

1957 Pruneridge Ave.  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

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

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### Living the Joy!



June 2004

# The Good News

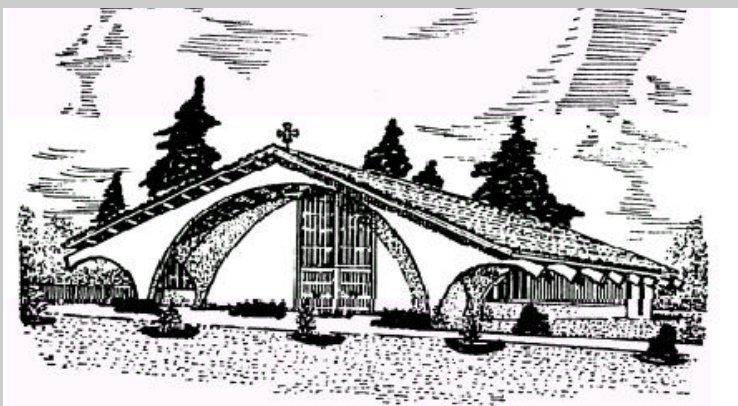


St. Mark's Episcopal Church

"Living the Joy!"

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

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



June 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)

Please Note: The 5 pm service will end for the summer on June 13th and will resume in September.

*"How is it that we hear, each of us in our own language?"*

—Acts 2:8

The time between the Ascension and Pentecost were days of waiting for Jesus' disciples. They had no idea when the promised paraclete, the comforter, the Holy Spirit would come to them. The gospel accounts given to us by Mark and Luke tell us that the disciples were filled with joy during this time and spent the days in worship and in proclaiming the good news of Christ to all they encountered. Then, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to be among them, filling them with power, enabling them to speak in ways and words they had never used before.

This year, Ascension finds our diocese in a time of waiting. This is a liminal time, a threshold time. We are a diocese without a bishop. As almost always happens during transitional times like these, we find ourselves standing in the doorway between what was and what will be. We look toward the past with regret for things done and left undone and also with gratitude for the ways the Spirit has been present with us. We look toward the future with hope and fear, excitement and trepidation. We

look toward the past and the future, but we can only stand in the present, in the place where we find ourselves.

During this time of waiting, the Holy Spirit is with us, teaching us, guiding us, leading us. Those who may be watching us can surely see our concerns as we move into this time of planning for our diocese. Those who watch may also see that we are seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a way that may be very new for us.

On Saturday, May 22, more than 270 laypersons gathered at St. Stephen's in the Field to talk about where our diocese has come from, where it is, and where we want it to go. Discussion in large and small groups identified many areas where we can collaborate in shared episcopacy – laity, clergy and bishop sharing the functions of oversight, insight, foresight and hindsight. Many words were spoken in a new way during the conference. More importantly, each of the participants had the opportunity to listen and to be heard in a new way.

Monday, May 24, through Wednesday, May 26, more than 50 of the clergy of the diocese met at San Juan Bautista. We also spoke of where we have been, where we are and where we hope to be. Many words were spoken in a new way during the conference. More importantly, each of the participants had the opportunity to listen and to be heard in a new way.

### LETTER FROM LINDA

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke with words they had never used before. More importantly, the people around them heard those words and the power of the Holy Spirit was made manifest in the act of listening.

As we move into the Season of Pentecost and into this season of preparation for our future as the Body of Christ in the Diocese of El Camino Real, I invite you to listen with me. Listen to the words of those we meet in the street, in our homes, in our gatherings. Listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit – speaking through everyone we meet.

Canon Linda

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## Stephen Ministers to be Commissioned

On Sunday, June 13, Celia Watson and Jani Wild will be commissioned into a special ministry of care and concern for others as a Stephen Minister. This rite of commissioning culminates a period of extensive training and preparation for caring ministry. Celia and Jani have studied and practiced skills in such areas as dealing with feelings, crisis intervention, asserting oneself with gentleness and firmness, and numerous other topics to prepare them to help people who are experiencing problems in their lives. After the commissioning, Celia and Jani will join other Stephen Ministers who minister in our community, working with people who are experiencing such life crises as hospitalization, retirement, financial setback, the loss of a loved one, or any of a number of other difficulties people face in daily living.

