

Dear Companions on the Way...

St. Mark's has had a strong commitment to outreach for many years, but I've recently been giving a bit more attention to what exactly that means and why it matters to us. The notion of compassionate actions to people who are in need has been fundamental to Christianity since its beginning. It is rooted in Jesus' affirmation of the commandment to "love your neighbor as you love yourself;" and Jesus made very clear that one's neighbors are to be understood in very broad terms. Matthew 25 recounts the story that when one feeds the hungry, welcomes the strangers, clothes the naked, cares for the sick, or visits prisoners they are actually ministering to Jesus. The story of the Good Samaritan who cared for the victim lying in the ditch ends with the injunction to "Go and do likewise."

Outreach here at St. Mark's encompasses many things. It includes giving away of a significant portion of the money you give to us to agencies and charities that minister directly to those in need (I'll give more detail on that further down). It also includes providing opportunities for you to directly engage in activities that help others such as cooking and serving meals at the soup kitchen, building for Habitat for Humanity, and giving blood. Outreach also includes encouraging you to engage in ministries that grow out of your own very personal experiences or abilities. Several of you are volunteers with agencies like the American Cancer Society, Hospice, the Adaptive Sports Association or Alternative Horizons and speak about how being part of St. Mark's helps to empower and equip you to minister in these areas where you perhaps have also received ministry.

But many of us are increasingly aware that outreach needs to be more than just charity and giving from our safe place of abundance. We who were at the Emerging Church conference last weekend were told, for instance, that God's plan is not to make all the poor into the middle class; true outreach exposes us to the reality that Jesus has already gone before us into the camps of the homeless, the hospitals and jails. We can't know the fullness of Jesus until we have discovered the face of Jesus in the faces of those who are poor or hurting or cast off. Yet to discover Jesus in this way means shedding some of our comforts and luxuries and experiencing some of the poverty and suffering that Jesus embraced. This newer paradigm of outreach shifts us from the notion that we who know Jesus and enjoy countless riches that come from knowing him offer compassion and treasures to the poor and suffering from

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our place of security and strength to a new (or much older) notion that God is found in the lives of the poor and suffering and until we become a bit poor and suffer some ourselves, we can't fully know all of who God is.

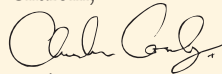
When we do this, we are changed. In fact, the primary reason to do outreach is to be changed ourselves and if others are changed, that is a happy byproduct. When Paul called on the Philippians to "imitate me and rejoice always," he was writing from prison awaiting his execution; but he knew the exquisite joy of embracing Jesus in his fullness. When we offer our lives to God by offering to be with those who God favors, we also come to know that joy as well.

At St. Mark's, the Vestry, the Outreach Committee, the Mission Strategy Committee and the

attendees of the Emerging Church conference in Albuquerque are asking important questions about how we do outreach at St. Mark's. We want to see many more people at St. Mark's either be part of the offerings we provide, or to be encouraged to be doing things yourselves that put you in contact with people on the margins. We want to hear about your experiences and know the things you learn and how you are touched. So if you have any thoughts, let me or one of them know.

Also, I invite you to look over our Outreach Budget on the next page and pray for these agencies and ministries and the people they reach. And then ask how are we blessed because of the activities we do?

Shalom,



Andrew

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- April 3 St. Mark's day at
Manna Soup Kitchen
- April 3 Friday Painters' Exhibit Opens
- April 5–12 Holy Week and Easter
(*see the schedule on page 4*)
- April 8 Alpha begins
- April 17–19 Quest 2K9, spring youth retreat
- April 19 Newcomer Orientation Luncheon
- April 24 Violinist Kasia Sokol in recital
- May 1 St. Mark's day at
Manna Soup Kitchen
- May 1 Artists of St. Mark's "Illumination"
exhibit opens

Women United in Christ Presents BLT

Women United in Christ has a new Breakfast Ministry! "B.L.T." (Becoming Ladies Transformed) is a new weekly Wednesday morning breakfast ministry with Bible teaching, prayer and fellowship. It is designed especially for the working woman! They meet for continental breakfast on Wednesday, April 1, from 6:45–7:45 a.m. at Kachina Kitchen, 325 S. Camino del Rio, then every Wednesday morning thereafter. For additional information call Jeanie at 749-9239. No child care is provided. A \$5 donation is requested to help cover the cost of the breakfast.

