



Highlights:

- Rector's Ramblings
- Adult Education Classes
- P.I.E. Ministry
- Saint's Alive
- Message from the Verger



Rector's Ramblings

by Fr. Ray

Lent comes really late this year - not until March 8th. Even though it is not the Lenten Season yet, this is a good time to think about spiritual growth and study. One of the very good things about the Episcopal Church in recent years is the awareness that learning and spiritual growth are life-long disciplines. You don't graduate from such things when you are confirmed!

We have very good opportunities coming up this month for spiritual growth. One that we have been talking about a lot since fall is Covenant Groups. Our Covenant Groups are up and running! Please see the list in this newsletter of all the current groups, when they meet, and their leaders. For your own spiritual good, join one of these groups! The groups are a place where you can be known and get to know others more deeply, develop caring friendships, see how to apply scripture in your daily lives, and pray for one another. A loving covenant group is tailor made for your growth in God's love.

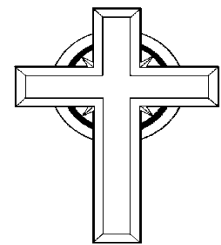
Another good growth opportunity is the Sunday night education time. Starting on Sunday February 13th, we will offering the Bible study class titled "The Divine Drama." This class will give participants the chance to learn about the great themes of

the Bible, in the Old and New Testaments. The class uses workbooks and very colorful overhead transparencies to help adults get involved with the scriptures. I will be teaching the class, along with our new deacon Judy Ahlvin and the head of our Adult Education Team, Terri Eden. The course will begin each Sunday with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the class time from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

A third spiritual growth opportunity in February will be the next Alpha Course. This will begin with a banquet on Sunday February 27th at 6 p.m. Each week the participants in Alpha will join for dinner with those taking the Divine Drama. Alpha is an excellent overview of the basics of Christianity. It is intended for people who are not yet active Christians, but it is also a helpful review for church members. The best thing to do is to take the course and bring along a friend who is searching for faith in God. Please pray for the Alpha Course and spread the word about it to anyone who is seeking to know God more deeply.

All three - Covenant Groups, The Divine Drama, and Alpha - are great places to grow in God's love. The ideal thing to do would be to join a Covenant Group and also take Alpha or The Divine Drama. If you can't manage all that, get involved in one of these. It will make a great difference in your life!

In Jesus' love,
Fr. Ray



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GUEST PREACHER ON FEBRUARY 6TH

Sunday February 6th, we will have a guest preacher at all three services. The preacher will be the Rev. Carlos Caguiat, an Episcopal priest at St. Francis Academy. St. Francis Academy is an Episcopal residential care program for troubled youth, with several centers around the country. St. Francis Academy has a very effective Christian program for emotional and spiritual healing for young people who have been in trouble for behavior problems, drug use, gang participation, etc. In his sermon, Fr. Caguiat will talk about the programs of St. Francis Academy, and he will be available for discussion after the 10:30 a.m. service.



NEWCOMER CLASS

We will have another session of our Newcomer Class on Saturday February 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (bring a sack lunch). The class is for recent newcomers to St. Mark's, and will give helpful information about the history of our parish, our vision and goals for the future, and opportunities for ministry at our parish. The Newcomer Class is an excellent way for newcomers to explore involvement in St. Mark's. If you are new in the past several months, come join us!



The *Alpha* Course

St. Mark's will begin the winter/spring session of *The Alpha* Course on February 27th, at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

"A few of the topics are, "What relevance does Jesus have for our lives?", "Does God heal today?", and "What Is the meaning of life?".

Each session of *The Alpha* Course begins with a meal, allowing everyone a time for informal fellowship. Then there is a video that introduces the topic for the evening. Then participants break into small groups, where the topic is freely discussed.

The course asks a series of questions, and allows the participants, through discussion, to draw their own conclusions. A few of the topics are, "What relevance does Jesus have for our lives?", "Does God heal today?", and "What Is the meaning of life?". Although the course is sensitive to people who are new to Christianity or searching, *Alpha* also serves as a way for seasoned Christians to revisit and strengthen their faith and relationship with Jesus.

The key to success for the course relies primarily on word of mouth: people invite their friends and relatives to the "Introduction to *Alpha*" Dinner Party and short talk. So *Alpha* is an easy and convenient way to "share the gospel".

