

June 2010



St. Mark's Episcopal Church Newsletter

From the Rector

How do we measure growth? Growing up as kids, once a year on our birthday, my father would carefully mark our height in pencil on a doorframe in the kitchen. "Stand up tall," he would say, and I can still feel the pencil press across the top of my head as it marked the frame. Years later, when the family moved away from the house where we all grew up, Dad was tempted to pry the door molding loose and replace it so he could take it with us as a record. Surely, the record was lost when the new owner repainted the kitchen. Here at St. Mark's we have concentrated on parish growth and development, especially in the area of welcoming new members. A regular group has been working on ways for St. Mark's to become better known to folks who may not belong to a parish church. News releases, articles, signage around town, word of mouth, new website design, direct letters of invitation, brochures, personal welcoming of first-time visitors have been a concentrated effort. Almost weekly new folks visit the parish on Sunday, inactive members have "reactivated," five people were received when the bishop visited (not all were new members). Growth has been small but perceptible.

Measurable growth is like the pencil marks on the kitchen molding...it moves gradually. While budget income is not the only way to measure, it is a practical measure of parish growth. Our effort to grow has been in response to our search process effort to increase our financial giving in order to "afford" the cost of a full-time rector. The reality is that new parishioners do not instantly translate into new pledged income. It takes time for joining members to become part of the system by which we measure income... or even for them to know what it means to make an annual pledge. The mechanics of pledging and what an average weekly pledge per member needs to be to balance the parish budget is not an early part of the conversation with folks who are thinking about joining. That conversation can wait, as it should.

These facts are being considered by the vestry as we look ahead. While we are holding even, the fact is that there has been no sudden surge in pledge income this year...certainly not at levels that make the cost of full-time clergy a near reality. Given what we hear generally about parish finances around the diocese, the fact that St. Mark's is not slipping backward is, in itself, encouraging. Bishop Lane reports that every parish and diocesan program is struggling with much less than what is needed to continue as before. Reductions from full to half-time clergy are being reported...many places with two clergy have moved back to one...and, in some cases, parish vestries have had to make a hard decision to close the parish. Again, Bishop Lane says, "The fat is off the bone in most places in Maine." The same may be said of every institution, school, hospital or organization everywhere. These are leaner times, and creative efforts to re-think how to operate are shared by all.

As we approach the summer, St. Mark's Vestry and Discernment Committee are very focused on our own creative effort to rethink how we will operate and move forward in these shared circumstances

of leaner times. The news is not bad, nor is the future of St. Mark's anywhere near jeopardy, but challenging our creative efforts are realities that may not make things look exactly as they have always been.

How can you help? Regular attendance at church brings vitality to our life and makes an important first impression on visitors. Staying current with your pledge is vital, too (currently the pledge income report to date is \$13k short...not a good way to start the summer). If you have one, please do your volunteer job well and completely; or consider volunteering when something needs to be done. Encourage neighbors and friends and newcomers to Waterville to consider St. Mark's as a regular community. Pray for the strength and vision and creative insight of those in the parish who are working closely with every detail of our life and future. Be of good cheer, and surround yourself and others with the positive energy of joy and wonder in all you do and all you are.

Stephen

From the Senior Warden

Several topics:

Summer fundraiser. So far no one has come forward to volunteer to organize the summer fundraiser. We are supposed to raise \$1500 in the summer event (it is in the 2010 budget). Paula Saul has agreed to run the yard sale portion of the fundraiser, and I'd be willing to cook hamburgers and hotdogs like I did last year with Rick MacKenzie's help. Steve mentioned an alternative to this which would be for each pledging unit to donate fifteen to twenty dollars to come up with the \$1500.

Mission Strategy and Mission Priority Group. Our group met with Bishop Lane last Saturday at Camp Bishopswood to discuss the progress of the committee. Many area groups have met and discussed their preferences for the direction the Diocese should go in the attempt to spend less money. The early budget projections for the 2011 Diocesan budget will be about 10 percent less than 2010. Cuts will be made across the board and not in individual programs. Mission churches are expected to be really hurt by this. We at St. Mark's need to hold a regional meeting with our neighbors in Skowhegan and Palmyra to discuss some of these issues. More information to follow.

Great progress is being made on sprucing up the church. Kudos should go to the Junior Warden and his band for their work and all of the people who have done a great job in cleaning up the place. There are still rooms that need adopting and lots of small jobs that need attention. If interested contact Alan.

Camp Bishopswood. I am now the facilities' chairperson on the board at Bishopswood. Many expensive but necessary projects are being worked on before the campers arrive for the summer. Registration is ahead of 2009 at this point, so that is a good thing. Please spread the word that St. Mark's, Waterville, is much appreciated by Camp officials and board members for our continued support. We provide needed scholarship money, send down many fine counselors, and have folks who are willing to help in a number of ways down at camp.

Bob Johnston, Senior Warden

Rummage Sale June 4th

The Rummage Sale is almost here! Please bring items you wish to donate to the church this week (May 31—June 3). Set up will be done Thursday, June 3, starting at 11 AM — feel free to come and help! The sale will run from 9—1 on Friday, June 4.



