



The *Lion*

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 2008

Ministries Sunday a Beehive of Activity



St. Mark's Ministries Fair, held this year on Sunday, September 7, is an opportunity for all to learn about St. Mark's social groups and ministries. At top left, Robyn Gaskill, solicits new members for the "Chick Flicks" movie club. Above, Ruby, Scot Sullivan's Beagle, makes everyone feel at home. At left, Bob Scheible and Wayne Ritchie seek volunteers to help with Stewardship and Property Maintenance. Photos by Jane Adams.

Report from Hot Meals

The Hot Meals Team had a very successful dinner on Saturday, September 20. St. Mark's served about 150 (more than usual, I think).

The hearty dinner consisted of fried catfish, sweet potato fries, coleslaw, and garlic bread – with watermelon for dessert. The box lunches included salami sandwiches and chips, plums and chocolate cookies.

Phil Brown and Rebecca Rose made a terrific pepper, olive, cheese frittata for the vegetarians.

Many, many thanks to all who volunteered. The volunteers included the Piedmont Community Service group, National Charity League, and Students for Sustainable Business.

As always, a crew of St. Mark's regulars provided the key support: Jennie Curtis greeting guests, Charlotte Blackmer managing the dining room and Phil Brown, Kathy Yam, Amy Yam and Kirsten Spaulding working in the kitchen. Robin Boone and Judy Malloy made the guests feel welcome.

This is such a warm and wonderful group of people who come together to cook and serve. It is a clear example of the many talents of our community coming together to serve the least among us. Your love and caring makes all the difference.

Next month, Annie-May deBresson leads the team.

Kirsten Spaulding, *Hot Meals*



Above: Priscilla Camp and Margaret Miles at Ministries Fair. Right: Loretta McNulty seeking assistance for Evensong receptions. Photos by Jane Adams

Stewardship: In-Gathering on October 26

The Affairs Affair was a great success on September 28 and we want to extend our gratitude to Priscilla Camp for a very lively and informative luncheon presentation and discussion. Specific topics included the importance of an advance health care directive, wills and/or trusts along with the importance of making these arrangements before they are needed. Robbin prepared a wonderful meal for more than 40 participants. Bob Williams and Fran Carlson were a great help as well. Thanks to you all.

With fall in the air and harvest time, our thoughts turn to the Financial Commitment Campaign with our 2009 theme of "Engaging as a Community." Please keep an eye out for the mid-month mailing of the Commitment Card, Letter and FAQ's, which help further explain the What and Why behind this very important annual event. We will then celebrate on October 26 the In-Gathering of pledges your formal commitment to the St. Mark's Community.

Bob Scheible, *Stewardship Committee*



Letter from Reverend Robbin Clark

Dear friends in Christ,

Now that the fall program season is underway, I want to share news of two new initiatives from our diocese. Both were mentioned at last week's annual clergy conference.

The first represents a desire on the part of our bishop to see more teamwork among congregations and other entities within the diocese. To that end he is encouraging Area Ministries and has appointed the Rev. Robyn Arnold as Area Minister for Berkeley-Albany. I know we will be learning more about this in the near future and will pass along information as it becomes available.

"Called to Right Relationship" is the title of the other initiative and it deals with making our churches safe places for all God's people and particularly for the most vulnerable among us, including children, dependent adults and the elderly. The diocese has just issued a collection of policies and procedures designed to support this aspect of being the Beloved Community. Each congregation is responsible for implementing these policies.

St Mark's has long had stated policies dealing with the safety of minors, and the clergy and other leaders have received special abuse prevention training. The new document is much more comprehensive in scope and reflects the 'state of the art' in abuse prevention standards. Many of you will have encountered similar security measures in other organizations, perhaps as parents, volunteers or in your own workplaces. You are encouraged to read the full document online on the diocesan website, www.diocal.org. There is also a hard copy available in the parish office.

These policies are mandated for all diocesan entities and are meant, "to encourage and inform all members of the Diocese." As stated in the Preface, "The purpose of these policies is the fostering of the highest standards of ethical behavior, and this document includes resources for:

- standards of conduct;
- prevention of sexual misconduct;
- procedures in the case of suspected violation;
- protection of youth and children; and
- protection of elders and dependent adults."

