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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

March-April, 2016

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're also looking 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*—3rd 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

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

Palm Sunday Communion Service: March 20th—reading of the passion story and blessing of the palms. A really nice service of the palms, with a short Passion reading.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service: March 24th—includes 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, our own short service.

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

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

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

Sundays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesdays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Thursdays 12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous

7 pm Gamblers Anonymous

Fridays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Recent News

Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday (2/10/2016) at the Montesano Post Office

Revs. Bonnie Campbell and Lorraine Dierick imposed ashes at the Montesano Post Office (including the drive through) to all comers from 12:30 to 2pm.

106th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day Event (2/9/2016) at St. Mark's

Our 106th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day event at St. Mark's was a major success this year. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this happen. We raised \$1300 in net proceeds to give to local groups—\$500 each for the Monte Food Bank and the Children's Advocacy Center, and \$300 to Coastal Harvest. 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.

Summary of St. Mark's Finances—2/26/2016 (Start of 2016)

Net Operating Year to Date--\$-2,223.57 (Last--\$0.00)

\$1,800 was moved to the DIF, which accounts for most of the minus amount above.

Total Operating Expenses--\$6,391.58 (Last--\$0.00)

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

Outreach to Date--\$2,050 Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid--\$460

Total Operating Revenues--\$4,168.01 (Last--\$0.00)

Overall, total revenues for the year are behind estimates at this time.

Non-Operating Revenues--\$-795.16 Non-Operating Expenses--\$48.88

Net Non-Operating Year to Date--\$-844.04 (Last--\$0.00) (no February DIF report yet)

Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date--\$-3,067.61 (Last--\$0.00)

Funds Summary—Total is \$26,957.89 (last--\$28,225.50)

Operating Fund (General)--\$1,625.99 (last--\$3,849.56)

- General/Designated Checking Account—\$1,107.06 (last--\$3,330.64)
- General/Designated Savings Account--\$518.93 (last--\$518.92)

Diocesan Investment Fund--\$24,976.60 (last--\$23,971.76)

- Memorial Fund (part of DIF)--\$1,102.41 (last--\$1,058.06)

Clergy Discretionary Fund/Checking Account--\$355.30 (last--\$404.18)

Other Articles on Faith and Other Things

Positive Thoughts—provided by April Collett

The best way to escape from a problem is to solve it.—Brendan Francis

You've been waiting for God to clean up the world for you; God has been waiting for you to do it with God. You have been waiting for intervention; God has been waiting for collaboration.—John Dominic Crossan

The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion. – Paul Coelho

It is so important not to let ourselves off the hook or to become apathetic or cynical by telling ourselves that nothing works or makes a difference. Every day, light your small candle. The inactions and actions of many human beings over a long time contributed to the crises our children face, and it is the action and struggle of many human beings over time that will solve them. Every day, light your small candle. – Marian Wright Edelman

So many people feel overwhelmed and disempowered by stress from modern life convincing themselves they can't make a difference, so they don't even try, they just bury their talents in the ground and let their spirits wither on the vine of life. – Marian Wright Edelman

Mental Fitness Evaluation--provided by April Collett

This test is to ascertain your mental state now. If you get one right you are doing ok. If you get none right you'd better go for counseling. **(I'll meet you there.)**

There are 4 test questions. Don't miss one.

Giraffe Test How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator? Stop and think about it and decide on your answer before you scroll down.

The correct answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe, and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

Elephant Test How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator? Did you say, Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant, and close the refrigerator? Wrong Answer.

Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions.

Lion King Test The Lion King is hosting an Animal Conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?

Correct Answer: The Elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. You just put him in there. This tests your memory.

Okay, even if you did not answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your true abilities.

Crocodile Test There is a river you must cross but it is used by crocodiles, and you do not have a boat. How do you manage it?

