
Dear Companions on the Way...

I just heard from Melissa Mahaney, the director of the Colorado Haiti Project, that Fr. Kesner Gracia, the Priest of St. Paul's Church in Pettit-Trou-de-Nippes, Haiti would like to visit St. Mark's on the last weekend of July. Please plan on attending a dinner and event on Saturday, July 28 and then coming to church where he will preach on Sunday, July 29.

Fr. Kesner visited St. Mark's in April of 2005 and it was because of that visit that St. Mark's has entered into a commitment to support St. Paul's. We include St. Paul's in our weekly prayers for the church, we give the Haiti Project a yearly gift from our outreach funds and we promote members to visit St. Paul's. So far, I'm the only one who has gone, but I'd like to see more from St. Mark's plan to go in the next year. There are regular trips that we can join, or if enough express interest, we can put our own trip together. Some of the trips are focused on meeting medical needs, and others to gain insight and make connections that we then carry back to Colorado

When I visited St. Paul's last September with Bishop O'Neill, I found St. Paul's to be a thriving Episcopal church at the end of a road in rural Haiti. It is the center of the community life there and offers a very clear and strong message of Christian hope and compassion. At the church campus is a school serving over 650 students (and more when the second story is finished); a micro-credit lending agency that is amazingly effective in helping the very poor (especially women) find start-up help toward meaningful employment and income; a women's vocational school training women in skills with which they can support themselves and their children (many men leave their families to look for jobs in Port-a-Prince); a health clinic served by three Cuban doctors who now live at the church; and opportunities for men to work and learn construction skills while the school is being built.

With Fr. Kesner's visit, we also want to celebrate the generosity that has been shown to him and St. Paul's. Last year a donor, who is a member of St. Mark's, gave a major gift to St. Paul's of \$100,000. That gift was given with the expectation that it would be matched by other gifts (both small and large) from around the diocese and beyond. We will hear what that money enables the CHP to do at St. Paul's and how we can participate.

On a final note, Fr. Kesner's trip to Colorado is in part to attend an intensive English immersion school so he will want to try out his language skills while visiting with us.

Please plan to be part of the Haiti event later this month. Watch for details.

Shalom,



Andrew

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- July 6 St. Mark's day at
. Manna Soup Kitchen
- July 7 David Evans Guitar Recital
- July 15 Welcome and Welcome Back!
- July 20 St. Mark's Night at the Bar-D
- July 28 Habitat for Humanity work day
- July 28 Event with Fr. Kesner Gracia
- July 29 Fr. Kesner Gracia preaches at
. Sunday services
- July 29 Loaves and Fishes Sunday
- August 8 Allen Mathews Guitar Recital
- September 5 Alpha Course Celebration Dinner
- September 29 Habitat for Humanity work day
- October 5–6 Diocesan Convention
- October 10 Fall Blood Drive

Welcome and Welcome Back! July 15

Are you new to St. Mark's? Have you been away for awhile? Or, would you simply like to know more about what St. Mark's has to offer? Please join us for a casual brunch following the 10:15 service on July 15 to visit with other members of the congregation and learn about the different programs and ministries available at St. Mark's.

Loaves and Fishes Sunday: July 29

Bring non-perishable food and other necessary items to church on July 29 for donation to area food banks. This time of year their supplies are getting very low so they need our support!

St. Mark's Night at the Bar-D: July 20

It's time for St. Mark's to gather for another night of fun, music and food at the Bar-D Chuckwagon. We had so much fun last year, we're doing it again. We will be seating for dinner around 7:00 p.m.; the Bar D opens at 5:30 p.m. and you should arrive no later than 6:15 p.m. The cost is \$18 per adult and \$9 for children 8 and under. This includes dinner (choice of beef or chicken BBQ) and the show. A check for your tickets should be made payable to "St. Mark's Episcopal Church," marked "Bar D" and delivered to Cheryl at the church office no later than Friday, July 13. When you arrive at the Bar D, simply go to the ticket booth and tell them you are with the St. Mark's group, reservation number 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 would like to purchase a meal upgrade, you can do so when you go to the ticket booth.

