

## Dear Companions on the Way...

There are two things I want to share: first, I want to let you know about a seminar I'm leading at diocesan convention, and also, I want to say something about a special worship experience at St. Mark's on Sunday, October 11 as part of our 10:30 service.

As this goes out, I'm likely to be at our Diocesan Convention, held this year in Pueblo. At convention, I'll be leading a training seminar entitled *Bringing Vitality to Sunday Morning*. As I have visited or participated in worship around the church, it's apparent that we have something special here at St. Mark's and I offered to share at the convention some of what we do and what I value. Mainly, what I have tried to instill at St. Mark's is a sense that the entire assembly "Celebrates" the liturgy. Worship is intended to be something the people participate in, not observe as spectators.

To that end, over the 14-plus years I have been Rector, we have made a number of changes in our liturgies, especially at 10:30. To name a few: the entire congregation recites the opening prayer, the Collect of the Day and the closing doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer. We use a number of alternative texts from a resource called *Enriching our Worship* that was developed by the Standing Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Church and can be used locally with a Bishop's permission. But perhaps the most significant to me is our distinctive practice of offering the Prayers of the People. The "pop-corn" prayer, where the biddings pop out from here or there, in voices young and old, familiar or new, is usually my most profound moment of grace each week.

The offering up of our prayers and our selves is profoundly important work and it is at the heart of engaging ourselves in God's work of the redemption of the world. Patrick Malloy, the new professor of Liturgy at General Theological Seminary, says

The Sunday assembly of the church is the most important moment in the church's relationship with itself and in its relationship with the world. Done well, ministering at the Sunday Eucharist facilitates the church's seeing and experiencing itself as the body it is growing into, and, at the same time, showing the world an image of how human beings live when God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. The liturgy, in other words, is both formative and evangelical.

See *Companions*, page 2

## Companions *continued from page 1*

---

(I can't wait to use that quote at my seminar).

St. Mark's is full of wonderful people and resources that enable us to do amazing things. Charlie and Beka Pepiton have been with us for nearly a year and bring wonderful creative perspectives to the experience of life and worship. I have asked them to offer some of their perspectives and resources to enrich our life together when we gather on October 11. Truth be told, I first asked about preaching, but Charlie and Beka's great love is drama, performance and art and they felt just talking to us would not be the best way for us to encounter how they experience and communicate the presence of the living God.

So, I have been in conversation with them on presenting some of the elements of our liturgy in some new ways, with the hope it might open our eyes, ears and hearts to how God is present and

calling us into new levels of engagement. Please take a moment to read the article that Charlie wrote that is also in this newsletter and come on the 11th ready to participate in worship "with a new song."

The new things we do that day are not intended to be permanent changes, but I would be very eager to know what are the things that connect with you. As I'm sure you know, one of my favorite quotes is that good liturgy (or preaching) should comfort the afflicted, but afflict the comfortable. So I want to know: are there things that comfort you, challenge you or confuse you in our worship, either that day or other days?

Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; O Come, let us adore him!

Shalom,



Andrew

---

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

---

October 1-4 . . . . . Sacred Arts Festival  
Thursday, 11:30 a.m. Benefit Luncheon  
Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Roundtable Discussion  
Friday, 5:00-7:00 p.m. ICON artists' reception  
Saturday, 7:00 p.m. Poetry for the Spirit  
Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Music for Sacred Spaces

October 2 . . . . . St. Mark's day at  
Manna Soup Kitchen

October 4 . . . . . Blessing of the Animals

October 17 . . . . . Women United in Christ  
Conference

October 18 . . . . . OctoberBlest Celebration

October 22 . . . . . Fall Blood Drive

October 29 . . . . . Pasta & Pops

---

## Deadline for November Newsletter

---

Deadline for the next issue is October 20. Submit information for the newsletter to Tonya Wales at 259-4166 or [detwales@msn.com](mailto:detwales@msn.com) or contact Cheryl at [CherylW@StMarksDurango.com](mailto:CherylW@StMarksDurango.com).

## Sacred Arts Festival Is October 1-4

---

The Sacred Arts Festival is here.

One way to support the festival is to attend the special Benefit Luncheon on Thursday, October 1.

The guest speaker is Judith Reynolds who will present a keynote address entitled *Annunciata: The Art and Power of Proclamation*.



Tickets are \$25 and are available online at [www.SacredArtsFestival.com](http://www.SacredArtsFestival.com) or in the church office.

