



THE LION

EDITION: January 2007

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2300 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94704
Office: 510-848-5107
Fax: 510-848-2269
Music Office: 510-845-0888
office@stmarksberkeley.org

ON THE WEB

www.stmarksberkeley.org

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

8:00 a.m. Spoken – Chapel
10:00 a.m. Choral – In the Nave
with Sunday School & Childcare
7:30 p.m. Informal - Chapel

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

12:10 p.m. Wednesday & Friday In Chapel

STAFF

The Rev. C. Robbins Clark, *Rector*
The Rev. Ellen Ekström, *Deacon*
George Anton Emblom, *Director of Music*
Vanessa Capino, *Office Coordinator*
Courtney Storm, *Property Manager*
Ed Silberman, *Child Care Supervisor*
Raymond Arnold, Karen Jones, *Sextons*

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Revv. Kate and Jason Alexander,
Gary Brower, David Gortner,
Arthur Holder,
Micah Jackson, James B. Jones,
Scott Sinclair, Owen Thomas,
John Turnbull, Heather VanDeventer,
Patricia Walker-Sprague, Louis Weil

VESTRY

John Harding, *Senior Warden*
Andrea Foley, *Junior Warden*
Bob Williams, *Treasurer*
Laura Jackson, *Clerk*
Virginia Blackledge, Fran Carlson,
Kevin Crispin-Alfieri, Jay Gaskill,
Chrissie Grover-Roybal, Meg Mealy
W. Wayne Ritchie, Isabella Salaverry,
Anne Smith.

St. Mark's Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2007 11:30 a.m.
in Parish Hall

- ❖ Celebration of Ministries
- ❖ Budget Presentation
- ❖ Elections

Please join us! Childcare will be provided. There will be an abbreviated Coffee Hour downstairs, then more substantial goodies upstairs at the meeting. We are generally finished by 1:00 p.m.

In preparation for the meeting, a Report of 2006 at St. Mark's is being prepared. Annual reports from all those in charge of any ministry area (committee chairs, etc.) are due in by **January 10**. Reports should be submitted to the church office, preferably via email, either as a Word attachment or in the body of the email message. The office can provide last year's report upon request.

Report from the Vestry Nominating Committee

The Vestry Nominating Committee, composed of outgoing vestry members Virginia Blackledge, Bob Williams and Andrea Foley, was charged with the task of finding not one or two candidates for Vestry 2007 but five! Replacements are needed for the above-named three whose terms expire, plus Isabella Salaverry and Anne Smith. We are pleased to report that we have five strong candidates:

Bruce Alexander

I was born in Orange, NJ but was raised in the area in and around Hartford, CT. After receiving a BA from Trinity College in Hartford, I studied philosophy at Princeton University and taught philosophy for a few years before moving to Berkeley in 1973. In a dramatic career change, I ended up managing a wine and cheese store in San Francisco. I left that position in 1982 to explore the possibility of entering a monastery. After considerable thought and prayer, however, I decided against it and took a job in student services at UCB where I became the Director of Student Affairs for the Music Department. I retired from the university in June of 2005. I was raised a Congregationalist and was very active in the church on both the local and national levels.

(Continued on pg. 4)

A Few Words from the Deacon ... Makin' a list, crossing stuff off.

I feel as if I've just stepped off the "Pirates of the Caribbean" ride at Disneyland. The last year has been full of twists and turns, tears, laughter, shocks and surprises. And you know? I hope this next year is full of the same – but without the great drama and pain of September.

So here we are at a new year again. For many, it's the time to make resolutions, time to forget about the twelve pounds of chocolate eaten from Thanksgiving to December 31st, sweep the pine needles off the carpet and push the furniture back to where it used to be before the tree was brought in. It's time to begin again and mean it.

The month of January for me is no longer a 'sad month'. I used to call it sad because it was right after the high expectations and excitement of Christmas and New Year's, it was a month where we caught our breath and longed for Christmas Eve and Christmas morning, and everything after seemed anti-climatic. Now, it is a month of reflection and anticipation. I get my soul and heart in order in the days following Christmas. I make very good attempts to organize the piles of books and papers, the bags of yarn, the laundry basket that hasn't been emptied for days – okay, weeks (hey, at least I know where the clean socks are).

