



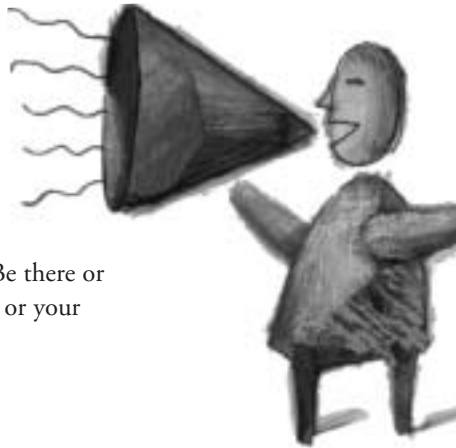
THE GOSPEL

According to Saint Mark | September 2003

St. Mark's Welcomes Fall

after 10:00 Service on September 7

PLAN NOW TO PREVIEW THE FALL ACTIVITIES, enjoy good food, sign up for Christian Ed courses and Sunday school, see the new Parish Life Pillar in action, sign up for worship task forces, outreach activities, see what the canvass is planning, see examples of what the artists have been up to, get a directory, a copy of the revamped Gospel, try on an acolyte robe. There will be special activities for kids! Be there or be square! P.S. If you want to help, call Marilu Sherer or your favorite Pillar head — before they call you! †



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Verna Dozier, Warden Emeriti

*by Dee Hahn-Rollins
and Jan Hoffman*

Several people have asked us about Verna. As most of you know she is confined to bed for most of the day. She enjoys visitors and especially appreciates people reading to her. She loves poetry and hearing Paul or Stephanie's sermons. Jan also reads Jim Steen's sermons to her. I am reading "The Dream of God" to her. When you enter the room please identify yourself. Her ability to recall everyone's name is impaired, but with a

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The Gospel According to St. Mark's

A New Chapter

From time to time it is appropriate for all communities to rethink how best to keep communication alive and efficient so that everyone can remain fully informed on the group's activities and the thoughts and opinions of it's members. Active communication is a hallmark of St. Mark's.

As a community, we now have a wide range of ways in which information can be shared and members can communicate with one another:

- The Sunday Bulletin and Announcements
- The St. Mark's Yahoo e-group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/StMarks/>)
- The St. Mark's Website

(www.stmarks.net)

- The Bulletin Boards in the corridor between the Church and the Parish Hall,
- Occasional Direct Mailings, and
- The Parish Newsletter: *The Gospel According to St. Marks*

Operating under the Parish Life Pillar, chaired by Linda Ewald and Bill Jordan, a new team has been formed to evaluate opportunities for alternative approaches to the content and distribution of *The Gospel According to St. Marks*. Matt Senger, who now serves as the overall Communications Coordinator for all of the above activities, is working with the Senior Warden, the Pillar chairs, the new

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From the Editors

Hello from Linda Huntington and Jim Steed, editors of the Gospel According to St. Mark's, and from Stewart Andrews, designer and Karen Falk, the layout and printing part of the enterprise. Sally Berman and Judy Smith will handle distribution — a simplified process since we are no longer addressing and sorting copies except for the few that will be mailed rather than picked up at church (see letter from Matt Senger on p. 1).

There are some organizations in which no one wants to know. Then there is St. Mark's, where everyone wants to know. With Penny Hansen's support—at her

urging, in fact—we intend to produce the Gospel monthly (less often in summers). In the past the job has been such a calvary of tribulation that it was hard to find people to perform it. All of our kudos to Michele Monique, the solitary former editor, and her crew for their Herculean efforts. Did you know that it took two people two days to attach labels and sort the newsletters by zip code?

To address that problem, the Gospel intends to follow of the following guidelines: 1) First claim on space goes to news of parish life and events, whether calendar, finances, course offerings, notice of

weddings and baptisms, and so forth. 2) Articles will be held to not more than 500 words in length. 3) Those who want to engage in more complex, or at least longer, discourse are respectfully referred to the St. Mark's e-group.

