

## May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 1 10am <a href="#">Holy Communion</a> 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	2	3 9:30am <a href="#">Worship Team</a> 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	4 10am <a href="#">Bible Study</a> 12pm <a href="#">Monte Ministerial Assoc Meeting</a>	5 12pm <a href="#">AA</a> 7pm <a href="#">Gamblers Anon</a>	6 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	7
8 10am <a href="#">Holy Communion</a> 10am <a href="#">Mother's Day</a> 1:30pm <a href="#">Jail Ministry</a> 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	9 12pm <a href="#">Book Club</a>	10 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	11 10am <a href="#">Bible Study</a>	12 12pm <a href="#">AA</a> 7pm <a href="#">Gamblers Anon</a>	13 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	14
15 10am <a href="#">Healing Service</a> 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	16	17 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	18 10am <a href="#">Bible Study</a> 6:30pm <a href="#">Bishop Committee</a>	19 12pm <a href="#">AA</a> 7pm <a href="#">Gamblers Anon</a>	20 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	21
22 10am <a href="#">Holy Communion</a> 2pm <a href="#">2:00PM Willapa Region Meeting</a> 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	23	24 2pm <a href="#">Birthday Party @ Monte Health &amp; Rehab</a> 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	25 10am <a href="#">Bible Study</a>	26 12pm <a href="#">AA</a> 7pm <a href="#">Gamblers Anon</a>	27 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	28
29 10am <a href="#">Holy Communion</a> 11am <a href="#">Potluck Meal</a> 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	30	31 7pm <a href="#">AA</a>	June 1 10am <a href="#">Bible Study</a> 12pm <a href="#">Monte Ministerial Assoc Meeting</a> 7pm M <a href="#">Baccalaureate</a>	2 12pm <a href="#">AA</a> 7pm <a href="#">Gamblers Anon</a>	3 7pm <a href="#">AA</a> 7pm <a href="#">Jail Ministry Meeting</a>	4

## June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <a href="#">10am Holy Communion</a> <a href="#">11am Potluck Meal</a> <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	30	31 <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	June 1 <a href="#">10am Bible Study</a> <a href="#">12pm Monte Ministerial Assoc Meeting</a> <a href="#">7pm M Baccalaureate</a>	2 <a href="#">12pm AA</a> <a href="#">7pm Gamblers Anon</a>	3 <a href="#">7pm AA</a> <a href="#">7pm Jail Ministry Meeting</a>	4
5 <a href="#">10am Holy Communion</a> <a href="#">2pm M Graduation</a> <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	6	7 <a href="#">9:30am Worship Team</a> <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	8 <a href="#">10am Bible Study</a>	9 <a href="#">12pm AA</a> <a href="#">7pm Gamblers Anon</a>	10 <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	11
12 <a href="#">10am Pentecost Sunday</a> <a href="#">10am Holy Communion</a> <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	13 <a href="#">12pm Book Club</a>	14 <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	15 <a href="#">10am Bible Study</a> <a href="#">6:30pm Bishop Committee</a>	16 <a href="#">12pm AA</a> <a href="#">7pm Gamblers Anon</a>	17 <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	18
19 <a href="#">10am Father's Day</a> <a href="#">10am Healing Service</a> <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	20	21 <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	22 <a href="#">10am Bible Study</a>	23 <a href="#">12pm AA</a> <a href="#">7pm Gamblers Anon</a>	24 <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	25
26 <a href="#">10am Holy Communion</a> <a href="#">11am Potluck Meal</a> <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	27	28 <a href="#">2pm Birthday Party @ Monte Health &amp; Rehab</a> <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	29 <a href="#">10am Bible Study</a>	30 <a href="#">12pm AA</a> <a href="#">7pm Gamblers Anon</a>	July 1 <a href="#">7pm AA</a>	2

### Birthdays:

Jim Stewart—5/8 Colby Madrid—5/16 Kyron Dierick—5/17  
Mary Linth—5/27

Natalea Brumfield—6/6 Candy Miller—6/12 Bryan Dierick—6/22  
Jim Miller—6/24 Mary Venske—6/29

### Anniversaries:

Lee & Rev. Joyce Avery—5/3  
Charles & Sandy Marr—5/9  
John & Rev. Dorothy McMeekin—5/28  
Jim & Candy Miller—20th

## Continuing Activities

### **Weekly Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:00AM at St. Mark's**

Our weekly Bible study generally uses the weekly Lectionary readings used in the Sunday worship services—no preparation is needed! Please join us for this study each week from 10:00-11:30AM at the church.

