

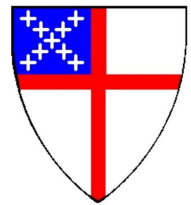


Saint Mark's Messenger

Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

Joann Ellis, Editor

December, 2011



Rector's Words

Every year it seems to get earlier. This year I saw the first opportunity to purchase Christmas decorations in August. I would like to believe that it is not retail madness, but a true longing for the arrival of Jesus in our hearts. Perhaps it is. To some extent, perhaps – I hope – it is...

Sometimes before a snowstorm begins, there is a remarkable, hushed moment of expectation. Have you ever stood outside and experienced it? The world seems to hold its breath in a moment of wonder. Soon, now: soon...

That is the spirit of Advent. We await in awe and joyful anticipation God's astonishing self-revelation. It will be here soon, now: soon...

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing...*

v. 3 of "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" by Edmund H. Sears

In the midst of the hurry, take time for wonder. God bless you.

Mary+

Treasurer's Update ~ Year to date information:



Income: \$70,595.57
Expenses: \$68,310.80

NET INCOME: \$2,284.77

The Finance Committee ~ The Finance Committee will meet December 7, 2011 to work on a final budget. Please get your Pledge card in so we can do our job. Remember, in these times of economic strife, not only our blessings and abundance, but let us be realistic as to what we pledge. ~ Your Treasurer, Fred Ellis

2011 Vestry Committees & Mission Statements

Stewardship

Jim Merrill, Jody Langfeldt, Ken Peters

Mission Statement: Offer information to assist in the discernment of good stewardship practices for our gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Evangelism/Outreach

Mary Mail, Betsy Lampert, Dan Hilbert

Mission Statement: We will spread the Good News to others and be a welcoming and inviting worship community

Fundraising

Deb Meinke, Jim Merrill, Bob Horne

Mission Statement: Work to raise funds to continue the work of our congregation.

Christian Education

Barb Conley, Rosie Spang

Mission Statement: To offer opportunities to further the education, understanding and love of our Lord to children and adults of all ages

Liturgy Worship

Mary Mail, Jody Langfeldt, Betsy Lampert, Joann Ellis

Mission Statement: The Liturgy committee will work to ensure appropriate and meaningful liturgies for all worship services

Fellowship

Libbie Kacuba, Barb Conley, Joann Ellis

Mission Statement: Be supportive of fellow members, plan parish dinners

Advertising

Deb Meinke Rosie Spang, Fred Ellis

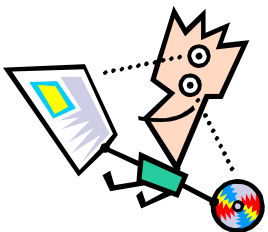
Mission Statement: We will promote St. Mark's and its church family within the community

Building & Grounds

Bob Horne, Libbie Kacuba, Ken Peters

Mission Statement: Maintain our church building and grounds. Develop list of on going needs and wants to improve our building and grounds.

From Your Editor: If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, it would be helpful if you could submit them to me by:



Dec 11th for the Jan 2012 Newsletter

Remember articles may be submitted via email or handwritten and left in my slot above the coat rack in the Nathex. Thank you. ~ Joann

The Bishop is coming; the Bishop is coming!! ~ On Sunday, January 22nd our Bishop, The Right Reverend Steven A. Miller, will be our preacher and celebrant. He will also confirm and receive those who wish officially to join the Episcopal Church.



Do you feel called (as our Prayer Book says) ‘to make a mature public affirmation of your faith and commitment to the responsibilities of your Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by our Bishop?’ An Enquirers’ Class will be forming in the next few weeks for those who wish to explore that possibility. Please let me know if you are interested. Participants will choose the time and place of the classes (Tuesday or Wednesday nights? Sunday’s after church?). I look forward to hearing from you.

