



The Gryphon's Roar



March, 2008

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

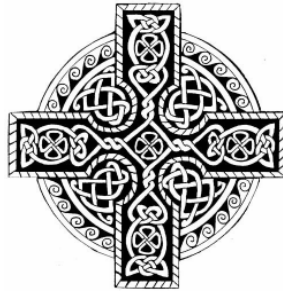
Sundays	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	9:15 AM	Sunday school
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist
2 nd Sunday	9:00 AM	Breakfast – Sept. - May
Wednesdays	7:00 PM	Choir
Fridays	8:00 PM	AA Meeting
Saturdays	8:00 AM	Centering Prayer

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

Next month deadline for submissions is Sunday, March 23, 2008
Gryphon submissions to: submitgryphon@aol.com

St. Mark's Vestry:

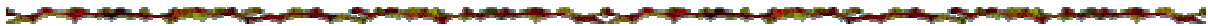
Jim Hall, Suzanne Lindsey, Judy Robnett	(2010)
Suzie Abrahamson, Jim Johnson, George Kurz	(2009)
Mary Ann Campbell, George Noren, Cheryl Walker	(2008)



Dear people of God,

You will find in these pages a report on the vestry retreat. I hope you will find yourselves being energized by some of the ideas and goals set by the vestry for this year and 2011 and 2013. As George reported at church on Sunday we tried to focus on our strengths, among others our hospitality, our real care for each other and the world around us, our commitment to outreach ministries. While the vestry and I are charged with providing leadership the work of our ministry depends on us all. I hope you will read the report carefully and begin to consider where your strengths might be put to best use in the ministry of God here at St. Mark's. If there are things you find confusing or truly exciting, please speak to me or a member of the vestry. Thank you for being a part of this loving and caring community working to make the love of Christ known and experienced by all.

Peace,
Battle +



LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Johnny interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once, while she was DRIVING," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

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

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

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.

April 12, 2008, 9am-3pm, St Paul's Murfreesboro

June 21, 2008, 9 am – 3 pm, Holy Trinity

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 5 – Soup Supper and Compline 6:30 p.m.
- March 8 – Invisible Children (Uganda) – Pancake Breakfast – Contact Andie Scott for details
- March 12 – Soup Supper and Compline 6:30 p.m.
- March 14 – Room In The Inn
- March 14 – 21 – Pilgrimage to Ecuador
- March 16 – Palm Sunday – Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- March 20 – Maundy Thursday – Washing of Feet, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar 6:30 p.m.
- March 21 – Good Friday Liturgy 6:30 p.m.
- March 22 – Great Vigil 6:30 p.m.
- March 23 – Easter Day – Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

A POINT OF VIEW by *Jim Hall*

Easter, which is celebrated this year on March 23, is our yearly reminder of the primacy of life in creation and the human experience, for, in observance of the festival of Easter, we call attention to our Lord's triumph over death, and exaltation of life as the basic principle of the universe. It is also a revelation of Christianity's kinship with what we superciliously like to call "primitive" or "pagan" religions, a kinship that many of us prefer to deny in our efforts to keep our Lord untouched by anything that we think is not hygienically "religious" or orthodox or Christian, so that we may present to the world, and believe in, a vacuum-packed untouched-by-human-hands Jesus.

Instead of denigrating our early ancestors, we should try to understand what they are saying to us through their polytheism and animism wherein everything in creation is infused with life. They saw life in rustling branches, rushing rivers, belching volcanoes, beaming sun, glittering stars, silvered moon, and quaking earth, inter alia. They understood that God is life and in creating the world imparted life to creation.

So then, with life being so integral a part of the human experience, it is unfortunate that we have cut ourselves off from our "primitive" ancestors to the extent that we find the Resurrection miraculous and difficult to believe, whereas it could probably be taken in stride by a prehistoric Neanderthal or Cro-magnon, some of whose graves contained little bouquets of wildflowers. Or perhaps by an Egyptian whose tomb is filled with the furniture of life. Did they know something that we don't? Something that we missed along the way to our supposed sophistication?

In my mind's eye, I can see a great cloud of pre-Christian, prehistoric witnesses observing us marveling and wondering at the Resurrection of our Savior, and suddenly one turns to another, yawns a bit, and asks, "So, what else is new?"

THE WASTING OF WATER by Greg Hall

This month I promised a look at energy robbing water wasters. Anybody with kids knows how teens particularly love long hot showers. So let's get right to it.

The average two-bath home has a 50 gallon electric water heater (W.H.), which has an upper and lower 1500 watt heating element!! As soon as any hot tap opens, cold water flows into the tank. When the temp drops below the 120° set point, the first element turns on. When a shower is taken, that happens in about one minute. Two minutes later the second element kicks in.

