

## Dear Companions on the Way...

Our second annual St. Mark's Church Retreat will be held Friday through Sunday, September 11, 12 and 13. The theme for our time together is "Walking in the Path of Love" which reflects my desire to have a time to grow together in our love for God, our love for one another, and reflect on our call to carry God's love into the world. Once again our retreat leader will be Fran McKendree, a musician, teacher and leader from North Carolina who brings with him a sweet, joyful spirit and an enthusiasm for seeing people grow in love through these kind of retreats.

Our location is the Cross Bar X Ranch on the Florida Mesa. The Cross Bar X has a long history of doing youth retreats and camping and is making us a very good deal for the use of the facilities. Consequently, we are able to keep the retreat affordable. And with its location closer to town and with a number of youth activities, we're hoping for a good turnout by families, even with tougher economic times. We also know that youth soccer kicks off in a big way that weekend, but we're hoping that Friday afternoon especially will be a time to emphasize family activities. We've also arranged a breakdown of costs so that families can pay for only the days you'll be with us. *We want you to come for as many sessions as you can!* There's still time to register.



Our schedule for the weekend is as follows:

### Friday

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| 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Check in and family activities                           |
| 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Special groups: ropes, lake, and/or high swing           |
| 6:30 p.m.        | Dinner at Eagle Lodge                                    |
| 7:30 p.m.        | Gathering in the Tent of the Lord and children's program |
| 9:00 p.m.        | Iona evening service                                     |

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## Saturday

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|------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m.        | Breakfast at Eagle Lodge                                  |
| 9:00 a.m.        | Gathering in the Tent of the Lord and children's program  |
| 10:30 a.m.       | Poetry and other creative responses to morning session    |
| 12:00 p.m.       | Lunch at Eagle Lodge                                      |
| 1:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Free time, special groups, ropes, etc.                    |
| 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. | <i>St. Francis and the Path of Love</i> with Carol Tookey |
| 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. | <i>Centering Prayer</i> with Andrew Cooley                |
| 6:00 p.m.        | Dinner at Eagle Lodge                                     |
| 7:30 p.m.        | Concert, teaching and children's program                  |
| 9:00 p.m.        | Compline  |
| 9:30 p.m.        | Ice Cream Social at Eagle Lodge                           |

## Sunday

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| 9:00 a.m.  | Breakfast        |
| 10:30 a.m. | Family Eucharist |

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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| September 4 . . . . .  | St. Mark's day at<br>Manna Soup Kitchen |
| September 11–13 . . .  | Parish Retreat                          |
| September 15 . . . . . | Children's Choir resumes                |
| October 1–4 . . . . .  | Sacred Arts Festival                    |
| October 2 . . . . .    | St. Mark's day at<br>Manna Soup Kitchen |
| October 17 . . . . .   | Women United in Christ<br>Conference    |

## Deadline for October Newsletter

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Deadline for the next issue is September 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).

## Adult Formation

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We will resume a topical format for our Adult Forum on Sunday, September 20 (the week after the Parish Retreat). We have several interesting subjects lined up. We'll begin with a discussion on "What is the Emergent Church." We will be doing a DVD series with Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann entitled *Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today*. Fr. Andrew will be leading a study on Worship and Emergent Church. Carol will lead some discussions on Native American Spirituality. In Advent we will be looking at topics on Incarnation, beginning with Celtic Christianity. We meet from 9:15–10:15 on Sundays in the downstairs conference room. Please join us.

## Last Call for Sacred Arts Festival Entries!

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The Sacred Arts Festival is only a few weeks away!  
Entry deadlines are:

- Music and Poetry: September 8
- Artwork dropoff: September 21.

If you haven't already picked up an entry form, stop by the church office and pick one up at the counter or download from [www.sacredartsfestival.com](http://www.sacredartsfestival.com).

One way to support the festival is to attend the special Sneak-a-Peek Luncheon on Thursday, October 1.

The guest speaker is Judith Reynolds who will present an interesting lecture. Tickets are \$25; reservations can be made in the church office.

You'll also want to attend the other events:

- Opening reception for ICON: Friday, October 2, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Poetry for the Spirit, poetry reading and reception: Saturday, October 3, 7:00 p.m.
- Music for Sacred Spaces, concert of original compositions and songs followed by a reception: Sunday, October 4, 2:00 p.m.

