

Phone: 360-249-3281

Website: www.stmarksmonte.com



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

November-December, 2014

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

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

Christmas Celebration (12/24/2014), 5pm, at St. Mark's

Decorating the worship space is done in stages during Advent up until after the worship service on Sunday, December 21st. Our Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, 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.

Pledge Sunday (11/30/2014 and on), at St. Mark's

We will receive and bless our 2015 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 2015 budget for the ministry of St. Mark's.

104th Diocesan Convention (11/7-8/2014) at the Seatac Hilton, Seatac

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

All Saints Celebration (11/2/2014), 10:00AM at St. Mark's

All Saints Day, we celebrate those who came before us. We have a table for displaying pictures of those loved ones who we remember during the service, and some candles to light as we pray for them.

Kids Halloween Treats (10/31/2014) at St. Mark's

We hand 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 come by, and the costumes are awesome!

Recent News

Blessing of the Pets Sunday (10/5/2014) at St. Mark's

Our 12th annual special service for our pets—7 dogs, a cat, and a bird, and their owners. It was again a time of joy for all involved. The collection taken this year was again split between the Grays Harbor

PAWS and the Freedom Tails programs. Pictures are at:
<http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article/470/about-us/events/blessing-of-the-pets-sundays/blessing-of-the-pets-2014>.

Summary of St. Mark's Finances—10/15/2014 (Last--9/15/2014)

Net Operating Year to Date-- \$2,052.75 (Last--\$981.72)

May through October revenues have exceeded expenses to put us in good shape to complete the year with a good surplus.

Total Operating Expenses-- \$17,936.73 (Last--\$16,274.75)

Highlights—All bills received are paid current.

Outreach to Date--\$4,256.43 Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid--\$2,083

Total Operating Revenues-- \$19,989.48 (Last--\$17,256.47)

Pledges income is at the budget level, which was estimated very conservatively, allowing for contingencies. Other revenues are as expected.

Non-Operating Revenues--\$2,490.92 Non-Operating Expenses--\$12,265.41

Net Non-Operating Year to Date--\$-9,774.49 (Last--\$-10,103.37)

Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date-- \$-7,721.74 (Last --\$-9,121,65)

Funds Summary—Total is \$27,236.15 (last--\$25,836.24)

Operating Fund (General)--\$3,361.93 (last--\$2,172.90)

 General/Designated Checking Account—\$2,843.21 (last--\$1,654.19)

 General/Designated Savings Account--\$518.72 (last--\$518.71)

Diocesan Investment Fund--\$23,149.48 (last--22,932.12)

Clergy Discretionary Fund/Checking Account--\$724.74 (last--\$731.22)

Other Articles on Faith and Other Things

So That All Must See Jesus

That is the theme for our upcoming Diocesan Convention, November 8 & 9, 2014. OCW is a group that has been meeting over the past two years. One of our charges from Bishop Greg has been to find a way for more people to see Jesus. We must, as individuals and congregations, express our belief as practicing Christians to carry out our God given mission of our Lord and Savior to our communities and the world.

One of the most powerful reoccurring themes was a passionate personal faith and a compelling purpose ... a clear WHY? ... personal and corporate growing out of that faith. We each answered our clear personal why by defining "Why I am a Christian?".

For me it was joining a youth group at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Hood River, Oregon, and at the age of 11/12 attending Ascension Summer Camp at Cove, Oregon in the Missionary District of Eastern Oregon in 1946/1947. I attended camp at Cove all the way through until high school graduation in 1953. It was Bishop Lane Barton, ministers, and staff who helped me to see Jesus. It was also fellow campers (still friends for life), including my wife of 55+ years, and the ministers who nurtured me as a Christian these many years. The congregations of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Vancouver, WA and now the congregation of St. Peter's in Seaview, WA. 1968-2014. It has been the love and grace given to me by my wife Doreen and family, including son Al, daughters Pam and Deb, grandchildren and great-grandchildren that have kept me in Jesus' care and a Christian.

Chuck

Reposted from the Outside Church Walls blog--Monday, October 27, 2014

Passionate Christianity – Awe-Filled Journey. Come On Along!

As I quickly stride toward the 75 year marker of my life (I can't get my mind wrapped around knowing that I have experienced three-quarters of a century!), I want to briefly tell my simple story about God, Jesus of Nazareth, and us – the centuries God has called us beloved sons and daughters. It's only my

story. Personal, as is, really each of our stories -- a human story, a simple story, a mystery story and a holy story that began long before our ancient people were wandering story-telling Arameans. The Story likely will continue for centuries beyond the lives of any of us now living on this planet. We will have gone from life to life. Yet, we have a major opportunity right now to shape how this Holy Story moves forward.

