



January 2012

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Venice, Florida**

THE MESSENGER

Rector

James H. Puryear

Associate Rector

Earl D. Beshears

Deacons

Keith Backhaus

Lynne T. Greene, M.D.

Fran McKinney

Interim Choir Director

Lunetta Knowlton

Interim Organist

Kathy Pendergrass

**Director of Youth and
Family Ministries**

Jackie Overton

Parish Nurse

April Merrill, R.N.

Parish Administrator

Sandy Albanese

Administrative Assistant

Carlotta Woolpert

Financial Secretary

Maury Leman

Preschool Director

Barbara Levesque

Betty Albee, Assistant

Sexton

Vicki Mahon

Jim Gietek, Assistant

Vestry Members

Jim Brandt,

Senior Warden

Michael Knowlton,

Junior Warden

Janie Dunn-Rankin,

Secretary

Bob Miles, Treasurer

Elsa Dempsey

Ted George

Roma Johnson

Bob Miller

Debbie Pfender

Dave Sayer

Cathie Tiemeyer

Mack Wilcox

Betty Williams

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

One of the so-called “rules of life” is that everything has its time, and when that time has come and gone, then that time is left behind and everything moves toward “what’s next.” Life and our yearly calendar are that way. As the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas linger in the air, the “what’s next” is upon us. In the natural order of things, it is time to put Christmas Day behind us and move toward the unfolding of the new year—a new time. So welcome to the beginning of a new year.

I always find the transition at this time of the year, emotionally and spiritually, so very interesting. Everything is new and unknown. Everything seems fresh and before us. Time has not stood still. Everything is waiting to be unleashed, explored and experienced. It is as if new life is waiting to be created from seed that has been planted but has yet to grow.

What makes this time of the year so interesting though is that while waiting for a new year to unfold before us, and all that it will bring, we oftentimes in our impatience to know the unknown, get lost in the anxiety of our anticipation of what will be. And according to the mystic of old, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, this can be maddening. For in our desire to see what is about to unfold before us, we can miss what God is doing in the mystery of the moment—in that space between our steps, as it were.

One of the wonderful things about the mystery of God is just that—it is a mystery. And as a mystery, we can spend all our time trying to solve that mystery and answer all the questions, or as Rainer Maria Rilke, the noted spiritual writer says, “we can be patient toward all that’s unsolved in our hearts and learn to love the questions themselves”—looking to God and allowing God to reveal to us what we need to know in the seeking of the answers and what will unfold.

The year 2012 is upon us and we do not know what it will bring. We only know that there will be questions, mystery and surprises in the unfolding of this year...and God will be in the midst of all of that working diligently to not only surprise us but to bring us joys beyond our fondest imagination. Of that, we can be certain.

In this new year that is before us—starting with this very day that is lovingly given to us by God—my prayer is that each of us will live into what God is doing today. That we will awake each day looking for the gift God gives us.

May we remember that life is change, life is a mystery, life is full of questions and surprises but life is always a gift. Let us live it! Let us love it! Let us embrace it! For the tragedy of life is not so much that we don’t receive the gift of life from God but rather that we miss it when given. God’s blessings and grace to everyone in 2012 and forever.

In Christ’s love,



Wednesday Morning Bible Study Begins January 18

Wednesday mornings, January 18 to February 15

Characters of the Bible, with The Rev. Jim Puryear

Each week for five weeks on Wednesday mornings we will be taking "characters" in the Bible (such as Ruth and Naomi, Job and his friends, the lost son, the faithful son and the forgiving father) and exploring what the Bible says about these interesting people. We will look at their relationships with God, each other and the world around them. We will attempt to bring these characters more fully alive through biblical history, lecture and discussion. Bring a Bible, an inquiring mind and let's explore together. Meets 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon in Gray Hall.

Wednesdays mornings in Lent, February 29 to March 28.

The Exodus, with The Rev. Earl Beshears

The Hebrew people's Exodus from slavery in Egypt shapes our understanding of salvation in Jewish and Christian communities. The Wednesdays in Lent, February 29 to March 28, we will read the Exodus in an English translation that tries to maintain the flavor of the original Hebrew. Father Earl will lead a discussion of The Exodus and how this story is relates to our understand the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. Meets 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon in Gray Hall.



QUESTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP



Each month, Fr. Jim and Fr. Earl will answer questions about our worship. This month **Fr. Earl** addresses the following:

Please tell me about the garments the priests wear on Sunday morning.

