

# The **Lion**

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

SEPTEMBER 2011

## Profile and Search Committee Sets October 2 for Feedback on Parish Profile

The Profile and Search Committee has been meeting throughout the summer writing, reviewing, and rewriting all the various sections of the parish profile and are nearing completion!

The parish will be asked to review the profile and provide feedback at a Profile Question & Answer Forum on October 2 after the main service. Since the format of the profile will be Internet-based through the national church, the diocesan office, and on the St. Mark's website, the draft will be made available to the parish on a password-protected website during the third week in September so that you may review it in the format as close to the final format as possible. (Paper copies will be provided to those who do not have access to the Internet.) Since this is a draft copy – not the final draft approved by the vestry or the diocesan office – we will ask that it not be made available to anyone outside the St. Mark's community, i.e., potential candidates.

After the forum, the parish feedback will be incorporated into the profile, which the Profile and Search Committee will present to the Vestry at their October 18 meeting for their approval. When the Vestry has approved it, the profile will be sent to the Diocesan Office for their review,



*Above: The Profile and Search Committee will soon need the input of the parish to complete the Parish Profile. File photo from 2011 Annual Meeting.*

along with other documents, i.e., the application form and other materials. After changes requested by the diocese are made, the diocese will submit the profile to the national church's Office of Transition Ministry. When the national church publishes the profile, the second phase of the rector search begins: the Search! At that point, we may begin receiving applications for consideration.

Nota bene: As with all schedules that involve multiple variables, the above dates may need to be changed. If

that is the case, we will give as much advance notice as possible.

Thank you to everyone for your participation in this long and important process.

Faithfully yours,

Jennifer Akiyama, Bruce Alexander, Marilyn Belove (Co-Chair), Judith Berling (Vestry Liaison), Priscilla Camp, Andrea Foley, Sterling Hada, Leonard Johnson (Co-Chair), Lisa Key, Jeff Pace. *Profile and Search Committee*

## Stewardship: Buying Gold

“Should we sell all our stocks? Should we buy gold???” queried the panicked pre-retiree as the Dow Jones average, after ratcheting down steadily for two weeks suddenly plunged over 500 points.

In times of economic uncertainty – such as our own – investors have often sought refuge in buying precious metals that seem so solid. But, as I responded to the worried shareholder, this may not in fact be a good time to buy gold. The price of gold is already at a historical high—which is a risky time to buy anything, whether tulip bulb, real estate or a dot-com. Besides, a popular gold mutual fund is down 6.8% year to date.

My alternative? Not cash. While the price of a dollar does not go down, its purchasing power inexorably does. (No more five-cent chewing gum!)

Buying a gift annuity is better than buying gold in two important respects. First, it never goes down. A gift annuity is a contract that guarantees you a certain fixed-dollar income for as long as you live. This payment is determined by your age when you want the income to start. The amount of the income will remain the same no matter what happens to the stock market or to bank interest rates. Unlike a CD or a bond, a gift annuity does not terminate until you do.

Second, when you buy a gift annuity, you are virtually insuring that your purchase will one day result in a generous gift to the church. This is because 100% of the remaining principal of your annuity, after paying income to you for your lifetime, will transfer to your parish or other ministry.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust corrupt and thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven...” (Matthew 9:17) A gift annuity actually does both: it provides you with reliable treasure on earth, while it also provides an ultimate gift for ministry in Christ's name.

To see your payout rate, visit [www.EpiscopalGift.org](http://www.EpiscopalGift.org). Or simply contact me for a printed personalized illustration. I'll be glad to help you. This is my ministry.

The Reverend Richard L. Schaper, CFP, *Gift Planner Office, Diocese of California at 415-869-7812.*

## A Few Words from the Deacon – I Love You

On Tuesday evening, August 16, 2011, I tendered my resignation as deacon to the Vestry and Wardens of the parish. All Saint's Day, November 6, 2011, will be my last Sunday with you. I will be taking an extended sabbatical after that.

