



The Lion's Roar

St. Mark's Episcopal Church • Basking Ridge, NJ

Volume 77, Issue 5

June 1, 2008

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

140 S. Finley Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
(908) 766-9058
(908) 766-9059 Fax
stmarks.br@verizon.net

Rector: The Rev. Joanna Graham
(908) 766-0510

Organist: Lois Buesser
Music Director: Bill Corson
(908) 903-0702

Lion's Roar Editor:
E-mail: lionsroar@verizon.net

Services

Sundays

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion (Rite I)
10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (Rite II)
and Sunday School with Nursery Care

Wednesdays

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion (Rite II)
in the Chapel
(See enclosed calendar for variations
to weekly services.)

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
The Rev. Joanna Graham is available
Sunday-Thursday. For emergencies,
she may be reached at 908-872-1849

Administrative Secretary :
Ann Millan (908) 766-9058

From the Desk of the Reverend Joanna D. Graham

Interim Rector

Dear Parishioners,

I cannot believe that Memorial Day has come and gone and now June is upon us with high school graduations, confirmation, ordinations, weddings, baptisms, the decommissioning of the Profile Committee and the long awaited commissioning of the Discernment Committee on June 1.

It has often been said, "All in God's time." As I walk around St. Mark's and see the blossoming flowers, especially the beautiful white azalea bushes in front of the office, I think of how you have continued to blossom since my coming here a year and half ago. It is especially obvious during the vestry meetings, commission meetings, family service, the recent Rite 13 liturgy, the rummage sale, our Charter Day booth and our fun filled Tricky Tray event. I can't believe that I won, not one, but two beautiful baskets - an Italian feast from the elite table and a basket of beach goodies for my little twin granddaughters. The children were filled with glee as they pulled apart the basket and claimed their treasures. It is wonderful to see the team work, cooperation and dedication of so many that make our events, worship and administration so successful and meaningful.

In God's time the church will grow, you will have a long term Rector, and "all will be well, and all was well" said Julian of Norwich, 13th century mystic. Your faithfulness to God and mission mark your identity. As we move forward in the process pray. Pray with intentionality for the church, for the Discernment Committee, and for the vestry, who will make the final decision in the calling of your new rector. Take time for Sabbath, connect with the place where God speaks to you, whether it be in church, or chapel, on a casual walk in the woods, the beach, a lake, where ever you find peace and the presence of God.

God's blessings,

Rev. Joanna+

Notes from the Profile Committee

St. Mark's Profile Committee has good news to report.

We have completed the Profile, and it has been approved by the Wardens and Vestry, and by the Diocese. A link to the Profile will be placed on our new website.

The Search Request Form (allowing for a computer-generated matching search with potential candidates) was filled out by our Diocesan consultant, based on our Profile information. This completed form has been approved by the Profile commission and by the Wardens and Vestry. Our Consultant has been notified that we are ready to move on. He will submit the form to the national church for computer matching with possible candidates.

Over the next few weeks, potential candidates' names will be received by the Diocesan Deployment Office. The Deployment Office will do vetting of the candidates and will bring those names to St. Mark's Discernment Committee.

Also, at this time, anyone having a candidate suggestion may submit that name to Roger Conover. He will then forward the name to the Deployment Office for initial vetting.

On June 1st, St. Mark's will officially de-commission the Profile Committee, and will formally commission the Discernment Committee at the 10:00am service. Please join us at this special service. Your prayers and support for both committees have been, and will continue to be, encouraging and uplifting.

It has been a pleasure to serve on St. Mark's Profile Committee. I would like to thank the members of the committee for their commitment to St. Mark's. This committee has truly endeavored to accurately represent the goals and hopes of the congregation in this self-study process. The members of the Self-Study Committee are: Gordon Ahalt, Robert Buesser, Sean Gogerty, Beth Lohner, Neil McLaughlan, Dave Moore, Nancy Opremcak, Carole Pasquale, Paige Pioppi, Marylea Schmidt, Anne Post-Chair.

Communion Class Scheduled

There will be a Communion Class this Saturday, June 7th, at 2:30pm. The children will be baking bread for the youth service, scheduled for June 15th, and learning about receiving communion. They are invited to receive first communion at the Youth Service on June 15th. Parents are needed to assist with the baking.

Within the Episcopal Church, children are welcome to receive as soon as they are baptized. In keeping with tradition at St. Mark's, however, we will have a communion class for any child interested in receiving instruction. Please call or email Rev. Joanna if you will be attending and volunteering. Parents are expected to participate in this wonderful event.



