



The Lion's Roar

St. Mark's on the Campus Episcopal Church
JANUARY 2007



St. Mark's on the Campus

1309 R Street

Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 402.474.1979

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Web: stmarks-episcopal.org

Holy Eucharist Schedule

Sunday — 8:30 & 10:30

Tuesday — 12:30 (LJC)

The Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett, *Bishop*

The Rev. Jerrold Thompson, *Rector*

The Rev. Sidnie White Crawford,
Priest Associate

Christine Grosh, *Deacon*

John Flint, *Senior Warden*

Susan Musick, *Junior Warden*

Richard Toren, *Treasurer*

Suzi Lore, *Assistant Treasurer*

Kurt Knecht, *Music Director*

Natalie Shepard, *Christian Education*

Ben Carlisle, *Administrative Assistant*

*St. Mark's on the Campus
strives to be a Eucharistic
Community of reflection and
action, acceptance and
growth, Gospel and world.*

From the Rector

By Father Jerry Thompson

Dear Friends,

As the Nominating Committee and I were looking at names for possible Vestry members for 2007, the issue of membership presented itself. Our parish by-laws specify that membership on the Vestry is governed by the diocesan and national canons. These canons in turn specify that “lay members of the Vestry . . . must be confirmed communicants in good standing in the Parish for at least six months, sixteen year of age, and regular contributors to the Parish treasury.”

So that’s the nature of membership one must have in order to serve on Vestry: be confirmed – in other words, be a baptized member of the Episcopal Church who has made an informed decision about one’s commitment to Christ; be a communicant of the parish (i.e., receive communion at least three times in each year – fairly nominal!); and contribute financially to the ministry of the parish.

I’m always fascinated by such discussions because they raise questions about how our organizational structures relate to the ministry of the Body of Christ. Most Episcopal parishes, ours included, have people in them who are a vibrant part of the ministry but who don’t fall into one of the above categories. Some choose not to become “official” members; others just aren’t aware that they need to be official members in order to function in certain ways.

(We usually discover a few people in the second category each year when we approach them about serving on Vestry!)

You might be one of those in this second group: you participate fully in the life of the community, you receive communion far more often than three times each year (!), you regularly offer your finances to the support of our common ministry, you pray for those who worship with you, you serve in a variety of ways within parish life, you enjoy the fellowship and prayers of other parishioners – but you’ve never made your relationship *organizationally* official. Not out of any intention, but simply because you haven’t.

If you’re in this category, you might want to consider making it official. If you want to do so, give me a call and we can talk about how to proceed. Or, if you want to explore more of what the Episcopal Church is all about before making a decision, you can attend Inquirers’ Classes (see elsewhere in this issue of *The Roar*).

In any case, the wonderful thing about the Episcopal Church is that we welcome you at whatever level of relationship you would like to have, and we’re always happy to have more if and when you become ready. A bit like our Lord, we think.

Blessings to all,

Fr. Jerry +

A word about...

Liturgy

From Kurt Knecht



Father Jerry has kindly given me permission to have some space in the *Lion's Roar* to write down a few thoughts about liturgy. The word liturgy means "the work of the people," and I believe that that "work" is only effective if our reflections infuse it with meaning.

Liturgical worship is a rich heritage, but it contains inherent dangers along with every other worship style. The specific dangers involved with liturgical worship usually center around repetition gaining the upper hand over content. Spiritually, this is manifested in two directions. The direct problem is that we can find ourselves repeating prayers and going through the motions of worship without being engaged. The indirect problem is more pernicious. We can easily become arrogant and spiritually aloof because of the beauty of the worship and close ourselves to the manifestations of God in less aesthetic forms. In order to combat those dangers, I would like to begin with the very first idea that confronts us on Sunday mornings.

The liturgy challenges us to sanctify two aspects of our lives: time and space. The first thing that we are confronted with is quite simply getting out of bed and coming to church. It actually harkens back to a Medieval concept that we don't talk about very much anymore.

The idea is that we have to make a pilgrimage to find God. The liturgy is already asking its first question. If God is everywhere, what makes you think that God is somewhere? If, as Hopkins says, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God," what makes the building of St. Mark's any more electrical than my backyard or my comfortable warm bed.

Before answering those questions, I think that we have to spend a little time in reflection on the Sunday morning pilgrimage to find out what that process has to tell us. I'm going to share my pilgrimage in the hopes that it will encourage you to share some of your thoughts with me.