Linda and Jim have lots of editorial experience but very little in newsletter production. Things may be bumpy at first, but we hope to smooth them out as the production process becomes established.

Please remember to think of the newsletter as an information source for the large parish while you are all tending your respective parts of the parish garden. †

Verna Dozier, Warden Emeriti

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little help her face lights up with recognition. She has a private caregiver from 8 a.m. until 12:00 noon. You do not need to call before going out to Collington. She is wearing hand splints for part of each day to help relieve contractions due to her Parkinson disease. If you visit please sign the guest book that we have in her room. If you notice anything unusual please write it in the book or call one of us. †

The Gospel According to St. Mark's

Continued from p. 1

Gospel editors, Jim Steen and Linda Huntington, and several other parishioners to experiment with several changes to the traditional Gospel publication format.

Our goal for the 2003-2004 year will be to publish the *Gospel* on a monthly basis. In addition to opinion articles, we will include more news that keeps members abreast of the state of the Parish through regular reports on such important issues as the search for a new associate rector, upcoming worship, educational, outreach, arts, and social activities, and the status of parish finances, the canvass, and our church buildings.

In order to publish a monthly *Gospel* and remain within the limits of our budget, this revised strategy means that each issue will contain fewer pages and that we must rethink the *Gospel* distribution system to make it more efficient. Therefore, rather than using the US mail as our primary means of distribution, the *Gospel* will now be available:

- For pickup every Sunday at Church, and
- For downloading from the St. Mark's Website, using the following link: http://stmarks.net/parish_life/communications/index.html

We realize that not everyone has access to the Internet, and not everyone is able to attend church on a regular basis. *Therefore, we request those who still wish to receive a mailed copy of the Gospel, to phone or send a brief note to:*

Matt Senger
432 Kentucky Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20003
202-546-2159

St. Marks – Financial Status

July 1, 2003

Pledges

Total 2003 Pledge Amount (as of January 15)	\$765,414
Total 2003 Pledges Received to date	\$410,392

Budgeted Expenses

Total 2003 Budget	\$760,800
Expended to date (half way through the year)	\$370,751

Donate Those Bikes October 4 — St. Mark's sponsors its second annual Pedals for Progress bicycle collection, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., October 4, at the church. Millions of bikes languish in basements or go to dumps. P4P collects over 11,000 "used but serviceable" bicycles annually and transfers this material wealth to developing countries. Partner agencies recondition the bikes and distribute them at low cost to poor working adults. Last year we collected 44 bikes that became part of a larger shipment to El Salvador. A \$10 per bike donation is requested to help defray the costs of transportation. For information see www.p4p.org or call Steve Dalzell at (202) 543-3642.



State of the Fabric

by Jack Burton, Junior Warden

The tower tiles falleth — Shortly after the first stones fell from the tower in March, and the cones and warning tape appeared, we engaged an engineering firm (recommended by our diocesan consultant on preservation and restoration) to examine the situation and provide a report. Its report reassured us that we are not dealing with imminent collapse, and it details the causes and cures of the present deterioration. We are asking the firm for a more complete report to define the scope of the work so we can seek bids from contractors who specialize in restoration. Meanwhile, at the engineer's prompting, we have contracted to erect a covered walkway to ensure pedestrian safety and allow us to reopen the corner doors. We do so reluctantly for it is quite expensive (\$13,400 plus a \$2,300 deposit paid to DC against sidewalk damage).

However, we are convinced that failure to protect against injury (from material loosened by high winds or the freeze/thaw cycle of winter) would be negligent and make us liable for any injury caused. When we have a realistic idea of the total cost, we will ask the Vestry to decide on a funding method and timetable. We do not see the possibility of restoration work

beginning before next spring. None of us enjoy this tension. We will be faithful in our attempt to resolve this as rapidly as is conducive to good decision-making.