The *Alpha* Team invites everyone to participate in one of a variety of ways. You can join the *Alpha* Team and assist in facilitating the course. You can share the *Alpha* brochure with friends, relatives, and co-workers. **You can bring a guest to the "Introduction to *Alpha*" Dinner Party.** You can pray for the course participants and team. Or you can actually take the 10-week course yourself!

There is an "Introduction to *Alpha*" Dinner Party on Sunday, February 27th at 6:00 PM in the parish hall. Then the course begins on Sunday, March 5th at 6:00 PM. On-site child care will be available. If you're interested or know someone else who might benefit from the course, please call Elva Wormley at 265-3237.



Education Ministry Team

There are several stimulating educational programs planned for this year. The Covenant groups, Alpha, History Night, and the Divine Drama. We are excited about these programs and hope you will enjoy sharing in some or all of these spiritual programs.

COVENANT GROUPS BEGIN!

God's greatest joy is to bless our lives. God blesses us and our lives then become a blessing to others. Blessing comes to us when we gather regularly to know, love, support, study, pray and laugh together. A covenant group is a place where people open themselves to God's blessing. In a small group, the power of God emerges naturally from personal sharing and scriptural reflection.

St. Mark's launched eight new covenant groups in January, 2000.

"Within my covenant group, I have found a very special bond of love, support, and understanding that I didn't know was missing from my life."

"The clarity, strength, and understanding I have received in my covenant group has empowered me to become someone I am proud of." (St. Timothy's Church parishioner in Mt. View)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE OF FAITH?

WOULD YOU ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THE MEANING OF THE GOSPEL WITH PEOPLE YOU TRUST?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO RE- BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE SILICON VALLEY?

Then covenant groups are for you!

All St. Mark's parishioners and their friends are welcomed and encouraged to join a covenant group. Invitations are meant to go both ways. Covenant leaders will be reaching out to call and invite all members of St. Mark's. Parishioners are also free to select a group to join or try more than one until you find "the right fit."

Here is a list of St. Mark's Covenant Group Leaders: Please call them for times and locations.

- Marty Schaefer 408-253-9832
- Linda Dilisio 408-241-6308
- Ray /Deb Hess 408-225-0912
- David Muller 408-257-8262
- Brett Wormley 408-265-3237
- Elva Wormley 408-265-3237
- Dean Daily 408-281-1900
- Tom Lamb 408-376-3780
- Leroy Marcott 650-940-9173

Please call me with any questions - Rev. Ann Sullivan
408-985-7293
Director of Covenant
Group Ministry

THE HISTORY NIGHTS

One more "History Night" will be offered on February 6th at 7:00 p.m. with Fr. Ray Hess. Fr. Ray will talk about the history of the Episcopal Church from the mid 1800's to today.

DIVINE DRAMA BEGINS!

Have you noticed that the bible can be a daunting book to comprehend? Does the bible overwhelm you or intimidate you?

Would you like to join with other folks and learn a basic orientation and the major themes of scripture?

DIVINE DRAMA is a 12 week course that will be offered to the parish starting on Sunday, February 13th. *(Note: the Day Class may be offered later in the year.)*

DIVINE DRAMA is written by Harry N. Wendt and published by Crossways International. It is colorful, creative, interesting, and does a great job of making the bible story accessible to us all.

A course will be offered on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (dinner, followed by class) starting Feb. 13th. Allow an hour and a half for the actual class. You will learn the narrative thread that holds the book together. You will receive a workbook and some reading materials.

The cost for the class will be \$25.00.

Call Fr. Ray at (408) 296-8383 for more information.



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM



The Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team met on January 8 for it's monthly meeting. At this meeting we decided on the activities for the group for the month and also for the monthly workday on January 15 How excited we were. During the month of January we:

- had 2 dangerous trees removed from the church parking lot
- had all of our fire extinguishers serviced

I thank all those who came to the work party on January 15 and pruned the rose bushes, and moved the planter by the Parish Hall.

We are looking for someone to adopt the planter attached to the front of the church (right side). Please see Helene Bresette for information on the adoption process.