About God, I believe God is the mystery of more than we can ever know. I find that re-assuring and comforting. Back at the beginning of the Exodus when Israel was enslaved in Egypt, Moses asked God, "If I go to the Israelites and tell them the God of their forefathers has sent me to them, and they ask me his name, what shall I say? God answered, "I AM, that is who I am; or I will be what I will be."

I wonder why it is that we seem unsatisfied with God's simple and clear response?

About Jesus of Nazareth, a knowledgeable and devout Jew and a beloved son of I AM. He believed it. He knew it. He had the courage and the knowledge of the Story to own it and act on it in his own life. Just imagine what our world could be like if we all believed we are beloved sons and daughters of I AM, said it and had the courage to act on it. Jesus of Nazareth radicalized The Story in three sentences. Three sentences! Matthew tells us in 22:36-40 that when Jesus was asked:

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Just imagine how those words, those three sentences hit the ears of the Pharisees. And we know how Jesus' words and walking his talk riled the Establishment and the tragic end result of their fears. Crucifixion on a rugged, wooden cross.

Personally I'm not keen on calling either God or Jesus my Lord or my King. I know the rationale; and yet I have no Lords or Kings in my life to whom I pay homage. God is the mystery of more than we can ever know, and Jesus, is our Christ, the Anointed One and our salvation, our healer. He is also our very much older brother who has taught us much.

About the Holy Spirit who lives and move through and among us today. It is the Holy Spirit that lives in community and guides us toward the future which God, the I will be what I will be, is calling us. Just imagine, if we created sacred time and space to just listen beneath the noise of the world, and encouraged each other to work with God to create God's "community come on earth, what a powerful difference it could make it our common life together

What I've written, in brief, is at the deep root of my Christian faith and my passion as a Christian.

About the Episcopal Church. It is the gathering of imperfect people seeking to be together in community, to remember the Story told for centuries by our ancient people around campfires and that much later was written down (for better and for worse). We can weave our own weekly scraps of life (for better and for worse) into it. It is a Story alive, continuing to be told and written in the here and now. We are reminded who we are and whose we are; and, just as we are, that we're beloved and forgiven sons and daughters of God. It is a high bar for us to stretch to reach; to love our God, the I AM who I am; to love ourselves and our neighbors as ourselves, not only with our lips but with our lives. We remember, gathered in community, the deepest heart of our Story offered to us by Jesus, our Christ and Savior.

We gather around the Holy Table, an Altar, to share blessed bread and wine together, as the broken body of Christ and the cup of Salvation, on behalf of a huge international banquet table with room and welcome for all the people of the world. It is a power-filled and awe-some act. The priest, as presider, at public worship re-presents Christ to us all, showing us how to go and do likewise. Strengthened by community who has offered one another Christ's forgiveness, peace and love, and been fed a common meal of good bread and wine, we celebrate again that we are one Body, nourished to go forth into the world to love and serve our neighbors, all around the world, as Jesus who we anointed our Christ

showed us how to do – perhaps risking our lives to do so. Just imagine along with me, that with God’s help and the support of one other, how we are empowered to go out and change the world, to risk transforming life on this land, our fragile island home.

Love God, love yourself and love your neighbors – especially the cranky ones and the ones who are weary and in need wherever they are in our world. Get to know them and their stories. Call them by name. Love and welcome them to Christ’s Table. They are members of the Body of Christ, too. All of us are one body. May the Peace of Jesus, our Christ and Savior, be always with you.

MaryAnn

Reposted from the Outside Church Walls blog--Tuesday, October 14, 2014

The 'Nadia Problem': Tokenism and the Church

Emmy Kegler, a soon-to-be-ordained pastor in the ELCA, and Eric Worringer, an ordained pastor, have written a blog post that asks an important question: Do we have a 'Nadia Problem?' They refer to Nadia Boltz-Weber, the founding pastor of the House for All Saints and Sinners, whom they are quick to praise and hold up as exactly what the institutional church needs at this time and place. However, they argue, the church does Nadia and itself a disservice by being quick to claim Nadia's ministry as its own, and then doing very little to emulate it anywhere else: hence, the "Nadia problem."

