
Dear Companions on the Way..

I just returned from a meeting in New York City of the national committee on which I serve called The State of the Church. We heard of continuing decline in our membership nationally and stresses felt by congregations and leaders, but there was also good news about churches and people engaged in God's Mission in the world. I came away encouraged and hopeful for the church. One tidbit that captured that optimism was the following block advertisement which appeared on the *New York Times* op-ed page on May 12, 2007; I share it with you in hopes that you to might be encouraged.

Shalom,



Andrew

The Episcopal Church Marking a Milestone, Moving Forward

Somewhere near you, there's a blue-and-white sign bearing the familiar slogan: The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. It represents some 7,400 congregations that trace their beginnings in North America to a small but hopeful group of English Christians who arrived May 14, 1607 at a place they called Jamestown – the first permanent English settlement in the New World.

You may know us as Washington's monumental National Cathedral, site of historic services and ceremonies, or the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, still unfinished, but already the largest cathedral in the world.

But the Episcopal Church is also Boston's Old North Church, founded in 1723 and made famous by serving as the beacon for Paul Revere's revolution-spurring "midnight ride." And Philadelphia's Christ Church, home parish of 15 signers of the Declaration of Independence, host to the first General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1785.

It's Trinity Parish on Wall Street in New York, formed in 1698, and St. Paul's Chapel just down the street, frequented by George Washington and the spiritual healing center of Ground Zero since September 11, 2001.

It's also Epiphany Church in Los Angeles, where Cesar Chavez rallied the United Farm workers. And Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland, Maryland, whose basement was a major stop on the Underground Railroad to

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freedom for enslaved African-Americans. And St. John's Church in Greenwich Village, a meeting place for gay and lesbian action following the 1969 Stonewall uprising.

It's a parish in Iowa. A campus ministry in Georgia. A mission in Dinetah – the Navajo Reservation. A cathedral in Utah. Even a house church in Vermont.

Wherever you find us, you'll find the Book of Common Prayer and a Christian faith that honors and engages the Bible, the tradition of the Church, and God-given human reason.

Joined in prayer, you'll find people with many points of view – Christians who are progressive, moderate, and conservative – yet who value the diversity of their faith community.

That's a heritage drawn from our deep roots in nearly 2,000 years of English Christianity, and shared by a worldwide Anglican Communion that unites nearly 80 million people in 164 countries through prayer and ministries committed to caring for "the least of these," as Jesus commanded, by reducing poverty, disease, and oppression.

Episcopalians struggle with the same issues that trouble all people of faith: how to interpret an ancient faith for today. . . how to maintain the integrity of tradition while reaching out to a hurting world. . . how to disagree and yet love and respect one another.

Occasionally those struggles make the news. People find they can no longer walk with us on their journey, and may be called to a different spiritual home. Some later make their way back, and find they are welcomed with open arms.

Despite the headlines, the Episcopal Church keeps moving forward in mission – in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as congregations in Belgium, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guam, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Taiwan, Venezuela, and the Virgin Islands. We're committed to a transformed world, as Jesus taught: a world of justice, peace, wholeness, and holy living.

We've grown a lot in 400 years, since that 1607 worship service from the Book of Common Prayer was held in Jamestown – inside and out. Come see for yourself. Come and visit. . . come and explore. . . come and grow.

St. Mark's Picnic: Sunday, June 3

Come to a church-wide picnic at the Edgemont Ranch picnic grounds on Sunday, June 3 following the 10:15 service. The church will provide hot dogs and burgers, as well as some sodas and water. Please bring your favorite picnic side dish: anything from chips and fruit to BBQ beans is welcome. We will have games for all and activities for the kids.

To get to the picnic site, head up Florida Road toward Vallecito Lake and take a right at the picnic grounds, which is off Florida Road and east of both

Edgemont entrances. For more information, or detailed directions, call Preston Knight at 769-7734.

Pray for a beautiful sunny day, but, if it should rain, we will move the picnic to the Parish Hall.

St. Mark's Messenger Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is June 22, 2007. Submit information for the newsletter to Tonya Wales at 259-4166 or detwales@msn.com or contact Cheryl at 247-1129 or CherylW@StMarksDurango.com.

Women's Salad Luncheon: Saturday, June 2

Women, mark your calendars! You are invited to a potluck salad luncheon in the Parish Hall on June 2 at 11:30 a.m. June Hahl will present a short humorous talk entitled, "Service with a Smile," followed by an orientation tour of the kitchen and a discussion about the various programs and opportunities for service ministry. Ages 21–30, please bring fruit salad; ages 31–40, please bring meat fish or egg salad; ages 41–50, please bring veggie or tossed salad; ages 51–60, please bring potato or pasta salad; age 61 on up, please bring a molded salad. If you are shy about your age, slip your salad in anywhere! Men who like to hang out in kitchen are cordially invited to attend. Please RSVP to the office, 247-1129, or Luri Owen, 884-0444, no later than May 30.

