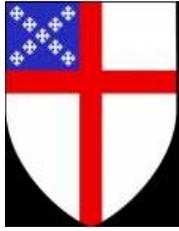


Phone: 360-249-3281

Website: [www.stmarksmonte.com](http://www.stmarksmonte.com)



**Rev. Lorraine Dierick, Priest**  
**Rev. Bonnie Campbell, Priest**  
**Rev. Joyce Avery, Deacon**  
**Corby Varness, Preacher**  
**Jim Campbell, Preacher**

**Worship**  
**Sundays at 10 a.m.**

## **St. Mark's Newsletter**

Click on Newsletters in the middle left of our Home Page.

## **St. Mark's Church Video**

Click on St. Mark's Video in the upper right of our Home Page.

## **St. Mark's Sermons**

All of the sermons from our Sunday worship services are placed on our website to be read and studied further within a couple of days of being preached on Sundays. Click on Recent Sermons in the middle right of our Home Page.

## **St. Mark's Bishop's Committee Minutes**

A list of all meeting minutes from 2009 on is found below the Upcoming Meeting Agenda. Click on Administration in the middle left of our Home Page, then click on BC Meeting Minutes in the right side of the page

**Adult Bible Study**  
**Wednesdays at 10 a.m.**

**ST. MARK EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**124 NORTH SYLVIA STREET**  
**PO BOX 533**  
**MONTESANO, WA 98563**

# **St. Mark's Episcopal Church Newsletter**

## **May-June, 2016**

### **Continuing Activities**

#### **Weekly Bible Study--Wednesdays, 10:00AM, at St. Mark's**

Our weekly Bible study on Wednesdays generally follows the weekly Lectionary readings used in the Sunday worship services. No preparation is needed. Please join us for this study each week—Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30AM. (We also look at some interesting videos for part of our time each week to enhance our Bible learning experiences.)

#### **Feed Your Spirit Book Club—Monthly on Second or Third Mondays, 12 Noon**

Our monthly book club generally meets on the second or third Monday each month. We read a new book every other month and also discuss other books people have read for an hour (or more as some might feel led to do, over your brown bag lunch). Invite your friends and neighbors to join us!

#### **Worship Information—Sundays at St. Mark's**

*Readings*—shared, people volunteer just before the start of the service for the Old and New Testament readings. *Flowers*—provided by the Worship Team most Sundays. However, if you want to supply them for a specific Sunday (maybe to remember a loved one or celebrate an important event), this can be arranged in advance—just make it known to the Altar Guild folks. *Prayers for Healing*—3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, just before the Peace. Anyone can come to the altar rail and request laying on of hands and prayers for themselves--or for anyone else named. Prayers do work!! And the anointing oil used smells good!

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Bishop Visit Sunday (5/29/2016) 10am at St. Mark's**

Our Diocesan Bishop Greg Rickel will visit St. Mark's to preside and preach at our Sunday service. This is an opportunity to see our great Diocesan leader do his worship and preaching thing, and then to meet with him to learn more about him and his ideas for the larger church and tell him what we do that as the people of God here in Montesano. A simple lunch follows the service, and then discussions with the Bishop.

#### **Pentecost Sunday (5/15/2016) 10am at St. Mark's**

There will be lots of Red--vestments, with some of the many flowers, on the old altar and ambo, and worn by most of the people. And red balloons this year! And then lots of treats!

#### **Ongoing Activities at St. Mark's (in Calder Hall)**

Sundays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous  
Mondays 10am, 5pm Gentle Yoga  
Tuesdays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous  
Thursdays 12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous  
7 pm Gamblers Anonymous  
Fridays 10am Gentle Yoga  
7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Recent News**

#### **Easter Season Events at St. Mark's: (3/20-3/27/2016)**

*Palm Sunday Communion Service:* March 20th—Included a reading of the passion story and blessing of the palms. A really nice service of the palms.

*Maundy Thursday Communion Service:* March 24th—A small group gathered for the service, including foot washing like Jesus did for his disciples, and a generous potluck meal after the service.

*Good Friday Service:* March 25th, noon at St. Mark's. For the few faithful, it was our own short service.