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

## Sacred Arts Festival Volunteers Needed!

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The Sacred Arts Festival is only four weeks away and we need to line up some volunteers to help with the fund-raising luncheon on Thursday, October 1, as well as for the artist, poetry and music receptions October 2-4. We could also use some assistance



with hanging the art show and assembling poetry books. If you would like to support the Sacred Arts Festival, but don't have the time to volunteer, you can provide food items for the receptions (such as a block of cheese or box of crackers) or offer donations to help cover the cost of the festival as another way you can help. Please see Scott or Cheryl for more information or call the church office at 247-1129.

## The Lion's Book Corner is Changing!

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The Lion's Book Corner has a new name and many things are in the works to make it more user friendly and diverse in the items that will be offered. Now called the 3rd Ave. Corner Shop, the store will soon be offering sacred art, gifts, artist consignment and will continue to sell books, expanding with more modern themes and authors. In addition to the name change, the non-profit organization is being re-structured to make it possible to apply for grants. Stay tuned for more information on these exciting changes.

## St. Mark's Annual Christmas Bazaar

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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](mailto: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.

## Nurses' Notes

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On August 12 we celebrated the feast day of Florence Nightingale, a nurse of the 19th Century who served the soldiers in the Crimean war, but who, more importantly, set up programs for training professional nurses. She is one of the people most responsible for promoting nursing as a profession. She was also a mystic and an Anglican, hence her being placed in our Church Calendar for special recognition. As I reflected on her life and ministry in preparation for our Wednesday healing Eucharist, I got to thinking about how we fail to recognize the ministry of nursing that lots of people, other than professional nurses, do. In my reflection for the day I stated that most nursing that goes on is done by non-professionals – by mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, friends and neighbors. Whenever we put on a bandage or kiss an “owie” we’re performing the ministry of nurses. Whenever we take care of an aged parent or grandparent, helping them with their medication or changing their beds, we’re doing nursing. It served as a reminder to me that there are so many ways people can participate in healing ministry.

Our Caring Community group consists of several nurses and several non-nurses. They work together to coordinate the helping ministry of St. Mark’s community and help to connect both people in need of some kind of help, whether ‘nursing’ or other, and people who feel called to serve those in need, especially those who are ill, grieving, or going through other challenges and crises in their lives. One of the many blessings of being a part of St. Mark’s family is seeing the ways in which people care for each other. We are blessed to have all of these ‘nurses’ – whether formally trained or not. The TLC that they share is a real gift of ministry and love.

— Carol Tookey, Parish Nurse

## Women United in Christ Annual Conference

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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. Lunch is included in the registration. 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.

## WeeCycle Durango Fall/Winter Consignment Sale and Diaper Drive

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Come and find great bargains on all types of maternity, baby and children’s items Saturday, September 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 2917 Aspen Drive (off Florida Rd.). A wide variety of gently used clothes, toys, books, nursery items and more will be available at great prices! Please bring your own shopping bags; cash and checks only. Have something you want to sell? We are accepting consigners until September 24. This event also includes a Diaper Drive to benefit The La Plata Family Center. Your diaper donations will be greatly appreciated. Visit [www.weecycledurango.com](http://www.weecycledurango.com) for more information.

**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**

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**

## Poet's Corner

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### **The Dawning**

*by Claire McGoff*

I look out from a convenience store doorway,  
just off a mid-summer Indiana exit,  
to where he stretches halfway under our truck –  
body flush against the days of oil and dust  
washed and unwashed away. He scans  
the underside to find a leak that trickles  
from beneath the axle and metal sheltering  
our children who stir in stages of dreams,  
wakefulness, and many miles to travel. The sun

frees the dew from the pumps and asphalt  
of the world, reopens my eyes  
to the one who rises from the shadow.  
In the early light he is unveiled to me

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as he was in the garden before the tempting,  
before all the rest of our days began.  
I stand in the clearing of that first morning,  
the weight of tomorrow, like a stone, rolls away.

I want to fly to him, to light  
on his working shoulder,  
tell him what I remember.