You'll also want to attend the other events that are free and open to the public:

- Opening reception for ICON: Friday, October 2, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Works by 60 artists will be on display
- Poetry for the Spirit, poetry reading of works by 14 poets and reception: Saturday, October 3, 7:00 p.m.
- Music for Sacred Spaces, concert of original compositions and songs by eight songwriters followed by a reception: Sunday, October 4, 2:00 p.m.

Visit [www.sacredartsfestival.com](http://www.sacredartsfestival.com) for more information.

## Health Corner: It's Flu Season – Dip or Sip?

---

The Episcopal Church serves communion wine from one cup, rather than the individual little cups found in some other churches. It is for us a symbol of the reconciliation that Christ accomplished for us in the sacrifice of his life and of the unity we have through him in the Body of Christ. It is an admittedly raw symbol. Outside the Church, only the closest of

family members share a common cup. In our individualistic world, there are seldom occasions that so clearly demonstrate how closely our lives are bound up with one another. The common cup speaks the truth that what one does always profoundly affects the rest of the community.

In flu season, we may wish that our lives are not so closely bound! Your snuffle becomes my cough, and my cough becomes another's respiratory problem. There is disagreement about the risk of what can be passed via the common cup. But we can decrease that risk by common sense behavior. If you're ill, don't drink directly out of the cup. Save the bread that the priest hands you, and dip the edge of the bread into the wine. Remember that most colds and viruses are mostly infections in the first few days, so "dip instead of sip," especially if you feel like you are getting ill. *However*, fingers spread many more germs than mouths. So keep your fingers out of the wine! This seems to be the hard part for little children.

You can also skip the wine entirely. Lots of people skip the wine for a variety of reasons. Maybe they can't handle wine. Maybe they refrain out of solidarity with those who can't handle it. Maybe it causes a problem with medication they are taking. Maybe they don't feel well and prefer not to dip.

To skip the wine: You can leave the rail before the chalice bearer gets to you. Or you can cross your arms over your chest and shake your head "no" at the chalice bearer.

And while we're on the subject: When you do receive the wine, it is a great help to the chalice bearer if you take the base of the chalice between your thumb and fingers to guide it to your mouth and control how much you take.

*This article is excerpted from an article by the Rev. Willa Goodfellow of Corralville, Iowa.*

## Blessing of the Animals October 4

---

Blessing of the Animals will be Sunday, October 4 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mark's. The yearly event takes place on St. Francis Day this year. St. Francis is the Patron Saint of animals. Bring your dogs, cats, goats, ferrets, etc. under manageable restraint and each will receive a blessing during a short service to honor our furry companions.

## Women United in Christ Annual Conference

---

The Annual Women United in Christ Conference, featuring guest speaker Susie Shellenberger, will be Saturday, October 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Purchase your tickets before Monday, October 12 and you'll save \$5 and get lunch. Read more about the conference and register online at [www.womenunitedinchrist.com](http://www.womenunitedinchrist.com) or look for registration forms on the information table in the Parish Hall.

## "The Prodigal Father" at St. Mark's

---

The artists are coming! The artists are coming! One of the highlights of life at St. Mark's is the sheer number of creative people who regularly contribute to things around here. That's one of the things that keeps us coming over from Pagosa Springs each week. There's just no place like St. Mark's. Now, on the heels of the 2009 Sacred Arts Festival, you'll have a chance to experience worship through the lens of the arts. Call it a "creative liturgy" or, perhaps, "a sacred happening." We're titling the event "The Prodigal Father," and it takes place Sunday, October 11 during the 10:30 a.m. service. The point is to create a unique experience where we can all

explore questions of faith, providence, and communion.

During the weekend of September 17, Beka and I hosted a conference at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX, titled "Matter '09: A Creative Theology Event." The goal was to create a space where artists from a variety of disciplines could collaborate with philosophers, theologians, academics, and church leaders. It was a diverse group to be sure, and we were overjoyed to have St. Mark's own Scott Hagler and Justin McBrayer participating in the conference. Throughout our time in Austin, one of the main points of discussion centered around the question of just what is the real potential of the arts in worship.

Like any good explorers, we're excited to bring back our findings to our church family. On October 11, the liturgy will be a bit different. We're blessed with beautiful music and art every week, but on that day, the arts will be pushed to the forefront. You'll see contemporary art, live jazz, and storytelling all coming together to create what we hope is a unique, worshipful experience for everyone.

