



The Good News

The Visible Sign of God's Grace

I write to you mid-morning on Ash Wednesday. Early this morning a small group of us gathered in the chapel for the Ash Wednesday liturgy. As I write, Father Joe is leading worship, and tonight we will gather in the church for a third service marking the beginning of our journey through Lent to the Crucifixion and Resurrection. In our gospel reading, the same reading we hear every year on Ash Wednesday, Jesus tells us to avoid the appearance of piety, to avoid public display of things related to our relationship with God. Yet Christians throughout the world will be walking around today with a smudge on our foreheads – the very visible sign of our relationship with God. We begin this season by owning our identity as Christians.

This is the day of the year when the cross we were marked with at baptism is visible for the world to see. At baptism, after the water is splashed or poured over us, our foreheads are marked with oil and we are told that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and

marked as Christ's own forever. The oil disappears from our foreheads, but the mark remains with us always.

On Ash Wednesday, we bring the mark back into view again. On Ash Wednesday, we remember our baptism, we remember our baptismal promises and we grieve for all those times when we didn't hit the mark. The Greek word for sin is *hamartia*. It began as an archery term, not a theological word. It literally means "miss the mark." When we fail to live into our baptismal covenant, we miss the mark. We sin, and we grieve for our sins.

Ash Wednesday is a day of paradox. The same mark that shows our grief – the smudge on our foreheads – also shows our hope. The smudge – the cross – written on our faces with the ashes of grief – reminds us that God's mercy and forgiveness are with us always. This mark reminds us and those who see us that we are a people who step into this journey year after year. Time and time again, we embark on this Lenten journey of faith, moving through this season of penitence toward the light of the Resurrection. We move through

LETTER FROM LINDA

the paradox of this journey – knowing the beginning and knowing the ending but never quite knowing what will happen to us on this road. Year after year, we begin this journey by showing the world our faith that God's Spirit is always present as we walk our paths.

By the time you read this, the marks of ashes will be washed away, and the imprint of the cross that seals us in baptism will be invisible again. I invite you to keep the memory of the ashes fresh in your mind as we journey toward Holy Week and Easter. When you see your face in the mirror, remember the mark of God's grace made visible. Remember that God who knows you also loves and forgives you.

Canon Linda





Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 25
Imposition of Ashes, 7 am, Chapel
Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes,
10 am, Chapel
Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Sermon
7 pm, Church

Wednesdays in Lent
Eucharist with Healing, 10 am, Chapel
(followed by soup luncheon and
study group)
Alternative Eucharist, 7 pm, Church

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion,
April 4
Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 8 am
Liturgy of the Palms, Procession and Holy
Eucharist, 10 am

Wednesday, April 7
Eucharist with Healing, 10 am, Chapel
Tenebrae, 7:30 pm

Maundy Thursday, April 8
Gathering in Parish Hall, 6 pm
Dinner and Eucharist, 6:30 pm
Stripping of the Altar, to follow dinner

Good Friday, April 9
Meditations, 12-3 pm, Church
Good Friday Liturgy, 7:30 pm, Church

Holy Saturday, April 10
The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:30 pm

Easter Day, April 11
Holy Eucharist, 8 and 10 am
Easter Egg Hunt and Festival
Fellowship Hour, 11:30 am



Crop Walk

Sunday, April 25, 1 pm

The 27th Annual 2004 South Bay CROP Walk will be held at 1 pm on Sunday, April 25, at Lincoln High School in San Jose.

Last year, 471 Walkers from 50 churches and organizations raised \$66,771 for Church World Service, the Second Harvest Food Bank and Sacred Heart Community Service. Twenty-five percent of the funds donated to the Walk are shared with the Second Harvest Food Bank and Sacred Heart Community Service, two local organizations.

The Crop Walk continues to confront difficult economic times. Although there has been some economic growth recently, it is yet to be felt in substantially increased employment, so the need for assistance in the local area remains quite urgent. As always, if we are fortunate enough to have the blessings of food and housing, through our modest donations to the Crop Walk, we have an opportunity to share such blessing with our neighbors and friends throughout the world.

If you are interested in joining the Crop Walk, please speak with Debbie Wild.

—Debbie Wild

(parts reprinted from a letter from the Crop Walk)



Palm Cross-making Party

Saturday, April 3, 9 am

Join us for our annual palm cross-making party on Saturday, April 3, at 9 am in the Parish Hall. Folks of all ages are welcome to teach-learn-relearn the art of folding palm fronds into the crosses which will be blessed on Palm Sunday, April 13.



