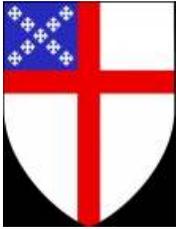


Phone: 360-249-3281

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



**Rev. Lorraine Dierick, Priest**  
**Rev. Bonnie Campbell, Priest**  
**Rev. Dorothy McMeekin, Deacon**  
**Rev. Joyce Avery, Deacon**  
**Corby Varness, Preacher**  
**Jim Campbell, Preacher**  
**Sarah Monroe, Transitional Deacon**

**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**

## **November-December, 2013**

### **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.

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

Our monthly book club 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! The webpage is at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=193>

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **All Saints Celebration (11/3/2013), 10:00AM at St. Mark's**

All Saints Day, on November 1 each year, we celebrate during the Sunday worship service on November 3rd this year. We have a table for displaying pictures of those loved ones who we remembered during the service, and some candles to light as we prayed for them.

#### **103rd Diocesan Convention (11/9-10/2013) at the Hotel Murano, Tacoma**

Rev. Lorraine Dierick, Rev. Bonnie Campbell, Martha Krug, Jim Campbell, and Mary Stubb will be attending for St. Mark's.

#### **Pledge Sunday (12/1/2013 and on, at St. Mark's)**

We receive and blessed our 2014 pledge commitments this Sunday, and continue to do this for those completed later on. Your pledges fund our ministries here at St. Mark's—we have no endowed funds for operating the church. This will help us to finalize the 2014 budget for the ministry of St. Mark's.

#### **Christmas Celebration (12/24/2013), 5pm, at St. Mark's**

Decorating of the worship space is done in stages during Advent up until after the worship service on Sunday, December 22nd. Our Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00PM, is a festive communion service with several Christmas hymns (including the lighting of individual candles during "Silent Night") for everyone who attends. And, there is almost a family meal with the wonderful refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

### **Recent News**

#### **Kids Halloween Treats (10/31/2013) at St. Mark's**

We handed out kids treats, dog treats, and provide coffee and restrooms for all in this evening of fun in the neighborhood. From about 5-7pm, many kids with their parents came by, and the costumes are awesome!

#### **Blessing of the Pets Sunday at St. Mark's (10/6/2013)**

Special service for 10 dogs, a cat, a bird, and several stuffed animals (a ray, and a manatee to remind us of the severe plight of animals like these now) and their owners. Beautiful weather day and a time of joy for all involved. \$100 each donated to the Grays Harbor PAWS and the Freedom Tails programs.

#### **Annual Church Picnic at St. Mark's (9/15/2013)**

We had it here at church! Inside!! We know not to test mother nature! 21 of us for a great worship service with uplifting music and super food and fellowship.

#### **Latest on Plans for Replacing our Griddle Used for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day**

For the past few months, Kevin Varness, and Jim and Bonnie Campbell have been researching replacement griddles, and also thinking and checking into other useful improvements to the kitchen.

The possible griddles, which will need to be electric to not have to install a fan/hood setup, range in cost from about \$2000-\$3000 new including the table to set it on. Other ideas include getting a much more efficient water heater and installing it in the utility room much closer to the sink there and the sacristy sink, but also still near the kitchen. This would clear space in the kitchen cabinet area near the sink so that the dishwasher can fit under the countertop instead of sitting out in the room. Upgraded commercial fast clean dishwashers are also being looked at. The 2<sup>nd</sup> refrigerator has died, and will be replaced. Relayout of the griddle, range, and refrigerators side of the kitchen are being thought about and might include removal of a lower cabinet and replaced with an upright narrower one for storage of the vases used for flowers in worship and in the parish hall. The countertops and the flooring are also being considered.

Soon, these ideas and a draft plan will be made available to the church members for more review and a phased approach will be considered to do the work to support next year's Pancake Day, yet also not have the kitchen out of use for very long at a time. Funding will also be discussed as we decide each part and look at combinations of use of our reserve fund and other donations.