The goal of art is to create conversations, to raise questions, while urging the viewer to engage. With that in mind, we're planning a time to discuss the "sacred happening" immediately following the 10:30 service. This will be a time to discuss the event as a piece of art but it will also be a lively time of reflection on the event as worship. Join us on October 11 at 10:30 a.m. for a time of unique, creative worship.

—Charlie Pepiton

**O**CTOBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH at St. Mark's ... a time to count our many blessings and begin planning for the future. Watch your mail for the stewardship letter, and mark

your calendar for

**October 18.**

Following the 10:30 service we'll have a time to enjoy each other's company

with beer and brats, be thankful for all that our St. Mark's community gives us, learn about new volunteer opportunities and fill out pledge cards.



**St. Mark's Episcopal Church • October, 2009**

## A Note from the St. Lawrence Library and Archives Committee

---

For those who may not know, materials owned by St. Mark's and available for checkout are located in three places: 1) in the Parish Hall, on the shelves and on the circular cart; 2) in the adult classroom in the basement (please take these items upstairs and check them out as per the instructions on the table upstairs); 3) and materials for our youth are located in one of the youth classrooms in the basement (These youth materials have their own circulation box located on the same shelf as the books.)

For those of you who like to borrow sets of CDs or DVDs, be sure and let the library know if any discs are missing or damaged. The library has a way of getting most of these discs replaced.

Let Nellie Boyd or Chandler Jackson know if you have any special requests of the library.

## St. Mark's Fall Blood Drive

---

St. Mark's will hold our Fall blood drive Thursday, October 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Donors must weigh a minimum of 110 pounds. If you have questions about your eligibility to donate blood, please call the Durango United Blood Services office at 385-4601 and inquire about your eligibility. You can donate one pint of whole blood (or double red blood cells if you weigh 150 pounds or more). There's a bonus when you donate blood with United Blood services: free cholesterol screening results are made available for you by password access on their website. Giving blood is simple, free and a gift to all who receive it. The sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall on the Outreach Bulletin Board.

## United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering

---

Twice a year (Spring and Fall) we have an ingathering for the United Thank Offering. It's time for the Fall ingathering! Pick up a blue UTO box in the Parish Hall and during the month of October, drop a coin in the box each time you are thankful for something. This is a wonderful way to remind ourselves of just how much we have to be thankful for during our daily lives: hugs, fresh vegetables, safe travel to and from work everyday, a smile, good health, acing a test in school – all are great reasons to drop a coin in the box. We will collect the boxes during the first two Sundays of November.

## 2009–2010 Recital Series Set

---

St. Mark's 2009–2010 Recital Series brochures are now available in the Parish Hall. This year, mezzo-soprano Nan Wagner will return from the Northwest to open the series with our first recital in November. Other featured soloists this recital season include soprano Gemma Kavanagh, cellist James Jon Bader, and oboist Danielle Menapace.

## St. Mark's Annual Christmas Bazaar

---

The Christmas Bazaar will be Saturday, December 5. If you have any ideas for items to sell at the Bazaar, please contact Tonya Wales, 259-4166 or detwales@msn.com. We appreciate your input and volunteer participation so please do not hesitate to call with ideas or questions. As the Bazaar approaches, more information will be posted regarding opportunities to volunteer.

# Call Your Reservations in Today!



*and join in the fun on*  
**Thursday, October 29 • 6:00 p.m.**

*Delicious Italian food! Singing waiters!*

**with special guest artist Gemma Kavanagh**

*By donation; proceeds benefit St. Mark's music program*

**Reservations required in the church office by Tuesday, October 27!**

## Poet's Corner

---

### We Awaken

We awaken in Christ's body,  
As Christ awakens our bodies.  
There I look down and my poor hand is Christ,  
He enters my foot and is infinitely me.  
I move my hand and wonderfully  
My hand becomes Christ,  
Becomes all of Him.  
I move my foot and at once  
He appears in a flash of lightning.  
Do my words seem blasphemous to you?  
— Then open your heart to him.  
And let yourself receive the one  
Who is opening to you so deeply.  
For if we genuinely love Him,  
We wake up inside Christ's body

Where all our body all over,  
Every most hidden part of it,  
Is realized in joy as Him,  
And He makes us utterly real.  
And everything that is hurt, everything  
That seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful,  
maimed, ugly, irreparably damaged  
Is in Him transformed.  
And in Him, recognized as whole, as lovely.  
And radiant in His light,  
We awaken as the beloved  
In every last part of our body.

—by Symeon, the New Theologian (949–1022),  
saint and mystic,  
from *Things Hidden*, by Richard Rohr