I've decided that this year, to facilitate getting my personal 'house' in order, I'm going to make lists. I'm pretty good at making lists and following through. What will be on the lists? I haven't thought it out to an end result yet, but at the top of the list is something I try every year, but life as you and I know it interrupts the best intended plans – thirty minutes every day for God.

I figure if I take the time, really, really, *really*, take the time and not just make noise about doing it, I will have taken another step toward fulfilling my baptismal promises. How? Taking time for God and actually hearing what is being said, opens us up for the grace and love given to us by our faith, and through and by that, enables us to continue resisting evil, repent, turn back to God, proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, and seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

What will be next on the list? It all depends on what God says to me. One thing is for certain, on the list will be "Ministry at St. Mark's". My presence at St. Mark's as your sister in Christ and your deacon will continue. I pray that together we may discover new ways of making St. Mark's a place where all are included and all are drawn to the Word, where we minister to one another and show that the Word is love; where we become examples of Christ's love to the community around us. I've thrown out some ideas for ways of ministering to one another – the Blankies & Jammies Project, the Shawl Ministry. There's another item for the list – keep going with the projects. Even if only two of us are working at something, Christ is there with us. I don't want to do this alone. Will you help?

There's so much to do, and so many possibilities that excitement mounts. I'll sign off now and start that list. But first, I'll put away the laundry in the basket.

Happy New Year and may God's blessings and love be yours to pass along. With God's love and mine,

--Ellen

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy continuing Christmastide! I am writing on the fourth day of the festival and am hoping that you will join me in keeping the season for its full twelve days, culminating with our Epiphany Eucharist on Friday, January 5th (Twelfth Night). Don't be in a hurry to clear away all the decorations. Keep the crèche set up and have fun moving the Magi toward it from the other end of the house. But most importantly, keep the sense of joy at God's coming among us in Jesus. As Brother Lawrence the humble cooking monastic, advises us, 'Practice the presense of God among the pots and pans.'

As most of you know, I quite enjoy being 'among the pots and pans,' and I've had lots of opportunity to be there lately. In addition to my own holiday cooking and entertaining. I've been helping with Hot Meals and cooking for YEAH! (the youth shelter). In my usual daily life my cooking does not run to such quantities, so find it exciting to be stirring up giant batches of this and that. And I love the change from a solitary endeavor to a group effort. Doing a job together divides the work and multiplies the fun, as we see each time we have a work party around St. Mark's, be it for the building, the Altar Guild or bulletins and bookkeeping. But back to the kitchen...

There's something marvelous about the concreteness of cooking and also, ironically, about its transitory nature. A whole lot of very ordinary, repetitive tasks (say, chopping bushel of onions) Come together to make something far beyond the sum of the parts. Often, the folks doing the individual taks feel totally unable to conceptualize the overall project of pulling a meal together for dozens of people. Yet their participation is integral and, along the way, if they pay attetion to all the tasks, gaining an appreciation of how it all fits together.

Then almost in a flash, it seems, the meal is served and eaten. Some lovely times, of course, we sit together at table and linger long over food and drink and good conversation with friends. But still, in a matter of hours, the meal is history. Gone, but not forgotten, we might say. Some of my most treasured memories are of shared meals. I am reminded of one of our eucharistic hymns (#316/7), which says, "Too soon we rise; we go our several ways; the feast, though not the love is past and gone." It is the sharing of love, made manifest in lots of small concrete acts, that makes a meal a sign of something much more significant. In a way, it has to be ephemeral. Love and divine presence are such quicksilver things. We handle them best in brief flashes. Ah, but the memories do last, and we feed on them, time upon time. That's one way we practice the presence of God. When I, among my pots and pans, am moved to reflect on wonderful times of shared sustenance and divine companionship, the concreteness and mundaneness become gateways of sacramentality. I can carry God's presence with me.