### **Summary of St. Mark's Finances—10/14/2013**

#### **Net Operating Year to Date-- \$7,268.32 (Last--\$6,817.30)**

Well ahead for the year to date. Still lots of outreach to fund, plus possible expenses for kitchen project, which depending on scope could be funded from operating budget fully.

#### **Total Operating Expenses-- \$14,258.05 (Last--\$13,352.07)**

- Highlights—All bills are paid current, except for two small outstanding bills left to come in and pay this month.
- Outreach to Date--\$3,198 (includes \$600 for Monte High outreach) Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid--\$2,200

#### **Total Operating Revenues-- \$21,526.37 (Last--\$20,169.37)**

- All revenue areas are basically on track or are ahead from conservative projections used in the budget.

#### **Non-Operating Revenues--\$2,873.02 Non-Operating Expenses--\$1,168.49**

#### **Net Non-Operating Year to Date--\$1,704.53 (Last--\$1,656.51)**

#### **Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date-- \$8,972.85 (Last --\$8,473.81)**

#### **Funds Summary—Total is \$31,247.28 (last--\$31,247.28)**

General/Designated Checking Account—\$8,855.54 (last--\$8,306.52)

General/Designated Savings Account--\$518.55 (last--\$518.55)

Operating Fund (General)--\$10,028.09 (last--\$8,825.07)

History Book Fund (Designated)--\$-653.98 (last--\$-653.98)

Seminary/Education Fund (Designated)--\$0.00 (last--\$0.00)

Memorial Fund/Savings Account--\$985.98 (last--\$985.96)

Diocesan Investment Fund--\$21,262.07 (last--21,262.07) [No Sept 30 report yet]

Clergy Discretionary Fund/Checking Account--\$124.18 (last--\$174.18)

### **Other Articles on Faith and General Religious Information**

#### **Noah's Ark**

Provided by our good friend and member of St. Mark's, April Collett:

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark:

ONE : Don't miss the boat.

TWO : Remember that we are all in the same boat!

THREE : Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR : Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE : Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN : For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT : Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE : When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN : Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN : No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Please pass this on to people you want to be blessed. Give it! Don't just get it!

Most people walk in and out of your life, but FRIENDS leave footprints in your heart. (That includes friends like April's dog Daisy, who recently passed on at age 16. A great friend to her and one who came for several years to our Blessing of the Pets Sunday.)

### **Syria Conflict Indicates Armageddon, Say One Third Of Americans (SURVEY)**

Most things aren't really the end of the world, but one-third of Americans who were surveyed believe that the Syria conflict is an indication that our days are numbered. A biblical passage which prophesies the destruction of Damascus and links it to the coming of Armageddon is leading many people to think that the current violence is an apocalyptic omen.

A LifeWay Research poll asked 1,001 people if they agreed with the statement, "I believe the battles in Syria are all part of the prophecies of the Book of Revelation," and 32 percent of them said yes. Twenty-six percent agreed with the assertion that "U.S. military intervention in Syria might lead to the Battle of Armageddon that's spoken about in the Book of Revelation."

Gender played a role in responses, as women were more likely than men to draw a corollary between Biblical prophecy and the current situation in Syria. Location and income also skewed the results, with Southerners and members of households making less than \$25,000 per year being much more likely to connect Syria with the end of days. In addition, one in five people polled agreed with the statement, "I believe the world will end in my lifetime."

The Rev. Mark Hitchcock of Faith Bible Church in Edmond, Okla., speculates that people looking for answers in tough economic and political times "want to know that God is in charge. They want to know that someone has his hands on the wheel," according to LifeWay. Though he believes the Bible does predict future events in the Middle East, the author of *The End: A Complete Overview of Bible Prophecy and the End of Days* said that he "does not think the trouble in Syria was predicted in the Bible." Isaiah 17:1 is one of the passages most frequently referenced when relating Syria to the end of the world. It states: "The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap." (King James version)

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, was surprised by the results of the survey. He said that previous U.S. military actions like the war in Afghanistan or 1990s air strikes on Bosnia "didn't get the same reaction." However, Syria's shared border with Israel, as well as the explicit Biblical mention of Damascus, may account for the significant number of affirmative responses. Stetzer said that he could see why attaching Biblical significance to the Syria conflict would appeal to many Christians, because, "For Christians, the end of the world doesn't mean despair. The end is really a new beginning."

