



November 2011

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Venice, Florida

THE MESSENGER

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James H. Puryear

Associate Rector

Earl D. Beshears

Deacons

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Fran McKinney

Interim Choir Director

Lunetta Knowlton

Interim Organist

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**Director of Youth and
Family Ministries**

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Administrative Assistant

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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,

Over the past few weeks, we've been reading about Stewardship in the bulletin and hearing about it from the pulpit—the stewardship of *time, talent and treasure*. For most folks, stewardship is one of those words that can be confusing and often misunderstood. Too often it is associated only with money. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Like many, in the past I oftentimes associated stewardship only with giving money toward a campaign or contributing to the operation of the church. Admittedly, that is the prevailing thought for many people and has been for a long time. The message we perceive says, “if we don't give more, we can't pay the bills; we're behind in our budget and we need to dig deeper; If we want to do A, B and C, it is going to cost us D, E, and F.”

The reality is that there is truth in this message. Churches do need money to operate—to pay their bills, provide wonderful programs and help those in our community who need assistance. That is part of the reality of stewardship. But **Stewardship** isn't just about money—the heart of Stewardship really lies in **how we share our gifts from God as disciples of Jesus Christ**. How good a caretaker are we of God's many gifts to us? How do we use our time, talents and resources to make God's kingdom a living reality today?

Stewardship is a way of life—how we take care of ourselves, our neighbors, our world and our resources. It is an attitude, not a church program, done in thankfulness because we recognize that all we have been given is God's gift to us. But to focus just on the financial doesn't address one of the most vital aspects of stewardship—**our natural response of gratitude for God's goodness**. That is where discipleship in Christ comes in and where our theology of stewardship is also defined. That is where our “dance with God” takes place.

I remember when I was a youngster learning to dance, I was preoccupied with making sure I knew all the steps. I needed to get it right and felt an obligation to do the steps exactly as I had been instructed. I was definitely focused on making sure I followed what was expected of me. Unfortunately, in my desire to get it right, I missed the dance—the joy of the dance, the beauty of the dance, and with whom I was dancing. Giving to God, whether through our time, talents or treasure, should not be about counting the steps or “getting it right,” but rather about enjoying the dance.

Our pledge this year should not be a stumbling block to our giving due to what we have always associated with Stewardship or making sure we have the “steps down,” but rather an opportunity to help us determine if we are truly enjoying the dance ... or simply standing by the punch bowl. Let us move to the rhythm of God's love and let the music of our dance begin!

In Christ's Love,

Fr. Jim



Stewardship Sunday
November 6, 2011

Read *The Messenger* on the web at www.stmarksvenice.com

You are invited to join the congregation
of St. Mark's Episcopal Church
for

Stewardship Celebration 2012

Tuesday, November 1
social at 6 p.m. ~ dinner at 6:30



FAN THE **FLAME**

Guest speaker
The Rt. Rev. James J. "Bud" Shand
Diocese of Easton
Maryland

A BIG THANK YOU TO ST. MARK'S

GARDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/garden/
700 Center Road, Venice, Florida 34285, (941) 486-2110
"Sowing the Seeds of Success"

John R. McQueen, Principal

August 26, 2011

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
513 Nassau Street South
Venice, FL 34285

Dear St. Mark's BackPack Program Volunteers,


I wanted to express my gratitude for the kindness you have shown to the children of Garden Elementary. The school supplies that were delivered have been put to good use as they were placed into backpacks and given to the children on Monday morning. We also appreciate all the time and effort you put into getting the bags of food together for the BackPack kids.

Without the generosity of St. Mark's and our other community partners, we would have many children who would go without these basic needs. We, at Garden Elementary, thank you wholeheartedly. And may we always remember these words of friendship,

"You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments when you have really lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love." Henry Drummond

Thank you for loving the children of Garden Elementary.

Sincerely,


Gabrielle O'Berry
Garden School Counselor

St. Mark's Stewardship Celebration

Return by Friday, October 28, 2011
(Regrets not necessary.)

Name (s) _____

How many attending _____ Phone _____

Transportation Needed Nursery Needed

Special Diet - Specify _____

Place card in offering plate or return to church office.

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE & DINNER AT ST. MARK'S

Once again Chef Blow will prepare a wonderful traditional feast for Thanksgiving Day, to be served following the 10 o'clock Holy Communion. Watch for sign-up sheets in Gray Hall and in the narthex. Bring an appetizer or a dessert and your special beverage. Everything else will be provided.



