

**October 2011**

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

# THE MESSENGER

**Rector**

*James H. Puryear*

**Associate Rector**

*Earl D. Beshears*

**Deacons**

*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**

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**Financial Secretary**

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**Preschool Director**

*Barbara Levesque*

*Betty Albee, Assistant*

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*Vicki Mahon*

*Jim Gietek, Assistant*

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*Senior Warden*

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*Junior Warden*

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*Betty Williams*

## Stocking up

This Fall begins my second year in Florida and my second year without a fall season. I do not miss the cold weather that fall announces, but I do love fall.

Many of us come from places north of here where there is a change of seasons – spring when the earth warms and jonquils bloom, summer when the tomatoes come off the vine and the beach is so inviting, fall when the leaves change color and we feel that first nip in the air, and winter when there is a chance to sit in front of a fire with a warm cozy book. My favorite season is fall. I love it when the humidity drops, the air cools, the stars are bright and pumpkins are for sale. For some reason, fall is my most memory-filled season. I fondly remember my mother making me a costume for Halloween; secretly listening to the World Series in junior high with a transistor radio earphone in my ear; huge Thanksgiving dinners with the extended family gathered around picnic tables in the garage; teasing my father about his obsession with football; picking apples in Fancy Gap, Virginia; surf fishing for blues at Cape Hatteras; helping our son go off to college; Veterans' Days and so much more.

Traditionally, fall is the season when we put up vegetables and fill up the pantry. Not so many years ago, winter was very difficult and dangerous. Cold, hunger and disease were killers. Fall was a season of preparation, a time to get ready and for stocking up. This beautiful fall season is a time to prepare for the winter, spring and summer to come by stocking up.

The season of stocking up and preparing for winter is also an opportunity for us to take stock of our lives, our relationships with those we love, and especially our relationship with God. It is time to renew our relationships, to prepare for the coming seasons and to celebrate God's goodness in our lives. It is a time to help stock up for St. Mark's future.

At St. Mark's it is our tradition to conduct our stewardship asking during the fall season. As a practical matter, we schedule our stewardship asking in the fall so the finance committee can develop a budget for the next year. We will all receive information reminding us to support our church family with our treasure, time and talent. We will be reminded of the stewardship dinner and told about our keynote speaker, Bishop Bud Shand from the Diocese of Easton, MD. Every fall is our chance to renew and strengthen our relationship with, and our commitment to, our church family at St. Mark's.

I pray that each of us will enjoy a wonderful fall season, take stock of our spiritual lives and help St. Mark's stock up for the seasons to come. Jean and I trust that God will provide and every year we renew our trust by pledging and giving ten percent of our salary to our church family at St. Mark's. We began striving toward the ten percent figure in 1981 and it took us several years to reach the 10% goal. Now, for more than fifteen years, we have renewed our 10% pledge to our church family annually. We give 10% of other income to other ministries such as the Heifer Project and St. Mark's Preschool. When our income rises, our giving rises and when our income declines, our giving declines. Our 10% tithe is not always easy but it is one of our spiritual disciplines. The tithe is one of the ways Jean and I affirm our gratitude for all God has given us and it is one of the ways we reaffirm our belief that God will provide.

I encourage you to prayerfully consider making this fall a season of stocking up and increase your offering of time, talent and treasure to your St. Mark's church family. Jesus says, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Years ago a spiritual mentor put Jesus' statement another way by challenging me to "put my money where my faith is." I offer each of us the same challenge – put our money where our faith is – it is time for taking stock by all of us increasing our giving to our church family.

–The Rev. Earl Beshears

Read *The Messenger* on the web at [www.stmarksvenice.com](http://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

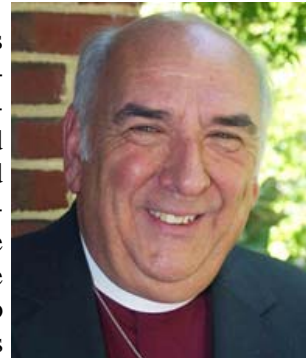
**FAN THE FLAME**



Guest speaker

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

Watch for your invitation in the mail.  
RSVP cards will also be available in  
upcoming Sunday bulletin  
announcements.