### **The Battle for Jerusalem: The Sacred City's Five Most Contested Sites**

World-renowned chef, best-selling author and Emmy-winning television personality Anthony Bourdain returned for the second season of CNN's showcase for coverage of food and travel. "Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown" is shot entirely on location and premiered Sept 15 @ 9pm ET/PT. By Daniel Burke, CNN Belief Blog Co-Editor

(CNN) - Heaven and Earth are said to meet atop Jerusalem's sacred mounts, but the city's stony streets have seen more than their share of hellish violence. King David subdued the Jebusites, the city's Canaanite founders. The Babylonians and Romans routed the Jews. Muslims booted the Byzantines. Christian Crusaders mauled Muslims and were, in turn, tossed out by the Tartars. The Ottomans followed, then the British and the Jordanians before finally, in 1967, the city came nearly full circle when Israel annexed East Jerusalem. That sparked another cycle of violence, this time between Israelis and Palestinians. "It's easily the most contentious piece of real estate in the world,"

says Anthony Bourdain, who visits Jerusalem in the season premiere of "Anthony Bourdain Parts Unknown". "And there's no hope - none - of ever talking about it without pissing someone off."

Why would people argue about a holy place? You might call it the Jerusalem Paradox: What makes the city sacred is also its source of strife. Since the days of the Jebusites, more than 3,000 years ago, the otherwise unremarkable city has been called a portal to paradise, and everyone elbows for a closer look. After all, how many places can list God on their guest registry? And Abraham, David, Solomon, the Virgin Mary, Jesus and the Prophet Mohammed as well.

"The city is chockablock full of places that have historical meaning for different groups of people - and they are all contested," said Samuel Heilman, a professor of Jewish Studies at Queens College in New York and author of "A Walker in Jerusalem." "Everybody's story is just one of many," Heilman said. "And so they not only try to make their story the right story, they try to delegitimize everyone else's." Some Muslims say Jerusalem never housed a Jewish temple; some Jews argue that Mohammed never visited the sacred city, and the argument runs on and on ... for centuries.

And it's not just Muslims, Christians and Jews fighting each other. Sometimes the most serious squabbles erupt within the faith themselves. Want to see Christian monks fist-fight? Go to Jerusalem. The good news is, all three Abrahamic faiths teach that the Messiah will eventually return to Jerusalem and sort the whole thing out.

Until then, here are the sacred city's five most contested sites:

### 1. The Temple Mount

This broad platform in Jerusalem's Old City is said to have hosted an almost unimaginable series of sacred events. The rabbinic sages say that God gathered dust from this spot to create Adam, the first man, before setting him loose in the Garden of Eden. Jewish tradition holds that the Temple Mount also contains Mount Moriah, where Abraham, the Hebrew patriarch, is said to have nearly sacrificed his son - under God's orders - before an angel intervened. Later, Solomon constructed the first Jewish Temple on the mount, including the Holy of Holies, a room that kept the Ark of the Covenant, which was said to contain the tablets on which God wrote the Ten Commandments. Only the Jewish high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, where tradition holds he met with God on Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. Rabbis say that Jews are still forbidden to step on the Temple Mount, for fear of intruding on the Holy of Holies.

The Temple was destroyed twice, first by the Byzantines and then by the Romans. Religious Jews pray the Third Temple will be built by the Messiah himself. Since 1967, the Temple Mount has been an almost constant source of tension because it is also home to the ...

### 2. Haram al-Sharif

Muslims call the Temple Mount "Haram al-Sharif" (the Noble Sanctuary), and it's home to one of the most sacred sites in Islam: the al-Aqsa Mosque. Muslims believe that the Prophet Mohammed was carried on a flying steed from Mecca to al-Aqsa during his miraculous Night Journey, said Muqtedar Khan, an expert on Islam and politics at the University of Delaware. "It's all about al-Aqsa," said Khan. "That's why all Muslims are sympathetic to the Palestinian cause."

