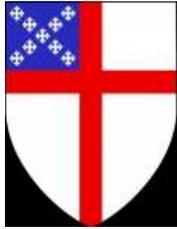


Phone: 360-249-3281

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

January-February, 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! 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

Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday (2/10/2015) at the Montesano Post Office

Revs. Bonnie Campbell and Lorraine Dierick will impose ashes at the Montesano Post Office (including the drive through) to all comers from 12:30 to 2pm. (We also will have our annual Ash Wednesday service at 6pm at St. Mark's.)

106th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day Event (2/9/2015) at St. Mark's

Our 106th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day event at St. Mark's will be from 12 noon-6:30pm this year. Special thanks in advance to all the people who help us make this happen. We raise net proceeds to give equally to charitable groups—like the Monte Food Bank, Children's Advocacy Center, and 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.

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

Christmas Celebration (12/24/2015), 5pm, at St. Mark's

Decorating of the worship space was done in stages during Advent up until after the worship service on the Sunday before Christmas, December 20th. Our Christmas Eve service on Thursday, December 24th at 5:00PM, was an intimate festive communion service with several Christmas hymns (including the lighting of individual candles during "Silent Night") for the 23 who attended! And, there was plenty of wonderful refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

Pledge Sunday (11/29/2015 and on), at St. Mark's

We received and blessed our 2016 pledge commitments as they came in this year. Our pledges fund

our ministries here at St. Mark's—we have no endowed funds for operating the church. This helped us to finalize the 2016 budget for the ministry of St. Mark's.

Food for the Homeless (or Nearly So!) in Aberdeen (11/22/2015)

Every 6 weeks St. Mark's provides the food for the weekly Sunday night dinner at St. Andrew's, Aberdeen. This particular meal was prepared by Corby and Kevin Varness (main dish--turkey enchilada casseroles), Laura LeCroix--cole slaw, and many cookies (by several of our members). Also provided were lot of chips and salsa. This served about 100 people on this night. [Pictures!](#)

105th Diocesan Convention (11/13-14/2015) at the Lynnwood Convention Center

Rev. Lorraine Dierick, Jim Campbell, and Gail Rolfe attended for St. Mark's.

All Saints Celebration (11/1/2015), 10:00AM at St. Mark's

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

Summary of St. Mark's Finances--12/31/2015 (Last--11/29/2015)

Net Operating Year to Date--\$1,359.42 (Last--\$3,510.81)

We ended well ahead for the year, even with giving about \$1000 extra for outreach.

Total Operating Expenses--\$23,674.37 (Last--\$19,775.95)

Highlights--All bills received were paid current for the year.

Outreach to Date--\$7,195 Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid--\$3,193

Total Operating Revenues--\$25,033.79 (Last--\$23,290.76)

Overall, total revenues for the year came in about as expected.

Non-Operating Revenues--\$1,128.09 Non-Operating Expenses--\$1,070.15

Net Non-Operating Year to Date--\$57.94 (Last--\$82.56) (no December DIF report yet)

Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date--\$1,417.36 (Last --\$3,593.37)

Funds Summary--Total is \$30,726.44 (last--\$30,726.44)

Operating Fund (General)--\$3,849.56 (last--\$6,000.95)

- General/Designated Checking Account--\$3,330.64 (last--\$5,482.06)
- General/Designated Savings Account--\$518.92 (last--\$518.89)

Diocesan Investment Fund--\$24,308.97 (last--24,308.97)

- Memorial Fund (part of DIF)--\$1,072.95 (last--1,072.95)

Clergy Discretionary Fund/Checking Account--\$416.52 (last--\$416.52)

Other Articles on Faith and Other Things

Various Thoughts and Other Things—provided by April Collett

Old age is coming at a really bad time!

I don't trip over things, I do random gravity checks!

Even duct tape can't fix stupid ... but it can muffle the sound!

Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.

Oops! Did I roll my eyes out loud?

I don't have white hair. I have "wisdom highlights"

My people skills are fine. It's my stupid tolerance that needs work.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd put them on my knees.

The lie I tell myself : I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

It would be great to put me in the dryer for 10 min and be wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!

Lord grant me the strength to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the friends to post my bail when I snap!

