

October 31, 2017

To Everyone in Our St. Mark's Church Community and Beyond,

In 2017, we continued with another year of worship and amazing ministry opportunities at St. Mark's. As always, your energy and commitment to our mission moves it ahead, with God's grace, into new ways to be church and ministers of God's love.

We welcomed the Rev. Gretchen Gunderson, who has joined us to preside and preach and be in our community after leading the church folks at St. John's, South Bend for over 20 years. Our own Rev. Lorraine Dierick has taken a sort of in-place sabbatical from presiding and preaching for some of this year while dealing with her own cataracts surgery and husband Bob's health issues. And, the Rev. Joyce Avery, as she deals with some health issues, has continued to do her Deacon functions in our worship as she is able and participate in her other normal activities. The Rev. Bonnie Campbell continues her role as presider and priest, and has expanded her work with Chaplains on the Harbor as volunteer coordinator, jail pastor, and meals coordinator for Aberdeen activities.

Our facility continues to be used not only for our weekly worship services, Bible studies, and other special functions, but also by several Alcohol and Gamblers Anonymous groups, a Yoga group (until the end of September), and is available for weddings, funerals and receptions. We worked with the Montesano Church of God on their project to capture the rains from their roofs into the storm sewer system and a grading and paving of the alley and parking areas between our churches late this summer. Our portion was about 1/9 of the overall job and cost (\$3,564).

We celebrated our 107th and most successful Pancake Day celebration this year (with continued excellent support from the good people at the Montesano Church of God and the Methodist Church), and several other church calendar events—an Easter Baptism of Jeffery Stubb, Blessing of the Pets Sunday (with about 30 adults and 25 animals present), Epiphany, Pentecost, etc. And, we just had a great time giving out Halloween treats to hundreds of kids on Halloween night, and our church yard and parish hall walkway were fully decorated for the occasion.

Our church website continues, with added content/information for those who read it, both in and outside of our church. Most of our Sunday sermons are posted there for your reading. You can and should use this site for all of your church informational needs. Look at our site at: www.stmarksmonte.com

We have continued to and have expanded our support to the Chaplains on the Harbor ministry, led by The Rev. Sarah Monroe, ordained Episcopal Priest sponsored originally by St. Mark's, based in Aberdeen and Westport. This ministry involves providing food, other supplies, and listening, prayer and leadership training and support for the street folks and homeless living along the Chehalis River on Wednesdays midday each week for lunch, and meals on the last Sunday evenings (up to 120 people) each month at St. Andrews in Aberdeen. In Westport, the community formed in the old St. Christopher's church building continues to grow, where food is now served four days/week, and other special events including worship are happening. Food, clothing and \$\$ donations are always gratefully appreciated for this ministry.

Our worship experience on Sunday morning continues to be refined, with a variety of services each month, and we thank our worship team for their consistent efforts to make the services meaningful each week with the music and varied prayers.

We thank everyone at St. Mark's for your generosity and commitment to do all of the everyday ministries that make our community vital and healthy.

Our community outreach outpouring for this year is already over \$12,600 out of our 2017 annual operating budget of about \$25,800, and an added \$5,000 from a legacy gift from the estate of Bob Sagan. Ministries funds distributed to so far or planned for in 2017:

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| <i>Coastal Harvest (GH Food Dist Center)-TBD</i> | <i>Chaplains on the Harbor (Sunday Meals)-\$2,253</i> |
| <i>Domestic Violence Center-\$500</i> | <i>Willapa Region Ministry-\$50</i> |
| <i>Nursing Home Birthday Cakes-\$205</i> | <i>Camp Michael-\$350</i> |
| <i>Children's Advocacy Center-\$600</i> | <i>Montesano Food Bank-\$600</i> |
| <i>Camp Victory-\$500</i> | <i>Montesano Schools Emergency Fund-\$600</i> |
| <i>Montesano Food Drive-TBD</i> | <i>Montesano Bible Camp-\$200</i> |
| <i>Amazing Grace Lutheran (Tent City supt)-\$100</i> | <i>American Friends of Episcopal Church, Jerusalem-TBD</i> |
| <i>St Mark's Cathedral Building Project-\$2,150</i> | <i>Montesano Ministerial Association-\$70</i> |
| <i>Willapa Harbor Ministerial Association-\$400</i> | |
| <i>Chaplains on the Harbor (monthly pledge plus special donations)-\$9,000</i> | |

Other special offerings collected for outreach: (\$410, for GH PAWS and Freedom Tails from our Blessing of the Pets Sunday offering)

We continue to ask you to please think and pray about how God has blessed you this year, and what St. Mark's church and its community of people mean to you, and decide to commit (either for the first time, or to continue and maybe increase your commitment) to St. Mark's and its work for Christ in this community for 2018. Our Bishop Greg Rickel has stated that it is very important that each person who professes they are a member of a church to sign a card expressing that commitment, regardless of the \$\$ amount they might decide to pledge. At St. Mark's, we hope you will consider this carefully and officially commit to support our ministry here. Any \$\$ commitment can be changed if needed during the year, simply by contacting the treasurer.

The commitment card (available [online](#) or at church) makes it very easy to show your commitment; we will be gathering these cards and giving thanks for all commitments at our worship service on November 26th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving Day. (Print out the card, fill out and bring in—or ask for one when at the church.)

We believe the congregation of St. Mark's is blessed by God, and we pray and hope to continue to serve our community well with our money, time, and talents in 2018.

Your St. Mark's Bishop's Committee

John Tennefoss, Sr. Warden
Jim Campbell, Jr. Warden & Treasurer
Martha Krug, Clerk of the Bishop Committee
Rev. Joyce Avery, Bishop Committee
Kevin Varness, Bishop Committee
Connie Robertson, Bishop Committee
Mary Stubb, Bishop Committee
Rev. Lorraine Dierick, Priest
Rev. Bonnie Campbell, Priest
Rev. Gretchen Gunderson, Priest