According to Islamic tradition, the night journey led Mohammed to the same Jerusalem rock on which Abraham nearly sacrificed his son, and around which King Solomon centered his temple, where the Muslim founder led Abraham, Moses and Jesus in prayers as the last of God's prophets. That rock is now said to sit in the Dome of the Rock, whose golden roof gleams above the Old City skyline.

Since its construction in the seventh century, the Haram al-Sharif, now controlled by an Islamic trust, has been an almost constant source of tension between Muslims and Jews. In the 1980s, Jewish radicals plotted to blow up the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa, believing that it would lead to a spiritual revolution and usher in the messiah. In 2000, the Second Intifada - a five-year-long Palestinian uprising - was sparked, Palestinians say, after Ariel Sharon, then a candidate for Israeli Prime Minister, visited the compound surrounding al-Aqsa. Sharon insisted that his visit was not intended to provoke Palestinians, but many saw it as an attempt to underline Israel's claim to Jerusalem's holy sites.

### 3. The Western Wall

Israeli soldiers wept when they saw the Western Wall in 1967, after seizing East Jerusalem from Jordan. "We have returned to our most holy places," said one Israeli general. "We have returned and we shall never leave them."

Located at the foot of the Temple Mount, the 62-foot-tall stone wall once supported the courtyard of the ancient temple, the center of Jewish spiritual life for centuries. For Jews, the wall is one of the last remaining links to that time, and they gather before it to hold religious services, to pray or to slip notes into its cracks. "There's a tradition that notes put in the wall are like notes transmitted to heaven," Heilman said, "since this is as close as Jews were able for generations to get to the Temple Mount where they believed God dwelt on earth."

How close Jews get - and which kind of Jews - has been a subject of fierce debate in recent years. The praying area is divided into men's and women's sections, and ultra-Orthodox men have hurled chairs at women who sing and pray at the wall or try to enter the men's section, accusing them of violating Jewish law. In response, a group called Women of the Wall has launched a highly publicized protest campaign to win the right to wear prayer shawls, lead prayers and read collectively from the Torah at the holy site.

### 4. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre

In the fourth century, after converting to Christianity, Emperor Constantine launched what historian Karen Armstrong calls "one of the first recorded archaeological excavations in history." He was looking for Jesus' tomb and thought he found it in Jerusalem. Constantine asked his mother to oversee the construction of a magnificent church on the site. Originally called the Church of Resurrection, it was destroyed by a Muslim caliph in 1009, but later Muslim leaders allowed Christians to rebuild the church. Now called the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, it is believed by many Christians to house a piece of the cross on which Jesus was crucified, his tomb and the site of his resurrection.

Under a centuries-old agreement, the church is shared by six Christian communities, but they squabble over every stone, sometimes coming to blows over perceived slights. In 2008, for example, Israeli riot police broke up a melee between Greek Orthodox and Armenian monks. Ethiopian monks reportedly sneaked into the church's rooftop monastery during Easter prayers in 1970 and changed the locks, evicting its former owners, the Copts. The six Christian communities at the Holy Sepulchre don't even trust each other with the church keys. A Muslim family has held them, opening the church every morning and closing it every night since the 12th century.

### 5. The Garden Tomb

Not all Christians believe that Jesus was buried and rose again at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In the 19th century, doubts crept in about Constantine's site, said Robert Wilken, a professor of Christian history at the University of Virginia. "What it really boils down to is that Protestants came to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the 19th century and were appalled that it was an Orthodox church," Wilken said. The icons and incense were apparently too much for Protestants more austere sensibilities.

In 1867, British Christians unearthed what they believe was the garden of Joseph of Arimathea, outside the Old City's Damascus Gate, where they believe Jesus was entombed. The Gospel of John says that Jesus' tomb was near a garden, and the British Christians who run the Garden Tomb say their site matches the Bible's descriptions perfectly. The tomb is carved from solid rock, it sits near an escarpment that looks like a skull (Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified, means "place of the skull,") and most importantly, they say, the tomb is empty, signifying a resurrected Jesus.