**James Joseph "Bud" Shand** was elected the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Easton, Maryland, in September 2002. Born in NYC and raised in Plainfield, NJ, he received his M. Div. in 1972 from the Philadelphia Divinity School where he served as an assistant at Grace Church. In 1975 he was called to serve as rector of St. Mary Anne's in the Diocese of Easton. Fourteen years later he was called to serve at Christ Church Parish, Kent Island, Stevensville, MD. While in parish ministry he was involved in youth ministry and active in the development of church schools. He was a Field Work Supervisor for Virginia Theological Seminary. As bishop he served on the Standing Committee for the Church in Small Communities. He was elected to the Board of Virginia Theological Seminary in 2000. During his episcopate he established a companion covenant with the Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean, Aruba and Province of the West Indies. His commitment to helping rebuild along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina fostered seven diocesan mission trips to that area.

Bishop Shand and his wife of 37 years, Lynne, are the proud parents of two grown children, Jonathan and Meghan.

## ST. FRANCIS DAY BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

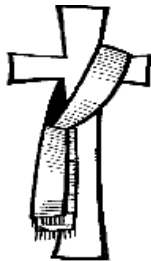


SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2  
4 P.M.  
MEMORIAL GARDEN

You are invited to attend the  
Ordination to the Diaconate of

*Keith Backhaus*

Friday, October 21, 5:30 p.m.  
Charlotte Harbor Event &  
Conference Center  
Punta Gorda



Thanks to everyone who donated shoes for our mission work in the Dominican Republic. Those wishing to help further, please know that we are seeking donations to pay for Agape Flights to transport our load of over 200 shoes. It costs \$4 per pound for the plane ride. All cash donations cheerfully and gratefully accepted. *Make checks payable to St. Mark's ECW and write "shoes" in the memo line.* Thank you all!

—Barbara Willis

*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](http://www.stmarksvenice.org).

October 2011

Issue No. 118

## Bequests & Memorials – Leaving a Positive Impression

Footprints. We all leave footprints. In the sands of time, our prints are made by the impression of our lives. We are remembered for:

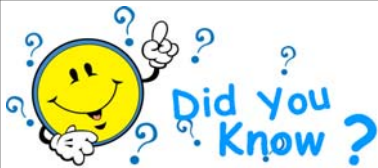
The weight of our character  
Marks of our accomplishments  
Expressions of kindness  
Length of compassion  
Width of personal warmth  
Our generosity  
Our values



When we leave a positive impression, we enhance the lives of our friends and loved ones. We give them prints to follow. One way we can make our prints is to help others recall and be positively influenced by our values. Make your footprint through a Bequest or Memorial Gift to St. Mark's.

An Estate Gift Provides *Crucial Funding*  
An Estate Gift Makes a *Positive Statement*  
An Estate Gift *Encourages Imitation*

*Leave your footprint. Remember St. Mark's in your will.*



## QUESTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP

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

### *Does the Episcopal Church baptize infants?*

Yes. We believe that the grace conferred by the Sacrament of Baptism is not and should not be reserved only for "informed believers."

### *At what age may a child take communion?*

A child may take communion at any age. We do not believe that a certain "understanding" of the proceedings is necessary for the sacrament to be valid. The decision of when to take communion is left up to the child and his/her parents.

### *I have already been baptized in another church and denomination. If I become an Episcopalian, do I need to be "re-baptized"?*

No. As the Book of Common Prayer states, "We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins." Therefore, once you have been baptized with water, in the name of the Trinity, you have been received by adoption into the family of Christ (denomination does not matter). You do not need, nor in fact, should not, be baptized again. This is true even if you were a tiny baby when you were baptized. If you desire to make a public, adult, affirmation of faith, you may choose to be confirmed.