The vestments the priest wears are derived from dress clothing of the late Roman Empire. The white outer garment is called an alb. It gets its name from the Latin word *albus*, which means white. It is derived from the commonest undergarment in classical Italy, the tunic. It symbolizes purity, decency and propriety. It also represents being washed clean in the waters of baptism.

The girdle or cincture goes around the waist and is usually made of white linen or hemp. Functionally, it is for ease of movement when wearing the alb. Symbolically, it represents how we are all bound together in Christ. The stole was derived from a Roman ceremonial garland or scarf worn by Roman officials as an indication of rank. Priests have worn the stole since at least the fourth century. It symbolizes the priest's authority and the priest taking on the yoke of Christ. The deacon wears the stole across the left shoulder. Different colored stoles are worn depending upon the liturgical season.

The chasuble is also descended from classical Roman society. Like the poncho of Mexico and Central and South America, all classes of Roman citizens wore the chasuble as an outer garment. In some parishes today, the priest wears it whenever Eucharist is celebrated. In other parishes, it is reserved for very special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. The chasuble is a "dress up" garment.

Each of these vestments – the alb, cincture, stole, and chasuble – has been worn for centuries. Besides their individual symbolic meaning, they remind us of our heritage, our link to the past and the saints who have gone before us. Finally, it is important to remember that when the priest puts on these vestments, they are worn for the people. In some traditions, the priest is considered to be representing Christ at the altar. In our tradition, the priest represents the people at the altar. The garments we wear on Sunday morning symbolize our baptism, our binding together in Christ, the yoke of Christ, and our dressing up to bring our very best to Christ.

**Annual Meeting
&
Vestry Election**

Sunday, January 29, 2012

5:30 p.m.

**Sign up in Gray Hall or the narthex.
Bring your favorite covered dish to share.**



Join St. Mark's Parish Family on

**Wednesday, January 11
for
Dinner
Mini-Ministry Fair
&
Musical Tribute**

Before, during and immediately following dinner you may chat with ministry leaders about their outreach. Get your questions answered and find out how you can be of service in the church and in the community.

THEN....

Join us in the church for a private concert just for you—a farewell performance by Lunetta Knowlton and Kathy Pendergrass. It is their gift to the congregation and your chance to share your appreciation for their work as interim choir director and musician.

And they have done an excellent job!

Sign up as usual on the green sheets in the narthex or Gray Hall.

December 28, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Peter Madpak to Direct
St. Mark's Music Program**



The parish family of St. Mark's Episcopal Church is pleased to welcome Peter A. Madpak as Director of Music. Peter most recently served as the Minister of Music of St. John's United Methodist Church, Hazlet NJ. Having begun his musical career in the third grade at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown, Peter traveled extensively with the Men and Boys Choir throughout England and Ireland, working with such famous British conductors as Malcolm Archer, Barry Rose and Richard Seal. More recently Peter directed ten separate ensembles ranging from Bell Choirs to Praise Band in the Hazlet community. He directed Men's, Women's and Youth ensembles for all ages where, under his direction, participation more than doubled.

Peter's approach to his ministry goes beyond that of music. As a director he considers himself in a position of spiritual leadership. His philosophy stresses the fellowship we have with each other and Christ through the performance of music.

Along with his spiritual philosophy, Peter brings a wealth of education and experience to St. Mark's. He received his Master of Theological Studies from Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, NJ; Bachelor of Arts (Music) from Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ; and studied piano and voice at Wagner College, Staten Island.

Peter has participated in and taught several seminars, performed and provided accompaniment in a variety of presentations and is renowned for his skill on the organ and piano as well as for his "lovely tenor voice." Peter will be joining the staff of St. Mark's in mid-January, once he has moved and settled into the Venice area. St. Mark's Episcopal Church is located at 508 Riviera Street, on the Island of Venice. Visit us at www.stmarksvenice.org †

Christian Education—Epiphany to Lent

All classes begin at 6:15 p.m., following the Wednesday night dinner and run from Jan. 18 to Feb. 15. No sign up needed for class attendance, but we do ask that you sign up for the dinner for food planning.

***Altars of the World* with The Rev. Jim Puryear**

This five-week discussion class will explore the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as working, playing, and prayer. We will attempt to discover and see God in the "ordinary" of our lives through noticing and naming those many things, places and people who touch our lives--like sharing stories and eye contact with the grocery store checker or the simple act of "hanging clothes on a clothesline." Everywhere there is an altar to God and we will attempt to allow ourselves time to discuss and explore them. Areas we will explore: The Practice of Waking Up to God; The Practice of Wearing Skin; The Practice of Getting Lost; The Practice of Walking on the Earth and Encountering Others; and wherever the Spirit leads us.

