



THE GOSPEL

According to Saint Mark's / February 2004

Vestry Adopts 2004 Budget

by David Willson, Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee

On Sunday, January 18, the Vestry adopted the 2004 Parish Operating Budget and posted the details on its bulletin board and on the Web site. Below is a summary.

Highlights:

- A balanced budget, with \$781,300 in income and \$781,300 in expenses
- Supports 2004 Vestry priorities: salary increases, outreach increase, no cuts in building and children/youth, seed funding for initiative coming from the Strategic Plan
- Structured to be sustainable in future years

Income:

- Assumes pledge income will be \$21,000 over last year's budget.
- Pledges for 2004 are only slightly higher than 2003 pledges at this time last year, but higher income estimates are justified based on past experience.

Personnel:

- Funds a 4% increase in compensation for clergy and staff and a further increase for the rector, who recently passed his 25th anniversary as a priest
- Funds increased health insurance costs of about 17% for clergy and staff

Continued on p. 2



Welcome to Our New Assistant Rector, Shaeron Sykes Williams On Sunday, February 8, we will have installation ceremonies and a pub lunch in her honor. Shaeron, 43, was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary last May. Her husband, Robbie, recently retired after 30 years in the Navy, and her son, Andrew, is in the ninth grade.

INSIDE

2004 Budget	1, 2
Third Age	1, 3
The Faithful Geese	2
Musings	3
Vestry Decisions	4
Agape Service	4
Animal House	5
Abandoned Houses	5

"Third Age" St. Marksians Congregate

The 2004 Parish Life scene got off to a grand start January 17 when about 60 St. Mark's seniors braved snow and sleet for an evening of fun, food and conversation in the parish hall. Heard from one wag, "I see old people...."

This get-together of retirees and those in their 60s, 70s and 80s came about from Shrine Mont discussions of this age group's role and needs. After partaking of bountiful potluck offerings, parishioners at each table were asked to discuss how they felt about their current role at St. Mark's and what they might want to do in the future. To work off dessert, there were two exercises: the seniors each line up in four groups, first by length of time at St. Mark's and second by age (horrors).

Honored after dinner were the Answering Angels, a group of folks who answer phones, greet visitors and convey information every weekday from 9:00 to 3:00 at Baxter House. Linda Barnes and Marilyn Meek launched this recent innovation—also based on a suggestion made at last year's Shrine Mont. The Angels are making a real contribution to improved



Continued on p. 3



2004 Budget Continued from p. 1

Parish Activities (Parochial Ministry):

Activity	2003	2004	+/-
Worship	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$ -
Music	6,000	8,000	+2,000
Library	--	300	+300
Nursery Supplies	350	500	+150
Christian Education	4,000	6,750	+2,750
Gospel/Communications	7,500	7,500	-
Youth Activities	1,700	2,500	+800
Children's Activities	1,000	1,000	-
Hospitality/Community Relations	800	2,600	+1,800
Strategic Plan Initiative (Vestry Priority)	--	2,000	+2,000
Parish Life	--	-750	+750

Diocesan Assessment:

Funds a \$13,093 increase to \$72,129: 8.65% of Net Operating Income compared to 7.98% in 2003

Outreach:

Funds \$22,000, an increase of \$3,500 over 2002 and 2003; a Vestry priority

The Building:

- Funds Building Maintenance at \$30,000, an increase of \$10,000 over 2003, to reflect actual experience in 2003, plus inflation
- Continues the Building Replacement Reserve at the \$24,000 level of the original 2003 budget; allows \$2,000 per month to be transferred to the Designated Account to accumulate for major building repairs
- Funds a "Tower Placeholder" budget line at \$18,000; use of these funds will be determined after total costs are known and a funding strategy is developed
- Funds a major increase in insurance costs and a 20% increase in utility costs over expected costs in 2003

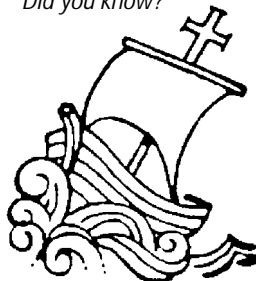
Funded 2004 Activities Which Were Not Funded in 2003:

- Strategic Planning Initiative (\$2,000)
- Parish Life (\$750)
- Library (\$300)
- Clergy Training (\$1,500)
- Non-Clergy Staff Training (\$500) †

Keep in Touch

Please send any change in your e-mail address to
 Communications Coordinator
 Matt Senger (ndc20003@yahoo.com) and
 Parish Administrator Susan Block
 (stmpadm@covad.net).