**ROUND ROBIN BRIDGERS!** Plan to pick up your packets on Monday, October 17, at 9 a.m. in Gray Hall. We'll chat a bit and have some coffee. See you there!

— Joan Mann & Len Van Zinderen

## Flowers on the Altar

You may have seen the notations in the Sunday bulletin regarding altar flowers given in loving memory or in thanksgiving for someone by a loved one. This is a nice way to remember your loved one on a date that is memorable to you. Some parishioners like to have flowers on the altar on the anniversary of death. Others like to remember birthdays and anniversaries. Some like to acknowledge their friends' birthdays or show appreciation or thanksgiving for acts of kindness. Donations in any amount are accepted and help offset the cost of the flowers.

***Why altar flowers?*** Flowers are considered a tasteful adornment for God's altar and great care is taken in their arrangement and placement. The display often reflects some aspect of the liturgical season (red for Pentecost, for example). We do not have flowers during Lent out of respect for the somberness of the season. In Advent we limit ourselves to greenery so that the burst of color at Christmas time coincides with the arrival of the Christ Child—a beautiful and bright reminder! Not only beautiful, the flowers on the altar are a visible representation of God's love for us and our love for God and his creation.

## Wednesday Night Dinners and Programs

**O**n the next few pages you will find the schedule for our Wednesday Night Dinners beginning on September 21, plus a few weekday study opportunities as well. Each Wednesday dinner is followed by a collection of interesting classes and/or activities, all designed for your learning and enjoyment. We ask that you sign up in advance for the dinners so that we know how much food to order. Look for the green sign-up sheets in the narthex and in Gray Hall. Please sign up only once, as a meal is ordered for each sign-up. Dinner attendees will also have the opportunity to sign up for the next week's dinner before leaving that night by using their table-top sheet. Those folks should not sign up again on the green sheets. We also ask for a **\$7 donation** for each plate—a clearly marked basket will be available at the dinners for your donation.



You do not need to sign up for the classes. You may wander from class to class as you wish. However, some of the classes require preparation beforehand or a longer-term commitment so we ask that you take this into consideration before joining those classes. You are still welcome to attend as an onlooker, but participation may be limited without the requisite reading, study or commitment. **NOTE:** Evening Prayer is offered in the church at 5 p.m. just prior to the church suppers.

## st. mark's youth & family

**October 5** - Children and Youth Programs return to their normal meeting schedule. Grades K-4 will meet in the youth room from 4:45-5:30; Grades 5-8 will meet from 6:00-6:45; and Grades 9-12 will meet from 6:45-7:30.

**October 22** - *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk*. St. Mark's youth will be walking in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk held at the Lakewood Ranch Polo Grounds. If you would like to sponsor our team, please contact Jackie to find out how.

**Put Youth to Work for You!** We will be raffling off a Youth Work Day for October 16. You will be able to buy raffle tickets after church and on Wednesday nights for a chance to have the youth group come work at your house, doing yard work, cleaning, painting or whatever else needs to be done! Raffle tickets are \$5 apiece or 6 for \$25! The work day dates are October 16 and December 4. You can buy tickets anytime between now and the work day of your choice (Drawing for the October 16 work day will be held on Wednesday, October 12, and drawing for the December 4 work day will be held on Wednesday, November 16.)

**Saturday October 29** - following the 5 o'clock service there will be a *Trunk or Treat* in the parking lot behind Gray Hall. You can sign up to host a parking spot, decorate your car, and enjoy trick-or-treaters coming to visit as you enjoy fellowship with your friends! There will be trick or treating for the kids, face painting, and hot dogs, drinks, and snacks for sale with all the proceeds benefiting the Youth Summer Mission Trip. Keep your eye out for sign up sheets! Our theme for this year's Trunk or Treat is "A Few of My Favorite Things," and we are asking you to open the trunk of your car and decorate the inside with your favorite things!