*Good Friday Ecumenical Service:* March 25th, 7:00PM was held at Monte Presbyterian Church.

*Easter Sunday Communion Service:* March 27th—celebration of the Risen Christ, renewal of Baptismal vows, and Easter Egg hunt for 6 kids, too!

## Summary of St. Mark's Finances—4/30/16 (2/26/16)

### Net Operating Year to Date--\$-1,197.13 (Last--\$-2,223.57)

Other than \$1,800 moving from the DIF from last year's surplus, that was logged as expense this year, the expenses are similar or less than budgeted.

### Total Operating Expenses--\$9,501.16 (Last--\$6,391.58)

Highlights—All bills received are paid current for the year.

Outreach to Date--\$2,689 Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid--\$690

### Total Operating Revenues--\$8,304.03 (Last--\$4,168.01)

Overall, total revenues are somewhat behind for the year, but are about as expected with latest planning.

### Non-Operating Revenues--\$724.27 Non-Operating Expenses--\$48.88

### Net Non-Operating Year to Date--\$675.39 (Last--\$-844.04)

### Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date--\$-521.74 (Last--\$-3,067.61)

### Funds Summary—Total is \$29,500.76 (last--\$26,957.89)

Operating Fund (General)--\$2,652.43 (last--\$1,625.99)

- General/Designated Checking Account—\$2,133.48 (last--\$1,107.06)

- General/Designated Savings Account--\$518.95 (last--\$518.93)

Diocesan Investment Fund--\$26,433.68 (last--\$24,976.60)

- Memorial Fund (part of DIF)--\$1,166.72 (last--\$1,102.41)

Clergy Discretionary Fund/Checking Account--\$414.65 (last--\$355.30)

## Other Articles on Faith and Other Things

### Why We Made a Video Making Fun of Patriarchy 04/15/2016

When Sojourners released its most recent video, "7 Reasons Men Should Not Be Pastors," we were not prepared for the overwhelming reaction. Three million people have watched the video, which satirizes the misguided reasons people say women shouldn't lead in the church. We've received countless comments from women saying they've heard every single one of these used as a reason they shouldn't be in leadership.

But not everyone was happy. Some have said this video simply presents a "giant straw-man" — that the real reasons for male-only leadership are grounded in scripture. Of course, I disagree — I'm married to one of the first women ordained in the Church of England. My wife, Joy Carroll, is well known in the U.K. as the Real Vicar of Dibley (after the hit television show in which she was the script consultant).

In fact, one of my favorite memories was of Joy celebrating the Eucharist for 25,000 British young people one summer at the Greenbelt Festival — an annual gathering for arts, faith, and justice where we had first met. My son, Luke, who was 4 years old at the time, was sitting in my lap, watching his mom on the stage leading the service. After a while Luke looked up at me and asked, "Dad, can men do that too?"

Women in ministry are changing the narrative in the church, in the society, and in our families. And thank God for that — we need them.

Sojourners created this video — featuring many of our own female leaders on staff — to be satirical, clearly. But there are strong theological reasons women belong in church leadership.

The Bible is full of female leaders. Deborah, for example, exercised complete authority over Israel — the people of God — and carried them through violence into a time of peace. Junia was named by Paul to be "outstanding among the apostles," and was an example for the early church until a male medieval theologian changed her name to the male "Junias" to reconcile the text with church patriarchy.

And women played a central role in Jesus' life — as disciples, financial supporters, and the first to see the risen Christ. From Mary and Martha to the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus challenged his culture's patriarchal assumptions and affirmed and empowered women for ministry. So why are we quick to dismiss the gifts and contributions of women whom Jesus radically valued?

In the midst of a sexist and even misogynist conservatism that calls itself "Christian," and a secular left that too often discounts the value of faith in the public sphere, we desperately need women faith leaders. We need women who will preach good news to the poor and proclaim liberation to the oppressed. We need female clergy like Traci Blackmon, who courageously went into the streets of Ferguson and has served as a spiritual mentor to many young leaders in the Black Lives Matter movement. Or Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), who has been such a visionary denominational leader in the U.S. and globally. Or Sojourners' very own Lisa Sharon Harper, who reminds me how the "very good gospel" offers God's shalom to a broken creation.

