



# The Lion's Roar

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

Volume 59, Issue 9

September 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.

#### Administrative Secretary:

**Ann Millan** (908) 766-9058

## From the Desk of the Reverend Joanna D. Graham

Interim Rector

### Seven Habits of Highly Ineffective Churches

#### **Elevate mediocrity to a spiritual discipline.**

Figure out where average falls and aim below there. Doing things with excellence, joy, and flair may make someone uncomfortable. God doesn't really expect much anyhow.

#### **Take no risks.**

A successful practice of risk avoidance is often best achieved by sending any and all new ideas to a minimum of four boards or committees who understand that it is their role to say "no" to new ideas for their review and approval. This process may need to be reinforced by remarks noting how a particular idea might make the church liable, cost money, or ruffle feathers.

#### **Practice the following evangelism strategy: "if they want us, they know where to find us."**

Assume that everyone does know where you are and what you are. It can also be helpful if your building looks like a medieval fortress. If you don't have that going for you, encourage your ushers and greeters to look like palace guards as they perform their roles.

#### **Blame early and often.**

Maintaining dysfunction in a congregation is made easier if scapegoats are regularly identified. In some congregations, ministers make wonderful scapegoats. You may also blame "newcomers", or "people who don't

understand how we do things in this church." If all else fails, blame the Conference, the denomination, or Satan.

#### **Always be prepared to make an account of the excuses that are within you.**

Have an all-purpose excuse like, "I've just been so busy" (elaborate at great length just how busy you are), implying that no one else is busy. Occasionally try out a creative new excuse like, "Our dog ate the printer-ink cartridge and required an emergency appendectomy. He is now very busy too."

#### **Make it clear to all that the job of the pastor(s) and staff is to keep everyone, meaning church members, happy.**

Think of your church as "The Love Boat", and the pastor as the cruise director and activity planner. The job of clergy and staff members is to keep everyone on board happy. If someone is unhappy, it's a sure sign your pastor is not doing the job.

#### **Spend as little money as possible.**

Even though you may enjoy spending money on personal things like a car or a cruise, you can demonstrate your commitment to modesty and a simple lifestyle at church. The very best programs cost nothing. And why would your church building need any renovations—if it was good enough for your grandparents then it'll be good enough for your grandchildren.

Continued on Page 2

## Seven Habits of Highly Effective Churches

### **Strive for excellence in service to Christ.**

Effective churches are churches where people enjoy what they're doing and do it well. Give God your best whether in the care of church grounds, the soup you prepare for the homeless shelter dinner or the hymns and anthems you sing in worship.

### **Cultivate a spirit of innovation and experimentation.**

Make the "seven last words of the church,"—that is, "We've never done it that way before"—a distant memory. Be open to new ideas that advance your mission. Free people to develop and try new ministries. Just remember, if you're not failing at something, you're probably not trying anything.

### **Take the initiative to build relationships with people and groups in the wider community beyond your congregation.**

Refuse to be isolated. Take to the streets, the coffee shops, libraries, and parks of your community. Be curious about what's going on. Get involved in community events. Meet people. Introduce yourself as a member of the church. Invite people to "come and see".

### **Accept responsibility for mistakes, learn from them, and in all things let grace abound.**

Christians aren't perfect; they are forgiven. So making mistakes is not the worst thing that can happen. Besides, we often learn the most from our failures. In the end and in the beginning, it is

about God's grace, not our achievements. Cut others some slack. While you're at it, cut yourself some too.

### **Always be prepared to give an account of the hope that is within you". (1 Peter 3:15)**

Look for where the love, energy, and life are flowing and focus on that. And recognize excuses for what they are; a sign of insufficient commitment. Be people of hope, trusting in God to find a way even when we can't.

### **Be willing to let people go in order to stay focused on your core mission.**

It is more important for your church to be clear and steady about its core mission than it is to make everyone happy. Some people may be better off in another congregation. When folks are unhappy, connect, talk, and pray with them. If things remain stuck, let them go with your blessing, giving priority to your mission.

### **Splash it on!**

A hospice nurse told the story of bringing an elderly woman home for the final days of her life. Noticing a large bottle of perfume on the woman's dresser, the nurse asked, "Would you like me to dab a bit of that behind your ears?" "Honey," said the woman to the nurse, "why don't you just splash it on?" God loves cheerful givers. So spend money wisely, well, and freely in God's cause.

Copyright United Church of Christ

## LAUGHTER IN THE PEWS



By late summer, even Tom was amazed at how successfully his new effort was turning out.

