February 2016

3 W Prayer Group
High School Youth Group
6 Sa Preschool Disco Night
7 Su Birthday Box Ingathering
Youth Bridge Group
PADS overnight
9 T Shrove Tuesday: palm burning
pancake supper
10 W Ashes to go; worship at 7 am,
noon, 7:30 pm
11 Th Women in Touch
12 F Sounds of Lent
Stations of the Cross
13 Sa Men’s Group
14 Su Group Sunday school, Labyrinth
15 M Daughters of the King meet
16 T Vestry
17 W Taize Service
19 F Stations of the Cross
21 Su Communion Classes
24 W Lent dinner and event
26 F Organ recital: Briggs
27 Sa Men’s Group

Ash Wednesday is February 10

The first Christians observed with great devotion the redemption of all people through Jesus’ death and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for that time by a season of penitence and fasting. The holy season of Lent begins by acknowledging our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty of human life and marks the penitence of the Christian community around the world. Worship with ashes and Eucharist at 7 a.m., noon and 7:30 p.m.

Ashes-to-Go: Why are we offering ashes outside of a worship service? We offer ashes all day as a reminder that need, humility, and healing do not need to be confined to a particular location or time of day. Ashes: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. church library.

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Sunday, March 13, 2016
5:30 p.m.

United Thank Offering
(the little blue boxes)

Fill a box with change as you give thanks for the blessings of God as we participate in the worldwide reach of the Episcopal Church. Please return to St. Mark’s on Easter Sunday, March 27.

Lenten Taize

Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. Come, sing, pray and meditate. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France. Taize is a gentle form of worship, originating in France.

Tanya Carey, cello
Gerald Carey, flute
Marsha Webster, piano

Sounds of Lent. Organ offerings at noon on Fridays Feb 12, 19, March 4, 11, 18. Bring a brown bag lunch for afterward.

Cello, Flute, and Piano Recital followed by Evensong

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Sunday, March 13, 2016
5:30 p.m.

Coming in March

2 W Instructed Seder dinner
High School Youth Group
9 W Lent dinner and event
13 Su Tanya and Gerald Cary
Recital, Evensong
16 W Bobby Jo Valentine
High School Youth group
Middle School Youth group
18 F High School Youth Retreat
20 Su Palm Sunday processions
Organ recital: Demers
24 Th Maundy Thursday Agape
meal, Eucharist, vigil
Middle School Youth Retreat
25 F Good Friday children's worship
Passion reading
26 Sa Easter Vigil and reception
27 Su Easter Eucharist 9:00,
11:15 am, 1:00 pm
Children's worship ,Egg Hunt
Predictions are Difficult – Especially about the Future

Danish proverb

Rector’s Report for the St. Mark’s Annual Meeting

February marks my tenth year at St. Mark’s. In 2006, St. Mark’s was in a time of significant transition and uncertainty. After the “split” or what some called “the troubles” in 2004, St. Mark’s was recovering from the trauma of losing its clergy and half of its membership over disagreements with the direction of the national Episcopal Church. I came to St. Mark’s full of optimism and hope based on having met and gotten to know some of the strong and committed members of the church. I didn’t have a crystal ball, but I did have hope, and I still have hope for what is and will be happening at St. Mark’s.

As I reflect on what has happened and what we have done together, some of the highlights from my perspective include, in rough chronological order:

· Creating a companion relationship with San Marcos Church in Nigromante, Veracruz, Mexico in the Diocese of Southeast Mexico, which continues into its 11th year.

· In 2007 having a pumpkin patch at St. Mark’s for the benefit of DuPagePADS, which has continued every year since has raised over $56,000 for PADS; the patch brings color and many families to our corner of Glen Ellyn.

· Founding the St. Mark’s Preschool in 2010, which started with nine children and now has over 40 children and offers classes Monday through Friday.

· Expanding the St. Mark’s Parents’ Day Out Program from two days a week to five days a week, with today having full enrollment and a perpetual waiting list.

· The development of a useful and lasting vision statement, “Rooted in Baptism, Growing in Faith, Branching Out in the World.” So many vision statements are started with fanfare and end up in a drawer. St. Mark’s has been guided by ours and continues to be inspired by it.

· The 2009 Campaign for St. Mark’s, which raised $789,000 from our members and was matched by $600,000 from the Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese of Chicago. This campaign to pay down debt, exceeded our original goal, was conducted during the Great Recession and put St. Mark’s on sound financial footing.

· The addition of the 9:15 a.m. Sunday service in 2010, which offers a one-hour or less worship service and a concurrent children’s program called JAM (Jesus and Me).

