

June 2011

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Venice, Florida

# THE MESSENGER

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

One of my favorite scripture passages is Matthew 6:25-34. It is the passage that we read at the Thanksgiving Day service and was the gospel reading at Carol's and my wedding ten years ago. It starts out "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink" and finishes with "Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will bring worries of its own." I love this passage for many reasons, not the least of which is the statement it seems to be making about God—about God's daily grace and how we receive it. Embracing this passage (and all that it means) can be a wonderful blueprint for daily living.

I remember many years ago when I was in seminary, a theology professor of mine brought new light for me to this thought of God's grace being seen in this passage. He stated that when Jesus is telling us not to be anxious about life, he is *not* telling us to reject feelings of anxiety but not to be anxious about the wrong things. "Look for the grace in whatever is happening—even the things that seem troublesome," he said. "This passage," he stated, "only takes on meaning when we realize that no matter what is happening in our lives at the moment—whether it is something good, bad or indifferent—God is there in the midst of it working somehow for our betterment and greater good." That insight was transforming for me and very freeing. It still is today.

This past year has been full of transition and change for most of us at St. Mark's. None of us a year ago knew what was going to occur or how this church community would evolve. We knew things would change (they always do in transitions), but we were unsure how or in what manner it would happen. We could have worried, become anxious and fought change, but we didn't. Change occurred and we are still here and going strong; God continues to work in the midst of our being. There is definitely grace in that.

I am so thankful for the wonderful things that have occurred in our church over this past year—the grace seen and unseen. I am also so very grateful for all of the things that so many of you have done and embraced. God has been at work but so have you, and not in an anxious manner. You have not worried about life or tomorrow, you have lived into today. You have visited the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, clothed the poor, and brought Christ's "good news" to our local community (both by word and deed). God's world is better because of you and what you have done on God's behalf.

What lies ahead? Who knows but God. But one thing I do know, St. Mark's is living the presence of Christ daily in the world, and sharing the grace of God without exception and with love. What a great thing that is and a blessing to God's glory. May we continue to live into that blessing and what God is creating.

Jim+



office hours, see page 6.



## QUESTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP

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

**Question #1:** *Can a non-ordained person administer bread at the Eucharistic or is this something reserved only for priests?*

Normally in most Episcopal churches administering the bread is done by ordained persons almost all of the time but the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer and Canon Title III, 4.6, allow for lay persons to also administer the elements (the consecrated bread and wine) at the Eucharist. The rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer state that after the Breaking of the Bread the ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. Title III, 4.6 of our Canons further states, when speaking of a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM), that "A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister should be licensed and normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith."

In The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, in the absence of sufficient number of Priests or Deacons, a licensed Lay Eucharistic Minister may assist the Celebrant in administering both the bread and the wine, which occurred a couple of weeks ago when Jackie Overton, our Youth and Family Minister, helped me administer bread at the two services on Sunday. Lay Eucharistic Ministers (like the ones we send out each week) also administer the bread and wine when they take communion to members of our congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, are unable to be present. This is part of the ministry of the laity.

**Question # 2:** *During the recitation of the "Nicene Creed," what should a parishioner do if his or her understanding of Christ is quite different than the one portrayed in the creed? What does it mean for that person as a churchgoer and what are their options if they still identify themselves as "Christian"?*

For many Christians, what a Christian believes is summed up in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. This is the "faith" of the Church, the revelation God gave through Jesus Christ, and what most believe about the Church that is an integral part of this good news of God in Christ. The Apostles' Creed is called that because its roots go back literally to the time of the apostles and contained wording declared by early candidates for baptism. The Nicene Creed was drawn up by the first great General Council of the Church meeting at Nicea in the year 325. It is a fuller statement of the truths (believed) that are contained in the Apostles' Creed, with special emphasis being laid on the divinity of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.

With that being said, the creedal statement was drawn up by a body of people (bishops and noted theologians at the time) and have the authority of the whole Church behind them. Therefore, it is a document of our Church's statement of faith, and believed by many, but not binding on any one individual's faith or beliefs. We say it together in worship to declare publicly what we "say" we believe, but if a parishioner does not believe that creed or its description of Christ completely, then they are not forced to say it. It does not make them less Christian.

The Episcopal Church has a "big tent" and many people that are members are in different degrees of working out what they believe. I feel that in the "working out" of what a person believes, they are brought closer to God with their questions about their faith. I feel that is a spiritually healthy thing. It is part of everyone's "individual" faith journey and should always be respected.

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June 2011

Issue No. 114



I will both lie down and sleep in peace;  
for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

—Psalm 4: 8

## June is Home Safety Month

A safety check of your home and some strength training exercise can help protect you from a fall. How can exercise help? There are numerous exercises that can improve your balance thus reducing the risk of falling. Balance is a complicated issue that may need assessment by a professional such as your doctor or a physical therapist. These professionals can address issues that may be affecting your balance such as impaired vision or medication side effects, as well as recommend a gentle exercise program to strengthen core muscles—the muscles that assist our balance.

Look around your home to see if there are hazards that can be corrected to prevent a fall.

