

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



# THE LION

EDITION: May 2007

## ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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### 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, Arthur Holder**,  
**Micah Jackson, James B. Jones**,  
**Scott Sinclair, Owen Thomas**,  
**Patricia Walker-Sprague, Louis Weil**

### VESTRY

**John Harding**, *Senior Warden*  
**Bob Kolenkow**, *Junior Warden*  
**Nancy Hayes**, *Clerk*  
**Bob Williams**, *Treasurer*  
**Bruce Alexander, Fran Carlson**,  
**Kevin Crispin-Alfieri, Jay Gaskill**,  
**Chrissie Grover-Roybal, Laura Jackson**  
**Meg Mealy, Jeff Pace**  
**W. Wayne Ritchie, Tim Sullivan**

## Save the Date!

**Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** The Board of Directors of Episcopal Charities hosts **Afternoon Tea** honoring outstanding Parish Outreach Leaders: St. Mark's Honorees are **Kirsten Spalding** and **Yit Arn Teh** for their leadership of the YEAH! meals. The event takes place at 2:00p.m. at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, Berkeley. For more information call: 510.844.0642 / email: [info@episcopalcharities.org](mailto:info@episcopalcharities.org). Tickets are \$35.00/person and the reservation deadline is May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day** is **Hat day** at St. Mark's! Bring out your Sunday bonnet, your straw boater or fedora, or maybe a vintage treasure from Aunt Tillie. Or you could create your own unique chapeau for the occasion. All are invited to don their favorite hat for the service and coffee hour. Prizes will be offered in several categories, based on the discerning eyes of our Sunday school students.

**Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>** is **Pentecost**, the end of the Great Fifty Days of Easter. This festival marks the giving of the Holy Spirit to empower the disciples to become apostle on mission. Because it is the moment when Jesus' followers were transformed into Christ's Body on earth, it is also called the 'birthday of the Church.' We will be celebrating the **baptism** of some of our newest members at the 10 a.m. service, and also marking the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of our rector Robbin's ordination. Stay tuned for further details! And don't forget to **wear red**, the color of the fire of the Spirit.

**Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Alexander's Ordination** to the priesthood  
11:00 am at Grace Cathedral

**Summer Camp** season approaches. Now is the time to sign-up for one of the fabulous offerings at the Bishop's Ranch and St. Dorothy's Rest. There are programs for kids, teens and whole families. More information is posted outside the parish office and / or you can look on the diocesan web site: [episcopalbayarea.org](http://episcopalbayarea.org)

### *A Few Words from the Deacon...Basket of Love and Hope*

I'd like to tell you about a ministry at St. Mark's that is loving and a wonderful example of *diakonia*, and I'll wager a bacon double cheeseburger that many in the parish don't know about it.

For approximately four years, Bob Williams, our parish treasurer, has been using his own funds, time and talent to assemble Christmas stockings and Easter baskets for the residents at Berkeley Pines, the convalescent hospital where he and several St. Mark's parishioners go on Sundays after the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist to offer a worship service. This service is part of St. Mark's participation in AEMCH – An Episcopal Ministry to Convalescent Hospitals. I've gone along to the service, and what Bob and the other volunteers do is loving and wonderful, but I'd like to share his Easter gift with you.

If you had wandered into the library between the 8:00 and 10:00 services on Easter morning, you'd have found Bob lining up Easter baskets, a couple of packages of cello basket grass, and bags of treats and soft toys. With painstaking meticulousness and a greater portion of love, Bob puts grass in the baskets and parcels out the candies and soft toys into the baskets so that every basket has an equal amount of treats and a toy. Truth be told, if you pause to ask what he's doing, pretty soon you wind up helping – and paying close attention to his instructions, watching how with love and delight he assembles the baskets. Why does he do it?

Bob is showing us a way of living out the Gospel, by giving to those who have either nothing or next to nothing. The residents at Berkeley Pines are elderly, some alone, and the Sunday service is one hour where they connect with the outside world, have people visit them and offer love and The Word – and perhaps our St. Mark's crew are the only people they see other than the hospital staff for the week. These baskets are a gift of the heart.