This decision was not made rashly, or unadvisedly, or without pain and tears. The Venerable Kathleen van Sickle, the Archdeacon for the East Bay, has been working with me on this for several months. I spoke to my sons. We decided this was something I needed to do.

I was asked to reconsider my decision, but I'm being pulled in a different direction and need to be somewhere else – where that will be, I don't know yet. Father Michael is exactly what this parish needs right now and I feel that I can go, knowing you have a true and loving shepherd.

I have been a member of St. Mark's since 1995, baptized here and called to ordained ministry by you. Nine years I've been your deacon and that was done with much joy and willingness. My daughter Celia and sons Carlos Raphael and Nicolas grew up here. But now there's a shift happening, and I need to take care of myself and reclaim my spirituality and joy, spend time with my family; hear what the Spirit and Christ are whispering about the ministry Christ entrusted to me the morning of my ordination. I need to move on, but first I need to be Ellen again – the Ellen that Christ ordained.

So. It's time for me to go. You are my family, you are my friends and I will not let go of you. I will stay in touch, and you will remain in my prayers as I give thanks for each one of you daily.

With God's abundant love and mine,

*Ellen+*

The Rev. Ellen Ekström



# From the Reverend Fr. Michael T. Hiller

## Looking Back and then Moving On

It always amazes me the way the academic calendar really never leaves you. It's almost somatic, your body expecting something new to happen at the end of August and the early days of September. Hopefully the summer was wonderful, filled with travel, hot dogs, and visiting family. We look back at that and are fulfilled and satisfied with the memories. Now it is time to look forward to what's next.

The eleventh of September will be celebrated on a Sunday this year, which will allow us to make spiritual connections as well as national ones as we look back to this day. It is unforgettable, full of memories that define a day, and scenes that cannot be unseen. It is a cusp in our world, a line in history that was crossed over, and now is ready to be revisited with some thought and prayer. At St. Mark's we will gather in the patio, and make a procession around the corner of the church, fully present to the world and our neighbors, entering the church to chant the Great Litany, hear the Word of forgiveness, and take in the Reconciliation that is the Eucharist. We will, in short, look back and then continue to move forward to the future that God has given us.

And to what shall we move on? The continuing process of our Profile and Search Committee as they compile the parish and rector profile; the return of the choir after its pilgrimage in England at Salisbury and Truro; the continuing education of our members and visitors in Godly Play, Confirmation Classes, Adult Formation, Spoken Word, TheoCats, and all the ways in which articulate the Gospel to one another; the social justice efforts that we make as a congregation as we work with the SuitCase Clinic, YEAH, and Hotmeals; and finally the work of all the guilds, committees and groups as they serve us all in their ministries.

I think that it is important for us to know that as we move on into the future, we move into something that is not yet known to us. The Hebrews always pictured the past as something that stood immediately in front of them, knowable because it had been experienced and recorded in both mind and body. The future was behind them, unknowable and yet to be. At one level that almost seems frightening. Who knows with what possibilities



Above: Rev. Fr. Michael Hiller in his study. Photo by Bruce Alexander.

God will yet greet us? On the other hand, the future is full of excitement and novelty – creating a new world for our work and mission here at St. Mark's. It will be good for us to pray for the work that all of our groups do as together we move into an unknown future, remembering that in the midst of that movement we are still in the community of the baptized, and fed with the bread and wine of the Eucharist. Steady things steady us in an unknown future.

For the moment, however, let us over the next couple of weeks, pause and remember all who have given of themselves for our freedom. And let us pause in silence and meditation to pray for peace, love and concord everywhere. We might be tempted to hate in our memories, but there is the courage of the Gospel to remember and forgive. Someday someone might grace us with the same behavior. This prayer might help.

*Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Michael T. Hiller, *Interim Rector*



# From the Archives

## Another Transition

In 1978, the Rev. George Tittmann, then Rector of St. Mark's, was shot and killed as he and his wife were walking to the home of parishioners for dinner. Fr. Tittmann had been at St. Mark's for 14 years and, a man of strong and charismatic character, had left his stamp on the parish. As is the case after every long pastorate, the parish had to set about finding out who and what it was without its pastor and find a sense of direction for the future.