The Family Ministry Committee has already begun

studying these policies, and they will be discussed at the upcoming Vestry meeting. Their broad scope (including, for instance, not only Sunday school/nursery volunteers and Lay Eucharistic Visitors and other pastoral care givers, but everyone who has a key to the church building) means that many of you will be asked to complete an online training module (log in at www.shieldthevulnerable.org) that takes just over an hour and to fill out a volunteer information form.

These requirements may at first seem intrusive, but each of these policies is for the sole purpose of preventing harm to those who are least able to protect themselves. I find it very sad that we as a society have come to this, but trust is at a low ebb and the more we can do to show ourselves trustworthy, the better. It is a gospel value. It is what we need to do. In fact, I would suggest that everyone in the parish do the online module. The Diocese has offered to pick up the cost for all who complete it by the end of 2008, so that is a good incentive for us.

I would be happy to speak further with any of you about these matters. Let us all get involved in making St. Mark's a safe and wholesome place for us all.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

2300 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94704
Office: 510-848-5107 Fax: 510-848-2269
Music Office: 510-845-0888

E-mail: office@stmarksberkeley.org
On the web: www.stmarksberkeley.org

Sunday Eucharist

8 a.m. Spoken - Chapel
10 a.m. Choral - Church Nave with Sunday
School and Childcare

Weekday Eucharist

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

A Few Words from the Deacon

The Turning Season

Nostalgia is creeping into my life and creeping me out – but in a good way. Early autumn is the turning season for me. This is the time when a new academic year starts, and for me, it's always been the beginning of new chapters to life. That sense of anticipation and excitement has taken over as it does every year.

And every year since I could remember, I've used this season to clean and organize, to get ready for whatever comes my way. This year, I've been spending the time organizing my infamous home office and cleaning it up bit by bit.

And now that you've picked yourself up off the floor from this revelation, I'll continue my story, telling you a bit more about what wandered into my thoughts as I sorted through bags of yarn, piles of books, folders of manuscript copies and stacks of junk mail.

I reconnected with old school friends over the past nine months and found that you can go home again – altered by time and circumstance, however. As some of you know, I grew up about 15 miles north of Berkeley in the housing project of the bay side town of Rodeo. It's a town where everyone's dad worked for the power plant or the oil refinery, where the sense of *American Graffiti* lingered well into the eighties, and where, after high school, you married your high school crush, started a family and went to work at the power plant, the oil refinery, or the sugar refinery in Crocket.

The reconnection started with the baptism of a classmate's grandchild,

then a friend's illness and death came out of nowhere, and finally, to everyone's delight and surprise, the marriage of a classmate to his long-time love.

For years we were out of touch, busy with our own lives and allowing life to get in the way of reunions and connection. And now, here we were together. How many of us have lived through these kinds of events in this particular manner? Plenty, I'd hazard to guess!

These events brought me into a different kind of pastoral relationship than I'm accustomed to. People I've known since kindergarten and before, people who remember the strange, quirky, stuttering, silent – yes, I was shy for a time – kid I was, accepted the 'church side' of me.

When we got together over coffee, we rejoiced and marveled about how same and different we all were. It was no surprise that one friend is still married to her high school boyfriend and just celebrated 38 years of marriage, it was no surprise that another moved out of state to find a greener, quieter, place for his family, or that another spent years in rehab and is still struggling with his demons.

We recounted those infamous stories going around of how one of us went into a convent to get over a broken heart, another story about how the 'pothead' hippie of the class went off to Vietnam and distinguished himself, receiving a medal for bravery, how the cheerleader married the art instructor at the high school, or the comment made by a woman at a funeral if I was the 'Ekstrom sister that died.'

What surprised me was how natural it was to be together – how we all fit, how we all still needed one another.

One of the group mentioned that it was divine intervention that brought us all back together.

That's how the Holy Spirit works.

In a turning season we turned to one another for whatever reason that brought us to the baptism, the hospital bed, the class reunion, the sandy shore to scatter ashes and say goodbye, but not farewell. The Spirit brought us to one another for love, healing and binding friendship.

During all this, I thought of my St. Mark's family and thanked God for how fortunate we are. We have the opportunity to reconnect every Sunday, share our lives and turn to one another when we need that extra bit of compassion and understanding. We don't have to wait for a baptism, a funeral, a wedding. Here too, the Spirit brings us together for healing, friendship and love as we gather at the table and share the best meal of the day, and allow the Word to sink in and help make a difference in the world.

And it's funny, that in the midst of this turning season, one of my co-workers asked a few days ago what it was that led me to the Church, why did I go every Sunday.