Dates to remember:

- Saturday, February 5 - General Planning Meeting 9:00 am
- Saturday, February 19-Breakfast Buy Your Own Breakfast (BYOB) Sara's kitchen, 8:00 am -Work party 9:00-noon

God bless you all,
Deborah Hess, Chairperson

INSTRUCTED FAMILY EUCHARIST

On Sunday February 13th, we will have an instructed Eucharist at the 9:10 a.m. service. Instead of being in their class, the Sunday School children will participate in the whole 9:10 a.m. service that Sunday. There will be teaching for children and adults in the service about the meaning of the Eucharist and the flow of the liturgy. Come and bring your children to this special learning event!

**YOU'RE
INVITED**

FELLOWSHIP ~
A Company of friends
"living the joy"

Have you joined a
covenant group yet?

Experience the blessing for yourself!
Covenant groups at St. Mark's are an
important part of the Fellowship minis-
try.

**Mark your calendar with this upcoming
Fellowship event:**

**Sunday, February 13th ~ Special St. Val-
entine's Coffee Hour**

In the Parish Hall, following the 10:30 am
service

Anyone interested in supporting this event
or future events, please contact Kathy
Woolner (244-3822) or Diane Johnston
(260-8480). **Come join us to build "A
Company of Friends".**

P.I.E. Ministry

We are looking for a few more people to
join our P.I.E. Ministry team. Members of
the P.I.E. Ministry team deliver pies to
visitors who sign our guest book. We
would like to have enough members so that
each person is only scheduled to deliver
pies one Sunday a month. The P.I.E. Min-
istry has been a very rewarding and posi-
tive experience for the team and for St.
Mark's.

We have received letters from people stat-
ing how touched they were at our hospital-
ity. Many of our new members have ex-
pressed that our pie delivery made a differ-
ence and that many of the other churches
they visited did not take the time to wel-
come them in such a thoughtful way.
Please contact Elva Wormley at 265-3237
if you're interested.

Saints Alive!

Rev. Peter Williams Cassey The First Black Man Ordained on the West Coast

By Brett Wormley



Peter Williams Cassey, a 22 year old free black man, son of the prominent Casseys of Philadelphia, arrived in California in 1853, resolute in his goal to improve the condition of Negroes in the Bay Area, and to bring the Gospel to the Colored community. Over the next 29 years he would be an influential force in ministry to a neglected

“Students came from as far away as Portland, Oregon, to attend this institution of unusually high reputation. “

Negro population in the San Jose and San Francisco areas and beyond, through the founding of St. Philip's School and Mission, as well as assisting at St. Cyprian's and Christ Church Missions in San Francisco.

He was confirmed at Trinity Church, San Jose, on April 26, 1863, and quickly made a reputation for himself of being an industrious missionary. He founded a Sunday School for Colored children, perhaps as early as 1863. Being recognized as a devout, learned, and articulate freeman, Cassey was ordained to the Episcopal Diaconate by The Rt. Rev. William Ingraham Kip (the first bishop of California) at Trinity Church, San Jose, on the 13th of September, 1866. (Incidentally, Cassey was the first person or-

daind at the infant Trinity Church).

After ordination, Rev. Cassey continued his missionary work by expanding the Sunday School. When he realized a need for a high school for poor Negro children (the San Jose School District admitted only white children), he founded St. Philip's Mission School for Negroes in December of 1862, with funds donated by the Diocese of California, later appropriations from the San Jose School District, and \$3,000 out of his own pocket.

Students came from as far away as Portland, Oregon, to attend this institution of unusually high reputation. Yet, St. Philip's struggled for existence, never being financially successful, but averaging 22 students a year at both day and night sessions. Rev. Cassey's wife, Anna B., was also committed to the support of his efforts, particularly the Sunday School.

By 1868, Rev. Cassey had also founded St. Philips Mission, formerly located at 625 Fourth St., the first Episcopalian place of worship for Negroes in the Diocese. With minimal support from the Diocese or other sources in the area, the mission managed to keep its doors open amid mounting financial obligations. Later he was asked by

Bishop Kip to assist other Negro congregations: St. Cyprian's Mission and the more successful Christ Mission in San Francisco.

