

Dear Companions on the Way...

The Episcopal Church has received considerable media attention the last few days following the House of Bishop's meeting in New Orleans. When listening to national media cover these events, perhaps your anxiety rises as you hear reporters use the words "schism" and "Episcopal Church" in the same sentence; mine sure does. Let me give you my take on the recent House of Bishop's meeting and where we are in the Episcopal Church. But also check out the national Episcopal News Service and the diocesan website for more recent and comprehensive information: episcopalchurch.org and diocesecolorado.org.

The Bishops of the Episcopal Church usually meet twice a year and this meeting was part of their normal schedule. Normally, the meetings of bishops are occasions to strengthen relationships, to learn about ministries and projects around the church and to encourage and deepen their faith and devotion to God in retreat like exercises. This meeting was different in that they had been called upon to respond to a communiqué issued by the gathered Archbishops of the 44 autonomous member churches of the Anglican Communion (of which the Episcopal Church in the United States is but one). The communiqué was issued last April at a meeting held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

I think that it is safe to say that the April communiqué was quite sharp and intended by some of the most conservative Archbishops to be an ultimatum. It demanded of the Episcopal Church that it state unequivocally and unambiguously that we would not consecrate any partnered gay or lesbian bishops and would forbid the developing of Rites for, and the practice of, blessing same-sex unions. But it also called for a new level of oversight by outside Archbishops in the ordering of our church. This last provision was unacceptable to the American bishops, including many of the more conservative bishops.

What the Bishops did last week was to say that our current policy, as adopted at the General Convention last year in Ohio, does offer the restraint the conservatives want. We did adopt a resolution last year calling for bishops and standing committees to "exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion." The Bishops offered a clarification to say that this was indeed intended to refer to partnered gay or lesbian candidates. The Bishops also pledged not to authorize public rites for the blessing of same-sex unions (which simply confirms the existing status quo).

See *Companions*, page 2

To sum up the action of the Bishops last week, it seemed that they offered the most unified statement to date holding to a middle position, attempting on the one hand to offer a strong statement of inclusion for gay and lesbian persons in the sacramental life of the church, while also declaring our strong desire to be in the fullest possible membership in the Anglican communion. The Bishops didn't back down from the current position regarding inclusion of gay and lesbian persons and even many of the more conservative and moderate bishops seemed to be more comfortable with this position than in the past. On the other hand, the Bishops did not adopt anything new, only reiterated current positions.

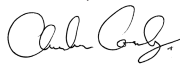
It will be up to Archbishops and perhaps the big gathering of Bishops from all provinces of the Anglican Communion to be held next summer (Lambeth 2008) to see if the rest of the communion is satisfied with the American position. There is the possibility (or threat) that the American church will be held to a provisional or limited membership in the Anglican Communion. That would depend on the strength of the more conservative African archbishops over the rest of the communion. But the "Anglican Communion" is a much more nebulous thing than many assume. We have no Pope and our other structures of authority or unity don't seem to be designed to address the kind of questions that are being asked of it. We are in uncharted waters. Even though none of the previous predictions of schism have come to pass, there still could yet be some kind of international realignment.

I have sometimes said that it seems like a global tug-of-war is going on with the Archbishop of Canterbury in the middle. But after the New Orleans meeting, I feel that the Archbishop is more receptive to the American church and our perspectives than

before the meeting. I'm more optimistic that we won't be "dismissed" from the Anglican Communion, but I do anticipate that there will be some shakeout over the next few weeks and months. I anticipate that some congregations and even dioceses will declare that since the Bishops did not repudiate previous actions or positions they must separate themselves from the Episcopal Church. Some of those congregations may even be in Colorado. In the end, though, I don't expect that number to be very high.