Recent improvements

- Waterproofed the basement of Baxter House (asbestos tile had to be professionally removed before the French drains could be installed)
- Replaced the gutter on the back of the Parish Hall, destroyed in last winter's huge snowstorm.
- Installed chains and hooks to hold open all upper level exterior doors
- Installed a new toilet in the first floor bathroom at Baxter House
- Installed is a new keypad entry to the undercroft
- Completed necessary electrical work, gas line leak, fire extinguisher servicing, air conditioning repair, burst pipe repair, burnt out coffee pot replacement, and the drying of undercroft carpet, soaked in our heavy spring rains.

In progress

- Repairing of boiler and radiators
- Looking at ways to address continuing flooding of the undercroft, the out-of-date piping in Baxter House, and the need to repoint (repair the damaged mortar) in Baxter House. †

Race and Reconciliation Committee Shows Second Film by Lee Mun Wah

On August 17, the committee showed the film, "The Last Chance for Eden" and facilitated discussion. This continues the dialogue begun with "The Color of Fear," which was shown last year.

The plan had been a Bastille Day Lunch put on by Ellen Cardwell followed by the film and discussion until 3:30 +/- (come on, it *is* St. Marks!). However, Ellen Cardwell suffered a sudden, serious illness that drove her to the emergency room. Hearts and prayers went out to Ellen as we shifted to plan B, Jan Canterbury scrambled to pull off a wonderful Pub Lunch (thanks to the abundance of the Eastern Market).

Facilitators, Henry Bourgeois and Matthew Johnson, introduced themselves and the film. Consolidated from over 500 hours of film shot by Lee Mun Wah, women and men of diverse backgrounds tell their stories and share their experiences with racism.

At the end of the film, we allowed for quiet time: time to reflect and "come

down" from the powerful emotions which get stirred up. The facilitators and I each shared personal vignettes regarding our own experiences with racism to be used as a model for the group. We then asked everyone to form dyads and tell their stories to each other, which would eventually be shared in the larger group. Next, we connected our experiences with those depicted in the film. We concluded with a handout suggesting "next steps" — some of which would be as simple and basic as making eye contact with people on the street and acknowledging their presence.

Next steps for the committee: Since the film was borrowed and the facilitators donated their time, we would like to purchase the film and show it to more folks in the coming months using the same

model we used in showing the "Color of Fear." This involves hosting the event in people's homes with facilitation provided by committee members, and an audience of parishioners and their invited co-workers, friends, and neighbors.

At the end of the film, we allowed for quiet time: time to reflect and "come down" from the powerful emotions which get stirred up.

We thank our facilitators Henry and Matthew for their time and care, Jan Canterbury for Pub Lunch and for introducing Henry to us, and to all those who took time out of their busy lives to risk having their hearts and heads challenged by this experience. The journey continues.... †



Highlights of the Summer Vestry Meetings

From the Vestry Mouse (a.k.a., Raiford Gaffney) and Maureen Shea

From May Vestry Retreat: Two top priorities: Parish Assistant Position and Evolution of the Youth Program. The Personnel Committee worked on combining the Parish Assistant and Youth Director into one position. Volunteer job descriptions were developed for Producer of Worship Bulletins and Receptionist.

Key Vestry Votes: Approved: a parish pillar, a two-year pillar project, a survey to update parish statistics and a revised charter for the Stewardship Committee. Bruce Ritter elected for third year as Co-Convener of the Advisory Committee (so co-chairs will have staggered terms). A draft "In Resident" application was presented and voted on by e-mail. Vestry will consider Greg Gay's application for Peter Krummeck as Artist in Resident in September.

June and July Meetings: \$\$\$ Flow: In June, for a change, there was a positive cash flow of \$642. For the year, we have a negative cash flow of \$42,102 but enough reserves to cover the deficit until the surpluses that usually occur later in the year.

Designated Funds: Funds in 34 designated accounts (the origin of some has faded with time) range from \$5 to \$15,138. Eight have been eliminated or moved to other accounts. The Craighills set up a fund of \$7,047 as a "placeholder" to give St. Mark's full discretion if someone wished to donate the final available window. Paul is asking the Craighill's daughter for her approval to move this money to Save the Nave.