The Profile Committee (separate from the Search Committee) was composed of six parishioners, only one of whom is still at St. Mark's, Barbara Oliver: she was then the Director of Education here. The other members were Bobbee Arnold, formerly campus minister at Canterbury House and then Financial Aid Officer at the GTU; Marybeth Downs, formerly an instructor at St. Margaret's House who held a number of lay ministries as an educator and advocate for peace and social justice; Mary F. Harrell, former DRE for the Diocese of Ohio and at St. Mark's; and Bruce Robison, then a graduate student at UC and now a long-serving priest in Pittsburgh. The committee was chaired by the Rev. Norman Mealy, Professor of Music at CDSP and longtime church musician and leader, with his wife, Meg, at St. Mark's. It was an extraordinary committee, small in size but rich in ministry and experience in the church, particularly at St. Mark's.

The process used many of the techniques we have used in our present search: home meetings, surveys and compilation of statistics, parish meetings. Beginning with a description of the parish's present circumstances, its community, physical plant, statistics, and organization, the next section described the parish's major concerns and grouped them under Worship, Education and Nurture, Sense of Community, and Mission and Ministries. There followed an interesting and honest section on how our neighbors viewed us, one on priorities for the future, and one on reflections about a new rector. The conclusion was brief, but vivid. It might be of interest for us today to see what has not changed and what has and where we have come since 1979:

And so here we are, St. Mark's, Berkeley, in the new year of 1979 - a lively group of self-starters with an abiding thirst for Christian witness, somewhat puzzled by the mystery of Mission but game to move in new directions. Our ranks grow slim but our hearts stay high. We are aware,

perhaps all too aware, of our history here in this university town, and we fully intend to press that presence forward in the decades ahead.

Diversity may appear overmuch in this report. Yet the facts provide ample proof of a parish that can hold divergent views with intelligent and loving abrasive energy. Our organizational chart may be confusing to study, but it well represents the somewhat untidy connectives among earnest folk with strong convictions.

Because of decreasing financial power and increasing concern for outward witness, we have deferred spending money on ourselves in maintenance until we have come to the point of its high priority. Real power, we are convinced, lies in the Holy Spirit and in our openness to its constant surprise.

We look for the future with sure and certain hope.

As we develop our new Parish Profile, let us reflect on these words from the past.

Alda Morgan, *Archivist*

## St. Mark's Cares

Are you struggling with illness, loss, isolation, or other hardship? Would you appreciate the presence of a listening companion as you sort your way through a troubled time? This is the ministry of the newly commissioned lay pastoral care group. Call Fr. Hiller (415) 999-8606, Deacon Ellen Ekström (510) 847-0389, or Deacon Beth Ann Maier (802) 793-4234 for more information

## Volunteer Sought for Church Records

Can you help? We have just obtained a book for recording all official acts of the parish. Could you join Fr. Hiller in going through records so that we can begin recording members of the congregation and all official acts for the parish? If you are willing to volunteer some time, please see Fr. Hiller. Thank you.

# The Lion Looks Back

*Editor's Note: Thanks to Retrospectans (Leonard W. Johnson), our history is not lost.*

## The Church and the University

The August, 1915 number of *The Berkeley Churchman*, the rich vein of which, you may remember, we have been mining occasionally in this column, is subtitled "University Issue," and it seems appropriate at the start of this back-to-school month to look at it in some detail.

The editorial with which it begins—"Education and Religion"—asks the rhetorical question, "What is the object of Education?" "Every good educator knows," it continues, that the answer is not "to get knowledge." Rather, maintains the writer (doubtless St. Mark's rector, Edward Parsons, future bishop of California), "education is for the development of character ... It is for the growth of personality, not for the increase of wealth."

We are, of course, still debating the issue he here brings up. The following statements, however, are rarely even the subject of debate today (except, perhaps, in evangelical circles): "But character is completed only through religion. Personality grows to its full stature only through God ... This is the great and fundamental truth about character which in the midst of a community absorbed in education needs forever to be emphasized. All that schools and universities stand for is complete only when it stands in right relation with religion. The mission of the University is incomplete without the Church."