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:

November 15: *A Land Remembered*, by Patrick Smith
Roberta Williams & Gretchen Phelan, discussion leaders
December 20: *What's So Amazing About Grace*,
by Phillip Yancey
Joan Mann, discussion leader

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.

The Messenger is a publication of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Venice, Florida, published and distributed free of charge to the families and friends of St. Mark's parish. *The Messenger* is published monthly with a combined summer issue. Mailing address: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 513 Nassau Street South, Venice, Florida 34285-2816. Call us at 941.488.7714 or visit us on the web at www.stmarksvenice.org.

November 2011

Issue No. 119

Making a Pledge

At St. Mark's we know that financial stewardship is an important component of a balanced spiritual life. We emphasize the giver's need to give rather than the church's need to receive. Maintaining a healthy relationship with our possessions keeps them from getting in the way of our relationships with God, our neighbors, and our own inner being. Returning to God from that which God has given us is a tangible way to express our faith. When each of us gives as we are able, together we fund ministry within our parish and to the Venice community and beyond. **WHY SHOULD I PLEDGE?** Pledging allows you to make intentional decisions about your financial giving. When you plan ahead for your giving, you make conscious choices about spending your money in ways that reflect your faith and values. Receiving your pledge allows our Vestry, the church's governing board, to do for our parish community what you do for your household: plan wisely for the use our resources in support of the mission and ministry to which God has called us. The Vestry sets a budget based on the total amount pledged to the church. While regular giving that is not pledged is important to the parish, your pledge lets the Vestry plan more accurately.



QUESTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP

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

I see people crossing themselves during worship. This is a tradition I did not grow up with. Why do people cross themselves and, when in worship do they cross themselves?

The Sign of the Cross is made by holding the thumb and first two fingers together and then touching the forehead, chest and each shoulder. Holding the thumb and two fingers together is a symbol of Trinity – God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – three persons in one. The cross – head, chest, and shoulders – is a symbol of Jesus' cross and a sign of God's hope. Making the Sign of the Cross is a personal spiritual act, like how we hold hands when we pray or whether we reverence the altar or the reserved sacrament or neither. The Sign of the Cross is not required. For me it is a physical reminder of our Trinitarian life, God's blessing, and our hope for the future. When in worship, the way a person makes the Sign of the Cross also varies. I make the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of worship when: 1) we say "blessed be God...", 2) at the invocation of the Trinity before I preach, "In the name of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," 3) during the Creed at the promise of Resurrection, 4) when I am blessed with forgiveness after the confession, 5) during the Eucharistic prayer when we ask God to "sanctify us," immediately after I receive the blessing of Christ's body and immediately after receiving Christ's blood and 6) during the final blessing. All of these are personal acts of devotion that remind me of the blessings I receive from God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Another time I make the Sign of the Cross is just before the Gospel is read. I make a small Sign of the Cross on my forehead, my lips and my chest as a silent prayer that the Gospel may be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart. The Celebrant makes the Sign of the Cross over the people following the confession during the words of forgiveness and again at the final blessing. The priest also usually makes the Sign of the Cross over the bread and wine when we ask God to "sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son."

The Sign of the Cross was part of worship in the earliest Anglican prayer books. The anti-papist reformers eliminated from worship those things that seemed in their minds to be Roman Catholic, distracting, idolatrous or superfluous. Things like kneeling, the Sign of the Cross, titles such as "Father," and priestly vestments were forbidden; churches were stripped of all adornments including stain glass windows, statues, and other art; and monasteries were dissolved. By the middle of the 19th century, people began to realize they had "thrown the baby out with the bath" and many of the earlier devotional acts were restored; and so we see them in our worship today.


st. mark's youth & family


New Beginnings Weekend Retreat for Middle School Youth will be held November 11-13 at DaySpring Episcopal Camp and Conference Center in Ellenton, Florida. This weekend focuses on the different types of relationships we have in our lives, with friends, family members, and with God. Middle School Youth will hear talks from their high school peers, have small group discussion, play games, and worship together. Any youth grades 6-8 that wishes to sign up should see Jackie for more information.

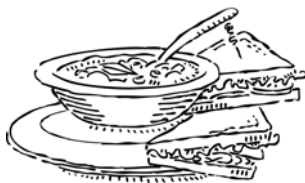
There will be no youth group on November 23.

