 777-1898

Karen Swartz, *Fellowship* – 457-5121

Dot Yeager, *Treasurer* – 921-1485

Barbara Hyre, *Clerk* – 488-1567

SAINT MARK'S STAFF

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