Did you know?



The ship: The church sails unharmed through all perils. The word "navy" comes from the Latin word for "ship."

—Reflection from the Christian Ed Weekend

The Faithful Geese

*It's the second weekend in January.
 Check out the pond behind the house.
 They'll be there.*

*Short honks shout,
 "Let's get down."
 Down in space and down
 in feathers,
 set at maximum fluff to warm
 all but the freezing red paddles.*

*The bitter winter freezes all the pond
 but a sun-hole:
 a Christmas cookie cutter
 slicing through snow clouds
 leaving one wet pattern,
 a star, or a gingerbread boy,
 liquid, uncooked dough
 in the well-done winter ice.*

*Geese do their best to help the sun.
 Steaming droppings warm the snow
 and encourage a meager meal of green..
 Listen to their protracted conversation:
 "Loyalty, Liberty, Egalit ,
 Fraternity, Reality":
 Spiritual and geographic
 inspiration.*

*Finally, they hear the Call:
 Staccato brassy honks,
 A bugle call of Reveille and Charge.
 They leave this icy pool of tears,
 flap and elevate,
 and in a V for victory
 fly South.*

*There's no forever leader.
 No old regent leads the way.
 Each selects his turn
 to break the stubborn wind.
 Hear the joyful honking one and all
 proclaiming the Democracy of God. †*

—George Keeler



Musings on Racial Justice

by Linda Huntington

I felt vaguely bothered that I saw only black people in photographs in the Post about celebrations of Martin Luther King's birth. He was my hero too and a contemporary.

I recall my lily-white childhood in Illinois and Maryland. Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School had maybe 2,000 students and about 20 black students. In high school, I had a brainy girlfriend with socialist parents who went to Tennessee one summer to live in an interracial community. I did nothing so openly radical. At my job at the Hot Shoppes, I didn't protest the separate dressing rooms for white and black waitresses.

I chose a Quaker college in Indiana, Earlham, partly because I thought Quakers had more social conscience than parishioners of All Saints Episcopal Church. As a junior, I dated Brian, a black sophomore from Washington, D.C. My mother was hysterical and asked my uncle to intervene. He had more effect than my mother as he calmly told me

that such relationships were fraught with problems. After I transferred to another school but before we broke up, Brian's family gave me a ride to Earlham. For meals, his light-skinned father would buy carryout. I burned with shame, guessing that he didn't want darker family members to face possible insults in a restaurant.

In 1964, I went to the University of Alabama to recruit for the Peace Corps and saw Governor George Wallace speak to the student body. Afterward, I found him just outside the door—the door where he had stood a year before to block two black students from integrating the school. He tried to shake my hand, but I refused. He said cordially, "You don't like me much, do you?"

I was in my 20s in the 1960s. I remember crying when my mother said that Leontyne Price "knew her place" when she visited her hometown. I felt compelled to attend the funeral in Arlington Cemetery of a black army

officer, who had been shot in the South. I felt uncomfortable going to lunch with a black coworker and visiting her home. I was part of a group from CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) that visited a poverty pocket in the suburbs, forcing local government to provide services to the black residents. And I demonstrated outside a private home in Maryland to embarrass a group inside planning to bring the Ku Klux Klan into the area.

Out of town, I watched Dr. King on television give his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963. And on Palm Sunday in 1968, I was among the throngs at Washington Cathedral who listened to what would be his last sermon. On April 4, he was struck down. I watched horrified from my sixth floor apartment in SW as red smoke hung above the city. It was surreal that soldiers in full battle gear were stationed at the bridges to enforce an evening curfew. This was as agonizing to watch as the images of Vietnam on the daily news....†

Third Age St. Marksians *Continued from p. 1*

communication at St. Mark's, providing a welcoming human voice when people call or visit.