How many members of the university community in 2011 would take that seriously, much less subscribe to it?

The editorial page goes on to welcome new and returning students, who are, among other things, advised that if they live near All Souls' Church they should "note the 'Good Times Club,'" an intriguing bit of advice. But it also addresses the "parishioners of Berkeley," quite sternly: "You have your responsibilities toward the great University of our State. Remember how example counts. Remember how cordiality helps. Remember how much prayer and sympathy and interest mean [an undiluted version of "tea and sympathy," I suppose]. Can we not all strive as never before to make the Church a better revealer of the Complete Life?"

Students disappear from the rest of the issue, which is devoted to the usual news of the various congregations in the parish, still linked by one vestry at this time, under Parsons's "municipal policy." But the theme is carried out

## Evensong September 11 at 5:30; David Hatt, Organist

The 26th season of the Second Sunday Evensong/Organ Recital series opens on Sunday, September 11. Evensong, offered by the St. Mark's Schola Cantorum will be offered at 5:30 p.m. followed by a recital by David Hatt.

David Hatt will perform Mulet: Processional, from *Esquisses Byzantines* (1920) Langlais: Nazard and Arabesque sur les Flûtes, from *Suite Française*, Jehan Alain: Deux Preludes Profanes, David Hatt: Chorale and Chaconne on "Home" (2009) and Max Reger: Capriccio from *Monologues*, Op. 63.

Donations are welcome at the door, Thanks for your ongoing support

at the bottom of each succeeding right-hand page, with earnest exhortations printed in boldface capitals. Even in their formulation—which may, these days, seem somewhat embarrassingly direct—they perhaps bear repeating.

**THIS IS THE SEASON WHEN NEWCOMERS ARRIVE IN BERKELEY. MAKE THEM WELCOME.**

**WHEN YOU WELCOME PEOPLE INTO THE PEW YOU OCCUPY BY THE GRACE OF GOD, LET A GENIAL SMILE RADIATE FROM YOUR COUNTENANCE.**

**BE NOT FORGETFUL TO ENTERTAIN STRANGERS FOR THEREBY SOME ENTERTAINED ANGELS UNAWARES.**

**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE CORDIALLY WELCOMED TO OUR PARISH. EVERY OLDER MEMBER OF THE PARISH WILL HELP TO WELCOME THEM.**

**SHARE A PRAYER BOOK AND HYMNAL WITH THE STRANGER AND HELP HIM [sic] TO FEEL AT HOME.**

Should we still, ninety-six years later, listen to these priestly admonitions? Are they too old-fashioned to take seriously?

# Senior Warden Column

*For the Lord will not fail his people;  
Neither will he forsake his inheritance;  
Until righteousness turn again unto judgment:  
All such as are true in heart shall follow it.*

Psalm 94: 14-15

One of the joys and challenges of singing Evensong is the singing of the psalms. Although there are many musical settings of them to choose from, they all suffer from the same problem – the poetry of the psalm itself has irregular syllables and so some division of the text must be made to enable the musical theme to match to it. That makes it both a challenge to sing, and quite wonderful all at the same time.

It's similar to our Anglican tradition. When we were singing this particular psalm during the recent choir tour in Salisbury, I found myself nearly in tears as we stood in the midst of a cycle of prayer and song that has been going on for nearly 800 years. It's a great privilege to be participating in such a rich heritage. Yet it is our modern world I live in – how do I offer the great gift of our Anglican heritage and tradition to this world at this time? And how do we keep that heritage fresh and lively? For if the traditions fail to feed the spiritual lives of our people, we offer them a silver spoon, bright and beautiful, but an empty one, containing no food or sustenance for their journey.