· Expanding the St. Mark’s commitment to the DuPagePADS overnight shelter program from the summer months only to every month of the year.

· The addition of a 1 p.m. service in Spanish in 2011. With this service, St. Mark’s has and is being transformed into a multilingual, multicultural Episcopal church, unique in our Diocese and one of a few in the entire United States.

· Icons in Transformation Exhibit in 2012 and the subsequent formation of the St. Mark’s Visual Arts Committee, which has opened our eyes to the beauty and power of art in our midst, while creating a cultural offering to our wider community.

· An Appalachia Service Project (ASP) trip to Warfield, KY in 2013, with a fourth annual consecutive trip being planned for this coming summer.

· The Lifting Heart and Voice Campaign which raised $200,000 for the purchase of two grand pianos, completing our Walker Pipe Organ and funding an organ concert series, which begins in February. Jerry and Tanya Carey provided the seed money which made the idea of a campaign feasible, and Paul and Annie Mahon provided a matching challenge that made it achievable with the contributions from many of our members.

· Steady growth in our membership and its commitment to St. Mark’s, from 150 pledges in 2007 to over 325 for 2016, and a Sunday attendance which averaged under 200 in 2006 and has exceeded 400 for the past three years.
Highlights from 2015 include:

- **Reading the Bible Together** – a church-wide effort to read the entire New Testament in eight weeks during Lent. Thanks to publisher Biblica, we received at no cost several hundred copies of the New Testament in an innovative and reader friendly format, conducive to a daily reading plan. Many of you read on your own, and others supplemented their reading with weekly group meetings to reflect on and discuss the readings.

- A number of significant improvements to our church **buildings and grounds**, including new concrete front steps and railings; new windows in the first floor office; fixes to the outdoor lighting; refinished and painted doors in the undercroft / PDO space; covering the unsightly opening in the chancel ceiling with drywall and an attractive vent grate; roof repairs and a well-implemented plan of maintenance to heating, cooling and safety systems.

- The completion of a **professional audit** of our finances in November, 2015 that showed robust procedures and transparency in reporting.

- **A tenth consecutive annual trip** to San Marcos, continuing our commitment to relationship, mutual respect and prayer with our brothers and sisters in Nigromante.

- A men’s **breakfast series** which has featured talks by Bishop Lee, Bryan Campen and Randy Lewis.

- **WIT – Women in Touch** – a series of gatherings for all women of St. Mark’s.

- A series of **adult forums** called “What Every Christian Should Know” which included sermons by eight of our St. Mark’s clergy.

- **Victor Conrado** elected to serve on the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Chicago, a key position of leadership and voice for the entire Diocese.

- Your rector was appointed **Dean of the Aurora Deanery** of the Diocese of Chicago, a geographical area with 13 Episcopal churches. The Dean serves a term of three years and meets several times during the year with other deans and the Bishop.

- The establishment of a **Music Maintenance Endowment**, thanks to the generosity of Tanya and Jerry Carey.

- Hiring **Chris Ponstein** as our St. Mark’s bookkeeper and assistant to the St. Mark’s Treasurer.

So what is next? The difficulty of predicting the future (Danish proverb) is what makes it fun to do. What will the next ten years of the life of St. Mark’s look like? One thing is certain, and that is change. The other is that we will continue to be living in a macro-environment that is challenging for mainline churches like St. Mark’s. Going to church on Sunday morning or at 1 p.m. is still common but not the dominant norm, and the trend away from church continues. Sunday mornings are for sports, shopping, and catching up on sleep. It’s not that most people are against church or even neutral. They like church and want to be a part of it, but there are so many competing and compelling alternatives and options to choose from. The challenge for St. Mark’s is to remain a relevant and compelling part of a diverse group of people’s lives. This is a challenge facing all churches. Willow Creek church in South Barrington is planning to leave its existing campus and build a brand new facility that will feature a “parklike” atmosphere on 25 acres. We are not Willow Creek, and the way for St. Mark’s to be relevant and healthy is not complicated or difficult and does not require building a new building. We have the ingredients, and we need to remember and recommit to using them. A healthy church is one that combines humility, openness, humor, authenticity, curiosity and knowledge of its core claims and beliefs. As I have preached many times, Christianity is not complicated. It is about the love of God revealed to the world through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. In our baptismal covenant, we promise with God’s help to respect the dignity of every human being. What are some of the things a relevant and healthy St. Mark’s will be doing in the coming years? Imagine with me:

- Expanding on our experience as a partner site for “Listen for a Change” with a commitment to seeing and understanding **racism** in our community and moving beyond simple answers.

