



# The Gryphon's Roar



March, 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
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
Gilbert Russ	Junior Warden
Charles Cross & Les Worsley	Treasurers
Currently Vacant	Clerk of the Vestry

Next month deadline for submissions is Sunday, March 22, 2009  
**Gryphon submissions to: [submitgryphon@aol.com](mailto:submitgryphon@aol.com)**

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

Greg Noren, Cindy Fahnstock, 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,

During the season of Lent I will be offering a class on contemplative prayer Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. We will use 3 different forms of contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer is simply trying to quiet the mind in order to be available for God. We will use Lectio Divina, praying with scripture, praying with Icons and walking the labyrinth. Each of these forms has a different way of leading us into silence. Each emphasizes a different aspect of what distracts us from paying attention to God. They each invite us to be present in the moment, as the psalmist says "to be still and know ... God". What ever spiritual discipline you choose to practice during lent. May it lead you deeper into God's presence and heart.

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 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

***Mark Your Calendar***

- Wednesdays during Lent – Class on forms of contemplative prayer – 6:30 p.m.
- March 8 – Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 8 – Second Sunday Breakfast. Please remember to bring your food donations for Second Harvest.
- March 13 – Room In The Inn
- March 19 – Vestry Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- April 5 – Palm Sunday – Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- April 9 – Maundy Thursday – Washing of Feet, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar 6:30 p.m.
- April 10 – Good Friday Liturgy 6:30 p.m.
- April 11 – Great Vigil 6:30 p.m.
- April 12 – Easter Day – Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Dear St. Mark's Congregation,

Our Vestry participated in a retreat on 7 February at St. Luke's Community House. Since this agency is one which our congregation helps to support, it was a great opportunity to get an overview of the program and see the facility. We were all impressed by the vision, and depth of the programs, and the leverage effect of our contribution. They partner with other community agencies and coordinate a large number of volunteers to provide various services that multiplies the value of our gift several times. It was also a good reminder of the history of work by the Daughters of the King - who initiated this ministry several generations ago.

The retreat leader, Dr. Bill Brosend guided us through a study of Jesus' parables - with a focus on what was being taught about our responsibilities for helping to grow God's Kingdom. That study then led us to develop and refine priorities for our congregation for this year and several following years. We identified goals but we also realized that we need to meet again to work out a good plan to prioritize and accomplish these goals. That meeting is planned for Saturday, 7 March. Some of the ideas (in rough form) that we will consider are:

- Build new leaders - some specific examples are that we need to develop people who can be effective Jr. and Sr. Wardens in the future. Several people need to be sufficiently equipped and motivated (and inspired) to step into these positions. Additionally, development of leaders must take place within the congregation as well. I've noticed that there are times when people are hesitant to accept a nomination for the vestry or other leadership position. In some cases, the person is uncomfortable because they do not know what is expected. That is a reasonable response. Therefore, it is part of our job to provide the information (not just on-the-job training) so that people can see that these positions are do-able, manageable, and can be a source of genuine fulfillment and satisfaction.

- Refocus on welcoming and including people - we do a fair job of initial welcoming but need much better follow-up and incorporating people into parish life. This last year we averaged a shade under 100 attendance (sum of both services). The surrounding community is growing significantly. Also, we have some excellent connections within the African-Anglican transplant community. We know we have a good message based on people's responses, but we lack some infrastructure (programs, facilities, procedures) to make good progress. We had a net increase of 10 people in 2008 compared to 2007. But that is misleading due to an unexplained drop in 2007. A better measure is that we had a net increase of 4 people since 2005. That is not a statistic that is exciting! One of our top priorities will be to change this pattern and move to healthy growth.

- Christian Education pathway - Restart (with identified, recruited students & parents) the intermediate Sunday school - (the primary class is great) and have a solid Christian Education pathway for all young people - including developing an EYC program - from the Nursery through young adulthood.

- Stewardship of Time & Talents - Actively use the people on the time & talent list! Make sure they are contacted and involved. We have a responsibility as stewards of the congregation to accept and use the gifts people have offered of themselves.