Confirmation is the one of the seven sacraments which does not appear specifically in the Bible. Because many of us are baptized as babies, it is recognized that there needs to be a special rite when we claim the responsibilities for our Christian life and faith for ourselves. Confirmation is a reaffirmation of the vows which our parents and god-parents made on our behalf when we were too small to make them for ourselves. Baptism, we believe, makes us Christians; confirmation makes us Episcopalians. ~ Mary+



For those of you who have service persons listed on our Prayers, if you would like Christmas cards, notes, etc. sent to your person, we will need their address. If you would like to drop a note to Andy Harmon to let him know you are thinking of him the address below should be used:

Andrew Harmon
ISAF RC (S) RSC-S
BLDG 170
APO, AE 09355

Wanted: Looking for someone or a group of a few persons to take on the responsibility of sending goody packages to our service personnel. I have note cards and Beanie Babies for those who are ready to be the Military Care Group. We have collected \$25.56 from our yellow ribbon/flag pins. This money is available to send out one or more of the care packages. If interested in taking on this ministry, please contact Joann Ellis



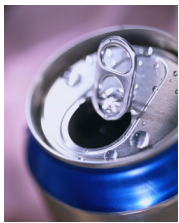
Historians ~ Thank you Ken and Robin Peters. I am pleased to announce that Ken & Robin Peters have taken on the ministry of being our Historians for St. Mark’s. I know there are pictures to be put into albums and names to be added to the pages. If anyone is interested in this ministry, please contact Ken and Robin Peters. We should also see about getting our bulletin board updated before the Christmas Cookie Walk. Thanks guys, Joann Ellis, Editor



United Thank Offering

The “little blue box” gives the opportunity for all members of our church family to give thanks for our blessings each day. Our coins this year for the Spring ingathering were - \$ 143.68 and the Fall ingathering were - \$174.31 giving us a total for the 2011 year of \$317.99.

Get a head start for next Spring and start another blue box now. I am sure there is one on the table near the front door. Thanks for all that you do. Keep up the good work!! ~ Vanda



Aluminum Can ~ All those aluminum cans you bring to the church added up to about \$400.00. This money is put aside in a Camp Webb account. Camp Webb is an outdoor ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. Everyone who comes to Camp Webb is given the opportunity to learn more about themselves and others, to discover more about the Episcopal Church, to develop a greater spiritual awareness, and to encounter Christ through living and learning in God's creation. Campers will learn new skills, make new friends, create lasting memories and explore who they are and who God is in their lives. For more about Camp Webb go to www.campwebb.org



Christmas Cookie Walk ~ Our Postcards are sent! Our bakers are busy in their kitchens! Ovens are hot and Christmas goodies are being prepared as you read! St. Mark’s Annual Christmas Cookie Walk is happening December 10, 2011. Be there or be square



Ten percent (10%) of the proceeds from the sale go to outreach projects in the community and the rest goes into our general fund to help pay monthly expenses.



SCRIP PROFIT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER: \$362.16

**DECEMBER 2011
LITURGICAL SCHEDULES
YEAR B**

Date	Dec 4 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m.	Dec 11 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m.	Dec 18 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m.	Dec 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.	Dec 25 Christmas Day 9:00 a.m.
Acolyte	Dave Stelsel, Jr	Deb Jenson	Jim Merrill, Sr	Joann Ellis	TBA
Altar Guild	Linda Zamzow & Barb Conley	Phyllis Ecklor & Peg Rhode	Marsha Horne & Sue Hilbert	Betsy Lampert & Libbie Kacuba	Jody Langfeldt
Chalice Bearer	Jody Langfeldt	Joann Ellis	Jim Mertens	Jerry Frank	TBA
Intercessor	Bob Zamzow	Jody Langfeldt	Connie Stelsel	Ken Peters	TBA
Reader	Deb Jenson Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	Barb Conley Isaiah 61:1-4, 8- 11 Psalm 126 or Canticle 3 or Canticle 15 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28	Mary Ann Kenitz 2 Samuel 7:1- 11, 16 Canticle 3 or Canticle 15 or Psalm 89:1- 4, 19-26 Romans 16: 25- 27 Luke 1: 26-38	Jody Langfeldt Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1- 14(15-20) Psalm 96	Isaiah 62:6- 12 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:(1- 7)8-20 Psalm 97
Usher	Jerry & Marie Frank	Dave & Connie Stelsel	Deb Jenson & Vanda Wiegert	Dan & Sue Hilbert	To Be Announced