The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes"

I'm going to retire and live off of my savings. Not sure what I'll do that second week.

Why do I have to press 1 for English when you transfer me to someone I can't understand?

At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

I had amnesia once --- maybe twice.

I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart. Now what?

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

They told me I was gullible and I believed them.

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.

My weight is perfect for my height-- which varies.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

How can there be self-help "groups"?

If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.

Is it me --or do Buffalo wings taste like chicken?

Why Jesus Was, and Is, a Political Threat

By **Jim Wallis**

Christian leader for social change; President and Founder @Sojourners

Christmas is my favorite time of the year, and my boys could tell you how much I always want to get to good carol services. It's the amazing Christmas narratives that I love so much. I am a Christian and what Christmas means to me is this: In Christ, God hit the streets. Immanuel means God with us. It's not just that God came, but how God came. It wasn't accidental that the savior of the world was born to a poor peasant woman in an occupied country in an animal stall because they were literally homeless at the time of his birth. And soon Jesus and his family were made refugees and had to flee their country because the most powerful political ruler around the Christ child felt very threatened by his coming.

At least King Herod got the fact that his political power would indeed be undermined by the coming of Jesus and the new kingdom he would bring. It seems many of our presidential political candidates don't have a clue as to what the coming of Christmas means for them, judging by the horrible things some of them are saying about the poor, vulnerable, homeless, and refugees all around us today. They just

don't get it. In listening to the ugly and hateful rhetoric in the debates and media soundbites during this special season, I have been struck by how "un-Christmas" even "anti-Christmas" these politicians sound.

It was that poor homeless young mother who perhaps best understood the meaning of the one she carried in her womb. In Mary's song of praise, her prayer, her Magnificat, Jesus mother said:

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
(Luke 1:46-53)

This is not the talk of charity and giving Christmas toys and turkeys to the less fortunate. The language of Mary is the narrative of revolution and redistribution, two words that the powers that be just hate. And while the revolution that Christ brings is not violent, it is nonetheless completely transformational.

Mary got it. Herod did too. The nearest political ruler to the birth of Christ immediately saw the possible implications for him.

"When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born." (Matthew 2:3-4)

Herod was the king assigned by Rome to rule over the Jews. And when he heard about the birth of Jesus he was "frightened" or "disturbed" or "worried" or "troubled" or "terrified" as different gospel translations report. Why? Because the closest political ruler to Jesus at the time of his birth believed Jesus could become a threat to his power. Herod asked all the people who might know, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" The king then called the now famous wise men, who were traveling from the East to see the child, in for a meeting with him at the palace where he tried to manipulate them to come back and tell him where they had found the child, "so that I may also go and pay him homage."

Most of the stories about the three wise men focus on the gifts they presented to the Christ child when they ultimately found him of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Our re-telling the story often doesn't focus so much on the political threat Jesus posed to political power when he was born. And we talk even less about what happened when the wise men were warned in a dream not to return to Herod after they found Jesus. In another dream, Joseph was told to quickly leave the country with his new family, into Egypt where they would stay until King Herod died. "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." So Jesus became a refugee fleeing political power.

"When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'"

To protect himself, Herod killed all the baby boys, hoping to kill Jesus, in what our tradition calls the "Massacre of the Innocents," which is too often how political power reacts when it is threatened. Innocents are often threatened by political power as are many today in the most recent rhetoric of our own political candidates in their attacks on immigrants, refugees, people of other religions, all the "others" who are not like "us" and even the children who are said to threaten us. One candidate literally says we should "take out" and kill the children of "terrorists." Unbelievable. Perhaps a Christmas Day firing squad?

But unlike the political rulers, the coming of Christ is such wonderful news for the rest of the world, especially those who feel left out. The narratives we love to sing are so full of good news. While singing "O Holy Night" at the National Cathedral this week, I could hardly believe the power of the words.

"O holy night!

The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

....Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name."

Perhaps we should sing that during the next presidential debate. I especially love the language of Isaiah 9:

"The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

... For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." (Isaiah 9:2, 5-7)

Amen. And Merry Christmas.

January 2016 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <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>	January 1 <u>7pm AA</u>	2
3 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	4	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	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	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	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>	30
31 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	February 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>	

February 2016 Monthly Calendar of Events

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