



Highlights:

- Walkers Arise!
- Covenant Groups
- Youth Group News
- Deanery Socks Project
- Saints Alive!



Rector's Ramblings

by Fr. Ray

Monthly Newsletter April 2000

The Good News

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

It's halftime! When you receive this newsletter, we will be about halfway through Lent. How are you doing with your Lenten disciplines and commitments? Like halftime in a ballgame, this is time to stop and see how we are doing and to make corrections. If you wrote down your Lenten disciplines on paper, take a look and evaluate.

Whether written or not, the purpose of any Lent observance is to help us draw closer to God. Is this happening for you? If you never got around to making any special commitments for Lent, it is not too late to start!

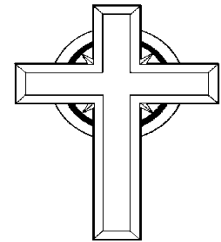
I have been reading three devotional books for Lent. I find my choice of books to be interesting and perhaps says something about where I am in my life. One is a book of daily meditations for Lent titled, Behold Your Life, by Marina Wiederkehr, a Roman Catholic sister. The meditations are about our

life memories, with prayers for God's healing and love as we reflect about our memories. The second book is called Dear Heart, Come Home, by Joyce Rupp. It is a devotional book about "midlife spirituality," written by a Christian woman in her early fifties. The third book is Hope Begins Where Hope Begins, by Michael Downey, a Roman Catholic theology professor. It is about the nature of Christian hope. This is all good food for thought and growth for me - life memories given to God, living with God through midlife, and hope.

I will finish the Lenten season with the book on hope, an appropriate ending to the season! After all, we are heading toward the season of hope and joy: Easter. Ultimately, this is what our

Christian life is all about - experiencing new hope, joy, and love in our Risen Lord Jesus. I do hope that we will all have a helpful, fruitful Lenten season and a very joyful Easter!

In Jesus' love,
Fr. Ray



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WHAT'S THE VESTRY UP TO?

We started our new year together with a wonderful vestry retreat on the ocean front at the Villa Del Mar in Santa Cruz. We came away from this time with a real sense of having bonded with each other and an urgency to work together to do God's will at Saint Mark's.

After prayer and discussion three focus areas emerged.

Our SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCE

What: Making our worship experience warm, welcoming and wonderful

Who: It involves everyone

Why? To please God

EXPANSION OF PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE

What: Creating a second preschool classroom

Offering child care on campus after refitting the parish hall to meet all state requirements

Who: It involves everyone

Why? As community outreach and to update and make more user friendly our present campus

DEVELOPMENT/CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR COVENANT GROUP MINISTRY

What: Starting new covenant groups and encouraging the existing groups

Who: It involves everyone

Why? To provide opportunities for Christian Community building

Please keep the vestry in your thoughts and prayers as we continue this year.

With love in Christ, Linda DiLisio your Senior Warden



WALKERS, ARISE!

Actually, this walk doesn't even ask that you set your alarm for an early rising. The CropWalk is sooooo easy! The CropWalk 2000 starts at 1 P.M. Sunday, April 9th at Lincoln High School, 555 Dana Ave., just south of Naglee. It also ends there, so plan to park across the street from the school.

In case you don't know what a CropWalk is all about, it's to raise money for the international relief efforts by Church World Service and for our local Second Harvest Food Bank and Sacred Heart Community. Our Presiding Bishop's Fund contributes in a major way, but this is the local churches' way of augmenting the national church giving.

Church World Service works through local religious groups all over the world to alleviate the suffering that results from both natural disasters and human actions. This fundraising effort will carry the love and compassion we feel for those victims by enabling blankets, Tools of Hope and Gifts of the Heart to reach them.

One-mile and five-mile grids are well marked, and there are breaks available along the way. The walk around the Municipal Rose Garden is always a great start and there are police at any intersections.

There will be the usual entertainment before the walk, good band music and some singing, so plan to be there about 12:30. After the walk, there are Hobee's coffee cake and beverages and Bella Mia lunch coupons.

If you can't join us on the walk, won't you pledge \$5 or more for each mile walked by other St. Mark's members? And please, tell your non-church friends about what we're doing; they'll probably want to pledge, too.