From J2A 2 U

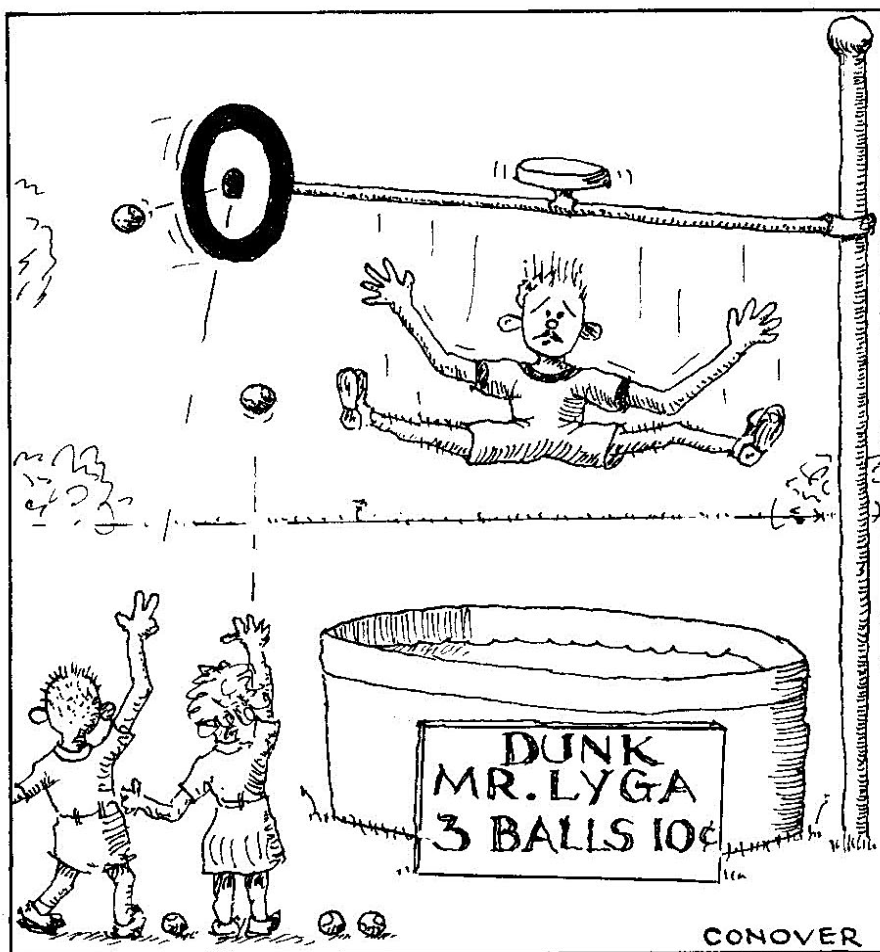
As the first year of Rite13 draws to a close, I'd like to thank the kids for their willing participation, and truly great spirit. May was another great month with our first Rite13 liturgy which celebrated eight of our group attaining the age of manhood and womanhood. Next year we will celebrate the other six, as they approach age 13. We also held a fabulous Hunger Simulation. Children were randomly seated at three different breakfast tables, representing First World, Second World, and Third World countries. Each table had a different level of food tokens with which to shop for their breakfast food. Anything was possible for a price. Bartering, traveling to another table, sharing, and even a direct appeal for handouts from

the kitchen became the mode of the meal. Of course, all were fed once the faces drooped too low. The kids also were a great help during the Tricky Tray in May event. The Rite13 group and our older teens joined together to deliver food orders from the kitchen, and the baskets to the winners. We've received several compliments from guests that night, praising the good job those nice children did. Thanks to all for your help.

We will be finishing up the year on June 15, and we'll be sorry to have to say farewell to the Greenleaf family. Hannah and Dan will be missed in Rite13, and we wish their whole family a safe journey and a great new life in Colorado.

Martha Heiner

LAUGHTER IN THE PEWS



The Annual Picnic gives the Sunday School children an opportunity to live out their hidden fantasies.