On Wednesday, November 30, we will celebrate our church community with an intergenerational Advent outreach! Join us on the 30th as we host our first Gingerbread House Contest! The finished products of our competition will be delivered to local community organizations to bring people joy this Advent.

Jackie Overton
Director of Youth and Family Ministries

YOU ARE INVITED
Soup, Sandwich & Memories

Are you tired of eating lunch alone? Do you like to talk about Christmases past? Do you like those good old songs from the good old days? Do you enjoy a nutritious meal, conversation and laughter with friends?



If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then join us for soup, sandwich and memories on Wednesday, December 14, 21, 28, and January 4 at noon in

Gray Hall. We'll share a delicious lunch and we'll share our memories. If your answer to these questions is "no," you are still invited so join us anyway.

Sign up in the narthex or Gray Hall.

Soup, Sandwich & Memories
NOON ON WEDNESDAY IN GRAY HALL
DECEMBER 16, 23, 30 AND JANUARY 6

If you can help with this ministry – serve a meal, drive, cleanup, etc., please call
Lunetta Knowlton at 484.9952.

End-Of-Life Issues

There will be an End-of-Life Issues 'workshop' on Tuesday, November 22, in the Gray Hall Picture Room at 10 a.m. See Deacon Fran for more information.

Grief Group Meeting

For those suffering from a loss, contact Deacon Fran about attending the Grief Group gathering scheduled for Thursday, November 17, at 5 p.m. in the Gray Hall Picture Room.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

The Gift Shop is seeking volunteers to work prior to the Wednesday night dinners (and special events). If you attend the dinners, this will be an easy night for you! Your friends will save you a seat while you attend to the Shop. We also need to build our list of subs. Call Judi Pennington if you can help.

Volunteers who can't make their assigned shift or who are retiring need to let Judi know as soon as possible.

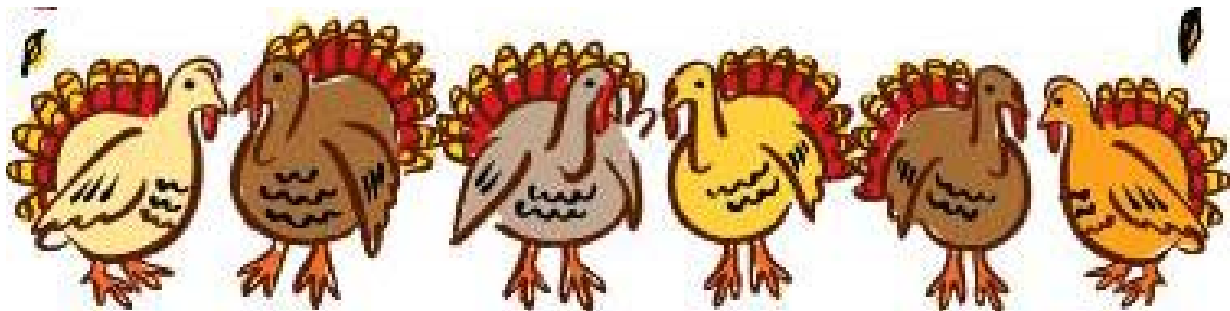
Judi: 496.4299

Empty
Nesters



Empty Nesters!

Save this date! Friday, December 16, 6 p.m. at John & Linda Moore's house. Watch for sign-up sheets in narthex and Gray Hall. For the 50+ crowd.



DUPLICATE BRIDGE RESUMES AT ST. MARK'S!!!

The St. Mark's duplicate bridge game will resume on Monday, November 14 at 12 noon in the Memorial Garden Room of Gray Hall. We play the second Monday of every month (unless otherwise announced). Play will begin at noon and run about 3 hours. ***We are looking for additional players!*** If you like to play bridge, you will enjoy our group. Funds generated go to support our Episcopal Church Women's scholarship fund. Contact **Erica** or **Don Crawford** at **483.9074**.

Dear St. Mark's
Family,

Thank you so much for the memorable farewell gathering. We appreciate your kind words and generous gifts. The painting of the church will be a treasured reminder of many happy years of shared ministry and the concert tickets will be enjoyed throughout the coming year. You will be forever in our hearts and we thank God for blessing us with so many years together.

With love and
appreciation,
Gini and Jim
Koepkey

Gifts Received



In
Memory of

Betty Cavaluzzi

Esther Hazer

Helga Hatto

Harriet Lear

Mary Lou Panebaker

Arthur Wakefield

by

Betty Aldridge

Larry & Dorothy Berry

Ray & Carole Burke

Patricia Flanagan

Virginia Jennings

Jane Marcin

Robert & Janet Martella

Bettye Scott

Dorothy Seelow

Marvin Thomas

Remember our shut-ins with
prayer and visitation.