### **Feed Your Spirit Book Club--Monthly on Second Mondays, 12 Noon at St. Luke's, Elma**

Our monthly book club meets on the second Monday each month at St. Luke's, Elma. We read a new book each month and discuss each one 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 next meetings and books are:

May 9, 2011--"Made for Goodness", by Desmond Tutu

June 13, 2011--"Tattoos on the Heart", by Gregory Boyle

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

### **St. Mark's History Books for Sale**

To purchase a copy, please contact Jim Campbell at [jbcmonte@comcast.net](mailto:jbcmonte@comcast.net) or by phone at 360-612-0205. Webpage is at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=167>

## Upcoming Events/Recent News

**Sarah, Our Seminarian, is Returning!** Sarah Monroe, our seminarian at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge MA, is returning home to Montesano for the summer after completing her first year of study. She will arrive here in a couple of weeks, and will be worshipping some with us and will be a part of the preaching schedule. She is planning to her Clinical Pastoral Education work required for ordination in Olympia during this summer. Sarah's Blog at EDS: [tangledcircumstances.blogspot.com/](http://tangledcircumstances.blogspot.com/) (posts are made by Sarah about her reflections in seminary on a semi-regular basis) A webpage about Sarah is at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=209>.

### **Pentecost Sunday and Support Life at St. Vincent's (6/12/2011) at St. Mark's**

How can we end hunger among the most marginalized citizens of our world? During the great 50 days of Easter, we in the Diocese of Olympia have the opportunity to make that dream a reality, at least in one small corner of our world. The campaign to Support Life at St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children School and Medical Facility in Haiti is simple. Just 20 cents a day saved by every member of the Episcopal Church in Western Washington will result in a \$10 donation by each person at the end of the 50 days (on Pentecost Sunday). If each person participates, the children of St. Vincent's are guaranteed at least two meals a day and as much water as they need for the immediate future. We will gather up these donations and bless them for service on that day, and send them to the Diocese. More information can be found at: <http://www.ecww.org/files/1/StVincentBulletinInsert.pdf>.

### **Easter Sunday Service and Egg Hunt (4/24/2011) at St. Mark's**

Thirty-four attended this Easter Service/Celebration, which included many flowers and bells, renewal of baptism vows, and an Easter Egg hunt after church for the 10 kids. Pictures are at <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=250>.

### **Ecumenical Good Friday Service (4/22/2011) at the Assembly of God Church**

Over 100 people attended this service, with Lorraine singing in the joint choir of 40, and Bonnie delivering the offering message and prayer.

### **Maundy Thursday Service/Meal (4/21/2011) at St. Mark's**

Fifteen from St Mark's and St Luke's enjoyed a moving service with foot washing and communion and a great meal!

### **Palm/Passion Sunday Service (4/17/2011) at St. Mark's**

A small but passionate group of 21 celebrated Palm Sunday and read Christ's Passion together this day. Lots of color and palms and celebrating hymns. And 4 little kids, 2 babies! Pictures are at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=248>.

### **Lenten Program, Fridays in Lent, 11:45AM at St. Mark's and Other Churches**

About 15 to 25 people attended these events during the 6 Fridays of Lent, conducted for the first time ecumenically. Pastors Marc, JoDene, Bonnie and Lorraine led the short services of readings, prayer and music, after some great soup and bread meals. About \$150 was donated to the Monte Ministerial Association Benevolence Fund from these meals, too.

### **Willapa Region Meeting at St. Mark's (3/27/2011)**

Twenty-nine reps from our region, along with Rev. Josh Thomas from DSOMAT, attended this event.

### **The Church Bell, Steeple and Cross are Back! (3/16/2011)**

Lupo Construction completed its rebuild, got the permit, and re-installed the church bell structure, steeple and cross. It looks the same as before but is rebuilt in a much more solid way and tied together well. And it is freshly painted! They did this between cloudbursts and even some hail! Pictures are at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=240>.