We thank God for our Stephen Ministers and for their gifts of caring and listening. Their ministries will increase greatly the overall ministry of pastoral care at St. Mark's. Please keep them in your prayers as they carry the love of Christ to their care receivers.

—Canon Linda

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival**  
Sept 18 & 19, 2004



Join the team at the St. Mark's booth, selling lemonade, brownies, and a few new items. A planning meeting will be held soon! See Jack Gorham for more information.

—Jack Gorham

## The Candles in the Narthex

Several people have asked about the candles in the narthex, on the table next to the Bible. There is a long Christian tradition of lighting a candle as we say a prayer. The visible light reminds us that our prayer continues in our hearts, long after the words have left our lips, and that our faith is often a light in our darkness. The bowl of votive candles and the larger candle from which the votives are lit appeared last spring, during the first week of the war in Iraq. We were invited at that time to pray for peace and to light a candle as a symbol of hope for light in the world. Over the year, many of us have continued to do so, and I imagine that prayers of petition, intercession and thanksgiving for all the joys and sorrows of our lives have joined our prayers for peace. Please feel welcome to light a candle as you offer your own prayer to God.

—Canon Linda

## Summer Worship

The 5 pm service will be on vacation for the summer and will resume in September. Our last service before vacation will be on June 13. Join us for music, prayer and communion around the altar.

During the summer, we will be varying the Eucharistic Prayer for the 10 am service, beginning with Prayer C on June 13. If you have encountered other Eucharistic Prayers that you would like to see us do at St. Mark's, please contact Canon Linda or Father Joe.

—Canon Linda



## Carol Christian Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons

*Saturday, June 12, 2 pm*  
*St. Stephen's in-the-fields Episcopal Church*

You are invited to celebrate the ordination of Carol Jean Christian to the Sacred Order of Deacons in Christ's Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church at St. Stephen's in-the-fields Episcopal Church, 7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard, San Jose, California. Everyone is invited to a celebration BBQ reception immediately following the ordination service. Please RSVP for the reception to carolsordination@yahoo.com.

## June Birthdays

Marian Perkins	3
Jane Fursh	9
Letel Barber	11
Vivienne Muller	11
Carmen Muller	11
Barbara Rice	11
Janice DiBenedetto	12
Dan McGinn	12
Katharine Wilson	14
Ann Brown	16
Landon Eden	16
Winifred Cobb	19
Terri Eden	22
Ned Nix	22
Elizabeth Moore	23
Debbie Wild	28
Father Joe	29

## June Anniversaries

Betty Cook and David Friedman	4
Kelly and Ned Nix	4
Hugh and Terri Eden	4
Kim Hubbard and David Muller	9
Celia and Allen Watson	9
Marty and Erhard Schaefer	18
John Lindner and Mark Perry	22
Anthony and Mary Jane Jennetti	28

## 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, Women's Group**  
**Contact Kim Hubbard at (408) 246-2631 or Liz Moore at (408) 263-4010 for location and other information.**

## St. Mark's Staff

**Linda Taylor, Rector**  
(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**  
**Kate Mikami, Verger and Acolyte Mistress**  
**Charles Mendoza, Senior Warden**  
**Eloise Blanchard, Junior Warden**  
**Sherri Heim, Junior Warden**  
**Charlie Cramer, Music Director**  
**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.reinthal@comcast.net
Van Smith	mvsmith@sbcglobal.net
Debbie Wild	whrab@sbcglobal.net
Karen Williams	branwen@ix.netcom.com
Office email	office@st-marks.org