In 1881, Rev. Cassey accepted a call to become the first black priest at St. Cyprian's in New Bern, North Carolina. Neither St. Philip's School nor the Missions he founded and/or supported survived much past his departure, partly due to the decline of segregation in the San Jose School District and the local Episcopal Churches, and partly due to migration of parishioners. Yet, Rev. Peter Williams Cassey obeyed God's call in laying the foundation missionary work to an otherwise neglected segment of the population, at a time when it was a struggle just to survive in the new territory of the West. He was a noteworthy black saint, influential in the mission of the Church, a man to be admired.

This article is the first in a monthly series called Saints Alive!, sharing the witness of the saints of the past.

On the Verge

[Notes from the Verger]

Thanks

To **Ray Walters** and **John and Mary Roberts** for their faithful dedication to the counting of the Sunday offering. To **Liz Moore** for keeping our records and sending us the notice of amounts pledged or donated. Thanks to **Fr. Joe** for making new arm rests for the chapel chairs and to **Ray Walters** for putting them on and for subsequent re-tightening of the arm rests. To the **Ladies of the Altar Guild** for their unselfish work on our behalf to the **acolytes** for their service and to **Ray Walters** and **Elva Wormley** for assisting in the services as Verger.

Altar Guild

Members: We welcomed our newest member **Karen Raffelson** into the Guild in September. Let us not forget to personally thank these wonderful women of the Guild for their dedication and hard work: **Helen Alam, Viola Alam, Jennifer Armstrong, Lilyann Brannon, Barbara Campbell, Carmen Eldridge, Delores Finch, Evelyn Finnigan, Helen Prendergast, Karen Raffelson, Dee Spence and Katharine Wilson**

“One may remember a special event of their life by dedicating either one or both of these floral offerings or the candle for the Sanctuary Lamp.”

Prayer Breakfast

At **7:00 AM on the second Tuesday of each month** at Mariani’s Restaurant 2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara St. Mark’s breakfast **prayer group** meets for prayer, fellowship and breakfast. The meeting lasts an hour. In addition to prayer the breakfast provides the opportunity for one to share his or her Christian life—its high and low points, struggles, and triumphs. Come join us—Sunday is not the only day for joining together in thanksgiving for our Christian life in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Flower Dedications



Reminder: We buy flowers for the altar and for the children’s chapel Sunday services each week—excepting the Sundays of the Lenten Season when we request dedication of the candle for the Sanctuary Lamp. The cost to the Guild of the flowers and candles is: altar \$30.00; Children’s chapel \$15.00 sanctuary candle \$12.00

Dedication: To dedicate one or both floral offerings or the candle for the Sanctuary Lamp enter your name on the dedication chart posted on the back wall of the church. Write (print) your name in the rectangle opposite the Sunday date on which you are dedicating one or both of the floral offerings or Sanctuary Lamp candle, Fill out one of the dedication slips—found in slot in the box below the chart. Place the dedication slip with your check made payable to St. Mark’s, with memo line to “flowers”, in one of the envelopes provided and place it in the dedication slot. One may remember a special event of their life by dedicating either one or both of these floral offerings or the candle for the Sanctuary Lamp. During Lent the candles for the Sanctuary Lamp may be dedicated. Dedications might be to memorialize a birthday, wedding or baptismal anniversary, in memory of a loved one, as a thanksgiving, or for some other special life event.

Celtic Praise

Low, High, and Deep Prayers

I send low prayers along the ground.

These are for Jesus Christ;

Asking him to heal all people.

I send high prayers into the sky

These are for our Father in heaven,

Asking him to bring peace to the world.

I send deep prayers into my heart,.

These are for the Holy Spirit

Asking him to heal and pacify my heart.

Peace,

John

Intercessory Prayer

(Copied from an old Canterbury Chapel , SJSU, Bulletin)

“If you believe at all in consultation, i.e. , getting someone else’s perspective on a problem, then you understand the mainspring of intercessory prayer. The basic assumption—and a sensible one—is that even at our most adequate we cannot unaided deal completely with someone else’s need. Intercessory prayer offers for God’s inspection, and indirectly our own, from a new perspective, whatever our hopes and intentions for the person in need are. We are no longer fighting the battle alone.