### **Ash Wednesday Service at St. Mark's (3/9/2011)**

A full and reflective Episcopal service of the imposition of ashes and communion, followed by a soup and bread meal to begin Lent was attended by not only our own members, but also some of our friends from the Montesano Church of God and First Methodist churches, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Elma. We're pretty sure this is a first for this community! The service was presided and homily by Rev. Lorraine Dierick, a reading by pastor JoDene Romeijn-Stout, guitar/vocal by pastor Marc Rice, and great work by the rest of the St. Mark's worship team (Rev. Bonnie Campbell, Rev. Joyce Avery, Mary Venske, and John Tennefoss). Everyone fully participated--in the worship service, and certainly in the wonderful meal of soups and breads afterward. And the offering taken was sent to the Montesano Ministerial Association, for their fund that supports local crisis needs.

### **101th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day Event at St. Mark's (3/08/2011)**

This event was very well attended and supported again by the Montesano local community, and we have received over \$1330 in gross proceeds, resulting in funds available to support local food banks, clean wells/water for remote areas, and Japan quake/tsunami relief totaling \$1100. We again served over 1000 pancakes, ham, applesauce, and beverages to our friends from Montesano, Aberdeen, and even from Olympia and Chehalis. Thanks to all who helped, and everyone who came and enjoyed themselves and contributed to this successful event. Detailed event information and pictures are found at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=237>.

### **New Display Cabinet Delivered to St. Mark's (3/05/2011)**

Thanks to Denny Dierick, son of our Rev. Lorraine Dierick, who has built a beautiful display cabinet for the church over the past year. It is a replica of one that sits in the front entry of Diocesan House, near St. Mark's Cathedral on Capital Hill in Seattle. Pictures of this fine piece of cabinetry are at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=235>

## **Summary of St. Mark's Finances—4/17/2011**

### **Net Operating Year to Date--\$504.77 (last month-- +\$587.52)**

The small deficit may be made up by as early as the end of April. Expect surpluses for the next few months, as normal expenses are reduced during the Spring and Summer months.

### **Total Operating Expenses--\$8,791.95 (last month--\$5,940.66)**

- Highlights—Current on all bills.
- Outreach--\$1,618 Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid--\$1,130

### **Total Operating Revenues--\$8,287.18 (last month--\$6,528.18)**

- Tracking well in all areas of revenues to the budget plan!

### **Non-Operating Revenues--\$9,055.20 Non-Operating Expenses--\$8,970.98**

### **Net Non-Operating Year to Date— +\$85.28**

All bell tower repairs paid for, and sent to Monte Ministerial the donations from the 2 Friday Lenten lunches here. Also sent the donations for the LaCroix Mission trip.

## **Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date-- -\$420.55**

### **Funds Summary—Total is \$16,955.14 (last month--\$22,067.80)**

- Checking Account—\$2,419.50 (last month--\$7,772.87)
- Savings Account--\$618.05 (last month--\$617.97)
- Memorial Fund--\$983.33 (last month--\$982.91)
- Diocesan Investment Fund--\$12,472.92 (last month--12,438.76)
- Clergy Discretionary Fund--\$461.34 (last month--\$493.34)

## **The Mission of the Church**

(From the Diocese of Massachusetts website. Think about how their mission words relate to ours here at St. Mark's, how we all are in mission and ministry for God together.)

### **Our Mission**

**Answering God's urgent call. Together.** God calls everyone. Me? Yes. You. Young, old. Rich, poor. Gay, straight. Single, married. City dweller, suburbanite. No matter your race, ethnicity or language. God's call is for everyone. You are God's hands and feet, God's heart and voice in the world. The Episcopal Church helps us, whoever we are, as we are, to hear God's call for each of us and to answer it in our daily lives, through prayer, through service to others, through our generosity and through all the ways we show our love for God's world and God's people.

**God's call is urgent. Can't it wait? No.** God calls us to be at work in the world now. For the sake of our neighbors in need, near and far, known and unknown. For the sake of our overburdened planet, this Earth, our island home. And, for our own sake, because doing Christ's work in the world changes us. Answering God's urgent call is about healing, reconciling and loving every person and all of creation into wholeness. Right now. Today.