## Ministry Teams

Adult Education	Debbie Wild
Altar Guild	Jennifer Armstrong
Buildings & Grounds	
Children/Youth	David Muller
Fellowship	Peg Reinthaler, Interim
Finance	Jack Gorham
Hospitality Hour	
Music	Charles Cramer
New Members	Junior Wardens
Outreach	Rich Barber
P.I.E.	
Parish Administration	Barbara Campbell
Pastoral Care	Sharon Martin
Worship	Marty Schaefer

## Stewardship

Average attendance for Sundays in May

2003	2004
112	126

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

May 2003 \$ 13,393 (as of 4 weeks)	May 2004 \$ 15,705 (as of 4 of 5 weeks)
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Year to Date \$ 67,956	Year to Date \$ 74,813
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# 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 always welcome. The next meeting will be at 7 pm on June 7th in Canon Linda's office. Contact Rich Barber (rbarber@scu.edu) for details.

## Santa Maria Urban Ministry Update

Donations between April 26 and May 17 included: 21 bags of clothes/shoes, 2 bags of food, 2 bags of bathroom stuff, 1 bag of sheets, 2 comforters, 1 lamp, 1 AM Stereo Radio/CD Player, 1 printer, 3 bags of toys, 2 bags of knick-knack/craft items, 1 package of diapers, 1

bag of kitchen stuff, 1 portable radio, 28 bars of soap, 8 deodorants, 5 antibiotic ointments, 1 shaving cream, 4 shampoos & conditioners, 5 body lotions, 6 tubes of toothpaste, 4 toothbrushes, 40 disposable razors, 28 combs, 9 boxes of Band-Aids. **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.

## CHAM Meals

Our May 11<sup>th</sup> meal at the Community Homeless Alliance Ministry shelter at First Christian Church had a lower St. Mark's turnout than in the past. However, a contingency of four students from West Valley College did show up to help us serve.

The Cape Breton Toonz, led by Eloise Blanchard, again provided musical entertainment for the gathering. There were about 45 folks who had dinner which included ravioli, salad, and bread baked fresh by Betty Cook. The experience of preparing and serving at CHAM is both rewarding and fun. It is easy to get involved even if your schedule doesn't permit you to be there for the whole event. The meals are prepared at the site starting about 4:30 p.m. Dinner is served at 6 pm sharp. Our next date will be sometime in July. Please contact Rich Barber (rbarber@scu.edu) if you would like to participate.

## Coming Sooner Than You Think!!!

This summer we will again be collecting school supplies for the children of Santa Maria Urban Ministry. Expect to hear announcements about the ingathering soon.

—Rich Barber

## Thank you!...

Jennifer Armstrong for coordinating the ordering of Easter flowers to beautify the sanctuary.

Jack Gorham for pruning trees, watering the lawns, and caring for our grounds.

Charlie Mendoza who, in addition to serving as Senior Warden, also has swept the sidewalks and replaced toilet seats!

Jean Platner Mendoza for purchasing a light bulb changer to replace the light bulb in the church entryway.

Lilyann Brannon for finding good homes for the sofas that were dumped in our lot.

Helene Bresette and the Rose Guild for your continued care of our Roses and plants.

Deanery Delegates for representing St. Mark's and bringing back information to us.

Sherri Heim and Peg Reinthaler for the amazing job you did of cleaning room 19!

SCA who rented the parish hall and returned it to us cleaner than it was when they got it...as always.

AA for cleaning out the cubbies in the kitchen.

Rich Barber and the Outreach Ministry Team for coordinating the dinner at CHAMs.

Kim Hubbard for maintaining the website and sending out the notices to the St. Mark's News List!



## Standing Committee Update, May 24, 2004 To: the People and Clergy of the Diocese of El Camino Real Preliminary Report on the Lay Conference

*The following Update was compiled from reports by the four lay members of the Standing Committee: Dr. Gordon Gritter, Ms. Ginger Redman, Ms. Joanna Shreve, and Ms. Ann Wright.*

The Lay Conference was successful beyond our greatest expectations! At the final briefing following the Conference, the members of the Standing Committee and the Facilitators all felt that the Conference had gone very, very well.