I deeply love presiding at table, bot n my own house around my grandmother's massive pedestal table, burnished and scarred over the century of its use, and also at the Lord's table, where a morsel of bread and a sip of wine are transformed into a heavenly banquet, the very Body and Blood of Christ. Sometimes I turn out a superb dish, but sometimes it's a bit off the mark. That's when the fellowship carries the evening. And the Eucharist is divine even when the pita is freezer-burned.

I look forward to another year of 'presiding' at St. Mark's. Together we will do all of the concrete tasks of keeping oour parish 'cooking along', and together we'll experience flashes of inspiration and greatness. May we consicouly 'practice the presence of God' among the 'pots and pans' of parish life. For to do so is to keep Christmastide, the feast of Emmanuel (God with us), throughout the year.

(continued from pg. 1) When I moved to Berkeley, I sat with a zendo for a while but then converted to Catholicism. I became a member of St. Mark's in 1996 and have been a member of the choir since then. I have also served on the Social Justice and Adult Formation Committees.

Laura Jackson

Laura has attended St. Mark's since summer 2005. She has served as Clerk to the Vestry for the past year. She also serves on the board of St. Mark's Choir Association, and is currently serving as wedding coordinator for the parish. She completed seminary in 2003 and is endorsed as a lay chaplain by ECUSA. She hopes to return to healthcare chaplaincy, but currently works for an Internet company in San Francisco. Her husband is an Episcopal priest.

Bob Kolenkow

Born: 8 November 1933 near Buffalo NY; grew up in Niagara Falls Education: MIT (BS, physics); U. of Göttingen (Fulbright); Harvard (Ph.D., physics) Married: Anitra Bingham in 1955, a student at Radcliffe. She was the third woman to attend Harvard Divinity School. She was ordained a Congregational minister, but pursued scholarly work (Ph.D., Harvard). She died in 1996. Work: Taught physics at Carleton College and at MIT. Moved to California in 1972, worked in Silicon Valley at several high-tech companies, mainly designing/building equipment for the semiconductor industry. Retired in 2001. Activities: Wrote two textbooks, another in preparation. Some technical consulting. Once or twice a month I travel around the country giving motivational talks to other people with diabetes. I go to my health club, and I ride my bicycle in the hills. At St. Mark's, I am Head Usher, and on one of the coffee hour teams.

Jeff Pace

My wife, Diana, and I have attended St. Mark's since 2000, and during our time at this parish our family has expanded from two to four, including my sons, Jack and Henry. Music has been my primary ministry here, and I have been fortunate to serve for four years on the Board of the Choir Association, two of those as its President. I have been profoundly influenced by the experience of our liturgy, and the opportunity to participate actively in the Holy is deeply meaningful to me. Professionally, I am the COO/CFO of the Unity Council (www.UnityCouncil.org), a significant nonprofit community development corporation focusing its activities in the Fruitvale neighborhood of Oakland. At the Unity Council I manage \$70 million in assets, including the Fruitvale Transit Village and five other properties. I'm responsible for annual operating budgets exceeding \$18 million for seven related corporate entities, funded by a multitude of variously restricted and unrestricted sources of funding. The Unity Council helps low income and immigrant families transition out of poverty, working with as many as 10,000 people annually in nineteen distinct but inter-related program areas, and I treasure my role in our mission. Prior to moving to the Bay Area, I lived in Los Angeles, gaining both my MBA and my wife from UCLA. I was raised in Virginia, and I would be honored to serve on the Vestry.

Tim Sullivan

I have been a member of St. Mark's since 1992. St. Mark's is the principal community to which I belong, and it has given me many opportunities to serve over the years. Currently, I serve on the Finance Committee, as an usher on the second Sunday, a "counter" on the third, and intermittently as a lector. In the past, I served as a Vestry member from 1996-1999, including a stint as the Junior Warden. I was a Deanery Delegate 2003-2005, and served on the Diocesan Council 2004-2005. Over the years, I've found the words of the Prayer of St. Francis, "for it is in giving that we receive," to be very true. With the departure of my daughter for college, I have the time to serve on Vestry. If elected, I will look forward to the opportunities to contribute that Vestry service offers. In my professional life, I work at the California Public Utilities Commission as an Administrative Law Judge and advisor to Commissioners.