Since the typical shower head uses 6 to 8 gallons per minute (9pm), leaving the hot tap open will quickly exhaust your hot water. Mixing in cold extends the hot water supply, but within three minutes, 3000 watts is being drawn to keep the hot water flowing. Because it can take a ½ hour to fully recover, a teen's "quick shower" is actually a hot water hog!!

Short of taking cold showers, (yeah, that'll work!) the quickest water and energy saving solution is to reduce usage. Even if your teenage mutant shower taker won't willingly cut shower soak time, you can dramatically knock down the flow by converting to a low flow shower head. Low flow is defined as 2 9pm or less, which represents a 75% reduction in both power and water consumption. The best thing is everybody will think they're getting a better shower experience.

First step is an errand to your favorite home improvement aisle. Depending on how fancy you want, you can spend as little as \$19.95 to around \$100.00. Whichever you want, I recommend these features: 1) an off or drip setting and 2) a six foot gooseneck hose. These two have the most utility and savings. The off setting will allow you to soap up, or shampoo and condition without the shower running. The longer goose neck hose is more flexible and facilitates clean tub and shower chores and gathering the little family members, especially cats! Satisfying choices can be had in the \$39.95 range with a full range of settings and a 6 foot hose.

If the kit you select doesn't include Teflon tape, spend the extra \$1.00. This is the best leak preventer ever invented! You'll need a large (1 ½") opening crescent wrench, or adjustable pliers and rag to cushion the jaws against scarring. Remove the old water waster and save it for the recyclers – it's made of brass.

Read the instructions to familiarize yourself with all the simple parts. Some kits will include a low restricting washer. If it doesn't easily fit into the hose – throw it out you'll still get the 2 9pm flow.

Wrap all exposed thread with Teflon tape. Hand-tighten the integral bracket to the shower arm and the hose to the bracket. Finally carefully thread the hose to the hand held unit. Turn on the water and adjust tightness to stop all drips. It should little more than a ½ turn. Repeat the process in each bathroom for maximum savings. You'll see results on the next bill.

While you and the family enjoy the luxurious feel of the new shower's many settings, you can relax knowing you've done your bit to cut your power and water bills significantly. In these days of summer water shortages, you are sols being a good steward of the environment. Next time, other energy wasters and solutions.

A PRAYER FOR ALL

I know we can all use the prayers of friends. Right now I can use an abundance of them, and those closest (even in spirit) to me know why or can ask. I never know how God is going to touch me but He always comes through, if I let Him. May everyone who receives this message be blessed and remember to pray. That's all you have to do. Prayer is one of the best gifts we receive, can receive, and give (and it's free). There is no cost but a lot of reward. Make sure you pray, and pray believing God will answer.

May today be all that you desire. May the peace of God and the freshness of the Holy Spirit rest in your thoughts, rule in your dreams tonight and conquer all your fears. May God manifest Himself today in ways that you have never experienced. May your joys be fulfilled, your dreams be closer and your prayers be answered. I pray that faith enters a new height for you; I pray your territory be enlarged and I pray that you step within your destiny in the ministry. I pray for peace, health, happiness and true and undying love for God.

Becky



Ecuador Update:

The next pilgrimage to Ecuador will be March 14 - 21. Travelers are Bob Clendening, Steven Failor, and Melanie Pafford-Failor.

Here is a wish list for the trip:

- 1) **\$620 to purchase Bibles** for our Companion Church, Santiago Apostole.
- 2) **\$400 to purchase Prayer Books** for Santiago Apostole
- 3) **Camcorder** to borrow for the trip
- 4) **Laptop** for a student in Ecuador

Project Update:

- 1) **Diocese Documentary** - this project is postponed till next year due to insufficient funds.
- 2) **Fire Department** - we are taking 6 SCBA's (self-contained breathing apparatus) which were donated to this project.
- 3) **Nursing School** - we are taking several Anatomy books and posters needed by the students and teachers. Padre Cristobal's daughter Shirley is in nursing school.
- 4) **Laptops** - we have two of the three that we need - one is for Jaime, Padre Cristobal's son who is in architectural school; one is for Nestor who is teaching and finishing a degree at the University; the third will be for Rocky who is also studying at the University.
- 5) **Relationship Building** - we will visit Santiago Apostole, Montecristi Fire Department, Padre Cristobal and family, Rev. Mariana Loor and family, families of our translators - Rocky and Nestor, family of our driver - Hugo, and we will attend the baptism of Melanie Maria (god-daughter of Melanie and Steven Failor, daughter of the Montecristi Fire Chief).