This year, however, the basket giving from the parish extended to our Family Ministry – on Holy Saturday, the children of the parish made baskets for the YEAH! Shelter tenants. Baskets were filled with goodies that ranged from chocolate to necessities for living life on the streets. (*See pg.4*)

*Diakonia* in action, friends!

A few months ago, while I was still assisting with the Thursday noon service at Grace Cathedral, there was a young man who sat outside the chapel on the step beside the baptismal font during the service. He was reading a book and was totally absorbed in it. Afterwards, during the meet-and-greet, I went over and sat next to him, asked him how he was doing. He closed the book and said, "What can I do for Jesus?" Well! This opened the floodgates of evangelism, I can tell you, but I listened to his story and it's tucked neatly in my soul, now. Rather than ask what Jesus can do, what God can do for him, he wanted to know what he could do for Jesus.

I wish I knew where he was and how he was doing, this young man. If I ran into him I'd tell him about Bob's Easter baskets and the baskets for YEAH!

What can we do for Jesus?

You can start with a little Easter basket.

With God's Love and mine,

--Ellen+

### **Seeking Hospice Volunteers at Sutter VNA and Hospice in Emeryville**

Volunteers are needed to provide compassionate companionship and comfort to patients and families coping with terminal illness--two to four hours weekly. The next volunteer training will start in June of 2007. Volunteers are also needed for administrative support. Call Merry Steagall, Volunteer Coordinator, at 510-450-8565 or email to [steagam@sutterhealth.org](mailto:steagam@sutterhealth.org) for more information.

## A Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is always a joy to come to the Great Fifty Days of Eastertide, our season of feasting and triumph. Not only does it climax the 'special' seasons of our liturgical calendar (the rest of the year being given over to 'ordinary time' until next Advent), but it coincides with the flowering of Spring and the wind-up of the academic/program year. On the 'big day', we pull out all the stops – and did we ever this year!

As Vestry Host Bruce Alexander reminded us recently, our feasting this season does not have to be all about food and drink. We can feast on each other's company and on the wonderful things we learn from each other or enjoy doing together. For me, one of my favorite 'feasts' of this sort at St. Mark's is working with those preparing for baptism and confirmation. Our once or twice yearly Inquirers' program is a real treat – a time to engage with people who are consciously taking new steps on their journey into God and talk about the 'real stuff' of life. I leave each session energized and grateful for the fascinating people who find their way to St. Mark's. I always feel renewed by our discussions and fellowship, and I commend this program to anyone who wants a real boost to their life of faith. It's a great way to mark a change or milestone or to reconnect with what brought you to church in the first place.

This spring, a lively group of Inquirers met for six sessions to discuss essential aspects of our faith and to learn more about the history, worship and beliefs of the Episcopal Church. The Inquirers' program is for all who wish to explore these topics, but it is also part of Confirmation preparation. On April 14, St. Mark's presented four people for Confirmation at Grace Cathedral. The following day we formally welcomed them to the congregation at the 10am liturgy. Charley Robinson, Stephanie Beckman and Yit Arn Teh had participated in last year's Inquirers' program, but were unable to attend the service then. Nina Kelsey was among this year's Inquirers. Other members of the group will look toward a subsequent confirmation service. The next Inquirers' program will be offered in the fall. Look for notice of the schedule, or indicate your interest to the rector or parish office and we will contact you personally.

Pentecost will see the Baptism of three of our parish babies: Lauren, daughter of Jeff and Diana Pace; Madeline, daughter of Sean McConnell and Susan Portugall; and Gregory, son of Dan and Jennifer Joslyn-Siemiatkoski. It is a joy to welcome these to New Life in Christ and into the fellowship of the Church. We'll celebrate with a parish barbecue lunch on Pentecost, so plan to be here for the festivities!