- Improve communication on the vestry with the leaders (not necessarily vestry members) in various areas of responsibility in the congregation.

- Develop small groups - We need to develop small groups within the parish - as we grow - so that people do not get isolated as sometimes happens in a large church. We feel that we are growing at this point right up to the boundary of a medium size church, and we feel that this is a necessary step forward for us.

- Conduct a preliminary survey & facility plan with professional advice. Also, complete the parish environmental survey requested by Bishop Bauerschmidt at the annual convention - and use the survey as a beginning point for developing ideas for our facilities.

- Secure the fence boundary with the Coptic Church - to prevent intrusions & install barriers at the front of our property to prevent vehicle cross-over from the repo lot.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Fr. Battle, any Vestry member, or me - at 868-5099, (or by email).

Faithfully,

George Kurz, Sr. Warden

# Time to Celebrate

## March Birthdays

Gerald Roderick	8
Norman Baker	11
Judy Robnett	15
Christopher Simpson	17
Cyndy Fahnestock	18
Becky Meyer	20
Phillip Simpson	21
Jennifer Sauvie	22
Steve Johnson	25
Kitty McKee	26
Clavenda Watson	27



## Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Dawn and Randall Williams on the birth of their son, Jacob Josiah, on February 2<sup>nd</sup> weighing in at 8 lbs. and 21” long. Elijah is a proud big brother. All are doing well.

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## VESTRY PROFILE

### Jim Hall

Belated Greetings,

Somehow it slipped through the cracks that I was to do an article about me when I became a Vestry member, so here goes.

I'm Jim Hall, a retired priest for 12 ½ years after 43 years of active ministry in congregations from Miami, Florida to Seattle, Washington and a few places in between, including Tennessee and the ruggedly beautiful state of Montana.

For about four years I was non-parochial while managing a heavy construction company in Seattle, building and repairing bridges and roads. One of the more interesting experiences while managing the company was the acquisition of a dynamiter's license, and I had the experience of demolishing a couple of bridges and assisting in the demolition of others.

I left Seattle for Nashville and Holy Trinity Parish in 1983 where I met Pauline, dated her, asked her to marry me, she consented, and we married in April, 1987. We then moved to Hampton, Virginia in May where I remained as Rector of St. Cyprian's until retirement in 1996. In 1997 we moved to Antioch and linked up with St. Mark's where we have been happy ever since.

While in Montana I gained a graduate degree in anthropology, specializing in language and culture, especially the language of aggression. One little technicality of my existence should be mentioned. Because of church rules, I cannot transfer to the Diocese of Tennessee as a retiree, so I am still canonically a resident in the Diocese of Southern Virginia but am able to function as a priest by license of the Bishop. However, as a member of the parish of St. Mark's I can serve as a Vestry person and exercise any other function of a parishioner. I do not want a high profile, but I do want to be of help to Battle and the congregation in any way that I can.

With thanks to all of you for your kindness to Pauline and me. God's blessing upon us all.

--Jim Hall

## **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS BEING FORMED!**

The holiday season is over, and the spring picnics and athletic opportunities are in the future. This seems a perfect season to curl up with a good book, then meet with friends to share our feelings and insights.

After soliciting members of the church for nominations of fiction and nonfiction related to spiritual growth, three finalists emerged. They are wildly different in content and tone, and I recommend you go online to Amazon.com to read reviews if you wish to know more about them. One thing all three books have in common is that they are available in paperback, which helps with the pocketbook☺.

- 1) **THE SHACK**, by William P. Young. This moving novel details one man's encounter with God, and the deity does not fit any preconceived notions of what God is like! For anyone who wonders where God is when bad things happen.
- 2) **YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL: A GUIDE FOR BELIEVERS AND SKEPTICS ALIKE**, by J.B. Phillips. An examination of the narrow "divine" roles that traditionally limit our understanding of God even as we seek ways to understand Him. Hopefully, both God and the reader are enlarged by the end of this nonfictional work.
- 3) **LAMB: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BIFF, CHRIST'S CHILDHOOD PAL**, by Christopher Moore. A humorously irreverent effort to fill in the gap of the Gospels on Christ's upbringing. Suggested by Father Battle. Be warned that some readers found the humor more forced near the end, but that many find this effort to understand the human side of Christ quite touching.