Clare Bridge of Venice

Priscilla Craig

HarborChase

Hazel Ficker

Barbara Gerrish

Wayne Haviland

Marge Perkins

Nan Shilling

Harbor Inn of Venice

Bradford Jahnes

Harbor Inn South - Rutland Road

Jean Albanese

Manor Care

Don Hostetler

Pinebrook Rehab & Nursing Center

Virginia Safford Blais

Dorothy Tucker

Summit

Mildred Straeffler

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


Music News



St. Mark's Choir meets each Wednesday evening from 7:30 until 9:00 p.m. New members are always welcome. Please don't hesitate to contact Lunetta Knowlton at 484.9952 if you have any questions.

Men's Choir had their first rehearsal in October and will rehearse again on Tuesday, November 15, from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m., just prior to the MarksMen meeting. All men are welcome to join us! If you don't think you have time to be a member of St Mark's Choir but enjoy singing, this is for you!

The Friends of Music will host our first program on November 18 at 7 p.m. *Comedy! Drama! Action! Thrills! That's an evening with WoodWorks marimba ensemble. WoodWork's concerns are a fine blend of musical genres carefully mixed with humor and wit that will create an evening to be savored long after it is finished!*

Once again, we thank everyone who has generously donated to The Friends of Music Concert Series. 

November is American Diabetes Month

Diabetes affects 5.8 million people or 8.3% of the population. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S. where 18.8 million people are currently diagnosed and 7.0 million more are still undiagnosed. Diabetes is the leading cause of:

Kidney failure

Heart disease and stroke

Non-traumatic lower- limb amputations

New cases of blindness among adults in the United States.

Pre-diabetes Pre-diabetes is a condition in which individuals have blood glucose or A1c levels higher than normal but not high enough to be classified as diabetes. People with pre-diabetes have an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. Studies have shown that people with pre-diabetes who lose weight and increase their physical activity can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes and in some cases return their blood glucose levels to normal.

Gestational Diabetes Women who have had gestational diabetes have a 35% to 60% chance of developing diabetes in the next 10–20 years.

Small steps for your health It is not easy to always make healthy choices with our food and exercise in today's fast-paced, fast-food world. Do you know that even small changes will make a difference? Make lifestyle changes one step at a time, over months and years your efforts will become habits- healthy ones. First ask your self-do you believe you have a health problem and are you willing to change. To succeed, think about a few things you are ready, willing, and able to change. Leave other habits that you don't feel ready or able to change for another time. Set goals by thinking of these four things;

1. How long will you try to reach this goal? Keep it short.
2. Is it easy to do in your regular daily life? Keep it realistic.
3. Is it limited in scope? Be specific.
4. How often will you do this?

Realistic goals might be:

1. *Eating*: For the next month, 4 days each week I will eat two pieces of fruit a day—one at breakfast and one as an afternoon snack.
2. *Physical activity*: For the next month, 4 days each week I will take a 15 minute walk after lunch.

Change up your goals every month until it becomes a habit. Practice makes perfect. You can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes.

April Merrill, R.N.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
National diabetes fact sheet on diabetes and pre-diabetes in the United States, 2011. Atlanta, GA: U.S.



St. Mark's Gift Shop

St. Mark's Gift Shop has many new items for Christmas!

Stop by and check us out! - No sales tax.

Remember: Gift Shop proceeds go to benefit the mission and ministries of St. Mark's.

Volunteer Corner

The many listings in our St. Mark's Ministries Brochure welcome new volunteers. But from time to time certain ministries are in particular need of help. This new monthly column in *The Messenger* will identify the needy service opportunities and hopefully encourage you to pick up the phone and "jump in."

Soup, Sandwich & Memories – See article on page 4. Simple kitchen help needed on Dec. 16, 23, 30 and Jan.6. Call Lunetta Knowlton at 484.9952.

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

Sunday morning coffee and donuts – Occasional kitchen help needed between the services. Call the church office.

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

Salvation Army Bell Ringers for the holiday kettle campaign. – Call Steve Plichta, 480.1611.

Altar Guild – Call Ann Maier at 493.6236.

Messenger – An editor for this monthly column! Call **Dave Sayer** at **445.5071** or Sandy at the church office to volunteer.