Rose Guild

Do you have three free hours a month from April-November? Come join the Rose Guild. All you need is a pair of leather gloves, hand pruning shears, and some old clothes.

We will have on-the-job training and pair you up with a partner.

Call Helene Bresette at 246-0740 or Marge Huxham at 259-4045. A sign-up sheet is in the parish hall!

—Helene Bresette



Youth Ministry

Reminder: The Youth Group meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 10 am. Please join us on March 7 and 21st! We look forward to seeing you then. Everyone is welcomed!



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 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 meetings will be at 7 p.m. on March 1st and April 5th in Canon Linda's office. Contact Rich Barber (rbarber@scu.edu) for details.

Santa Maria Urban Ministry Update

Donations between January 6 and February 16 included the following items: 30 bags of clothes (plus bedding and boots), 2 *very large* bags of clothes, 6 bags of food, 2 boxes of canned food/packages of food, 1 receiver, 1 CD player, 2 speakers, 1 bag of toiletries, 2 balls (soccer & basketball), 1 computer with keyboard and mouse, and a 3 piece small speaker system.

THANK YOU!!! Your donations are always welcome. Simply 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.



Socks for the homeless

Thanks to your generous donations we collected 238 pairs of new socks during the annual Santa Maria Urban Ministry sock drive for the homeless.



Opportunity for Direct Outreach

We will be preparing and serving a meal at the Community Homeless Alliance Ministry shelter at First Christian Church in downtown San Jose on March 2nd. We anticipate an every other month schedule, with future dates in May and July. The meals are prepared at the site starting about 4:30 p.m. Dinner is served at 6 pm sharp. Please contact Rich Barber (rbarber@scu.edu) if you would like to participate.

—Rich Barber

Stewardship

Average attendance for Sundays in February

<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
106	108

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

February 2003 (4 weeks)	February 2004 (as of 4 weeks)
\$ 12,687	\$ 11,379
Year to Date	Year to Date
\$ 24,401	\$ 30,593



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Intercessory Prayer

Prayer for healing with laying on of hands has always been a part of the Christian tradition. Beginning February 29, the first Sunday in Lent, we will be resuming this prayer tradition at the 10 am service. If you would like prayer for healing for yourself or for a loved one, please come to the prayer station to the right of the communion rail immediately after receiving communion. Intercessors will ask you to tell them your prayer request, then they will pray with you. You may stand or kneel, as you prefer. If you have any questions about this kind of prayer, or if you would like to be an intercessor, please contact Canon Linda or Carol Christian.



Adult Education

The Psalms for Our Times *February 29-March 28th,* *7 pm, Canon Linda*

Generation after generation, faithful people—and people struggling to be faithful—have turned to the Psalms as a way to be in conversation with God about the things that matter most. The context for our lives changes from age to age, but the experiences of joy and grief, anger and doubt, complaint and consolation are always part of the fabric of human life. Our seasons of well-being are interrupted by the anguish of suffering, alienation, loss, and death, and we are then surprised by the gifts of God breaking through our despair.

Join us on Sunday evenings in Lent as we explore the ways the Psalms help us look at the interface between our experience and the offer of faith.

Inquirer's Day at the School for Deacons

Saturday, March 6, 2004

7:45 a.m., Eucharist

Learn about the School and its programs. The day will include round-table discussion with: Dean Roderick Dugliss; Dir. of Admissions & Deacon, Mary Louise Hintz; School Admin., Chris Butler; Field Education Supervisor & Deacon, Kate Salinaro. Lunch with students, hosted by the School. Sit in on a variety of classes after lunch. For more information, please contact the School at 510.848.1723; email: mlhintz@sfd.edu. Visit their website at www.sfd.edu.

New Group: New Theological Perspectives

On Ash Wednesday, we will inaugurate a new ongoing group that will meet each Wednesday at 7:30 pm in Sharon Martin's home to read and discuss the work of modern theologians. We will begin with John Shelby Spong's most recent book, *A New Christianity for a New World*. Spong is one of the leading spokespersons for liberal Christianity and has been featured on 60 Minutes, Good Morning America, FOX News Live, and Extra. This book is based on the William Beden Noble lectures that Spong delivered at Harvard.