**November 11-13** - New Beginnings Retreat Weekend for Middle School Youth will be held at Dayspring Episcopal Conference Center in Ellenton. Any Middle School Youth interested in attending should see Jackie for paper work and more information. The cost is \$100 per person. Limited scholarship money is available through St. Mark's.

Jackie Overton  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries

## ◆ SPECIAL ONE-NIGHT EVENTS ◆

**Wednesday, September 21** *Beginnings and Good-Byes.* Join us as we kick off our fall Christian Education Program Series and also take this time to say good-bye to the Koepkey family. Sign up as usual on the green sheets.

**Wednesday, October 26** Dr. John Moore, noted archaeologist and Biblical scholar, to speak. The topic will be *The Horrible Herods: The Political World of the New Testament.* The political landscape of the Holy Land during the lifetime of Jesus and the early Christian movement was dominated by the distant Roman Empire, Herod the Great and three generations of his descendants. We will look at the lives of these men to determine who they were, how they got there and what happened to them. Always entertaining, always fun! Don't miss Dr. Moore!

**NOTE: Tuesday, November 1:** Stewardship Celebration (watch for your invitation)  
*NOTE!* The day & date have changed this year only. Mark your calendar now!

**Wednesday, November 2:** NO dinner program this week due to Stewardship the night before.

**Wednesday, November 23:** NO dinner program this week due to Thanksgiving.

**Thursday, November 24:** Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mark's (watch for sign-up sheets)

**Wednesday, November 30** Once again we present our surprisingly popular Intergenerational Night. Those who have attended in the past can tell you what fun and complete joy these evenings provide. We have carved pumpkins, written Lenten meditations and so much more! Don't miss your chance to work with our youth as we learn from each other and share in the rich fellowship that only a gathering like this can provide.

**Wednesday, December 7** Join us for our annual Advent Lessons & Carols and Tree Trimming. Will St. Nicholas be there again this year? I wonder. . .

## ◆ EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & CLASSES ◆

### SESSION 1 - Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12 & 19

**Embracing an Adult Faith...What it Means to Be Christian** — Led by **The Rev. Jim Puryear.** This class will be revisiting Christianity's most fundamental questions: Who is God? What does salvation mean? What place does Jesus hold in contemporary Christian faith? How do we practice our faith and live in community? Using the resources and materials theologian and writer, Marcus Borg, presented at a conference I attended last January, and his DVD on the same subject matter, we will engage these deep and meaningful questions via discussion and some lecture. All seeking a richer understanding and a safe place to explore these questions are invited.

**The Contemplative Life** — Led by **The Rev. Earl Beshears.** For many of us, what we know about God is secondhand information. It is hearsay and not admissible as evidence in court. We know God by what we are told or what we have read or what we believe about God through our faith. However, for over 2,000 years Christian saints have eye witnessed God's presence. They have experienced God firsthand. God is transcendent, beyond time and space. God is also imminent, right here, right now, present. The Contemplative Life seeks to experience the presence of God here, now, in the present. How do we experience the presence of God? How do we deepen our relationship with God? Are there things we can do or not do? We will explore these questions and some of the contemplative practices the saints have used through the ages. Two warnings: (1) Four weeks is barely a beginning. (2) The contemplative life is not for everybody.

**Celtic Spirituality** — Led by **The Rev. Fran McKinney**. This class will focus on God's creation through a love of nature and goodness. Celtic spirituality presupposes a sense of God and the saints in this world as a continuing personal and helpful presence.

**Praying in Color** — Led by **Lisa Willis**. This program will focus on incorporating the guidance of Sybil Macbeth's bestselling book, *Praying in Color*, and the use of art materials to focus and enhance our personal intentions towards prayer. We will learn to create space to focus our distractible mind and impatient soul through the creative process. Requirements for this class: an open heart and mind to try out a colorful experience. NOTE: Class will not meet on September 28. See you October 5!