About 270+ people registered, representing almost every parish and mission of the Diocese. St. Stephen's-in-the-Fields was literally packed to the doors. St. Stephen's Vicar, Ken Wratten, and crew, led by Edy Unthank, responded with great resourcefulness: they got everybody registered promptly; they found enough chairs for everyone in the sanctuary; they set up 15 tables, with chairs, for small group discussions under large tents placed around their spacious grounds; they fed the throng; they had a good sound system. Nothing was lacking!

Every registrant got a packet containing the agenda, questions for small group discussions, a copy of the Open Letter to the Presiding Bishop, a roster of the Standing Committee, a statement

of Bishop Shimpfky's Settlement Package and debts to be paid out of the sale of the Episcopal Residence, and an Evaluation form.

After introductions by Ann Wright, Gordon Gritter made some comments and suggestions.

(1) Where have we come from? We have come from a time of increasing conflict, anger, fear, disorganization, and confusion; a time when laity have been insufficiently informed and involved; a time of very little growth, even as the population has increased and resources have been far beyond expectations; a time of cautiously but increasingly demanding fundamental changes.

(2) Where are we now? We are at a crucial evolutionary point: the Bishop has resigned; the Standing Committee has become the Ecclesiastical Authority and has occupied the necessary Diocesan tasks and positions, and is already making needed changes; a new bishop and other new leaders are to be chosen. This meeting is a new opportunity for lay people to ask for clarifications, to make personal statements and to express differences, to express anger and dismay, approval and hope. Some of us now want to put away the past and not talk about it any more. There are three reasons why we must not yet do so: if we put it away, we cannot learn from it; if we put it away, we are left with our own individual internal struggles unresolved; if we put it away before justice is done, we become complicit in injustice. In our present situation, justice is not yet done.

(3) Where do we hope to go? We hope not to retreat into old diocesan patterns of hidden conflict and poor communication, but into new recognition that the life of the Church moves forward by leadership of all kinds, balanced and coordinated, mutually recognized and respected. We hope to move into new openness, transparency, positives and negatives put before us in order to come to our best understanding and judgment.

Joanna Shreve then presented the financial material, sketched the situation as seen by the auditors last year, and described the great improvements that are already in place, and the encouraging prospects for the future. Details of this report will be in the June Mission Bell, and are already posted on the diocesan web site.

Conference facilitators Ron Reed and Dale Simison commented about issues and dilemmas which have become increasingly characteristic of the Episcopal Church and other churches during recent decades: The demographics have changed; American and Western culture has changed and has carried the church with it; our bishops conferred nationally and recently reported that they have become exhausted and have lost their sense of episcopal identity; and many members of the church find themselves confused and frustrated. Reed and Simison commented that they see these issues as prominent in El Camino Real, but they also see ECR as, in general, much better prepared than most dioceses to take a leading role.

Each small group (15 - 20 people ) was equipped with lunches and a newsprint easel, and was given an hour and a half to come up with ideas, questions, and directions.

When all returned to summarize their thoughts for the whole gathering, two things became evident: The groups had indeed discussed widely and deeply, and they had generated a pervasive feeling of energy and hope for the Diocese. (Several people who have recently been expressing their opposition to the work of the Standing Committee were amongst the registrants, and they participated in the groups, but none of their criticisms were heard in the group reports.)

There were few references to issues in the departure of Bishop Shimpfky, other than brief observations that the grievances of some members of the Diocese, and the griefs of others, are recognized and call for response.

At the end of the day, participants asked for the following things: to learn more about the Episcopal Church and its structures; to improve communication and build relationships; to learn to reach out to young adults; to strengthen the Deaneries; to train lay leaders; to take time for healing; to be recognized and valued by clergy for their contributions; to support their clergy.

