

THE LION

Volume 4

Nov/Dec/Jan 2010

Issue 2

Christmas

St. Mark's Church is moving in all directions and growing in many ways. The summer flew, Thanksgiving has come and gone, and the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany seasons are coming upon us. Several things are going on in the parish: the Anglican Church Women has a gift tree with fund-raiser ornaments on it; Kathleen Knott, our music director and organist, is hard at work on our Christmas music; and we are planning our special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. A carol sing at 11:30 p.m. will start our Christmas Eve service with Midnight Mass beginning at the stroke of midnight. Christmas Day worship will be at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to join us for this very festive season in the life of the Church.

Message from the Rector

"...ye have the poor always with you..." St. Matthew 26:11 (Revisited)

Last year in the September/October 2008 issue of our parish newsletter, I spoke a bit about the tough economic times many of the residents of our community are experiencing, especially those whom we might term the "working poor": those who are working one or more jobs just to make ends meet, but who are at the same time on the cusp of either missing a meal, losing their utilities, or living on the street. One missed paycheck and any or all of these fears become a reality.

It is now a year later and I wish I could say that these fears are now a fading memory, but for many people I cannot. While for many of us, our portfolios are beginning to rebound and some of the economic "pinch" is beginning to ease, for many others in our community that is simply not the case. As a matter of fact, even though some sectors of our economy have begun to recover, for the most part the labor market has not, especially that part of the labor force in which many of these "working poor" find themselves. The result has been an increase in joblessness and homelessness (or near-homelessness) over the past twelve months with, of course, a concurrent increase in need.

Last year, I wrote that between mid-May and mid-August (2008), approximately \$855 per month had been disbursed from the Rector's Discretionary Fund to help meet many of these needs, and I predicted that the trend would only continue. And I was right. Between January 1 and October 31 of this year, we have disbursed an average of \$1,636 per month out of the discretionary fund. This does not include any monies earmarked for "outreach" in the operating budget of the church, nor does it include the amounts many of you have spent to help with our food outreach: keeping the food bin full, helping with our parish sponsored suppers at The Source, and so forth. The need for aid in our community is greater than ever.

I might also mention that the criteria for receiving our aid have not changed. Those receiving our help receive it only once, must have minor children in the household or be elderly, and must have some way of

supporting themselves in the future. Naturally, these criteria apply only to the discretionary and outreach funds of the church, not our on-going food outreach, but they are a necessary measure to help break what may all-too easily become a cycle of chronic poverty.

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In the face of these continued bleak economic times, I would like to thank all those who have either contributed to the Rector's Discretionary Fund this past year and/or helped with our other outreach efforts. Thirty individuals or families have contributed either their time and/or treasures to these efforts. Because of you, we have never had to say "no" to a legitimate need, and we are fulfilling the vision of our church: to *be* Jesus Christ to those around us.

By way of my own personal "thank you," I would like to leave you with a quote from a radio address given by Fr. Solanus Casey, a Capuchin friar who ministered in Detroit during the darkest years of the Great Depression. In 1937, almost 3,000 people per day were visiting the soup kitchen run by his Capuchin monastery, and much like our own parish they never had to turn anyone away. In thanking the people of Detroit for their generosity, Fr. Casey said, "...our work in relieving the misery and poverty was made possible only by the willing cooperation of such men as the bakers, who supplied the bread, the farmers who gave us the vegetables, and our numerous friends who made donations from their own fairly empty purses. It is to these generous souls that we want to pay tribute today. May the all-bountiful God, who leaves no glass of water offered in his name to pass unrewarded, recompense the generosity of our friends with true happiness – the peace of the soul." To that I say, "Amen, Amen"; and may our Lord Jesus Christ bless you richly.

Fr. Mike

Music Notes

Kathleen Knott, Music Director

Thank you to all who attended the November 8th choral Evensong during the octave of All Saints'. The choir worked hard on the very difficult music and appreciated the large congregation. There were approximately 250 in attendance. It was a pleasure to work with Brady Johnson and the choir of Christ Church.

As we move into the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons, we will be preparing music to fit the tone of the lectionary readings for each Sunday. The Christmas schedule will feature a carol sing at 11:30 p.m. prior to the Mass at midnight. Christmas Day worship will be at 10:00 a.m. The choir family welcomes Maggie Lozano into the soprano section, and are also happy to have Neal and Lydee Deleeuw returning to the choir.

