

September 2011

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

THE MESSENGER

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Associate Rector

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Virginia Koepkey

**Director of Youth and
Family Ministries**

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the third chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes, the writer states, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together." Today begins another season.

As many of you heard last Sunday, today is a time to be sad—Gini and Jim Koepkey are leaving our church family for a new venture on the East Coast of Florida. Gini has accepted a position with St. James Episcopal Church in Ormond Beach to be their new choir director and organist effective the first part of October. It is a wonderful opportunity for Gini and Jim both professionally and from a personal standpoint. Today, even though we are sad, it is a time to lift up with joy and gratitude, the blessings this community has so richly received from Gini and Jim over the years. We will miss them both for many reasons. We wish them God-speed, good luck and the excitement that awaits them from the God of surprises. We will be formally saying goodbye to the Koepkey's at our dinner on September 21.

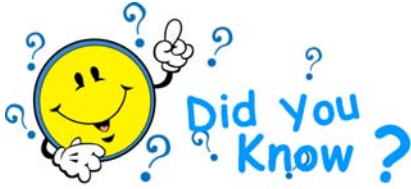
When someone as important to the life of our parish as Gini and Jim leave, we cannot help but wonder what happens now? Below is the planning for the beginning of a new season at St. Mark's:

- An interim organist and choir director will be hired in mid-September to serve during our search process.
- A revised job description, salary and benefit package will be presented to the Vestry for their approval.
- We will post the new position with the deployment websites of The Episcopal Church and several national organist associations.
- A search committee will be formed of approximately 5-7 persons whose responsibility will be to accept applications, discern the gifts of those applicants and compile a list of those applicants deemed qualified and suitable for our particular needs. The committee will be part of the interviewing process. The committee will consist of several choir members, a vestry representative, and representatives of a cross-section of our parish. Father Earl and I will serve as advisors to this committee.
- The search process will be done in a prayerful and orderly fashion, listening carefully for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our work and selection. We hope to have a person hired well before the Christmas season.
- All musical programs and events will continue as previously planned.

Today is a season of many emotions. It is truly a time to mourn but also a time to dance—a time to weep but also a time to laugh. May we go forward with the remembrance of good times with our friends, Gini and Jim, and our new dreams and joys fixed firmly on the future and what God may have in store for us tomorrow. For in everything, there is a season and today is the season of God's new creations.

In Christ's love,





QUESTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP

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

How do Fr. Jim and Fr. Earl decide which scripture to read and to preach about in worship each week?

First, we don't decide which scripture to read in worship. The Episcopal Church decided at the last convention that all Episcopal churches would follow the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). So we, along with the Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans and some other denominations use the RCL calendar of lessons. There are three years in the lectionary cycle: we are now in Year A and mostly have Matthew for our Gospel lessons. Next year will be in Year B and we will mostly have Mark's Gospel, and the next year will be Year C and will mostly be Luke's Gospel. The Gospel of John appears every year in the Lent and Easter seasons. Every three years we read almost every word of all four Gospels in worship. You can see the lessons we use at the web site: <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

Second, when it comes to preaching, the preacher studies the lessons appointed for the day – Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel – and decides which lesson(s) to preach. I am guided by the cares and concerns I hear in the parish in selecting which lesson(s) to emphasize in my sermons each week.

The Articles of Religion were established in 1801 and appear in the historical document section of our *Book of Common Prayer* (pp 867-876). Sixteen sermons are listed; they were probably drafted by a committee; and according to the Articles were judged to “be read in Churches by the Ministers, diligently and distinctly, that they may be understood of the people.” They are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Of the right Use of the Church. | 11 Of Alms-doing. |
| 2 Against Peril of Idolatry. | 12 Of the Nativity of Christ. |
| 3 Of repairing and keeping clean of churches. | 13 Of the Passion of Christ. |
| 4 Of good Works: first of Fasting. | 14 Of the Resurrection of Christ. |
| 5 Against Gluttony and Drunkenness. | 15 Of the worthy receiving of the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. |
| 6 Against Excess of Apparel. | 16 Of the Gifts of the Holy Ghost. |
| 7 Of Prayer. | 17 For the Rogation-days. |
| 8 Of the Place and Time of Prayer. | 18 Of the State of Matrimony. |
| 9 That Common Prayers and Sacraments ought to be ministered in a known tongue. | 19 Of Repentance. |
| 10 Of the reverend Estimation of God's Word. | 20 Against Idleness. |
| | 21 Against Rebellion. |

It is interesting that only 25 years after the Declaration of Independence, we were requiring a sermon against rebellion. When was the last time you heard a sermon “Against Excess of Apparel”? I am pleased that today we are not required to preach these subjects and we are not limited to preaching only these subjects. I bet you are too.