Relay for Life

Please Make your Donation or Purchase a Luminaria by June 6

Have you made your donation for the Relay for Life? There's an envelope on the poster in the Parish Hall where you can do so. We want to raise \$2,500 and we're already more than halfway there. Please help us reach our goal! The Relay for Life will begin at 4:00 p.m. on June 8 and continue through the night at the track at Fort Lewis College. Come out June 9, eat breakfast with us (we'll be selling pancakes), and support the team as we walk. We also have luminarias for sale for \$10 each; decorate your luminaria in honor of a survivor or in memory of a loved one lost to cancer and bring it back to the church by Wednesday, June 6. Survivors, please

sign our poster in the Parish Hall so that we can honor you as we walk. For more information, call Luri Owen at 884-0444.

Sudanese Visitors at St. Mark's: Saturday, June 9

A small group from the Episcopal Sudanese Congregation in Denver and friends will be in the Four Corners area the weekend of June 9–10 and at St. Mark's the evening of Saturday, June 9. We would like to provide an opportunity to welcome them and to learn about the situation in Darfur, the history of the church in the Sudan, and the community of the Sudanese Christians in Denver. They will be accompanied by Anita Sanborn (Colorado Episcopal Foundation) and Dr. Bill Jobin of Cortez who is coordinating their visit. They have a 30-minute presentation and a short DVD, along with their own experiences to share. After the presentation, there will be time for questions and fellowship. A potluck dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by the program at 6:00 p.m.; we expect to conclude by 8:00 p.m.

We need Blood Donors! Summer Blood Drive: Wednesday, June 13

The summer blood drive is Wednesday, June 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All who donated blood on Ash Wednesday are eligible to donate again. If you can give blood but have not done so in the past, give some thought to becoming a first-time donor. One of the many good reasons for donating blood on a regular basis is that you get a mini physical exam each time you donate blood and, starting with this blood drive, cholesterol results will be made available to participants.

Divine Diners Get-Together: Saturday, June 23

All Divine Diners are asked to mark Saturday, June 23 for a season-ending potluck supper at the Kiely's home. We will be contacting each member regarding what to bring and how to get there. Please let June Hahl know (ljhahl@frontier.net or 385-1973) or call the office, 247-1129, if the date will work for you. If there are a lot of date conflicts, we'll re-think the date.

In Memory of Hazel Johnson

Two new rosebushes, given by the daughters of Hazel Johnson, have been planted in the Columbarium in memory of Hazel.

Garden Guild

Everyone may be in the Garden Guild by just taking a few moments whenever available to do whatever needs to be done on the grounds. At this time, we need people to help plant annuals and perennials. Plants will be in the Columbarium; bring your own garden tools and plant whatever is ready to be planted (at your discretion) whenever you have time. Please feel free to do a little weeding. Extra hands make light work! St. Mark's was awarded a certificate last year by the City of Durango for its beautiful grounds and we want to maintain that reputation, especially in the Columbarium where we are honoring those interred there by keeping it beautiful.

The Garden Guild welcomes donations of plants or funds to the St. Mark's gardens in honor or in memory of people. If you make a donation to the St. Mark's gardens by June 10, we will acknowledge that donation (name of donor and honoree) in the June 17 bulletin.

Congratulations, Gina!

Congratulations to Gina Wimp, PhD, daughter of Jim and Charon Wimp. Gina has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Ecology at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Summer Childcare Activities

Childcare activities during the 10:15 a.m. service will continue during the summer months for pre-school and elementary-aged children. Activities will include Veggie Tales videos, story-time, nature walks, and arts and crafts. Childcare activities will resume June 3.

Visitor Bread Ministry

Do you like to bake? We need more bakers for this sweet ministry. St. Mark's has a group of people that bake the bread loaves for visitors, who really appreciate this simple gesture. The card that accompanies the bread says, "Thanks for breaking bread with us, St. Marks, Durango." If you sign up, your turn should occur only once every two to three months. Fruit breads, quick breads and yeast breads are all welcome. Can you help? Call Ginna at 247-4912.

Melanie Brubaker Mazur's 40th Birthday Party: Saturday, June 16

The St. Mark's community is invited to Melanie Brubaker Mazur's 40th birthday party Saturday, June 16 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Bayfield Lion's Club on Church Street in downtown Bayfield. Barbecued beef sandwiches, beer, drinks and birthday cake will be provided; please bring a side dish or salad to share. Kids are welcome! Questions? Call Melanie at 884-0116.

Cathy Donahoe Mission Update

Cathy Donahoe is a missionary with the South American Missionary Society who is serving in the Dominican Republic as a physical therapist in San Pedro de Macoris at the Clínica Esperanza y Caridad. She can be reached by e-mail at cathydonahoe@sams-usa.org.

Dear Partners in Mission,

As you read this, I will be in the Dominican Republic, getting settled into my life as a missionary in San Pedro! However, as I am writing this, I am still getting ready. The sale of my condo is closing shortly, my car is sold, my furniture is gone and my cats are trying to figure out what is going on.