When I first approach St. Mark's, I usually am coming from the east side. I notice that the sanctuary is a long building that is unusually tall and narrow. I immediately know that the tallness of the building is not functional in the conventional sense. In other words, the building was not made vertical for the same reasons as a skyscraper. There are no commercial advantages to its height. The people inside have specifically shaped the space in that way for a reason. If I am feeling silly, I say to myself, "There must be a tall, skinny God that lives there." If I am being serious, I am confronted with the fact that there are people who have built a building for reasons other than functionality. When the courtyard crawls into view, I immediately notice a winged lion. This is always a surprise. It makes me think that something magical might happen in this place. The people who gather here are showing me an image of something that takes me far beyond my day to day rational thought processes. I also notice that the lion is facing toward another august and ancient institution:

the academy. I like that. I like where St. Mark's is located and how the lion is standing guard. He is close enough to the academy to stand with St. Thomas Aquinas and say that the two institutions need not necessarily be opposed to each other. He is also far enough away that he can stand with Bonhoeffer and confront the academy when it needs correction. When I get close to the lion, I notice that his paw is resting on a book. In the book are written the words of the *Sh'ma* and the *V'hafta* which are the ancient creeds of Israel. There follows a passage from Leviticus and Jesus' commentary on these passages. All of a sudden, I realize that this lion is standing guard over a story that began a long time before the St. Mark's building was erected. There is something more ancient happening in this place than I originally anticipated. The story is very old, and St. Mark's is only a little piece of the story. There were fathers and mothers in the faith who went before me in the story. There were also fathers and mothers right here in Lincoln, Nebraska who sacrificed and fought to make a place for the story to continue in this little spot on the corner of 16th and R. They thought the story was so good that they wanted to make a tall, skinny building and a lion sculpture to help me in my Sunday morning pilgrimage. They didn't even know I existed, but their sacrifice bears fruit in me every time I walk toward the building. I am so grateful that I want to hear about the story that the lion is guarding, and find out what kind of people meet in the building.

Kurt Knecht is Music Director at St. Mark's on the Campus and can be reached at: kurt@kurtknecht.com or www.kurtknecht.com.

Annual Meeting

The annual parish meeting will be held Sunday, January 21, following the 10:30 Eucharist. We'll begin with a pot luck meal and move into the business session. Note that, at this writing, we are planning to have an election for Vestry members rather than simply offering a slate. Soon after the new year, pictures and bios of the candidates will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Also, please remember that proposed bylaw changes are coming before the congregation. These changes will likewise be posted on the bulletin board.

St. Mark's on the Campus Calendar: Jan. 1 - Feb.17

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 January	2	3 5:30 pm - Choir practice	4	5	6
7 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 - Sunday School 9:30 - Adult Forum 9:45 - Choir practice ~11:45 - Bible Study	8 Second Semester begins at UNL	9 12:30 pm - Holy Eucharist in Lady Julian Chapel	10 5:30 pm - Choir practice	11 11 am - Campus Outreach Committee - lounge 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge	12	13 7:30 am - Men's Breakfast - at Pitt's
14 9:30 - Sunday School 9:30 - Adult Forum 9:45 - Choir practice ~11:45 - Bible Study 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge	15 Martin Luther King Day	16 12:30 pm - Holy Eucharist in Lady Julian Chapel	17 5:30 pm - Choir practice	18 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge	19	20
21 9:30 - Sun. School 9:30 - Adult Forum 9:45 - Choir practice ~11:45 - Bible Study Annual Meeting & Pot Luck 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge Campus Outreach Gathering - time TBA	22	23 12:30 pm - Holy Eucharist in Lady Julian Chapel	24 5:30 pm - Choir practice	25 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge	26	27
28 9:30 - Sunday School 9:30 - Adult Forum 9:45 - Choir practice ~11:45 - Bible Study 1 pm - Inquirer's Class 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge	29	30 12:30 pm - Holy Eucharist in Lady Julian Chapel	31 5:30 pm - Choir practice	1 February 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge	2	3
4 9:30 - Sunday School 9:30 - Adult Forum 9:45 - Choir practice ~ 11:45 - Bible Study 1 pm - Inquirer's Class 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge	5	6 12:30 pm - Holy Eucharist in Lady Julian Chapel	7 5:30 pm - Choir practice	8 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge	9	10
11 9:30 - Sunday School 9:30 - Adult Forum 9:45 - Choir practice ~ 11:45 - Bible Study 12:15 - Vestry Mtg. - lounge 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge	12	13 12:30 pm - Holy Eucharist in Lady Julian Chapel	14 5:30 pm - Choir practice	15 7 - 11 pm - Study Lounge	16	17