However, with the Wednesday Night Dinners about to begin, I am considering preaching on the sermon “against gluttony.”

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.

September 2011

Issue No. 117

September 18 Last Day for Shoes!

Sunday September 18 has been designated *Shoe Collection Sunday*. That is the last day our Dominican Republic Mission Team will be collecting shoes for the D.R. Please bring in your contributions no later than that day. You may leave them off at any time before then. Look for the big green bin in Gray Hall near the Gift Shop. Your gently-worn shoes can find new life! Shoes that are only slightly worn will be like new to someone who has no shoes.



HOWEVER,

even the most beat-up old work shoes, sneakers, cross-trainers or golf shoes can find new life in the world of construction! Our friends in the D.R. are hard at work building their new church and school facilities and they put in long hours of manual labor—many of them while wearing flip-flops. Your old shoes can provide good protection and offer secure footing as the workers crawl around roofs, climb ladders, paint, mix cement and more. Keep pairs together in a plastic grocery bag and toss in the big green bin in Gray Hall. ***Thank you and God Bless!***

To see photographs of the worksite, laborers and mission team members, go to www.stmarksvenice.com, find *What's Happening* and click on *Events*. (You may have to scroll to locate prompts.)

COMING IN OCTOBER

Grief Group starts up in October at 5:30 p.m. on the **second Thursday, October 13th**. Please see Deacon Fran for more information on participating.

Marksmen returning in October at 6 p.m. on the **THIRD Tuesday, October 18th**. Watch for blue sign-up sheets in the narthex and Gray Hall.

Note: The Parish Nurse is on vacation and will return in October.

Watch for her health tip in the October

Messenger

In the meantime, get your flu shot!



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:

September 20: *Remarkable Creatures*, by Tracy Chevalier

Cathie Tiemeyer, discussion leader

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.



**BOOK
CIRCLE**

Less paper?

If you would prefer to read *The Messenger* online, you have the option of no longer receiving a paper copy in the mail. However, be advised that, for reasons of identity security, the online edition does **NOT** have birthday or anniversary dates. Call the office to opt out of paper.

488.7714

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 - Rutland Road

Jean Albanese

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
Arthur Wakefield

Wednesday Night Dinners and Programs

On 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 tabletop sheet. Those folks should not sign up again on the green sheets. We also ask for a \$6 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.

st. mark's youth & family

Sunday School officially begins Sunday, September 11. Children ages 3-6 will meet in the Garden Room for Sunday School and children ages 7-9 will meet in the Youth Room. Starting **October 2** the Middle School and High School Youth will meet in the Youth Room for Bible Study following the 10 a.m. service.

Our Wednesday Night Youth Group Meetings return on September 21! The meeting schedule is as follows:

Youth Group officially starts back on September 21.

Elementary Children grades K-4 will meet together for Super Heroes of the Bible from 4:45-5:30 in the Youth Room.

Middle School Youth will be from 6:00-6:45 in the Youth Room where they will be starting Rite 13, a curriculum that helps to prepare Middle School Youth for adulthood in the church!

Our High School Youth will meet from 6:45-7:30 in the Youth Room where they will undertake a 6-week session on dating and creating healthy relationships called "Love - All That and More."

Rock the Universe - Our high school youth will be attending Rock the Universe, September 9-11. Rock the Universe is a weekend-long Christian Rock concert that is held at Universal Studios in Orlando. Our young people will spend the weekend together worshipping God and playing in the parks with youth from around the state! The cost for Rock the Universe is \$90. All attendees must pay prior to leaving St. Mark's.

