

# THE LION

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## *Message from the Rector*

*“And as it is appointed unto men once to die...”*  
(revisited)

### **Hebrews 9:27**

Compare these two accounts (both true stories). First story: a woman and her stepdaughter came in to see me. I had only met them briefly a few weeks before. They visited our church one Sunday morning as they were “... looking for a place to hold a funeral.” The woman’s husband had not yet died, but was expected to do so any day. I had not seen them again until they were sitting across the desk from me.

“I am looking for a traditional service,” the new widow said. “What I want is a Rite I service.” I asked her if she realized that we weren’t Episcopalians (a “Rite I service” was my first hint that perhaps she didn’t) and that there were certain things that we could and couldn’t do during the service: aside from Altar flowers, no flower arrangements inside the church; no eulogies by family and/or friends; hymns chosen from the hymnal; etc. I wasn’t trying to be obstinate; the only thing we offer is a *traditional* Anglican service, but those things that have become popularly associated with funerals and memorial services are foreign to that tradition. By the end of our discussion – that turned out to be rather brief and more than a bit uncomfortable for the three of us – she left obviously upset. I will save you her parting words.

Second story: the husband of one of our parishioners died. We had met over a year before in order to plan their funeral services, so I already had facts and figures, a biographical sketch of both of them, a draft of an obituary, the type of service they were looking for (“Just the *Burial Office*, thanks”), hymns, Psalms, and favorite readings. The meeting with the new widow was equally brief, but very relaxed. The real work had been done many months before, and all I needed to do was fill in a few blanks here and there. It was an easy meeting for both of us, and the service I officiated was strictly within our Anglican tradition with no surprises for anyone – as will be hers when the time comes.

What is the difference? Planning!

This topic has become an annual topic in my Rector’s column, but there is a reason for that: to avoid scenarios like the first one mentioned above. And it is a scenario that can be easily avoided by planning your own funeral service well in advance.

As I mentioned in a previous column on the same topic, I still have very few service plans for our members, so please let this be a gentle reminder that *all of us* need to plan our services. Will the service be a straight Burial Office from the Book of Common Prayer or will there be a Requiem? And what’s the difference? 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 or not? Will your body be in the church? Ashes? No remains at all? Will your remains be brought to the church for the service then interred elsewhere, or will they be interred in our own memorial garden? Do friends and family members understand that it is our custom that only clergy speak at the service, and that family eulogies are best left for the reception? Will there be a reception in the parish hall? Is everyone aware that our tradition limits flowers in the church to the two arrangements for the Altar? What about memorial gifts (i.e., “In lieu of flowers...”)?

And speaking of memorial gifts, 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.” The “religious and charitable uses” in that sentence is intended to remind God’s people to remember the church in their estate plans. A bequest may be general in nature (to be used in the day to day operations of the church) or it may be restricted for some specific purpose (e.g. an endowment to help fund capital projects, improvements, or something of that nature). Regardless of the form, please remember St Mark’s in your estate plan.

And if you don’t have a final resting place, why not consider our memorial garden where your cremated remains may be interred? It is located on the southeast side of the church between the church and parish hall. If you are interested in the memorial garden, or have any questions, please let me know.

I know that I have written about all of this before, and will probably do so again in light of the fact that I still have very, very few pre-planned services in my files. Please both think *and* do something about that. Familiarize yourself with the Burial Office found on page 324 of the Book of Common Prayer, pick out six or eight appropriate hymns from our hymnal, decide which Psalm or Psalms you would like to have read, then sit down with me to sketch out the service. There will be questions that will need to be answered, and suggestions that will need to be discussed, and decisions that will need to be made. Once the format and content of the service has been set, I will keep it on file in the church office. Believe me when I say this: doing a little planning now will not only save your loved ones the task of having to make what are often very difficult decisions at a very difficult time, but it will also go a long way towards avoiding any misunderstandings and/or hurt feelings regarding the particulars of our Anglican tradition.

If I can assist you in any way, please don’t hesitate to call, visit the church office, or I’d be happy to visit with you about it in your home. As you have heard me say before, none of us will live forever in this life, so let’s do what we can to help make our transition to eternity a bit easier on those we leave behind.