We will be using the collected works of Barbara Brown Taylor, especially her latest work, *Altars in the World*, as the basis for our discussion. One does not have to be familiar with Ms. Brown's works or her latest book to attend the class or enter into our discussion. We will seek God where God appears.

***Artist as Theologian in Sight, Sound and Song* with The Rev. Earl Beshears**

In five evenings we will explore how various artists understand and interpret major Christian beliefs through three artistic mediums – visual arts, poetic arts and the musical arts. Each week different artists and different works of art will be presented and discussed. Maggie Lannan will present in the medium of visual arts, Sara Katsanis in the medium of poetry, and Earl Beshears in the medium of musical arts. There will be time for conversation after the presentations.

The theological themes are taken from the Apostles' Creed.

Jan 18 I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Jan 25 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

Feb 1 I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Feb 8 I believe in the communion of saints.

Feb 15 I believe in the resurrection of the body.

Join us as we explore art and theology through the eye of the artist.

***The Story Behind “The Greatest Story Ever Told”* with The Rev. Judith Roberts**

Since the invention of the printing press the Bible has been the world's most consistently best-selling book. It has been copied, recopied, studied in universities and synagogues, read in private and bears the mark of many cultures that have debated its meaning and prized its wisdom. And yet, what do we know about this ancient and influential text? This is a continuation of our study which began in September 2010, with video presentation by renowned scholar and Professor Luke Timothy Johnson. Discussions will be led by The Rev. Judy Roberts to illustrate the remarkable and complicated process by which this great book came into being. Throughout this story, class participants should develop a deeper appreciation for the tremendous power of this astonishing book—this book we call the Bible. No prior attendance required.

St. Mark's Book Circle - All welcome!

The selection committee of St. Mark's Book Circle has chosen the following books for our monthly discussions.

Please feel free to join us whether you have read the books or not. We meet the third Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Picture Room of Gray Hall, unless otherwise announced. Next year we will be reading:

JANUARY — <i>Caleb's Crossing</i> , Geraldine Brooks	AUGUST — <i>Mao's Last Dancer</i> , Li Cunxin
FEBRUARY — <i>Digging to America</i> , Anne Tyler	SEPTEMBER — <i>The Glassblower of Murano</i> , Marina Fiorato
MARCH — <i>Funny in Farsi</i> , Firoozeh Dumas	OCTOBER — <i>Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First Hundred Years</i> , Delany et al.
APRIL — <i>Land Girls</i> , Angela Huth	NOVEMBER — <i>The Devil in the White City</i> , Erik Larson
MAY — <i>The Dive from Clausen's Pier</i> , Ann Packer	DECEMBER — <i>Gifts from the Sea</i> , Anne Morrow Lindbergh
JUNE — <i>Abraham</i> , Bruce Feiler	
JULY — <i>The Book Thief</i> , Marcus Zusak	



Safeguarding God's Children

A Safeguarding God's Children class will be held in Gray Hall on Saturday, January 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you need to take the Safeguarding class, sign up by calling or emailing the church office. You may also check the diocesan website (search on *safeguarding*) for classes being held around the diocese. This class is required of everyone working with children and those wishing to do home visits or lay service. If your certification is more than five years old, it's time to renew. Contact Deacon Fran if you have any questions about *Safeguarding*.



O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty:
Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your
works. . . —Prayer for Joy in God's Creation, BCP p. 814

Happy, Healthy 2012

Have you planned your New Year's resolutions yet? Thought about making life-style changes that are fun, activities that you really enjoy, like playing cards, gardening, taking a new class at the YMCA or the public library?

Research shows people who are sociable, active, and goal oriented may be healthier and less depressed than other people. By choosing an activity you enjoy, you are more likely to stick to it, making it a true lifestyle change. Below are 10 "secrets" for active aging:

Optimism - Pollyanna was right: **Think positive!**

Stay Connected - **You Gotta Have Friends.**

Exercise - A recipe for a long, healthy life.

Eat well - A recipe for a long, healthy life.

Adapt- **Embrace Change** - Let go of "what was."

Live in the moment - Here and now.

Continue learning - **Keep your mind active.**

Laugh often - A sense of humor is good for your health.

Show compassion - Have empathy for self and others.

Spirituality - **Nourish your spirit** and find your inner peace.

Happy New Year!

April Merrill, R.N.

