



The Gryphon's Roar



October 2007

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
3100 Murfreesboro Pike
Antioch, Tennessee 37013
P.O. Box 741
Antioch, Tennessee 37011-0741
615-361-4100

"We at St. Mark's are on a journey seeking God in you, ourselves and all creation"

Weekly Schedule

Sundays	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	9:15 AM	Sunday school
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist
2 nd Sunday	9:00 AM	Breakfast – Sept. - May
Wednesdays	6:30 PM	Centering Prayer
	7:00 PM	Choir
Fridays	8:00 PM	AA Meeting
Saturdays	8:00 AM	Centering Prayer

The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt	Bishop of Tennessee
The Reverend Battle Beasley	Rector
The Reverend Rob Courtney	Priest Associate
Frank Brannon, M. Div.	Pastoral Care Coordinator
Andrea Tucker	Senior Warden
George Noren	Junior Warden
Charles Cross & Les Worsley	Treasurers
Judy Robnett	Clerk of the Vestry

Next month deadline for submissions is Sunday, October 21, 2007
Gryphon submissions to: submitgryphon@aol.com

St. Mark's Vestry:

Suzie Abrahamson, Jim Johnson, George Kurz (2009)
Mary Ann Campbell, George Noren, Cheryl Walker (2008)
Steven Failor, Herb Sievers, Andrea Tucker (2007)



Dear people of God,

The time has come to talk about money again, that's right, its pledge card time. When Constantine converted to Christianity he demanded that all in his empire become Christians as well. His armies, as diverse as they were, were all marched into the nearest body of water and Baptized in mass. It is said that so great was their belief in the power of Baptism to radically change the person, that the soldiers carried their weapons over their heads so that the weapons would not be influenced by their Baptism. I hope you will consider your wallets to be Baptized; that is, radically converted to the ministry of Jesus Christ. Once again I urge you to consider what you are able to JOYFULLY give to the support of our ministries here at St. Mark's.

Peace,
Battle +

St. Mark's Abbreviated Financial Report
August 2007

	Budgeted	Actual
Total Receipts	\$12,416.67	\$11,546.07
Total Expenses	\$12,416.67	\$14,561.32

Account Balances:	
Operating Account	\$48,317.53
Designated Funds	\$33,566.43
Memorial Endowment	\$3,803.24

A full financial report is on the bulletin board in Reynolds Hall. If you have questions, please speak to the Rector, Senior Warden, or the Treasurer.

Provided by Charles Cross, Treasurer

There is a short distance between the womb and tomb – make the most of the time God gives you.
Tallahassee Democrat

THE JOY OF LEARNING

The start of our new Atrium year has been very rewarding. Class members this year include Zella, Sofia, Cash, Shelby, and Ava. Lessons the children have received include: Orientation to the Classroom, The Good Shepherd lesson, The Ten Best Ways, The Prayer Table, The Altar, Cutting work, Pouring work, The Liturgical Colors and Chasuble lesson. It is always a privilege and a blessing to work with and observe the children. I learn so much through them.

It was also a pleasure to show the Bishop around our classroom. Without the support of the entire parish we would not have a place in which to grow.

Feel free to observe as you pass by our walls. Watch for the deep focus as the children work. Watch for their independence and self-sufficiency. Watch for the look of joy on their faces when they accomplish a task on their own, without the "help" of an adult.

One of the major admonishments Maria Montessori had for adults when it came to children was that we are always disturbing them when they are at work. Even after fifteen years of Montessori, I find myself interrupting the focus of children by talking to them ("helping") while they are working. When we inject ourselves into a child's work, focus is interrupted and the work is often abandoned. By restraining ourselves and just observing, we serve the children best. In the Atrium, God and the children are interacting and we must step back and let them guide us.

I look forward to meeting your young (2 1/2 through K) children and introducing them to this spiritual environment developed to help them to "know God by themselves".

Peace and love, Gretchen



2008 Documentary Project In Ecuador

Our Diocese has had an offer from our very own Bob Clendening to create a documentary of the work being done in Ecuador by the Tennessee Companion Diocese Program.

