

Dear Companions on the Way...

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church begins on Tuesday, July 7 in Anaheim, CA and goes for another ten days. I will be attending as one of the eight deputies from the Diocese of Colorado, my fifth convention as an elected representative from the Diocese. In this newsletter article, I'd like to share with you some of what the experience is of Convention and some of the ways to keep in contact or up-to-date with what is happening.

Let me first share with you a couple of prayers that I'd like you to be offering daily during the convention.

God our Wisdom, who eternally makes all things new: encourage by your Holy Spirit Andrew and all those who prepare for General Convention to labor together for the building up of your world and your Church; counsel them when to act and when to wait; turn their hearts always toward those in greatest need, and away from their own preoccupations and fears; help them never forget that love and mercy are your greatest gifts given us all to offer one another as we see in them Jesus Christ who alone is our joy, our way, our truth, and our life. Amen.

And this is a prayer I will be using, and I invite you to join me in offering up this prayer.

God of light and life: as General Convention draws near, help me to continue to grow up in all ways into Christ. Fill me with energy for the work before me; show me your surprising face in the people around me; delight me afresh with the variety of your creation; inspire me with a vision of your justice becoming concrete in the world; and above all, teach me to love you and my neighbor more fully, less grudgingly, and with more forbearance day by day, and give me the grace of good humor, the leaven of laughter, and the tonic of hope through it all, in Jesus' name. Amen.

There are lots of ways to keep up with what is going on. I've posted a five-page overview of the way that General Convention works on our St. Mark's website: <http://www.StMarksDurango.com/governance.pdf>. The next link here is to our blog that I've been using already and I get alerted when stuff gets posted to it. The others will provide good coverage of all that is going on.

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Some of you have asked about the calendar of activity so that you could be praying when the convention is in session. To find the calendar, download the pdf file just mentioned or go to the official convention website (see below), and then to page 10 of the Bishop and Deputies Handbook under Publications.

This is a blog for our Colorado Deputation:
<http://coloradodeputies.blogspot.com/>

This is the diocesan website for
General Convention:
http://www.coloradodiocese.org/06_newsandevents/genconventiondeputation.html

This is the official web site of
General Convention 2009
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm>

This is the Episcopal News Service
special web site for GC 2009 http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/107145_ENG_HTML.htm

I will be taking the train out from Gallup on Sunday afternoon, July 5, getting me to Anaheim in time for some special meetings of the legislative committee I will be serving on. I hope you attend church here that morning and offer special prayers for me and the convention and send me off with your blessings.

When I return, I would like to hold a **Parish Forum on Sunday, July 26 at 9:15** to discuss the actions of convention and any ramifications for St. Mark's.

I will be particularly busy at Convention as I have been appointed to serve on the Dispatch of Business Committee and will be a legislative liaison to the Prayerbook, Liturgy and Music legislative

committee (#13). Prayerbook, Liturgy and Music will deal with the most resolutions, the longest resolutions (two are several hundred pages long) and the most controversial resolutions (see last month's newsletter regarding issues for blessing same-sex unions, see the diocesan blog for my overview of the various Committee 13 resolutions). I will be right in the middle of it all, making sure the work of the committee gets to the floor of convention in an efficient and proper manner.

I really enjoy conventions because of all the surrounding events. There will be wonderful worship everyday with great preachers; there is an amazing marketplace with vendors selling every kind of imaginable product and service used by churches; there will be dinners hosted by organizations and seminaries (I'll go to my alma mater's dinner, which is a wonderful reunion with old classmates); and I will be seeing many many friends I've made over years of attending conventions and national committees and events.

But I also love convention because I believe we do important work that matters for the revealing of God's presence and love in the world. I remember giving testimony to a small subcommittee at the 1979 General Convention about lay hospital visitation and how they would be enhanced by allowing lay persons to bring communion. That convention voted to allow Lay Eucharistic Visitors, a ministry that has blessed St. Mark's ability to care for our people for nearly 30 years. I could go on and on but let me sign off here.

Please keep us all in your prayers and keep in touch.

Shalom,



Andrew

Save August 22 for Habitat

Habitat for Humanity of La Plata County is building two more duplex housing units this summer on Fox Farm Circle in Bayfield. St. Mark's is planning a special work day on Saturday, August 22. If you would be interested on other days this summer, please call volunteer coordinator Jen Nail at 382-2215.

Thinking of Joining the Choir?

If you're interested in joining St. Mark's Choir, please set aside Friday evening, August 28, and all day Saturday, August 29. We begin each choir season with a retreat to help get a jump on the music. This year's retreat will be in Durango. Please contact Scott at 247-1129, ext. 14 or via e-mail, ScottH@StMarksDurango.com, and let him know you are interested or for more information.

Deadline for August Newsletter

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

Summer Adult Education

Continuing through the summer at 9:15 a.m. in the downstairs conference room we will study Gospel-Based Discipleship. This is a form of Bible study based on the idea that when people engage with the good news of Jesus, transformation takes place. We will read the gospel for the day and engage in discussion about what we are hearing and how God is calling us through the text.

Attention Women!

