

Monthly Calendar for September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		10:00AM Worship Team 7:00PM AA	10:00AM Bible Study	Noon AA 7:00PM Gamblers Anon	7:00PM AA	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00AM Holy Communion 10:00AM Bishop Visit 7:00PM AA		7:00PM AA	10:00AM Bible Study	Noon AA 7:00PM Gamblers Anon	7:00PM AA	9:00AM Rummage Sale
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00AM Holy Communion 7:00PM AA		7:00PM AA	10:00AM Bible Study 6:30PM Bishop Committee	Noon AA 7:00PM Gamblers Anon	7:00PM AA	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00AM Healing Service 7:00PM AA		7:00PM AA	10:00AM Bible Study	Noon AA 7:00PM Gamblers Anon	7:00PM AA	
27	28	29	30			
10:00AM Morning Prayer 7:00PM AA		2:00PM Birthday Party @ Monte Health & Rehab 7:00PM AA	10:00AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Potluck Meal			

Birthdays:

Loni Crass 9/1
Brad Fry 9/28

Sandy Marr 9/6

Anniversaries:

Bishop Rickel Visit (9/6/2009) at St. Mark's

Diocese of Olympia Bishop Greg Rickel will visit St. Mark's for his first official visit on September 6, as part of our Sunday worship and at lunch and a meeting afterward. This is a time for baptisms, confirmations, receptions and other blessings with the bishop here. We also will get to hear Bishop Greg preach and celebrate Communion with us. He will meet with us all to discuss whatever we want with him about our church and its future, as we near the 100th year anniversary of being a mission church of this Diocese.

Mission Insite Demographics Review Data for Montesano, Washington

This Montesano demographics data was first presented in the August newsletter. Below again are a few key highlights from that data, which is a review of detailed demographic data for Montesano, Washington (2008), along with projections by 2013. We will likely discuss this information and how it affects our look at the future of St. Mark's, when Bishop Greg visits in September. To look at the detailed data: go to St. Mark's website, on the Administration Page, and click on the links on the lower right, at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=6>

Population: The estimated 2008 population within the study area (the city of Montesano, and the corridor along US 12 east and west of Montesano) is 6,014. The 2013 projection would see the area grow by 535 to a total population of 6,549. The population within the study area is growing somewhat faster than the statewide growth rate.

Phase of Life Trends: The age groups most expected to increase from 2008 to 2013 are: age 20-35 and over 55. Those age groups which will only stay near the same total size are: age 10-19 and age 35-54.

Households & Children Trends: Of the households with children under 18, married couple households are decreasing as a percentage while single parent households are increasing (married-62.4% down to 55.6%, single-34.3 up to 41.9%).

Styles of Living: The top 4 styles of living in this area:

- Comfy Country Living (44%)—Older empty-nesting college-educated couples and retirees reside in quiet small-town communities
- Prime Middle America (27.1%)—Mix of young, upper middle class couples and families living in small towns working in well paying white-collar and blue-collar jobs
- Working Rural Communities (16.4%)—Middle-class empty-nesting couples, middle-aged families and single seniors living in older, industrial towns skilled in blue-collar construction and manufacturing jobs
- Mid-Market Enterprise (12.4%)—Households with mix of middle-aged and middle-income singles and couples with high school degrees and some college education

Religious Practices: Both individually and taken together it is estimated that people in this study area are about the same as the state average. Those who

enjoy watching religious TV programs (21.5%) are well above the state average, Those who consider themselves religious persons (48.1%) and those who believe it is important to attend religious services (19.9%) are similar to the state average, and those who consider themselves evangelical Christians (28.5%) or those who feel their faith is really important to them (12.6%) are somewhat below the state average.

St. Mark's Church Worship Space Proposed Changes

Rev. Janet Campbell, from St. Stephen's, Seattle, and an expert on liturgy and worship space planning, visited us on Sunday, August 16 to worship with us, to see how we use our worship space, and then talked with us about more possible changes and the theology behind them.

The intent of these proposed changes when completed is to: promote a more pleasant, intimate and accessible worship experience. This includes making all aspects of the worship service closer to all for better vision and hearing, to be able to worship as a closer community, and make it easier and safer to bring forward the communion elements and the offering and for everyone to receive communion.