In order for this project to occur, **we need YOUR help!** Bob is donating his time but we need to cover all other expenses, including the rental of the professional grade camera equipment. **Our goal is to raise \$7000 by January 15, 2008.** (see budget below)

In order to contribute to this project, **please make checks out to: "The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee", and show "OE-Ecuador Documentary" in the "for" line.**

Here is our estimated budget for a 7-day trip:

Expenses for both photographer and translator (in Ecuador)

Food	\$280
Lodging	\$600
Land Transportation	\$490
Photographer's Airfare	\$850
Translator (Ecuador)	\$200
Photography Equipment	\$3316

Cost yet to be determined –

- Rental of microphone boom and light set while in Ecuador
- Travel insurance to cover photography equipment
 - Post-production Translator (USA)

Estimated Grand Total \$7000



TIME TO CELEBRATE



October Birthdays

Rebecca Simpson	5
John Seufert	9
Herb Sievers	13
Amanda Crouch	14
Pauline Hall	15
William Udeh	15
Latasha Williams	15
Eileen Cardwell	17
Suzanne Lindsey	18
Bobby Jackson	19
Linda ClenDening	20
Richard Hardison	26
Sharon Rice	28
Peggy Tucker	29

October Anniversaries

Steven Failor & Melanie Pafford-Failor	10, 1992
Cathey & Gene Gwyn	20, 2001
Jim & Beverly Hargrove	8, 2005

New Address

Linda Nye, PO Box 8102, Ashville, NC 28814, now serving as Deacon Associate at Grace Episcopal Church in Ashville, NC, will be Priest Associate when she is ordained on December 15, 2007. She has invited all to attend her ordination. You can read her card which will be posted on the board in Reynold's Hall.

Confirmations and Receptions

Congratulations to all those who were confirmed or received on September 9th when Bishop Bauerschmidt visited St. Mark's.

Confirmed:

Amy Dimond
Beverly Hargrove
Rachel Robnett
Andie Scott

Received:

Lynn Kauppi

Membership Transfers

Transferring In –

Marty O'Reilly from Grace Church & St. Stephen's, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Ron Balcarras, Eileen and Clayton Cardwell, and Steve and Gail Johnson from St. Philip's, Nashville; and

Justine Parker-Jones from Church of the Good Shepherd, Brentwood.

We extend a warm St. Mark's welcome to all of our new members.

Thanks

Our sincere thanks to Holly and Kate Granger for organizing the festive reception honoring Bishop Bauerschmidt, and those who were confirmed and received.

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 6, 2007 – 2:00 p.m.

Bring your dogs, cats, birds (in cages), snakes, turtles, or whoever your best friends are. All will be blessed.



Connections

The *Cross & Crozier* has been replaced by the new diocesan publication *Connections*. Please subscribe to *Connections* as follows:

Receiving *Connections* - three ways, your choice.

Online Edition: *Connections* is posted on the Diocesan Website for viewing, reading, or printing! Visit www.episcopaldiocese-tn.org for the Online Edition of *Connections*. Past issues will be archived.

Email Updates: If you would like to be added to the Diocesan Email Distribution List, visit the Diocesan Website and subscribe. A reminder will be sent to you when the latest *Connections* is posted.

Print Subscription: If you do not have internet capabilities, or you simply prefer the Print Edition of *Connections*, call the Diocesan Office at 615-251-3322 to subscribe. *Connections* will be mailed to your home.

If you previously subscribed to the *Cross & Crozier*, please re-subscribe using one of the methods above.

GOOD INFORMATION IF YOU USE THE INTERNET

Google has implemented a new feature which enables you to type a telephone number into the search bar and hit enter and you will be given the person's name and address. If you then hit Map Quest, you will get a map to the person's house. Everyone should be aware of this! It's a nationwide reverse telephone book.

If a child gives out his/her phone number, someone can now look it up to find out where he/she lives. The safety issues are obvious and alarming.

Note that you can have your phone number removed or blocked. I tried my number and it came up along with the Map Quest and directions straight to our house. I did fill out the removal form for myself and encourage all of you to do the same. Quite scary.

Please look up your own number. In order to test whether your phone number is mapped, go to: Google (<http://www.google.com/>) Type your phone number in the search bar (i.e.> 555-555-1212) and hit enter. If you want to BLOCK Google from divulging your private information, simply click on your telephone number and then click on the Removal Form. Removal takes 48-hours. Check your own number and although this may not apply to you if you have an unlisted number or cell phone as primary contact, but you may know someone who needs to know this.

Intermediate Class Plans Halloween Party

The Intermediate Sunday School Class is planning a Halloween Party to be hosted by the youth for the younger children of St Marks (and their parents) and those in the community.

Date: Saturday October 27th late afternoon. We are planning several fun activities - Apple Bobbing, Face Painting, Pumpkin Painting, Ball Toss, and Cookie Decorating. Additionally, we'll have popcorn balls, caramel apples, pumpkin cupcakes, cookies and drinks. Please mark your calendar!

For more information, contact Iva Kurz (868-5099)
or Valerie Drake (944-8957)

AFTER WE'RE GONE

What will the world be like for our descendants? Everywhere we look today we see articles and television programs on global warming and how the world in which we live is ever changing. Just yesterday I saw an article on line stating that by the year 2040 much of the coastline will be gone due to the rising ocean waters. I had an environmental science class earlier this year which really opened my eyes to just how much "output" we have. We live in a throw away world: the new Swiffer mop-when you're done, throw away the cloth. The trash cans we put out on trash day keep getting bigger. Light pollution has gotten so bad, we can't see the stars anymore. There is so much traffic, it takes twice as long to get downtown than it did when I first came here 11 years ago.