If elected, all will bring different skills and experience to the Vestry. Of course, nominations will also be accepted from the floor, but please be sure that you have consulted with the nominee and that he/she is aware of requirements for the office. If there are questions, please see me. New Vestry members will be elected at the annual meeting, January 28.

--Andrea Foley, Chair, Vestry Nominating Committee

The Ministry of Music

George Anton Emblom, Director of Music

Utmost thanks to all those who assisted in offering the Lessons and Carols Service and reception December 17. Your support is deeply appreciated and is a blessing. The service continues to go from strength to strength. *Deo Gratias.*

The twenty-first season of the **Second Sunday Evensong/Organ Recital Series** continues on **Sunday, January 14.** Evensong will be sung by the St. Mark's Choir Association at 5:30 p.m. followed by a recital offered by Paul M. Ellison. Mr. Ellison will perform *Toccata quarta* by Johann Caspar Kerl, *Aria*, by Flor Peeters, *Scherzoso* from Sonata VIII in E Minor, by Josef Rheinberger, *Toccata Cromaticha per l'Elevatione* by Girolamo Frescobaldi, *Choral*, Joseph Jongen, and the *Fantasia in G Major*, by J.S. Bach.

Mr. Ellison has been director of music and organist at San Francisco's historic Church of the Advent of Christ the King since October 1990. A native of Liverpool, England, he was educated at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he studied organ with Christopher Bowers-Broadbent, gaining the Recital Diploma for Organ Performance; London University; Queens' College, Cambridge; San Jose State University, where he took an MA in musicology; and Cardiff University, Wales, where he is currently a PhD candidate. During his time in London, Paul was assistant Organist at St. Pancras' Church, and Director of Music and Organist at St. Mary's Church, the Bolton's, in London's fashionable Chelsea. He emigrated to the United States in August 1988, and is currently Choir Director at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, and on the faculties of San Francisco State University and St. Mathew's Episcopal Day School, San Mateo. He is Assistant Editor of *The Beethoven Journal*, the periodical of the American Beethoven Society.

Sunday, January 14, 2007, 5:30 p.m.

Choral Evensong and Organ Recital: Paul M. Ellison, Recitalist (see above)

St. Mark's Choir Association

Canticles: Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in e-minor: Leo Sowerby
Responses in the Mixolydian Mode: Richard Webster

An offering will be received for the July 2007 St. Mark's Choir Tour Scholarship Fund

2007 Liturgical Calendars are still available. Cost: \$6.50 per copy or \$6.00 for two or more.

The calendars will be available at coffee hour. Proceeds, after cost, benefit the music program.

Please make every effort to support this project. Last year, the choir did not sell enough copies to cover costs. Unfortunately, if the choir cannot cover costs this year, the choir will no longer be able to offer this wonderful teaching tool to the congregation. Thanks for your support.

Adult Formation Committee Announces Forum Series for Epiphany and Lent

The 2007 **Epiphany Sunday Forum Series**, titled "Words of Faith We Live By," will center on the creeds of the Church. Following is the schedule for the five-session series:

- January 14: *The Apostles' Creed and Baptism*, with Micah Jackson presenting.
- January 21: *How Do We Live Out of Our Baptismal Promises?* with a panel of St. Mark's parishioners.
- February 4: *The Nicene Creed*, with Owen Thomas presenting.
- February 11: *Should I Say It If I Don't Believe It?* Mark Koop and Robbin Clark will facilitate a discussion of how we as individuals respond to the Nicene Creed. What if we don't believe some of the statements in the Creed? Should we say them anyway? Can we change some of the words so the statements are more meaningful to us?
- February 18: *Creeds, Confessions, Communion, and Catechisms: What Are They and How Do They Help Us Be Christians?* Robbin Clark puts creedal discussions in the context of other ways of stating beliefs which are used by various churches.