## SESSION 2 - November 9 & 16

**The Concept of Evil in our World** — Led by **The Rev. Jim Puryear and Steve Prichard**. This two-week discussion and lecture class will explore evil and its place and effect in our world today. Father Jim will lead the first class regarding how the Bible historically addresses the concept of evil and what it means in our modern-day world from a Christian perspective. Steve Prichard, former Presbyterian minister and licensed psychotherapist, will lead the second class and explore how evil affects human behavior and ultimately society as a whole.

**Proverbs and Song of Songs** — Led by **The Rev. Earl Beshears**. *Proverbs* and *Song of Songs* are part of the basic education of young people in traditional Jewish families. Jesus would have studied Proverbs as an early adolescent and the Song of Songs as a late teen approaching marrying age. Yet, these two Old Testament books are often overlooked in our contemporary Christian world. We will devote one Wednesday night to each book with an overview of the book, and then an in-depth exploration of one section of the book. Proverbs is about the wisdom of life. Song of Songs is about sex. Or are they?

**Dissection of the Lord's Prayer** — Led by **Keith Backhaus**. A step-by-step intimate look at the beauty and grace of our Lord's Prayer.

## ◆ OTHER WEEKLY FALL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ◆

**Weekly Wednesday Morning Bible Study** with **The Rev. Earl Beshears** When people ask me what is my favorite Gospel, I answer "The Gospel of John." I like the way John's Gospel feels like an eyewitness account and it appeals to the left side of my brain. There is a mystical quality to John's Gospel that appeals to the right side of my brain. There is an intimacy to John's Gospel that appeals to my heart. On Wednesday mornings at 10:30, beginning September 21 and going through November 16, we will discuss the Gospel of John, chapter by chapter. Bring your Bible and your brain and join us.

**Weekly MONDAY Morning Book Study** **The Rev. Earl Beshears** will facilitate as we study what happens after we die. What is heaven like? What is resurrection? What does this have to do with the church? Our culture answers these questions in ways that are often inconsistent with biblical teaching. For six weeks beginning October 3, on Monday mornings at 10:30, we will meet to discuss the book *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* by N. T. Wright. Bishop Wright's book addresses these questions from the traditional understanding of New Testament teaching. Participants will be asked to obtain the book on their own in advance of the class in order to read weekly assignments. We will watch two video segments each week in which Bishop Wright talks about hope, heaven, resurrection, the second coming, and the church. We will discuss what we read and what we have watched. The syllabus is available in the church office.

## 2012 Classes to look forward to...

*Characters of the Bible* - Wednesday Morning Bible Study with The Rev. Jim Puryear (Epiphany to Lent)

*Exodus* - Wednesday Morning Bible Study with The Rev. Earl Beshears (from Lent until Seder Supper)

### Some Wednesday Night Classes...

*The Grieving Process of Aging* with The Rev. Earl Beshears and The Rev. Keith Backhaus

*Story Behind the Greatest Story Ever Told (from the Reformation to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century)* with The Rev. Judith Roberts (continued from last fall - Newcomers welcome, as first class will be a review.)

*Altars in the World* with The Rev. Jim Puryear (based on the works of Barbara Brown Taylor)

...and more!



## Music News

The Friends of Music letter has gone out which includes a list of upcoming concerts. If you did not get yours in the mail, stop by the church office or give us a call (488.7714). First concert coming up in November: *WoodWorks - Marimbas at Play*. Billed as Comedy! Drama! Action! Thrills! Promises to be a lot of fun. . .

**Adult Choir Rehearsals continue** on Wednesdays from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. Men's Choir rehearsals will resume when the Marksmen have their first meeting on October 18.