Church Office Help – The office can always use help with collating, stuffing, labeling and more. Call 488.7714.

MARKSMEN SALUTE TO VETERANS!!!

Marksmen will have their first monthly meeting of the new year on **Tuesday, November 15**. Watch for blue sign-up sheets in the narthex and Gray Hall. Our guest speaker will be our own Jim Park, Jim Park, long-time St. Marker (vestry and choir among other things) who will be speaking on *The Fall of Saigon*. Jim is a long time Attorney in town, graduate of Venice High School class of 1967, Yale class of 1971, FSU college of Law 1979, and Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of Southwest Florida. At the time of *The Fall of Saigon* in 1975, Jim was an Assistant Operations Officer on the USS Denver (LPD-9) 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**.

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME

All men of the parish -- and especially all you returning snow-birds – are cordially invited to join a hardy bunch of guys on Tuesday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. for an enjoyable time of Christian fellowship.

The informal gatherings (of 12 to 18 men) provide coffee and a little nosh followed by lay-led discussion, usually of a church-related matter. The conversation is stimulating, not heavy or intimidating; and out of the sharing comes a level of friendship not experienced in some of our busier parish activities.

Please come to the church office conference room any Tuesday morning you're free. Questions can be addressed to the Clergy or **Dave Sayer, 445.5071**.

Thanksgiving Eve Community Interfaith Service

Wednesday, November 23, 7 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church

400 Field Avenue on the Island of Venice

All are welcome!

DON'T MISS!!!! At our Wednesday Night dinner on November 30, we will be making GINGER BREAD HOUSES!!! Our intergenerational events such as this have been tremendously popular. *Sign up, show up, build, laugh, be joyful!*

Episcopal Church Women

Women's Evening Fellowship Takes a Respite

NO meeting in November

The Women's Evening Fellowship will take a month off, but will reconnect at our annual Christmas hors d'oeuvre gathering on Monday, December 12. This will also be our planning party for the new year so please come prepared with ideas for our next course of study. Watch for lavender sign-up sheets in the narthex and Gray Hall beginning December 4. The contact is **Sue Benak** at **485.6114**.



REMINDER ECW BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 21, at 9:30 a.m.
in the church office building.
All board members are requested
to attend.

DATE CHANGE!!!! ECW General Membership Meeting

Due to the Stewardship Celebration, the general membership of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) scheduled for November 1 will be held on **Tuesday, November 8**. We'll gather in the church for Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m., followed by a business meeting and our program. Our guest speaker will be from the Venice Theatre. This promises to be an informative and entertaining presentation. Lunch will be served in Gray Hall immediately following the program.

Sign up using the form below, the pink signup sheet, or the table-top pink sheets to attend this meeting. Irene Piggott and Karen Jones will hostess. A \$6 donation is asked to offset the cost of the luncheon.

ECW General Membership Meeting
St. Mark's - Tuesday, NOVEMBER 8, 2011
Deadline to sign up: Friday, November 4

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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

TEA TICKETS AVAILABLE! There are still a few tickets left for the November 12 tea at St. Mark's. Proceeds benefit our mission in the Dominican Republic and St. Mark's Youth. Chef Blow and his crew will be revisiting some of the recipes used for last year's tea. Those who had the good fortune to be there know what a treat the sandwiches and cakes were. See Clover Webster for a ticket, or call the church office at **488.7714**.





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.



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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			

Write this down!

- November 1 **TUESDAY!** Stewardship Dinner - **NOTE DAY!**
- November 5 Set your clocks back 1 hour upon retiring
- November 6 Stewardship Sunday - Parish Breakfast
Return to 3-Sunday service schedule
All Saints' Day Celebrated
- November 8 ECW General Membership Meeting **NOTE DATE!**
- November 11-13 New Beginnings Middle School Retreat
- November 12 Tea to benefit Dominican Republic & our Youth
- November 14 Duplicate Bridge Begins (Erica Crawford)
- November 14 **NO** Women's Evening Fellowship this month
- November 15 Book Circle—*A Land Remembered*
- November 15 Marksmen Dinner & Program
- November 17 Grief Group
- November 17 Vestry Meeting **NOTE DATE CHANGE!**
- November 22 End-of-Life Issues Workshop with Deacon Fran
- November 24 Thanksgiving Day Holy Communion 10 a.m.
- November 24 Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mark's (sign up please)
- November 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
- November 28 ECW Board Meeting
- November 30 Intergenerational Dinner