

mark my words

ST MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GASTONIA

october 2010

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Most of you know I love stories. The Parable of the Life-Saving Station is a story that I first experienced when a Christian drama team visited St. Stephen's back in the early 90's. Its message is a warning against what many churches have become, and for me a reminder of why the church exists. I hope you enjoy this parable as much as I do.

Shawn +



The Parable of the Life-Saving Station

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occurred there was once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves, went out day or night tirelessly searching for the lost. Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so it became famous. Some of those who were saved, and others in the surrounding areas, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time, money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews were trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the new members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. So they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in an enlarged building. Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they re-decorated it beautifully and furnished it as a sort of club.

Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired life boat crews to do this work. The mission of life-saving was still given lip-service but most were too busy or lacked the necessary commitment to take part in the life-saving activities personally.

About this time a large ship wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet, half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick, and some of them had dark skin, and some spoke a strange language, and the beautiful new club was considerably messed up. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside where shipwreck victims could clean up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal life pattern of the club. But some members insisted that life-saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the life of all kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. And they did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. They evolved into a club and yet another life-saving station was founded. If you visit the seacoast today you find a number of exclusive clubs along the shore. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, only now most of the people drown.

Author unknown (Adapted by Steve Rudd)



weekly schedule

sundays

HE Rite I - 8:00 am

Breakfast - 9:00 am PH

Nursery & Christian Formation for All Ages - 9:30 am around the church

HE Rite II - 10:30 am, with Children's Chapel

EYC/Youth Events as announced

Daughters of the King - 1st Sun after church, Balthis

Parish Family Potluck & Program - 1st Sundays 5:00 -6:30 pm

Brotherhood of St. Andrew 2nd Sun 5:30pm w/dinner

Vestry - 3rd Sun after church, Vestry Room

mondays

EfM 7:00 pm, Balthis

AA Meeting 8:00 pm, PH

Covenant Circle 10:30 am 1st Mon

wednesdays

Prayer Shawl Ministry - 4:00 pm Balthis

Bible/Book Study - 4:30 pm Balthis

HE II - 6:00 pm Sanctuary

Handbell Choir - 6:30 pm, Sanctuary Balcony

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Choir Room

thursdays

Scrapbook Group 6:30 pm

Order of St. Luke 1st, 3rd, & 5th Thurs 7:00 pm

PFLAG Meeting 3rd Thurs Balthis, 7:00 pm

St. Mark's Fall Picnic

Sunday, October 17

Martha Rivers Park

Beginning with Worship at 10:30



- Gather at 10:30 at the park for a family friendly worship service and lunch. We will also have the regular 8:00 and 10:30 services at the church for those who want it, but no breakfast, Sunday School or chapel.
- Wear casual clothes and bring chairs for your group.
- Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish (salad, vegetable, or dessert) to share.
- There will be pumpkins for carving and hopefully the weather will cooperate and not be as cold as last year.
- Questions? Contact Cathy Young at 704-860-5400 or cathyyoung@bellsouth.net.



St. Francis Day Pet Blessing

Saturday, October 2nd

2:00 pm

Porte Cochere area of the Rear Parking Lot

Refreshments will be served.

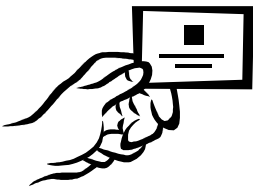
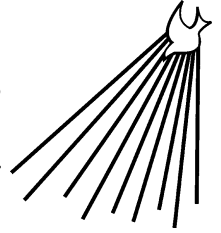
Bring your dogs, cats, gerbils, horses, and all others for this annual Blessing of the Animals.

A recent poll from the Pew Research Center said agnostics and atheists are more likely to know their Bible and Church history than mainline Protestants. Surprisingly, we also scored behind Jews and Mormons. This was a survey that asked questions on religious knowledge ranging from church history to scripture.