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## ***Music Notes***

Kathleen Knott, Music Director

### **Entering the House of God**

A recent article in the *American Guild of Organist* magazine quoted Henry Ward Beecher, a pastor of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, NY from 1847-1887. Even though his words were written in the middle of the 19th century, they still have import for us as we enter the sanctuary for worship on Sunday.

When people enter the house of God upon the Sabbath, they come from care, from business, from secular pleasure and duties. And the two things needed at the beginning of public worship are, first, a transition from ordinary thought and feeling into a higher and more devout frame of mind, and second, a unity of feeling, a fellowship in the whole assembly.

“The Organ” *New York Musical Review* June, 1859

Beecher goes on to discuss the role of the organ prelude in creating this transition. The organ creates, “a screen of sound rolled down between the audience and the outside world.” I would add that in addition to the auditory role of the organ, we are blessed at St. Mark’s with the visual realm created through architecture, stained glass, candles, vestments and more. We are also blessed that our Anglican tradition regards the time before the Processional as a time of inward preparation, reflection and prayer.

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## *Planning*

Cal Brown

It is hard to believe that 2014 is more than half over and now we start planning for the fall and our thoughts turn toward the year's end. With this in mind, we are thinking of Christmas shopping and parties and even tax planning. We should also consider reviewing our estate planning and wills because of the many law changes that occur. It is imperative that we protect our family and all beneficiaries of our estate. When planning please remember your church family and consider including St. Mark's as one of your beneficiaries.

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## *Anglican Church Women*

Donna Burton

There are many activities planned by the ACW for the remainder of the year. Please "save the dates"!

### **OCTOBER**

#### Thursday October 16th

Business meeting - 10:30 am

Guest Speaker - Gail Griffiths, Guardian Ad Litem Program - 11:30 am

Pot Luck Lunch - 12 Noon

### **NOVEMBER**

#### Thursday, November 13th

Soup Bowl Event Lunch - 11:30 am -1:30pm - Parish Hall

This event is to aid the Samaritan Center. The cost of Lunch will be \$5.00 which includes soup, bread, dessert and drink. Handmade soup bowls will be available for purchase at \$15 each. A raffle will also be held for a handmade soup tureen. Ann Dozetos will also be present with her jewelry.

#### Thursday, November 20th

Business meeting - 10:30 am

Guests - Father Bob and Judy Stull, "Preparation for Advent" -11:30 am

Pot Luck Lunch -12 noon

### **DECEMBER**

#### Thursday, December 4th

Business meeting - 10:30 am

Guest from Salvation Army -11:30 am

Pot Luck Lunch - 12 noon

#### Saturday December 13th

Christmas Luncheon -12 noon

Hostess: Bobbie Winger, guests are asked to bring a salad, appetizer, or dessert

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## ***Women's Bible Study***

Linda Philpott

The Wednesday Women's Bible study will begin an 18 week study of St. Luke. The first meeting will be Wednesday, October 1 at 10 am in the Parish hall. The first part of the study will be 2 sessions:

1. October 1 - November 5
2. January 14 - February 18

If you are unable to join us for Part 1 of Luke, we would welcome you for Part 2 which will begin on March 4. All classes last about two hours with homework discussion and teaching videos. If you wish further information, please contact Linda Philpott, thepotts04@yahoo.com

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## ***Let's Start Something***

Janice Johnston

Have you thought of some of the social things you did years ago like belonging to a bridge club, canasta, or mahjong? Let's get together with members of our church and bring a friend or neighbor for an afternoon of socializing and fun.

Football season is here, so how about getting together for a football Sunday night with hot dogs, pizza and beverages? A golf outing or a movie night is a way to learn more about each other and to introduce our friends and neighbors to our church. Please contact me with your ideas and suggestions – jj2844@bellsouth.net

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## ***Pictures Wanted***

Janice Johnston

We are planning to place pictures of Father Mike and Sheila's 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party on the bulletin board. If you have pictures, please bring them in or send them to me at jj2844@bellsouth.net.

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## ***Upcoming Holy Days***

*Please note:*

All holy day services are suspended until our construction/renovation project is complete.

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## **St. Mark's Anglican Church**

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**Rector**

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