- More **partnerships** with our neighboring Jewish and Muslim congregations.

- Renewing and growing a **Stephen Ministry** at St. Mark’s where more people are trained to be Stephen Ministers, in cooperation with other neighboring churches.

- Hiring a **Communications Director** to make our web site even better, more useful to the outside world and more connected to our church database.
February 2016

- Starting a Planned Giving Ministry, where our members include St. Mark’s in their wills.

- **Buildings and Grounds** projects that will remodel the narthex, library and hallways on the first floor; improve the lighting in Mahon Hall; replace old windows in the office; add projection capability to the nave where images can be displayed on a movable screen or on the walls on either side of the cross; a permanent and visible sign at the corner of Main and Phillips; the use of “green” cleaning supplies and reusable dishes, glasses and utensils at all events.

- Forming a treble choir to fill the gap that exists between our chorister and adult choirs; trips to a new companion church, St. Mark’s, Washington, D.C.

- A “Walk from Lake Ellyn to Lake Michigan” – a 26 mile walk organized by St. Mark’s, seeing our wider community with new eyes and making new connections.

- A winter Farmer’s Market in Mahon Hall next January.


- Strengthening our financial base by increasing the number of household who make a pledge to St. Mark’s – 400 pledging households (versus 333 now).

- Asking every St. Mark’s household to invite one person to St. Mark’s in 2016, to a service on Sunday, to an art opening, an organ concert, a Preschool open house or to hear a special speaker.

- Becoming a partner church with Bridge Communities where St. Mark’s mentors and supports families as they transition from homelessness to a home and financial stability.

- Discerning and nominating one or more St. Mark’s parishioners to be a deacon, helping St. Mark’s hear and serve the needs of the world around us.

- Becoming even clearer that St. Mark’s is a church where all are welcome, creativity is encouraged and where we continue to try new things that help us see the love God in our midst.

As we plan and dream for the future, please join me in thanking those who have offered their time and talents so generously to St. Mark’s in the past year. **Edna Heatherington** is completing her two-year term as warden. I am truly grateful for her care, wisdom and commitment to her responsibilities as a warden. She has been particularly focused on making sure we have good procedures and documentation, and now plans to be the church liaison to our Boy Scout Troop 44 for the next two years. **Andrew Dorn** and **Patty Weaver** are completing their three year terms as members of the vestry. Andrew has been co-chair of the Giving Campaign for the past three years. Patty has been a liaison to the St. Mark’s children’s ministries and the Preschool. **Will Delany** and **Jocelyn Briones** served as youth representatives to the vestry.

Please join me in thanking those who are beginning new leadership positions. We welcome new members to the vestry today: **Ricardo Socoto**, **Megan McGuire**, and **Flor Itzel Carmona**, and replacement vestry members **Lynn Dornblaser** and **Dan Lambert**. Youth representatives for 2016 are **Paige Hardy** and **Abraham Jimenez**. **Will Dunlop** begins a three year term as one of our three delegates to Diocesan Convention.

One of the hardest working volunteers at St. Mark’s is **Bill Novak**, who steps down as our Treasurer today after a year of incredible dedication to the job of Treasurer. He has painstakingly documented every single procedure for the finances of the church, creating a three-ring binder encyclopedia. This work set the stage for hiring Chris Ponstein as our bookkeeper, the completion of a professional audit, and our next team of leadership, **Harvey Dunham** who will be our next Treasurer, and joined by **Barbara Walden** as Assistant Treasurer. Thank you Bill, Harvey and Barbara!

The coming year will be particularly triumphant for **Charles Snider**, our organist and choirmaster, as his now 25 year dream for the St. Mark’s organ is realized and celebrated with a truly remarkable concert series that debuts on February 26 when we welcome British organist, David Briggs who currently serves as organist for St. James Anglican Cathedral in Toronto. I am indebted to Charles for his persistence in seeing the organ completed, a gift to many future generations of St. Markers and to the wider community.

And lastly, I thank my wife, **Cecilia**, and our three children, **Lydia**, **Frances**, and **Geo**, for their unconditional love and support for me and my work at St. Mark’s over the past ten years.

With great optimism, I am looking forward to 2016 and the work we will do together.

Yours in Christ,  George+
Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. This solemn celebration takes place this year on February 10, six and one half weeks before Easter, which this year is March 27. Easter has been celebrated from early days as the triumph of the Incarnate God over the forces of sin and death. Also from that time, the period prior to Easter has been marked by prayer, fasting, self-examination, and discipline. This period, called Lent (related to lengthening of days, from the old English word for Spring) prepares us for the Lord's suffering and death on the cross and for his victorious Resurrection.