Baptism and Confirmation are two ways of joining St. Mark's. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism confers full membership in Christ's Body, the church. We officiate it on designated feast days which are particularly appropriate to its meaning: Easter, to connect with Christ's dying and being raised to new life; Pentecost, to connect to the gift of the Holy Spirit; All Saints' Sunday, to connect with our membership in the whole Communion of Saints; the Sunday after Epiphany, to connect with Jesus' own baptism. Confirmation, which must be conferred by a bishop, is offered at our cathedral following each of these occasions and also as part of the bishop's visitation to each congregation every other year. It is an opportunity for those who have come to maturity in the faith to reaffirm their baptismal promises for themselves and to officially mark their intention to live out those promises in the context of the Episcopal Church.

Persons who were confirmed as young teens, but who may have taken a substantial 'time out' from church, or who feel that they did not really grasp the meaning of their commitment at that time, may wish to formally reaffirm their Baptismal Covenant before the bishop. Others, who grew up in another tradition offering confirmation by a bishop (most frequently the Roman Catholic Church), but who now wish to formally affiliate with the Episcopal Church, can be officially 'received' into this communion by the bishop.

The other way to join St. Mark's is by transfer of membership from another congregation, Episcopal or other. This is a formal acknowledgement of a change in one's 'parish home' done via request and forms exchanged between the former congregation and St. Mark's. In practice, many folks omit this step and simply 'settle in' to a new church home. All are welcome in this parish family, but it is helpful to the Episcopal Church to have an accurate picture of its membership. St. Mark's had a long period (you now what the sixties were like in Berkeley) of not keeping precise records of transfers and still does not make a point of requesting them from newcomers. Perhaps it would be good to 'get our books in order' about membership just as we have been so careful to do about money. If you have not formally transferred your membership, the office would love to hear from you. If you're not sure, we can try to figure it out together.

## Family Ministries Update – Generosity and Fun in Holy Week

St. Mark's Family Ministries Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.

The committee reviewed the Family Ministry activities for Holy Week, which we deemed to be quite successful, including the YEAH! Easter basket project and the annual St. Mark's Easter Egg Hunt.

Jeff and Diana Pace headed the YEAH! Easter basket project, which was a huge success. More than 25 parishioners, half of them under the age of fifteen, were on hand for this community service event on Holy Saturday. Due to the overwhelming and gracious response from the parish, we were able to assemble 35 fully-stocked baskets and have a lot of stuff left over for an additional donation to YEAH! It was a drizzly day, but who knew that, even when wet, cardboard tubes (left behind after the cellophane was taken off to wrap the baskets) could be used equally well as swords and horses? Suffice it to say that fun was had by the knights and everyone else, and YEAH! staff were extremely grateful for the donation, adding up to more than \$1,200 worth of goods and goodies.

While there was no formal Sunday School on Easter Sunday, we had an activities tent set up in the courtyard for the children and had great fun with various creative arts and crafts, and a very popular Bunny Ring Toss. The kids were also close enough to the South Narthex to be able to hear the music wafting out of the church, which they found delightful (a soundtrack to their creative process and play).

The annual St. Mark's Easter Egg Hunt was also a huge success as we had approximately fifteen kids participating, with plenty of eggs for everyone. We are thankful to the many hands that aided in making the egg hunt such a fun afternoon.

The committee is working on plans for summer activities for the children once formal Sunday School ends, and I will have a more detailed report regarding our summer session in the next *Lion*.

And, as noted in the last *Lion*, I will be attending the Godly Play accreditation program at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church May 17 – 19, in the hope of getting the Godly Play program up and running for the beginning of fall. I will also provide a report regarding my observations, etc., regarding this program in the next issue of the *Lion*.