Contact Lilyann Brannon, 241-5769, for pledge forms and any other information you need. That's Sunday, April 9th.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE (WITH NOTES)

Palm Sunday April 16 - Blessing of palms, passion narrative, and Eucharist at all three services. The passion narrative is the dramatic reading of the account of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion (according to Mark this year). At the 9:15 and 11:00 services, we will begin the service with the procession from the courtyard to the church.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

There will be a PALM SUNDAY PICNIC at 12:15 p.m., after all the services, with continental lunch provided by the Fellowship Team, and a JERUSALEM MARKET created by our Sunday School children and our youth. Come, see, and enjoy!

Maundy Thursday April 20 - 6:30p.m. service, starting in parish hall with supper (see fellowship team article about the supper). The Ministry of the Word will be done in the parish hall with the supper. This part of the service will include the lessons, homily, foot-washing, and prayers. The setting in the parish hall will help us relive Jesus' Last Supper. All are welcome to participate in the foot-washing, but it will not be required (women should not wear panty hose if they want to participate!). The service will move to the church sanctuary for Holy Communion around the altar. This will be celebrated in a simple, informal way to recall the first Communion Jesus had with his disciples in the upper room. The service

will conclude with the stripping of the altar area, preparing for the solemn mood of Good Friday.

Good Friday April 21 - noon, Ecumenical Service at Santa Clara Presbyterian Church, at the corner of San Tomas and Homestead, Santa Clara. This service will involve several Santa Clara churches, and it will include music, scripture readings, a meditation, and prayers. This will be a powerful service and a chance to witness Christian unity in our area.

1 p.m. - 3 p.m., meditations and readings at St. Mark's church sanctuary. This will be a quiet time for prayer and meditation. You are welcome to drop in anytime during this period (the church will be open from noon to 3 p.m.; the meditations will start at 1 p.m.).

6:30 p.m., Good Friday Liturgy, at St. Mark's, with music by our choir. Our choir each year prepares special music for Good Friday evening. This is a very powerful, beautiful experience.

Easter Eve April 22 - 8 p.m., Great Vigil of Easter. This is the most ancient, powerful celebration of Easter. The service begins with the church in darkness, the darkness of Good Friday. Then the Easter Pascal Candle is lit and processed up the aisle. Everyone in the church has small candles which are lit from the Pascal

Candle. In the candlelight, the Exsultet is sung, which recalls God's mighty acts in history. Then there is a series of four scripture readings which also describe God's saving work in history. At the end of the readings, the lights are

turned on, the altar candles lit, and the first Eucharist of Easter begins. There are baptisms and the celebration of communion. After the service, there will be a party in the parish hall. The Great Vigil comes from the early Church's all night vigil celebration of Easter. It is the most beautiful liturgy of the entire Church Year; be sure to attend this!

Easter Day April 23- 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite I, with Easter music led by our choir 9:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite II with contemporary music (***NOTE TIME CHANGE***) 10:45 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds, with refreshments for all 11 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Easter music led by our choir.

Childcare will be available at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services. There will not be Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

EASTER MORNING IS A WONDERFUL TIME TO INVITE A FRIEND TO ATTEND WORSHIP WITH YOU!

Fellowship – “living the joy!”

**YOU'RE
INVITED**

Every Sunday morning, between 10:15 am and 11:00 am, you are invited to the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship! It's a wonderful time to meet someone new, catch up with a friend, and talk with clergy, and others. As warm summer weather arrives, refreshments may be available outside the Parish Hall for your enjoyment.

If you attend the 11:00 am service, your help in set up for the fellowship time is appreciated. If you attend the 9:15 am service, your help in clean up for the fellowship time is appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Thank you for your support and participation in our fellowship ministry!

Have you joined a covenant group yet? Don't miss out! Experience the blessing for yourself! Covenant groups at St. Mark's are an important part of the Fellowship ministry. ☺

Mark your calendar with these upcoming Fellowship events:

- **Sunday, April 16th** ~ Palm Sunday Continental Picnic featuring a “Jerusalem Marketplace” from St. Mark's children and young adults! Beginning at 12:30 pm on the St. Mark's grounds. Food and beverages will be provided. Please RSVP on the easel.
- **Thursday, April 20th** ~ Maundy Thursday Soup Supper in the Parish Hall. Two or three volunteers are needed to make soup and bread.
- **Saturday, April 22nd** ~ Easter Eve Vigil in the Parish Hall following the evening service. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!
- **Sunday, April 23rd** ~ Enjoy refreshments during the children's Egg Hunt
- **Saturday, May 20th** ~ Women's Garden Tea Luncheon in Kathy Woolner's garden at 11:30 am.