The group also endorsed a new effort by Junior Warden Jack Burton to convene a group of people — the Grey Lions — who can spot and work on small problems in the church's always challenged physical plant. Other creative initiatives, such as "grandparent" relationships between older parishioners and young families, were proposed as possible future projects if there is a critical mass to pursue them.

Doris Burton organized the potluck, and Penny Hansen was master of ceremonies. Everyone agreed that these events should continue and, for now at least, chose the French term for this St. Mark's age group: *Le Troisième Age* (the Third Age). †





Action Items from the Vestry Meeting of January 18

"Vestry Mouse" Resigns

Raiford Gaffney has resigned as Vestry Mouse after two years of service. She covered Vestry meetings as an interested parishioner, giving the parish a personal glimpse of the workings of our representatives. She did so reliably and accurately, with tact and humor. Thank you, Raiford.

Budget: (Eds. Note: see article on page 1 for action on 2004 budget). At the end of 2003, the cash balance in the Parish Operating Account was \$213,526. This includes \$126,000 in prepaid 2004 pledges, which will be carried over to cover times of negative cash flows during 2004.

Candidacy of Karen Byrne as Aspirant for Holy Orders: The Vestry voted unanimously to endorse Karen in her candidacy. Doris Burton, convener of the Parish Committee on Ministry, presented a draft report. The committee will review the final report and other documents submitted to the diocese by Karen, the parish and others. It is expected that Bishop Chane will interview her in March.

Diocesan Convention: St. Mark's representatives to the annual convention on January 30-31 are Anne Alden, Doris Burton and Johana McCarthy. The Vestry decided to discuss parishioners' electing the delegates instead of the Senior Warden nominating them, with Vestry approval at the February 15 meeting.

Building: The building account received \$1,799 from the sale of Bill Baxter's book; Jo Ellen Hayden donated her time and the books. Pam Lacey and Richard Bradshaw have donated lanterns to replace the lights in the nave vestibules. One of the clerestory stained glass windows has been removed for repair; the other clerestory windows will be inspected within the next month. Negotiations continue with Ed Green on the maintenance contract.

Associate/Assistant Rector Search: A call has been extended to one of the candidates for the position. The rector thanked Penny Hansen and David Willson for their support during the search process. †

Making New Friends and Exploring Scripture: Home Church — Agape Service — Bible Study Potluck Dinners BY ELLEN CARDWELL

The Lenten LIONS and the Inclusion Committee are trying something new during Lent this year. Between Friday, February 27, and Sunday, March 28, we will offer parishioners a chance to bring a dish and attend an evening potluck dinner where we will break bread together, share a simple Agape service and explore the Gospel texts for Lent. EFM (Education for Ministry) members, graduates and others will help lead the discussions.

The concept of holding "Home Church" get-togethers is something St. Mark's did many years ago. Doris Burton suggested to the Lenten LIONS that we consider bringing it back this year. Because there have been no inclusion dinners nor organized potlucks during the Canvass, it seemed like a novel way to get people to gather in homes around food and Scripture - a "spiritual focus" to feed us during the Lenten season. We hope that each dinner

will include newcomers and people who don't know each other, as well as old friends. Probably there will be between 8 to 16 people at each dinner. These events which last between 2 and 3 hours, mostly on a weekend evening. Attendees will not be assigned by neighborhood. People can sign up for the dinner they want to attend. Hosts will also be inviting people and coordinating what to bring for the meal.

For those eager beavers, the Gospel readings for the discussions will be those in the Lectionary for Year C. They include several familiar stories. The focus for worship during the Lenten season will look at the ways we miss the mark in our relationships and in community and where we look for help and forgiveness.

Current dinner hosts include Brock and Penny Hansen, Elin Whitney-Smith and Chris Berendes, Rick and Jane

Rutherford, Pam Lacey and Dick Bradshaw, Ellen and Larry Cardwell, Doris and Jack Burton, Beryl Lillaston, Paul and Ponthoella Abernathy, Rosemary Harold and Michael Knipe, Ed and Lynne Kneeder, Ellen Frost and Bill Pedersen, Eileen Blumenthal and Pete Carlson, Raiford Gaffney, Bob and Linda Ewald, Linda Huntington, Terry and David Trissell and Bill and Josie Jordan. The final list may include a few more dinners hosted by additional parishioners as our goal is to have 20 dinners accommodating 200-225 participants overall.