Alpha Course Celebration Dinner: September 5

We have just completed another wonderful and fulfilling Alpha Course. If you are interested in participating in the next course or would like to learn more about the Alpha Course, please plan to attend the Celebration Dinner on September 5. There will be more information about the Celebration Dinner and the upcoming Alpha Course in the August newsletter.

Seeking Delegates to Diocesan Convention: October 5-6

Our Diocesan Convention is coming up in October. We are looking for some delegates from St. Mark's to attend and represent us. The Convention will open on Friday evening, October 5 with a Eucharist and the Bishop's address. On Saturday morning we will gather again at the Cathedral for our business session. There will be a number of workshops to attend. St. Mark's delegates need to be adult or youth members in good standing who are willing to attend and then share with the congregation their experiences and resources picked up. St. Mark's will cover the expenses of attendance. Check out the diocesan website for more info: www.coloradodiocese.org go to News and Events, and then Diocesan Convention. If you are interested, let Fr. Andrew or Cheryl know.

Outreach Committee Report

Blood Drive: Many thanks to the 18 volunteers who donated a total of 19 units of blood at St. Mark's blood drive on June 13. Our Fall Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, October 10 in the Parish Hall. An interesting statistic: of the 60% of Americans who are eligible to donate blood, only about 5% do so on a regular basis. St. Mark's can beat this national average!

Habitat for Humanity in La Plata County is building three additional townhomes on Florida Road this summer. Tentatively planned are two St. Mark's workdays, one on Saturday, July 28, and the other on Saturday, September 29. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Parish Hall.

St. Mark's next time to prepare and serve a hot meal at the **Manna Soup Kitchen** is Friday, July 6. Sign up in the Parish Hall.

Parishioner's Needs

Exercise Bike Wanted: Sue Evans needs an exercise bike to use for her rehabilitation program. If anyone has one that she could use, please contact Sue at (720) 989-6368 or Cheryl at 247-1129.

Rental Wanted: 2 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, one-car garage, fireplace, and a little dirt for plants/veggies, in town or close enough. Will be cared for as our own. Impeccable references. Senior professional couple. Must be reasonable rent, long-term commitment. Vic, Marina Markula 259-1099.

Rental Wanted: 2 bedrooms, 1-2 baths, preferably in Durango. Needs to be cat-friendly. Call Cheryl at St. Mark's at 247-1129.

House/Pet Sitter Wanted for the summer. Lovely country home with three cats, excellent live-in accommodations. Located 30 miles south of Durango, off Hwy 550 near the Animas River. Contact Ron at (505) 334-0591.

Save Your Wine Corks!

Linda Dunaway has a special project for the St. Mark's Christmas Bazaar and needs used wine corks. Each project takes about 500 corks, so lots are needed. Please save yours and deposit them in the jug in the kitchen at church. Thank you!

St. Mark's Messenger Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is July 20, 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.

St. Mark's Needs Volunteers. Can You Help?

Sunday Coffee Hour

The Sunday morning coffee hour is a very important part of our ministry of hospitality. For all of the dedicated volunteers that bring treats for us after the service, a GREAT BIG THANK YOU is due! We have all become accustomed to finding the coffee pots full, hot water ready for tea and trays of goodies and healthful snacks every week, and for that, we are most grateful. There always is room for more people to join in this parish ministry, so think about signing up for a Sunday; just notify Cheryl in the office. Depending on the number of people on the list, you usually only have to serve once every two months. There is an updated list of the duties and responsibilities for this ministry that Cheryl can provide to you.

Office Volunteers Wanted!