Besides the strong and ever growing, ever changing love I have for God and Jesus, it's home. It's one of the few places where I feel that I truly fit in, unlike the law office, the school yard, the high school gym; it's where I can be with the Trinity, it's a place

Deacon, *continued on next page*

The Ministry of Music

Evensong Recital October 12

The 23rd Season of the Second Sunday Evensong/Organ Recital series continues on Sunday, October 12, at 5:30 p.m. Evensong will be offered by the Schola Cantorum, David Hunsberger director, followed by a recital by Thomas Foster.

Mr. Foster is a native of North Carolina and holds degrees in organ performance from Syracuse University (BM) and the New England Conservatory of Music (MM). From 1976 – 2003 he was Director of Music at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Beverly Hills, California where the Choir came to prominence through its concert tours, commissioned works, and four recordings for Gothic Records. Prior to his tenure in Beverly Hills, he served in a similar capacity at St. John's Cathedral, Jacksonville, Florida. He has taught organ performance at Jacksonville University and California State University, Northridge and conducting at the University of North Florida.

Mr. Foster has served as a faculty member of summer Episcopal church music conferences at Sewanee, Mississippi, Evergreen, and the University of Wisconsin. He has been a lecturer/conductor in numerous dioceses of the Episcopal Church as well as at Virginia Theological Seminary and the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. He is a contributor to the Episcopal Hymnal 1982 and is a past president of the Association of Anglican Musicians. Since 2003 Mr. Foster has served as interim musician at various churches throughout the country, including St. John's Cathedral, Albuquerque; Grace Cathedral, San Francisco; and most recently at St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo.

He is currently Interim Musician at Epiphany Parish (Episcopal) in Seattle. Since his retirement, he has performed as organ recitalist at St. Philip's Cathedral, Atlanta (where he also conducted their Diocesan Choir Festival); at St. Thomas Church, New York City; Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville, Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Boston; Grosse Pointe Memorial Presbyterian Church, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan; Grace Cathedral, San Francisco; and St. Chrysostom's Church, Chicago.

In 1999 Mr. Foster was made an honorary canon of

the Cathedral Center of St. Paul in the Diocese of Los Angeles.

His program will include: Pierre DuMAGE: movements from *Livre d'Orgue*; Bach: *Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele*; and hymn-tune preludes by American composers Daniel Pinkham, Calvin Hampton, Emma Lou Diemer, and Craig Phillips. He will close the recital with Mendelssohn: Prelude and Fugue in C minor, Op. 37.

While the concert series is free, you are cordially invited to contribute to the series by making a contribution at one of the following levels: Supporter: \$35-\$74 / Friend: 75-\$124 / Sponsor: \$125-\$249 / Patron: \$250-\$499 / Sustainer: \$500-\$999/ and Benefactor: \$1000 +. Send your tax-deductible contribution (made payable to St. Mark's Choir Association) to: St. Mark's Choir Association, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. A festive reception will follow the program. Thank you for your new or on-going support of the series. This series is funded solely by donor contributions.

George Emblom, *Music Director*



Deacon, *continued from previous page*

where I can be Ellen, where I can be present for others, and allow my brothers and sisters to minister to me; it's a place where we strive every Sunday for perfection, and get a chance over and over again to be perfect. It's a place where we all bring our broken lives and get help putting the pieces back together, where we celebrate the joys that come into our lives. It's a place where we can turn our lives around and just be.

The turning season is upon us. Let's turn to one another and see how the Holy Spirit works.

With God's love and mine,

Ellen+



Critical Notices

The Bridge Group

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Hodgkin Hall

The Bridge Group continues to meet in Hodgkin Hall on most Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. (check on-line calendar at St. Mark's website for specific schedule).

We play a thirty year old version of Goren called "noontime bridge." As soon as four players arrive the game starts, adding more tables of players as needed. We bring our own snacks.

It's all informal and the idea is to enjoy the game.

Some players are very good and others are learning.

It's exciting to see the renewed interest in this great game.

As many of us are already active in St. Mark's, the emphasis is on a good time.

We communicate by e-mail and our contact is June Browne at hbrowne29@earthlink.net.

Come and join us for a friendly game.

Upcoming Forums

The Adult Formation Committee has announced the following Sunday forums for October and November. All will take place after the 10 o'clock service, approximately 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Follow the crowd to the library when you hear the ringing cowbell.