If there is enough interest, we will have several discussion groups. Once formed, each group could determine how often they will meet, when and where to meet (food might be involved!), and how much of the book to cover at each gathering. Please contact Suzanne Lindsey to indicate your interest, either by phone at 361-9117, or via email at [lindseys@mail.belmont.edu](mailto:lindseys@mail.belmont.edu).

Thank you to all of you who recommended a well loved text! Hopefully more discussion groups will take place in the future, as a way for members of St. Mark's to explore relationships with God and with one another.



### **A Little Humor**

#### **10 things you never hear in church**

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew!
2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to the TV evangelists.
5. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the junior high Sunday School class.
6. Forget the denominational minimum salary. Let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.
7. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
8. Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
9. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
10. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign

## Bio-Fuels

By Greg Hall

When gas went over \$3.00 after Katrina, Americans everywhere knew we had a serious problem. We suddenly began hearing about growing our way out of our dependence on foreign oil by distilling ethanol from our own American Corn!

But as ethanol production ramps up we are finding it's as simple and elegant a solution as we had hoped for. In fact, corn based ethanol is only one of the bio-fuels available. Bio-fuels are produced from natural plant sources or from biological processes. The main ones are ethanol, bio-diesel, and methane from bio-mass. Looking at them in turn, let's start with bio-diesel.

Bio-diesel is an oil fuel that can be used in place of petro-diesel. It is produced from any vegetable based oil from soybeans to sunflower seeds. It can also be mad from liquefied animal fats. However, rather than co-opt another food crop for fuel, the best way to access these oils for fuel is to go into the market for used oil from fast food fryers from every restaurant across the country. It only takes minimal processing to make it into a clean burning fuel that produces none of the acid rain causing sulfur and nitrogen that comes from petro diesel. It also smells noticeably much better and has none of the particulates that aggravate allergies. Considering the demand for diesel from the transportation sector of the economy alone, this source of fuel will be readily absorbed by existing demand.

Methane is a natural gas once considered a dangerous and worthless bi-product of oil production. Because gasoline and diesel miles were so low, methane was too costly to capture and sell. So it was simply "flared off" - burned off as the oil was refined.

But methane is also a bi-product of digestion and of the decomposition of plant material and is common to swampy areas. In fact, bubbles of this "swamp gas" are florescent in moonlight, giving rise literally to spooky looking jack-o-lanterns floating across the ground by themselves.

Methane is a greenhouse gas in its unburned state. It has become such a problem the EPA is now monitoring herds of cattle flatulence because cattle are such prodigious producers of this "natural gas"! Who knew that would burn? Kids have suspected as much for years. What a source for fuel, huh? While it can't be effectively collected from wandering herds of grazing cattle, methane can be very effectively and easily generated from the collected waste of not only dairy cattle, but pigs and poultry as well. Considering the increasing herds and flocks of these animals the potential from this dirty problem is one we can't afford to waste! Okay, okay, no mor dirty jokes - I promise! But just imagine the possibilities.

The city where my brother lives has been successfully mining its landfills for nearly three decades for enough methane from the decomposed material there to run all the city's garbage trucks as well as all the trucks of the city gas and electric departments. This source lies untapped in landfills across the country. Collection is simple. Just drill the shallow wells, filter and compress the gas as it is collected. It requires no new or exotic technology to implement, but it will need the public awareness and political will to take advantage of this natural fuel source from a collection problem every community faces.

Methane is a gaseous fuel so it needs pressurized fuel tanks on vehicles powered by this source, but it burns as cleanly as propane or natural gas and makes sense for a range of vehicles from garbage trucks to transit buses.