Anytime there is a survey done in a parish about Christian formation and what people want offered for adults, the number one item is Bible Study. But if you plan Bible Study groups or classes, few follow up by attending. That is one of the dichotomies of this business - everyone says they believe in Bible Study and Church involvement, but no one wants to actually do it. So what to do?

The Episcopal Church believes that Christian Formation - the process by which we grow in knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Christ - is a lifelong journey that we all are on. It is formed in us (hence the use of "formation" in our conversations) through our prayers, our study and knowledge of scripture, our participation in regular worship, and our outreach and service to our fellow travelers. It is the duty of each person to find ways to be engaged in the work that Jesus Christ calls us to do. St. Mark's is a loving and worshipful community that does much for those in need around us. We also must do things for ourselves to help us all challenge the secular world that tells us not to get involved.

The Gospel of John calls us to this ministry as friends of Jesus, chosen and appointed to go forth, remembering the command to "love one another". I would encourage each and every adult to think of a way you might strengthen your own personal journey with Christ this fall. You might want to join the Sunday morning Adult Class that is looking at the Gospel of Mark, or the Wednesday Bible Study that is reading Paul's letters. You might want to join the Daughters of the King in their study of a life of prayer and service or consider being part of the Education for Ministry group starting soon. You might commit to reading Forward Day by Day on a more regular basis or make the effort each week to attend church and be fully open to what God calls you to do. You might volunteer at CAM or the Salvation Army Shelter to help others. There are endless ways to be a friend of Jesus. All I ask is that you consider how you can improve your relationship and your religious knowledge if the Pew Group ever calls on you.



If you were not here during our Homecoming Festivities, you may not have received a packet of the new St. Mark's invitation cards. These cards are designed like business cards for you to carry with you and give to anyone you want to invite to our parish. The card shares our purpose statement - *"St. Mark's is a Christ-centered church, touching lives, transforming hearts, teaching God's Word"*.

On the back of the cards are directions to our parish and a listing of service times. If you did not get any of these invitation cards, please contact the office and they will be happy to let you know how to get some for your purse, briefcase or car glove box. They are a great way to share what is happening at St. Mark's.

St. Mark's wants to thank Walter Hobbs for printing and donating these wonderful cards to the ministry of our church. Walter also provides the colorful seasonal posters that are displayed around the parish. His generous heart is a blessing to us and the Kingdom of God.

Thank you, Walter.



Spotlight on Youth

"See Me More Clearly"

2010 Sr. High Fall Conference

For youth & friends 9th-12th

October 22-24

Valle Crucis Conference Center

Cost - \$95.00

Deadline for Registration - Oct. 8

(Then cost goes up to \$105)

Anyone interested should speak to Father Shawn immediately. One adult must attend from the parish for every 5 youth that attend.

The ECW Covenant Circle meets at 10:30 the first Monday of each month at Covenant Village for Bible Study and fellowship. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Mildred Manning (704-864-2974) is the group contact.

The Women of the Church are going to Savannah, Georgia the weekend of October 22-24. Contact Kay Beveridge for details.

The Church Periodical Club collects your loose change for Miles of Pennies every Sunday at all services. Bring your change to continue to build our "Mile".



Salvation Army Team C served 75 people dinner of ham, potato salad, green beans, rolls, and dessert on September 14th. Jim Barber, Fred Hadfield and Bruce & Besty Steketee served and food was provided by



Jim, Fred, Betsy, Tracy Buzzeo, Anne Carriel, Jean Eaddy, Candy Grooms, Ann Jordan, Eleanor Martin, Elizabeth Seabrook, and Cathy Young.

Toiletry Items for "As One": The Daughters of the King collect toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, razors, cleaning products, etc. for "As One" Ministries. Cleaning supplies and personal items cannot be purchased with food stamps and are often missing from poorer households. Buy extra items during your weekly shopping and deposit them in the orange bin located near the elevator. Questions, contact Nancy Brewbaker.



Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at 4:00 pm Wednesdays in the Balthis Room to make prayer shawls for those in need. Prayers are woven into each shawl to "wrap" the person in prayer. If you have someone who would benefit from having a prayer shawl during an illness or other time of need, contact Nancy Brewbaker or Ruth Burns.

Foyer Groups: Foyer Groups meet on a regular basis for food and conversation. Several St. Mark's groups have met throughout the summer and groups are reforming now. If you wish to be a part of a Foyer Group, sign up near the elevator or speak to Jeanna Tiller or Ruth Burns.



Undies Sunday is your chance to drop your drawers at church. This year's collection dates are October 17 and 24. Please contribute new underwear and socks for the many homeless people in our community. This effort is sponsored by Gastonia Faith Network.



Education for Ministry (EfM) begins in October at St. Mark's. EfM is a 4-year theological education program designed for the laity and developed by the University of the South in Sewanee. Participants study Bible, church history, and theology as they look at their own work as ministers of Christ. For more information contact Shawn or Pete Brake (704-862-0709).

Dedication of an A-7A Bomber in memory of David "Scotty" Greiling, Saturday, October 2, 2 pm, at Hickory Aviation Museum. The ceremony will also honor Walt Moser who flew the A-7A in Vietnam. The Brotherhood is leading a group from St. Mark's. Contact John Anderson (704-864-9163 or j-m-anderson@carolina.rr.com) to go.



Be sure to sign up to help at the **Habitat for Humanity House** this year. St. Mark's work day is October 30. Greg Montgomery (704-869-9038) coordinates our team.



The 14th Annual Komen Charlotte Race for the Cure is Saturday, October 2. **Peggy's Pinkies** and others from St. Mark's are participating and working to raise money for this wonderful cause. If you would like to be involved, contact either Peggy Knight (868-8833) or Rosanne Griffith (865-8353) for more information.



Transitions In Our Parish Family

Births: Annabelle Helen Young, daughter of Paul & Laura Young, Berkley Heights, NJ, granddaughter of Jim & Kathy Freeman and Great-Grandchild of Annette Freeman & Helen Cloninger

Baptisms: Willa Anne Kirk, daughter of Robert & Lauren Kirk on September 26

Godspeed to Walt and Dotty Moser moving to Georgia this month

Deaths: Robert Owen, August 29
Kay Hodges, September 7

October is Crisis Assistance Month at St. Mark's

During this month remember our community's many needs for both food and money contributions that are served through CAM. The basic Pantry Shopping List includes:



Canned Fruit	Instant Potatoes	Canned Vegetables	
Canned Soup	Dry Milk	Crackers	
Rice/Grits	Spaghetti Sauce	Cereal/Oatmeal	
Peanut Butter/Jelly	Biscuit Mix	Mac & Cheese	Household/Personal Items

Did you know CAM spends about \$20,000 per month on client assistance? In addition to providing food, CAM offers help with rent, utilities, and medication. The needs keep growing as these economic times continue. Last year CAM gave \$250,000 to help the struggling people of our community. Plus CAM needs as many as 14 volunteers each day to staff the office and pantry. They currently have several empty slots and can always use a volunteer. Lance Brenner, Harold Domenico, Carolyn Healy, George McAden, Joe Saunders, and Dale Ward currently serve as volunteers from St. Mark's. If you would like to help, contact Susan in the CAM office at 867-6076 or speak to one of our parishioners.

Remember to add extra items to your grocery shopping throughout the month of October and keep the yellow bin filled each week.



The Endowment Fund Dawson Christian Education Fund and Our Parish Survey

The Endowment Fund Board, in partnership with the Vestry, mailed each member a brief survey on Friday, September 24. We ask that you please return your written responses or reply via the website (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HLMG7PM>) no later than October 24, 2010. Share your hopes, wishes and suggestions that you feel would benefit our parish and its members. This will help provide direction for your Vestry to set goals for the next three to five years that we all can agree upon and work to achieve.