**God calls us together. Not solo? Never alone.** We experience God's grace through one another. Christ's hope and joy are for sharing. Our common prayer and community worship give us solace and strength for the work God calls us to do. We each are part of something bigger than ourselves alone, a necessary part, and we accomplish more when we do it together. The Episcopal Church is broad and deep and wide. It is a community gathered side by side around a common table. There is a place for you here.

### **Our Mission Priorities**

**Answering God's urgent call for children, youth and young adults,** by supporting their care and nurture in faith so that they can know they are God's beloved and exercise their individual gifts and talents for the good of the world.

**Answering God's urgent call for urban, ethnic and multicultural communities,** where meeting Jesus in places of both great need and great potential teaches and transforms us into examples of how God's reconciling love crosses boundaries of race and class, generation and language.

**Answering God's urgent call for vital and viable congregations,** so that the Episcopal Church's presence in our local communities is visible and robust and God's people are cared for and equipped to join God's mission through the ministries of their daily lives.

### **Our Prayer for Mission**

*O gracious and loving God, you work everywhere reconciling, loving and healing your people and creation. In your Son and through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite each of us to join you in your work. We, young and old, lay and ordained, ask you to form us more and more in your image and likeness, through our prayer and worship of you and through the study of your Scripture, that our eyes will be fully opened to your mission in the world. Then, God, into our communities, our nation and the world, send us to serve with Christ, taking risks to give life and hope to all people and all of your creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## **A Shy Person's Guide to the Practice of Evangelism**

### ***The E word***

Evangelism is no longer the strange word it once was among Episcopalians. We are less reflexively suspicious of it than we used to be. If we don't all embrace it readily as part of our own lives, many of us at least have a sense that we ought to.

For some of us, evangelism brings to mind the image of someone on a soapbox on a street corner (or its electronic equivalent) loudly telling passers-by what they ought to believe and threatening them with dire consequences if they refuse.

We want no part of anything that condemns others. For one thing, we don't like other people telling us what to do or say or think. Why should we inflict our beliefs on someone else? For another thing, we're not entirely sure what we would say even if someone asked us what we believe. We don't feel qualified to be a spokesperson for our religion.

Why not? We may feel inadequately educated. After all, we missed a week or two of Sunday School. And, our faith is still in formation-maybe there is a clause or two in the Nicene Creed that we still haven't come to terms with. Also, we may feel that our faith is not a matter for public scrutiny. It's personal and private.

Given all this, what is evangelism, then, really? Why should we care?

### ***It's about relationship***

We know that, in its literal meaning, evangelism is the telling of good news. For Christians, evangelism is the telling of the gospel (the "good news") of Jesus Christ-his life, death and resurrection-so that all who respond in faith may come into relationship with the God who saves.

Think for a moment about your own relationship with God. Perhaps some of us did come to know God through the words of someone on a soapbox at a street corner. There is a place for such public proclamation of the gospel. It's more likely, though, that most of us came to know God through relationships. We may have had a special person in our life-a parent, grandparent or godparent, a friend or family member, a teacher or priest or coach-or many such persons who each, in his or her own way, proclaimed to us the good news, by word or deed, whether or not it seemed "religious" at the time.

For many of us there was also a relationship with the larger community of the church. Our participation in the life and worship of the church has shaped us to live as God's baptized people in the world.

Evangelism, then, really isn't about telling people what they ought to believe. Evangelism is the sharing of a precious gift. Evangelism begins in relationships with people who care about us. It leads to a relationship with the God who lives and cares for all. It bears fruit in lives lived for others.

### ***The mission of God***

Sometimes within the church we speak in a kind of shorthand about evangelism. Rather than talking about bringing people, through participation in the church, into a transforming relationship with God, we talk about bringing people into the church as if that were an end in and of itself. This can contribute to another kind of suspicion about evangelism: that it's all about making the institutional church bigger, stronger or wealthier at a time when its social influence is waning.

A good way for us to avoid this misunderstanding is to keep our focus on what God is doing in us and through us for the sake of the whole creation.

In the light of the gospel message we come to see that God is alive and at work in our individual lives, in the community of the church and all through the wide earth to bring forgiveness, healing and new life to a hungry and hurting world. As we live the baptized life-worshiping, praying, studying Scripture, giving and serving for the good of others-the Holy Spirit converts, re-forms and empowers us more and more to join and take joy in God's mission.