SUNDAY SERVICES: Holy Eucharist - 8:30 am and 10:30 am

WEEKDAYS: Holy Eucharist - Every Tuesday at 12:30 pm in the Lady Julian Chapel



A Summary of the

December Vestry Meeting

At its meeting December 10, 2006, the Vestry:

- Approved a balanced budget for 2007 of \$250,238. The budget is based on pledges equaling approximately \$196, 600, with slightly fewer pledges than last year despite a higher pledge amount,
- Approved a motion to accept the diocesan apportionment for next year of \$28,195,
- Heard from Campus Outreach that student dinners and the study lounge will both continue next semester, and that a plan for the academic year 2007-2008 will be put together during next semester,
- Watched and discussed the third segment of a video with reflections from young adults in the Episcopal Church,
- Heard that Yolanda Rolle has agreed to serve as a Rector's appointment to Vestry beginning after the Annual Meeting,
- Accepted the recommendation of the League for Human Dignity that our worship space be altered to make accommodation for two wheelchair spaces - one toward the front and one toward the rear of the nave, and
- Heard that chimney repairs have been completed and paid for, at a cost of \$4,120.

On January 7th and 14th, Don Tilley will lead sessions on "Furthering World Peace through Meditation: Visualizing Realities that Could Expand Our Prayer Life." Tilley will use drawings and stories to help us understand how our views of the world and of spiritual life affect our prayer lives. He hopes this might lead to "ways to pray for world peace . . . aligned with the Mind of God." Tilley has a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut and also a seminary degree; he directed the Prairie Peace Park for 12 years. Upcoming topics will include discussions on:

- Orthodox Christianity's icons,
- a video "Conversations with Young Episcopalians,"

- a program about Child Court Advocates,
- a drama related to Friendship Home and St. Monica's, and
- reflections on serving in the Peace Corps.

In addition, we're also planning some sessions for reading and reflecting on short works by Flannery O'Connor, C.S.Lewis, and Tobias Wolff. If you have suggestions of other authors, resources, or topics, you're welcome to contact Susan Steinegger (488-8064) or Andrea Nelson (423-0663). Their email addresses are in the church directory.

Everyone is welcome to join the discussion at Adult Forum in the church lounge on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 am.

From the Treasurer

1/1/06 to 11/30/06

INCOME	Actual	Budget
Plate	18,880.27	13,113.00
Pledge	168,657.65	169,706.00
Diocese	18,791.63	18,788.00
Miscellaneous Income	7,445.30	3,298.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$213,774.85	\$204,905.00
EXPENSE	Actual	Budget
Diocesan Asking	25,426.50	25,421.00
Outreach	3,485.57	2,251.00
Salaries & Benefits	147,969.48	142,655.00
Utilities	7,579.63	10,330.00
Property & Insurance	10,121.64	8,454.00
Travel	1,432.12	2,281.00
Office	11,173.23	10,108.00
Altar & School Supplies	5,618.99	5,314.00
Congregational Life	6,112.72	6,725.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	157.35	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$219,077.23	\$213,539.00

November was a very good month. Income for the month was well ahead of expenses which moved us about \$3,000 ahead of our 'deficit' budget for the year. Our finances are in good shape going into the last month of the year. Thanks to all.

Sincerely,
Richard Toren, Treasurer

Mark-Us Notes

Adult Inquirers' Classes

For those interested in exploring more deeply the Episcopal Church — will begin January 28 at 1 PM. These classes are intended for anyone interested in exploring the Episcopal Church. If you plan to participate, please talk to Fr. Thompson so he knows to expect you.

I Nomi Nuovi Concerts

The third season of the *I Nomi Nuovi* concert series-hosted by St. Mark's on the Campus-takes place this spring. The complete schedule will be announced soon. Scheduled to appear are UNL piano professor **Ann Chang-Barnes**, who will play fantasias and sonatas by Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven on forte-piano; the *St. Mark's on the Campus choir*, making their concert debut under the direction of **Kurt Knecht**, an exciting organist, new to Lincoln; and harpsichordist **Ben Carlisle**. Watch for more announcements soon!