We would like to build up our list of volunteers for answering the phones and general assistance in the office. This volunteer coverage would usually be on Mondays or Fridays or other days during the week when staff members are out of town. It would also be helpful to have extra hands when preparing for funerals, weddings and major religious holidays. Volunteers are especially needed on Thursday, July 12 and August 20–24. If you would like to volunteer for a morning or an afternoon every now and then, please call the office, 247-1129, or let Cheryl know you are interested.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers Wanted

Have you ever thought that you might like to serve at the altar as a chalice minister during the Sunday services? If so, then this announcement is for you! During the summer months when many people are traveling, we become particularly aware that we

need more people to call on for this ministry. Most of our Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) serve at the altar twice a month. If we have more people in the rotation schedule, perhaps we can change this so each person serves every three weeks or less. If you would like to consider being an LEM, please let Father Andrew know.

St. Mark's Website Offers New Features

Scott and Cheryl have recently implemented some new and exciting features on the St. Mark's website. First, the St. Mark's events calendar has been upgraded to a monthly searchable calendar display. If you would like to see what is going on at St. Mark's from month to month, the calendar will be extremely useful for you. The homepage also has a display of the upcoming events for each week. In order for the calendar to be the most effective, please notify the church office with the details of any events associated with the parish. Also watch the calendar for special church service information, such as for funerals and holiday events. The calendar will soon be searchable by category.

The website now provides a link to the upcoming Sunday scriptures. The link (*Click here for Sunday's scripture readings*) is located on the homepage below the listing of Sunday services. It opens up a new window that includes the Old and New Testament readings, the Gospel lesson and sections titled "Reflection and Response" and "Prayer Starter."

St. Mark's newsletter is now available on our website! To view the monthly newsletter online, click the newsletter link button available in the navigation bar on the left side of St. Mark's primary web pages and select the issue you would like to read.

A Whale of a Welcome to Tonya Wales

By June Hahl

I would like to introduce the new editor of the *Messenger*, Tonya Wales. She has graciously accepted the challenge of gathering the news of St. Mark's for the monthly newsletter.

Tonya has left her full-time practice of law to spend more time with her pre-schooler, Emma, which gives her the opportunity to take over this important ministry. She was born and raised in Dallas, Texas and attended the University of Texas School of Business, where she received a BBA degree. After receiving a JD from Southern Methodist University School of Law, she practiced as a litigation attorney in Dallas.

She married her childhood sweetheart, Darren, in 2001. She grew up in the same neighborhood with him; their families still reside within blocks of each other. They attended St. John's Episcopal Church in Dallas.

Because of their mutual love of outdoor activities, they moved to Durango in 2004 and Tonya practiced with McDaniel law firm until 2006. I imagine that Larry McDaniel might have had something to do with inviting the young family to the early service, where Emma reigns supreme in the nursery, sometimes as the only little one.

They became regulars right away and Tonya is currently taking the Alpha Course and Darren is serving his second term as Junior Warden. Tonya lists her favorite activity as hanging out with Emma, and she enjoys running, hiking, horseback riding, backcountry hiking and camping with Darren.

Please send information for the *Messenger* to detwales@msn.com or call Tonya at 259-4166. I know she will welcome any volunteers who would like to help with the mailing preparation (folding and sorting).

So, the editor's pen is passed from Hahl to Wales and I thank everyone for their kind words of encouragement to me these last nine years, and assistance given in making the *Messenger* a source of good communication for the parish. I know you will continue to do so with Tonya.

Wellspring News

Wellspring Mountain Spiritual Retreats Mission: fostering spiritual healing and wholeness in women.

The Money and Spirit monthly series is underway. This is a monthly support group for those wanting to experience a soulful relationship with money. The sessions are open to women and those with whom they are in a relationship, since a significant component of a healthy relationship is honestly facing money together. The group meets the first Thursday evening of each month in the Parish Hall. The cost is \$25 per person or \$40 per couple and all proceeds benefit Wellspring. Scholarships for the full fee are available.

In August, the Women's Spiritual Literature Circle will continue with new books, new ideas and a new format.

"Soul Flow," Women's River Retreat on the Main Salmon River in Idaho will be September 2-9. The retreat will include rafting and paddling; time for resting, playing and re-connecting with your soul; and camping on sandy beaches under the stars. There are only three spaces left so don't delay!

