

Phone: 360-249-3281

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



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

## **January-February, 2018**

### **Continuing Activities**

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

Our weekly Bible study on Wednesdays generally uses 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 sometimes look at some interesting religious videos for part of our time each week to enhance our Bible learning experiences.)

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

Our semi monthly book club generally meets on the second or third Monday every other month. We read a new book and also discuss other books people have read for an hour (or more as some might feel led to do, over your own 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 great!

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Ash Wednesday Service (2/14/2018, 6pm) at St. Mark's**

This will be the annual Ash Wednesday service with ashes and communion, followed by a soup and bread meal, as we begin Lent.

#### **Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday (2/14/2018) at the Montesano Post Office**

Rev. Bonnie Campbell will impose ashes at the Montesano Post Office (including the drive through) to all comers from 12:30 to 2pm again this year.

#### **108th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day Event (2/13/2018, 11:30am -6:30pm) at St. Mark's**

Our 108th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day event at St. Mark's will be a major success again this year, with the community's help. Special thanks to all the volunteers who help us make this happen. We hope to raise at least \$1500 in net proceeds to give to local groups—such as the Montesano Food Bank, the Children's Advocacy Center, and the Montesano School Emergency Fund. A lot of pancakes, lots of fellowship, and plenty of tired feet--but a lot of fun, too for this Montesano community that comes together each year for this.

#### **St. Mark's Annual Meeting (2/4/2018, 11am) at St. Mark's, after Worship**

Our annual meeting will review the previous year's finances and events, approve the 2018 budget, and determine our Bishop's Committee and Delegates for the annual convention of the Diocese. Please come for a nice potluck lunch and a short meeting to complete this required and important activity of the church.

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

Sundays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tuesdays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous  
Thursdays 12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous  
6:30 pm Gamblers Anonymous  
Fridays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

## Recent News

### **Christmas Celebration (12/24/2017), 5pm, at St. Mark's**

Decorating of the worship space occurred in stages during Advent up until after the worship service on the Sunday before Christmas, December 17th. Christmas Eve service this year on Sunday, December 24th at 5:00PM, was an intimate festive communion service with several Christmas hymns (including the lighting of individual candles during "Silent Night") for all who attended--only 13 due to the snowy weather!

### **Kids Halloween Treats (10/31/2017) at St. Mark's**

Hundreds of area kids got lots of treats, and our restrooms were available for all in this evening of fun in our neighborhood. From about 5-7:30pm, many kids with their parents came by, and the costumes were awesome, including a 1/2 dozen tyrannosaurus rex's! Kevin Varness did his usual decorating for this event, too!

### **All Saints Celebration (10/29/2017), 10:00AM at St. Mark's**

All Saints Day--we celebrated those who came before us. There was a combination of tables for displaying pictures of those loved ones who we remembered during the service, and candles to light as we prayed for them.

### **Diocesan Convention (10/27-28/2017) at the Vancouver Hilton Hotel Center**

Rev. Gretchen Gunderson, Jim Campbell, Rev. Bonnie Campbell, and Connie Robertson attended for St. Mark's.

## Latest Finances Summary

### **Summary of St. Mark's Finances--12/31/2017 (Last-9/19/2017)**

#### **Net Operating Year to Date--\$ 2,153.94 (\$9,804.65)**

We have paid out a lot of outreach type items as part of closing out the St. John's accounts, and also for our St. Mark's outreach this year to date. We also gave \$2,150 between St. Mark's and St. John's for the Cathedral project. Even so, we still have about \$4,400 from the Sagan fund for future outreach and even left in operating funds to begin 2018.

#### **Total Operating Expenses--\$37,515.63 (\$21,485.65)**

Highlights--All bills received and paid current through all of the 2017 year.

Outreach to Date--\$19,937 (Last--\$11,532) Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid--\$1,215 (Last--\$904)

#### **Total Operating Revenues--\$39,669.57 (31,290.30)**

Overall, total revenues for the year were at budgeted levels. We also received during the year a nice legacy gift from the Sagan estate, which we are putting to use for various outreach projects over the next several months.

#### **Non-Operating Revenues--\$9,370.79 Non-Operating Expenses--\$1,338.72**

#### **Net Non-Operating Year to Date--\$8,032.07**

#### **Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date--\$10,186.01 (\$14,021.50)**

#### **St. Mark's, Montesano Funds Summary--Total is \$76,619.58 (last--\$84,137.07)**

Operating Fund (General)--\$6,928.80 (last--\$14,607.51)

- General/Designated Checking Account--\$6,424.74 (last--\$14,103.47)
- General/Designated Savings Account--\$504.06 (last--\$504.04)

Diocesan Investment Fund (St Mark Legacy)--\$27,507.39 (last--\$29,419.81)

- Memorial Fund (part of DIF)--\$719.61 (last--\$665.51)

Diocesan Investment Fund (St John Legacy)--\$41,457.01 (last--\$39,149.09)

Clergy Discretionary Fund/Checking Account--\$726.38 (last--\$960.66)

## Other Articles on Faith and Other Things

### **Be more material this Christmas (and many other times of the year!); your spiritual side can wait**

The Evening Standard, THE REV SAM WELLS, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields  
Thursday 21 December 2017

'Celebrating Christmas means going to such lengths to relate to people who need us but aren't sure they want us'.

Around Christmas we often hear the song From a Distance. It's got a lovely tune. "From a distance, there is harmony, and it echoes through the land." Then it continues, "God is watching us from a distance." Sounds beautiful — but it misses the whole point of Christmas. God doesn't watch from afar like some benevolent grandfather watching the children play at the bottom of the yard. God joins in. A God who watches us from a distance is a God we can keep at a distance. A God who takes human form is a God that comes up close and personal.