It was there that the text of the psalm spoke to me – the Lord will not fail his people; he will not forsake his inheritance. It is not a question of one or the other; we can both claim our great inheritance and we can grow in our spiritual lives. Our challenge as St. Mark's is to find new and innovative ways to both offer the great gifts of our Anglican inheritance to the world and to refresh them (or re-discover them in some cases) to provide the spiritual sustenance the our community needs.

Your Vestry has continued its work and prayer for the parish over the summer and I would bring your attention to a few things you might want to be aware of -

Redevelopment – the Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board voted in favor of our redevelopment project at the beginning of August. This is a huge milestone for the effort and due to the incredible work of our developer Hudson-McDonald, our Architecture Committee and your Vestry. If things continue to move on schedule, we will begin construction next August. Many thanks to all of you for your help and support!

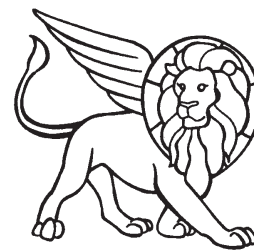
Visionary Budget – We have completed a round of conversations via our Circle Groups on what ministries, activities and actions we would like to focus on in the next year. We will be rolling these up into a “visionary budget” as a proposal for the next year – this means we will be looking at what resources we need to do the ministries you have said need the most attention and what we could do if there were more resources available. We will be sharing this with you as we begin the fall season and our annual pledge drive.

A Farewell – Ellen Ekstrom, our Deacon has announced that she will be leaving us in November (See her column for more details). She has been with us for many years and her leaving is a sad occasion. She goes to discern where the Spirit is calling her to grow and we wish her a fond farewell. We will be celebrating her time with us soon in the great St. Mark's tradition of feasting and blessings. Ellen – we will miss you greatly!

Blessings and peace,



Jerry Walker, *Senior Warden*



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### Sunday Eucharist

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

# St. Mark's September 2011 Calendar

|  |  |   |  | 1                                       | 2  | 3                            |
|--|--|---|--|---|----|------------------------------|
| 4  | 5  | 6   | 7  | 8                                       | 9  | 10                           |
|  | <b>Labor Day Holiday</b><br><b>Profile/Search Committee</b> 7pm Library. | <b>Social Concerns</b> 7pm Conference;<br><b>Architecture</b> 7:30pm Library. | <b>Bridge Club</b> 5:30pm Hodgkin;<br><b>Lydia Group</b> 6:15pm Chapel;<br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:30pm PAR.        |   |    |                              |
| 11   | 12   | 13  | 14   | 15                                      | 16 | 17                           |
| <b>Family Ministry</b> 9am Library.;<br><b>Choristers Rehearsal</b> 11:45am PAR;<br><b>Evensong</b> 5:30pm Nave. | <b>Profile/Search Committee</b> 7pm Library.                             |   | <b>Bridge Club</b> 5:30pm Hodgkin;<br><b>Choir Board</b> 5:45pm;<br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:30pm PAR.               |   |    | <b>Hot Meals</b> 1:30pm PAR. |
| 18   | 19   | 20  | 21   | 22                                      | 23 | 24                           |
| <b>Lion Deadline;</b><br><b>Ministries Fair;</b><br><b>Choristers Rehearsal</b> 11:45am PAR.                     | <b>Profile/Search Committee</b> 7pm Library.                             | <b>Vestry Meeting</b> 7:15pm Library.   | <b>Worship Committee</b> 5:30pm Library;<br><b>Bridge Club</b> 5:30pm Hodgkin;<br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:30pm PAR. |   |    |                              |
| 25   | 26   | 27  | 28   | 29                                      | 30 |                              |
| <b>Choristers Rehearsal</b> 11:45am PAR.   | <b>Profile/Search Committee</b> 7pm Library.                             | <b>Adult Formation</b> 6pm Library.   | <b>Lion Mailing</b> 9:30am Library;<br><b>Bridge Club</b> 5:30pm Hodgkin.  | <b>Theology Discussion</b> 7pm Library. |    |                              |

Note: Nave is the Church Nave, or main Church; Hodgkin is Hodgkin Hall; PAR is Parish Hall; DO is Deacon's Office

# The Lion

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