All of these Sunday forums will take place in the library after the 10 a.m. service. For more information contact Caroline Summer, carolinesummer@earthlink.net or 526-3529.

The Adult Formation Committee is also planning its 2007 **Lenten Forum Series**, titled "Study as Prayer, Study as Action: Reading the Gospel of Luke," which will address the subject of how Scripture study can transform our relationships with God and our fellow human beings. Tentative schedule for the Lenten Series includes the following:

- *Session 1: "Study as Prayer,"* led by members of the St. Mark's/Congregation Beth El Study Group.
- *Session 2:* Passages from Luke that show Jesus as a learner and a teacher.
- *Session 3:* Passages from Luke in which Jesus discusses the nature of prayer.
- *Session 4:* Passages from Luke in which Jesus discusses prayers, which take the form of action.
- *Session 5: "Our Own Study, Our Own Prayer, Our Own Action."* Has our own study of Luke changed us? If so, how?

Lenten Evening Series on Drama

In a recent questionnaire, St. Mark's parishioners expressed strong interest in religious themes in the arts. The Committee responded to this interest by sponsoring the Advent Forum Series on Religion and Poetry. According to Adult Formation Chair Caroline Summer, the Committee will continue to address the subject of religion and the arts by sponsoring an innovative Lenten evening series on Religion and Drama.

A committee of St. Mark's parishioners is currently meeting to plan the series, which will probably begin on March 1 and run for five consecutive Thursday nights. In addition to members of the Adult Formation Committee, the planning group includes Barbara Oliver, founder of the Aurora Theater and a well-known actor and director, as well as professional actor Charley Robinson and Anna Weidman. Sessions may center on a variety of topics, including the place of religion in Greek theater. Each session may include some playreading related to the subject of the evening.

The St. Mark's Beth El Collaboration Continues

"What does it mean to take on the yoke of the Torah?" This and other questions were explored by members of St. Mark's, students from GTU and members of the host Congregation Beth El for Wednesday evening interfaith study sessions that started on November 8th and ran into December.

Each of the discussions was introduced by St. Mark's own Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski (church history professor at CDSP) and Congregation Beth El's chief Rabbi, Ferenc Raj (pronounced "ferens roy").

Christians learned that the Torah is a broad concept in Judaism. In its most narrow meaning it refers to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the bible. But broadly, Torah refers to the entire corpus of rabbinic teaching, including the Mishnah and Talmud. This study group read a section from the Mishnah called *Pirkei Avot* ("Chapters" or Sayings of the Fathers). As an introduction to reading this text, Christians learned that in the Jewish tradition textual study is particularly emphasized as a form of worship.

Most of the *Pirkei Avot* excerpts we worked with were readily accessible; we Christians would recognize them as a valuable collection of moral and religious wisdom. Occasionally we would detect a certain wry humor. For example, the teachers among us smiled at this description of the four types of Torah students: "The sponge, who soaks up everything. The funnel, who takes it in at this end and lets it out at the other. The strainer, who lets out the wine and retains the dregs. The sieve, who removes the coarse meal and collects the fine flour." Unpacking this passage and others in our table discussions proved both entertaining and enlightening.

As it turned out, our Jewish friends were very curious about Christianity and asked a number of questions. At one point, Dan was asked to bring a copy of the Nicene Creed and explain it. Another discussion led into the various Christian takes on "justification" and "righteousness". And we Christians learned that, while the afterlife is part of the belief system of many observant Jews, it is not a central or universal doctrine.

Among our group was Beth El congregants who felt that the observance of the moral commandments was definitive and that a particular creed was not.

The conversational energy and fellowship continues. A new series, probably based on a selection of Psalm passages, will begin in January. Contact Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski (djoslynsiem@cdsp.edu or 204-0718) if you're interesting in joining us.