Keep these dates in mind for upcoming Family Ministry events:

1. Oakland Zoo Trip – May 19 (10 AM)
2. S'mores and Bible Stories @ St. Mark's – June 23 (6 PM)
3. Hot Meals Set up @ St. Mark's – July 21 (time *TBA*)
4. Family BBQ @ St. Mark's – August 18 (High Noon)

There will be more information as the dates draw nearer, but should you have any questions regarding these events, please contact Jeff Pace.

Again, as you can see, we've had a very productive spring thus far, and we have many more projects lined up for summer. And, if you would like to join us in what is a growing and vibrant ministry, please let me know. We certainly can use the many gifts that the members of this parish possess in helping our children and youth grow in their spiritual quest.

--Lisa B. Key, Chair, St. Mark's Family Ministries Committee

## The Ministry of Music

George Anton Emblom, Director of Music

The twenty-first season of the Second Sunday Evensong/Organ Recital Series continues Sunday, May 13 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Evensong will be sung by the St. Mark's Choir, followed by an organ recital by Leon W. Couch III. Dr. Couch earned two doctoral degrees from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music: the D.M.A. in Organ Performance and the Ph.D. in Music Theory. His undergraduate degrees in physics, mathematics, and music are from the University of Florida. Dr. Couch currently serves as College Organist at Converse College, where he teaches organ and music theory. From 2002–2006, he taught organ and coordinated the music-theory curriculum at Texas A&M University, where he was named the 2005–2006 Montague Teaching Excellence Scholar for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Previously Couch taught organ studio, music theory, and undergraduate mathematics at the University of Cincinnati. As a scholar, Dr. Couch concentrates on pragmatic applications of contemporary and historical music theory to keyboard performance. Dr. Couch has presented at numerous international, national, and regional conferences, and particularly enjoys giving workshops, masterclasses, and lectures to local American Guild of Organists (AGO) chapters, colleges, and the public. As a performer, Couch presents organ recitals, masterclasses, and lecture-recitals throughout the United States. This spring, the respected label *Pro Organo* will release his solo recording *Hamburger Rhetoric*, which features dramatic music of Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, and other composers on the famous "Bach organ" at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. **He will offer a program in celebration of Dietrich Buxtehude.**

O for mortals, what  
Power there is in songs,  
What great happiness  
That can make bearable this  
Short narrow channel of life!

Sophocles - tr. from Greek by Reginald Gibbons in *Poetry* magazine March, 2007

**The Choir Association wishes to again thank the numerous people who contributed to the Easter Brass Fund. Thank you so very much for your support. Your support enhances the worship and is a wonderful gift to the assembly. Thank you so very, very much for the outpouring of graciousness and witness.**

### Random Thoughts

Thanks to some hint dropping by Jerry Walker and Jack Sawyer, I have recently undergone an intense spiritual correction in my life-path.

Several years ago, Jerry mentioned to me that he regularly makes retreats at Mercy Center in Burlingame. I knew then that I ought myself to make a retreat, but excuses were easy to come by. This year, after a 40-years' absence (almost to the day), I made a private silent weekend retreat. I was convinced during that retreat that God had been waiting patiently and lovingly to communicate with me.

A few weeks ago, Jack Sawyer added a bulletin item about the film "Into Great Silence," which is about the monastic experience at Chartreuse (the Carthusian Monks). I have now seen it twice and am still deeply moved by the experience. From it, I learned that all movement is from God and to Him. The only difference between the monks and us is that they know and live that truth--we fear it, ignore it, or hide it.

I am writing this for two reasons. The first is to relate the importance of shared experience. To lend a thought to someone can sometimes be God's way of communicating a message. The second is the value of silent reflection. Sometimes the voids in our life are best substituted by silence. Silence is a very active deed. For me, without periods of silence and reflective centering, I don't think I would be nearly as proficient in my work as your percussionist.

--Paul Sporer

## Adult Formation Sponsors Series on "Our House of Worship," Plans Summer Offerings

In May the Adult Formation Committee (AFC) will sponsor a two-session Sunday forum series on "Our House of Worship." Both forums will begin at 11:45 a.m. and end at 12:45 p.m.

