



The Gryphon's Roar



January, 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 nd Sunday	9:00 AM	Breakfast – Sept. – May
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Fridays	8:00 PM	AA Meeting
Saturdays	8:00 AM	Centering Prayer

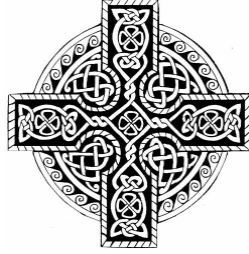
The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt	Bishop of Tennessee
The Reverend Battle Beasley	Rector
Frank Brannon, M. Div.	Pastoral Care Coordinator
George Kurz	Senior Warden
Vacant	Junior Warden
Charles Cross & Les Worsley	Treasurers
Vacant	Clerk of the Vestry

Next month deadline for submissions is Sunday, January 18, 2009
Gryphon submissions to: submitgryphon@aol.com

St. Mark's Vestry:

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR



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

Dear People of God,

As we move from Christmas into the season of Epiphany I've been thinking about the story of the Wise men. They bring gifts fit for a King. During Advent we prepared ourselves to receive Jesus once more into our hearts, transforming our lives, renewing our journey with God. At Christmas we celebrate the receiving of His gift of Himself to us. As we travel into Epiphany we might well ask ourselves what Gifts do we have to offer Jesus. What gifts worthy of a King do we have to offer Jesus: The gift of charity towards others, perhaps the gift of hospitality to the homeless by participating through Room in the Inn? Do we have the gift of forgiveness to offer to those who have wounded us or those we love? We each have gifts, gifts that God has given us, and in this season of Light we'd be wise to share those gifts with the children of God and thus with Jesus.

Peace,
Battle +



DATES TO REMEMBER

4 January – Fr. Battle absent
9 January – Room at the Inn
11 January – 2nd Sunday Breakfast hosted by the Daughters of the King; and 2nd Sunday for Second Harvest
11 January – Vestry installation
15 January – Vestry meeting
23-24 January – Tennessee Annual Convention

15 February – (possible) Harriet Beecher Stowe - presentation
16 February (All Saints Smyrna) – required for new vestry - "prevention of Sexual Misconduct, etc." - if not previously trained
24 February – Shrove Tuesday
25 February – Ash Wednesday – Imposition of Ashes 6:30 p.m.

Contact us:

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

The Gryphon is the newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church 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, suggestions you might have to make our parish life better. Please do not hesitate to use it.

Lorna

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Time to Celebrate



January Birthdays

Kayla Jackson	8
Journey Button-Hale	10
Parker ClenDening	10
Jeff Miller	16
Dean Meyer	17
Steven Failor	21
Donna Floyd	28

Marriage Announcements

Congratulations and best wishes to the following couples who were recently joined in Holy Matrimony -Tammie Spears and Hugh Stallings on Saturday, November 15th; and Tanya McLaughlin and Ken Garrett on Saturday, November 29th. We wish the happy couples many years of wedded bliss.



Vestry Update

At the Annual Meeting on 7 December, we elected three new members of the Vestry to serve through 2011. The new members are: Cynthia Fahnestock, Kate Granger, and Greg Noren. We welcome them and look forward to 2009 with a great team on board! We will conduct a formal installation on Sunday, 11 January 2009. As our new members step into their roles, we want to recognize and thank the three members whose terms are expiring: Mary Ann Campbell, George Noren, and Cheryl Walker. Mary Ann has been the liaison person for outreach programs and the Ecuador Committee. Cheryl has coordinated in-reach, especially with the Daughters of the King. George Noren has been Jr. Warden for the past two (quite eventful) years. On a physical level, these years were dominated by problems with the air conditioners – from the vandalism, break-in, and worn-out equipment. I will certainly miss each of our retiring vestry members. They have given valued and faithful service to our congregation. However, George Noren gave an extra measure which should be recognized.