--Jay Gaskill and Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski

Inquirers' Program to be offered

Want to learn more about the Episcopal Church? Want to prepare for Baptism, God-parenting, Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation? Want to talk about the faith with others who are active in their spiritual journey? Want to get to know folks who are becoming active at St. Mark's? Then the Inquirers' Program is for you. Classes will meet Monday evenings (every other week) from 7 to 9:15, beginning January 30 and finishing up in time for the post-Easter Confirmations, etc. at Grace Cathedral on April 14. We will discuss the Bible, Church History and Doctrine, the Moral and Spiritual life, Public Liturgy and Personal Prayer, Ministry Opportunities and whatever else comes up. See the Rector for more information. Sign up by contacting the parish office.

Something Different In Epiphany - A new form for the Gospel Procession

In our liturgical celebrations we use symbols to help us grasp and explore the depth of key concepts in our tradition. This year during the Sundays after Epiphany we will be exploring our use of symbol in the Gospel Procession.

From 7th January through 18th February this year we're going to simplify the Gospel Procession. The procession will consist of the deacon with the Gospel book, a book bearer and two torches. To help emphasize the centrality of the Gospel we will be removing the processional cross from that procession for these seven Sundays. This format gives us the opportunity to experience the Gospel book as THE central feature of the procession.

The change also gives us the chance to explore the ways in which we are called to bring the Gospel message to the world. We specifically choose to proclaim the Gospel in the midst of the people rather than from the pulpit or the Altar steps. The change draws attention to this simple act and begs each of us to consider how do we personally bring the Gospel into the midst of our own people?

The Worship Committee has reviewed this change and encourages everyone to think about how this liturgical change draws our attention to the Gospel itself. After these seven Sundays tell the Worship Committee about your experience by sending a summary to Alda Morgan, the committee chair (am-morgan@pacbell.net).

Here are some questions that you might comment on:

- Does this change impact you at all? In what ways?
- What kind of emotional reactions do you experience?
- What does the change in symbolism say to you?
- Did you learn anything about your spirituality? Anything to share?
- Does this change help us to focus on the Gospel book itself?
- Which type of Gospel procession do you prefer?

--Kevin Crispin-Alfieri for the Worship Committee

Epiphany West 2007

Re-Visioning Anglicanism - Where do we go from here?
Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, California Jan. 23 - 27, 2007

Upheaval In the Anglican Communion is raising new challenges to understandings of church order, governance, theology, and mission. Epiphany West 2007 will explore the meaning of "Anglicanism" itself, particularly in terms of its ecumenical partnerships and relationships, its ministry and mission, and its future as a viable expression of Christian faith. This conference occurring during the Epiphany season is your opportunity to reflect and engage in dialogue about where the Holy Spirit is taking our church. A special note: one of the featured speakers is Jenny Plane Te Paa, who was a member of St. Mark's while she was getting her PhD at GTU.

Please see the brochure on the bulletin board, which describes the conference presentations, classes, workshops, and additional opportunities for conversation. You may register online at http://www.cdsp.edu/center_epiphany.php.

Thank you for your pledge!

As Christmas, we have received 124 pledges from continuing pledgers, which total \$271,834. Continuing pledgers raised their pledges by 6.0% and 72 of them increased their pledge. We have also received 11 pledges from new or renewed pledgers, which total \$11,576. Total pledges from new and continuing pledges were \$283,410. We still need to hear from eight of last year's pledgers, and, of course, new pledgers are also very welcome. Join us in being there for St. Mark's!

St. Mark's gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and families who have pledged from Sunday November 26 through Christmas for their generous support of its ministries in 2007. (*Our sincere apologies if we have missed anyone. Please notify the office of the error so that we may be sure to include you in the next published list.*)

- Glenn Beane
- Gerald Bellows
- The Rev. Arthur Boone
- Judith Berling and Rhoda Bunnell
- George and Helen Break
- Elva Buckhalter
- William Barclay C.
- Robert Chacona
- Nancy Dick
- Jane D. Dillenberger
- Mabel Dykkestén
- Nancy Evans
- John D. Giese
- Nancy Gillingham
- The Rev. Micah and Laura Jackson
- The Rev. James and Merrilyn Jones
- Peter Laub and Christina Sabater
- Dale Loepp
- Kate H. MacArthur
- Donn Morgan and Alda Marsh-Morgan
- Peggy Murray
- Marian Nishi
- Lary Pearce, OHC
- Nigel Renton
- Alexandra Saur
- The Rev. Scott Sinclair
- Rune Stromsness
- Janet Strothman
- Hildred Yost