2009 Outreach Budget

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Local Charitable Agencies	(\$12,100)
Alternative Horizons	\$2,000
Safe House: VOA (Volunteers of America)	\$2,000
Durango Community Shelter: VOA ¹	\$4,200
CEAC: Community Emergency Assistance Coalition	\$1,500
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,200
Manna Soup Kitchen	\$1,200

Episcopal & Charitable Agencies: National	(\$3,182)
St. Mary's in the Moonlight Episcopal Mission, Utah	\$1,200
Adopt-a-Native-Elder (includes rainbow box \$200)	\$ 482
St. Jude's Youth Ranch ²	\$ 500
General Theological Seminary ²	\$1,000

Episcopal & Charitable Agencies: International	(\$3,400)
Kamweleni School (Kenya) ³	\$1,600
Episcopal Relief and Development ²	\$1,000
El Hogar	\$ 400
Colorado Haiti Project	\$ 400
Cathy Donahoe (SAMS Missionary in Dominican Republic) ⁴	\$ 0

St. Mark's Special Gifts	(\$5,750)
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$1,800
Gas Vouchers (\$10 each)	\$1,500
Camp Ilium ⁵	\$ 0
SW Region of the Diocese ⁶	\$2,450

TOTAL⁷ \$24,432

NOTES:

- 1 The Shelter was first started in St. Mark's in the early '90s
- 2 These three checks are held until the end of the year in case of short-fall, as is the final check to the SW region. Then the amount will be adjusted if needed to achieve 10%.
- 3 The Kamweleni School in rural Kenya was started by John Rupert Barnes and continues after his death. There is some local oversight from his son in Durango who recently visited the school and has worked to get an accountable leadership structure in place.
- 4 Cathy Donahoe is from St. Matt's in Grand Junction and serves with SAMS (the South American Missionary Society) of the Episcopal Church in the Dominican Republic. We've been able to give her financial support with special fundraisers.
- 5 Camp Ilium is a diocesan institution administered by a board on which Fr. Andrew sits. Its future is in flux. St. Mark's has a long relationship with the camp.
- 6 The SouthWest Region is a sub-unit of the Diocese and funds Mission Development projects agreed upon by the Region. Camp Ilium and support of Good Samaritan Church in Gunnison are the current major recipients of gifts. Fr. Andrew as Regional Missioner is the senior leader in the region. Diocesan Guidelines call for 5%; we contribute 1%.
- 7 The total is to be 10% of undesignated plate and pledge contributions to St. Mark's. The four checks noted above will be adjusted to keep the amount right at 10%.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday

April 5, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The Liturgy of the Palms begins in the Columbarium followed by a festive entry into the Sanctuary. The service then shifts its focus to Christ's passion and death highlighted by the congregational Passion reading.

Monday of Holy Week

April 6, 5:30 p.m.

Eucharist

Wednesday of Holy Week

April 8

Noon – Healing Eucharist

5:30 p.m. – Soul Break

Maundy Thursday

April 9, 5:30 p.m.

Eucharist, Foot Washing & Gethsemane Watch

We remember the Last Supper with a simple Eucharist as we gather around the altar with foot washing for those that choose it. There will be contemplative music, including several Taizé chants. The service continues with the traditional “stripping of the altar” and the watch through the night.

Good Friday

April 10

Noon – Ecumenical Service at First Presbyterian Church, 1159 E. 3rd Ave.

5:30 p.m. – Stations of the Cross at St. Mark's
We gather to reflect and pray at the stations around the sanctuary using contemplative devotions.

The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday Evening, April 11, 8:00 p.m.

The Great Vigil is our most vivid and ancient worship service and will begin in the Columbarium. After a procession in to the sanctuary the service continues with a candlelight service of readings, renewal of Baptism vows and the first Eucharist of Easter. We are planning to use incense. No nursery available.

Easter Day Services

April 12, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Our festival worship will be particularly welcoming to visitors and children. Following the 10:30 service, the children will hunt for Easter eggs. We expect many visitors and hope you will invite many of your friends, family and neighbors. The choir will sing at both services and we will use the same liturgy and music at each. We hope many of you will choose to come at 8:00 which will be a little less crowded.

*Newcomers
are
Cordially
Invited*

to a newcomers' orientation luncheon following the 10:30 service on Sunday, April 19.

Enjoy a delicious lunch and meet clergy, staff and committee chairs. Learn the history of St. Mark's and tour the facilities.

RSVP to Cheryl, 247-1129, by April 16

Still Time to Sign Up for Alpha!

Alpha provides a safe place to talk about spiritual issues from a Christian perspective. Because we are uniquely and wonderfully made, our individual experiences of God will probably be a little different than those of our neighbors. Alpha's small-group setting gives us the opportunity to share our thoughts and questions about who Jesus really is and what impact his life, death, and resurrection has on our lives today. If group discussion isn't for you, that's fine too; you can just listen. No one is required to speak, and there is never any homework!

