

January 2004



The Good News

And we are being transformed into his likeness

—2 Corinthians 3:18

Fifteen years ago, I struggled with the knowledge that a decision to have faith in God would result in significant changes in my life. Changing my life was the very last thing I wanted to do. I liked my life. It was full, it was rich, and I could deal with the less pleasant parts, like the fear and the loneliness. It was my life, I knew what to expect – most of the time – and I didn't want it to change.

I didn't want my life to change, but I couldn't turn away from the pull I believed came from God. So I walked into the unknown, trusting that God would be with me in all my uncertainty. Since that time, my life has changed in ways I couldn't have begun to imagine. Every person I've met has brought new perspective to my understanding. Every experience has offered me an opportunity to look at my life in relation to God and other people. Every day has brought surprises that leave me in awe of God's power to transform creation. My life has changed, and I anticipate ongoing change as my life continues to unfold in response to God's call.

Change in our individual lives can be a scary thing. We are excited and enlivened by new experiences and new ideas, but we cling to the comfort we experience in those parts of our lives that we know so well – even the parts that we perhaps are not pleased with. Change in our life as a parish can also be a scary thing. We all know that systems and organisms – including groups of people – must change over time or else they will die. It's easy to embrace that concept when we look at an organization from the outside, and we can all probably remember businesses or societies that no longer exist because their function did not change to reflect changes in the world around them. Frequently when we think of the change-or-die concept, we relate it to the life cycle of an individual. Change as a result of aging may seem to us to be a series of losses leading to death rather than a series of transformations leading to new life after earthly death. If we see change within our parish as a series of losses, the thought of change in the place that is central to our community and to our sense of the holy can be extremely unsettling. If, on the other hand, we look at change as it occurs in a forest, we gain a different perspective. Forests are continually changing, as

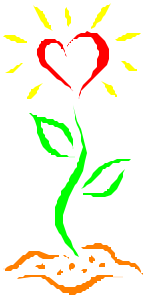
LETTER FROM LINDA

individual plants and trees emerge, flourish, grow and die, each on its own timetable. Seasonal variations and natural events such as flood, drought or fire act to change the composition of the forest, but the forest itself remains and becomes stronger over time.

So, what does all this have to do with St. Mark's? The Vestry recently asked me to share with them my vision for St. Mark's. The center of that vision is a hope that we can become a community center where people can experience God's love through the actions of people just like them. I dream of a community where each person has an opportunity to grow and make a difference in the world, a community where it's safe to be vulnerable, to be less than perfect, to be open to God's transforming power through Christ working in each of us. This community can only be created if we are willing to be transformed by the new people God brings to our door.

Join us for Annual Meeting on January 25 as we explore together our dreams and hopes for our parish as it lives in this community.

Canon Linda



Thank you!

As we come to the beginning of another calendar year, it seems to be as good a time as any to count our blessings and express gratitude to all who serve the St. Mark's community throughout the year. Thank you to our Vestry members—Barbara Campbell, Joan Gorham, Jan LaFetra, Sherri Heim, Charles Mendoza, Kate Mikami, David Muller, Barbara Rice, Van Smith, Debbie Wild, Karen Williams, and Brett Wormley for your continued dedication and service. Thank you to our treasurer, Jack Gorham, and our recording treasurer, Liz Moore, for all you do on an ongoing basis—paying bills and salaries, tracking budgets, donations, and pledges, and so much more. Thank you to all our ministry team members, who care so lovingly for the needs of the church, the parish, and the community...planning worship services, singing, playing music, preparing the altar, caring for buildings and grounds, making sure we have heat, caring for our children and teaching them in Sunday school, planning adult education classes and discovery weekend, making sure there is a fellowship hour each week, coordinating and planning special events, counting pledges and donations received, preparing service bulletins and mailing the Good News, tending to the financial and business aspects of the church, and reaching out to the community.

For all you do, individually and collectively, THANK YOU!

Annual Meeting

Each January, the people of St. Mark's come together to reflect on our ministry together in the preceding year, to assess our health as a parish family and to look forward to the work God has given us to do in the new year. At this meeting, we have the canonical responsibility—the task set by church law—to elect vestry members to succeed those who have completed their service as leaders of our parish and to elect delegates and alternates to Convention. And because it's St. Mark's, we have a great time while we're doing these things!

Join us at 11:30 am on Sunday, January 25, as we gather to share a potluck lunch together, to celebrate the past year and to look forward to the coming year!

Stewardship

Average attendance for Sundays in December

| <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|-------------|-------------|
| 112 | 117 |

Pledges and Loose Plate Contributions to Support St. Mark's

| December 2002 (5 weeks) | December 2003 (as of 3 weeks) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$ 15,872 | \$ 9,253 |
| Year to Date | Year to Date |
| \$ 165,836 | \$ 162,225 |

Pledge envelopes are in the back of the church. Please contact the office if you would like them to be mailed to you.