ST. MARK'S YOUTH & FAMILY

Youth Group returns to normal schedule on Wednesday, January 11. See everyone following the 5:30 dinner!



Chef Blow's Cooking Demos are back! On Sunday, January 21, at 4 p.m. in Gray Hall, Chef Blow is hosting his first cooking demo of the year. Contact Jim or Brandreth to sign up to participate in a class about healthy cooking and lifestyle. There will be a guest speaker discussing living healthy and how the body has the capability to heal itself if given the right foods and lifestyle. We will also taste and compare organic salads and veggies. We will compare free-range chicken to caged chicken and grass-fed beef to grain-fed beef. This will be an enlightening and interesting afternoon.

HOMEMADE SOUP COOK-OFF Sunday, THIS COMING FEBRUARY 5! Let Jackie know if you would like to compete. We will hold the competition on Super Bowl Sunday. Plan to join us and cast your ballot for the best soup... and take some home to have during half-time!



Jackie Overton

Director of Youth and Family Ministries (488.7714)

Grief Group Meeting

For those suffering from any type of loss, contact



Deacon Fran about attending the Grief Group gathering scheduled for Thursday, January 12, at 5 p.m. in the Gray Hall Picture Room.

Gifts Received

In Memory of

Peg Bradish
Betty Plichta

by

Ouida Felker
Rose Hightower
John & Linda Hopkins
Peggy Ispording
John & Cynthia Murray
Bettye Scott
Hubert & Barbara Willis

Remember our shut-ins with prayer and visitation.

Clare Bridge of Venice

Priscilla Craig

HarborChase

Hazel Ficker
Barbara Gerrish
Wayne Haviland
Nan Shilling

Harbor Inn of Venice

Bradford Jahnes

Harbor Inn South - Rutland Road

Jean Albanese

Pinebrook Rehab & Nursing Center

Virginia Safford Blais
Dorothy Tucker
Polly Walther

Summit

Mildred Straeffer

Venetian Gardens

Dot Brown

Village on the Isle

Allen Bryant
Ann Dover
Louise Hood
Marguerite Vaughan

Shut-ins at Home

Walt & Jo Bell
John Bishop

Knitters Resume!

We will gather and knit together in the church office building on the first and third Thursday of the month. Show up with needles and yarn at 1:30. Hope to see you on Thursday, January 5, and thereafter! If you have any questions, contact **Emily Smith** at **497.2770**, or **Judy Ballway** at **484.8151**. Novice knitters wel-



Volunteers' Corner

Without our cadre of volunteers, our fellowship and outreach efforts would fall flat! Here are some particularly needy service opportunities. If you can help, pick up your phone and "jump in."

CROPWalk coming up in February: Administrative help needed. Call Dave Sayer at 445.5071

Divine Consign – a morning or afternoon once a week. Call Diane Kerin at 488.3219.

Gift Shop – to help on Sundays and at various church functions. Call Judi Pennington at 496.4299.

Kitchen Volunteers - Kitchen volunteers make meals at St. Mark's possible—and fun!. Call 488.7714.

Music News



The Advent and Christmas seasons were very busy with lots of performances. It is always a wondrous time of year. The choir hopes the congregation enjoyed the results of their hard work.

One last "Thank You!"

I really didn't know how much enjoyable work I was in for when I agreed to be interim choir director! However, I must say that the few months I have had the opportunity to lead the choir have been very rewarding. St. Mark's Choir is not only filled with talented musicians but incredible human beings. They put so much love and energy into what you hear each Sunday! I look forward to being "one of the choir" again. My goal was to keep the choir that Gini had worked so hard to form intact for her replacement. I think that has been accomplished. We all welcome Peter to St. Mark's and look forward to working with him! And we encourage anyone in the congregation who would like to join us to come to a Wednesday rehearsal.

Most Sincerely,

Lunetta Knowlton

MARKSMEN TO LEARN ABOUT CIRCUS ARENA CAMPAIGN

Marksmen will meet on **Tuesday, January 17**. Watch for blue sign-up sheets in the narthex and Gray Hall. Our guest speaker will be a representative from The Venice Circus Arts Foundation to discuss the Save the Venice Circus Arena program. We will learn more about this important part of Venice history and what we can do to help preserve it. A great dinner will be served up by Chef Blow at 6 p.m. sharp and a \$10 donation will be asked. All men of the church are invited to sign up. Guests are welcome. If you have any questions call **Bobby Wood** at **488.0077** or **Chip Andrews** at **485.2170** or **Steve Plichta** at **480.1611**.