So, is there any chance the battle for Jerusalem will end before the End Times? Muqtedar Khan says yes, if the traditions that trace their history to Abraham - Jews, Muslims and Christians - start seeing themselves as part of the same sacred lineage, rather than three separate religions. "If they were willing to share this identity," Khan said, "perhaps they'd be more willing to share Jerusalem."

## November 2013 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <u>10am</u> Holy Communion <u>7pm</u> AA	28	29 <u>7pm</u> AA	30 <u>10am</u> Bible Study	31 <u>12pm</u> AA <u>7pm</u> Gamblers Anon	November 1 <u>7pm</u> AA	2
3 <u>10am</u> Holy Communion <u>7pm</u> AA	4	5 <u>7pm</u> AA	6 <u>10am</u> Bible Study <u>12pm</u> Monte Ministerial Association Meeting	7 <u>12pm</u> AA <u>7pm</u> Gamblers Anon	8 <u>7pm</u> AA	9
10 <u>10am</u> Holy Communion <u>7pm</u> AA	11	12 <u>7pm</u> AA	13 <u>10am</u> Bible Study	14 <u>12pm</u> AA <u>7pm</u> Gamblers Anon	15 <u>7pm</u> AA	16
17 <u>10am</u> Healing Service <u>7pm</u> AA	18 <u>12pm</u> Book Club	19 <u>7pm</u> AA	20 <u>10am</u> Bible Study	21 <u>12pm</u> AA <u>7pm</u> Gamblers Anon	22 <u>7pm</u> AA	23
24 <u>10am</u> Holy Communion <u>7pm</u> AA	25	26 <u>2pm</u> Birthday Party @ Monte Health & Rehab <u>7pm</u> AA	27 <u>10am</u> Bible Study	28 <u>12pm</u> AA <u>7pm</u> Gamblers Anon	29 <u>7pm</u> AA	30

### Birthdays:

Kevin Gavalis—8<sup>th</sup>  
Eric Heikkinen—25<sup>th</sup>

John Fry—13<sup>th</sup>

Wanda Wahl—18<sup>th</sup>

### Anniversaries:

Robert & Rev. Lorraine Dierick—4<sup>th</sup>  
Gilbert & Shirley Johnson—20<sup>th</sup>

## December 2013 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 1 <u>10am</u> Holy Communion <u>7pm</u> AA	2	3 <u>7pm</u> AA	4 <u>10am</u> Bible Study <u>6:30pm</u> Bishop Committee	5 <u>12pm</u> AA <u>7pm</u> Gamblers Anon	6 <u>7pm</u> AA	7
8 <u>10am</u> Holy Communion <u>7pm</u> AA	9	10 <u>7pm</u> AA	11 <u>10am</u> Bible Study	12 <u>12pm</u> AA <u>7pm</u> Gamblers Anon	13 <u>7pm</u> AA	14
15 <u>10am</u> Healing Service <u>7pm</u> AA	16 <u>12pm</u> Book Club	17 <u>7pm</u> AA	18 <u>10am</u> Bible Study	19 <u>12pm</u> AA <u>7pm</u> Gamblers Anon	20 <u>7pm</u> AA	21
22 <u>10am</u> Holy Communion <u>11am</u> Decorate Church <u>7pm</u> AA	23	24 <u>2pm</u> Birthday Party @ Monte Health & Rehab <u>5pm</u> Christmas Eve Service <u>7pm</u> AA	25	26 <u>12pm</u> AA <u>7pm</u> Gamblers Anon	27 <u>7pm</u> AA	28
29 <u>10am</u> Holy Communion <u>7pm</u> AA	30	31 <u>7pm</u> AA	January 1	2 <u>12pm</u> AA <u>7pm</u> Gamblers Anon	3 <u>7pm</u> AA	4

### Birthdays:

Corby Varness—5th Dorothy McMeekin—9<sup>th</sup>

Elaine Olsen—14<sup>th</sup>

### Anniversaries:

John & Mary Linth—10th

November 2, 2013

To All In Our St. Mark's Church Community,

In 2013, as some of our members continue to have various health issues and challenges, we continued with another year of worship and ministry opportunities at St. Mark's. As always, your energy and commitment to our mission moves it ahead with God's grace.