Changes already complete or in work:

- Open narthex doors (for better access, more inviting)
- Create baptismal space: (to remind us of our baptismal vows)
 - Move baptismal font to rear of nave
 - Place Paschal candle next to font
 - Moved old bishop chair first to the rear of nave, then to right front of the chancel (either on the way out, to be replaced later by much more interesting and comfortable chair, or re-finished and re-padded)
- Remove "modesty screens" at front of pews (opens up front pews for accessibility, opens up front of nave)
- Move lectern down in front and far right of the first pew (closer to the worshippers for the Service of the Word--readings and sermons)
- Paint sides and back walls of worship space--a very light blue for cool and calming effect for worship, and to clean up the old tired dirty walls
- Added baseboards and painted all trim white
- Removed altar rail gates (not needed, distracting when opening and closing)
- Removed two chairs in sanctuary area next to altar--not used
- Painted door to sacristy from chancel same color as wall to make it less noticeable.
- Angled pews more (from 12" before, to 18" now) (allow better viewing of the altar and other worshippers)
- Removed all 10 chairs from the back of the nave
- Removed one of the old pews from the back of the nave
- Made a space between pews 5 and 6 on both sides of the nave to allow for handicap seating or for children a space on the floor to play near their parents
- Angled pew in the chancel used by the presider and the deacon so that they can more easily see the congregation when seated.
- Replaced floodlight bulbs with spotlight bulbs in sanctuary area and pointed at the large cross to enhance its appearance.

- Replace old solid wood door from nave to parish hall with glass door to make the worship space more inviting to outside user groups of our parish hall.

Other changes in the future being considered are all in the chancel/sanctuary (front) area of the worship space. More information about those changes will be provided after this first group of changes are complete and settled.

To look at more detailed information: go to St. Mark's website, on the Home Page, and click on the link on the lower right, at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com>.

Annual Blessing of the Pets Sunday, October 4th, 10:00AM

Our annual blessing of the Pets Sunday worship service is coming up! Bring your pets for a special blessing, and they get treats afterwards. And, let your friends know about this event so they can have their pets blessed, too.

Weekly Bible Study at St. Mark, Wednesdays at 10:00AM

Our weekly Bible study for this summer/fall season is on the book of Acts of the Apostles, or as the actual more correct translation says, Acts of Apostolic Men. This study gives us the opportunity to learn about those early Christians who received the Holy Spirit and starting the church. Please join us for this study each week from 10:00-11:30AM at the church. There is no preparation for each week's study and we also share our concerns and prayer needs.

Summary of St. Mark's Finances—8/17/2009

Total Operating Expenses--\$13,913.93 (Previous month--\$12,541.15)

- Highlights—All expenses are tracking per the budget plan, except for Conferences, Worship, and Kitchen. Several other areas will likely come in under budget for the year. All current bills are paid to date.
- Outreach Given to Date--\$3,046 Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid--\$2,419

Total Operating Revenues--\$15,786.95 (Previous month--\$13,988.44)

- Highlights—All revenues are tracking well per the budget plan.

Net Operating Year to Date—+\$1,873.02 (Previous month—+\$1,447.29).

From now until the fall we normally have significant positive cash flow with low expenses over the spring and summer.

Non-Operating Income & Expenses—none to date

Funds Summary—Total is \$11,780.39 (Previous month--\$10,567.98)

- Checking Account—\$3,210.97 (Previous month--\$2,785.24)
- Savings Account--\$517.45 (Previous month--\$517.45)
- Memorial Fund--\$975.16 (Previous month--\$474.88) (\$200 is for the Windows fund)
- Diocesan Investment Fund--\$5,917.59 (Previous month--\$5,635.09)
- Clergy Discretionary Fund--\$1,159.22 (Previous month--\$1,159.22)

Six Steps in Christian Giving

From where we are...to where God is calling us!

One of the ways we walk in faith is on the stewardship path of all that we are and all that we have.

Survival: I give a bit when I am asked because the church ought to be there in case I need it. [The need is survival and there is a chance the church might help. The relationship is I know the Church is there if I need it—all being well, I won't!]

Supermarket: I am happy to pay for the cost of the bits of the church that I want to enjoy. [The need is security and by treating the church on my own terms I feel safe and unchallenged. I see myself as a customer.]

Support: The work of the Church is important to me; so I will support it. [I have a need to belong. I see myself as a proper member of the church supporter's club.]

Subscription: I see myself as a member and I wish to contribute my fair share of the costs. [The need is identity—I am recognized and I play my part.]

Submission: My understanding of being a disciple is that I should put God first in my life. [I see a deeper meaning in life and my giving responds to God and not just the needs of the Church.]

Sacrifice: I truly believe my Lord, "demands my soul, my life, my all". [My Christian calling is to be Christ-like, so naturally I give both joyfully and sacrificially—following Jesus Christ.]

(Provided by the Stewardship Office of the Episcopal Church USA)

A Stewardship Prayer

Gracious God,

Abundant are the blessings you have freely and joyously given us.

Grateful for the opportunities you provide for living generous and
compassionate lives of love, prayer, and service,

Help us now and always to offer freely and joyously to you,

O God, our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*The Rev. Bill Hibbert
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Rapid City, South Dakota*