St. Mark's church is hosting the Women United in Christ "Transformations" women's salad luncheon on July 25, which means we need you to help set up and decorate the room, prepare the salad bar items, serve and clean-up. We also need donations to cover the cost of the food. It would be lovely to actually have many of the salad bar items donated from our own vegetable gardens (cucumbers, carrots, broccoli, tomatoes, zucchini, bell peppers, lettuce, etc) or bring store-bought veggies by the church on Friday, July 24. Cheryl White will be coordinating the event so let her know how you would like to help by calling the church office 247-1129.

Women United in Christ is a Christian non-profit organization that provides ministries for women, including a monthly luncheon, weekly bible study and this year will mark the 12th year of the Women United in Christ conference. If you can't help with the luncheon itself, consider attending any of the events sponsored by WUIC. Read more about them at www.womenunitedinchrist.com.

2009 Parish Retreat – Save the date!

Mark Friday, September 11 through Sunday, September 13 on your calendars now! Food, fellowship, music, worship, community building and LOTS of laughter and fun await us for the Parish Retreat. Worship leader Fran McKendree will be returning to lead our weekend this year. Fran is a sweet spirit and a talented singer/songwriter who travels all over the U.S. leading retreats. His style of teaching and the resources he draws upon for worship are fresh and spirit-filled. Stay tuned for more details! We are making arrangements for the event to be held at the Cross Bar X.

Calling All Artists, Poets, Songwriter/Composers and Volunteers!

The fourth annual Sacred Arts Festival, celebrating artistic expressions of the sacred – representing any faith tradition – will be held from October 1–4. The festival includes a roundtable discussion and features art, poetry and music events. The festival is hosted by St. Mark's.

The 2009 festival opens with a benefit preview luncheon Thursday, October 1 at 11:30 a.m. and continues with a roundtable discussion at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 2 features the opening artists' reception for ICON from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The exhibit continues through October 30. Submission drop-off is September 21.

Poetry for the Spirit features a poetry reading and poets' reception Saturday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m. Submission deadline is September 8.

Music for Sacred Spaces will showcase the work of songwriters, composers and arrangers who write sacred music for any faith tradition. A concert will be performed by the selected musicians on Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Submission deadline is September 8.

Entry forms for all three categories of the festival are available online at www.SacredArtsFestival.com, at St. Mark's Church or by calling the church at (970) 247-1129, extension 10 or 14. All categories will be juried. For more information call C. Scott Hagler, festival director, at (970) 247-1129, extension 14.



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, 247-1129. Depending on the number of people on the list, you usually only have to serve once every two months.

Apartment for Rent

2-bedroom 2-bath end-unit condo near FLC

- Former home of FLC prof.
- Silver Peaks Condominiums
- \$1,200/month
- HOA dues, water, sewage and trash included
- Workout facility
- Hot tub
- Clubhouse w/ big screen TV
- Across the street from FLC
- Assigned parking
- Energy-efficient LG stacked washer/dryer
- Large pantry with shelving
- Private balcony
- Views of the La Plata Mountains
- No pets, no smokers

Available late July/early August. Call Justin at (970) 764-7099.

**SING & MAKE
MUSIC
WITH ALL
YOUR SOUL!**
—Psalm 108

Use Your Musical Talents to the Glory of God

St. Mark's offers music ministry opportunities for everyone!

St. Mark's Children's Choir

Tuesdays from 4:00–5:00 p.m. beginning September 15

St. Mark's Choir

The choir season begins with an in-town choir retreat August 28–29.

If you are interested in attending, please let Scott know soon!

Rehearsals are offered **Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.** (beginning September 2)

and **Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.** (beginning September 19)

Come to one or both rehearsals. Youth and adults welcome!

No audition necessary; music reading helpful.

Play an Instrument?

Interested in purchasing a set of handbells for St. Mark's?

Please let Scott know!

MUSIC
at **ST. MARK'S**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Note from Cathy Donahoe

Cathy Donahoe is a missionary with the South American Missionary Society. She is serving in the Dominican Republic as a physical therapist in San Pedro de Macorís at the Clínica Esperanza y Caridad. E-mail: cathydonahoe@sams-usa.org or cathyd@turbonet.com Snail mail: Apartado 587, San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic

Thank you so very much for your prayers this past month. I have finally received my temporary residency card after two years of struggle with the system! This is cause for great joy and relief. Thanks to God!

The basketball court in Santa Fe is not far from my house or the church. Since I've moved here, there have often been kids and young adults playing there, with the occasional game occurring. Some

girls have even played volleyball there on the rare occasion. Recently there was a flurry of activity with painting of the court taking place and now I can hear the whistles and cheers from folks watching an ongoing basketball tournament! Someone said it will last 30 days! Domingo, the friend from church who took care of Brahim while I was in Haiti, is part of the group putting this together, trying to offer the community a more healthy alternative than roaming the streets at night. One challenge will be to provide something else when this tournament finishes.

As with the balance in my life and relationships I mentioned last month, the community needs a balance of opportunities. Please pray that Santa Fe can build a positive community that offers better opportunities than gangs and drugs for young people.

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

910 E. 3rd Ave.
Durango, CO 81301