Baptism and New Member Sunday

On Sunday, January 11, we will celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our celebration includes Baptism and New Member Sunday. Please contact Canon Linda if you or your child would like to be baptized or if you would like to make a formal commitment to membership in the St. Mark's parish family.

Special Epiphany Celebration

*Tuesday, January 6,
7 pm*

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to all the peoples of the earth!

On the Feast of Epiphany, Tuesday, January 6, we celebrate the Light of Christ made present in the world. We will celebrate with a family Eucharist at 7 pm. After the service, we'll meet in the Parish Hall to share a dessert potluck and admire our creches.

Tradition tells us that the three kings, led by the Star, arrived at the manger on Epiphany. In modern tradition, Epiphany is the day for putting away Christmas decorations. Please bring the creche or manger scene used in your family to the Parish Hall before the services on Sunday, January 4. During the Sunday Fellowship hours and at our Epiphany celebration, we can see and admire the creches that may have been used for many years...or bought new this year!



Outreach Ministry

Outreach Mission Statement

St. Mark's Outreach Ministry strives to actively involve our congregation in programs that address the needs of the people in our community. We support programs that fit in the following criteria:

- Are caring for people in need
- Have demonstrated effectiveness
- Have low administrative costs
- Avoid replicating existing programs

New members are welcome. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on January 19 in Canon Linda's office. Contact Rich Barber (rbarber@scu.edu) for details.

Santa Maria Urban Ministry Update

The Community Health Resource Center is slated to open in the next couple of months. Most of the construction work has been completed and the exam room has been renovated. Last January we donated money for a small new refrigerator for the clinic so that meds could be stored safely. This has been purchased.



Thank you for your generous gifts to the children at the Ministry. We have delivered 105 children's gifts which include gift certificates to Mervin's and Target for the older children and a bag full of stuffed animals, a bag of small toys and a bag filled with



children's books, play-doh, and colored pencils. The first week in December Celia Watson organized a gift-wrapping party that traveled to the Ministry in downtown San Jose. In about an hour and a half we wrapped all of St. Mark's gifts and several other gifts that had been donated. We were treated to Abigail's homemade cookies, juice and Christmas music while we worked.



Under Kate's direction St. Mark's preschool parents and children collected and donated huge bundles of warm clothing and blankets during the early part of December. These items will keep many warm and dry this season. Thank you all so much.

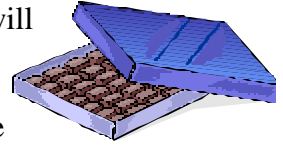
In the past month donations to SMUM include 38 bags of clothes, shoes, purses, 2 bags of towels, 1 bag of kitchen stuff, 1 small fan, 2 boxes of canned food and 9 bags of food, 9 certificates for Safeway stores 5 rolls of wrapping paper and a grocery bag of candy canes with the candy cane Christmas story.



Your donations are always welcome. Just leave food and clothing in the outreach box at the back of the church. To donate other items, please contact a member of the outreach team.

Tending the Flock

Lilyann Brannon will be selling See's Candy through the early months of the new year to raise funds to support Tending the Flock. TTF serves the needy in many ways such as providing donations, transportation, and assistance with obtaining services from public and private charities. Through your outreach dollars we have been able to contribute \$450 to support Lilyann in her work. Contact Lilyann if you have any questions. (241-5769)



The Albertson's Connection

Outreach supports the hungry and those in need through the distribution of \$5 Albertson's food vouchers and VTA bus passes through our church office. This last year we distributed \$1,325 worth of food vouchers and \$283 for VAT passes. This is made possible by your amazing donations and support of the outreach ministry.



Looking Ahead to Other Opportunities to Help

We hope to resume purchasing the food and serving the dinner meal to the homeless on a once a month basis. If you are interested in participating for one evening or several, please let us know.

Your check or donation that you place in the outreach envelopes in the pews allows us as a community to share our blessings with others.

—Rich Barber

What is a Healthy Relationship?

The University of California Health Services answers that it is a relationship in which you:

- Feel free to be yourself without fear of attack or humiliation
- Openly express feelings, thoughts and desires and are heard
- Share time and experiences and feel genuine companionship
- Work together on difficult issues in the relationship in an equal and fair way
- Feel physically and emotionally safe
- Are made to feel worthwhile
- Support the individual goals of *both* partners
- Spend time alone and with friends and family, to enable development of individual lives, goals and relationships
- Do not feel dependent or needy to the point that your need interferes with the relationship or personal growth
- If you are in a relationship that is not healthy, talk to your minister, counselor or spiritual director. As a child of God, you deserve to be treated with respect and compassion.