On May 6 Donald Drury, the artist who created the series of stained glass windows, *The Six Days of Creation*, will lead a "walk through" tour in which he'll discuss the process of designing, crafting, and installing the windows in St. Mark's.

On May 20 we'll take a look at the architecture and decoration of our historic sanctuary under the guidance of parishioner Len Johnson, who researched the history of St. Mark's in connection with the centennial.

The Committee is considering various summer programs, including the following:

- **Historical Liturgies.** Micah Jackson has proposed a 5-session series in which attendees would participate in historical liturgies, then attend a simple shared meal. The liturgies would be discussed during the meal.
  - **Re-Hash for Lunch** would be a program in which people would attend a no-host luncheon at a local restaurant, to discuss the day's sermon with whoever gave it. The event would probably take place at 1 p.m., after the service and any AFC-sponsored forum or other activity.
  - **A Summer Film Festival on War, Reconciliation and Human Rights** has been suggested by the Social Justice Committee.
  - **The via media "values program,"** probably offered in late summer or early fall, will be a continuation of the highly successful via media program, in which parishioners met for dinner, viewed professionally-produced DVD's on key concepts of our faith, and then discussed them.
- The new series focuses on various ethical questions that arise in Christian community. Each session features a 10-minute video, some time for small-group discussion (led by trained facilitators), and some take-home materials. Topics include the following: "Communion: An Ethical Choice"; "Repentance, An Ethical Journey"; "Witness: An Ethical Example"; "Service: An Ethical Imperative"; "Respect: An Ethical Right"; and "Go Forth: Ethics in Action."

AFC member Mark Koop will facilitate the via media values program.

--Caroline Summer

## Williams Hall Tenancy Update

As reported last month, the new tenant is slated to commence occupancy and payment of rent beginning in May for the downstairs portion of Williams Hall (Rooms 6-7-8) and in July for the upstairs portion as well as for the Parish House basement space for which a lease was signed earlier this year.

To meet state licensing requirements, the downstairs Montessori School will be adding fencing to the play plaza atop St. Mark's parking garage and working with St. Mark's to soften the concrete lip that runs around the plaza and over to Hodgkin Hall. They will also be removing closets to create an open passageway between Rooms 7 & 8. Furnishings for the upstairs English language institute have been staged in Room 8 and are awaiting planned renovations before being moved into position for use. For further details of planned changes, please refer to the April 2007 *Lion* article.

In mid-April, the last vestiges of Arrowsmith property were removed from the basement storage room that had been rented to assist them during this transition period. The old Arrowsmith sign at the corner of Durant and Ellsworth will be replaced by a sign to be erected by the new tenant, subject to St. Mark's approval, and Arrowsmith is arranging for remaining first class mail to be forwarded elsewhere, so that any lingering bulk mail deliveries can be discarded without need for sorting by St. Mark's staff or volunteers.

--W. Wayne Ritchie for the Tenant Relations Committee

## Stewardship Notes

One of the many facets of stewardship is ensuring that we take care of the organizations and people whom we will one day leave behind. To help facilitate this process the Diocese of California has created a series of low-cost will-writing workshops.

For the amazingly low fee of \$75.00 you can get:

1. 45-minute appointment for a confidential consultation protected by attorney-client privilege
2. A simple will

The next workshops will take place from 9am to 12pm on the following Saturdays:

May 19 <sup>th</sup>	St. James', San Francisco
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	St James', Fremont & Resurrection, Pleasant Hill
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Resurrection, Pleasant Hill

You can find more information at <http://www.EpiscopalGift.org> or by contacting The Rev. Richard Schaper at 415-869-7812.

*--Kevin Crispin-Alfieri*

## What the BCP Says About Wills

Next month--June--is the month in which one counsel in the Book of Common Prayer is more observed than in other months. Not a counsel to marry! Rather, a counsel to have a will.

There is a counsel in the Book of Common Prayer to have a will? Yes, that is right. Page 445 speaks of "the duty...of all persons to make wills."