Christmas is about how God went to great lengths to relate to people who needed God but weren't sure they much wanted God. Celebrating Christmas means going to such lengths to relate to people who need us but aren't sure they want us. This is Godly materialism: hugging those whom no one hugs, eating with those with whom no one eats, listening to those to whom no one listens, touching those whom no one touches, remembering those whom no one remembers, loving those whom no one loves. This is what God did at Christmas: this is what we can do at Christmas. This is how to celebrate a material God. It's time to stop trying to be more spiritual than Jesus.

Godly materialists seek God in human form. Godly materialists are shepherds roaming in Bethlehem looking for Jesus among teenage parents and homeless people and those who live among farm animals. Godly materialists remember Jesus's parents fled Bethlehem for Egypt and are on the lookout for Jesus among immigrants and refugees and those in fear of their lives in a new country.

Godly materialists recall the wise men travelled to find Jesus in a manger when they thought he'd be in a palace, and so they're always seeking wisdom among strangers from another country.

In December St Martin-in-the-Fields has even more homeless visitors than usual. Last week I got a letter that went like this: "My two-year-old daughter saw a homeless man. She said 'Mummy, why's that man so cold? he needs sleepys.' Broke my heart. I asked if she'd like to give her piggy bank money to him. She said yes. So we did. Through you guys. £35 today."

That child knows that Christmas is about being materialistic. About seeing each other's flesh and blood — humanity, fear, anger, exasperation. And letting the light of hope, generosity and courage shine through, in acts of goodness, truth and beauty. That's what happened 2000 years ago. That's what's happening, in our city, today and every day. Happy Christmas. Make it a godly materialistic one. The Rev Dr Sam Wells is vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.

### **Provided by April Collett—Some Ideas for Thought!**

--No Wifi! Talk to each other! Call your Mom! Pretend it's 1993! Live!!!

--The Internet went down and I had to spend time with my family—they seem like nice people!

--Child to Mom: Before I tell you what happened, remember...The Lord will never give you more than you can handle!

--Lord, give me Coffee to change the things I can, and Wine to accept the things I can't!

### **Provided by Rev. Gretchen Gunderson: This is very interesting and not the ending I had expected!!!!**

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small Texas town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche.

My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger...he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry.

Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home...Not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our longtime visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush.

My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked...And NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name?.....We just call him 'TV.'

He has a wife now....We call her 'Computer'.

### **Provided by April Collett—Young Kids Have Wisdom Beyond Their Years**

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds:  
What does Love mean?

The answers they got were broader, deeper, and more profound than anyone could have ever imagined!

--When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.

Rebecca, age 8

--When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know your name is safe in their mouth. Billy, age 4

--Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other. Karl, age 5

--Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs. Chrissy, age 6

--Love is what makes you smile when you're tired. Terri, age 4

--Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is ok. Danny, age 8

--Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas and you stop opening presents and just listen.

Bobby, age 7

--If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate. Nikki, age 6

--Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day. Noelle, age 7

--Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well. Tommy, age 6  
--My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night. Clare, age 6  
--Love is when mommy gives daddy the best piece of chicken. Elaine, age 5  
--Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you have left him alone all day. Mary Ann, age 4  
--I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes, and has to go out and buy new ones. Lauren, age 4  
--You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget. Jessica, age 8

--And the final one: the winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'

### **Jesus And Mary Depicted As Migrants At Sea In Italian Town's Nativity Display**

By Carol Kuruvilla

Jesus himself had to flee persecution as a child.

A mayor in northern Italy has decided to turn his town's Nativity display into a political statement about refugees. The wooden display in Castenaso, a town in the Italian province of Bologna, features all the hallmarks of a typical Christmas Nativity scene — shepherds stand by with their flocks, while kings approach an infant bearing gifts. The big difference is that the two main figures of the story, the Virgin Mary and the Baby Jesus, are both inside a small rubber dinghy, a vessel similar to the rickety boats used by refugees and migrants during dangerous trips across the Mediterranean Sea from Africa and the Middle East.

Castenaso mayor Stefano Sermenghi chose to include the boat in the manger scene in order to draw attention to the plight of migrants, ANSA reports. The municipality also plans to use an image of this Nativity scene for its Christmas postcards. "Many people in Italy open their mouths, but then nobody does anything to provide a positive welcome to those who arrive," the mayor said, according to The Local.

The decision didn't sit well with some residents. Monsignor Ernesto Vecchi, auxiliary bishop emeritus of Bologna, told a local paper that while the boat is a good reminder of the need for hospitality, tradition calls for Jesus to be placed in a manger — and not on a boat. "The nucleus of a Nativity scene calls for the child in swaddling clothing inside a manger," he told *Il Resto del Carlino*, according to a translation from ANSA. "And this must be fully complied with."

The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) reports that sea arrivals to Italy have sharply decreased in recent months. But the dangerous route is still in use. In 2017, more than 160,000 people arrived in Italy by crossing the Mediterranean Sea. More than 3,000 are estimated to be dead or missing after trying to complete the journey.

Pope Francis has often connected the Christmas story to the migrant crisis, reminding his followers that Jesus' family had to flee to Egypt when the child was a baby to escape persecution. Last year, the Vatican's Nativity scene included a traditional Maltese fishing boat that was meant to remind visitors of the "the sad and tragic reality of migrants on boats making their way toward Italy."

In October, Pope Francis visited a refugee center near Bologna that is home to about 1,000 asylum-seekers, many of whom arrived in the country by sea. "If we look on our neighbors without mercy, we risk that even God will look on us without mercy," he said during the visit.

## January 2018 Monthly Calendar of Events

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

## February 2018 Monthly Calendar of Events

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