I'm aware that these issues are before me in a focused way as I am up for election to be a clergy deputy to the 2009 General Convention, to be held in Anaheim, California, representing Colorado. That election will take place October 6 at our diocesan convention in Denver. I support the stance the Bishops have taken. I too feel strongly that we are blessed both by the full inclusion of all of God's people in the life of our church, certainly including gay and lesbian persons, but I also acknowledge the many blessings we receive by being part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. I don't want to put at risk our connection to either side; we are blessed by these connections, but also, I believe, we have much to offer. In the meantime, we will keep on praising God; seeking God through sacraments, scripture, and the spirit's work among us; and proclaiming this loving God to a hungry and hurting world.

Shalom,



Andrew

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 5 St. Mark's day at
Manna Soup Kitchen
October 5–6 Diocesan Convention
October 7 10:30 a.m. new start time
for second service
October 8 Christmas Bazaar meeting
October 10 Fall Blood Drive
October 14 Trimble Lane clean up day
October 26 Recital: Linda Mack and
Scott Hagler, duo-keyboards

Time Change for the Second Service: Sunday, October 7

Beginning on Sunday, October 7 we will begin the second Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendars for this change; but in the event you forget, Scott will be offering more extensive musical prelude prior to the beginning of the second service so that you'll be enriched during your time waiting.

Christmas Bazaar Needs You!

Interested in helping with the annual Christmas Bazaar? Please call Ginna Harbison for details: 247-4912.

Fall Blood Drive: October 10

Our Fall Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, October 10 in the Parish Hall; there is a sign-up sheet posted. There were 18 volunteers who donated a total of 19 units of blood on June 13; let's top it!

Fall Trimble Lane Clean Up Day: Sunday, October 14

St. Mark's Trimble Lane clean up day will be Sunday, October 14 after the 10:30 service. Early birds can get their bags at church and leave word which section of Trimble Lane they will be cleaning.

Recital Series Set

Artists and dates are set for the 2007–2008 St. Mark's Recital Series. All recitals are on Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

- **Linda Mack and C. Scott Hagler**, duo-keyboards, October 26, 2007
- **Nan Wagner**, mezzo-soprano, January 18, 2008
- **Gemma Kavanagh**, soprano, March 14, 2008
- **Andrew Todd**, piano, April 25, 2008

Tickets are available for the series or for individual recitals. Call the church office at 247-1129 for more information.

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.

Cathy Donahoe Mission Update

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 catbyd@turbonet.com.

Dear Partners in Mission,

Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement! It is very exciting seeing how this ministry is unfolding, but there are challenging times as well. My ability to communicate in Spanish feels like it fluctuates between pretty good to poor. There are times I've thought a patient or family understood what I was saying to do at home but the next visit it has become clear that was not the case. When patients stop attending therapy, there is usually no way to find out the reason since basic information such as phone numbers is not a regular part of patient records.

Raquel is the supervisor for the therapy department and shortly after she returned from her month of vacation, she said that we should start having monthly in-services! Evidently one of the doctors at the main branch had asked them to do this in the past, but it never had started. I offered to provide the first one and we held it this past week. It went well, with some good interaction amongst the group. Following this, Ana, another therapist, joined me at my home for some research for one of her classes at the university. Between the internet and one of my PT books, she found what she was seeking and we had a very good conversation on many topics including how Christ is working in our lives. I am so thankful that God has put me in a place where the folks are ready to learn and eager to share what they know and feel!

Please pray for continued educational growth for all of us in the rehab world here and that my communication skills will improve to better meet the needs of all of my patients. May God bless and guide you in your ministries!

In Christ,
Cathy Donahoe
SAMS Missionary

EfM Needs You!

There are four participants eager to begin the Education for Ministry study at St. Mark's. They are waiting for two more to join them so that they may launch the group! Designed by the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee), more than 22,000 people annually meet in groups of 6–12 each week to discuss the application of scripture and church teachings in their daily lives. Without our six, this thought-provoking study cannot begin at St. Mark's. We would gladly welcome up to eight more participants! Are you among those we're waiting for? Check out the EfM website at www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm. To join the group, contact Luri Owen at 884-0444 or lowen@prclc.org.

