



# The Gryphon's Roar



December, 2009



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 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	9:00 AM	Breakfast – Sept. – May
Fridays	8:00 PM	AA Meeting
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	8:00 AM	Quiet Day



The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt	Bishop of Tennessee
The Reverend Battle Beasley	Rector
Frank Brannon, M. Div.	Pastoral Care Coordinator
George Kurz	Senior Warden
Gilbert Russ	Junior Warden
Charles Cross & Les Worsley	Treasurers
Leigh Pittenger	Clerk of the Vestry

Next month deadline for submissions is Sunday, December 20, 2009

**Gryphon submissions to: [submitgryphon@aol.com](mailto:submitgryphon@aol.com)**

### **St. Mark's Vestry:**

Greg Noren, Cyndy Fahnestock, Kate Granger	(2011)
Jim Hall, Suzanne Lindsey, Judy Robnett	(2010)
Suzie Abrahamson, George Kurz, Gilbert Russ	(2009)



**Father Battle's sermons are now available on the St. Mark's web site.**

Dear People of God,

December is here and we are fast approaching Christmas. Most of you know I'm a kinda bah humbug person during the season of Advent. While not entirely or maybe even remotely justifiable, it is because I want Advent to lead us into Christmas and not have the commercial Christmas overwhelm us. The season of Advent is all about expectation, preparing for the birth of a child! Now that's something every family gets excited about and prepares for. Part of our preparation is making space for this Child, to open up our hearts to let our love and joy and care shine through and manifest themselves in our daily living. During the season of Advent we might take as our guide words from our Baptismal Covenant, that we will "seek Christ in all persons loving our neighbors as ourselves", and there are so many ways for us to express this seeking, this preparing in concrete ways. We could volunteer for room in the inn, or at 2nd harvest. We could make the effort to reach out to neighbors perhaps especially the single folks or elderly and invite them over for a meal and some fellowship. We could volunteer to be a Salvation Army bell ringer or at St. Luke's community house. There are folks in our church who would love to have a visit simply to catch up on your news and the life of St. Mark's. So if I seem a little bah humbug you are welcomed to remind me to brighten up with joyful expectation and "seek the Christ" in all who we meet.

Peace,  
Battle +



**Contact us:**

St. Mark's Website – <http://www.stmarksantioch.org>  
The Reverend Battle Beasley via email:  
[stmarksrector@bellsouth.net](mailto:stmarksrector@bellsouth.net) or  
[pathwayspartners@yahoo.com](mailto:pathwayspartners@yahoo.com)

The Gryphon is St. Mark's Newsletter and as such welcomes articles and suggestions from ALL parishioners. This is your venue for expressing thoughts you would like to share, important events in your families' lives, and suggestions you might have to make our parish life better. Please do not hesitate to use it.

Lorna

## Calendar

Dec 5 - 1:00 pm put out marker flags showing possible driveway  
Dec 6 - Parish Annual meeting & election - Advent 2  
Dec 11 - (Friday) Room at the Inn - need volunteers for Inn Keepers & food  
Dec 13 - 2nd Sunday for 2nd Harvest  
Dec 13 - "Wrap Party" for sponsored Adopt-A-Families (after church)  
Dec 14 - Deliver wrapped gifts to St. Luke's (need help with transport)  
Dec 17 - Vestry - election of Sr. & Jr. Wardens for 2010  
Dec 20 - Greening of the Church after 10:30 service  
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve - Holy Eucharist at 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.  
Dec 25 - Christmas Day - Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.  
Jan 3 or 10 - Install new vestry members

### **Vestry person responsible for Sunday lock up:**

12/6/09 - G. Kurz  
12/13/09 - C. Fahnestock  
12/20/09 - S. Abrahamson  
12/27/09 - J. Robnett

## To St. Mark's Family

Norm and I would like to thank all of you for the help and loving support you have given us. We also are thankful for all the prayers you have sent our way. We love you all. Thanks be to God!!!