The weekly video presentation covers various topics, such as:

- Why did Jesus die?
- How and why should I pray?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- Many more interesting topics.

The Alpha course is ten weeks long and includes a weekend retreat near the end of the series. Because of spring break, there will be no session on April 1, so the course itself will start on April 8. Each session begins with a meal, prepared by members of the Alpha Committee, headed by Caroline Kinser. There is no cost to take the course, however, a donation of up to \$5 will be gratefully accepted to help defray the cost of the dinner at each session. Everyone is welcome; invite your neighbors and your friends. A nursery is provided.

Deadline for May Newsletter

Deadline for the next issue is April 20. Submit information for the newsletter to Tonya Wales at 259-4166 or detwales@msn.com or contact Cheryl at CherylW@StMarksDurango.com.

Kids and Youth at St. Mark's

2009 Vacation Bible School Set

St. Mark's had an extremely successful Vacation Bible School last summer and we are doing it again this summer! We need adult teachers and youth (anyone who is going into fifth grade through high school) to help. Vacation Bible school will be held

on June 8, 9 and 10. Please call Trisha Rickey at 946-0604 or 247-0817 if you are interested in helping (and save the dates for your children to attend).

Youth Summer Camp

Sonlight Christian Camp located in Pagosa Springs has excellent summer camp programs for middle-school through high-school aged kids. The camps include discovery camps, adventure camps, backpacking trips for high school aged kids and more. Sonlight camp also has scholarships available. If you have a child in 5th through 12th grade check out what Sonlight offers! You can read more about Sonlight at www.sonlightcamp.org or give them a call at 264-4379. Online registration is available.

St. Mark's DHS Superstars!

Performing mock trials in mid-March were Melanie Taylor and Kari Bjorlin. In the American Mathematics Competition, Wes Glasco and Chelsey Helling competed.

Kasia Sokol Recital: April 24



The final recital on St. Mark's 2008–2009 Recital Series is Friday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. The recital features violinist extraordinary Kasia Sokol. James Jon Bader will join in on cello, and C. Scott Hagler will

accompany on the piano.

If you have not already purchased your tickets or season tickets, you can buy them in the office, or now you can get them online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/60174> using your credit card (there is a very small service charge). If you do not have Internet access but want to purchase your tickets using your credit card, contact Cheryl or Scott at 247-1129 and they can process the credit card payment online for you.

New at the Corner Shop!

Stop by the Corner Shop and see the beautiful imported Mexican devotional crosses, prayer beads and necklaces. Take note of *Broken Cycles* featuring beautiful photography by new St. Mark's artist Rebekah Wilkins-Pepiton.

Also featured are *The Great Emergence*, the parish read book on the emerging church movement, select titles on aging that tie in with the previous Adult Education study, and books for women (Mother's Day is May 10!).

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer Hotline Advocates Needed for Alternative Horizons! Be a part of the community you live in by volunteering to make a difference in other people's lives! Alternative Horizons is looking for advocates for their 24-hour hotline for survivors of intimate partner violence. This free, comprehensive training starts on April 7 at 5:30 p.m. For a training schedule or more information, please contact Whitney at 403-1575 or 247-4374.

Diane Estes (formerly VanDenBerg) needs to acquire 677 build hours to earn a 1250-square foot twin home, and volunteers can help her accrue those hours. The housing project is sponsored by Colorado Housing, Inc. and funded by the USDA. The build is set to begin in Bayfield on April 4, and continue into the Fall. Saturday and Sunday are typical workdays, but weekdays are also possible. Please call Diane at 749-5268 if you are able to help.

Second Annual Bach Festival a Great Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out, baked for, or attended the Bach Festival! About 825 people came through St. Mark's doors during the week-long festival to hear glorious music and enjoy our hospitality.

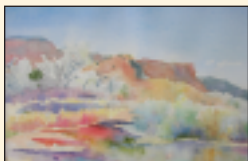
Coming Up in Adult Education

Beginning April 19 we will be watching and discussing the DVD series *The Great Chain of Being: Simplifying Our Lives* featuring Richard Rohr and Sr. Paul González. Join us Sundays at 9:15 in the Conference Room.

The Gallery at St. Mark's Sets Dates

In April, The Gallery will feature works by Durango's Friday Painters, including

Pat Smiley, Alice Crapo, Rosemary Juskevich, Helen Medill, Vickie Coe, Elsie Siapano, Caroline Lippincott and Cindy Lathrop.