Fall 2007 Art of Living Classes Begin in October

Art of Living classes begin soon! Class topics include: Readers' Theater, Wine Appreciation, Beginning Conversational Spanish, Introduction to Sign Language, Restoring Cane Furniture and Beginning/Intermediate Guitar. See the catalog and registration form in this newsletter; pick one up for a friend in the Parish Hall.

THOMAS MERTON & CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING

Monday, October 29
7:00–10:00 p.m.
\$25

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
910 E. 3rd Ave. • Durango



*A large selection of books on
Thomas Merton and related topics
will be on display.*

Join us for an amazing evening with **Jonathan Montaldo**, former director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University, Louisville, Kentucky, and past president of the International Thomas Merton Society.

Mr. Montaldo will present a formal address,
CHOOSING TO LOVE THE WORLD:
THOMAS MERTON'S LIFE OF PRAYER & PROTEST

Participants will then experience a session of
“contemplative dialogue” based on Montaldo’s
new *Bridges* series.

From 9:00–10:00 p.m., Mr. Montaldo will air
a new film documentary on Merton’s life
by producer Morgan Atkinson:

SOUL SEARCHING:
THE JOURNEY OF THOMAS MERTON

Jonathan Montaldo has edited numerous Merton texts including *The Intimate Merton*, *Dialogues with Silence*, *A Year with Thomas Merton*, and a new eight-volume series for small-group dialogues entitled *Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton*. He has read three audio books of Merton: *The Intimate Merton*, *Contemplative Prayer* and *No Man is An Island*. His new book, *Choosing to Love the World: Thomas Merton on Contemplation*, appears next spring. This is his second appearance at St. Mark’s Church.

All are invited. Bring your friends and family!

Calling All Cooks!

The Durango Community Shelter, sponsored by the Volunteers of America, was established in 1991 to serve the needs of homeless children, women, men and sometimes entire families in our area. Not only was St. Mark's instrumental in setting up the shelter, but it has long been a major financial supporter through outreach donations.

We can play a more active role in this ministry by helping to cook meals for residents several times a year. Although there are anywhere from 20 to 35 people staying at the shelter at any given time, this doesn't need to be such a daunting task! We can use their food or our own. We can use their kitchen and pots and pans, or cook at home (or at church) and

College classes on teen dating violence prevention, and workplace violence presentations to employers.

All AH services are confidential, free and are offered in both English and Spanish. In addition to the services we provide, AH has a lending library with books, videos, and pamphlets on related topics. AH has information on children who witness domestic violence, domestic violence and the faith communities, workplace violence, teen dating violence prevention and support for adult survivors.

This year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities are:

- **Ring Your Bells.** Every home should be a safe place where each person is treated with love and respect. In 2006, 24 people in Colorado were murdered by their intimate partners. In addition, two children were killed by their fathers in domestic violence-related crimes. To remember these victims, churches all over the state are tolling their bells 26 times at 12:00 noon on October 2, in conjunction with the rally that will take place at the state capitol to kick off Domestic

take it in. Several families might even want to get together to share cooking an evening meal. If you think this is something you would like to do, we have set aside several days during the week of October 22 for St. Mark's to cook. Please look for the sign-up sheet and further directions in the Parish Hall during October.

Outreach Committee Needs Knitters

Winter is coming and there are many children out there who need warm winter sweaters. We have yarn and patterns in the Parish Hall Communications Center. Please help yourself. Bright color patterns are really welcome so you can use different colors and patterns for your sweater. When your sweater is done, please return it to the Communications Center and the Outreach Committee will send it out.

St. Mark's Messenger Deadline

Deadline for the next issue is October 26.

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.