Proposed 2007 Budget Presented to the Vestry

We still don't know when we'll begin getting rent from the prospective tenant for Williams Hall. So the Financial Oversight Committee's approach to preparing the Proposed 2007 Budget was to prepare a "Worst Case" Budget; i.e., assume no new tenant for 2007. Then the Vestry could craft another Revised Budget to add spending back in if and when the rent figure firms up.

The Proposed Budget carries forward for all of 2007 the cuts that the Vestry made in July: no mid-week Sexton, essentially zero Outreach Grants, a \$2,100 cut in our customary donation to the Choir Association, and cuts to Altar Guild, Children's Christian Education, Newcomers, and Special Events, among others. General Maintenance, and Security are decreased to their old levels. (They were adversely affected in 2006 by the large, nonrecurring events of the Parish Hall ceiling repairs and the emergency lights batteries.)

The main new big cuts in the Proposed Budget are elimination *for 2007 only* of the Contribution to the Building Reserve (now \$10,000) and the Contribution to the Instrument Reserve (now \$900). The Proposed Budget also combines the Bookkeeper and Office Coordinator positions. There are also small cuts to budget lines where the budgeted amount was not being fully spent, including Publicity and Stewardship.

Even with all these cuts, the Proposed Budget will have a \$3,616 Deficit.

--Bob Williams, Treasurer

Stewardship Musings

For St. Mark's to be there for me I need to be there for St. Mark's...

Well, our slogan was right on and we were there for St. Mark's in a big way this year. For the third year in a row, Pledge income went up 7%. This is amazing, considering the coming and going of parishioners, the capital campaign and the various "special needs" we have faced. Thank us one and all!!! Details and specifics will be in the Annual Report in January.

No matter if you give from gross or net, count all your charitable giving or just your church, pay monthly, weekly or annually, write checks, transfer stock or give labor, etc. etc., the variety of ways to "measure up" is fascinating. We all love to get and also to give. It is a measure of our strength I think when we are able to share our assets.

As co-chair of Stewardship for St. Mark's, I naturally want our church to be high on your list of beneficiaries for giving. As I know how many thousands (millions?) of alums UC Berkeley has and how many hundreds of thousands KQED pulls from and the Botanical Garden, Symphony, Museum, etc. etc. etc., I remember how only we can support St. Mark's. It makes it easier for me to apportion my gifts.

That said, one of our committee's goals is to put forward some thinking on "Why give to St. Mark's" as opposed to other charities. Do you have any ideas about that? Please call Fran or Kevin. The other constant preoccupation of ours is the tension between giving for our own good, joy, etc. vs. giving because "Baby needs shoes," i.e. Church budget.

Lastly, a cute phrase that caught my ear was "Are we tithers or twothers?" Apparently the rate of Episcopal church giving in the Bay Area is 2% of income for the area based on census data. I wonder if St. Mark's isn't on its way to improving that statistic based on the annual increase each year. Are some of us finding out what proportion we give and increasing it each year? Or just saying "same as last year" or \$20 a week--\$1040 a year! (If tithing to St Mark's that person would be earning \$10,400 a year. Can you live on that here?) What is a reasonable proportional sum given the highest housing costs in the nation, school fees, gas costs, etc.? Step one is to know what proportion you are giving now in order to be spiritually honest with yourself. Food for thought, eh?

--Fran Carlson

Support Your Parish and Yourself in 2007

Now there is a brand new way to make a gift to your parish that will also pay you life income: a gift annuity. On November 14, 2006, the Diocese received authority from the State of California to begin issuing charitable gift annuities.