Our Vestry retreat is planned for Saturday, 31 January 2009 at the Sister's of Mercy Convent. Over the past year, we had several projects and issues to address concerning the building and grounds at St. Mark's. There will always be areas for improvement and growth of our facilities. However, this next year, I am recommending that we focus on growth of (and within) people. That growth would include: spiritual development, evangelism, and Christian education. The purposes of the Vestry retreat will be to focus on our mission as part of God's Kingdom, and develop a strategy to implement that mission. As your elected leaders, we have the responsibility to come together and plan, from our collective experience within St. Mark's congregation. As one facet of that planning, I will recommend that we have an effective means for involving people who have signed up for various programs in the time & talent survey. I feel that it is important to recognize this as part of their offering and stewardship. If you have any ideas about this or other parts of our parish life in 2009, please speak to me or another person on the Vestry.

George Kurz,

Sr. Warden

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St. Mark's "Recipes and Reflections" a Bargain

Until they are gone (and there are fewer than 75 left), the St. Mark's cookbook, "Recipes and Reflections" will be offered for \$5 each. Buy three, and the cost is only \$10 for all three. Profits from the sale of the books will be donated to the Second Harvest Satellite Food Bank at neighboring Hamilton United Methodist Church. As you know, Second Harvest is experiencing a drop in donations along with an alarming increase in number of clients. Our neighbors need our help. So, buy a few books for family and friends (at a *great* price) and support a wonderful mission at the same time. The books are in Reynolds Hall; leave cash or check made out to St. Mark's (with "recipe book" written on the check). If you don't find them (maybe someone has bought all that were out), please contact Susie McEwen (don_sue73@tds.net or 793-6298) or Marcia Williams (MamBNA@comcast.net or 361-1945).

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ST. MARK'S OUTREACH

St. Mark's congregation has been generous with time, energy, financial gifts and contributions this year. Outreach focuses on physical needs as well as spiritual needs. The following have been budgeted and/or donated:

- Second Harvest Food Bank approximately 2,000 pounds of food, and \$3,190 in contributions
- Magdalene House and Thistle Farm - \$1,350
- Episcopal Relief and Development, fifth Sunday plate offering - \$1,957
- Rector's Discretionary Fund, first Sunday plate offering - \$5,000
- St. Luke's Community House - \$1,250
- Companion church, Santiago Apostol in La Pila, Ecuador - \$3,869
- Campus For Human Development - \$1,750

Volunteers from St. Mark staff and prepare food for Room in the Inn every second Friday during cold months. This is usually supper, breakfast, and lunches for fourteen people. The number of guests may vary with the cold.

St. Mark's makes its facilities available to AA, the Brain Club, and the Domestic Intervention Program. We thank our Heavenly Father for giving us the opportunity and means to help others. Pray and be ever mindful of both the physical and spiritual needs of the people around you.

Mary Ann Campbell, Vestry Outreach

Wanted - Nursery Worker
This is a paid position

St. Mark's is searching for a nursery worker to provide loving care for ages infant through 2 ½ years. Additional support will be coordinated through church member volunteers. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon every Sunday. This is a paid position. The successful applicant will be required to attend the Diocese's Child Abuse Prevention Class.

If you know of anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Becky Meyer at 366-1935 for further details

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PRAYER LIST

We ask you to remember our shuts-ins. Please hold them in your prayers during the week and not just on Sunday:

Marion Beasley
Rose Pinkard
Betty McKee

Greg Hall
Elijah Williams



Geothermal Power

By Greg Hall

Geothermal energy - literally heat from the earth - is a new and perhaps confusing concept for many Americans. For anyone familiar with cool basements in summer or who recalls root cellars being used to preserve fruits and vegetables, thoughts of heat from the earth probably seems unlikely. But folks have also passively used it to maintain steady temperatures year round in their earth sheltered homes.

If you've ever been to Mammoth Cave or Carlsbad Caverns; you know underground temps are chilly enough to require a jacket for comfort. That temperature holds steady around 55° F year round even at depths of only four or five feet. Remembering last summer's 100° plus days, it's easy to see how helpful this could be for cooling. So how do we move that temp into our houses?