"The Minister of the Congregation" is here directed "to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families," and also the duty "of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods."

There is one further counsel here. This is, that persons making wills or trusts or other instruments of estate planning are not to neglect, if they are able, "to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

Having a will or other estate plan is so important a part of Christian faith and stewardship that it is explicitly addressed in our book of worship. For an adult Christian, having a valid will and estate plan is essential.

Unfortunately, 50% of Americans die without a valid will and allow the state courts to distribute their assets however the state thinks best. This abdicates an important area of choice. We can choose to whom we wish to pass the "temporal goods" with which God has blessed us.

In choosing our heirs, we naturally think first of our families. This is as it should be. But we need not stop here. There is also our spiritual family, the Church. There are also other charitable organizations carrying on important work in the world. Our "Last Will and Testament" can actually be a "testament"--an expression of our personal faith and our values. This is an important aspect of our Christian stewardship.

Why do you suppose that more people seem to write wills in June than in other months? Attorneys tell me that it is because people who are planning travel during the summer perceive extra risk in international travel and take steps to have their affairs in order.

This is a good time to make your will into a testament of your faith and values. **For further information or attorney referrals, contact the gift planning office of the diocese or see [www.EpiscopalGift.org](http://www.EpiscopalGift.org), "Write A Will."** And the next time you have the Book of Common Prayer in your hands, look up page 445. It's a helpful reminder for all of us.

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

## Interesting Development

On April 17, 2007, the Development Committee (DC) gathered for another meeting. There are certainly some issues out there:

- 1.) Should we press ahead with development plans while the iron is hot, or pull back now that a new tenant has signed a lease for Williams Hall?
- 2.) Should we invest more time in due diligence efforts, or will this just dilute interest and result in the same information we already have?
- 3.) Who will spearhead the DC, once Ian Webster relocates to England?

Since the first and third issues were too difficult, we settled on tackling the second one. Our feeling (and I believe it was the general consensus, although the way of expressing it is my own) was that adopting a "leave no stone unturned approach" is simply code for talking development to death, wasting everyone's time and ultimately achieving nothing. If we as a parish eventually want to postpone development for a few years (see issue no. 1, above), that's a reasonable decision; making this decision by default because we can't get off the dime is not.

With this in mind, we reviewed our progress to date. We have pursued three potential developers, two of whom presented proposals and one of whom reluctantly withdrew. We have generated leads on three more developers, and we will attempt to speak with all of them. We have also spoken with another broker and with a development consultant. Ian expects to leave this July, but before he goes, we hope to be able to present our results to the vestry, and invite our current broker to speak at the vestry meeting. Ideally, the vestry will then be in a position to tackle some of the big issues.

So where do you fit in? It is your parish, after all. Basically, you need to get involved. Ask questions, visit Williams Hall (we hope to offer a field trip there before long), come to the forums – we have had one already – and read the Lion articles, talk to your friends and form some opinions. Williams Hall is not going to last forever. Is this the time to develop the property? What would you like to see there? What would you be willing to put up with? Remember that a decision to do nothing is still a decision. Make your voice heard.

*--John Harding for the Development Committee*

## The Ruler of All I Survey

At the Parish Meeting back on September 24, 2006, parishioners requested that a survey be conducted. In late December 2006, I sent out such a survey, and the results were tabulated and subsequently discussed at the vestry retreat and (briefly) at the last vestry meeting. You may be curious about these results. At present, they reflect 83 responses to 173 surveys sent (48%).

Below is a summary of the responses to the questions concerning the review of ministries and the various problems and priorities that parishioners identified. Some of the most interesting comments were the handwritten ones, which cannot be presented here and which in any case were sometimes quite personal to the writer. Many thanks to all who responded.