## Foodbank Distribution Volunteers Wanted

Please join us in helping out at the Foodbank distribution site on any Saturday morning in the month of September. The site is at a church on Main Street in Somerville. We arrive at 9AM and are usually finished by 11:30 or 12noon. This is a great opportunity for kids as well as adults. The kids help put together bags of grocery items, so it's easy to do. If any of your children need community service hours, this is a great opportunity to meet that need.

If you can help out on Sept. 6, 13, 20, or 27, please respond to either the office or Martha Heiner at [Heinermj@aol.com](mailto:Heinermj@aol.com)

Thanks,  
Martha Heiner

## The Search for a New Rector

### Who is on the Discernment Committee?

Jim DeCoste, Norm Graff, Chuck Knill, Lorri Layton, John Lyga, Teri Passarello, Lauren Walker, Libby West, and Roger Conover (Chairman)

### Where is it in its deliberations?

#### Behind Us

Since our commissioning in June, we have met three times, getting to know and understand our fellow committee members in some depth; learning as much as we can about the search process and developing the evaluation tools and documents we will need; and – with the help of our Spiritual Guide John Lyga - deepening our faith for the important spiritual task ahead.

#### Right Now

In preparation for our next meeting, all committee members are refining a draft of the letter that will be sent to prospective candidates and the questions that will accompany that letter.

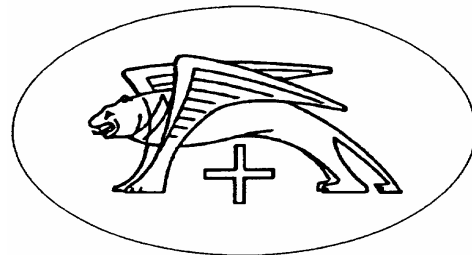
#### Ahead of Us

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, we meet in joint session with the Vestry for an Anti-Racism seminar conducted by the Diocese. This will ensure that we go into the candidate evaluation process with minds that are completely open.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, we meet to put our candidate letter and questions in final form.

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, we meet with Canon Geitz, Church Deployment Officer, and Bob Bostock, our Search Consultant, to receive the names of candidates. Let our search begin!

Roger Conover



### 2008 Vestry

#### **The Rev. Joanna Graham 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

#### **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

#### **Non-Vestry Positions:**

##### **Warden Emeritus**

Jim Martucci 604-2256

##### **Fellowship**

Carol DeCoste 766-0408

##### **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.

## September Song Is Just Around The Corner

We are gearing up for a fabulous show of gingerbread children, chairs that come to life and bugs and beasties at our Annual September Song at St. Mark's. This marks our 14th year and we are excited to bring you this fun-filled evening perfect for the whole family. We will be presenting selections from Humperdink's *Hansel and Gretel*, Ravel's enchanted "*L'enfant et les Sortilèges*" (a story like Where the Wild Thing Are) favorite selections from Cole Porter including the ever popular "Blow Gabriel Blow". Young Adult Choir from St. Mark's and members of Grace Episcopal Youth Choir in Madison under the direction of Anne Matlack will be performing the finale of Hansel and Gretel as well as a zany number of mathematical equations!! Performance dates will be September 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. and a matinee on September 13th at 2p.m.

Please mark your calendars for this special St. Mark's event and bring lots of friends to the show! Consider being a patron and help support the St. Mark's Choir as well as general fundraising for the year. It will also be a perfect opportunity for potential parishioners to see the vitality in our events. Thank you for supporting St. Mark's!

In Christ

Lauran Corson, Events Chair

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**ST. MARK'S FALL RUMMAGE SALE**  
**SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

The Fall Rummage Sale is just around the corner. We will be setting up after the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Donations can be dropped off from Monday September 15<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Remember to tell your family and friends that we are grateful for their donations.

The Sale is on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>  
from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM and  
Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.  
The clean up will be Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM.

Remember we are unable to accept the following items for sale:

- Baby car seats, high chairs, and playpens over 5 years old
- Mattresses and box springs
- Text book, travel books, periodicals and almanacs.
- TV, computers and other electronics over 5 years old
- Exercise equipment
- Sporting equipment over 5 years old
- Carpeting except area rugs
- Incomplete, broken or items not in good condition for sale

Mark the dates for the Fall Rummage Sale in your calendar and consider helping with this important fund raiser. As in the past, we are going to need lots of help with the Rummage Sale. Please consider helping in any capacity possible. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

So come and join in the fellowship – we promise to have fun too!!