VESTRY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The following shows the main areas of responsibility for each Vestry member (names in bold). A more detailed list of the various functions will be posted in Reynolds Hall. We have been blessed by many people in the congregation who volunteer their time and talents to actually accomplish the work in these areas. The purpose for designating a Vestry person for each area is to provide a distinct line of communication, to assure accountability, and to provide a designated point of contact for the congregation. However, any person on the vestry may be contacted about any area - as needed.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Organizational Structure 2008

VESTRY Members:

Jim Hall, Suzanne Lindsey, Judy Robnett	2010
Suzie Abrahamson, Jim Johnson, George Kurz	2009
Mary Ann Campbell, George Noren, Cheryl Walker	2008
Administration:	G. Kurz , Fr. Beasley
Counseling Center:	F. Brannon
Building & Grounds - property maintenance:	G. Noren
Christian Education:	Fr. J. Hall
Finance/Stewardship:	C. Cross, G Kurz
Outreach:	M. Campbell
Spiritual Growth:	S. Lindsey
Inreach (and some outreach components):	C. Walker (10:30) & S. Abrahamson (8:00)
Worship:	L. & P. Worsley, J. Robnett , & Fr. Beasley
Evangelism:	J. Johnson , Fr. Beasley

Building on Our Strengths - Expanding Our Mission

The Vestry met for our Retreat last Saturday. Prof. Bill Brosend from Sewanee was our facilitator as we discussed Paul Nixon's book: "I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church". Despite some possible implications about the name of the book, it was a good one to study, because it provoked a general response of desire for joyful life and growth for our church community. We determined that one of our strengths at St. Mark's is that we have a good message (the Gospel) about God's love and Grace for His children. Additionally, people in our congregation reflect and live out that message - with caring and inclusiveness. As part of our discernment, we realized that there are likely many people (a growing number, even) in our surrounding community who are seeking that Love and Grace and a caring inclusive community. Some may have no idea where to turn or even realize that this may be missing in their lives - but they know that something is out of balance. Therefore, we decided that we need to expand the mission of St. Marks into the surrounding communities to help fulfill those needs. We considered this as we developed a five-year plan, and determined that our plan for 2013 is to "Expand our Facilities, and to Enlarge our staff" as a response to that call to expand our mission. We will begin work on the planning process this year. We also identified several other short term goals for 2008 that would both support the long-range plan and also have near-term benefits. One of those goals is to make our physical area be more welcoming. Some of the steps will involve paving for additional parking and improvement of our entrance area from Murfreesboro Rd. to improve visibility and safety. We want to increase opportunities for children and young people in outreach. We will promote development of "Forums in Fellowship" - this may encompass many different forms for small groups - to support and enhance the personal relationships that are valuable at St. Mark's. These small groups may have short-term goals but still be purpose driven so that people will not feel tied down or burdened with long-term commitments. One of the ideas proposed along these lines was to found a chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew which is an Order for men that has a structure based on prayer, study and service similar to the Daughters of the King.

We recognize that these steps represent an ambitious plan. To expand our facility will involve money and planning. Possibly an expansion may have to be conducted in "operable phases". That means that each step represents a building block for the next phase. However, the current phase will be fully functional and providing benefit - regardless of future steps. The parking expansion proposed for 2008 represents an example of that approach. Once we have a preliminary concept (or set of alternatives - as appropriate), for any major capital expenditures, then we will bring this to the congregation for review and discussion. We welcome the opportunity to serve St. Mark's as your representatives to develop a vision for the future.

Faithfully,
George Kurz, Sr. Warden

CELEBRATE!!

March Birthdays

Mary Beth Johnson	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



March Anniversaries

Thèrèse & Herb Sievers 13 1998

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
March						1 Quiet Day 8 am -Noon
2 LENT IV	3 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm Spanish Class 6:00 PM	4	5 Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00 6:30 Soup & Compline DOK Meeting Choir 7:00 pm	6	7 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	8 Centering Prayer 8:00 AM
9 LENT V	10 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm Spanish Class 6:00 PM	11	12 6:30 Soup & Compline Choir 7:00 pm	13	14 AA Meeting 8:00 PM Room in the Inn	15 Centering Prayer 8:00 AM
16 PALM SUNDAY	17 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm Spanish Class 6:00 PM	18	19 Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00 Choir 7:00 pm	20 Maundy Thursday Foot Washing Stripping of the Altar 6:30 PM	21 AA Meeting 8:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy 6:30 PM	22 Centering Prayer 8:00 AM The Great Vigil 6:30 PM
23 EASTER	24 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm Spanish Class 6:00 PM	25	26 Choir 7:00 pm	27	28 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	29 Centering Prayer 8:00 AM
30 EASTER II	31 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm Spanish Class 6:00 PM			2008		



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