Camp Ilium Update

For many years Camp Ilium, near Telluride, has provided church camp experiences and fond memories for hundreds of young people and adults. Originally, starting back in the 1960s, St. Barnabas in Cortez was the leading founder of the camp and maintained a majority ownership. There were 12 total shareholders, all churches on the Western Slope. Now the camp has reorganized as a diocesan institution with a new statewide board of directors.

During the past two seasons while undergoing this reorganization, Camp Ilium has been closed. The directors hope to reopen the camp for limited use by church and other appropriate groups in the summer of 2008. In the meantime, the Diocese of Colorado, through the Camp Conference Task Force, will study the resources and needs for the camp. Ilium will need a lot of TLC before next summer, as a number of buildings are in need of repair. Longer-term priorities include converting the camp for year-round use, building a meaningful curriculum for youth camping and preserving some of the historic buildings. The board asks each church to prayerfully consider what it would like to see Ilium become and what resources it can provide toward that end.

If you have an interest in knowing more about Camp Ilium or getting involved as a director, please contact David Lamb in Telluride at (970) 728-9592 or e-mail dave@telluridemusic.us.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Because October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Alternative Horizons would like to remind everyone of the services that Alternative Horizons (AH) offers:

- **24-hour Crisis Hotline:** Staffed by volunteer advocates, the hotline provides crisis intervention, follow-up peer counseling, advocacy, information and referrals.
- **Court Advocacy:** Advocates are available to work with a victim/survivor in the criminal justice system, offering support and advocacy to victims during criminal proceedings, offering assistance in obtaining protection orders, filing victim's compensation claims, explaining the criminal justice process, assisting during criminal trials and providing general support.
- **Support Groups:** AH sponsors three support groups a week for adult female survivors. These groups offer support, encourage individuation by the participants, explain the power and control dynamics of domestic violence, and empower the participants to take charge of their own lives. Groups are offered in English and Spanish.
- **Latina and Native American Outreach:** to improve accessibility of AH services to the Native American and Latino/Hispanic communities, the organization has a paid staff member who is bilingual. She provides translation, advocacy, information and referral, and crisis intervention.
- **Legal Project:** AH contracts with local attorneys to provide legal representation to survivors in divorce and child custody cases.
- **Community Education:** AH facilitates general educational presentations within the community, with specific presentations to middle-and high-school health classes and Fort Lewis



**FALL 2007
CLASS SCHEDULE**

Celebrating Creativity and Community

THE ART OF LIVING

CLASS REGISTRATION, FALL 2007

Student #1 _____

Student #2 _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

CLASS	START DATE	# OF SESSIONS	STUDENT #1	STUDENT #2	FEE	TOTAL
Readers' Theatre	Oct. 10	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10	
Wine Appreciation	Oct. 13	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20	
Conversational Spanish	Oct. 15	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$65	
Intro to Sign Language	Oct. 16	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30	
Cane Furniture	Oct. 20	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40	
Beginning Guitar	Oct. 25	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$70	

Please keep a copy for your records.

Please make checks payable to St. Mark's and note "Art of Living."

You **will not** receive a confirmation. Plan to come to the first class. You **will** be notified if the minimum enrollment is not met.

Drop off in the church office or mail to
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
910 E. 3rd. Ave.
Durango, CO 81031

Student #1 Total _____

Student #2 Total _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Comments/Courses I'd like to see in the future:

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Readers' Theatre

Wednesday, October 10, 17, 24, 31

4 Sessions: \$10

Instructor: Father Bob Seney

6:30–7:30 p.m.

Readers' theatre is growing in popularity. Come and perform great dramatic roles without memorizing a line! Readers' theatre relies on the imagination to create the theatrical environment, and the actors read from the script. Father Bob Seney, whose undergraduate degree is in theatre, will lead the class.

Wine Appreciation

Saturday, October 13

1 Session: \$20

Instructor: Steve Kiely

11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

At this one-session class, you'll learn about varieties of wines, regions, methods of wine-making, styles of wines and what's unique about them. Steve will cover value – what does wine cost and why, and how to find the best value for your money. The third (and most fun!) part of the class will be a tasting – a review punctuated with real-life examples. Steve will provide wines from his personal cellar as examples. Course fee includes handouts, wine and cheese.