Ann Baker

## Vestry 101

We will have our annual parish meeting on Sunday 6 December 2009 starting at 9:00 am between the two services. One of our key duties is to elect three new people to serve on the vestry. If you have never served on a vestry, you may wonder what is involved with that service. At various times, people have questions about the duties of the vestry and how those duties are separate from - but support the rector. First, the vestry - with the priest - is charged with leading an individual congregation in ministry! This is a joint ministry. Our mission and our covenant are clearly stated in the Book of Common Prayer. However, some of the roles or duties of the vestry and the clergy for accomplishing our mission are different. A brief outline follows, which was extracted from the latest guidance manual for vestries from the National Church:

### Responsibilities of the clergy (Title III Canon 9)

- Worship & spiritual life
- Selection & oversight of assisting clergy
- Use and control of all buildings & furnishings
- Education of all ages in the Scriptures, doctrine, discipline & worship of the Church
- Stewardship education
- Preparation for Baptism, Confirmation Reception & Reaffirmation
- Announce Bishop's visit with the wardens & vestry - provide the Bishop with information about the congregation
- Apply the "open plate" offering from one Eucharist a month for charitable uses
- Read communications from the House of Bishops at worship
- Record all Baptisms, Marriages, Confirmations, and Burials in the church register.

### Responsibilities of the Vestry

- Be agents and legal representatives of the congregation, sign contracts, etc.
- Ensure that standard business methods will be used; develop budgets, salary decisions, etc.
- Assure continuation of worship in absence of priest
- Nominate persons for Holy Orders

### Joint Responsibilities

- Articulate (state and explain) the congregation's mission
- Ensure effective congregational planning
- Ensure adequate resources and effective stewardship
- After discerning mission - establish and monitor programs and services to accomplish that mission
- Communicate with the congregation
- Communicate about the church at large
- Communicate with the wider community
- Assessing the Vestry's ministry

Two tools used by the vestry (and the clergy) are Leadership and Management. These are distinctly different, but they must work together. Management strives to attain stability, order and efficiency.

Leadership strives for "Change with and for a purpose". The following terms are characteristic of these two functions.

#### Leadership:

Envision  
Engage  
Empower  
Energize  
Exemplify

#### Management:

Planning  
Organizing  
Staffing  
Control-Monitoring

Sometimes this is frustrating to people. They may ask, "What does this have to do with Ministry or loving God, or Evangelism, or helping those in need, etc.?" One way to think is that these are the tools (the means) to help us accomplish those objectives. As an example, for our congregation, I think most people would agree that we do not want St. Marks to be a business. However, the people on the vestry direct how money is spent and how resources are used. Therefore, there must be accountability. We are not a business, but I think most of us expect our leaders to conduct the work of the church in a "business-like" fashion - and do it in a way to incorporate the mission and the covenant of the church.

While these positions are open to all qualified members, these responsibilities and roles may not be for everyone. This is not a criticism. St. Paul pointed out that different people were given different talents. He did not say that one kind of talent made a person better than another person. Instead, I feel that he was encouraging all of us to look within - to discern our talents, then apply them appropriately to building God's Kingdom. I encourage you to review the Vestry handbook to determine if you are called for this service. If you are not, then there are many other parts of our parish life where your talents may be applied and I hope that you will embrace those opportunities.

Faithfully,  
George Kurz

### Many Thanks

Many thanks to Kate Granger and everyone that assisted her in a successful INTERNATIONAL OCTOBER FALL FEST.

Many thanks to the Daughters of the King for organizing the nursery closet, updating the ladies dressing room, organizing the janitor's closet, and planning and serving the Bishop's reception

Many thanks to Zella and Ava for escorting Bishop Bauerschmidt to the altar on a rose petal carpet.

Last but not least, thanks to the Daughters of the King for giving the red stole to the church in honor of my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the congregation for the chasuble to complement the stole.

Pauline Hall

## A Point of View

There was a recent flap in the news media because someone proposed translating the Bible in a way that would promote a certain religious and socio-political position. So, what else is new? Note John 20:31 where it is written that "...these (signs) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God", a rather straightforward agenda push, I would say.