December Birthdays, 2011

2nd Connie Stelsel
7th Sue Kuhn
9th James Merrill
20th Bruce Strieff

22nd Holly Strieff
27th Barbara Panzer
27th Deb Jenson



December Baptismal Anniversaries

2nd Eve Clark
10th Barb Conley

14th Connie Stelsel
20th Bob Zamzow

No Wedding Anniversaries

**JANUARY 2012
LITURGICAL SCHEDULES
YEAR B**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>JAN 1</u> <u>Feast of Holy</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>JAN 8</u> <u>1st Sunday</u> <u>after</u> <u>Epiphany</u>	<u>JAN 15</u> <u>2nd Sunday</u> <u>after</u> <u>Epiphany</u>	<u>JAN 22</u> <u>3rd Sunday</u> <u>after</u> <u>Epiphany</u>	<u>JAN 29</u> <u>4th Sunday</u> <u>after</u> <u>Epiphany</u>
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	David Stelsel, Jr.	Deb Jenson	James Merrill, Sr.	Joann Ellis	Jody Langfeldt
<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	Linda Zamzow & Barb Conley	Phyllis Ecklor & Peg Rhode	Marsha Horne & Sue Hilbert	Betsy Lampert & Libbie Kacuba	Jody Langfeldt
<u>CHALICE</u>	Deb Jenson	Fred Ellis	Joann Ellis	Jody Langfeldt	Jim Mertens
<u>INTERCESSOR</u>	Fred Ellis	Joann Ellis	Jim Mertens	Dan Hilbert	Sue Hilbert
<u>READER</u>	Joann Ellis Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 2:15-21 Psalm 8	Dan Hilbert Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	Fred Ellis 1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20) Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Sue Hilbert Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62: 6-14 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1:14-20	Dave Drexler Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28
<u>USHER</u>	Dave & Cori Drexler	Bob & Linda Zamzow	Fred & Phyllis Ecklor	Bob & Marsha Horne	Jerry & Marie Frank



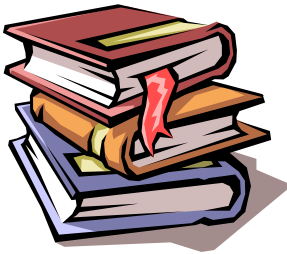
Dear Lord,

So far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I'm very thankful for that.

But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed. And from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more HELP.

Amen

Submitted by Bette Mertens

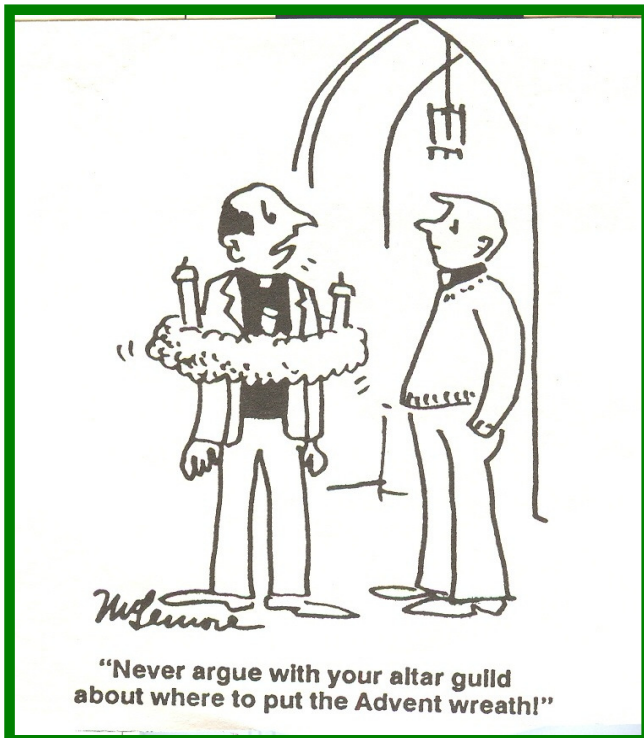


BOOK REVIEW ~ “*A Dictionary for Episcopalians*” by John N. Wall

I have this book in my personal library if anyone is interested in checking it out.