Beginning Conversational Spanish

Monday, October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19

6 Sessions: \$60 + \$5 materials

Instructor: Agnes Mangual

6:00–7:00 p.m.

You will will learn basic conversational skills, vocabulary, and the grammar of standard Spanish while developing listening and speaking skills and gaining a foundation for additional study of the language. The class will be taught by Agnes Mangual, a native Spanish speaker. If there is interest, a more intensive course can be created.

Introduction to Sign Language

Tuesday, October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13

5 Sessions: \$25 + \$5 Materials

Instructor: Jim Bundy

6:00–7:00 p.m.

This class will introduce you to the fundamentals of the language of signing. Jim Bundy, a life-long signer, will teach the class. If there is interest, a future class for more advanced signers will be offered.

Restoring Cane Furniture

Saturday, October 20, 27 November 3, 17

4 Sessions: \$40 + Materials TBD

Instructor: Nancy Shipps

1:00–3:00 p.m.

Learn to replace the cane in furniture. You will learn either hand-weaving or pre-woven cane techniques. Wear comfortable clothing to class, and you must bring a piece of furniture with cane to class. Pick up a supply list from the church office well ahead of time. Materials costs will be determined by the project you select. Instructor Nancy Shipps has 30 years experience in caning, and owned a business for seven years. Age 16 and over welcome.

Beginning/Intermediate Guitar

Thursday, October 25 November 1, 8, 15

4 Sessions: \$65 + \$5 Materials

Instructors: Cheryl White

and Tim Birchard

5:30–6:30 p.m.

“When our children experience musical expression as joyful and rewarding, they’re more likely to embrace that passion for the rest of their lives. The goal of this course is to help children of all ages develop a lifelong passion for creating music, whether they go on to pursue music as a profession, as a therapeutic form of self-expression, or as a favorite pastime.”

In this course, Cheryl and Tim will introduce students to basic playing techniques, offering them the basic tools they need for creating music alone or with friends. All ages are invited.

Cheryl White has played the guitar for more than 30 years and is well-known for performing in a variety of settings, from contemplative services and celebrations to coffeehouses in Japan. Her upcoming CD of hymns, *It Is Well with My Soul*, will be released in mid-October.

Tim Birchard, M.Ed., has worked with children from around the world in a variety of educational and therapeutic settings. A guitarist since 1983, Tim is known internationally for his gentle and nurturing approach to teaching music. His original arts-based diversity workshops have touched the lives of nearly 2,000 elementary students in the U.S., and his experience includes using music as a therapeutic modality with children on the afternoon of September 11, 2001, and in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Tim comes to Durango from Takamatsu City, on the island of Shikoku, Japan, where he spent a year making music with children of all ages, as well as writing and recording music for his upcoming CD, *Dragonfly*.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

If you are a mom with children ages infancy through kindergarten, join us for a time of fellowship, discussion, and creative activities. MOPS meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 9:00 to 11:15 a.m. Meetings are held at First Baptist Church of Durango, 332 E. 11th St. Childcare is provided. For more information, call Abbey Flint, 259-8173.

MOPPETS Needs You!

Do you have free time on the first and/or third Tuesdays of each month anytime throughout the school year? And are you fascinated by young

children? Then there is a ministry that needs your help... MOPS!! MOPS is a ministry for Mothers of Preschoolers. This ministry allows moms time to meet other moms, be creative and hear about God's love. While the mothers are enjoying some needed time, the children are being ministered to as well. We are looking for teachers and helpers to show these children God's love through biblical stories and through your action. The time commitment is from about 8:45 to 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Kayla Van Maanen, (970) 946-7105.

Deadline for the next issue is October 26, 2007.