Book Club Schedule

January 21st: *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson, host - Mary Jane Humphrey

February 18th: *The Unexpected Universe*, by Loren Easley, host - Susan Steinegger

March 18th: *Veronika Decides to Die*, by Paulo Coelho, host - Dorothy Zimmerman

April 15th: *Blindness*, by Jose Saramago, host - TBA

The Book Club meets 3rd Sundays at 3 pm at the home of the host. Please refer to the parish directory for the address or call Andrea Nelson at 423-0663.

Sermon Copies

Sermons presented at St. Mark's on the Campus are always available as hard copies in the Narthex and on our Web site, stmarks-episcopal.org.

Sunday Early Arrivals

Want a place to hang out when you arrive early for church? Join us in the library next to the Lady Julian Chapel in the basement for coffee and conversation at 9:30 or whenever you arrive.

Bible Study

The Rev. Sidnie White Crawford is leading a Bible Study after the 10:30 am Eucharist at St. Mark's on the Campus, downstairs in the Lady Julian Chapel.

NOW is the Time!

You can now begin bringing in your extra books for the **Book Sale**. Bring them to the room on the south end of the Undercroft - that's to the right, just as you enter the Undercroft.

St. Mark's on the Campus

STUDY LOUNGE

Would you like a quiet, friendly place to study? Try the *St. Mark's on the Campus Study Lounge*, from 7 pm to 11 pm, on Sundays and Thursdays.

Volunteers are always appreciated to help staff the Study Lounge.

Professors are encouraged to schedule extra help sessions in the Lounge-either before tests or on a regular schedule. We'll be glad to open on special nights or extra hours for you with advance notice.

If you'd like to help, either by staffing the lounge or spreading the word about it, contact the Office at 474-1979 or smoc.office@stmarks-episcopal.org.



Sunday Ministerial Assignments

Date	January 14th	January 21st	January 28th	February 4th
8:30 RH/Acolyte	Todd Sneller	Yolanda Rolle	Don Gray	Sara Toren
10:30 Chalice Bearer Lay Eucharistic Minister	Jeanne Vannorsdall	Todd Sneller	Shirley Mills	Don Gray
Acolytes	Don Gray Michael Fairchild	Jonathan Cole Helen Pitts	Todd Sneller Samantha Karas	Michael Fairchild Abbie George
Ushers	Lisa Sutton Bob Stock	Dean Settle Don Gray	Jack Merritt Roger Wait	Doug Durham David Sellmyer
Lector (OT)	Dick Boohear	Jeanine Jewell	Anita Bowman	Susan Rehn
Epistler	Steve Buhler	Kelly Grey Carlisle	Jeanne Vannorsdall	Cathy Sellmyer
Intercessor	Leroy Svec	Sara Toren	Doug Durham	Dean Settle
Greeter	Mark Musick	Bonnie Quinn	Dennis Alfrey	Pamela Starr
Coffee Host	Opal Doerr	Nan Graf	Jim Karas	Don & Dorothy Nelson
Bread Baker	Laura Waldman	Margo Young	Loris Purtzer	Kathy Schmutte
Altar Guild	Don Gray	Opal Doerr	Kathy Schmutte	Joyce Wagner
Tellers	Anne Puls Dorothy Nelson	Stan Sipple Doug Durham	Leroy Svec Shirley Mills	Michelle Waite Andrea Nelson

January Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Don Steinegger | 9 - Sara Toren | 27 - Mark Fairchild |
| - Julie Webb | - The Rev. Sidnie White Crawford | - Nora Pitts |
| 3 - Pat Svec | 1 - Lori Spivey | - Trudy Burge |
| - Dan Sullivan | 15 - Kevin Cole | - Suzi Lore |
| 4 - Susan Ugai | 17 - Ben Carlisle | 28 - Charles Lowe |
| 5 - Susan Steinegger | 21 - Jerry Puls | 30 - Joyce Wagner |
| - Gretchen Naugle | 22 - Joanne Harse | |
| 7 - Colin Sipple | 23 - Walt Stroup | |
| 8 - Richard DeFusco | 25 - Carole Webb | |

Remember,
the February ROAR
DEADLINE
is January 20
smoc.office
@stmarks-episcopal.org

St. Mark's on the Campus
Episcopal Church and Student Center
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