In the Rite I, the so-called Great Intercession occurs on page 329, the Prayer for the Whole State of Christ’s Church. In form this is what is called a bidding prayer. The basic categories of intercession are offered “by title”, ranging from the unity—as yet un-restored—of the church through prayers for civil and ecclesiastical authorities, for the intention of the present congregation, for the needs of others, and for those whose service among us is over.

Obviously, this can be as rich or as perfunctory an expression as we choose to make it. So that this may be an offering of real and immediate concerns, the people are notified at the beginning of special areas for intercession: people in trouble, or people who want to share in a particular happiness, significant events in churches—as here—during the reading of the Prayer itself, the celebrant will pause after each paragraph so that the people may remember the “advertised need and identify the person(s) not as “one who is ill”, but as “John Peter Smith, who is ill.” I may pray for an individual whom I know, in fact, I may even visit him or her for God’s sake, which is what intercession is all about.”



PRAYER CHAIN

A Brand New Ministry at St. Mark's

Please prayerfully consider joining the St. Mark's Prayer Chain. This is simply a group of people here at St. Mark's who pray for whomever or whatever concern we are asked to pray. This could be as simple as being anxious about a job related problem. You may be going on a trip and wish prayers for safe travel. Or, a friend may be having surgery next month and needs prayers for the doctor's skill, etc. This is about voicing the prayers we each do individually, on Sunday, in corporate worship.

The Prayer Chain focuses intentions and petitions giving them voice and allowing your church family to lift up anything you feel needs prayer. The process is simple. We pray once a day for one week for each request, unless otherwise requested. You may pray on your way to work, in the shower, whatever suites you best. If you become a part of the prayer chain, it requires of you, one phone call to pass along the prayers you have received. Email is the other option. Give me your email address and I'll put you on the Chain. Pray about it!

If you would like to put someone or something on the Prayer Chain give your request to Fr. Ray, or call me. If you would be interested in joining, or have any questions, please call Rev. Judy Ahlvin 408. 782-5820. Or, email me at adlantis@safemail.com.

“You may pray on your way to work, in the shower, whatever suites you best. “

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Blanche Jeffrey	1st
Marge Fields	2nd
Gordon Eden	4th
Jim Holtz	6th
Helmut Manderbach	8th
John Cole	8th
Lorraine Shertzer	11th
Rosaine Vasquez	11th
Vesta Berger	12th
Helen Prendergast	15th
Jim Terrell	16th
Charlie Cramer	17th
Gina	18th
Karl Manderbach	19th
Frank Vasquez	20th
William DiBenedetto	25th
Sonia Alam	29th



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Blanche & James Jeffery	7th
Dorothy & Cyprian Okafor	8th
Stan & Sandra Ketchum	12th
Scott & Kelly Broberg	25th

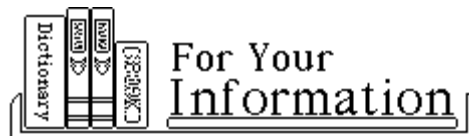
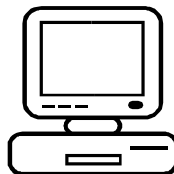
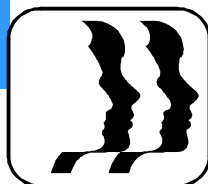
ACOLYTE TRAINING AND PIZZA!

On Saturday February 26th, we will have a training session for all current acolytes and for anyone who would like to become an acolyte. The training will be led by Fr. Ray and John Cole, our verger. The training will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon, followed by pizza in the parish hall. Please call the church office at 296-8383 to let us know if you will attend.

***Office Hours:**
11:30AM-
2:30PM
Mon. - Fri.

St. Mark's web site:
www.St-Marks.org/restricted/members

User Name: saint
Password: agtmEc



STAFF:

Ray Hess, Rector
Ann Sullivan, Assistant Priest
Rev. Judith L. Ahlvin, Deacon
Kate Mikami, Preschool Director
Julie Macchi, Church Secretary
John Cole, Verger
Dean Daily, Senior Warden
Diane Johnston, Junior Warden
Charlie Cramer, Music Director
Mikey Day & his Dad, Praise Band
Al Daily, Treasurer
Liz Moore, Recording Treasurer

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David: drmuller@mindspring.com
Diane: didij@flash.net
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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



Monthly Newsletter – February 2000 Edition

"A growing, thriving, missionary church"

Living the Joy