Seen in the light of God's mission, evangelism is not a marketing strategy for a declining institution; it is a great work of hope. It is the heralding forth from person to person, gently and with love, in our own words and in our own lives-of a message that the world is dying to hear.

### ***Evangelism in everyday life***

How can we share with others the hope we have in Christ when we're not sure how to put it into words?

First, evangelism is the work of the Holy Spirit through us. No one has ever "converted" anyone else. Only the Holy Spirit can move a human heart to repentance and faith.

Second, there is no right way, no correct formula. This isn't a standardized test. The Holy Spirit is fully capable of making our most inarticulate efforts-indeed, our sighs and groans-into potent expressions of grace. This isn't to say that we can be slack or heedless. The work of hope demands our utmost: our honesty and sincerity, our humility and compassion, our courage and trust in God.

Third, we speak with most authority when we speak of what we know best. This is sometimes called "telling our story": how my life was, what God did for me, what my life is like now.

Such personal testimony has not been a common custom in the Episcopal Church. Yet each of us has a personal story that is a reflection of the larger story of God's work. It isn't necessary to deliver formal narratives in a public setting. It's enough that we know of God's particular mercy towards us and that we speak of what we know.

### ***A shy person's guide to the practice of evangelism***

Let's pretend that you are someone who might be willing, in theory, at some point, possibly, to consider maybe doing something that, while not "evangelism" -type evangelism, still could be in some way construed as a sort of sharing of hope. Kind of.

Good. Here are a few things that you can tryout at home, at the office, at school, wherever:

--"*How are you?*" First, want to know. Then ask. Then listen with patience and attention. Try to connect on a feeling level. Don't give advice or try to fix anything. Let the person know that you care about them for their own sake. This is good news: This is how God cares about us. In the course of the conversation, one or more of the following may be appropriate:

--"*I'll pray for you.*" It's important to -. - say this, not piously or selfrighteously, but as a matter of fact. (And don't say it if it isn't a matter of fact.) When said with simplicity and sincerity, this can be heard as powerful good news-even by those who are not religious.

--"*Amen.*" Sometimes people will say something in conversation that they don't consciously mean as a prayer. Perhaps it is expressed as a wish or hope or belief. You can make it a prayer by adding this affirming response that refers it to God's gracious attention. (You may say "aymen" or "ah-men." God accepts either pronunciation.)

--"*Thanks be to God.*" Often in conversation, "Thank God!" will be heard as a casual exclamation. This more formal expression calls attention to what is really being said: God is revealed and praised as the One who has acted.

### ***Inviting a neighbor to church: Why we hesitate***

We often come into contact with persons who are not active members of a church. For purposes of the present discussion, we will refer to such persons as our "neighbors."

One nice thing that we can do for our neighbors is to invite them to church-not because we want something from them but because we want to share with them something that means so much to us. It's an act of hospitality and generosity. What, then, holds us back?

One reason, as with any act of generosity, may be a fear of rejection. What if they say no? There may also be a risk of exposure as a "church person." What will people think of you? Some people think that church people are hypocrites, or weak-minded or that church people are dorks. What about that?

Listen. You are not a dork. Besides, this isn't about you. It is about God and your neighbor. If you find yourself hesitating to invite your neighbor to church, try this simple three-step exercise:

Love God.

Love your neighbor.

Think about getting the two of them together.

*It is estimated that the average Episcopalian invites an acquaintance to church once every 27 years.*

Friends, with the grace of God and a little self confidence, we can cut this figure in half!

### ***Inviting a neighbor to church: Do's and Don'ts***

As with any act of hospitality, graciousness is an important part of inviting a neighbor to church. Can you see how the following approaches may be lacking in this particular quality?

- You are a sinner condemned to hell-unless you take advantage of this limited-time offer!
- You look wayward and lost. I'll bet you could use a nice community of faith.
- Our church is tolerant of all kinds. We even welcome people like you!
- They told me to invite someone to church. You're the only person I could think of who probably isn't busy on Sunday.
- Church would be much less boring if you were there. (Actually, not bad, that one.)

Try these instead ....