2004: The 2004 budget first draft maintains current salary levels for two years in a row, increases our Diocesan Pledge, accounts for higher health and workman's compensation costs, and increases utility expenses to reflect the rumored

20% increase. All items, except "mandatory" or "uncontrollable" items, stay at 2003 levels. This will be the baseline as the Finance Committee gets to the nitty gritty in the fall. The 2003 budget for current services shows a surplus of almost \$5,000 for 2004. The 2003 draft budget had projected a deficit of almost \$53,000.

Junior Warden: Refinishing the nave floor cost more than \$10,000. The floor has not had proper maintenance (adding to the refinishing cost) since it was installed five or six years ago. Estimated cost to repair the tower and steeple is more than \$100,000.

Personnel: Nathan Morrell is the new chair of the Personnel Committee; former chair Larry Cardwell will stay on to complete the remaining year in the term of Fitzgerald Hoskins. Primary tasks are supporting the Rector in hiring a new associate and a contracting with Ed Green. Vestry wanted to understand further the arrangement between Keith Reas, Youth Choir Director, and Nancy Karpeles and Mary Norton, whom he has asked, as volunteers, to direct that choir.

New Co-Sacristan: Overlooking our usual gender balance requirements, the Vestry approved David Deutsch as co-sacristan. Paul also announced that Victoria Solsberry and David Deutsch will be vergers from time to time for 2004 Cathedral services - an honor for them and St. Mark's.

In the Meantime: Our very able adjunct clergy will help with liturgy and pastoral care. As they are all volunteers, it is especially important that we acknowledge their assistance during this time.

Family Ministry: Penny Hansen expanded on her vision of "family ministry" and the need to support not just kids but the whole family.

Parish Survey: David Dill will distribute the survey in September and plans to have the results by November 1. The survey's three categories are demographics; program participation; and belief systems.

Thanks: Apologies about errors: John Lineberger for signs; Keith Krueger for external affairs; Elin Whitney-Smith, Raiford Gaffney, and Jan Hoffman for bulletin production; Michael Knipe (the Honorable Crab of the Year), Robin Holliday, and Michael Knipe for the newcomers party; all volunteers for Shrinemont; Margaret Wood as co-sacristan; Barbara Black, Stephanie Deutsch, and Susan Ryerson for the Shelter Project; Larry Cardwell for personnel; and all the pillar co-chairs and office volunteers.

Shelter Project: Larry Cardwell for personnel; and all the pillar co-chairs and office volunteers.

What needs attention: Penny and David are working to inform the parish about budget process. There is concern that a decision on the artist-in-residence program was being rushed.

What's working: New faces for outreach, shelter project, Deb Cunningham and nursery, course on God.

What's new: Promotion activities to outside community, film for racial reconciliation. †



Letter from the Rector August 2003

With a mix of joy and regret, I announced in June that the Reverend Dr. Stephanie Nagley, had been called to be the 4th Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Bethesda, Maryland. On July 27, her last Sunday at St. Mark's, she preached to a full house and was honored at a festive and moving Pub Lunch after the service.

And now we look to our future. In accord with Episcopal Church canons (laws), the Rector nominates Associate or Assistant Rectors. Then, following the bishop's approval, the Vestry elects them.

In keeping with our history of shared ministry, I have appointed a Search Committee, and we produced the following Position Description.

We now seek your input on this document. I would like to know if, in its general shape and substance, it is "on target," reflecting the St. Mark's you know and experience. Please share your responses with our Search Committee Co-Chairs, Jane Rutherford (janekr@aol.com) and David Trissell (tdtrissel@netzero.net), and with me (stmrctor@covad.net). David Trissell (tdtrissel@netzero.net), and with me (stmrctor@covad.net). †

Position Description – Associate or Assistant Rector

General Calling Description: St. Marks Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill — a vibrant, progressive Christian community of 700 members — seeks a dedicated priest to be the Assistant/Associate Rector with major responsibilities for shepherding and serving the parish's growing program of youth and family ministries (50 percent of the time) and in assisting the Rector with preaching, teaching, and pastoral duties. Candidate must be comfortable with and committed to a concept of shared ministry that models an active partnership between clergy and laity.