ACW News

Linda Philpott, President

At the October meeting of the ACW, Shirley Rennert, Precept Ministries Bible Study Leader, conducted a workshop on how to study the Bible inductively and *personally* dig deeper into Scripture. The ladies were most appreciative and look forward to having Shirley return for another workshop and explore the possibility of having a women's Bible study at St Mark's.

November proved to be a busy month for the ACW. The ladies worked hard through the spring and summer making Christmas crafts, which are now available on the lovely tree in the narthex. The quilt pattern ornaments are \$5.00 each; the clothespin soldiers, crochet snowflakes, and sequined ornaments are \$3.00 each. There is an envelope on the table by the tree in which to leave the money for purchases, and there are also gift bags for the ornaments. These make wonderful little gifts, as well as package toppers. If you have taken a tag for the Salvation Army Angel Tree project, please return your gift (unwrapped) by December 13. You may also put gift wrap and ribbon in your bag along with your gifts, if you like.

A great time was enjoyed by the entire parish at the Thanksgiving pot-luck supper held on Sunday, November 15. As usual, there was a wonderful array of food, followed by a gift basket auction. Thank you to everyone in the parish for making the evening such a great event. Particular thanks to all who donated the lovely gift baskets, to Russell Garrity for his birdhouses, to Cal Brown for being our auctioneer, to Sheila and Sarah Ward for their festive decorations, and to all who brought an abundance of food and helped with set-up and clean-up. The auction netted \$777, and to date we have made \$111 in Christmas craft purchases. Thank you all for your generous and kind spirits toward the ACW.

Bob Roth of Roth Interiors was the guest speaker at the November meeting, held on November 19. Bob is the host of Cellar to Seller, a local television wine show and spoke about good wines and suggested purchases for the holidays.

Our parish-wide luncheon for all the women of St. Mark's will be held on Saturday, December 12 at the home of Bobbie Winger. Please RSVP to Bobbie at 772-713-0828 or Linda Philpott at 772-794-3750 before Friday, December 4.

The guest speaker for the December meeting will be local author, Rody Johnson, who will speak on his new book about the German U-Boats off our shores during World War II. This meeting will be held on the ***second Thursday, December 10***, rather than the normal third Thursday.

The St. Mark's Anglican Church Women wish everyone God's blessing for this Christmas!

St. Mark's Men

Cal Brown and John Burton are working hard on plans for the second retreat for the men of St. Mark's at Cal Brown's hunting camp, just outside Fellsmere. Once again this year there will be fishing, skeet shooting, card games, and, of course, great food and drink. The tentative date for the outing is Saturday, January 30. Men, mark your calendars!

Confirmations and Episcopal Visit

The Most Rev. Walter H. Grundorf, Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Province of America and Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of the Eastern U.S., will be here on Sunday, December 13 for his Episcopal visit and confirmations. Bishop Grundorf will preach at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services, and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to ten confirmands at the 10:00 a.m. service. There will be a reception for both Bishop Grundorf (and his wife, Mary) and the confirmands after the 10:00 a.m. service. Please join us for this very special occasion.

Upcoming Holy Days

December/January Holy Days

- December 21 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of St Thomas the Apostle
- December 24 (11:30 p.m.) – Carol Sing and Midnight Mass (incense)
- December 25 (10:00 a.m.) – Christmas Day

December 26 (10:00 a.m.) – Feast of St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

December 28 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of the Holy Innocents

January 1 (10:00 a.m.) – Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord

January 6 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of the Epiphany

January 25 (12:00 p.m.) – Feast of the Conversion of St Paul

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N.B.

Please excuse the tardiness of the newsletter this month. Unforeseen circumstances have delayed the publication. Thank you for your patience. *ed.*

St. Mark's Anglican Church
Rev. Michael L. Ward, SSA
Rector

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

8:00 a.m. – Holy Communion (said)

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School (all ages)

10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion (sung)

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer and Discipleship Forum

Holy Days

as announced

Important Phone Numbers:

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(c) 772-538-1319

Calvin Brown (Sr. W.)

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