**Welcome Lunetta Knowlton, interim Choir Director.**

**Welcome Kathy Pendergrass, interim Organist.**

The search committee continues to advertise and interview candidates for the position of Music Director at St. Mark's. In the meantime, we are fortunate to have two talented professionals seeing us through until such time as that position is filled. Please join in giving thanks for the wonderful gift of music that is brought to our worship!



## 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

### *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

## Hurricane Tip

If winds are expected to reach 45 mph, please stay home or go to another place of safety. All church functions will be canceled per diocesan guidelines.



## St. Mark's Gift Shop

**St.** Mark's Gift Shop has new merchandise! Stop by and see what's new.

*Stop by and check us out!*

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

— No sales tax —



The Gift Shop could use a few good volunteers to help out when our scheduled volunteers are not able to work. If you regularly attend the same church service each week or attend most of the Wednesday night dinners, you may be just the person to help us out. See Judi Pennington to get your name on a list of volunteer subs. It's fun "work" and the real payoff is — all proceeds you collect during your shift go directly to help underwrite St. Mark's mission and ministries.

**Volunteers! Please pick up your schedule.**



When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'  
—John 20:22

## October is Healthy Lung Month

The lungs are different from most of the other organs in your body because their delicate tissues are directly connected to the outside environment. Anything you breathe in can affect your lungs. Germs, tobacco smoke and other harmful substances can cause damage to your airways and threaten the lung's ability to work properly. Your body has a natural defense system designed to protect the lungs. This works very well most of the time to keep out dirt and fight off germs. But there are some important things you can do to reduce your risk of lung disease.

### **Don't smoke**

Cigarette smoking is the major cause of COPD and lung cancer. Cigarette smoke can narrow the air passages and make breathing more difficult. It causes chronic inflammation or swelling in the lung. This can lead to chronic bronchitis. Over time cigarette smoke destroys lung tissue, and may trigger changes that grow into cancer.

### **Avoid exposure to pollutants that can damage your lungs**

Secondhand smoke, outdoor air pollution, chemicals in the home and workplace, and radon can all cause or worsen lung disease.

### **Prevent infection**

Wash your hands often with soap and water. Alcohol-based cleaners are a good substitute if you cannot wash.

Avoid crowds during the cold and flu season.

Get vaccinated every year against influenza. Talk to your healthcare provider to find out if the pneumonia vaccine is right for you. **Now is the time to get your flu shot!**

If you get sick, keep it to yourself! Protect the people around you, including your loved ones, by keeping your distance.

### **Get regular health care**

Regular check-ups are an important part of disease prevention, even when you are feeling well.

**WARNING SIGNS** If you have any of these warning signs or symptoms, tell your healthcare provider as soon as possible.

**Chronic Cough** - A cough that you have had for a month is chronic.

**Shortness of Breath** - Shortness of breath that doesn't go away after exercising, or that you have after little or no exertion, is not normal.

**Chronic Mucus Production** - Mucus, also called sputum or phlegm, is produced by the airways. It is a defense response to infections or irritants. If your mucus production has lasted a month, this could indicate lung disease.

**Wheezing** - Noisy breathing or wheezing is a sign that something unusual is blocking your lungs' airways or making them too narrow.

**Coughing up Blood** - If you are coughing up blood, the blood may be coming from your lungs or upper respiratory tract. Whatever the source of the blood, it is a sign of a health problem.

**Chronic Chest Pain** - Unexplained chest pain that lasts for a month or more - especially if it gets worse when you breathe in or cough - can also be a warning sign.

## Bobby Wood Elected to Diocesan Council

Bobby Wood was honored to be elected by the deanery to be a member of the Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Church of Southwest Florida for a two-year term. The Diocesan Council is the board of directors for the corporation of the diocese and serves as an "interim body" between conventions. It is responsible for the oversight of the work of the diocese including finance, property issues, diocesan policy, Day-Spring, and other matters concerning the "fabric" of the diocesan community.