- Wow, you're a tenor! Our choir would love you.
- You do so much for other people. Do you have a place where you go to be fed?
- You're always asking the tough questions. I could use you in my Bible study group.
- I'm baking a casserole for a potluck at church. Do you like tuna noodle?
- That's a lovely iguana. Have you ever been to a "Blessing of the Animals" service?
- That Da Vinci book? Right, we've got a discussion group on that.
- The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion-you may have heard about us in the news. What do you think?

### ***Surviving coffee hour***

Occasionally, in spite of or because of our best efforts, neighbors will penetrate our ecclesiastical defenses and join us for worship. They may even come to coffee hour, presenting us with a ticklish social dilemma: *Do we speak to them?*

### **It's best to start simple:**

- Hi! My name is [Insert your own name here. If in doubt refer to your name tag.]
- I don't think I know you. I'm [your name here]. Would you like some coffee? I made these Oreos myself
- What did you think of the sermon? You can be honest.

### **Avoid inside-church jargon:**

Do you know me? I'm the principal vested chalicefer, acolyte captain and sometime verger under the previous incumbent but one. Have you had your LEM-B training?

### **Avoid the vampire syndrome:**

Are you new? Fabulous! The vestry could really use some new blood. Are you a money person?

### **Avoid pigeonholing:**

You'll want to meet Deborah. She leads the Monday divorced and/or underemployed introverts-in-recovery group. Or there's the Wednesday group, which is carb-free. What's your diet?

### **Reflection Guide**

*These questions may help vestries, evangelism committees or other small groups reflect together on the material in this booklet and discover how God is calling us to reach out.*

--How did you come to know God? Reflect on the relationships and experiences through which you've heard the good news.

--How do you experience the gift of God's love? What is "precious" about your relationship with God?

--What is God doing through your congregation, this diocese and/or the wider church that is about forgiveness, healing and new life? How have you and others you know experienced this forgiveness, healing and new life through the church? How do people outside your congregation know that forgiveness, healing and new life are happening through its ministries?

--Which of these is easiest to picture yourself doing? Which would be the hardest? Why? What tips or ideas would you add to this list from your own experience?

What "opening lines" would you add to the "do" list?

### **Evangelism Readiness for the Individual: (statements to answer Yes or No)**

--I see how God is at work in my life and can talk about that at appropriate moments.

--I believe God is at work in every person and that God might want to use me to reach out to someone who needs a word of hope, healing or encouragement.

--I socialize or work with a variety of people, including some who are not people of faith or who currently have no church home.

--I am a good listener.

--I love my parish and believe that others can also meet God there and find strength and direction for their daily lives.

### **Hospitality Readiness for the Parish: (statements to answer Yes or No)**

--Members of our parish are sincerely eager to welcome newcomers, and are ready for the changes that will happen when new people come.

--Our church has good signage. (Before you answer yes, ask some people who are not members if they know where your church is.)

--It is obvious which door to use to enter our church for worship.

--Our church is clean and well cared for, free of the remnants of the last rummage sale.

--Inside there are clear signs guiding visitors to rest rooms, nursery, church school classrooms and the location of coffee hour.

--Our parish sponsors events to which we want to invite our friends, and it's easy to do so.

--We have readily-available and up-to-date brochures or materials of interest to newcomers, and someone sees that visitors go home with something to ponder.

--Our church has a clear process for following up with those who visit, and we actually follow up.

--We have a regular gathering for newcomers who wish to explore their relationship with God.

--It is clear how one becomes a member of our parish.

(From the brochure "A Shy Person's Guide to the Practice of Evangelism", sixth printing, of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts)

## **Reasons to Be Episcopalian (from the book of 101 Reasons, compiled by Louie Crew)**

56 I like being an Episcopalian because I can be a mystic without anybody noticing. *Suzanne Guthrie, Diocese of New York*

57 Anglicans can imagine the past and remember the future. *The Rev. Nayan McNeill Ph.D., Diocese of El Camino Real*

58 We proudly wear ribbons of so many different colors. *Mary Jane Herron, Diocese of Newark*

59 Two millennia of faith; four centuries of liturgy; comrades worldwide traveling in love the journey to God we each tread alone. *Peter Berry, Diocese of Bristol, England*

60 The hymn: "One was a doctor and one was a queen and one was a shepherdess on the green and one was a soldier and one was a priest and one was slain by a fierce wild beast. *The Very Rev. Marilyn J. Engstrom, Diocese of Wyoming*