How would you rate: *(on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest))*

1.	St. Mark's liturgy?	5.78 (83%)
2.	St. Mark's music program?	6.65 (95%)
3.	St. Mark's education for youth?	2.69 (38%)
	a. Sunday School?	3.28 (47%)
	b. Other programs?	2.81 (40%)
4.	St. Mark's adult education?	5.26 (75%)
5.	St. Mark's pastoral care?	4.24 (61%)
6.	St. Mark's parties/group activities?	4.65 (66%)
7.	St. Mark's newcomers activities?	4.37 (62%)
8.	St. Mark's social programs?	5.72 (82%)
	a. Hot Meals/Homeless?	6.13 (88%)
	b. Social Justice?	5.15 (74%)

- |     |   |            |
|-----|---|------------|
| 9.  | St. Mark's stewardship efforts?               | 5.43 (76%) |
| 10. | How St. Mark's accounts for its finances?     | 5.46 (78%) |
| 11. | How St. Mark's maintains its church property? | 5.15 (74%) |
| 12. | How St. Mark's maintains its tenant property? | 3.98 (57%) |
|     | a. Williams Hall?                             | 3.81 (54%) |
|     | b. The parking garage?                        | 3.61 (52%) |
| 13. | St. Mark's administration?                    | 4.92 (70%) |
|     | a. The website?                               | 5.00 (71%) |
|     | b. Office support?                            | 4.80 (69%) |

B. For any St. Mark's ministry that you rated as "1" or "2" in Part A above, please identify the problems that you believe have contributed to the deficiency. *(Only those receiving more than one mention are reported. Because some parishioners identified multiple problems, numbers do not correlate on a one-to-one basis.)*

3.Children, Youth & Families	16	6.Maintenance / Williams Hall / Garage	5
4.Outreach / Growth	7	7.Staffing	2
5.Pastoral care	7	8.No Response	42

D. What do you believe should be funding priorities for St. Mark's next year? *(Only those receiving more than one mention are reported. Because some parishioners identified multiple priorities, numbers do not correlate on a one-to-one basis.)*

9.	Maintenance / Williams Hall / Garage	17	15. Liturgy	4
10.	Outreach / Growth	13	16. Redevelopment	4
11.	Children, Youth & Families	11	17. Reserves	4
12.	Music	7	18. Social programs	3
13.	Pastoral care	6	19. Mission discernment	2
14.	Staffing	6	20. No Response	39

*--John Harding, Senior Warden*

Anyone who takes care of a house knows that there is always repair and renovation work to be done – the same is true at St. Mark's, even more so. Much of the work at St. Mark's goes on relatively unseen.

The Junior Warden (a member of the Vestry) works with the Facilities Manager Courtney Storm on issues concerning St. Mark's physical plant. Courtney has lately been repairing and putting in metal supports for the drainpipes in the garage, and cleaning the Hodgkin Hall drainage. The next step will be to seal cracks in the garage roof, so overall, garage leakage will significantly decrease.

Courtney has also dealt with varied problems – new lock-sets for several doors, new floodlights in front of Woolly Mammoth for improved nighttime security (all outdoor lights are operational). The fire equipment and alarms have been tested in conjunction with our vendor AAA Fire Protection (happens twice a year), and pass muster.

The Junior Warden has been working in the Nave, particularly on kneeler repair. The north half has been temporarily repaired, and the south half has mostly all been refitted with stop nuts that will not readily loosen, for a more permanent repair. This work should be complete by the end of May.

*--Bob Kolenkow, Junior Warden*

Many thanks to Junior Warden, Bob Kolenkow, who has repaired most of the broken and/or squeaky kneelers and will finish up the entire job very soon. We appreciate your efforts, Bob!

*--Andrea Foley*

## Communications at St. Mark's

On Easter this year, St. Mark's introduced two colorful tri-fold brochures and an updated version of the booklet that serves as a comprehensive overview of St. Mark's and its ministries.

One brochure, "Community, Fellowship, Groups," offers a directory of the Christian Fellowship and Social Groups now available to the St. Mark's community that describes each group and provides contact information. The brochure contains much of the information developed by Jay Gaskill as part of his new community formation ministry.