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, and is available for weddings, funerals and receptions. This year it was also used for Rev. Lorraine Dierick's high school 60<sup>th</sup> class reunion!

We celebrated our 103<sup>rd</sup> Pancake Day celebration this year, and several church calendar events, including sharing worship services and Friday lunches during Lent with other local churches. And, we have continued a monthly spiritual book club, which just completed its third year in October.

Our church website continues, with added content/information for those who read it, both in and outside of our church. You can and should use this site for all of your church informational needs. Look at our site at: [www.stmarksmonte.com](http://www.stmarksmonte.com)

Sarah Monroe, our seminarian and ordained Deacon, deferred being ordained as a priest for another year of discernment, and is now serving as a deacon locally at St. Andrew's, Aberdeen. She has also started a street ministry in Aberdeen along with Kevin Gavalis and Rev. Bonnie Campbell called Chaplains on the Harbor. Food, clothing and \$\$ donations will always be gratefully appreciated as they meet with those on the streets every Wednesday and Saturday mornings to distribute these items and listen to their stories and offer support.

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

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 for this year will be about \$5,000 out of our 2013 annual operating budget of about \$25,000. Ministries funds distributed to so far or planned for in 2013:*

*Coastal Harvest (GH Food Dist Center)  
Domestic Violence Center  
Nursing Home Birthday Cakes  
Children's Advocacy Center  
Camp Victory*

*Union Gospel Mission  
Willapa Region Ministry  
Camp Michael  
Montesano Food Bank  
Chaplains on the Harbor*

*Montesano High School-Invest Ed (for needy kids)*  
*Monte-Elma Food Bowl*

*Other special offerings collected for outreach: (about \$450)*  
*PAWS & Freedom Tails (Blessing of Pets Sunday Plate Offering)*  
*Backpacks for Teens*  
*Bishop's Discretionary Fund*  
*Lenten Lunch Donations*  
*Montesano Schools (school supplies)*

*Future building maintenance—we planned to move about \$2,400 into our long term savings reserve (Diocesan Investment Fund) at year end. (It could be as much as \$6,000 if we do not spend some of it for kitchen improvements this year. See above in the newsletter for a discussion about possible upgrades in our kitchen.)*

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 2014. 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 that follows this letter 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 December 1st, just 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 2014.

Your St. Mark's Bishop's Committee

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

## Time and Talent Commitment

Please write your first name and last name (especially in the case of couples or families) to indicate ministries of interest to you.) *We will contact you as soon as possible after pledge cards are tallied.*

Acolyte or Eucharistic Minister \_\_\_\_\_  
Altar Guild \_\_\_\_\_  
Usher/Greeter/Assist Newcomers \_\_\_\_\_  
Children's Church/Sunday School \_\_\_\_\_  
Host Coffee Hour/Provide Treats \_\_\_\_\_  
Pastoral Care/Visits \_\_\_\_\_  
Prayer Request/List \_\_\_\_\_  
Building/Grounds Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_  
Newsletters/Event Advertising \_\_\_\_\_  
Website Support \_\_\_\_\_  
Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_  
Worship Planning \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
Convention Delegate/Alternate \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support of St. Mark's through your contributions of time, talent, and treasure.*

## Treasure Commitment

This financial pledge is used to support St. Mark's Operating Budget.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will give a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to next year's operating budget.

I/We will honor this commitment as indicated below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ One Payment on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Weekly Payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have included St. Mark's in my estate planning.

(This pledge may be changed or cancelled upon notice to the church treasurer.)

*The treasurer will remove and retain the treasure portion of this form; your pledge of time & talent will be gratefully shared with the Bishop Committee and Worship Team.*

**What does “stewardship mean?”**

- It’s about listening to God and reflecting on what we hear...
  - It’s how we respond to God’s abundant gifts to us...
  - It’s a part of thoughtful and proactive choices we make for the future of our church...
  - It’s part of who we want to be as a community of Christians...
- And, in its best sense, it is both thanksgiving and celebration.

*Stewardship is: “All we do, with all we have, all of the time!”*

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