Correct Answer: You jump into the river and swim across. Haven't you been lis-ten-ing? All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Conference. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

According to Anderson Consulting Worldwide, around 90% of the Retirees they tested got all questions wrong, but many preschoolers got several correct answers. Anderson Consulting says this conclusively proves the theory that most Retirees do not have the brains of a four-year-old.

Send this out to frustrate all of your smart friends..

PS: Just the fact that I sent it to you should make you feel good.

Forrest Gump Passes Away..... provided by April Collett

The day finally arrived. Forrest Gump dies and goes to Heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates.

However, the gates are closed, and Forrest approaches the gatekeeper.

The gatekeeper said, 'Well, Forrest, it is certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you though, that the place is filling up fast, and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The test is short, but you have to pass it before you can get into Heaven.'

Forrest responds, 'It sure is good to be here, sir. But nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. I sure hope the test ain't too hard. Life was a big enough test as it was.'

The gatekeeper continued, 'Yes, I know, Forrest, but the test is only three questions.

First: What two days of the week begin, with the letter T?

Second: How many seconds are there in a year?

Third: What is God's first name?

Forrest leaves to think the questions over. He returns the next day and sees St. Peter, who waves him up, and says, 'Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers.'

Forrest replied, 'Well, the first one --which two days in the week begins with the letter 'T'?

Shucks, That would be ` Today and Tomorrow.'

The gatekeeper's eyes opened wide and he exclaimed, 'Forrest, that is not what I was thinking, but you do have a point, and I guess I did not specify, so I will give you credit for that answer. How about the next one?'

'How many seconds in a year?'

Now that one is harder,' replied Forrest, 'but I think and think about that, and I guess the only answer can be twelve.'

Astounded, the gatekeeper said, 'Twelve? Twelve? Forrest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?'

Forrest replied, 'Shucks, there's got to be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd...

'Hold it, interrupts the gatekeeper. 'I see where you are going with this, and I see your point, though that was not quite what I had in mind... but I will have to give you credit for that one, too. Let us go on with the third and final question.

Can you tell me God's first name'?

'Sure,' Forrest replied, it's Andy.'

'Andy?' exclaimed the exasperated and frustrated gatekeeper. Ok, I can understand how you came up with the answers to my earlier questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as the first name of God?

'Shucks, that was the easiest one of all,' Forrest replied. I learnt it from the song,
ANDY WALKS WITH ME,
ANDY TALKS WITH ME,
ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN.

'The gate keeper opened the Pearly Gates, and said: "Run, Forrest, run".

Why Lent Doesn't Have To Be 'Another Self Help Routine'

"Rend your hearts, not your garments." 02/10/2016

Antonia Blumberg Associate Religion Editor, The Huffington Post

There's a deeper significance to the Lenten fast that Rev. Broderick Greer says we miss when we make it "just another self help routine." Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the 40-day season of Lent, during which many Christians around the world will abstain from certain foods or practices as an act of self-discipline. For some, that will mean 40 days without chocolate or Facebook while others may abstain from gossip or complaining.

But there's a deeper significance to the Lenten fast that Rev. Broderick Greer says we miss when we make it "just another self help routine." The reverend, who serves as curate at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Memphis, Tennessee, released a YouTube video on Tuesday encouraging people of faith to use the religious holiday as an opportunity for social change.

The video, titled "Rend," draws from a passage in the Bible's book of Joel that reads: "Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God." It's a passage frequently read on Ash Wednesday that reminds Christians to rend, or tear, more than just their material goods in a sign of devotion. "The prophetic voice is calling on them.... to make a shift in the innards," Greer told The Huffington Post.

So what does that mean for the Lenten fast? "Ideally, Lent is a season in which the Church can imagine for itself how God might be inviting us to alter more than our chocolate intake," Greer said. "Maybe God is inviting us to reimagine systems of impoverishment, white supremacy, sexism and transantagonism. Maybe God is inviting us to fill the void of chocolate with justice for black and brown lives."