Anyone interested in helping with these events or future events, please contact Kathy Woolner (244-3822) or Diane Johnston (260-8480).

HEALING MISSION IN SALINAS



The Order of St. Luke Chapter of Salinas is sponsoring a Healing Mission on Saturday April 1. The mission will take place at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 315 East Alvine Drive, Salinas (take #101 South to Salinas, exit at East Boronda Road, stay on Boronda Rd. past the shopping mall, turn right on McKinnon. Northminster Presbyterian is at the corner of McKinnon and East Alvine Drive, just down the street from St. George's Episcopal Church). Registration starts at 8 a.m., with the mission beginning at 8:45 a.m. Cost is \$20 per person.

The Healing Mission will feature the Venerable Larry Mitchell, Rector of St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Saskatoon, Canada. Fr. Mitchell has many year's experience in healing ministry and is an excellent teacher. He will speak in the morning and afternoon, and there will be several workshops about healing also. Praise music will be led by Whitestone, a Christian music group from Arvada, Colorado.

On Friday evening March 31st, there will be a Healing Service at St. George's Episcopal Church, Salinas (see directions above) at 7 p.m. There is no fee for this worship service.



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM

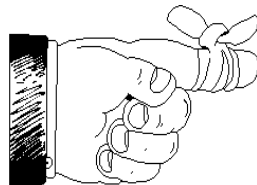


The Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team met on March 4, 2000 for its monthly meeting. At this meeting we decided on the activities for the group for the month and also for the monthly workdays on March 18 April 15. The sign plans are coming along but much slower than we had hoped. We hope to have more progress soon. We have had 2 major concerns brought to us over the month. The first is the lack of care taken in making sure that the buildings are locked up at night. The microwave oven donated by a member of Holy Child Congregation was stolen and Room 19 was broken into a week or 2 after that. There was NO sign of forced entry into the parish hall either time. Another concern is that we have homeless people sleeping in the courtyard area nightly. When the parish hall or restrooms are left unlocked they sleep in there and at times "trash" the area. They have been defecating in the courtyard area and either the sexton's or Kate Mikami our preschool teacher are having to clean up after them. Many Sundays our sextons are working around the sleepers in front of the office, in the restroom or in the restroom alcoves. The police have been called to do walkthroughs of the campus to discourage the presence of these people.

We had our March BYOB (Buy Your Own Breakfast) at Sara's Kitchen. Afterward we met at the church campus to do some minor work. It has been scheduled to have the ALL PARISH WORKDAY on May 20. Please mark your calendars.

Please come to any of our meetings to see if this is a ministry that you may feel called to join and we encourage new members to join us at any time.

Dates to remember:
Saturday, April 01-General Planning meeting and Work Party - 9:00 am



**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO
HELPED PUT SAND IN THE PLAY YARD.**

Deborah Hess, Chairperson

COVENANT GROUPS



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.

All St. Mark's parishioners and their friends are welcomed and encouraged to join a covenant group. Feel free to select a group to join or try more than one until you find "the right fit."

Please call one of the St. Mark's Covenant Group Leaders for times and locations:

Linda Dilisio- Thurs. 7-9 p.m.
241-6308

Ray /Deb Hess-Wed. 7-9 p.m.
225-0912

Brett Wormley- Thur. 7-9 p.m.
265-3237

Elva Wormley-Wed. 7-9 p.m.
265-3237

Dean Daily -Wed. 10:45-12:15a.m.
281-1900

Kevin Cox-Men's Group-Starting Soon!



Children's Ministries



Our children's education ministries continue to grow this year. The Sunday school for ages 3-12 has been holding classes during both the 9:15 and 11:00 services for several weeks now; this has been quite a success, with over 20 children attending on a typical Sunday. As a reminder, the two sessions are the same, so either can be attended on any given week, and parents are welcome to stay in the Sunday school with their children, especially the first few times. We are also moving rapidly toward starting an additional class especially for the 8-12 year age group. We welcome your input regarding the content of this new program, and are always open to volunteers to help start up or run any of the classes.