Whenever we read the Bible in anything but the original Hebrew and Greek we are reading a translation, and every translation is an interpretation, religious, socio-political, or whatever, and is arbitrary, because the translator has to choose which word, in his/her judgment, best translates the original. Note, e.g., Genesis 2:7 which tells us that humanity is created from the "dust" of the earth, although 2:6 tells us that "a mist (or flood) went up and watered the whole face of the ground." How dusty can it be? Consider also that the Hebrew word "apar" which is translated "dust" really means "a lump of dirt," or "a clod of earth," or "clay," or similar words. Perhaps the translator is trying to tell us something about the evanescence of human life in the choice of "dust"? It is also interesting to note that "apar" isn't always translated "dust". See Nehemiah 4:2 and 4:10 and guess which twice-occurring word translates "apar." Remember that the King James Version of the Bible is a British English translation, and "dust" doesn't mean what it means in American English.

By the way, have you noticed that in many movies about the Bible the actors often speak with British accents? This, too, is an interpretation. In the November 7 issue of the Tennessean there is a long article about the recording of all of the books of the KJV of the Bible, and whose voice is the voice of God? A British actor's. A British accent ostensibly endows anything spoken with class, elegance, dignity, authority, et al... This is why we have an anthropomorphic lizard selling insurance with a British accent.

In an English Bible from the early 11<sup>th</sup> century there is in Matthew 17:13 the Anglo-Saxon work "Leorningcnihtas", meaning "learning knight", translating the Greek word "mathetes". Bibles in the last third of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, however, translate the Greek word "discipuli" which eventually became disciples", meaning "those who are taught", or "pupils", or "students". The change came about because in 1066 the Normans, speaking a Latin based language, invaded and conquered England, and Latin replaced Anglo-Saxon English, the language of a defeated, subject people, as the acceptable language of the Bible, and meanings changed along with the linguistic change. Even into the early years of the reign of Henry VIII (1509 – 1547) it was against the law to print the Bible in English.

There is much, much more exemplary material on translations beyond this scratching of the surface for those interested, but in spite of any linguistic acrobatics, no harm is done to the basic truth of Holy Scripture. God still reigns, and Jesus is still Lord. HALLELUJA!!

Jim Hall



I grew up in a home where church was a way of life. My father was a Methodist minister and then later, an Episcopal priest. We always lived close to the church; one time across the street, and attended all the church functions and services. It was a way of life that I took for granted. I think the way that I sometimes took God for granted.

During my young adult life my church attendance came & went but whenever I was in trouble I always believed that it was God that pulled me through. And then later in life my children caused me to marvel at the mystery of God and helped to restore my faith. The following is a true story that I would like to share with you. I hope it will help to strengthen your faith.

*I was driving home from work one winter afternoon when my young daughter started rolling the car window down. As the cold air started filling the car I scolded, "Close that pneumonia hole!" She informed me that she was talking to God. I was taken aback. I hadn't really talked much about God with her. "The window doesn't have to be open much for God to hear you", I replied. So she rolled the window up but left about 2 inches open at the top. She sat quietly beside me as we continued toward home. In a few minutes I saw her softly kiss her hand and then blow the kiss toward the crack in the window. She then rolled the window up and closed that "pneumonia hole".*

I wrote this down later because I did not want to forget that special moment. I read it from time to time when I need to remind myself that I should take a few minutes wherever I am and have my own conversation with God.

Submitted by Judy Robnett



# CELEBRATE



## December Birthdays

Candy Burger	1
Kathy Barney	7
Holly Granger	7
Gail Leverett	7
Tanya Garrett	8
Andrea Tucker	10
Greg Hall	20
Carey Hardison	21
Edward Emesibe	22
Colin Jackson	30
Matthew Tantaris	31

## Thank You

Our sincere thanks to Pauline Hall and  
The Daughters of the King for organizing  
the festive reception honoring Bishop Bauerschmidt,  
the newly baptized, and those who were confirmed.

## December Anniversaries

Bertrand & Joyleen Crawford – December 20, 1989

Peggy & Bert Tucker - December 19, 1970

Janet Turner-McDonald and Dale McDonald – December 30, 2000

## Recent Baptisms

Henry James Ditinno, son of Keith and Heather Ditinno; Chase Wayne Walls, son of Rachel Robnett and Travis Walls; Lori Elizabeth Gross, and Keylee Ray Gross, son of Lori Gross. Let us welcome the newly baptized into the household of God.

## Confirmations

Congratulations to Lori Gross, Tim West, Journey Button-Hale, Gilbert Russ, and Lillian Russ who were confirmed on November 22<sup>nd</sup> when Bishop Bauerschmidt visited St. Mark's.