But the biggest action in bio-fuels comes from ethanol. Since we lead the world in corn production, it seems like a simple and elegant solution that we should be able to grow our way out of foreign oil dependence. However, as we've ramped up ethanol distilled from corn we've seen major price increases throughout the food economy.

Corn is the major feed for livestock from poultry to pork; it's used for everything from corn chips to cornbread. High fructose corn syrup which sweetens sodas, sweet rolls and sports drinks, is even sprayed on hot dog and hamburger buns as they bake to give them their nice brown color! So all kinds of food products are getting more expensive, which points out some of the problems and limits of corn based ethanol.

Aside from increasing food prices the other problems come from the fact that corn is an energy intensive crop to produce. It takes massive amounts of fertilizer - petroleum based - and huge amounts of water to grow as well as fuel to harvest. By the time it is pumped into our gas tanks it only has a 20% edge over gasoline. But this is not the end of our future with this bio-fuel.

President Bush made switch grass famous in his State of the Union speech a couple of years ago. This plant has a high potential to produce ethanol if scientists can come up with the right chemical solutions that breaks down the cellulose to release plant sugars from which to distill ethanol. It comes down to finding an economical chemical key. That appears to be some years into the future.

However, a company called Range Bio-fuels has broken ground on a plant that will produce commercial quantities of ethanol from any cellulosic source - that would be any plant material, stems, stalks, branches, etc. In

this example Range will be using timber slash left over from pulp wood operations in Georgia. They say their process will be profitable even without the 55 cents per gallon subsidy currently available. This plant is scheduled to be on line at the end of 2008.

Basically, in this cellulosic ethanol plant, the timber slash will be chipped up and heated under pressure into a gaseous state. From this plant ethanol can be catalyzed out of the gas. This is an old but reliable technology first pioneered by Germany to produce diesel oil from coal.

This technique will produce huge quantities from a bi-product of the paper manufacturing process. This material resource would normally be left to deteriorate in nature - wasting away to uselessness. This eliminates a major cost factor right away. It does not rely on chemical fertilizers to grow, or fuel to harvest it as does corn, nor does it require an exotic chemical compound to release most sugars for the distillation process, which is energy intense in itself. Therefore, this process should produce ethanol with far less energy input than corn distilled ethanol.

Bio-fuels offer us a synergistic solution available now. Methane from garbage dumps and animal waste offer the opportunity to clean up a dirty problem while presenting us plentiful renewable fuel with non-toxic bi-products that can fertilize crops without e-coli contamination. Bio-diesel brings us clean burning fuel from French frying oil which fits seamlessly into the fuel supply we already use. And cellulosic ethanol will generate millions of gallons of vehicle fuel from an endless renewable source.

Isn't it interesting what we see when we look at God's created world? There we find many solutions to be created from the problems we face where the answer comes out of the problem itself. Bio-fuels represent one of these synergistic solutions. It's time to get back in step with the natural world.



## The Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty".
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger – the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> LENT I	<b>2</b> Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00  Contemplative Prayer 6:30	<b>5</b> Arwen's Dance Class 6:30 PM	<b>6</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM	<b>7</b> Quiet Day 8:00-Noon
<b>8</b> LENT II Second Sunday B'fast  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	<b>9</b> Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Contemplative Prayer 6:30  Choir 7:00	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM  Room-in-the- Inn	<b>14</b> Centering prayer 8:00
<b>15</b> LENT III Healing Service	<b>16</b> Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00  Contemplative Prayer 6:30	<b>19</b> Vestry Meeting 6:30	<b>20</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM	<b>21</b> Centering prayer 8:00
<b>22</b> LENT IV	<b>23</b> Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Contemplative Prayer 6:30  Choir 7:00	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> AA Meeting 8:00 PM	<b>28</b> Centering prayer 8:00
<b>29</b> LENT V	<b>30</b> Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	<b>31</b>				

**March**

**2009**



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Address Correction Requested