## Upcoming Events

### Fun and Fellowship Guaranteed!

Sept 7th at Pleasant Valley Park  
for  
St. Mark's church service 10 am  
and  
Family picnic starting at 11 am

Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert and your own chair

Hamburgers/hot dogs/drinks provided

Cost:     \$5 Single  
          \$10 Family

Volunteers needed for:

Cooking - Set-up - Clean-up

Sign-up sheet in Narthex or call Carol DeCoste 908-766-0408

Make checks payable to: **St. Mark's Church**

### *Women of St. Mark's Gathering*

**September 16, 2008 Tuesday 6:30pm -**

Dinner at Marylea Schmidt's Irish Cottage  
Sign up sheet in Narthex for hors d'oeuvres, entrees, and  
desserts

**October** - Enjoy the colors of Autumn on the way to dinner at  
Carol Pasquale's home

**November** - Be ready for relaxation and meditation then join  
Jean Wittig for dinner

**December** - Dinner at Sharon DeFeo's Christmas Museum.  
Date to be announced

**Call Carol DeCoste for more info (908) 766-0408**

## JOIN US!

### WHY VOLUNTEER FOR INREACH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION?

You like to help others in need

You like to socialize

You like to meet new people

It is a fun way to give back to the Church!

#### **Inreach and Fellowship Commissions:**

Helping us do what we are really good at -- having fun at events which bring us all together throughout the year. Responding in a variety of ways to answer the needs of individuals or groups within our own parish.

Thank you for your interest. Please feel free to either call me (908-766-0408) or email me ([jddec@hotmail.com](mailto:jddec@hotmail.com)), to join or discuss further.

Carol DeCoste

## September



### Birthdays

9/2 Tammy Indovina  
Cameron Walter  
Alexandra Cirra  
9/3 Elliot Les  
Neil McLaughlan  
Connie Rose  
9/4 Rachel Post  
Eric Williams  
9/5 Richard Keirstead  
Lauren Walker  
9/6 Roger Byer  
Andrew Walker  
9/7 Jeannette Pastula  
Doriann Sanchez  
9/8 Marliese Knill  
Jules Trombino  
9/9 Gabriella James  
Teri Passarello  
Judith Woods  
9/10 Peter Pavlini  
Megan Volk  
9/12 Bruce Woodford  
9/14 Glenn West  
9/15 Barbara Hughes  
9/16 George Helmke  
9/17 Andrew Gallup  
Ann Lee  
9/18 Linda Aul  
Matthew Glassman  
Anne Moore  
9/19 Jacelyn Di Chiara  
Elaine Jones  
9/20 Martha Heiner  
Anju Ittycheria  
9/21 Joe Layton  
Brenda Mandeem  
Sophia Stasolla  
9/23 Caitlyn Roper  
9/24 John Placko  
Jenny Barkhorn  
Paul Wittig  
9/26 Karen Burgerhoff  
9/27 Alexa Volk  
9/28 Bridget Nishimura  
9/30 Beatrice Behrins  
Gloria Taylor  
Anthony Volk

## News From the Pews

- Timothy James Pioppi entered our world on Friday August 8 at 3:01 pm. He weighed 6 pounds 15 oz and 20 inches long. He has dark black hair and blue eyes just like Valerie had when she was born. Thanks to all of you for your love and support over the last nine months!
- John Placko  
Bryan Manor  
600 Old Chester Road  
P.O. Box 426  
Gladstone, NJ 07934  
Just a reminder – without the PO box, it takes a long time for John to get his mail
- Directory Update:  
Kristine Piirimae has moved. Her new address is:  
5 Dayton Crescent Road  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

### 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 1 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.

### Children Bells:

Last year, in the fall, we were able to provide an opportunity for a group of young ringers to perform twice with our handbells. I would like to be able to put a group together again this year, if there is enough interest. When we begin our fall programs I will be asking if any of our children, fifth grade and above, would like to form a group of bell ringers and look for a time to meet. Last year, Sunday morning, sometime, was requested and we will look into that possibility. Children who can read, below fifth grade, can ring chimes and that practice would be on Sunday mornings between 9:00 and 9:45 am.

If you know now that your child would like to learn to ring, or to ring again, please call me at 908-234-1936, Carole Pasquale.

### Anniversaries:

9/1 Rob & Nancy Brangaccio	9/17 Bill & Annabelle Wilmer
9/7 Ken & Jennifer Solon	9/18 Jim & Michelle Martucci
9/8 Martin & Louise Hale	9/20 Bill & Marylea Schmidt
Douglas & Laura Hubert	9/22 Bob & Pam Les
9/11 Peter & Anne Kuehne	9/26 Jim & Therese Nishimura
9/16 Tim & Lisa Keenan	9/29 Richard & Carol Keirstead

## St. Mark's Growers



Join us on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00am  
as we plant fall mums and spring bulbs.