The Dawson Christian Education Fund was established by a contribution from the Council Claudius Dawson Family governed by a fund document since April 30, 1982. The purpose of the fund is to provide for Christian education in the memory of Council Claudius Dawson, including but not limited to (i) equipment, resource materials and aids for use in the church school; (ii) salaries for church school supervisors; (iii) promoting Christian education projects among the youth of the parish; (iv) obtaining outstanding lecturers or teachers in the field of Christian education for the adults of the parish.

The fund agreement provides that income may be used at the discretion of the Vestry. Any income not expended may be accumulated and expended in any subsequent calendar year. It is anticipated the income generated by this Fund will be used annually in accordance with the stated purpose of the Fund, for such special events or items that are outside of the normal operating budget for Christian education.

The Christian Education Committee shall make recommendations to the Vestry on the use of the funds each year. Any expenditures made from the fund shall be reported to the congregation at the annual meeting and such additional times, and in such manner as the Vestry deems appropriate.

The Endowment Fund Board (EFB) consists of five members, appointed by the Vestry for up to a three-year term, and as non-voting members the Rector, Senior Warden and Parish Treasurer. Currently, Steve Campbell (Chair), Chuck Forbes, Judy Hobbs, Ed Hoerning and Tom Mecca serve as your board members. The board meets on a monthly basis and provides quarterly reports to the Vestry and an annual report to the Parish.

Judy Hobbs

National Acolyte Festival Washington, DC Saturday, October 9

There is still time to join the group going to Washington for the Acolyte Festival. Contact Alex Williamson or Shawn if you want to come.



Children's Christmas Pageant

There will be a Children's Christmas Pageant on January 2nd at the 10:30 service. There will be lots of parts for all ages of children. Several people have agreed to make costumes for this pageant and rehearsals will be set to match family and school schedules. If you are interested in being part of the sewing, planning or staging of the Children's Christmas Pageant, contact Polly Redd and tell her of your interest. Details will be out shortly.



A Message from St. Mark's Safety Team

St. Mark's recently had a safety inspection by the Diocesan team. Many of their recommendations are common sense issues that can apply to our personal and business lives, as well as to the church.

1. Background Checks - It is easy to check out the people you rely on to care for your family and possessions. Online checks have a nominal fee and searches of online databases such as the national sex offender registry are great tools. Written references should always be checked. These only work if you use them.
2. Use 2-person control for all sensitive financial issues. It is easy to look for a second opinion on an "investment opportunity" before being taken advantage of (that bank account in Nigeria? the lottery you never enter?)
3. Document key safety processes around your house. Does everyone know how to cut off the power? Gas? Water? Do you have a meeting place outside the building?
4. Be careful where and how you store dangerous materials (flammables, chemicals, matches, paint, etc.)
5. Put things in writing, particularly if you loan money or equipment or allow use of your property or share the expense of a major project. Write down what is agreed.
6. Be aware of tripping and falling hazards when new people are introduced to your environment (could toddlers be safe in your house now?)
7. Do a home inventory. Know what is valuable and be able to prove it. Insurance is a good start, but proof and detailed descriptions are needed to replace items.

Stay Safe!

Homecoming 2010

Homecoming 2010



Thanks to Ed Hoerning for the pictures.

October Schedule of Lay Servers

Vestry Person Responsible for October Lock-Up: Mike Janik

October 3, 2010 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Layreaders: 8:00 Elizabeth Willett, Judy Maloney; 10:30 Alex Williamson, Ann Jordan (C), Liz Domenico
Ushers: Bill Seabrook, Mike Stanley, *Dan Gilbert
Acolytes: Austin Biles, Clay Williamson, Jackson Cloninger
Greeters: Bill and Price Thrower
Breakfast Coordinator: Greg Dills
Nursery: Kenna Watts & Mary Vaughn
Coffee Hour: Jean Eaddy
Children's Chapel: Not held due to Family Service