The science behind heat pumps sees temperature as a measure of how much heat is available. We experience this as a comfort zone - too little heat and we shiver, too much heat and we swelter. A heat pump is designed to move or "pump" heat to the right place to make temps just right! Most heat pumps today are air source heat pumps because they move heat out of the air. In winter, however, there is often too little heat present for the machine to quickly heat our homes. This is why the air coming from the vents often feels so cold.

A geothermal or earth linked - or ground source - heat pump uses the earth itself or its ground water as the source. Compared to winter air temps in the 20°'s or 30°'s that steady 55° temperature suddenly appears to be a giant heat storage battery just waiting to be tapped. Who wouldn't prefer a walk in 55° weather compared to doing so at 25°? Air source heat pumps are at their optimal operating range in the 55° range; by using the most efficient heat pump equipment in this ground source scenario, we are putting it in its most efficient range so the unit doesn't have to work as hard to move as much heat as needed into our homes.

When air source heat pumps can't pull enough heat from our 20° to 30° middle Tennessee winter air, they automatically restart to expensive electric resistance heat strips. In effect, our heat pump suddenly becomes an electric furnace! That's like using gasoline to heat our homes - it'll work, but it takes so much and is so expensive to maintain a comfortable temp that it becomes prohibitively expensive. Geothermal heat pumps will never have to use those costly heat strips as a back up because that 55° heat battery is always available.

In summer, the heat pump reverses its cycle to remove heat from inside and dump it outside. Because heat always wants to move to a cooler area the air conditioning side of a ground source heat pump is much more efficient since heat dissipates more easily into the 55° ground temp than it does into the 90° to 100° outside temp of a normal Tennessee summer day. This allows our unit to run for less and work more efficiently when it does. It is not uncommon to heat and cool a 5000 square foot home for \$35 or less per month!

Using geothermal for utility power production uses the same principle - earth as a giant heat battery, but in a different heat range. Think of sites around the world where geothermal activity reaches

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the surface of the earth. Volcanic sites, geysers, natural hot springs and spas are magnificent displays of the power God created into this world. Without spoiling its world renown natural spas, Reykjavik, Iceland has for decades been using geothermal sources to not only produce electric power but also to heat all its buildings. The reliability is well proven.

In the U.S. geothermal is already in use with more sites under development, in sites throughout AZ, CA, CO, ID, NV, RO, VT, and WY where geothermal activity is near the surface. However, more sites are under development than are currently on line. Rest assured, nobody is proposing to tap the natural splendor of Yellowstone's geyser basin to make a few mega-watts of clean energy; instead it is the source of its beauty and splendor we seek to harness. And that is the earth's deep internal heat from its molten core.

Modern geothermal technology takes advantage of that heat - at a depth of 3 miles. Earth's temp is a constant 300° - plenty hot to instantly create steam for turbines to generate electric power. While three miles may seem extreme, this represents a virtually unending heat source.

The basic concept is to drill down to this hot level and inject high pressure water to create fractures in the rock in which the water heats to steam. Extraction wells are then drilled from which the steam is tapped to drive power turbines. Using present deep rock drilling technology to prove the concept the price of energy produced by this method ranges from an already competitive low of 10.3 cents per kwh to a high of \$1.05 per kwh depending on the drilling difficulty of each site. Improving technology specifically engineered to make the task easier promises prices in the 3.6 cent to 09.2 cent range!!

Another of the exciting beauty marks of this type of geothermal power is both its reliability and its availability. That 300° temp is constant worldwide and it does cool down at night allowing for around the clock power generation. Geothermal energy could provide 10% of our national needs if we would invest \$1 billion over the next 15 years. This represents less than the cost of one conventional coal fired plant. Since 2000 185 new coal fired plants have been proposed. Ten are now on line; thirty two are under construction, ninety others are in various stages of development. The need for action is urgent.

Considering that world population is expected to increase to 9 billion by mid century and our own needs are expected to increase by 40% in the same period, geothermal offers a very sensible and economical alternative to conventional power production. Major pluses exist for it as well.