*Jim Wallis is president of Sojourners. His book, [America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America](#), is available now.*

### **The Song Is Wrong: They Don't Know Us By Our Love** 05/03/2016

*Michelle DeRusha Author of [Spiritual Misfit: A Memoir of Uneasy Faith and 50 Women Every Christian Should Know](#); from Lincoln, Nebraska.*

I recently saw a "New Yorker" cartoon that depicted God speaking to a frowning angel as they gazed down at planet Earth. The caption read: "I'm starting to prefer the ones who don't believe in me." I laughed when I read that, but it also hit a nerve.

Last summer I struck up a conversation with a middle-aged woman on a flight from Denver to San Francisco. We engaged in the kind of small talk two strangers sitting side-by-side on a three-hour flight do. She told me she was headed out to visit her son and his partner. I volunteered that my family and I were spending ten days traveling up the coast from San Francisco to Portland.

Our conversation rolled along amicably. I asked what she did for a living - she was a physician - and she asked what I did. When I told her I was a writer, she asked what I wrote. "Non-fiction and memoir," I answered. "I mainly write about faith from a Christian perspective."

My seatmate didn't respond. Instead, she opened the book she'd been holding in her lap and began to read.

At first I thought maybe she hadn't heard me. But then I realized the awful truth. By identifying myself as a Christian writer I had shut down the conversation. She didn't say another word to me for the rest of the flight.

I initially reacted to her abrupt dismissal with anger. How dare she judge me, I fumed to myself. But my anger quickly turned to sadness and shame when I realized the truth: she judged me because she thought she knew me. And she thought she knew me because time and time again, she's only been offered one version, one definition, of what Christianity is and who Christians are. Declaring myself as a Christian writer landed me squarely in the extreme right, which is the only version of Christianity my seatmate has consistently been offered. To her, I was a finger-wagging, exclusionary hypocrite.

No, you've got it all wrong, I wanted to say. I'm a good Christian. I'm not judging you. I'm not judging your son. But when I heard my own words in my head, I stayed quiet. I felt ashamed and saddened by my need to qualify. This is what we've come to, I thought. The word "Christian" needs a modifier. "Good" is not implied.

My seatmate's reaction speaks to a troubling trend. A 2015 Pew Research Center survey of 35,000 Americans found that the Christian percentage of the population has dropped to 70.6% (down from 78.4% in 2007). Pew attributes the drop to the number of millennials leaving the church, more than one-third of whom say they are unaffiliated with any faith, down 10 percentage points since 2007.

People who profess no faith affiliation now comprise nearly 23% percent of the country's adult population.

Those statistics and the situation I found myself in that day on the airplane didn't happen in a vacuum. People are not born with an innate distrust and dislike of Christians. It's a learned response, the result of repeated exposure to self-righteousness and judgment, which, more often than not, is presented as well-meaning guidance and even "love."

We have no one to blame but ourselves. Christians, mainly a small minority with the loudest, most judgmental voices, are driving people from the church.

America has become a culture of extremes. We see it in our politics, in our pop culture, and in our religions. In our society, the loudest, most extreme voices are the ones given the platform; they are the ones heard. But that doesn't have to be the case.

We Christians like to claim "they will know us by our love," as the song goes, but clearly we are doing a terrible job of living out those lyrics. We need to do better, and we can start by doing more than merely tolerating our neighbors. To tolerate isn't nearly good enough; to tolerate is to set the bar far too low. We tolerate mundane irritations, like long check-out lines at the grocery store or a different brand of coffee than we're used to. We need to do more than simply tolerate other people, human beings who have been created by God in God's image, no matter how different they are from us.

Instead, we need to invite, embrace, and love them. We need to demonstrate radical hospitality, not only by accepting but by welcoming others with open arms. We need to stop saying things like, "Love the sinner, hate the sin," which is only judgment masquerading as love. We need to worry more about changing ourselves and less about changing others. We need to refuse to allow a minority of loud, judgmental voices to define who we are, and instead speak for ourselves, not necessarily with words, but through acts of genuine kindness, acceptance, and love.

In short, we need to go back to the basics. "Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself," Jesus commanded. If we want the world to know us for our love, we need to begin, and end, right there.