The second brochure, "Community, Social Ministry, Christian Education and Liturgical Ministry" provides an overview of the opportunities now offered at St. Marks to minister to the St. Mark's community and the larger Berkeley community, to participate in Christian education programs and to assist in the many tasks that our liturgical worship requires.

In addition, a newly printed twenty-page booklet, "Introduction and Opportunities for Ministry" joined the two brochures in the narthexes. This booklet updates and redesigns the "Guide to Ministries" booklet that previously appeared in a red cover.

The purpose of these brochures and the revised booklet is to provide information to those wishing to join the St. Mark's community or those seeking opportunities to increase their participation in the communal life at St. Mark's.

This year, the Vestry identified communications within the St. Mark's community as an area of special focus. The core of the St. Mark's communications program consists of the monthly Lion, the weekly Service Bulletins, and the Website. These offer a solid communications foundation for our community and will continue in this mission.

The new brochures and re-issuance of the booklet attempt to expand our communications efforts beyond our core program. The new communications initiatives will support the efforts by other members of the congregation who are seeking to build the communities in St. Mark's and to expand our congregation. Specifically, these two brochures and the booklet seek to help those participating in the greeting ministry and the community formation initiatives by providing them with materials that unlock the mysteries of St. Mark's.

In addition, this year will soon see major changes to communications at St. Mark's. This spring, the current Lion editor, Karalee Harding, will step down, and our current website guru, Jason Alexander, will depart for Little Rock. In addition, the Diocese is undertaking a major web-based communications initiative over the next 6 months and hopes to link its communications initiatives with new initiatives in each parish.

As a result, the communications ministry will be going through a major transition and renewal. Our goals will include: 1) providing continuity in the preparation of the Lion, Web, and Service Bulletin; 2) upgrading the St. Mark's website to add audio and to thematically link our communications initiatives to diocesan communications initiatives; 3) provide design and document preparation assistance to those engaged in St. Mark's ministries; 4) create a Communications Committee that will create a communications strategy to support our initiatives.

Any individual interested in participating in any of these initiatives should contact Tim Sullivan at [sullivan-tim50@yahoo.com](mailto:sullivan-tim50@yahoo.com) or 510-848-0905. Individuals with skills in graphic design, web design, photography, or text layout and design would be especially welcome. Nevertheless, content remains king, and those with ideas and the ability to write can make a solid contribution. The communications committee will likely have a flexible and open structure, consisting of a small steering committee of three core individuals who make a modest but continuous commitment of time and an auxiliary of others who will assist in completing specific tasks. Operationally, the committee would seek to minimize meetings but instead rely on the Internet to foster communications and coordinate tasks.

*--Tim Sullivan, Vestry member assigned to Communications*

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Thank you.



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Time Value  
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## May 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, May 1**  
Social Concerns Mtg.

**Wednesday, May 9**  
Theology Discussion Grp.

**Wednesday, May 16**  
Worship Comm. Mtg.

**Saturday, May 26**  
Healing Prayer Group

**Wednesday, May 2**  
LION Mailing

**Saturday, May 12**  
Healing Prayer Group  
Schola Cantorum Concert

**Saturday, May 19**  
Anti-Racism Commission  
Hot Meals

**Sunday, May 27**  
Pentecost-Baptism  
Robbin's 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration/BBQ

**Saturday, May 5**  
Visioning Conference  
(Grace Cathedral)  
AVE Concert

**Sunday, May 13**  
Evensong/Organ Recital

**Sunday, May 20**  
LION Deadline  
Voci Concert

**Monday, May 28**  
Memorial Day  
Office Closed

**Tuesday, May 8**  
Adult Formation Mtg.  
Family Ministry Mtg.

**Tuesday, May 15**  
Vestry Mtg.

**Monday, May 21**  
Canterbury Board Mtg.

**Wednesday, May 30**  
LION Mailing