

THE LION

Volume 5

February/March 2011

Issue 4

Message from the Rector

“...for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

Genesis 3:19

These timeless words are repeated by the Priest at the imposition of ashes at every Ash Wednesday service: “Remember, O man, that dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” They remind us all, every man, woman, and child of every race, creed, or nationality that we are mortal. We shall die. All of us. No exceptions. And because of that, one of the more uncomfortable tasks that falls to clergy is the task of speaking with parishioners about final arrangements – funeral arrangements, that is.

And yet, because it is such an uncomfortable task, most members of the clergy simply ignore it altogether or, if they bring it up at all, the parishioners themselves will often side-step the issue. No one enjoys contemplating his or her death, and making plans for it seems to make it all the more real. But it is something that needs to be discussed, and with “pre-need” planning now so common, many people have begun to think seriously about things like funeral homes, burial plots (or cremation), and so forth, and the church should be an important component in those plans.

Yet, for some reason, the church is often overlooked when pre-need arrangements are made. As a matter of fact, in most parishes less than ten-percent of the membership has given any sort of direction as to how they would like their funeral services conducted. And St Mark’s is no different: I have only a scant handful of arrangements on file.

Because of that, families must make the following decisions, often with little or no familiarity with our traditional Anglican customs. Will the service be a straight Burial Office from the Book of Common Prayer or a Requiem? Will there be music, and if so, what hymns will be sung? Will there be any special music that needs to be considered? Will there be a homily given? Will there be a body in the church? Ashes? No remains at all? Will the remains be brought to the church for the service then interred somewhere else, or will they be interred in our memorial garden? Do friends and family understand that it is our custom that only clergy speak? Do they know that we limit flowers in the church? These are just a few of the things that need to be considered long before the need arises, and a grieving family is left to try to piece together what “Mother [or Father] would have liked.”

With that said, I would suggest that everyone sit down and give serious thought to your funeral service. I would also suggest that you familiarize yourself with the Burial Office in the Book of Common Prayer (beginning on page 324), pick out six or eight appropriate hymns from the hymnal, and then sit down with me to sketch out your service. There will be questions and suggestions that will need to be discussed and decided

upon; then, once the format and content of your service has been set, it will be kept on file in the church office. Believe me when I say this: by doing a little planning now you will have saved your loved ones the task of having to make what are often very difficult decisions at a very difficult and emotional time. It will also go a long way towards avoiding hurt feelings and resolving any potential misunderstandings about our particular traditions.

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Message from the Rector, Continued

I know that I have mentioned this before, but at the risk of sounding like we are “greasing our own skillet” (i.e., being self-serving), you should also consider remembering our parish in your estate plan. The rubric on the bottom of page 320 of the Book of Common Prayer says, “The Minister is ordered, from time to time, to advise the People, whilst they are in health, to make Wills arranging for the disposition of their temporal goods, and, when of ability, to leave Bequests for religious and charitable uses.” Traditionally this has been understood to mean bequeathing to the church some sum of money to be used in its day to day operations, or the bequest might be restricted to some form of endowment to help fund capital projects and/or improvements in the future. Regardless of the form, please remember St Mark’s in your estate plan.

Finally, as most of you know, we have completed the construction of our memorial garden, complete with a columbarium with “wall niches” for cremated remains. For those not wanting to have their remains in one of the niches, they can go straight into the ground in the garden area itself. Much of the vegetation has taken root, although the cold has taken its toll again this year, and we now have two benches beside the walkway for rest and meditation. If you haven’t seen the garden, please take a minute to walk through it (it’s between the church and parish hall). If you are interested in the garden or have question, please contact David Deverell.

I know that I have written about this subject before, but in light of the fact that we are a growing parish and I still have very, very few pre-planned services on hand, I thought it might be time to mention it again. Lent will soon be upon us, a season of reflecting on our own mortality, and I hope that we will remember to not only use that season as a time to reflect on our eternal destination, but also to make plans for where our mortal remains will rest. If I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call or visit the church office.

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Women’s Bible Study

Linda Philpott

The women’s Bible study will continue its study of the patriarch Abraham until early January, then in late

Music Notes

Kathleen Knott, Music Director

I Jesus have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star. Revelation 22:16

We will be celebrating the liturgical season of Epiphany until early March. During this season we are reminded of the visitation of the Magi and Christ's appearance as the light of the world. The scriptures for Epiphany reveal Jesus' manifestation as the Son of God. Many of the hymns for this season reinforce the themes of Epiphany. *How bright appears the morning star* (#329 in *The Hymnal 1940*) is an especially meaningful and beautiful Epiphany hymn. The text and tune of this hymn were written by a Lutheran minister named Philip Nicolai (1556-1608). He lived in Germany during the time of the bubonic plague and was particularly distressed to witness the digging of 30 graves in one day. After this experience, he spent a morning and afternoon in his study creating this magnificent hymn. #329 has become known as "the queen of chorales" with Nicolai's other hymn #3, *Sleepers, Wake*, being known as the "king of chorales."