Upcoming Services:

June 1st

Contemporary Service

June 7th

Confirmation at St. John's in Somerville

Ordination Ceremony for Charlotte Wells in Trenton

June 8th

The newly ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons, The Rev. Charlotte Wells preaching at both 8am and 10am Eucharist

June 15th

**Youth Service
Choir Recognition
Communion Class to Receive**

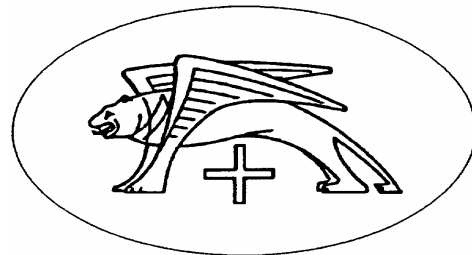
**News in the Pews is coming
back in the July Issue!**

We want to revive the "News in the Pews" section of the Lion's Roar. There is so much good news at St. Mark's and we want everyone to share in that news. For example last week, Jim Martucci was the top producer in his company and won a trip for two to Hawaii! Everyone should share in his good news. Richard Aregood has agreed to write the column for us, so if you have some good news to share please forward that information to him at raregood@gmail.com.



Bell Choir News

The bell choir has several open positions for the Fall. Ever had a desire to pick one up and give it a ring? It is an instrument that can be mastered in minutes, and music reading skills are not all that necessary. We can teach you to follow along, using wonderful highlighters. The music reading skills will follow easily. We rehearse on Sunday nights for one hour and have occasional involvement in the Sunday 10AM services. Why not give it a try, if only for a short season. Give Martha Heiner a call with any questions.



2008 Vestry

The Reverend Joanna Graham
766-0510

Senior Warden
Jim Nishimura 647-5290

Junior Warden
Buck Kirch 647-3599

Buildings & Grounds
Tom Defeo 604-2466

Paul Chiappetta 766-6776

Christian Education/Youth Ministry
Lorri Layton 696-1748

Inreach/Fellowship
Don Wells 732-271-1584

Outreach
Bill Schmidt 604-0535

Finance
Teri Pasarello 696-0375

Stewardship
Jeff West 953-8115

Worship
Marilyn Lyga 766-5880

Events
Lauran Corson 903-0700

Membership
Jackie Kahle 766-0502

Communications/Office Administration
Nancy Opremcak 221-9165

Warden Emeritus
Jim Martucci 604-2256

Treasurer
Bill Coffin 766-0158

Recording Treasurers
Doug Post 766-6621
Margaret Murphy 766-4126

Everyone is invited to participate in the commission meetings. Please contact the vestry representative for more information.

Remember... June is **Curbing Hunger** Month

Yes, it is time to curb hunger. For Somerset County, please put the food in the yellow bags and place them next to the blue recycle bins during June. AND, please pass the word on to your friends and neighbors to do the same, AND please ask them to pass the word on as well.



It is a crisis. Demand is up 7% to 25% in central NJ as reported in May in the *Courier News*. There have also been articles in the *Star Ledger* concerning Morris County where Curbing Hunger, Inc. also has a collection program underway, and in the *Wall Street Journal* emphasizing the shortage at the food banks. The Governor agrees. Through the efforts of Curbing Hunger, Inc., Governor Jon Corzine has declared June "Curbing Hunger Month" in the State of New Jersey. (The Governor's proclamation is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for your review.) Please do help and get the word out. The Somerset Food Bank has had to buy food since March to stay open.

On another hunger initiative, Kit McLaughlan completed another day at the Morristown Soup Kitchen. She desperately needs additional help, especially for servers. Please call Kit at 908.221.1858 to learn more or sign-up to help. Thank you soup kitchen team!!!

The Confirmation class sponsored the African Team Ministry for 2 Sundays in May with the help of Julie Corson, Claire Buesser and Jim Nishimura. Yea Confirmation Team!!!

The next major event will be Habitat for Humanity. Now is the time to inquire and/or sign-up. Please contact Bruce Walker at 908.604.9151.

For Outreach contact Bill Schmidt at 908.580.1259 or billprag@optonline.net.

INSPIRATIONS...

There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her.

She told her boyfriend, 'If I could only see the world, I will marry you.'

One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend.

He asked her, 'Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?'

The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that he was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him.

Her boyfriend left her in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: 'Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine.'

This is how the human brain often works when our status changes.

Only a very few remember what life was like before, and who was always by their side in the most painful situations.

Life Is a Gift.