- ◆ When you walk through a room, do you have to walk around furniture? Have someone help you move the furniture so your path is clear.
- ◆ Do you have throw rugs? Remove them or use double-sided tape to prevent slipping.
- ◆ Are there papers, books, towels, shoes, magazines, boxes, blankets or other objects on the floor?
- ◆ Always keep these and other objects picked up off the floor.
- ◆ Check the stairs you use both inside and outside your home. Fix broken or loose steps. Have an electrician install overhead lights in stairways ;
- ◆ In your kitchen are things you often use at waist level or easy to reach? If you must use a step stool, get one with a bar to hold onto. Never use a chair as a step stool.
- ◆ Is your bathroom tub or shower floor slippery? Put a no-slip rubber mat or self-stick strips on the floor of the tub or shower. Consider installing grab bars inside the tub and next to the toilet.
- ◆ In the bedroom place a lamp close to the bed where it is easy to reach.
- ◆ If the path from your bed to the bathroom is dark put in a nightlight so you can see where you're walking.

Other things you can do to prevent falls:

- ◆ Have your vision checked once a year by an eye doctor.
- ◆ Get up slowly after sitting or lying down.
- ◆ Wear shoes both inside and outside; slippers and going barefoot can increase the risk of falling.
- ◆ Improve the lighting in your home. Florescent bulbs are brighter and cost less to use.
- ◆ Have your doctor or pharmacist review all the medication you take, even over the counter medications. Many medications and combinations of medicines can make you sleepy or dizzy.

Stay safe!

Healthy years UCLA Division of Geriatrics - March 2011

*April Merrill, R.N.*

## Pet Food and pet supplies needed!

Vicki continues to deliver pet food and pet supplies to the local area humane society. These supplies are used to help support the many abandoned pets housed at the humane society and are also distributed to families in need to enable them to keep their pet. Just leave your donation in the narthex or Gray Hall. Vicki will find it and make sure it gets into the proper paws. Thank you for generosity.



## st. mark's youth & family

Vacation Bible School - Tuesday, June 7 thru Friday, June 10. St. Mark's is hosting *Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street!* Can register for VBS online at [www.vacationbibleschool.com/stmarksvenice](http://www.vacationbibleschool.com/stmarksvenice)

Episcopal Youth Event—Five of our youth will be representing the diocese at Episcopal Youth Event (EYE). EYE is a national gathering of Episcopal Youth that is held every 3 years. Our youth will be traveling to Bethel University in Minneapolis to gather with Episcopal Youth from around the country and the world.

## St. Mark's Book Circle - Everyone invited!

The selection committee of St. Mark's Book Circle has chosen the following books for our May and June discussions:

June 21: *Water for Elephants*

by Sara Gruen

Betty Williams, discussion leader

July 19: *Breakfast with Buddha*

by Roland Merallo

Maureen Bentley, discussion leader

August 16: *Cutting For Stone*

by Abraham Verghese

Ellen Miles, discussion leader

September 20: *Remarkable Creatures*

by Tracy Chevalier

Discussion leader to be determined

October 18: *The Heart of Christianity*

by Marcus Borg

Sue Ardizzoni, discussion leader

November 15: *A Land Remembered*

by Patrick Smith

Cathie Tiemeyer, discussion leader

December 20: *What's So Amazing About Grace*

by Phillip Yancy

Joan Mann, discussion leader

Please feel free to join us whether you have read the book or not. We take suggestions for future Book Circle selections. We meet the third Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Picture Room of Gray Hall.

## GRIEF GROUP POSTPONED

**G**rief Group, which usually meets the second Thursday of the month, will not be meeting over the summer. We will begin meeting early this fall and resume our regular schedule at that time. Watch for notices in the Sunday bulletin announcements and in *The Messenger*. If you or someone you know has an immediate need while suffering grief through loss, please call the church office **488.7714**. Otherwise we will see you later this summer. The Grief Group program is facilitated by Deacon Fran McKinney.

## 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

### *Pinebrook Rehab & Nursing Center*

Virginia Safford Blais

Dorothy Tucker

### *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

Betty Cavaluzzi

Arthur Wakefield



### **Now Accepting UTO Boxes of Coins!**

**O**ur spring United Thank Offering ingathering was held later this year and a lot of folks had already gone north. If you still have your little blue box filled with coins, you may turn it in any time during the year. Contributions are sent into the diocese twice during the year, so your donations will be gratefully received at any time. Thanks for your generosity with this campaign “which addresses compelling human need through grants to projects that alleviate poverty, both domestically and internationally, within the Anglican provinces, diocese, and companion diocese.” (see [www.anglican.org](http://www.anglican.org)) Your gifts acknowledge your many blessings through the kindness of sharing. *Thank you!*

## Church Office Now Has “Summer Hours”



Beginning on Friday, June 17, the church office will close at noon on Fridays. This will give the staff a chance to take their well deserved vacation time. Please keep this in mind when stopping by or calling the church office. We will resume our regular 8-4 Friday schedule beginning Friday, August 19. Reminder:

**The church office is open Monday-Thursday, 8 to 4, and Friday, 8 until noon.**

## Music News



### Adult Choir in June – Please join us!

St. Mark’s Adult Choir is open to all men and women who like to sing. Rehearsals during the month of June are on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., in preparation for the 10 a.m. Service. Anthems are easily learned in one rehearsal and newcomers are invited to join us. Come once, twice or every week – this is a great opportunity to lend your voice to our music ministry at St. Mark’s! Call Gini Koepkey with questions or for more information.