Lent has its origins in the rule of the early Church that converts must be given a rigorous preparation in the faith, marked by study and by special discipline, prior to their baptism on Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lenten preparation are mentioned as early as the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. Within a short time, this opportunity for preparation for the Lord's Resurrection was open even to "veteran" Christians. Lent contains the forty days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, but does not include Sundays. Sundays are not Sundays "of Lent," but "in Lent." Sundays are always feast days in celebration of the Resurrection, even in Lent.

The ashes imposed on Ash Wednesday portray in a moving fashion our mortality and penitence. As we walk the way of Lent, we open our lives to the Lord's purifying scrutiny and widen the scope of His resurrection power in our lives.

St. Mark's and some other parishes in the diocese have taken imposing ashes to the streets, offering ashes to commuters and shoppers as they go about their day's activities.

In Lent, look for changes in the mood of the Sunday service as we move into a more somber, reflective mode. In Lent we say a temporary farewell to the Alleluia, the ancient Christian acclamation of Christ's victory, to attend with sobriety to how we have not always manifested this victory in our daily lives. Lent is a time of self-examination, a time when we can say with the Psalmist, "I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me." (Psalm 51:3). An excellent explanation of Lent can be found in the Ash Wednesday liturgy, pp. 264-5 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Walking the Labyrinth

On Sunday, February 14, take a few minutes to engage in an ancient spiritual practice, walking a labyrinth. A portable canvas labyrinth will be set up in Mahon Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with information provided as to how to walk and pray a labyrinth.

A website on labyrinth walking describes the process this way: "A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The Labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools." The season of Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10) is a good time to engage in a new spiritual practice. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Paula Zwiebel at zbuckys@comcast.net.
Spanish Language Ministry
Para obtener más información Póngase en contacto con el P. Victor H. Conrado llamando al 630-858-1020 Ext. 226 o enviando un correo electrónico aassociatespanish@stmarksglenellyn.org

Martes de Carnaval
Preparación de la Ceniza
Fecha: martes 9 de febrero.
Hora: de 6:00 PM a 8:00 PM
Esta es una celebración litúrgica simple en la que se queman las Palmas usadas durante el Domingo de Ramos del año 2013 para utilizarlas al día siguiente, Miércoles de Ceniza. Después de esta celebración, todos y todas son invitados a un festín de Panqueques simbolizando una última cena antes de entrar en un tiempo riguroso de ayuno y abstinencia.

Miércoles de Ceniza
Fecha: miércoles 10 de febrero.

Santa Misa e imposición de la ceniza.
7:00 AM, 12:00 PM y 7:00 PM (Todas las misas serán bilingües).

Imposición de la Ceniza
De 7:00 AM a 7:00 PM tendremos las cenizas disponibles en la parroquia para las personas que deseen recibirlas. Por favor diríjase a la biblioteca y allí encontrará a una persona que se las impondrá. También estaremos imponiendo las cenizas en la estación del tren de Glen Ellyn de 7:00 AM a 8:00 AM.
Las palabras que marcan este día son: “Recuerda que polvo eres y en polvo te convertirás” o “Arrepiéntete y cree en el Evangelio.”
Con la imposición de las cenizas, se inicia una estación espiritual particularmente relevante para todo cristiano/a que quiera prepararse dignamente para vivir el Misterio Paschal, es decir, la Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, comúnmente conocida como la Semana Santa.

40 días
La duración de la Cuaresma está basada en el símbolo del número cuarenta en la Biblia. En ésta, se habla de los cuarenta días del diluvio, de los cuarenta años de la marcha del pueblo judío por el desierto, de los cuarenta días de Moisés y de Elías en la montaña, de los cuarenta días que pasó Jesús en el desierto antes de comenzar su vida pública, de los 400 años que duró la estancia de los judíos en Egipto.
En la Biblia, el número cuatro simboliza el universo material, seguido de ceros significa el tiempo de nuestra vida en la tierra, seguido de pruebas y dificultades. La práctica de la Cuaresma data desde el siglo IV, cuando se da la tendencia a constituirla en tiempo de penitencia y de renovación para toda la Iglesia, con la práctica del ayuno y de la abstinencia. Conservada con bastante vigor, al menos en un principio, en las iglesias de oriente, la práctica penitencial de la Cuaresma ha sido cada vez más aligerada en occidente, pero debe observarse un espíritu penitencial y de conversión.