They explain: She has been raised up and celebrated as a voice, particularly before our youth and young adults, as "a new way of doing church," putting the "evangelical" in "Evangelical", and so on. Then we send kids home from Youth Gatherings and college weekends and seminary visits to places where church continues in much the same way it always has. We love that Pastor Nadia speaks of a church without committees, where anyone is invited to help craft their celebration of Lent and Holy Week -- but most of our churches are still maintained and guided by specific people and rigid time commitments. Pastor Nadia offers up the voices of her LGBTQ members in a compelling and moving video about their experiences in church, while a good part of the ELCA is still wrestling with "the 2009 vote". "The Nadia Problem" is that she is being promoted as an example without churchwide acknowledgement that she is actually an exception, and that the Spirit-led and community-based construction of House for All Sinners and Saints has not even begun to move into the churches now fretting about the loss of their "All-Star Team."

Our concern... is that because Nadia has become an example, it allows the institution to use her image and ministry while still largely continuing on its own path, rife with institutional anxiety and attitudes of scarcity, and bemoaning the loss of a generation of institutional pastors. We continue to produce leaders equipped to explain what it means to be Lutheran (using our institutional memory), when what the world hungers for is a real and meaningful experience of a God worthy of worship and service. What we pray and yearn for is not an institution with one Nadia as an example, but a transformational generation of leaders of all ages that are able to cope and proclaim the Gospel as well as she has.

Are there places in the Episcopal Church where we have this same tendency to hold up one example of successful ministry rather than to do the hard work of systematic change ourselves?

Episcopal Café--Posted by Megan Castellan on October 27, 2014

Secularism grows as more U.S. Christians turn 'churchless'

(RNS) If you're dismayed that one in five Americans (20 percent) are "nones" — people who claim no particular religious identity — brace yourself. How does 38 percent sound? That's what religion researcher David Kinnaman calculates when he adds "the unchurched, the never-churched and the skeptics" to the nones.

He calls his new category "churchless," the same title Kinnaman has given his new book. By his count, roughly four in 10 people living in the continental United States are actually "post-Christian" and "essentially secular in belief and practice."

If asked, the "churchless" would likely check the "Christian" box on a survey, even though they may not have darkened the door of a church in years. Kinnaman, president of the California-based Barna Group, slides them into this new category based on 15 measures of identity, belief and practice in more than 23,000 interviews in 20 surveys. The research looked at church worship attendance and

participation, views about the Bible, God and Jesus, and more to see whether folks were actually tied to Christian life in a meaningful way or tied more by habit or personal history.

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, once called nominals — people attached by name only — “survey Christians.” They don’t want to cut ties with their parents or go all the way to atheism, Stetzer said, “so they just say ‘Christian’ since it is the default category from their heritage.”

Kinnaman now has the numbers to back that up. “We are far from becoming an atheist nation,” he said. “There are tens of millions of active believers in America today. But the wall between the church and the churchless is growing higher and more impenetrable as more people have no muscle memory of what it means to be a regular attendee at a house of worship.”

How these people think, pray and use their time is shifting away from a faith-based perspective. As a result, a churchless or secular worldview “is becoming its own social force.”

When political scientists burrow into election results, they may find that church attendance is less and less useful for predicting or evaluating political social and cultural attitudes. If you are not around people of strong belief, there’s not a lot of spillover impact. Stephen Mockabee, an associate professor of political science at University of Cincinnati, has compared church attendance to medication: “It’s not only the drug but also the dose that matters.”

The churchless come in several tribes, according to Kinnaman. About a third (32 percent) still identify as Christian. They say they believe in God but they’re wobbly on connections. Kinnaman calls them “Christianized but not very active.” That might include Katie West of Mount Sterling, Ky., or Mike Wilson of Webster City, Iowa. West keeps the Christian label because, she said, “I follow or at least try to follow the teachings of Christ.” She avoids religious services “unless roped into a wedding or funeral,” but considers herself “a spiritual person without looking at a Bible.” Wilson is the paid webmaster for a Lutheran church but he can’t recall the last time he attended a worship service or read the Bible. He checks the Christian box if asked in a survey, even though he resonates more with Buddhist and other Eastern philosophies. “Religion is the starting point to enlightenment, but at some point you have to take that leap of faith and make your personal relationship with God exactly that — personal,” Wilson said. “So if you can find a religion that encompasses that better than Christianity, I will call myself that.”

Other “tribes” among the churchless include:

25 percent are self-identified atheist or agnostics. Kinnaman calls them “skeptics.” And their ranks have changed in the last two decades. The percentage of women is up to 43 percent from 16 percent since 1993. Highly educated and more mainstream than before, “this group is here to stay,” he said. 27 percent belong to other faith groups such as Jewish or Muslim or call themselves spiritual but not religious. 16 percent are Christians — people with a committed relationship with Christ, Kinnaman said — who don’t go to church anymore.