A gift annuity pays a fixed income for a lifetime, and then becomes a gift to your parish or whatever ministry you name. The rate of income is especially attractive for seniors or for those who delay income. For example, an 80-year-old donor may receive 8% fixed payout. Because most of this income may be received tax-free, the equivalent payout is 9.7%. A 55-year-old who delays income until age 65 may have a fixed payout of 9.9%, with an equivalent taxable payout of 12.3%-- and get a big income tax deduction in the current year.

Can you see why gift annuities are so popular? Some seniors have used a CD or appreciated stock to buy an annuity and have tripled their retirement income from what they were getting in interest or dividends. Unlike interest or dividends, annuity income will not vary but is fixed and secure for life.

To find out what your rate of income from an annuity would be, call (415) 869-7812. Or, go to www.EpiscopalGift.org, "Create Your Own Plan." A gift annuity can be a win-win for both you and your parish. Why not allow its benefits to empower your generosity?

--The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP, Gift Planning Officer, Diocese of California

Notes from the Social Justice Committee

The next meeting of the Social Justice Committee will be Tuesday, January 9th at 7:30 p.m. in Hodgkin Hall. Cooking for the YEAH! shelter continues every Thursday night, 6-8 p.m. in the upstairs kitchen.

--Kirsten Spalding

YEAH! Shelter

Youth Emergency Assistance Hostels, now in its fifth year, operates seven days a week from 8pm to 8am each night. YEAH! is located in Lutheran Church of the Cross-at 1744 University Ave between Grant and McGee. Our goal is to provide a safe, warm sleeping space for youth, ages 18-25, who are homeless in Berkeley. Getting off the streets, especially during the cold, rainy winter months, is the first step toward these youth getting their lives back together. Here the youth find nightly shelter, breakfast and a warm dinner, showers, community, people who care, and hope for the future. The presence of and care from volunteers is essential for the existence of YEAH! and our ability to help end the plight of youth who are homeless in Berkeley.

If homelessness is a situation that speaks to you and you would like to be part of the solution, please contact the YEAH Volunteer Coordinator: **Adrienne Strehlow at yeahvolunteers@yahoo.com**. For more information see our website: **www.yeah-berkeley.org**. Or call the YEAH! office at 704-9867.

In addition to cooking, the following volunteer shifts are needed nightly:

| Shift: | Time: | Volunteer # Needed: | Positions Needed: |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|---|
| Evening Serving | 7:45–10:15 p.m. | 3 | - Serving food to the youth - Washing dishes |
| Evening Berg Room | 8:15-10:30p.m. | 1 | - Handing out bedding - Monitoring shower sign-up and times |
| Overnight | 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. | 1 | - Sleep in the facility - Be available to assist the overnight supervisor when needed |
| Morning | 6:00 – 8:00 a.m. | 3 | - Kitchen Activity – serving and washing dishes - Spending time with youth and overseeing chores |
| Emergency Fill-in | On-call for a certain night(s) of the week | Many needed | - Willing to be called on certain night(s) of the week to fill-in for absent volunteers |

Other ways individuals and communities can help include the following:

- In-kind donations (i.e. Items on the Wish-List)
- Financial donations

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The LION Staff
Editor: **Karalee Harding**
Layout: **Vanessa Capino**
Production: **Nancy Ditzler**
Distribution: **Marjorie Pettyjohn and team**

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office@stmarksberkeley.org
Thank you.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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January 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, Jan. 1
New Year's Day

Wednesday, Jan. 10
Annual Reports Due
Choir Board Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 17
Worship Committee Mtg.

Saturday, Jan. 27
Healing Study Course
Healing Prayer Group

Sunday, Jan. 7
Baptism of Shefler Carl

Friday, Jan. 12
Clerestory Concert

Saturday, Jan. 20
Hot Meals

Sunday, Jan. 28
Annual Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 9
Adult Formation Mtg.
Social Justice Com. Mtg.

Saturday, Jan. 13
Healing Study Course
Healing Prayer Group

Sunday, Jan. 21
LION Deadline

Wednesday, Jan. 31
LION Mailing

Sunday, Jan. 14
Evensong/Organ Recital

Tuesday, Jan. 23
Vestry Meeting