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

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

October 18: *The Heart of Christianity*, by Marcus Borg  
Sue Ardizzoni, discussion leader

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.



## WELCOME BACK MARKSMEN!!!

*Marksmen* will have their first monthly meeting of the new year on **Tuesday, October 18**. Watch for blue sign-up sheets in the narthex and Gray Hall. To help us kick off the new year, the guest speaker will be our own John Moore. John is retiring from the Venice City Council after serving 9 years. He will offer his thoughts on the city's past and future. A great dinner will be served up 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

**T**his fall the Tuesday Morning Men's Fellowship enters its third year – with healthy attendance every week, even through the summer. The reason? The men who attend *really* don't want to miss it.

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

In recent weeks we've discussed a doctor who prays for his patients, humor in the Bible, piloting a helicopter, and what to say when you want to say "You look great" but it's hard to say it. We never run out of topics.

All men of the parish are cordially invited to join us any Tuesday morning you're free, from 8 to 9 a.m. in the church office conference room. Questions can be addressed to the Clergy or **Dave Sayer** at **445.5071**.

# Episcopal Church Women



## ECW Handbook Now Available

**ECW** Board Members should already have their copy of the 2011-2012 *Handbook*. General Membership should make a point to pick up their copy at the first meeting in October or stop by the church office or see Barbara Willis, ECW President. The book is a good resource for phone numbers, ECW meeting dates and times, special events, etc.

## 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 on the pink sheets (either on the sign-up board or on the tabletops) to attend this meeting. Irene Piggott and Karen Jones will hostess. A \$6 donation is asked to offset the cost of the luncheon.

**REMINDER:** The first meeting of the ECW General Membership will be held on Tuesday, October 4. We begin with Holy Eucharist in the church at 10 a.m. If you have not yet signed up and wish to attend, please contact Barbara Willis, ECW President, or Clover Webster, hostess. Our speaker is Fr. Earl. Join us as he shares his insights, wisdom and humor.

## ECW BOARD MEETING

The first ECW BOARD MEETING of the 2011-2012 year will be held on **Monday, October 24, at 9:30 a.m.** in the church office building. All board members are requested to attend.

## Women's Evening Fellowship

Monday, October 10 - Dinner at 6 p.m. in Church Office Building

Join us for a DVD featuring well-known Christian speaker Ken Davis talking about *Super Sheep!* To find out what this means, you'll have to join us on the 10th. We ran this program several years ago and everyone loved it. Come see why.

Please sign up in the narthex or in Gray Hall. Look for the lavender sign-up sheets. Otherwise, contact Sue Benak **485.6114** or Brandreth Blow [branblow@yahoo.com](mailto:branblow@yahoo.com) **284.2817** to reserve your seat and find out if you need to bring something to share. This group meets monthly on the second Monday unless otherwise announced.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
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 Venice, Florida 34285-2816  
 941.488.7714

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 email: info@stmarksvenice.com

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

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

*Place label here.*



| OCTOBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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### Write this down!

- October 1 Preschool Silent Auction & Dinner
- October 2 Blessing of the Animals - Memorial Garden
- October 4 ECW General Membership Meeting
- October 10 Columbus Day - **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
- October 10 Women's Evening Fellowship
- October 10 Community Dinner at St. Mark's
- October 16 Bishop Barry Howe Preaching
- October 17 Round Robin Bridge - Packet Pick up & Coffee
- October 18 St. Mark's Book Circle (*The Heart of Christianity*)
- October 18 Marksmen reconvene (now third Tuesday)
- October 21 Keith Backhaus Ordination - Punta Gorda
- October 21-22 Diocesan Convention - Punta Gorda
- October 24 ECW Board Meeting
- October 22 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk
- October 29 *Trunk or Treat* in St. Mark's Parking Lot
- 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 14 Duplicate Bridge Begins (Erica Crawford)