Kinnaman predicts no change in direction. “The younger the generation, the more post-Christian it is”:
Millennials (born between 1984 and 2002) — 48 percent
Gen X-ers (born between 1965 and 1983) — 40 percent
Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) — 35 percent
Elders (born in 1945 or earlier) — 28 percent

Karen King, 52, a dispatch scheduler for a local transit agency in Mount Vernon, Wash., knows her state is among the least church-going in the nation. Yet among the secular crowds, there are plenty of churchgoers. “I know because I schedule people to get to churches through Dial-A-Ride. There must be 40 or 50 churches between Mount Vernon and nearby Burlington.” And King goes to none of them. The granddaughter of a Presbyterian pastor, King says she hasn’t been to church for a worship service in more than 30 years. Her daughter, a millennial and a pagan, doesn’t go either. Although King still thinks of herself as a Christian, she has stepped back from denominational brands. Instead, she says, she just tries to show love. “I do random acts of kindness. I talk to God when I think I need to. I think I have a good connection to Mother God and Father God.”

Religion News Service Cathy Lynn Grossman | October 24, 2014

November 2014 Monthly Calendar of Events

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

Birthdays:

Kevin Gavalis—8th John Fry—13th Wanda Wahl—18th
Eric Heikinen—25th

Anniversaries:

Robert & Lorraine Dierick—4th

December 2014 Monthly Calendar of Events

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

Birthdays:

Corby Varness--5th Elaine Olsen—14th

Anniversaries:

John & Mary Linth—10th

October 29, 2014

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

In 2014, we continued with yet 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, into new ways to be church and ministers of God's love.

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 has been used for our own Deacon Dorothy's McMeekin's memorial service, the wedding of Kevin and Christen Gavalis, and for the Montesano High School's soccer team banquet.

We celebrated our 104th and most successful Pancake Day celebration this year (with some new excellent support from the good people at the Montesano Church of God), 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 fourth 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

To say thanks is not enough for the work of our priests, Rev. Lorraine Dierick and Rev. Bonnie Campbell, for their weekly visits with the people in Montesano Health & Rehab, and with those women in the Grays Harbor County Jail.

The Rev. Sarah Monroe, our former seminarian and now ordained Episcopal Priest this past April, is now serving locally based at St. Andrew's, Aberdeen. (We paid for our part in her ordination that happened at St. Andrew's--\$625 for her uniquely designed chasuble and stole.) She has started a street ministry in Aberdeen called Chaplains on the Harbor. So far this involves providing food, other supplies, and listening and prayer support for the street folks on Wednesdays midday each week, and a large Bible study and meal on Sunday evenings at St. Andrews. St. Mark's provides the meal every 6 weeks for the Sunday evening gatherings, and also has Sarah preside/preach every 6 weeks here to provide her \$\$ support for her ministry and her own livelihood. Food, clothing and \$\$ donations are always gratefully appreciated for this ministry. (Note: Sarah has just received approval from the Diocesan Board of Directors to use the former St. Christopher's, Westport church building as a mission center to expand her Chaplains' ministry—more details to follow!)

Our worship experience on Sunday morning continues to be refined, with a variety of services each month, and we thank the worship 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 budget for this year will be almost \$6,000 out of our 2014 annual operating budget of about \$24,500. 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
Montesano High School/Invest Ed (needy kids)
Monte-Elma Food Bowl*

*Chaplains on the Harbor
Willapa Region Ministry
Camp Michael
Montesano Food Bank
Oso Relief Fund
GH PAWS and Freedom Tails programs
Episcopal Charities Appeal (ECA)*

*Other special offerings collected for outreach: (about \$1,420, plus purchased items)
GH PAWS & Freedom Tails (Blessing of Pets Sunday Plate Offering)
Oso Relief Fund (from individuals)
Lenten Lunch Donations
Montesano Schools (school supplies, by individuals)
Chaplains on the Harbor (individual donations)*

Building maintenance and improvements—we spent nearly \$11,000 this year for several items--all money used from 2013's surplus or from surplus realized in 2014 so far. We purchased and installed a new commercial griddle and supplies for under \$3,000 for our Pancake Day use. We also spent about \$8,000 for painting our outside south wall of the building and all high white trim and the bell tower base. And, we installed new wood baseboards in the parish hall and repainted the parish and stairway. Left to work on 2015 are some water heater and plumbing and new flooring for the kitchen.

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 2015. 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 November 30th, 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 2015.

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 & Lee Avery, Bishop Committee
Kevin Varness, Bishop Committee
Natalea Brumfield, 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!”

St. Mark Episcopal Church



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