Verse 1 of #329 proclaims the appearance and mercy of the morning star. Jesus is also mentioned as the Rod of Jesse and Emmanuel. Verse 2 proclaims that Jesus is Creation's Head and Lord. He is adored by the angels, and He "assumed our very nature." Verse 3 reinforces the world wide focus of Epiphany: "Incarnate God ... ride on till all know thy Salvation."

St Mark's Men

John Burton

MEN (AND WOMEN) UPCOMING EVENTS

1. February 5 – Cal Brown's annual Hunt Camp event in Fellsmere. Plenty of great food, fishing, skeet shooting, cards, hiking. Great for sons and grandkids. Bring a friend! If you haven't signed up by Jan. 30 and want to go, contact John Burton (321-327-3485). Directions to the camp are on the table in the Narthex. Don't miss this! (men)

2. Orlando Holy Land Experience – We hope to go on a Saturday in early March. This is a full day trip, leaving from St Mark's around 8:00 a.m. (date to be determined). *If we get 15 or more going, and register one month in advance, we pay about half the cost of admission (normally \$35).* There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. This is a wonderful trip for families. (men, women, and children)

3. Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring a *Circle of Faith* build for a needy family in Vero Beach beginning Saturday, February 19. We will be in partnership with other local churches. *Volunteers are needed!* This event is for both men and women. Aside from all the normal exterior and interior work (painting, windows, trim, flooring, caulking, etc.), there is a need for landscaping, building a shed, and final cleaning. Volunteers will need to bring snacks and/or lunches for the workers (which they will provide themselves). This is a 12 week project, working a full day Saturdays and one/half day during each week. Find out more about this at a kickoff dinner (with entertainment) Friday evening (6-8 p.m.), February 18, at the Community Church's community hall located at 1901 23rd Street in Vero Beach. The cost of the dinner is \$15. This is also a fund raising event (\$25,000 needs to be raised, but \$10,000 of that has already been contributed). If you don't want dinner, you are welcome to attend this gathering just to learn more about the build. This is a very worthwhile project. More information will be provided as it is received. (men and women)

4. February 18 (afternoon) – Mike Garavaglia has offered to allow us to tour the packing house of *The Packers of Indian River* and watch all the machinery in action. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

Finally, we are looking for men that want to meet with us for fellowship and the planning of future events. We meet about once every 30-45 days at a restaurant and would welcome you to the group. Questions? Contact John Burton at 321-327-3485. Help make the Men of St. Mark's a more vibrant part of our church.

ACW News

Bobbie Winger, President

Looking ahead to February 17th, Paul Pickel, from Pickel Studios will be giving us a talk and tour of our own beautiful stained glass windows. This is another event where you should bring a friend to see and enjoy the presentation. Many people from the community would love to see our church and its outstanding windows.

Please also mark your calendars for a very special first-time event! The ACW will be hosting a day of fellowship for all of the Florida ACW chapters in our Diocese. The day will begin with a service of Holy Communion followed by a “getting to know you” meeting, lunch at noon, with everything concluding by 2:30 or 3:00 p.m. We will be providing host homes for those who may wish to stay overnight. Of course, we will need volunteers for this, so please consider hosting if you have an extra bedroom. We will need lots of participation! *Attendance and help will be very important.* More on this later!

Blessing of Animals

The traditional “Blessing of Animals” usually occurs in October on or around the Feast of St Francis of Assisi (October 4). It can be argued, however, that the saints of the old Celtic Church had a least as strong a connection with nature and, in particular, animals as did St Francis himself. Besides, St Francis never had to contend with hurricanes, Florida heat, and Florida bugs. Therefore, in the spirit of our Celtic forerunners, our annual “Blessing of Animals” has been moved from October to March, and this year we will celebrate it on the afternoon of Sunday, March 13 at 1:00 p.m. Please join us for what is always a very

Upcoming Holy Days

February/March/April

February 2 (noon) – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Purification of St Mary the Virgin)

February 24 (noon) – Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

March 9 (7:00 p.m.) – Ash Wednesday

March 25 (noon) – The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

April 18 – 20 (noon) – Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

April 21 (7:00 p.m.) – Maundy Thursday

April 22 (noon) – Good Friday

April 25 (noon) – Easter Monday

April 26 (noon) – Easter Tuesday

January 25 (noon) – The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle

Upcoming Holy Days, Continued

February 2 (noon) – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Purification of St Mary the Virgin)

February 24 (noon) – Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Please join us for a brown-bag lunch after each noon Mass

Blessing of Aniams

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St. Mark's Anglican Church

Rev. Michael L. Ward, SSA, Rector

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Vero Beach, Florida
772-563-0450**

www.stmarksvero.org

**Mailing Address
P.O. Box 6994
Vero Beach, FL 32961-6994**

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:

Fr. Ward	(o) 772-563-0450	(h) 772-569-6506	(c) 772-538-1319
Calvin Brown (Sr. W.)	(o) 772-231-4343	(h) 772-794-7719	(c) 772-532-0475
Melvin Knott (Jr. W.)		(h) 772-340-3241	(c) 410-456-2574