ACOLYTE ~ Lay person who assists in worship by carrying the processional cross or crucifix, lighting and extinguishing candles, holding a torch at the reading of the gospel, helping with the presentation of the bread, wine, and gifts of the people, and assisting the deacon or priest in the preparation of the altar for communion.

BISHOP ~ The chief sacramental officer of the Episcopal Church, and the office that gives that church its name. The Greek word for bishop is *episcopos*, “overseer”; the name of the Episcopal Church thus means that it is a church with bishops. Diocesan bishops are the chief pastors for their dioceses, entrusted with safeguarding the teaching and faith of the church and with special offices of ordination and confirmation. They are required to visit all the parishes and missions in their dioceses at regular intervals, preside at diocesan conventions, and assume administration oversight of their dioceses. In the Episcopal Church there are six kinds of bishops: The Presiding Bishop, diocesan bishops, bishop coadjutors, suffragan bishops, assistant bishops, and retired bishops.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

On Sunday, December 18th, after our liturgy, we will continue with “The Hanging of the Greens”, preparing our sanctuary and nave for the joyful celebration of the birth of our Lord. Please join the Altar Guild, Vestry members, and our rector for this joyful, festive, and reverent adornment of our church for Christmas!

Cartoon Submitted by Maryann Kenitz

45 LESSONS OF LIFE Written By Regina Brett, 90 years old, of The Plain Dealer, Cleveland , Ohio

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.





Poinsettias for Christmas ~ We will be decorating our church for Christmas Season with poinsettias and garlands. If you wish to remember loved ones by contributing to this fund, please fill out the information below and return this form and your check to St. Mark's, either by mail or by placing in the Offering Plate by December 18th. Thanks!



I wish to give \$ _____ toward the purchase of poinsettias and garlands.

In Memory of: _____

Other reason: _____

My Name: _____



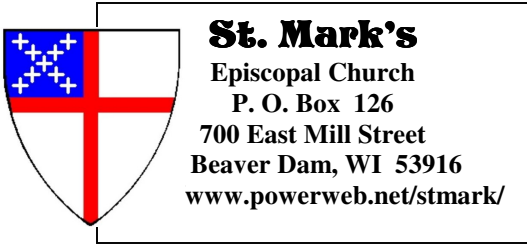
Give the Gifts that Keep on Giving!!



It's Christmas time:Buy Holiday Scrip! Do you give gifts to your paper delivery person, US Mail delivery person, your hairdresser or barber, how about the boss or a friend. How about a scrip card? We have hundreds to choose from. We have a list of all national scrip available to us. The cards can be used nationally so you can include all your family and friends. Besides groceries and gas stations we have restaurants, movie theaters, bookstores, airlines and department stores. ~ Your Scrip Committee

Gifts for People Who Have Everything! (and really: that's all of us...) ~ consider a gift to our own Haiti Project in the name of your loved one. --what a wonderful way to celebrate our Lord's birth! There is an important gift catalogue: Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) on the table in the Narthex. ERD offers the opportunity to give your loved ones the gift of life, health and hope to those less fortunate than we are: a flock of chickens, a pig, a goat, a colony of bees, a mosquito net, education opportunities.





ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee
<http://www.diomil.org>



SAVE THE DATES ~ Mark your calendars!



Saturday, December 10th

8:00 a.m.

Annual Cookie Sale

Dec 11, 2011

Vestry Meeting

10:30 a.m.

Dec 18, 2011

Greening of the Church

After 9:00 a.m. Service

December 24, 2011

Christmas Eve Service

6:00 P.M. Christmas Carols

7:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist

December 25, 2011

Christmas Day Service

9:00 Holy Eucharist