Mission 2012 - It is almost time to start planning our Mission Trip for the Summer of 2012. All Middle School and High School Youth as well as any adults interested in helping to plan our mission trip for 2012 are invited to join together on September 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Please bring \$5 for Pizza and we will start dreaming and listening to where God is calling us to work next summer!

Happening - The Christian Retreat For High School Youth will be held at Dayspring Camp and Conference Center October 7-9. Any High School Youth wishing to attend Happening who have never attended can go online and register at <http://www.episcopalswfl.org/happening>. The cost is \$100 and financial assistance is available through St. Mark's. Please contact Jackie for more information.

Fall Christian Education Opp

◆ 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 second hand 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.

ortunities Kick Off at St. Mark's.

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 affect 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?

◆ 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 Fr. Earl 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.



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.

2012 Classes to look forward to...

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

Exodus - Wednesday 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 19th 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!

EfM Reminder

EfM (Education for Ministry) is a program of intensive theological education for lay people. It is administered in weekly sessions called seminars and comprises a small group of participants, mentored by a leader who facilitates discussion and theological reflection. It is a four-year course of study, committed to one year at a time. The program comes from the School of Theology, University of the South at Sewanee. We are hoping to start such a group at St. Mark's during the fall. There are some interested parishioners, but we would welcome more. For more information, please contact **The Rev. Judith Roberts** through the church office, 488.7714.

Endowment Fund Grows Money

For those considering charitable gifts to St. Mark's, one gift that keeps on giving is the one made to our Endowment Fund. Did you know...

Endowments Work Forever

Many generous individuals are at the heart of charitable institutions making significant impacts upon their community. Great achievements occur because of these philanthropic friends. A void is felt upon the passing of these wonderful benefactors, because it is a special partnership that exists between a donor and a charitable institution. There is a way to make sure that this partnership does not end. Steps can be taken through a gift, a will, or living trust as one way to support St. Mark's Endowment Fund. This special fund perpetuates giving, helping others, forever.

Endowments are Perpetual

Like a spring welling from the earth, endowment funds keep giving. Endowments last. Endowments allow you the knowledge that you will forever make a crucial difference. Each year into the future the parish family of St. Mark's will be reminded of your involvement and the importance of making regular gifts to support our worthy causes. For example: At 5%, a \$5,000 gift will endow \$250 per year, every year. What a wonderful legacy!

Endowments are Protected

St. Mark's Endowment Fund is set aside and kept separate from operating and capital fund accounts. Endowment funds are secure: they are not used for unspecified purposes and are not dissolved after so many years. This is guaranteed through the integrity of The Episcopal Church Foundation, our fund manager, and through written agreements specific to St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

You can contribute to St. Mark's Endowment Fund now or make it part of your estate planning, or both.

Sign Up for Round Robin Bridge NOW!

If you haven't signed up for Round Robin Bridge this fall, now is the time to do so. Round Robin Bridge was started 16 years ago as an ECW scholarship fundraiser. The groups play monthly from November through April. If you would like to join us this fall, call the church office at **488.7714**



St. Mark's Gift Shop

St. Mark's Gift Shop is having a big September Sale to make room for new merchandise. We also have the book for Fr. Earl's fall class.

Stop by and check us out!

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

— No sales tax —



Music News



The choirs of St. Mark's are open to all interested singers and rehearse in the choir room located at the SE corner of Gray Hall. For additional information about our choirs, please contact **Gini Koepkey**, Music Director, at the church (**488.7714**) or at home (**492.6250**).

Please join us and sing for joy!

Adult Choir Rehearsals resume as follows:

Wednesdays from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. beginning August 31st

This choir sings every Sunday and has wonderful rehearsals. Come and find out what you are missing. This is not an auditioned choir, just people who love music, love God, and love the joy of participating in worship in a special way. We are year round residents, seasonal residents, retirees, working people and high school students. We work hard and strive for musical excellence, but we also have fun and fellowship. Please join us!