The commissioning service at St. Matthew's was a very empowering and humbling experience. The intense warmth and love I felt in the sanctuary came from all of those present but included thoughts and prayers from those in other places as well. There was a loud clap of thunder as my core support team and I gathered at the altar rail, for an extra special touch. If it is possible to feel a group hug from over 130 people without actual physical contact, I more than felt it. I pray that the way I live my life will truly honor both God and all of you supporting me.

All of this work I've been doing in preparation has been building a foundation from which to launch this mission. Foundations of buildings require bricks and mortar but missions need foundations of prayer, encouragement and financial support. Thank you for joining in the foundation of this mission! Unlike buildings that have specific plans to be followed for successful completion, mission plans are more like guidelines. Flexibility will be necessary to move as God guides, which may differ somewhat from the vision I currently am carrying with me. Please pray that I remain focused on God's guidance, trusting that God's way will become clear as I proceed.

May God's peace fill your hearts and communities.

Spare Change Benefits Outreach

Have you ever noticed a big plastic jug at the back of the church sitting on the floor with money in it? This special jar is collecting your spare change for the outreach committee to use for special needs that arise outside of the budgeted outreach dollars. The money collected from the jar has assisted families in need, including some of St. Mark's own. Any donations to the Spare Change Outreach Jar are greatly appreciated.

Wellspring News

Wellspring has a new office located at 445 E. 6th Avenue. You can also contact Wellspring at 375-2955 or log onto the website at www.WellspringMountain.com.

Contact Wellspring for information about the "Soul Flow" Women's River Retreat Week planned for September 2-9, the "Money and Spirit" series which meets the first Thursday of every month in the Parish Hall, and the "Ten Weeks to Financial Awakening" September seminar.

St. Mark's Facilities are Busy!

An important notice about the building use calendar: Now that our facilities are being used more often, the booking of rooms for St. Mark's programs, meetings and events is a little more challenging. It is very important that you check the availability of the room you want to use before you make plans to use it. Contact Cheryl in the church office at 247-1129.

ST. MARK'S NIGHT
at the

DIAMOND CIRCLE
DIAMOND CIRCLE
MELODRAMA & VAUDEVILLE

7TH & MAIN NEXT TO THE STRATER HOTEL

A FUNd-raiser for the St. Mark's Music Program!

Monday, June 25, 2007

Doors Open at 7:30 • Show Begins at 7:45
with your host C. Scott Hagler!

Fun for the entire family! Professional cast!
Song, dance and comedy! Cheer the hero! Boo the villain!
Bring all your friends and neighbors!

Tickets: Adults \$25 • 12 & under \$18

A portion of each ticket purchased supports your music program!

*Please make your reservation to the St. Mark's office
with your payment by **June 18!***

YES! We want to attend the melodrama on June 25!

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

_____ Adult tickets@\$25 _____ 12 & under tickets@\$18 **Total \$ attached:** _____

St. Mark's Night at the
Bar-D
Chuckwagon
Friday, July 20, 2007

The Bar-D opens at 5:30 p.m. (*Please arrive no later than 6:15 p.m.*)

Train rides for the kids! Enjoy the shops!

Listen to the Wranglers sing informally at the "record booth."

Tickets: \$18 per adult and \$9 per child (8 and under).

Admission includes dinner (choice of beef or chicken BBQ) and show.

A check for your tickets should be made payable to

St. Mark's Episcopal Church and marked "Bar-D."

Get your check to Cheryl in the church office by **Friday, July 13!**

When you come to the Bar-D, simply go to the ticket booth and tell them you are with St. Mark's group, reservation #50; you will be directed to the table(s) where we are seated, and one of us will give you your meal ticket there. If you want to purchase a meal upgrade, do so when you come to the ticket booth.

YES! We want to attend St. Mark's Night
at the Bar-D Chuckwagon on July 20!

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

_____ Adult tickets@\$18 _____ 8 & under tickets@\$9 **Total \$ attached:** _____

Are You a Knit Wit?

Did you know that many knitters at St. Mark's participate in the Guideposts Sweater Project, Knit for Kids? Guideposts has shipped over 200,000 sweaters, including some knitted or crocheted by members of St. Mark's. If you would like to participate in the project, knit or crochet a sweater and bring it to St. Mark's. Be sure you indicate that it is for the sweater project. A sweater pattern and yarn are available in the Parish Hall Communication Center. For more information, talk to Claudette Douesnard.

EfM Update

Four dedicated folks have committed to beginning theological study through Education for Ministry, a seminar study program offered through the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. The group must have a minimum of six participants. The program costs \$340 per year; in part, the cost covers production costs of the study materials, which are different for each of the four years of the complete program. For more information, visit the EfM website at www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm. To join the group forming at St. Mark's, call Luri Owen at 884-0444.

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