## Church Directory Update

It is time to update St. Mark's directory. Please review the information listed in the current directory for accuracy: spelling of names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers. Please make sure that your children's names are listed.

Please submit corrections and new information to Pat Worsley at [lhworsley@comcast.net](mailto:lhworsley@comcast.net), or [stmarksantioch@bellsouth.net](mailto:stmarksantioch@bellsouth.net). Your assistance in keeping this information accurate is much appreciated.

## **Bless a Family in Need!**

St. Mark's is adopting two families for Christmas this year. The deadline for all items or money donated is Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a **WRAPPING PARTY** after the 10:30 service that Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, so please stay after to help wrap the gifts for the families if you can.

Here are the details for the members of each family, if you can wrap them before dropping them at church, this would be a great help. Just make sure to label the gifts with the family's number and the name of the family member you want it to go to.

Example:

To: Maria (family #224)

From: your family at St. Mark's

### **Family #224**

**Maria Murillo** – Age 27, Favorite Colors: Red and Pink, Shirts size: Large, Pants: 11-13, Shoes: size 8  
Jacket: Black or white size L. Wish list: upright vacuum, comforter for queen size bed (Blue), gift cards to Wal-Mart or Target, blender. Dream item: video camera

**Miguel Casillas** – Age 22, Favorite Colors: Red, Black and Green, Shirt size: Medium, Pants: 30 x 32, Shoes: 8 1/2, Jacket: Black or Blue Medium, Favorite Theme: Mechanics. Wish list: Tools to work on his car, fragrance for men, electric razor, gift cards to Wal-Mart. Dream item: Plasma TV

**Marc Boites** – Age 9, Favorite Color: Blue, Red or Black, Favorite Theme: Transformers, shirt: size 12, pants: size 12, shoes: size 3, jacket: 12. Wish list: clothing, transformers toys, hot wheels and roads, scooter or bicycle. Dream item: Wii or Xbox 360

**Yamileth Casillas** – Age 1 (female), favorite colors: pink, purple and white, Shirts/pants: 12-18, months, Shoes: 4 to 5, Wishes: gift cards for diapers (Wal-Mart), educational toys that make noise, dolls, stroller for doll, car seat (used is ok). Dream Item: Whisper Ride Buggy

### **Family #229**

**Rachel Quinn** – age 20, Favorite Colors: Blue, shirts/coat/underwear: 3x, pants: 28, wish list: movie tickets, art supplies, target gift card, restaurant gift cards. Dream item: bike

**Samuel Quinn** – age 23, Favorite Color: Pink, Shirt/coats: 2x, pants: 38-40, shoes: size 12, wish list: 4<sup>th</sup> fast and furious DVD, shirts, jeans, shoes. Dream item: portable CD player

**Samuel Quinn Jr.** – age 1, clothes – 15 months, wish list: diapers and wipes, car seat, toys (age appropriate). Dream item: leap frog games/toys

**Caleb Quinn** – arriving November 2009, needs: crib/bassinet, diapers and wipes, stroller, baby bathtub

If you do not have time to shop but want to donate to this cause, you can place a check in the offering plate with "St. Luke's" in the memo, or give a check to me when you see me at church. This is such a great way to reach out locally to the families in need. Thank you for your support!

Peace,

Kate Granger

# December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00  Choir 7:00 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM	<b>5</b> Quiet Day 8:00 - Noon
<b>6</b> ADVENT II Parish Annual Meeting 9:00 AM  AA Meeting 5:00 PM	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Choir 7:00 PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM  Room-In-The- Inn	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> ADVENT III 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Wrap party  AA Meeting 5:00 PM	<b>14</b> Deliver gifts to St. Luke's	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00  Choir 7:00 PM	<b>17</b> Vestry meeting 6:30 PM Election of Wardens	<b>18</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> ADVENT IV Healing Service Greening of Church AA Meeting 5:00 PM	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Choir 7:00 PM	<b>24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE Eucharist at 4:00 PM and 10:30 PM	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS Eucharist at 11:00 AM  AA Meeting 8:00 PM	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> CHRISTMAS I  AA Meeting 5:00 PM	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> No Choir	<b>31</b>		

**2009**



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Address Correction Requested