(Cont. on page 9)

Anniversaries

- June 4 Christophe & Elaine Kusel
- June 5 Eric & Candace Jania
- June 9 Roger & Adi Conover
- June 10 John & Marilyn Lyga
- June 12 Gordon & Mickey Ahalt
- June 16 Fred & Karen Burgerhoff
- June 18 Norm & Joan Graff
Greg & Tracey Tuthill
- June 19 Bruce & Lauren Walker
- June 20 Paul & Jean Wittig
- June 23 Lynn & Yvonne Tipson
- June 25 George & Evelyn Helmke
- June 27 Don & Elaine Jones
- June 28 Chuck & Dawn Knill

Birthdays



- June 2 Candace Jania
- June 3 Martha Winter
- June 6 T.J. Lazo
- June 7 Tim Keenan
Jane Nishimura
- June 9 Jean Wittig
- June 11 Nicky Sant' Foster
- June 12 Alan Gubitosi
- June 14 Martin Hale
- June 16 John Kozel
Valarie Pioppi
- June 17 Elizabeth Behrins
- June 18 Gary Ware
- June 20 Allison Aukerman
Douglas Hubert
Joe Lyga
Emma Walker
- June 21 Taylor Keenan
- June 22 Anita Attridge
- June 23 Laura Begg
Ellen Kirch
- June 30 Erin Taylor
Robert Taylor

Request for Candidates for Rector

By all accounts, Anne Post's Profile Committee has completed its hard work and will pass on the job of finding our new Rector to our Discernment Committee on June 1st. Well done, Anne & Company!

At the center of the search process is the Diocesan Church Deployment Office, the basic source of our candidates. The system is open to recommendations from parishioners. If you are aware of any candidate who might be a good fit here, please give the name to me or to our Senior Warden Jim Nishimura, as soon as you can. We will see that it is forwarded to Trenton and receives consideration along with other names on file. I can assure you that any names submitted will be handled with the utmost privacy.

If you have already given us a recommendation, please ignore this new request.

Roger Conover
Chairman, Discernment Committee

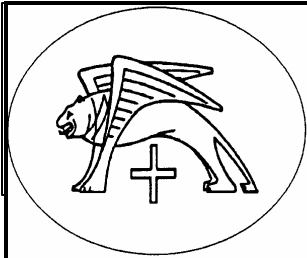
Dear Saint Mark's parishioners,

We would like to invite the entire parish to attend Charlotte Wells' ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons to be held on the 7th of June at 10AM in Trinity Cathedral in Trenton, NJ. The service is about two hours followed by a small reception hosted by the diocese. The official invitation is posted on our billboard in the narthex.

We hope everyone can come to share in this glorious event.

Peace and Grace,

Don & Charlotte Wells



June 2008

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8am Rite I 10am Contemporary Service Confirmation Class	2 Christian Ed Mtg 6:30 Euch. Minister Training 7:45pm	3 Holly Manor @ 10:45	4 Chapel @ 9am	5	6	7 Confirmation Bishop Romero 11AM St. John's Somerville Communion class at 2:30pm
8 8am Rite I 10am Rite II Charlotte Wells Preaching	9 Exec. Finance Meeting	10	11 Chapel @ 9am	12 Ridge Graduation	13	14 Flag Day
15 8am Rite I 10am Rite II Family Service Choir Recog. Vestry Mtg. following 10am Service	16	17	18 NO CHAPEL SERVICE Rev. Joanna will be leaving today on vacation - returning July 7	19	20	21 First Day of Summer
22 8am Rite I 10am Rite II Melissa Hartly, Supply Clergy	23	24	25 NO CHAPEL SERVICE	26	27	28
29 8am Rite I 10am Rite II Eppy Schmidt, Supply Clergy	30					

St. Mark's Outreach Summary

Current Programs and Coordinators

(Bill Schmidt, 908.580.1259)