EMMAUS COFFEE HOUSE

The Emmaus Coffee House at Emmanuel Lutheran Church will open on Tuesday, September 6. The Coffee House will be a gathering place for people that need to network, gather support, and learn to work with new friends. It will be open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and provide coffee, tea and light snacks. It will be a location for many to be out of the elements and have access to newspapers, magazines, devotionals, Bibles and games. It is an interfaith ecumenical venture with 12 congregations already signed up to participate. Each congregation will supply volunteers and underwrite the program with an initial \$100 to purchase supplies. St. Mark's is a sponsoring congregation of the Emmaus Coffee House. Though it is not affiliated with the South County Food Pantry, it will try to serve the same clientele. We expect that this will expand into other opportunities that will help encourage people in times of great difficulty.

Volunteers are needed!!! Volunteers will arrive at 8:45 a.m. to prepare the coffee and light snacks and leave at 12:15 p.m. after cleaning up. There will be an informational meeting for volunteers on Tuesday, August 23, 7 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. If you need more information please contact **Debbie Pfender** [497.7807] or email dpfender@comcast.net. **If you would like to sign up to volunteer, please contact Wes Runk** at Emmanuel Lutheran [496.4237].



WHERE WE STAND

A few individuals have queried where St. Mark's stands financially in this economic environment. The answer to that question is that our expenses for the year are in line. Almost all of our expenses are on target or under budget at this time. Our revenue, on the other hand, is a different matter. Our pledged income is lagging behind where it should be on this date. Our most recent financial report reflects this fact at the end of July:

PLEGGED MONEY TO DATE

\$301,994

PLEGGES PAID TO DATE

\$283,869

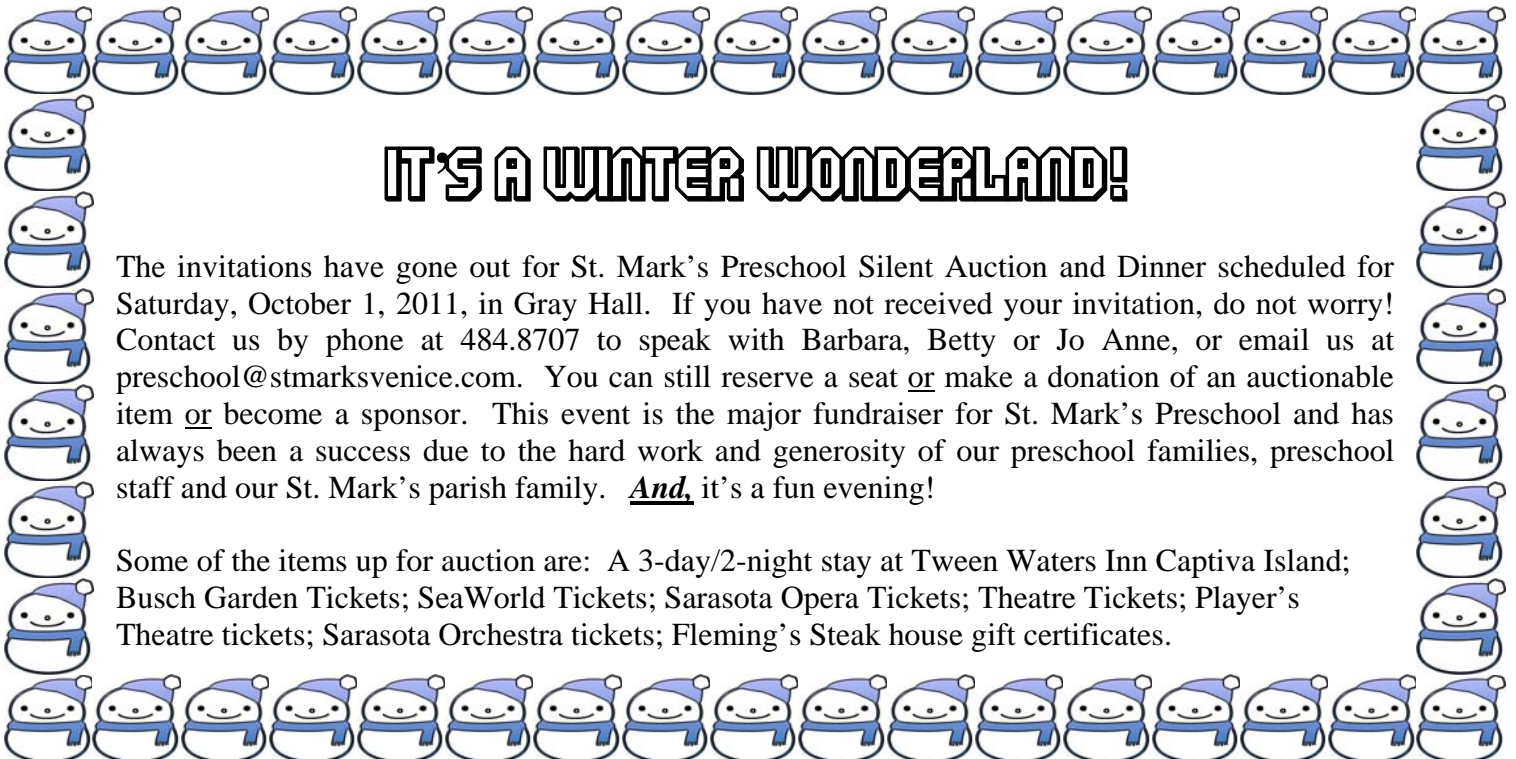
\$18,125 DIFFERENCE

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S FELLOWSHIP ENTERS THIRD YEAR

This 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, 445.5071**.



IT'S A WINTER WONDERLAND!

The invitations have gone out for St. Mark's Preschool Silent Auction and Dinner scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2011, in Gray Hall. If you have not received your invitation, do not worry! Contact us by phone at 484.8707 to speak with Barbara, Betty or Jo Anne, or email us at preschool@stmarksvenice.com. You can still reserve a seat or make a donation of an auctionable item or become a sponsor. This event is the major fundraiser for St. Mark's Preschool and has always been a success due to the hard work and generosity of our preschool families, preschool staff and our St. Mark's parish family. ***And***, it's a fun evening!

Some of the items up for auction are: A 3-day/2-night stay at Tween Waters Inn Captiva Island; Busch Garden Tickets; SeaWorld Tickets; Sarasota Opera Tickets; Theatre Tickets; Player's Theatre tickets; Sarasota Orchestra tickets; Fleming's Steak house gift certificates.

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 meetings dates and times, special events, etc.

Have you seen the "Miles of Pennies" Jar?

The *Miles of Pennies* jar is permanently on the counter in St. Mark's Gift Shop. If you have some extra change (folding bills happily accepted, as well), stop by the Gift Shop and drop it in the MOP Jar to help the Church Periodical Club's "Miles of Pennies" to help purchase books for children.

We just counted \$25keep that change coming. For more information, call **Irene Piggott** at **474.4399**.

ECW General Membership Kickoff!

The first 2011-2012 meeting of the general membership of St. Mark's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will be Tuesday, October 4, at 10 a.m. We'll gather in the church for Holy Eucharist, followed by a business meeting and our program. Our first guest speaker this year is our own Fr. Earl Beshears. Always an interesting speaker, Fr. Earl promises not to disappoint. 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. Clover Webster is our hostess. A \$6 donation will be asked to offset the cost of the luncheon.

ECW BOARD MEETING

The first ECW BOARD MEETING of the 2011-2012 year will be held on Monday, September 26, at 9:30 a.m. in the church office building. All board members should plan to be present as we start our new year of working together.



Women's Evening Fellowship

Monday, September 12 - 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 12th. 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 **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
 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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We have gifts that differ according to the grace given us....
 —Romans 12:6a

Place label here.



September 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	

Write this down!

- August 31 Adult Choir rehearsals begin
- September 5 Labor Day - **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
- September 12 Women's Evening Fellowship
- September 12 Community Dinner at St. Mark's
- September 18 Shoe Collection Sunday - D.R. Project
- September 20 *Remarkable Creatures*, by Tracy Chevalier
- September 21 Wednesday Dinner & Programs Resume!
- September 22 Vestry Meeting
- September 26 ECW Board Meeting

- October 1 Preschool Silent Auction & Dinner
- October 10 Columbus Day - **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
- October 13 Grief Group reconvenes
- October 18 Marksmen reconvene (now third Tuesday)

November 1 **TUESDAY!** Stewardship Dinner - Note day.