### June 1 Concert

The Suncoast Wind Quintet will present a concert at 6:30 p.m. following our Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Dinner. The quintet, joined by pianist Stephen Kline, will present a program featuring the music of Barthe, Benjamin, Mozart and Debussy.

## Marksmen take a break until the fall.

**T**he Marksmen of St. Mark’s will not meet over the summer. Watch for announcement of annual steak cook-out season opener in October. Have a wonderful summer and see you this fall!

If you would like to mark your calendar now, Marksmen meet on the third Tuesday of the month, October through May, at 6 p.m. We engage a variety of speakers and Chef Blow prepares a wonderful meal for which we ask a \$10 donation. If you have any questions about the group or the programs, call:

**Bobby Wood at 480.0077 ♦ Steve Plichta at 480.1611 ♦ Chip Andrews at 485.2170**

## TUESDAY MORNING MEN’S FELLOWSHIP GOING STRONG!

**T**he Tuesday morning Men’s Fellowship has grown significantly over the last few months. We will see diminished attendance over the summer, but remember this promise: “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20, KJV) We will continue to meet in the church office building at 8 a.m. sharp for an hour. Join us weekly (or when you can), Tuesday morning at 8. We enjoy lively discussion about our faith and our spiritual lives with reflections from a Biblical perspective. Join us for free coffee and stimulating conversation or vice versa! Questions? Contact **Dave Sayer at 445.5071**.

# Episcopal Church Women

## Women's Evening Fellowship Institutes Sign-up

**Date:** Monday, June 13

**Time:** Dinner at 6 p.m.

Over the next three months we will be investigating the inspiring lives of female saints and how our lives could be influenced by their actions. We do ask that you sign up on one of the sheets, either in the narthex or in Gray Hall. It will help in preparing food and also give us an idea of what you might bring to share (for 6-8 people).

Please contact Sue Benak **485.6114** to reserve your seat **OR** sign up as noted above. This group meets monthly on the second Monday unless otherwise announced.

## Scholarships Available!

**ECW** Scholarship Request Forms are available in the church office. The completed form with all requested materials, including transcripts,\* is due in the church office no later than Friday, July 1. If for some reason you cannot meet this deadline, notify the church office in writing or by email before the deadline. Call **488.7714** for more information.

\*Note: Some schools prefer to send transcripts directly to our office. Notify the office staff so we can watch for your transcripts and put them with your application materials.

When you pick up your ECW Scholarship application in the church office, be sure to ask about Church Periodical Club Scholarships as well.

## Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

For a report of the Venice Deanery Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic, visit St. Mark's website at [www.stmarksvenice.com](http://www.stmarksvenice.com). Click on the Dominican (D.R.) prompts to find a report from Carolyn Wolf with several pages of photographs.

## Your patronage is appreciated...

Shop at St. Mark's Gift Shop. Great merchandise, good prices, and most importantly, Gift Shop proceeds go to benefit the mission and ministries of St. Mark's.

—No sales tax ☺—

## Fr. Earl to Address the Episcopal Church Women of St. Mark's

Stay tuned to this page and to the announcement section of the Sunday bulletin. Fr. Earl will be our kickoff speaker when ECW General Membership meetings resume this fall.

*Church directories available in the Gift Shop and church office.* 7



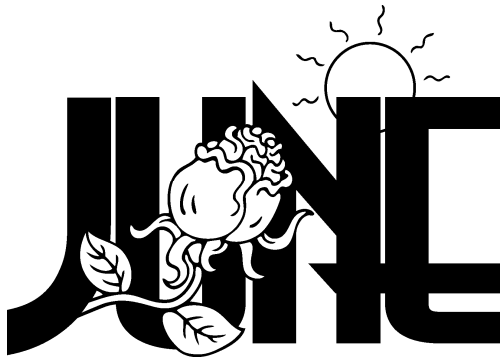
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*Please remember St. Mark's in your will.*

*We have gifts that differ according to the grace given us....  
 —Romans 12:6a*

*Place label here.*



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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### **Write this down!**

- May 30 Memorial Day Holiday—**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
- June 1 June Monthly Dinner with Woodwind Quintet & Piano
- June 2 Preschool Graduation #1
- June 6 Preschool Graduation #2
- June 7 Vacation Bible School (Tuesday through Friday)
- June 12 Pentecost Sunday - Happy Birthday to the Church!
- June 13 Women's Evening Fellowship
- June 17 Summer Church Office Hours go into effect (**see p.6**)
- June 19 Men's Women's Fun Golf Outing
- June 21 St. Mark's Book Circle (*Water for Elephants*)
- June 23 **No Vestry Meeting** this month