October 12: League of Women Voters presents a pre-election forum, sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

October 19: Report from the Diocesan Convention. The Rev. Robbin Clark presides.

October 26: Attendees read or recite poetry they admire. Jack Sawyer facilitates.

November 2: A showcase for the work of the Spoken Word Committee, which is chaired by Barbara Oliver.

November 9: Music Director George Emblom prepares attendees for Music Memorial Sunday on November 16.

November 30: The first of three programs in this year's Advent series, "Let's Do ~~Lunch~~ Advent: How Do We Welcome Christ Among Us?"

Communicators!

St. Mark's needs people who love to communicate.

Do you have a "Facebook" page? Want to create a "Facebook group" for St. Mark's? Let us know.

Love to take photos? Want to create an online archive for St. Mark's? Let us know.

Like to write short articles or see your name in print? Write for the *Lion*.

Graphics and/or web design? We want you!

Please contact Tim Sullivan at sullivantim50@yahoo.com with any ideas you wish to realize.

Commemoration of Faithful Departed

Monday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.

The St. Mark's Choir Association will offer a setting of the Requiem composed by Jacob Clemens non Papa on Monday, November 3, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Nave.

An offering will be received for the work of the Choir Association.

The *Lion* Looks Back

A Rather Rambling History of St. Mark's Parish in its First Hundred Years, with Diversions, Digressions and Excursuses

Note: In the mid-1980s Betty McCracken, the editor of what was then called The Voice of the Lion, proposed a series of articles devoted to the history of St. Mark's parish. Over sixty of these pieces, usually one page in length, duly appeared. Although it is fortunate that the parish can count a number of members who have been attending for thirty or forty years or more, we are also fortunate in having many new and active members. It is particularly with them in mind that the present editor had the idea of resurrecting, at least to some degree, these vignettes devoted to the colorful parochial past, which were signed with the curious name "L. Retrospectans" (Lithuanian, perhaps?). Despite diligent searches, we have found no mention of such a person in the parish records; the editor has therefore felt free to ask me to undertake the presentation of the articles to a new audience. Reluctant at first to accept the job—the historical account is, in fact, frequently rambling and often digressive—I finally agreed to take it on, provided that I be allowed to present the series largely in its original form, with minimal editing, correcting only the obvious solecisms and modifying the occasionally arch, precious or antiquated tone. Though I accept no responsibility for it, I shall be interested in hearing the reactions of parishioners to the series. —Len Johnson

I. The Founding of the Parish

“Professor Wm. T. Welcker removed with his family from St. John's Parish, Oakland, to Berkeley, on the 8th of December, 1876, occupying the farthest west cottage on the University Grounds, facing Allston Way. As soon as practical, Professor and Mrs. Welcker called upon Bishop Kip in regard to procuring a monthly Service of the Church in Berkeley.” Thus did Professor Welcker's wife, some years later, record the original impetus for the beginnings of an Episcopal mission in Berkeley. At the time, the only church in the village was the Congregational, and the journey by horse-car from the campus to Seventh and Broadway in Oakland took an hour and a half. It is no wonder, then, that Welcker and Professor Soule, his only Episcopal colleague, wanted a service nearer home.

“The Bishop,” Mrs. Welcker goes on, with a hint of justifiable pride, “was much gratified by the request ... to make this beginning in planting the Church near the University.” He suggested that the Reverend Dr. Wheat, “a venerable clergyman” then visiting in Oakland, might be willing to take charge of the services of a mission—and so he was, despite the fact that he, presumably, had to make the long trek in the opposite direction. The two professors between them fitted up a room in a cottage rented near the campus, and it was there that the first Episcopal service ever held in Berkeley took place on the second Sunday in February, 1877, at 11 a.m., with Sunday School following at two in the afternoon.

Mrs. Welcker tells us that she provided lunch in her home for Dr. Wheat between his labors, “so he had time to rest in a room provided with a comfortable lounge.” The number of communicants at this service was fifteen, including the five members of the Welcker family, Soule, W. C. Gompertz, Mrs. Joseph Le Conte, Mrs. Wheat and her daughter and grand-daughter, who as organist played the “little musical instrument” noted in the account. Since Mrs. Le Conte was there, and since her husband is known to have been one of the first trustees of the mission, it is possible that Professor Joseph Le Conte, so well-known in Berkeley annals that both a university hall and a street are named for him, was there too, although his presence is not listed by his colleague's wife.