During the fall and winter we will be meeting to come up with a plan to further beautify the grounds of St. Mark's. You don't have to be a master gardener to participate – we can all learn as we go along!

Contact Ann Millan, [stmarks.br@verizon.net](mailto:stmarks.br@verizon.net), if you would like to be put on the email list for future announcements.

### Finance Report as of July, 2008

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

#### July 2008 Year to Date

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Pledges	144,592	127,835	16,757
Other Donations	52,732	62,175	-9,443
Total Receipts	197,324	190,010	7,314
Total Expenses	197,523	204,389	-6,866
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$-199</b>	<b>\$-14,379</b>	<b>\$14,180</b>

July year-to-date total pledges are still favorably above budget due to parishioners making early pledge payments. Donations are also up year-to-date but low for the month. Building use donations have increased over last month but remain under budget year-to-date. Total receipts also reflect the successful spring fundraisers contributing to positive YTD operating income – a 10% improvement over 2007.

Year-to-date total expenses are under budget.

Net operating income reflects the higher pledge payments and income from the fundraisers as well as the commission chairs keeping their expenses under control and under budget.

Thanks so much for your donations and continued early payment of pledges.

**St. Mark's Outreach Summary**  
**Current Programs and Coordinators**  
 (Bill Schmidt, 908.580.1259)

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

## September Programs

**Crop Walk:** Contact Anne Post 908.766.6621

**Food Pantry** Saturday's in Somerville (Youth and Adults):  
Contact Martha Heiner 908.766.0868

**Habitat for Humanity:** Bruce Walker 908.604.9151

Also note a new continuing project sponsored by Jack Smythe in response to the *increased demand for food by 25% over last*

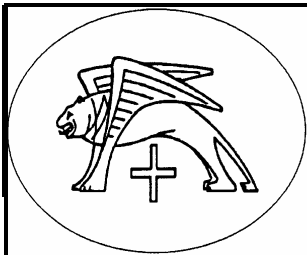
year in central NJ including Somerset County. We'll call it the **Jack's Weekly Food** program. He is asking everyone to please bring a can or item of food to church each Sunday. This is working well for the 8:00a.m. service, and the hope is to make it a practice for the 10:00a.m. service. Thank you Jack.

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



### September 2008

Date	Layreaders	Crucifer	Ushers	Greeters
<b>09/07/2008</b>				
<b><i>Picnic in the Park</i></b>				
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Jackie Kahle		John Wojnar	
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Kathleen Aregood		Diane Rozzelle	Bruce Woodford
	P&Ch Jeanne Wyatt		Bruce Walker	Ann Millian
<b>09/14/2008</b>				
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Doug Post		Harry Woods	
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Chuck Knill		Larry Rose	Jackie Kahle
	P&Ch Dawn Knill		Bruce Woodford	Mickey Ahalt
	LR 2 Stuart Pasquale			
<b>09/21/08</b>				
<b><i>Homecoming Service</i></b>				
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch John Lyga		Paul Chiappetta	
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch William Schmidt		James Nishimura	Ann Post
	P&Ch MaryLea Schmidt		Jackie Kahle	Barbara Hughes
	LR 2 Sean Gogerty			
<b>09/28/08</b>				
<b><i>Youth Ministry</i></b>				
8:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Doug Post		Jack Smythe	
10:00 a.m. (HC)	L&Ch Roger Conover		Bruce Walker	Annabelle Wilmer
	P&Ch Richard Aregood		James Nishimura	Nancy Wojnar
	LR 2 Bruce Woodford			



# September 2008

## St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> <b>Labor Day</b> Office Closed	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>September Song 8pm</i>	<i>6</i> <i>St. Mark's Growers planting day 9:00am</i> <i>September Song 8pm</i>
<i>7</i> <i>8am Rite I</i> <i>Service in the Park &amp; Family Picnic @ Pleasant Valley Park</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> <i>9:00am</i> <i>Chapel Services Resume</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> <i>September Song 8pm</i>	<i>13</i> <i>September Song 2pm &amp; 8pm</i>
<i>14</i> <i>8am Rite I</i> <i>10am Rite II</i>	<i>15</i> <i>Exec. Finance Meeting @ 7:30pm</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> <i>Chapel Service @ 9am</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> <i>Rummage Sale 9am-1pm</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Rummage Sale 9am-1pm</i>
<i>21</i> <i>8am Rite I</i> <i>10am Rite II</i> <b>Homecoming Sunday</b> <i>Christian Ed Mtg. @</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Vestry Mtg. @ 6:30pm</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Chapel Service @ 9am</i>	<i>25</i> <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> <i>8am Rite I</i> <i>Contemporary Service @ 10am</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>				