### **Morgan Freeman Explains How God Can Be Real And An Invention**

The actor explores the power of miracles in the season finale of "The Story of God with Morgan Freeman." 05/05/2016 Antonia Blumberg Associate Religion Editor, The Huffington Post

Morgan Freeman has played God on the big screen, but in real life he sees the Almighty as an invention of the human mind. It might seem curious, then, for the 78-year-old actor to star in a National Geographic Channel show all about God and religion. But "The Story of God with Morgan Freeman," which airs its season finale on Sunday, isn't so much a celebration of God as it is an exploration of human beings' unending search for the divine, Freeman says.

"An interesting phenomenon of human existence is that we cannot accept that we are here without oversight," the actor said in a recent interview with The Huffington Post.

In the season finale of the show, Freeman shares a sobering story from his life to demonstrate. When he was just 16 years old, he says, he came down with pneumonia, and an abscess developed on his lungs. One day, the abscess burst and he nearly died. "Some say God saved me," Freeman says in the episode, with a mysterious twinkle in his eyes.

Morgan Freeman explores the power of miracles in the season finale of "The Story of God." The episode explores the power of miracles — why we believe in them and how they shape our understanding of God and our place in the world. Despite the tongue-in-cheek suggestion that divine intervention made him survive his illness, Freeman isn't inclined to call his recovery a miracle. "I've survived so many things in my life that I don't find myself asking the question of 'why,'" Freeman told HuffPost. But the question of "Why me?" isn't an unreasonable one, especially for those who have survived near-death experiences or recovered from extreme trauma.

In the episode, Freeman meets with religious leaders, psychologists and people who have had "miraculous" experiences, all in the hopes of unpacking this phenomenon. Among them is Alcides Moreno, a man who survived after falling nearly 500 feet in 2008. Moreno and his brother, Edgar, were washing the windows of a Manhattan building when their platform broke, plunging them 47 stories to the ground. Moreno survived the fall, but his brother died in the accident.

One of the doctors at the hospital where Moreno was treated told The New York Times, "If you are a believer in miracles, this would be one." But Moreno struggles with that analysis. For many people of faith, Freeman says in the show, "miracles are proof that life is not random." They suggest that God has a plan for our lives.

But was it God's plan for Edgar to die? And if Moreno was saved by divine intervention, then what is God's plan for him? These are questions Moreno says he's still grappling with and may continue to ponder for the rest of his days.

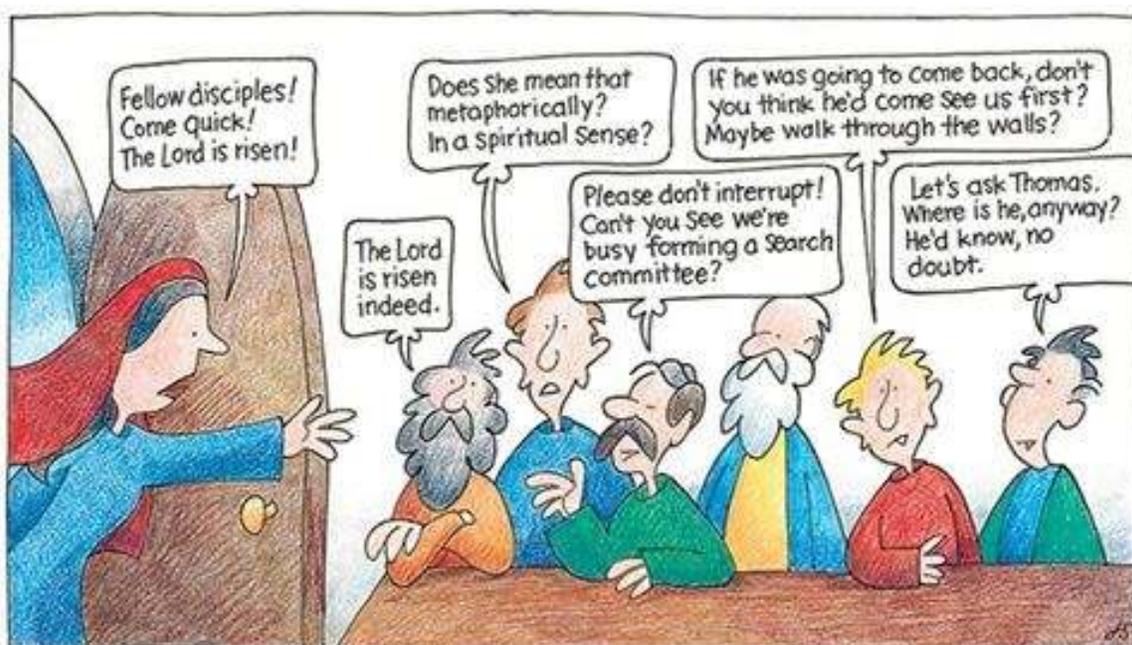
The hunger for some sense of order in the universe can lead people to pray for miracles, wager with the gods and have their fortunes read. Freeman investigates all of these practices and more, even traveling to visit a Chinese fate calculator who reads his astrological chart. Our chart provides a map for our lives, says feng shui master Jenny Liu, but it doesn't preclude the possibility of free will — or miracles for that matter.