Several special events are coming up. On Palm Sunday we will put on a Jerusalem Market during the fellowship hour, featuring booths with typical middle-eastern items, and the opening of a 'Shekel Store', where children can spend shekels 'earned' during other activities. On Easter Sunday we will not hold the regular Sunday school classes, but invite children to attend one of the services and to participate in an Easter egg hunt during the fellowship hour, probably around 10:45.



The other week we had the first of a series of family pot-lucks, hosted most graciously by Elaine and Ian. We had a wonderful time at this gathering, with the children playing together and the parents enjoying quieter fellowship as well as a little brainstorming about our children's programs. A brief meeting of the education team itself was also included - those parents went to another room, while everyone else watched the kids. Everyone is invited to the next of these, which will be held on Sunday, May 7, at about 12:30 p.m. at Dave and Kim's place; please ask Dave or Elaine for details.

The children's ministry team

YOUTH GROUP

February SKI TRIP



The ride up to Camp Sylvester is half the fun, since you're stuck in a car with a bunch of buds or new people and you have nothing better to do than to talk about stuff for five and a half hours. I'm sure it sounds long but trust me, with the right music and a nice stash of munchies, life in a car isn't too bad. Once we got up there it was really dark, but after spending forever and a day sitting down, running a muck in the snow is almost irresistible. On Saturday we had a nice short service and then a "dance" that would have been pretty awesome had more people stuck around. I spent my free time with the rest of the non-skiers (just can't see how falling in the snow with huge pieces of plastic stuck to my feet could be more fun than just falling in the snow with plain old boots). And on Sunday I joined a massive snowball fight on the other side of the camp. It was raining instead of snowing at this point, but like that's going to stop anybody! We all managed to get completely soaked and have a blast at the same time. All I can say is thank goodness for a constant supply of hot cocoa. This trip is always so much fun because you met up with old friends and manage to leave with at least one new friend too.

Angela Troxell



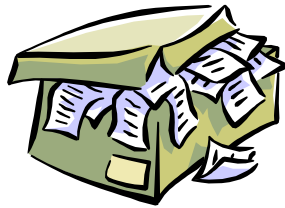
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Here's more exciting youth news! The Diocese of El Camino Real will be holding the next happening at St. Mark's! Happening is open to all high school youth. It is a spiritual renewal weekend, much like Cursillo for adults. Happening will be held April 7-9. More information will follow.

Deanery's Socks Box Project



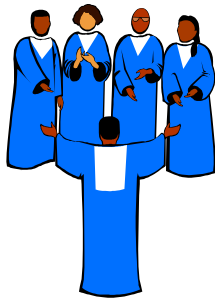
Thanks to all who participated in the March "Socks Box" collection Santa Maria Urban Ministry. We had a fantastic response -- hundreds of items were collected by the parishes of the Central and South Valley Deaneries. It was a terrific joint success -- watch for more Deanery projects in the future.



Thank you.
Barbara



Good Friday Service April 21st 7:30 PM Special Choral Presentation The St. Mark's Choir



The choir will present the moving "**Service of Darkness**" by Dale Wood. Wood has set poetry from various centuries as meditations on each of Christ's seven last words. This is powerful and inspiring music, done by one of the choir's favorite contemporary composers. Please plan on attending this meaningful service, and to support the choir in their hard work in preparing this music.

Thanks
Charlie Cramer



INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

To all of you who purchased the Children's Art Pins last month, many thanks for your help in supporting homelessness in Silicon Valley. The funds from your purchases will be used for the start-up costs for Silicon Valley Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Interfaith Hospitality Network is a National organization, founded in 1988 in New Jersey. Since that time, there have been 64 Interfaith Hospitality Network affiliates established in 24 states and currently there are 51 developing networks across the country. These networks provide shelter, meals, and comprehensive assistance to over 60,000 homeless family members, 60% of whom are children, most of whom are under the age of 5.