Theologian Jake Erickson made a similar argument in a recent blog on The Huffington Post. Lent, he wrote, has become a season of "sacrificial gimmicks... like vaguely pious, individualistic, New Year's resolutions." But it doesn't have to be that way.

Over the last few years, Erickson said he's adopted more contemplative practices to fill the 40 days, exploring concepts like anger and justice.

"Lent has become a space to imagine the ambiguities, fragilities and rich bonds of relationship -- with others, with the planet, with my mysterious self, with my own theological traditions," Erickson wrote. However you "fill the void," as Greer said, during Lent, he encouraged Christians to remember: "At its worst, Ash Wednesday is just another list of prohibitions or potential occasions for shame. At its best, Ash Wednesday is the Church's way of reminding us that we are infinitely loved and forgiven by God in Christ."

Eight Reasons College Students Turn Away From Church

02/16/2016 03:05 pm ET Bob Smith Director, multi-faith facility.

Participation in organized religion is declining in the United States and I do not see that trend reversing anytime in the near future. Working in higher education, I have seen the decline in the number of college students participating in worship services and other religious activities. So I asked both religious and non-religious students why this was happening and I was given many reasons but there were eight that formed a solid core:

1. Going to church wasn't something they did growing up so there was never an established routine nor a sense of importance.

2. Hypocrisy was a big one. Many expressed the feeling that church leaders and members of the congregation do not practice what they preach and often pass judgment on others. College students don't want to be judged. Who does?

3. Lack of trust. Scandals seem to be common with clergy engaging in illegal/immoral behavior and the way churches have responded has only compounded this feeling. These were people that were supposed to be someone you could trust and turn to in times of crisis and many took advantage of that by taking advantage of children or the person seeking help. Even when issues were made public the consequences were typically less severe than people expected and wanted.

4. Awareness of the contradictions within religions and with science. The more college students learn about other traditions the more they question which one is the true religion or if there is one. As we become more diverse as a society and are increasingly able to learn more via social media we become less inclined to believe that there is one religion that holds all the answers. College students engage in conversations about religion and often have friends or roommates from other faiths and they realize that all traditions have something to offer and many share a lot of similar perspectives.

5. Spirituality is becoming more the focus for students. With a lack of commitment to organized religion but still having a sense of something greater students are becoming more focused on spiritual practices that are often done in private or, at least, in smaller groups that often lack a central authority.

6. Churches refuse to adapt. In order to survive you must be willing to adapt to the changes in society. There are churches that have made some changes, albeit slowly, but slow change is often not acceptable in a culture where we expect immediate gratification. And growing up many of us have been taught to accept everyone so when a church doesn't treat everyone equally young people turn away. The practice of not permitting women to hold the same positions as men and the reluctance to welcome members of the LGBTQ community results in turning people away, especially in a time when marriages among same-sex couples has been recognized as legal and receives the support of the majority in most polls, and most other parts of society are working to end gender discrimination.

7. Guilt. Who wants to go to church and be told how you should feel guilt for the way you live your life? Not college students. They sit in lectures all week and don't want to be lectured, or scolded, about their personal life. Especially considering many view the church leaders and members as hypocrites. This is a time when people are seeking ways to reduce stress. If you want to attract people to church and keep them coming back you need to send positive messages that continue to offer the same teachings but do so in a positive way.

8. Interfaith marriages. While marriages between college students may not be common while still attending school relationships between college students of different faiths are quite common. To them, it's no big deal -- but to some churches it is and college students are often aware of this. Still, some traditions lose members when someone from their church wants to marry a person of a different faith. There are some major traditions that are unwilling to marry the couple or, at a minimum, make it clear that although they will permit the marriage they are not happy about it.

So, the bottom line goes back to the "Golden Rule" and treating others the way you would like to be treated. If you want to stop the decline of college students engaging in church you have to be willing to meet them where they are, otherwise, many will go somewhere else and it may not be another church.

March 2016 Monthly Calendar of Events

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

April 2016 Monthly Calendar of Events

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