—Kyros Ministry

Prelude and Postlude Plea—

Keeping our voices low during the prelude and postlude respects those who are listening, honors the musician and lets God hear the music!

—Linda+



Youth Ministry

I'd like to remind any and all of you youth-types (that would be middle/high school aged) people interested in joining us for Youth Group activities, that we are meeting regularly now. We meet during the 10 am service on the first, third (and fifth if there is one) Sundays in the Parish Hall. In January, that will be 1/4 and 1/18. In February, that will be 2/1, 2/15, and 2/29.

So far, the youth who have been involved have met during the first Sunday of Advent to take a closer look at the readings than we may have done in church and had a great discussion about them and the Prayers of the People. The second week we hosted Coffee Hour (with our own hot-out-of-the-oven cookies!)

Canon Linda has offered to go bowling with the Youth Group so we'll plan a trip to the bowling alley soon after New Year's. I am in the process of collecting information for local/diocese weekend retreats.

I hope you will consider joining us for some or all of the events I've mentioned. Please feel free to bring along a friend, even if they've never been to church. This group is a great, easy, fun way to get started looking at church. Give me a call with any questions or suggestions at 243-3675.

—Sherri Heim



Adult Education

Centering Prayer

January 18, February 1,

February 8, 7 pm

Carol Christian

"O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me."

Centering prayer, also known as contemplative prayer, is a method that prepares us to receive the gift of the presence of God.

Centering prayer teaches us to quiet the mind, relax the body through this Christ-centered way of praying. By the end of this three-week program, you will know what centering prayer is and is not, and have a basic understanding of the practice.

The class will consist of discussion, practice and sharing.

—Carol Christian

Dates to Remember

January 6

Epiphany Celebration, 7 pm

January 10

Rose Pruning Day, 9 am-Noon
See Helene or just come!

January 11,

Baptism/New Member Sunday

January 13

Prayer Breakfast

January 16-17

Diocesan Convention,
San Luis Obispo

January 23

Out to Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am

January 25

Annual Meeting, 11:30 am

Our Worship Styles at St. Mark's...

The shape of our liturgy, the framework of our worship, is one of the blessings of our Anglican heritage. The familiar patterns and cadences of the Book of Common Prayer give structure to our prayer as individuals and as the gathered community. No matter where we go, we can enter an Episcopal or Anglican Church and have a sense of homecoming. Some of the customs and usages may vary according to the needs, traditions and preferences of the local community; styles may range from the very simple to the most ornate, but the basic pattern is one that is familiar. The familiar gives us comfort, and it supports our faith in the unfailing presence of God, especially when the rest of life is chaotic.

Change for the sake of change is rarely helpful for our worship, but change does have an important place in living liturgy. The seasonal changes in our worship attract our attention to specific aspects of our Christian belief. We grow in relationship with God by repeating the steps of our journey with God in a way that is familiar and yet always new, as each time in our lives brings us to the seasons with new experience, new thoughts, new feelings. In Advent, we prepared our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. During the 12 days of the Christmas season, we celebrate the Word of God made flesh in a human being. In Epiphany, we look for the light of Christ in our hearts and in the world around us. Each season has specific worship components appropriate to its focus.

Change also enriches our worship when we use different prayer forms. No day is exactly like any other, and no prayer is exactly like any other prayer. The variety of services at St. Mark's offers liturgy in several forms to support the different ways people prefer to worship. Our Eucharistic prayers offer us a wonderful array of ways to pray our thanksgiving to God and to share in the Body and Blood of Christ. Eucharistic prayers are frequently described as Rite I, II and III. Rite I, found in our Book of Common Prayer, uses Elizabethan language and is similar in style to the 1928 prayer book. Rite II, also found in the prayer book, uses modern English and has several forms for the Eucharistic prayer, as well an outline to guide the design of additional Eucharistic prayer forms. Rite III is the term used to refer to Eucharistic prayers that are newly developed (it's been almost 30 years since the "new" prayer book was published!) or borrowed from other forms used in the Anglican or other communions.

Our 8 am Sunday service continues to use Rite I. This traditional language liturgy has some options for alternatives, and we change the prayer forms from time to time to help keep the traditional words fresh in our hearts.

Our new 5 pm Sunday service is more informal than our other services. We usually have only one reading, and the creed is not said. The homily frequently takes the form of a conversation in which we all have opportunity to speak about the way the gospel reading touches our lives. We use an alternative Eucharistic prayer, and we gather around the altar to share the Body and Blood of Christ with each other. We have a variety of music, with musicians from our parish and beyond, every other week. If you

play an instrument or would like to sing with us, join us for rehearsal at 4 o'clock on the Sundays when the mini-news says Rite III Eucharist with Music!