Silicon Valley Interfaith Hospitality Network is in the development stage, with several core members who meet regularly to establish an operating network in our immediate area. St. Mark's is now a host member of the Network, along with Good Samaritan United Methodist Church in Cupertino. We are seeking other host churches or synagogues to join us. The host congregations provide shelter for homeless families, for a total of 14 persons. They also provide meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner and host the families overnight. The families rotate between the 10 to 13 host congregations each week. The families arrive Sunday afternoon at the congregation and depart early the following Sunday morning. During the day, they are transported to a Day Center where they have access to showers, laundry facilities, telephone and case management personnel who help them with jobs and permanent housing.

The Network provides for the Day Center, a van and driver to transport the families, and Case Management to screen and support the families. The Network also purchases the folding cots, mattresses, pillows and blankets need for overnight sleeping and a full time paid Network Director who oversees the management of the Network and coordinates the move to each host congregation.

With the highest cost of housing in the nation, our area has a real need to help the homeless families get on their feet. If you would like to help in any way, we would love to have your support.

Jack Gorham



The 10:30 congregation tried out a new hymn called Jerusalem a few weeks ago. The music is very beautiful; it was composed by Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, (1848 - 1918) an English composer, as a setting for part of a famous poetical work called Milton by William Blake, poet, painter and religious mystic born in 1757 who died in 1827..

Here are Blake's words, listed in English hymnals as #656A, usually the last or nearly last hymn in their various hymnals, and sung with considerable emotion by English congregations on national days of importance.

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold !
Bring me my arrows of desire !
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold !
Bring me my chariot of fire !
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

This is a hymn very much loved in England . It has a status in England somewhat similar to our America The Beautiful. .

Elaine Merritt



Saints Alive! Saint Mark the Evangelist (Celebrated on April 25)

A disciple of Jesus, named Mark, appears in several places in the New Testament. If all references to Mark can be accepted as referring to the same person, we learn that he was the son of a woman who owned a house in Jerusalem, perhaps the same house in which Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples. Mark may have been the young man who fled naked when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. In his letter to the Colossians, Paul refers to "Mark the cousin of Barnabas," who was with him in his imprisonment. Mark set out with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but he turned back for reasons which failed to satisfy Paul (Acts 15:36-40). When another journey was planned, Paul refused to have Mark with him. Instead, Mark went with Barnabas to Cyprus. The breach between Paul and Mark was later healed, and Mark became one of Paul's companions in Rome, as well as a close friend of Peter's.

An early tradition recorded by Papias, Bishop of Hieropolis in Asia Minor at the beginning of the second century, names Mark as the author of the Gospel bearing his name. This tradition, which holds that Mark drew his information from the teaching of Peter, is generally accepted. In his First Letter, Peter refers to "my son Mark," which shows a close relationship between the two men (1 Peter 5:13).

The Church of Alexandria in Egypt claimed Mark as its first bishop and most illustrious martyr, and the great Church of St. Mark in Venice commemorates the disciple who progressed from turning back while on a missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas to proclaiming in his Gospel Jesus of Nazareth as Son of God, and bearing witness to that faith in his later life as friend and companion to the apostles Peter and Paul.

>From Lesser Feasts and Fasts.

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Willy Bacigalupo	1st
Kathleen Bagby	4th
Linda DiLisio	5th
Martha Bean	17th
Margaret Shrady	23rd
Hugh Eden	26th
Bob Wiecking	27th
Steve Moore	28th



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Deborah & Raymond Hess, III	1st
Willy & Joseph Bacigalupo	22nd
Marjorie & L. Richards	25th

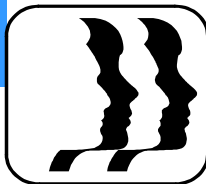


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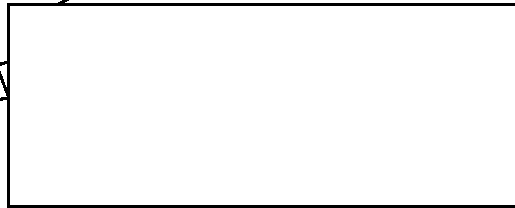
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St. Mark's Episcopal Church

"Living the joy!"

The Good News

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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Monthly Newsletter – April 2000 Edition
"A growing, thriving, missionary Episcopal church"
Living the Joy