<p><u>HUNGER</u></p> <p>Crop Walk – Anne Post 908.766.6621 and Robert Buesser 973.316.5175 Curbing Hunger, Inc. – Bill Schmidt 908.580.1259 Food Pantry, Somerville – Martha Heiner 908.766.0868 Meals on Wheels – OPEN (Williams, Begg, Kress) Morristown Soup Kitchen – Kit McLaughlan 908.221.1858 Morristown Mission – Jim and Paige Pioppi 908.604.4232 Serving Meals during Holidays Turkey Drive with B'nai Israel– Mary Urbas 908.630.9012</p>	<p><u>HEALTH</u></p> <p>Blood Drive – Mary Urbas 908.630.9012 Bryan's Dream – Opremcak 908.221.9165 Hospice/Home Care – Kit McLaughlan 908.221.1858</p>
<p><u>SPIRIT</u></p> <p>African Team Ministry – Jim Nishimura 908.647.5290 Millennium Project– Direct Contrib. Ministry, Episcopal Church of Jerusalem Rev. Joanna Graham 908.766.9058 Prison Mission – Direct Contribution</p>	<p><u>SHELTER</u></p> <p>Habitat for Humanity Raritan Valley - Bruce Walker 908.604.9151 Appalachian – Marilyn Lyga 908.766.5880 With Liberty Presbyterian – El Salvador – Bill Schmidt 908.580.1259</p>
<p><u>SHARING</u></p> <p>Holiday Adopt-A-Family – Marilyn Lyga 908.766.5880 Thanksgiving – Lyga and Moore Christmas Baskets – Bev and Jennifer Moore 732.809.1215 Easter – Lyga and Moore Interfaith Hospitality Network Buck Kirch 908.647.3599 Call Dottie Benjamin 908.647.0575 at Bishop Janes United Methodist Church</p>	<p><u>COMFORT & JOY</u></p> <p>Creche Service, Children's Clothes – Jim and Paige Pioppi 908.604.4232 Dress for Success – Lorri Layton 908.696.1748 Seamen's Institute – Anne Post 908.766.6621 Unicef - Laura and Greg Begg 908.204.9292 Valentines for NJ Troops – Paula Roper 908.508.1864</p>

Finance Report as of April, 2008

Represented below is a summary of St. Mark's operating income statement.

April 2008 Year to Date

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Pledges	81,602	77,336	4,266
Other Donations	24,475	37,415	-12,941
Total Receipts	106,077	114,751	-8,674
Total Expenses	110,296	109,843	453
Net Operating Income	\$-4,219	\$4,908	\$-9,131

Thanks to the skills and hard work of the Rummage sale team, April operating income increased by approximately \$7,000 including rummage sale expenses. Rummage sales were up 36% from 2007. While year-to-date pledges are surpassing the budget by 6%, total operating receipts are down over 7%. On the up side, donations to designated funds are up significantly from the same period last year. This appears to represent a healthy turnaround for St. Mark's.

Year-to-date total expenses are practically right on budget thanks to the ability of the commission chairs for keeping their expenses under control and under budget.

April expenses were slightly over budget due to a partial payment for the new and required smoke and fire alarm system that is being installed.

Overall donations are slowing down earlier than expected. Please consider increasing your donations to help offset unanticipated expenses as well as cover our everyday operating expenses.

Please note:

Changes for directory

Jackie Kahle's new home
email is:

Jkahle33@comcast.net

(Cont. from page 5)

Today before you say an unkind word -
Think of someone who can't speak.
Before you complain about the taste of your food - Think of someone who has
nothing to eat.
Before you complain about your husband or wife - Think of someone who's
crying out to GOD for a companion.
Today before you complain about life -
Think of someone who went too early to heaven.
Before you complain about your children -
Think of someone who desires children but they're barren.
Before you argue about your dirty house someone didn't clean or sweep -
Think of the people who are living in the streets.
Before whining about the distance you drive -
Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet.
And when you are tired and complain about your job -
Think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had
your job.
And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down - Put a smile on your
face and thank GOD you're alive and still around.

June 2008

<i>Date</i>	<i>Layreaders</i>	<i>Crucifer</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Greeters</i>
06/01/2008				
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch D. Post		H. Woods	
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch R. Conover	Gogertys	D. Rozzelle	Anne Post
	P&Ch J. Wyatt		J. Nishimura	Nancy Brangaccio
	LR 2 R. Buesser			
06/08/2008				
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch D. Post		P. Chiappetta	
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch M.L. Schmidt		D. Wells	Nancy Wojnar
	P&Ch B. Schmidt		J. Pioppi	Jackie Kahle
	LR 2 S. Gogerty			
06/15/08				
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch J. Lyga		J. Smythe	
10:00 a.m. (HC)	Ch J. Wyatt		B. Walker	Barbara Hughes
	Ch D. Knill		Youth	Youth
	L & P & LR 2 Youth			
06/22/08				
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch J. Lyga		J. DeCoste	
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch N. Opremcak		J. Nishimura	Annabelle Wilmer
	P&Ch R. Aregood		B. Woodford	Bruce Woodford
	LR 2 S. Pasquale			
06/29/08				
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L & Ch D. Post		J. Woynar	
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L & Ch R. Conover		L. Rose	Paige Pioppi
	P & Ch J. Kahle		D. Wells	Mickey Ahalt
	LR 2 B. Woodford			