In September, Paul Lemon will again lead his "Ten Weeks to Financial Awakening" seminar. This is a practical, step-by-step guide to gaining financial freedom by learning how to set up a budget using Quicken, how to manage your investments, how to buy insurance, etc.

If you are interested in any of these programs, contact Wellspring for the details: 375-2955 or log on to www.WellspringMountain.com. Wellspring's office is now located at 445 E. 6th Ave.

Summer Guitar Recitals at St. Mark's

Music at St. Mark's is pleased to present two guitar recitals this summer.

David Evans, Classical Guitarist

Saturday, July 7, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 at the door

David Evans grew up performing a variety of music including jazz, rock, flamenco and folk. As his musical abilities developed, so did his passion for the classical guitar. David's love for traveling has taken him to Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America. This love for the people of other cultures drives him to perform pieces from all over the world. Whether the piece is a Venezuelan waltz or a baroque sarabande, David colors each piece with style and sensitivity, developed over decades of playing. His first CD, *Resonance*, was debuted on a west-bound concert tour.

David is a graduate from Metropolitan State College of Denver with a B.A. in classical guitar performance and received his master of music from University of Denver, Lamont School of Music, where he also served as teaching assistant. He returned to Metropolitan State to teach, and was on the faculty for eight years. David studied with René Heredia, Frank Jermance, Masakazu Ito, Jonathan Leathwood, Alex Komodore and Ricardo Iznaola, and participated in master classes led by Nicholas Golousis, Lilly Afshar, William Kanengiser, John Duarte and Christopher Parkening. His recital will include works written from the 1600s to today by Bach, Loeillet, Figueredo, and Koshkin.

Allen Mathews, Classical Guitarist

Wednesday, August 8, 2007 • 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 at the door

Allen Mathews, a classical guitarist specializing in South American music, was born in 1974 in Americus, Georgia. In 1995, he moved to Durango,

Colorado, where, in 2004, he graduated magna cum laude from Fort Lewis College with a degree in guitar performance. He also studied guitar for six months in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Allen currently resides in Portland, Oregon, where he teaches at Lewis and Clark College and has a private studio. He performs frequently both solo and with flutist Samuel Lett. Allen also serves on the board of directors of Artichoke Community Music, a non-profit dedicated to building community through music, and is program director for the annual Artichoke Folk Festival. The recital will feature works by Antonio Lauro, Leo Brouwer, and Paulo Bellinati, as well as original compositions and Brazilian masterpieces. More information may be found at www.allenmathews.com.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

A huge "thank you" to all who helped purchase the two grand pianos. They're now paid for! A permanent plaque honoring donors is in the works.

Summer Choir

The choir sings once a month during the summer months at the 10:15 service. Upcoming dates are July 22 and August 12. Rehearsals are in the sanctuary at 9:15, an hour before the service begins. All are welcome, whether you sing with the choir regularly or not.

Hagler Releases RAGTIME!

C. Scott Hagler has released a CD of piano rags by Scott Joplin, commemorating the 46th season of the Diamond Circle Melodrama. The CD is \$15 and is available in the church office, at the Melodrama ticket office and Katzin Music.

What Is Education for Ministry?

Education for Ministry (EfM) sounds to many people as if it's a preparation or discernment process for folks who may feel called to ordained ministry. Since it's offered through a seminary, it's easy to understand that impression. However, EfM is a program of study for all people who are interested in reading through the Bible, discussing their faith and learning the history of the Christian church. While the entire course of study takes four years to complete, each participant commits to only a year at a time. Each year of study has a specific focus, but participants studying at different year levels form a seminar group for discussion together each week. Each EfM

group is required to begin with six participants and the cost per participant is \$345 per year (ask about partial scholarships). St. Mark's would like to establish an EfM seminar group to begin studying in September. Please call Luri Owen at 884-0444 if you are interested in participating. For more information about EfM, go to www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm.

Deadline for the next issue is July 20, 2007.