The “Bishop Berkeley Mission,” as the little group chose to call itself, after the celebrated Bishop of Cloyne who had early looked west and who had given his name to the town, seemed off to a decent if not spectacular start.

The new-born Episcopal fervor in Berkeley was very soon, however, to suffer what Mrs. Welcker calls “a sorrowful blow,” for in only a few weeks' time, after the Easter service, Dr. Wheat announced that a telegram had come recalling “himself and wife” urgently to the east, on account of the illness of his son.

What was the fledgling congregation to do, left thus without a pastor? Would it be able to maintain itself (especially since Professor Le Conte had become a trustee of the new Presbyterian Church)? How does St. Mark come into the picture? —The answers to these suspenseful questions in next month's issue!

Len Johnson, *Contributor*

Op-Ed: Global Warming Comes Home

Editor's Note: The Lion has a policy of offering space to contributors of new items or opinion pieces of interest to the St. Mark's Community. Although this is a long-standing policy, to date we have received few submissions. The following article by Jack Sawyer was triggered by St. Mark's redevelopment plans. Please see the response of Ben Metcalf, which follows on the next page.

Nothing is more important to the world's welfare than reducing global warming. We at St. Mark's have the opportunity to do our part by not adding to the greenhouse gas load. Please consider points raised in a talk by Richard Moe, head of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Moe reports studies showing that the greenhouse gas burden of a new 50,000 square foot building is equivalent to that of a car being driven 2.8 million miles. Further, the savings in energy consumption of a new "green" building requires an average of 65 years to compensate for the greenhouse gas emissions from the new construction. As Moe notes, "the greenest building is the one that already exists." (To see his full talk, Google "ignored greenness.")

Williams Hall is close to fifty years old, Hodgkin is barely twenty. Both have many years remaining. Demolishing them, the plaza, the existing garage, some adjoining rooms, and the foundation itself—everything south of a line not far from the sanctuary – would cost additional energy and send many, many dumpsters to the landfill.

Shouldn't we first try to do no harm?

Our "south campus" (Williams, Hodgkin, and the plaza) has never looked better. (I say this as a property-conscious, former Junior Warden.) Our new tenant, the Global International Montessori School, with Vivi Teng, has brought evident life to the plaza, and our long-time tenant Woolly Mammoth continues to serve an important function of pre-school and day care. We are doing good work in providing a home for these worthy endeavors.

These two schools, together, with the garage, bring in about 158,000 yearly. After paying utilities, taxes, and other expenses, St. Mark's nets between \$110,000 and \$115,000 (which will increase when Montessori gains tax exemption). (The proposed redevelopment calls for

an initial ground lease payment of 250,000/yr.) With the aid of present rental income, the Financial Oversight Committee has been able to present balanced budgets to the vestry. The Montessori School, particularly, thanks to Sandy Boyd, has been responsible for a number of improvements to the property. If you haven't checked out the "south campus" lately, take a look.

As we know, real estate is at a premium in Berkeley; rents have increased faster than the overall cost of living, which itself has been doubling about every twenty years (or an increase of around 3.5% per year, on average). This bodes well for future income from our existing buildings.

There is, to be sure, a commitment of time, energy, and devotion, working with our tenant/neighbors. It is misleading, however, to think that having at close proximity (15 to 25 feet) an 18 million dollar, five-story, 41-unit (four persons per unit, 164 altogether) private dormitory over whose operation we would have very little control, would be free of concerns.

We in the U.S., 4.5% of the world's population, contribute 22% to greenhouse gas emissions. We need to be better world citizens and better stewards of God's creation. We at St. Mark's have the chance, by continuing to use our present facilities, to take a significant step in the right direction.

Reducing global warming is not just another good cause. It is the over-arching challenge of our time – the work that God has given us to do in the world. It is a project in which everyone in the world has a stake (though the rich contribute more to the problem, while the poor suffer more from it). If we do not meet this challenge, future generations will face a calamitous world we would not recognize. Knowing what we know, we cannot, in good faith, act as if global warming has no relevance for us and our actions.

I invite your response and encourage you to discuss this crucial parish decision and global issue with the vestry and other fellow parishioners.

Jack Sawyer, *Parishioner*, jacksawyer@comcast.net

Global Warming Comes Home: A Response

In-fill Development is the Environmental Response to Bay Area Growth

Editor's Note: The Lion has a policy of offering space to contributors of new items or opinion pieces of interest to the St. Mark's Community. The following article by Ben Metcalf responds to the Op Ed of Jack Sawyer, which appears on the previous page.