Comfort Quilts

Once again we will donate our "comfort quilts" to the Shriner's Hospital. Alf Weidner will be delivering 16 quilts to the children currently at Tampa Hospital. The quilts, which we all work on at home, benefit greatly from your donations of good cotton fabric, cotton batting and monetary gifts for supplies. If you are a quilter we welcome your gift of lap-size quilts. Drop them off at the church office. For more information call **Irene Piggott** at **474.4399**.

Over the past 10 years we have donated quilts to a Chinese orphanage; the Dominican Republic; S.P.A.R.C. (Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center); two nursing homes; St. Mark's preschool; Shamrock Pre-school; children in Arcadia who were victims of Hurricane Charley; two deliveries to Hurricane Katrina victims; Camp Able and New Horizon Camp at DaySpring; and our own St. Mark's Gift Shop. Parishioners and friends have also enjoyed gifts of lap quilts as well as walker and wheel chair bags. If you have questions about our "products," contact Irene at the above number.

Episcopal Church Women

Women's Evening Fellowship New Directions

The Women's Evening Fellowship will meet on Monday, January 9 at 6 p.m. in the church office conference room. Light snacks will be provided. At this meeting we will discuss the direction we would like the group to take over the next year. Please come prepared with your ideas. Sign up on the lavender sheets in the narthex and Gray Hall. The contact for questions and more information is **Sue Benak** at **485.6114**.

Sunday, January 29 is our *Church Periodical Club* Ingathering for the worldwide ministry of the printed word. Donations are used to provide Bibles, related literature and study materials for Seminary and other college students.

"Mile of Pennies" (M.O.P.) is an ongoing program to provide books for children grades K to 12. A jar is kept in the gift shop for donations of any size....from a penny to folding money. A Mile of Pennies is \$844.80, so when you are in the gift shop please throw in your loose change and help us make a mile!

UTO BOXES AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND

For those who like to share their blessings year round, pick up one of the blue United Thank Offering coin boxes in the narthex or in Gray Hall. As you feel blessed, make a donation to the box. We will collect them at our Spring Ingathering.

ECW General Membership Meetings

Tuesday, January 10

There will be no *formal* general membership of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in January. However, all are invited for tea and chit-chat. Come get acquainted with other women in the church! No sign-up necessary.

Tuesday, February 7

Sign up now for the meeting of the general membership of the ECW, scheduled for Tuesday, February 7. This meeting of the general membership will convene at 10 a.m. for Holy Eucharist in the church followed by a brief business meeting. The program will be presented by our own Rev. Judith Roberts, who will discuss *A Woman's Role*. Your hostesses are Linda Hubbard and Dori Reiley. Either sign up on pink sheets found in Gray Hall and the narthex, or use the form below. We ask a **\$6 donation** to help offset the cost of the luncheon. Make checks payable to St. Mark's ECW. Hope to see you there!

ECW General Membership Meeting
St. Mark's - Tuesday, February 7, 2012
Deadline to sign up: Friday, February 3

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Send to: *St. Mark's ECW*
c/o 513 Nassau Street South
Venice, Florida 34285

**ECW BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 23**



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
 513 Nassau Street South
 Venice, Florida 34285-2816
 941.488.7714

www.stmarksvenice.org
 email: info@stmarksvenice.com

Please remember St. Mark's in your will.

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*For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God
 that is within you... —2 Timothy 1:6*

Place label here.



**BRINGING
 OUR GIFTS**

January 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Write this down!

- January 1 New Year's Day Services at 8 and 10 a.m.
- January 4 Final Soup, Sandwich & Memories Luncheon
- January 8** Parish Breakfast & Free *bp* in Gray Hall (note date!)
- January 9 Duplicate Bridge
- January 9 Women's Evening Fellowship
- January 10 ECW General Membership Tea & Social
- January 11 Wednesday Dinner, Mini-Ministry Fair, Musical Tribute
- January 12 Grief Group Gathering
- January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
- January 17 Book Circle—*Caleb's Crossing*
- January 17 Marksmen Dinner & Program
- January 18 Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Fr. Jim begins
- January 18 Wednesday Evening Classes Begin
- January 21 Chef Blow's Cooking Demo - *Getting healthy.*
- January 23 ECW Board Meeting
- January 26 Vestry Meeting
- January 28 Safeguarding God's Children
- January 29 Annual Meeting and Election
- January 29 Church Periodical Club Sunday
- February 7 ECW General Membership Meeting