Experience/Skills/Characteristics:

- Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree or its equivalent from accredited seminary or school of ministry.
- Priest or transitional deacon in good standing of the Episcopal Church.
- At least 3 years experience in congregation-based or other church-related ministry
- Biblically, personally, spiritually, theologically well grounded. Able to make (and relate adeptly to others) a connection between life experience and Christian lore.
- Gifted communicator and preacher.
- Comfortable in a progressive church environment that welcomes people of varying spiritual, religious, sexual, racial, and cultural backgrounds.
- Outgoing, with high energy and a willingness to engage with (and to be engaged by) others. Able to relate well to people of all ages, observing and maintaining appropriate personal boundaries of others and of self.

Essential Duties:

- Collaborate with lay leadership and volunteers to continue constructing and executing ongoing youth and family ministry parish program, to include:
- Guiding and working in partnership with volunteers to manage and lead program and ministry for all youth, infants to age 18.
- Continuing development and implementation of youth Confirmation program.
- Coordinating and conducting annual youth service trip.

Become familiar with and actively engaged in the St. Mark's approach to adult Christian Education, specifically:

- Participating in foundational "gateway" adult education experiences.
- Learning the "Functional Education" model and approach.
- Assist Rector in carrying out clerical, liturgical and pastoral ministries of parish.
- Attend and participate in monthly Vestry meetings and annual Vestry retreat(s).
- Attend and participate in annual parish weekend.
- Other duties as assigned.

A Lesson from my Sojourn

The things I most value, my mouth
and my brain,
Are of little use in countries
where my tongue will not serve,
And my graduate degrees are
worthless
When my vocabulary is bettered
by kindergartners.

And thus I am granted the silence,
That I formerly only admired in
others,
When trying to ken the rapid
fire
Of dialect, and colloquial
expression.

The quiet people in the back of
the room,
In the shadows while I held
court
For the first forty years of my
life,
Did they feel the same?

Do we need the polysyllabic Latin
cognates
To understand the meaning?
Or does a surfeit of expression
Obscure the meaning?

It is morning, somewhere in
Lithuania,
Kaunas, I think, where every
sound and sight is new.
And amongst the ochre houses
most every person,
Has experienced a poverty I will
never know.

I am tired, I point to a picture of
coffee,
I am hungry, I point to a picture
of an egg.
She is understanding, she brings
me both.
I am satisfied, we communicate
with a smile and nod. †

By Bill Dannenmaier
Vienna, Austria



An Outward and Visible Sign

ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2003, ST. MARK'S CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL unveiled the parish's new sign. Don Lipscomb designed the sign in fall 2002, based on input from parishioners and from the Commission of Fine Arts. The sign features the familiar winged lion with an open Gospel that is the emblem of Saint Mark. The winged lion on the sign evokes the motif seen in the sculpted bronze lion and notice holders recently installed on the church. Removable panels on the sign give the summer and winter service hours. Small shields bearing the arms of the Episcopal Church cover the panels' support bolts.

The carved lion and lettering are oil

gilded, to stand out against the slate blue painted wood. The use of gold leaf is not only attractive, but also makes the sign visible at night by streetlight. The sign was not electrically lighted because that would have required additional permits and added expense to run power to the sign locations. The sign's support, fabricated by Don Firmani of Northeast Ironworks, is black ironwork, designed to harmonize with the courtyard fence.

Ted Gerhart of Lancaster, PA, carved the sign from Spanish cedar, a tropical wood that resists weathering. Mr. Gerhart has carved several nearby church signs, including those at Capitol Hill Baptist Church

(from the 1990's) and more recently those at Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church. Gerhart expects that the sign should last about 25 years.

The sign committee is grateful for the generosity of many parishioners who contributed to the sign fund and who supported the book sale fundraiser. The committee hopes to raise funds this coming year for a second sign to be erected near the corner of Third and A Streets in the small fenced garden, after work on the steeple is completed. For further information, please contact members of the sign committee: Doris Burton, Kitty Donnelly, and Rob Hall. †