Lands by Alice Crapo)

You are cordially invited to the opening Friday, April 3 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

In May, the Artists of St. Mark's will have their inaugural exhibit, "Illumination."

You are cordially invited to the opening

Friday, May 1 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.



Artists of St. Mark's Issues "Artistic Licenses" to All

Did you know that St. Mark's has a group of visual artists that meet on a regular basis? We've been meeting for several months, with several goals in mind:

- Supporting each other's creative endeavors
- Doing something good/artistic for St. Mark's and the community
- Art education for children and adults
- Exhibiting our work and encouraging others to create

Our first exhibit will be in May, and the theme is "Illumination." We want everyone to participate, including poets, composers, songwriters, sculptors, photographers, quilters, painters, etc. All ages, media and interpretations of the concept are welcome! Because of this we are issuing you an Artistic License. So get busy!

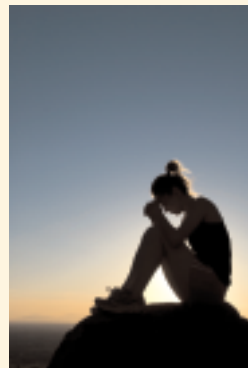
If you have questions or are interested in our meetings (which feature interesting and thought-provoking discussions with fun people, good coffee and treats), call Scott at 247-1129 or e-mail ScottH@StMarksDurango.com

Save the Date: Women's Spiritual Retreat

June 4–6, Mary Hardy, our former Assistant Rector, will be the speaker at Coyote Hill Lodge in Pagosa Springs. Mary reports, "We will explore the contemplative/meditative practice of centering prayer, welcoming prayer, and *lectio divina*, experiencing God's presence as the ground of our being."

Questions the retreat will address: What is your heart's deep longing? What does your heart long to know? to hear? How do you know you are transformed? What is your *charism*, the gift God has created you to be? How are you being called to offer your gift right now in your world?

The cost for the retreat is \$125. Pick up a registration form in the Parish Hall or contact Ruth Olson for more information: 759-3032 or olsonsg@gobrainstorm.net.



An Update from Cathy Donahoe

Dear Partners in Mission,

Your prayers have brought me safely back to the Dominican Republic and I'm thankful to be home. The time in Haiti was a special opportunity that the Lord provided and I was humbled by the hospitality and faith that I encountered. Dyelem is the secretary of the Episcopal Church in Desland and a community health worker for the hospital clinic site there. This small community is not easily accessible, which contributes to the reality of only having the priest visit one or two times a year. It happened to fall the weekend I was visiting them and it was a marvelous celebration. Dyelem greeted me very enthusiastically as a fellow Episcopalian and shepherded me to the various activities, helping me to feel at home. He didn't understand my French at all, but occasionally I got something out in Creole

that conveyed something I wanted to say. It was a true blessing to share that special weekend with them.

Returning to San Pedro has been filled with some catch-up work, trying to get a schedule together for this year's workshops, working on communications that lagged a bit, and building my caseload of patients and relationships in the little world of rehab here. March is rehab month and the clinic has offered an ecumenical service in the central park, a wheelchair basketball game, a play, and a party for the pediatric patients. It is good to be back!

Please pray for the PT students from the US who are here for a short clinical rotation, that I can facilitate a good exchange of therapy and cultural skills between them and the staff here with God's help! Also, please pray that all are able to celebrate Holy Week with the true meaning of the week in each of our hearts! May God bless and guide you in all you do!

Calvary

by Dick Allen

No further task than this. Dazed, he lifts
his head from his right shoulder.
Jerusalem, below him, is an underwater drift
of specks, flecks, swirling in the tidal blur
he descended through. Such a small
place, really: hovels, walls, dirt streets,
young women shawled,
lackluster soldiers sprawling at the temple gates....
Eloi! Eloi! Vinegar and blood
swirl in his cry. The face that swims
before him is the face of childhood
running through olive groves,
drinking from the brim
of a wooden barrel by a mountain stream. Eloi!
The cloth is rendered and the curtain split,

flesh destroyed,
candles in the temples lit
by fever-spotted hands. And now his eyes
close finally. Upon the hill of skulls
rain runs freely as a pack of lies
coursing the walls
of his father's house.... One night he woke
and saw a mourning dove suspended in the air,
then felt an angel stammer in his throat,
Love's the only issue of despair,
turned on his side and slept, until the sound
of his mother sweeping, Joseph hammering
woke him again. And he rose to find
God's spring
had come into the world, and it was in
the lamb's soft gambol and the ass's Bray.
Upon a wooden table set with wine,
the freshly broken bread and honey lay.