But Freeman is still skeptical. "I don't believe that we have a preordained life. Your fortune cannot be told," Freeman told HuffPost. The desire to know where our life is headed and seek some insight is understandable, he acknowledged, but even that relies on our belief that supernatural forces are at play in our lives.

"Life is more about what you believe than almost anything else. That's why God still exists," he said. People spend their lives searching for God, he continued, when true divinity may be in front of us all along. In Hebrew, Freeman recounted, the word for God is derived from the verb "to be," making it translate roughly as "I am." He used this example to explain his own beliefs on the subject.

"God is in all things — a sunset, a bloom, a rose," he said. "The ultimate answer to the question of God's existence is 'God is.'"

*The season finale of the "The Story of God with Morgan Freeman" airs on Sunday May 8 at 9pm EST on the National Geographic Channel.*



## May 2016 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 1 10am Holy Communion 7pm AA	2 10am Yoga 5pm Yoga	3 7pm AA	4 10am Bible Study 12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting	5 12pm AA 7pm Gamblers Anon	6 10am Yoga 7pm AA	7
8 10am Holy Communion 7pm AA	9 10am Yoga 5pm Yoga	10 7pm AA	11 10am Bible Study	12 12pm AA 7pm Gamblers Anon	13 10am Yoga 7pm AA	14
15 10am Pentecost 10am Healing Service 7pm AA	16 10am Yoga 5pm Yoga	17 7pm AA	18 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Bishop Committee	19 12pm AA 7pm Gamblers Anon	20 10am Yoga 7pm AA	21
22 10am Holy Communion 7pm AA	23 10am Yoga 5pm Yoga	24 7pm AA	25 10am Bible Study	26 12pm AA 7pm Gamblers Anon	27 10am Yoga 7pm AA	28
29 10am Bishop Visit 10am Holy Communion 7pm AA	30 10am Yoga 5pm Yoga	31 7pm AA	June 1 10am Bible Study 12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting	2 12pm AA 7pm Gamblers Anon	3 10am Yoga 7pm AA	4

## June 2016 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <u>10am Bishop Visit</u> <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	30 <u>10am Yoga</u> <u>5pm Yoga</u>	31 <u>7pm AA</u>	June 1 <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting</u>	2 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	3 <u>10am Yoga</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	4
5 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	6 <u>10am Yoga</u> <u>5pm Yoga</u>	7 <u>7pm AA</u>	8 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	9 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	10 <u>10am Yoga</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	11
12 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	13 <u>10am Yoga</u> <u>5pm Yoga</u>	14 <u>7pm AA</u>	15 <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>6:30pm Bishop Committee</u>	16 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	17 <u>10am Yoga</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	18
19 <u>10am Healing Service</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	20 <u>10am Yoga</u> <u>5pm Yoga</u>	21 <u>7pm AA</u>	22 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	23 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	24 <u>10am Yoga</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	25
26 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	27 <u>10am Yoga</u> <u>5pm Yoga</u>	28 <u>7pm AA</u>	29 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	30 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	July 1 <u>10am Yoga</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	2