Where this is leading is to a letter that I received from Greg Hall on conservation. He has actually sent me several. He is offering ways in which each and every one of us can contribute on a daily basis to the conservation of our precious non-renewable resources: water, electric, air, etc. Beginning next month I will be publishing his ideas on conservation. I would like to challenge everyone to think about everything that comes into your home and everything that goes out. How much do you waste? I had planned to start the series this month, but ran out of room.

CENTERING PRAYER

Beginning on Saturday, October 13, our Centering Prayer group will be embarking on a journey through the *Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton* series. We will begin with the small group experience of the first book of the series, "Entering the School of Your Experience" and end with a 20 minute period of Centering Prayer. We will begin at 8:00 am and end no later than 9:30 am. If you have wanted to join us for Centering Prayer but have not yet done so, this may be something that will draw you in. The books are \$5.95 and are available through Ave Maria Press and Amazon to name two. The website for Ave Maria Press is www.avemariapress.com. I will be glad to order a book for you; just let me know through e-mail (Gret8ch@aol.com) or by phone (794-6720). A sample of the book is available in PDF from Ave Maria Press also. Please join us for our newest endeavor to enhance our spiritual journey.

Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton is a small group resource that is ideally suited for groups with four to ten members. Best described as a tool for spiritual development, Bridges invites participants on a journey toward spiritual transformation and a more contemplative and peace-filled life. Thomas Merton sought for himself and also encouraged others to pursue ongoing spiritual transformation and a life of contemplation. This series is carefully designed to lead participants into a holistic process of growth toward these two goals. While Bridges uses Merton's writings as a starting point, it seeks above all else to mine the life experience and spiritual depths of those who use it. The series' format and themes are based on key principals from Merton's thought:

- Our everyday life is our spiritual life.
- It is every person's primary vocation to be fully human, aware of who we are and how we relate to others.
- Our spiritual formation cannot take place in isolation. It is grounded in the experience of relationships and community.
- Personal transformation is the foundation for societal and cultural transformation.

The eight booklets of the Bridges series each offer an introduction to Merton and contemplative living, prayers, readings from Merton and other spiritual writers, and questions for contemplative dialogue. Booklet themes express Merton's vision of spirituality as lived experience:

1. Entering the School of Your Experience
2. Becoming Who You Already Are
3. Living Your Deepest Desires
4. Discovering the Hidden Ground of Love
5. Traveling Your Road to Joy
6. Writing Yourself into the Book of Life
7. Adjusting Your Life's Vision
8. Seeing That Paradise Begins Now

The booklets provide the basis for small group dialogue, leading participants progressively deeper into spiritual reflection and contemplative living. Contemplative living is a way of listening and responding to our everyday experiences by consciously attending to our relationships with self, others, God, and all of nature. The goal of contemplative living is not merely the personal fulfillment of those who pursue it. Its ultimate goal is a global society that is profoundly just and at peace, as God intended it to be.

Each series' booklet contains eight sessions that are based on one reading from Merton paired with another on the same theme from a different spiritual writer. Each session begins with a Psalm passage and ends in prayer. In between, there is time for spiritual reading, reflection, and contemplative dialogue.

Hope to see you on October 13. Peace, Gretchen

Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Classes

Below, you will find the dates and locations for upcoming prevention of sexual misconduct classes. These classes are open to all, but there are some people who are required to attend. All adults who are teaching a children's Sunday school class or are working in the nursery are required to attend one of these classes. Also, all members of the Vestry are also required to attend.

You can call the diocesan office (251-3322) to sign up.

January 12, 2008, 9am-3pm, St Ann's Nashville
April 12, 2008, 9am-3pm, St Paul's Murfreesboro
June 21, 2008, 9am-3pm, Holy Trinity Nashville

October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	2	3 Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00 Choir 7:00 pm	4	5 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	6 Quiet Day 8 am -Noon 2:00 PM Blessing of the Animals
7 PENTECOST XIX	8 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	9	10 Choir 7:00 pm	11	12 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	13 Centering Prayer 8:00 AM
14 PENTECOST XX	15 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	16	17 Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00 Choir 7:00 pm	18	19 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	20 Centering Prayer 8:00 AM
21 PENTECOST XXI	22 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	23	24 Choir 7:00 pm	25	26 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	27 Centering Prayer 8:00 AM Youth Halloween Party - afternoon
28 PENTECOST XXII Stewardship Drive ends	29 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	30	31 Choir 7:00 pm			

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