October 10, 2010 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Layreaders: 8:00 Ed Hoerning, Judy Malina; 10:30 John Anderson, Jeanna Tiller, Chris Christy (C)
Ushers: Beth Elkins, Debbie Brake, *Lloyd White
Acolytes: Elizabeth Vaughn, Sophia Varriale, Alex Campbell
Greeters: Duane and Sheila Pendleton
Breakfast Coordinator: Travis Feezell
Nursery: Price & Marcia Thrower
Coffee Hour:
Children's Chapel: Kristin & David John Major, Debbie Brake

October 17, 2010 21st Sunday after Pentecost

St. Mark's Fall Picnic at Martha Rivers Park

Layreaders: 8:00 Jeff Bozarth, Mary Stamey; 10:30 Claude Hueitt
No Breakfast, Sunday School or Chapel due to picnic.

October 24, 2010 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Layreaders: 8:00 Ed Hoerning, Vicki Caudill; 10:30 Jay Barnes, Jeff Bozarth, Paul Johnstone (C)
Ushers: Pat Miller, Tina Queen, *Don Miller
Acolytes: Coralie Watts, Duncan Queen, Ally Adams, Valerie Queen
Greeters: Richard Martinez and Celia Billings
Breakfast Coordinator: John Anderson
Nursery: Terri Williamson & Amy Hueitt
Coffee Hour: Emelyne Wellons, Kaye Carr
Children's Chapel: Beth & Allison Sherrill, Jeanna Tiller

October 31, 2010 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Layreaders: 8:00 Jim Redd, Pat Townsend; 10:30 Fred Hadfield, David Burns (C), Joe Saunders
Ushers: Jim and Mary Butt, *Alan Jolley
Acolytes: Stewart Butt, Mary Lyon, Reynolds Lyon
Greeters: Blaine and Cookie Rudisill
Breakfast Coordinator: Don Miller
Nursery: Ann & Jimmy Jordan
Coffee Hour: Kristin Major and Kathy Cheshire
Children's Chapel: John Anderson, Marcia & Ethan Thrower



First Sundays of Each Month, Beginning October 3

**10:30 - Family Service, No chapel, Children's Sermon, Children's Choir sings.
Opportunity for families to worship together & for the parish to enjoy & nurture
the children in our midst as part of our Baptismal Promise to help them grow in faith.**

5:00 pm - Parish Family Potluck Supper and Program

Come One! Come All!

Supper from 5:00-5:45; 5:45-6:30 Children & Youth Program, Adult Conversation & Program

A chance to eat together as a parish family and share our stories with each other.

A chance to welcome newcomers into our fellowship each month.

A chance to strengthen our individual relationships with God.

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ST MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
258 WEST FRANKLIN BLVD.
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28052
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Diocese of W North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor, Bishop

St. Mark's, Gastonia

The Rev. Shawn L. Griffith, Rector

The Rev. G. Patterson Cheshire, Deacon

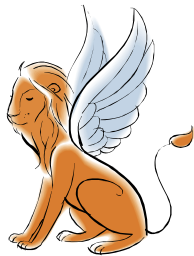
Mrs. Julia Bozarth, Director of Music

Mrs. Polly G. Redd, Director of Christian
Formation

Mrs. Trish Anderson, Business
Administrator

Mrs. Jean R. Eaddy, Church
Office Administrator

Mr. Lee Scott, Sexton



Vestry Leadership

Anne Carriel, Senior Warden

Ernie Adcock, Building & Grounds

John Anderson, Pastoral Care

Jay Barnes, Worship

David Burns, Christian Formation

Fred Hadfield, Stewardship

Mike Janik, Outreach

Kevin Knight, Junior Warden, Youth

Richard Martinez, Congregational Development

Debbie Scarborough, Communications

John Watts, Finance

Cathy Young, Parish Life

www.stmarksgastonia.org