By choosing among the many alternatives to fossil fuels we eliminate several liabilities. First since the majority of utility power comes from coal fired plants, we eliminate the need for more coal fuel. Secondly we eliminate acid rain from smog, asthma caused by particulate pollution, and mercury poisoning of air, water and food - all results from burning coal. Thirdly we eliminate the environmental damages of both surface and deep mining. And this is completely apart from the savings of greenhouse gases prevented by not burning more coal.

Individually we can make an impact by conscientiously improving our own energy usage which impacts demand. But we can do even more by lobbying our elected leaders to make energy independence a national priority asking them to end subsidies to the petroleum and nuclear industries and placing those subsidies behind clean and renewable energy. Backing green power with a portion of our retirement investments will also help these industries grow.

In the end it is going to be the economics of power production both in terms of purchase price for consumers and dollars expended in terms of new jobs created in new sectors of the economy as well as environmental costs avoided which determine our move to clean energy. Will we be like the rich man who decided to pull down his barns and build bigger ones (bigger and more coal fired plants)? As Jesus' parable of the talents reminds us - we are to be good stewards of the talents entrusted to us, in this case the creation.

Our decisions on this will determine the legacy our baby boom generation leaves for our children and grandchildren. Our posterity deserves as good an inheritance as we received from our forbearers.



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A Christian Reflection on the Proposed “English-First” Charter Amendment

by Leigh Pittenger

On Thursday, January 22, we Nashvillians will cast our votes on a proposed charter amendment that may profoundly affect the future of our city. The amendment is referred to as “English First” by its advocates. However, opponents refer to it as “English Only,” since it expressly prohibits city agencies from using any language *except for English* in its official communications. The amendment reads as follows:

“English is the official language of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee. Official actions which bind or commit the government shall be taken only in the English language, and all official government communications and publications shall be in English. No person shall have a right to government services in any other language. All meetings of the Metro Council, Boards, and Commissions of the Metropolitan Government shall be conducted in English. The Metro Council may make specific exceptions to protect public health and safety. Nothing in this measure shall be interpreted to conflict with federal or state law.”

The proposed amendment arouses the concern of many Christians (as well as representatives of other religious faiths) who desire our city to reflect the values that we cherish in our heritage—specifically, love for our neighbors and hospitality to the strangers among us. During the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we are especially mindful of the fact that our Lord Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for his family in the inn. Just as we would desire to offer hospitality to the Christ child, so we should seek to offer hospitality to the strangers in our midst.

The proposed amendment not only conveys an attitude of hostility rather than hospitality, but it is also likely to result in hurtful consequences. While many immigrants strive to learn English, language acquisition is a process that does not happen overnight. Meanwhile, immigrants need to know and understand our laws so that they do not become criminalized. Furthermore, immigrants and tourists need to receive necessary medical care. Although the proposed amendment includes the clause about “exceptions to protect public health and safety,” these exceptions are not defined, and we cannot rest assured that, if this amendment were to pass, adequate health care would be available to those who struggle to communicate their needs.

As Episcopalians, we express in our baptismal covenant the commitment to “seek and serve Christ in all persons.” Here at St. Mark’s, we take this commitment seriously, as demonstrated by our participation in the Room in the Inn program, our provision for Second Harvest, our outreach to the church in Ecuador, and many other meaningful projects. We live out of the conviction that by serving the “least of these,” we serve Christ himself.

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<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
January				1	2 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	3 Quiet Day 8:00-Noon
4 CHRISTMAS II Lock up: George Kurz	5 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm DOK 6:30	6 EPIPHANY	7 Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00 Choir 7:00	8	9 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	10 Centering prayer 8:00
11 EPIPHANY I 2 nd Sunday Breakfast Lock up: Fr. Jim Hall	12 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	13	14 Choir 7:00 pm	15 Vestry Meeting 6:30 PM	16 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	17 Centering prayer 8:00
18 EPIPHANY II Lock up: Judy Robnett	19 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	20	21 Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00 Choir 7:00 pm	22	23 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	24 Centering prayer 8:00
25 EPIPHANY III Lock up: Suzanne Lindsey	26 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	27	28 Choir 7:00 pm	29	30 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	31 Centering prayer 8:00

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Address Correction Requested

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