John Shelby Spong retired as Episcopal Bishop of Newark, NJ, in February 2000. Raised a fundamentalist in North Carolina at a time when the Bible was quoted to justify segregation, Bishop Spong came to believe that insistence on an inerrant, literal view of the Bible obscures truth and destroys faith. His subsequent challenges to the Church's position on human sexuality, the virgin birth, and the physical nature of Christ's resurrection has made him the target of fundamentalist hostility and fear. At the same time, it has offered hope to countless others who yearn to believe in God but reject pre-modern literalizations masquerading as faith. Bishop Spong calls Christians everywhere into a new and radical reformation for a new age. Spong looks beyond traditional boundaries to open new avenues and a new vocabulary into the Holy, proposing a Christianity premised upon justice, love, and the rise of a new humanity—a vision of the power that might be.

Please contact Sharon Martin, group facilitator, to sign up (243-1504). Sharon's home (566 Robin Drive, Santa Clara, 1/2 block off Saratoga Avenue between Scott and Los Padres). Sharon will order books for those who sign up—each paperback book costs \$10.50, but anyone who cannot afford to buy one will be loaned a copy.

Multicultural by Design ***March 21- 22, 2004***

Increasingly, our church is finding more and more congregations embracing a mission that expresses the diversity of their neighborhoods. Their witness is the ministry of trying to discover and "translate" the unfolding purpose of God in the context of their neighborhoods and to reflect that ongoing discovering in the pews and common life they share.

The workshop will be held at the Diocese of California's retreat center, the Bishop's Ranch (El Rancho del Obispo), 5297 Westside Rd. Healdsburg, CA 95448, (707) 433- 3431.

\$100 for room (double occupancy) and board and conference fee. Registration should go to: Diocese of El Camino Real, Silvestre Romero, 408 251- 8621, 5038 Hyland Ave, San Jose, CA 95127, rector2ser@sbcglobal.net



March Birthdays

Rosalie Wilson	1
Barbara Campbell	2
Joanna McGinn	3
Elizabeth Price	7
Andrew Heim	9
Karen Williams	21
Harold Pestana	22
Nancy Twedde	30

March Anniversaries

Anne and Charles Malmquist 29



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)**

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
Ray Walters, Chief Verger
Elva Wormley, Verger and Acolyte Mistress
**Charles Mendoza, Senior Warden
, Junior Warden**
, Junior Warden
Charlie Cramer, Music Director
Carol Christian, Intern
Paul Fait, Treasurer
Liz Moore, Recording Treasurer

St. Mark's Vestry E-mail

Bill Athas	wca123@mac.com
Eloise Blanchard	eblanchard@brooktrout.com
Barbara Campbell	bjcampbell.2@juno.com
Sherri Heim	volksie@comcast.net
Fred Huxham	mfhuxham@earthlink.net
Charles Mendoza	CharliesPlace1@juno.com
Kate Mikami	misskate@st-marks.org
Ned Nix	omschiefslr@yahoo.com
Peggy Reinthaler	p.reinthaler@comcast.net
Van Smith	mvsmith@sbcglobal.net
Debbie Wild	whrab@earthlink.net
Karen Williams	branwen@ix.netcom.com
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	Jack Gorham
Hospitality Hour	
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

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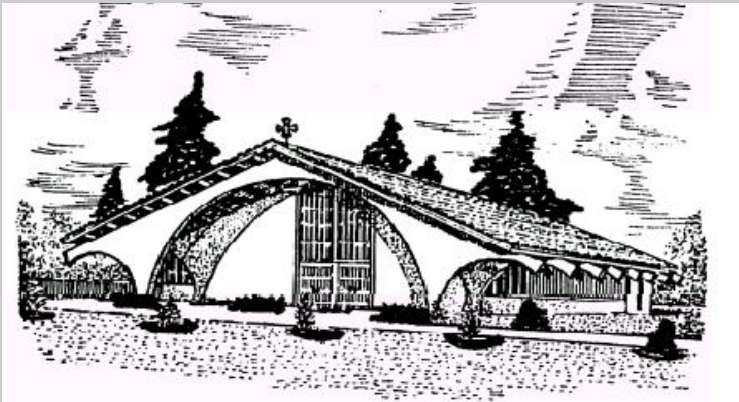


St. Mark's Episcopal Church

"Living the Joy!"

The Good News St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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



March 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)