Mr. Sawyer's Op-Ed on the previous page wonders whether an environmental "no harm" perspective would lead the Church to leave our property as-is. What may be missing from his argument is recognition of the significant growth expected to occur in the Bay Area in the decades to come. The Association of Bay Area Governments forecasts that, with business as usual, by 2020 we can expect to have one million more jobs, one million more commuters, 265,000 daily in-commuters to the region, 490,000 acres of lost open space, and a 150% increase in aggregate traffic congestion. Wow!

The environmental consequence of pushing this growth ever farther into the exurban periphery cannot be understated. Environmental activists and urban planners, alike, are in near consensus that new development must be accommodated in the in-fill urban setting – within walking distance of transit, groceries, schools, etc. – to the greatest extent possible. Intuitively, it is not difficult to see why – a typical ranch-style tract community with 44 homes spread over the same number of acres, with its requisite cars, new infrastructure, large footprints, air conditioners, swimming pools, and so on has the potential to wreak far more environmental damage than that which would be associated with taking down our tired buildings on Durant and Ellsworth and replacing them with a compact 44-unit residential dormitory.

No doubt the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of the new effort will come at an environmental cost. But for the most part, at least, our buildings themselves won't actually be going to landfill. The City of Berkeley requires 65% of all construction waste to be recycled or reused and green urban developer/builders like Hudson McDonald easily attain 80% or higher in situations like this.

Ben Metcalf, *Redevelopment Committee*

Ashby Care Center: Facility Blessing

Six singers from St. Mark's – Jan Robitscher, Phil McKnight, David Hunsberger, Jerry Walker, Jerry Kratz and I, were pleased to be a part of a facility blessing on September 20, at Ashby Care Center, where Marilyn Sporer is a resident.

As an Introit to the blessing, we sang "Hear the Voice and Prayer" by Thomas Tallis. The blessing was led by Fr. Mark Wiesner, pastor of St. Augustine Catholic Church, Oakland.

His homily reminded us how much the residents, staff and caregivers are a necessary part of the suffering body of Christ.

Paul Sporer, *Contributor*



Spoken Word Season Preview

November 2, 2008

On November 2, following the 10 a.m. Eucharist, The Spoken Word Committee will present a preview of the events they're planning for the coming season – everything from a children's Christmas play to bits from Archibald MacLeish's JB and some of the astonishing writing of Elizabeth the First as well as a re-reading of Pamela Ferguson's piece on St. Theresa and St. John of the Cross which a number of people have asked to hear again.

We're grateful to the Adult Formation Committee for allowing us to use the Forum time for this purpose.

Please join us!

Senior Warden's Report

At its September meeting, the vestry returned to its work concerning the stewardship of St. Mark's property and finances, and to pastoral care.

\$250,000 Bequest of Mark Koop

Following the spiritual reflection, Robbin informed the vestry that Mark Koop, who died on August 20, made St. Mark's the beneficiary of an insurance policy in the amount of \$250,000.

Mark's generosity and his expression of care for the community reminded us how active Mark had been in the life of the community and how much he will be missed.

The vestry plans to allocate the entire amount to the repayment of Restricted Funds that St. Mark's had borrowed to finance a portion of the Church restoration.

Restricted Funds were given to St. Mark's over the years to finance specific areas of ministry. When St. Mark's borrowed the approximately \$270,000 principal from the Restricted Funds during the Church restoration, the vestry planned to fund the areas of ministry supported by the Restricted Funds out of the annual budget and to restore the amounts borrowed.

In the years since the restoration, the vestry has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to restoring the borrowed funds. In 2006, the vestry adopted a repayment plan. For the last several years, in the face of tight budgets, the vestry has struggled to put aside money consistent with this plan. The bequest of Mark Koop, in combination with the payments already made, will essentially restore the entire amount of the restricted funds borrowed. However, other borrowed reserves, which amount to \$162,000, will still need to be repaid.

The Financial Oversight Committee will determine the exact status of the Restricted Funds and provide a more detailed report next month. The final report, however, is sure to be good financial news.

Renewal of Facilities: New Developments

Despite uncertain economic times, progress continues to be made on St. Mark's redevelopment project.