The structure of our 10 am service, which is based in Rite II, offers many opportunities for flexibility. We currently change the Prayers of the People from week to week; we also have the option of using one of the forms in our prayer book. We have several options for the Eucharistic prayer. Although the basic pattern is the same, each of these prayers uses different words to express our thanksgiving for God's actions in our lives. During the first half of the season of Pentecost, we used Prayer A; during the second half and during Advent, we used Prayer B. During Christmas season, we are using Prayer A again.

During the season of Epiphany this year, we will be using a Rite III Eucharistic prayer that incorporates many of the phrases that we are accustomed to hearing and saying and emphasizes the ways we experience God in our Communion. During the season, we will also be using a creed that is adapted from the Church of England liturgy instead of the Nicene Creed we usually say.

These variations in our worship offer opportunity for new insights and experiences of God's presence among us. We are blessed by the richness of our tradition and by the flexibility of our liturgy. I welcome your comments and questions about our worship.

—Canon Linda

Calendar

January Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Sherri Heim | 6 |
| Kim Hubbard | 9 |
| Jani Wild | 23 |
| John Lewis | 25 |
| Jacob Reinthaler | 29 |



January Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Fred and Marge Huxham | 16 |
| Sherri and Andrew Heim | 20 |
| Jennifer and Paul Armstrong | 29 |

St. Mark's Staff

Linda Taylor, Priest-in-Charge
 (Home phone 866-2321)
Joe Bacigalupo, Assisting Priest (retired)
Kate Mikami, Preschool Director
Margie Fait, Preschool Teacher
Bonnie Glass, Parish Administrator
Adelino & George Freitas, Sextons
Ray Walters, Chief Verger
Elva Wormley, Verger and Acolyte Mistress
Charles Mendoza, Senior Warden
Joan Gorham, Junior Warden
Barbara Rice, Junior Warden
Charlie Cramer, Music Director
Carol Christian, Intern
Jack Gorham, Treasurer
Liz Moore, Recording Treasurer

St. Mark's Vestry E-mail

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Campbell | barbarac@rpea.com |
| Joan Gorham | jd_gorham@yahoo.com |
| Jan LaFetra | jan@lafetra.com |
| Sherri Heim | volksie@comcast.com |
| Charles Mendoza | CharliesPlace1@juno.com |
| Kate Mikami | mikam@earthlink.net |
| David Muller | drmuller@mindspring.com |
| Barbara Rice | b-rice@accesscom.com |
| Van Smith | mvsmith@sbcglobal.net |
| Debbie Wild | whrab@earthlink.net |
| Karen Williams | branwen@ix.netcom.com |
| Brett Wormley | bwormley@afroanglican.org |
| Office email | office@st-marks.org |

Ministry Teams

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Adult Education | Debbie Wild |
| Alpha | Elva Wormley |
| Altar Guild | Jennifer Armstrong |
| Buildings & Grounds | Jani Wild |
| Children/Youth | David Muller |
| Communications | Karen Williams |
| Fellowship | Sherri Heim |
| Finance | Frank La Fetra |
| Hospitality Hour | Jan La Fetra |
| Music | Charles Cramer |
| New Members | Van Smith |
| Outreach | Rich Barber |
| P.I.E. | Elva Wormley |
| Parish Administration | Barbara Campbell |
| Pastoral Care | Sharon Martin |
| Worship | Marty Schaefer |

COVENANT GROUPS

**Looking for spiritual growth
and personal transformation?**

**Check out one of our covenant groups
to explore your faith in a safe
environment.**

**Tuesdays 7-9 pm, David Muller (408) 246-2631,
3589 Constance Drive, San Jose, please call for
location.**

Childcare available.

**Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Elva Wormley, Leader
(408) 569-3512
3747 Adriatic Way,
Santa Clara
(Jean Platner)**

1957 Pruneridge Ave.
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Phone: (408) 296-8383
Fax: (408) 247-4781
Email: office@st-marks.org

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church

"Living the Joy!"

**The Good News
St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

1957 Pruneridge Ave. Santa Clara, California 95050
(408) 296-8383



January 2004

Sunday Worship Schedule:

Join Us...Everyone is welcome!

8 am - Holy Eucharist
(contemplative, without music)

10 am - Holy Eucharist
(with music)

10 am - Sunday School
for ages 3-12

11 am - Fellowship Hour
Coffee, refreshments, and fellowship
Childcare is offered from 9:45 am to noon

5 pm—Holy Eucharist
(informal gathering)