Finally, it was unmistakably clear that the laity of ECR had

accepted the invitation to make themselves heard, they appreciated the opportunity (which many regarded as long overdue), they look forward to hearing from the Clergy Conference, and they want more of these conferences!

### Little Miracles

*Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with little; I will put you in charge of much. Come and share your master's happiness.*

*Matthew 25:21*

It is far more common than it should be for Christians to feel as if they do not matter in the grand scheme of things. They see their world as too small for anything particularly significant to happen. They will tell you that they live outside the circle where significant events occur.

The Gospels show us a very different perspective. While there is plenty of space for the big miracles (healing the sick, casting out demons, raising the dead), far more space is given to the 'little' miracles of Jesus: looking people in the eye, speaking the truth in love, touching another human being in compassion, making time for children, praying a word of blessing, telling a story, listening to another's story.

Love breaks into our world the moment we become a vessel for one of Jesus' 'little' miracles. Because we carry the very presence of the Holy Spirit, even sharing a cup of cold water is a sacramental act. Grace is released in the smallest act of compassion.

If we are preoccupied with our own insignificance we may miss the opportunity to participate in the very miracles that are already in our world. Jesus places opportunities for 'small' miracles in each and every day, and these 'little' miracles are very important in the eyes of God, easily far more important than they are to some of us.

Choose to participate in at least one 'small' miracle each day. Your cup will overflow with blessing.

—The Rev. Greg Brewer,  
Good Samaritan,  
Paoli, Pennsylvania

*Reprinted from  
The Anglican Digest  
Pentecost A.D. 2004  
Submitted by John Cole*

### Prayer for People in the Midst of War

O God, you have loved each of us since before we were born, and you love each of us in equal and abundant measure. Yet we sometimes choose not to see ourselves in one another. We sometimes choose to live as though we were not the brothers and sisters we know ourselves to be. Pour your blessing upon all your people in every nation, whatever our faith or ethnicity. Preserve our lives, deliver us from the terror of war, and, when this is over, guide us in the way of reconciliation and peace. Bring us a deepening sense of our oneness in the human family, that those things that unite your people may be seen and felt as greater than anything that can ever divide us. Amen.

*Adapted from  
Women's Uncommon Prayers*

June 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>6</b> 8-9 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10-11 am Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10 am Youth Group 5 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III	<b>7</b> 7 pm Outreach Ministry Team Meeting	<b>8</b> 7 am Prayer Breakfast 7-9 pm David's Covenant Group	<b>9</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer 11 am Bible Study 7-9 pm Elva's Covenant Group 7:15 pm New Theological Perspectives	<b>10</b> 10:30 am-11:30 am Morning Prayer/ Villa Serena 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>11</b> 10:30-11:30 am Morning Prayer, Skyline	<b>12</b> Carol Christian Ordination, Sacred Order of Deacons, St. Stephen's in- the-Fields Episcopal Church
<b>13</b> 8-9 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10-11 am Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II 2 pm Deanery Meeting, St. Edward's 5 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite III with music	<b>14</b> 6 pm Finance Committee 7:15 pm Vestry	<b>15</b> 7-9 pm David's Covenant Group	<b>16</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer 11 am Bible Study 7-9 pm Elva's Covenant Group 7:15 pm New Theological Perspectives	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:30-11:30 am Morning Prayer, Skyline	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8-9 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10-11 am Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10 am Youth Group	<b>21</b> Good News Deadline	<b>22</b> 7-9 pm David's Covenant Group	<b>23</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer 11 am Bible Study 7-9 pm Elva's Covenant Group 7:15 pm New Theological Perspectives	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:30-11:30 am Morning Prayer, Skyline 11:30 am Out to Lunch Bunch	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8-9 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10-11 am Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7-9 pm David's Covenant Group	<b>30</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer 11 am Bible Study 7-9 pm Elva's Covenant Group 7:15 pm New Theological Perspectives			