Last month, the vestry reported that it had signed a Letter of Intent to enter into a 90 year ground lease with Hudson McDonald. To ensure that the interests of St.

Mark's are adequately represented, the vestry engaged David Thomas, an attorney with the firm of McPharlin Sprinkles & Thomas LLP, whose has substantial experience in negotiating ground leases.

In addition, the vestry received a report from the Redevelopment Committee, which had reached an agreement in principle on the operation of the parking facility in the event that development goes forward. Under the proposed plan, volunteers would continue to have access to parking at almost all times and would not personally need to pay for parking. Most use would continue to be free, but in some situations, St. Mark's would need to pay for use of the lot under a formula negotiated by the Redevelopment Committee.

Redevelopment Forum

Next, the vestry took time to plan for a forum with the parish to discuss the redevelopment plans in more detail.

The Senior Warden, who is an ex officio member of the Redevelopment Committee, agreed to explain that the vestry believes redevelopment of the church property is good for St. Mark's from both a stewardship and ministry perspective. As was mentioned in the last month's *Lion*, the redevelopment will both increase the rental revenues that St. Mark's receives and will also lead to a major renewal of church facilities. In addition, the vestry believes that redevelopment will enable St. Mark's to focus on ministry to each other and to the larger community, rather than spending time on tenant issues.

Jeff Pace, who is the head of the Redevelopment Committee, prepared to provide the details of the project and to invite Evan McDonald to discuss the details. (Note: that forum was held on September 21 and resulted in of an exchange of opinions on pages 8 and 9 of this issue of the *Lion*.)

Pastoral Care Discussed

The vestry then turned its attention to the development of a caring and beloved community at St. Mark's. The vestry discussed what experiences we want parishioners to have and what we need to do to make this happen. Our goal is to ensure that we take care of parishioners and are able to incorporate newcomers.

Subsequently, a subgroup of the vestry agreed to convene to develop a social ministry action plan.

Timothy Sullivan, *Senior Warden*

St. Mark's October Calendar

			1	2	3	4
			Adult Formation 5:30pm Library; Bridge Club 5:30pm Hodgkin; Choir Potluck 6pm PAR; Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm PAR			Cal Football Game; Magnificat Concert 8pm Nave
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Forum 11:45am Library.	Social Concerns 7pm Library.	Choir Board 6pm Music Off; Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm PAR.	Bridge Club 5:30pm Hodgkin; Stewardship 7pm Conference Room.			Healing Prayer 1pm Library; AVE Concert 8pm Nave.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Forum 11:45am Library; Evensong Organ Recital 5:30pm Nave.		Family Ministry 7pm Library.	Worship Com. 5:30pm Library; Bridge Club 5:30pm Hodgkin; Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm PAR		Choir Retreat	Hot Meals 1:30pm Parish Hall; Choir Retreat continues; Diocesan Convention Grace Cathedral.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Forum 11:45am Library; Lion Deadline; Choir Retreat continues.	Communications Committee 6pm Library.	Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm Library.	Bridge Club 5:30pm Hodgkin.	Theology Discussion Group 7pm Library.		Cal Football Game; Healing Prayer 1pm Library; Prayer Shawl Ministry 2pm Deacon's Office.
26	27	28	29	30		
Pledge Sunday; Forum 11:45am Library.			Lion mailing; 9:30am Library; Bridge Club 5:30pm Hodgkin; Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm PAR.			

Note: Nave is the Church Nave, or main Church; Hodgkin is Hodgkin Hall; PAR is Parish Hall

The Lion

The Newsletter of St. Mark's
Episcopal Church

Published Monthly
Except for July and August

The Lion Staff

Interim Editor: Tim Sullivan

Copy Editor: Jane Adams

Office Support: Vanessa Capino

Production: Nancy Ditzler

Distribution: Marjorie Pettyjohn
and team

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2300 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

Time Value October 1, 2008

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Berkeley, CA 94704
Permit #325



In This Issue

Ministries Sunday a Beehive of Activity	1
Report from Hot Meals	2
Stewardship In-Gathering on October 26	2
Letter from Reverend Robbin Clark	3
A Few Words from the Deacon	4
The Ministry of Music	5
Critical Notices	6
The <i>Lion</i> Looks Back	7
Op-Ed: Global Warming Comes Home	8
Global Warming Comes Home: A Response	9
Ashby Care Center Facility Blessing	9
Spoken Word Season Preview	9
Senior Warden's Report	10
St. Mark's September Calendar	11