Starting in early February we will post the specific dates, locations and sign-up lists for these dinners at church and on the St. Mark's Web site. Want to attend a dinner? Just let us know by e-mailing ellen@esa.org or Michael.Knipe@usda.gov or by signing up on the lists posted at church.†



Animal House and St. Mark's

by Nivek Sgnillib

The St. Mark's Film Club recently screened the 1978 classic *Animal House*—a choice some might consider odd or perhaps beneath the sensibilities of such an enlightened parish. But in the category of life imitating art, St. Mark's actually has more in common with the Delta House than one might imagine. Both the Delta House and St. Mark's have had their main characters make entrances on Harleys, parties in the nave have often been less than decorous, the functional response to a dilemma is "ROAD TRIP!!!" (to DuPont House), and I am sure more than once, the Anglican equivalent to Dean Wormer, the Rt. Rev. Ronald H. Haines, had us on "Double Secret Probation."

All this got me to thinking about casting *St. Mark's – The Movie*. Casting always seemed like it would be a piece of cake. But it is a lot tougher than you'd think. Sure, some characters are no-brainers, like Kathy Bates as Ellen Cardwell or Jack Nicholson as Stewart Andrews, but those are the exceptions rather than the rule. With others, like Paul, you need to find the right mix between Sidney Poitier and Flip Wilson, which is more difficult. Other times you must pick between two seemingly perfect fits, like Ingrid Bergman or Grace Kelly to play Susan Gresinger.

So, as Keith Reas, as played by Billy Joel, bangs out Louie Louie on the organ, we fade to black, and the credits begin to roll....

St. Mark's – The Movie

Cast

(In no particular order)

Paul Abernathy	.....	Eddie Murphy
Bart Barnes	.....	Sean Connery
Ellen Cardwell	.....	Kathy Bates
Jim Adams	.....	Alec Guinness
George Meng	.....	Jason Alexander
Rob Hall	.....	Alex Karas
Stewart Andrews	.....	Jack Nicholson
Peter Byrne	.....	Richard Dreyfuss
Joe Tarantolo	.....	Christopher Lloyd
Leslie Allen	.....	Jeri Ryan
Kevin Billings	.....	John Belushi
Betty Foster	.....	Katharine Hepburn
Randy Marks	.....	Rowan Atkinson
Karen Byrne	.....	Calista Flockhart
Susan Gresinger	.....	Ingrid Bergman
Josie Jordan	.....	Meg Ryan
Robin Holiday	.....	Kirstie Alley
Stephanie Nagley	.....	Ellen DeGeneres
Collie Agle	.....	John Ratzenberger
Pat Sweeney	.....	Kelsey Grammar
Emily Guthrie	.....	Shelley Long
Keith Reas	.....	Billy Joel
Charlie Brodhead	.....	John Goodman
Jane Jacobsen	.....	Mary Louise Parker
Mathew Black	.....	Kevin Bacon
Bruce Sherman	.....	Tom Cavanagh
Bill Flanders	.....	Sir John Gielgud

Producer and Director —God †

Abandoned Houses

by Anne Barton

Mid morning I walk from my house
uptown
To the library and shops
Up some hills and down

Past blocks of fine houses
Long extolled by realtors
"High Ceilings!"
"Oak Floors!"
"Large Rooms!"

But their windows, though curtained,
show no warmth
No neighborly chat outside
No children's voices within

Cats, made rash by a need for admiration,
Rush to meet me at the walk
A lonely dog barks unseen

The neighborhood is populated by birds
mobbing the feeders
squabbling in the shrub

And by service personnel
Maid Brigade, Bob's Landscape
with their loud machines

And me

We can feel the sun and shade alternating
on the walk
And watch the roses sway
to the dance percussion of the willow oaks.

The owners are away. †