Martha Guild Meeting

Joan Coleman will speak on nutrition at the next meeting, on June 2. Please join us. Bring a sandwich-drinks and dessert will be provided.

Help Committee

I want to thank all those parishioners I called to ask them to provide a meal or meals to two of our members who were in need of temporary help. The responses I received made my ministry so easy. Again, many thanks.
Tossie Kozen

Are you over 50? Do you enjoy exercise in the fresh air with friends?
The Muskie Center is starting a new walking club for those over 50. The pre-meeting is this coming Tuesday, May 25 at 9:00 and the first walk is Tuesday, June 2nd at 8:30 AM. Please call 873-4745 for more information or to sign up. Each week will include a different local trail, track or venue. Get fit with your friends! The \$2.00 participation fee will include a bottle of water, a volunteer guide and transportation from the Muskie Center to the walking site if needed.

A Lesson from the Gulf Oil Spill: We are All Connected. You can read Presiding Bishop Schori's thoughts on this problem posted in the online Huffington Post, at the following URL: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bishop-katharine-jefferts-schori/lessons-from-the-gulf-oil_b_591160.html

Prayers for Healing

Prayers for Healing are available at the Communion Rail by the Baptismal Font at the conclusion of each Sunday Eucharist and during the Wednesday 10 AM Eucharist. A member of the parish healing team listens quietly to a few words about a particular personal concern or a request for a prayer for someone for whom you are concerned.

Those thoughts and needs are focused in a prayer and by a gentle touch of hands on the head. While God knows our needs before we ask, our own words of awareness and reflection and the quiet prayers of another person have a powerful assurance as we feel held in prayer.

To Remember in Your Prayers:

Sick or Convalescent

Amanda Kluzak
Deborah Dawson
Betty Lee
Maddy
Marty Spann
Lawrence Frye
Jan Covell
Michael Witham
Lorraine Hyer

Gary Witham
Sarah
RaeAnn
Bonnie
Clarence Shepherd
J. Alan Howard
Fay
Megan Hope Joyce
Leona Butler

Barbara Jordan
Sandy Hill
Baby Clement Hart
Heather Flewelling
Paul & Lucille Audet
Clifford Russell
Marilyn
Roger Langille

Home-Bound or in Nursing Homes

Barbara
Carole Burke
Kathy Turner
Avery
Janet Scott

Gard and Nona Young
Mary
Betty Lou Beckert
Ed Todd

Emilia Goodine
Irene Fenderson
Barbara Miller
Hal Anderson

For the Departed, especially —

Gary Neally

Ken Goodine

Deployed with the Military

Clint Weaver

Jeff Ashton

Newsletter note: there will be no newsletter published for July. The next issue will come out at a date in August to be determined by the need for announcement of scheduled meetings and events.

St. Mark's Schedule of Services

Rite One 8:00 a.m. and Rite Two 10:15 a.m.

From June 20th on, summer schedule: Holy Eucharist at 9 a.m.

Wednesday Holy Eucharist Rite Two – 10:00 a.m.

The mission of St. Mark's Episcopal Church is to celebrate with joy the full extent of worship and prayer in the Anglican tradition; to foster in young and old spiritual growth through education and fellowship; to recognize and respond to human needs and responsibilities within and beyond our parish; to direct our Christian love to all people.

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Steven Lane

Interim Rector

The Very Rev. Stephen Foote

Deacon

MontyHenderson

Music Director

Mary E. Rector

Organist

Alan Wingard

Dir. of Christian Ed. & Formation

Jane Burke

Vestry

Robert Johnston, Senior Warden

Rudy Landry

Tina Wentzel

Andrew Higbie

Alan Johnston, Junior Warden

Stew Stokes

Tim Rector

Sue Nelson

Dan Eccher, Treasurer

Pam Twist

Lee Lyford

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Steve: foote@tidewater.net

Deacon: Monty Henderson dhenderson41846@roadrunner.com

Our thanks to Great Works Internet for their generous program supporting web sites for nonprofits in Maine.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Calendar

Have a Good Summer!

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Quilters 10-Noon PSM 1-2:30 PM	2 HE 10 AM MG Noon Potluck	3 Choir 7 PM	4 Rummage Sale 9—1	5
6 HE 8 AM 10:15 AM	7	8	9 HE 10 AM	10 Choir 7 PM	11	12
13 HE 8 AM 10:15 AM	14	15 Quilters 10-Noon PSM 1-2:30 PM Seekers 6:30 PM	16 HE 10 AM	17 Choir 7 PM	18	19
20 <i>Father's Day</i> HE 9 AM Summer Schedule starts	21	22	23 HE 10 AM Vestry 5:30 PM	24	25	26
27 HE 9 AM	28	29 Quilters 10-Noon PSM 1-2:30 PM	30 HE 10 AM			

HE - Holy Eucharist

MG - Martha Guild

PSM - Prayer Shawl Ministry