Caminando en el Laberinto
Fecha: domingo, 14 de febrero
Hora: 9:00 AM a 3:00 PM.
Toma algunos minutos de este día y participa de esta práctica espiritual antigua y nueva. Un laberinto portable se colocará en el salón parroquial. El laberinto representa el viaje hacia nuestro interior y fuera hacia el mundo. Este ha sido usado por mucho tiempo como una herramienta de meditación y oración. Durante este tiempo de cuaresma es un buen momento para comenzar con una nueva práctica espiritual. Para mayor información o si tienes algunas preguntas por favor contacte a Paula Zwiebel (zbuckys@comcast.net).

United Thank Offering (Las cajitas azules)
Toma una de las cajitas azules que se encuentran en las bancas de la iglesia o a la entrada y coloca en ellas monedas que tengas en casa. Nosotros participamos en la colecta mundial para la Iglesia Episcopal. Por favor traigan estas cajitas a la misa de la 1pm en día domingo 27 de Marzo.
Lectura del Evangelio Según San Lucas
Fecha: Toda la Cuaresma
Hora: Será de acuerdo a los tiempos que cada grupo organice.

Durante esta Cuaresma te invitamos a que leas el Evangelio de Lucas. Este evangelio corresponde al de este tiempo litúrgico. Esperamos conformar tres grupos de en español. Uno de estos grupos será vía Facebook. Esperamos que participes de esta disciplina en este tiempo fuerte para todos/as nosotros/as.

Comenzamos nuestra Cuaresma

La Cuaresma es el tiempo litúrgico de conversión, que marca la iglesia para prepararnos a la gran fiesta de la Pascua. Es tiempo para arrepentirnos de nuestros pecados y de cambiar algo de nosotros/as para ser mejores y poder vivir más cerca de Cristo.

La Cuaresma dura 40 días; comienza el miércoles de Ceniza y termina antes de la Misa de la Cena del Señor del Jueves Santo. A lo largo de este tiempo, sobre todo en la liturgia del domingo, hacemos un esfuerzo por recuperar el ritmo y estilo de verdaderos creyentes que debemos vivir como hijos de Dios.

El color litúrgico de este tiempo es el morado que significa luto y penitencia. Es un tiempo de reflexión, de penitencia, de conversión espiritual; tiempo de preparación al misterio pascual.

En la Cuaresma, Cristo nos invita a cambiar de vida. La Iglesia nos invita a vivir la Cuaresma como un camino hacia Jesucristo, escuchando la Palabra de Dios, orando, compartiendo con el prójimo y haciendo obras buenas. Nos invita a vivir una serie de actitudes cristianas que nos ayudan a parecernos más a Jesucristo, ya que por acción de nuestro pecado, nos alejamos más de Dios.

Por ello, la Cuaresma es el tiempo del perdón y de la reconciliación fraterna. Cada día, durante toda la vida, hemos de arrojar de nuestros corazones el odio, el rencor, la envidia, los celos que se oponen a nuestro amor a Dios y a los hermanos. En Cuaresma, aprendemos a conocer y apreciar la Cruz de Jesús. En Cuaresma nos damos cuenta de que no somos perfectos/as y que siempre estamos invitados/as a dar la bienvenida a la otra persona. No importa su condición social u orientación sexual. La bienvenida que ofrecemos es incondicional. Con esto aprendemos también a tomar nuestra cruz con alegría para alcanzar la gloria de la resurrección.

Book Lovers of St. Mark’s

The St. Mark’s book group will meet on February 3 at 3 pm at the home of Karen Evans to discuss The Chaperone by Laura Moriarty. All are welcome! Please contact May Anstee at m-anstee@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

A message from Charles Snider, Choirmaster at St. Mark’s

“Hey Margie, hurry up and get the kids in the car. We don’t want to be late for the organ concert!”

These words probably don’t get said very often. In the early to mid 1900s organ concerts were quite popular. But that was during an era when many fewer demands were made on our time, and there were far fewer options for entertainment available. However, we here at St. Mark’s have a unique opportunity coming to us over the next few months, and it’s my hope that many of our parishioners will take advantage of this rare and truly special offering.

As a result of the generosity of many contributors, we have invited four of the world’s leading concert organists to come and put our newly completed pipe organ through its paces. These individuals are among the very best performers available, and each concert will be sure to impress, delight, and amaze each and every listener. These four performers have presented programs all over the world, and now they will be lucky enough to add Glen Ellyn to their list.

Our gala opening concert will be on Friday night, February 26 at 7:30pm. We will host Mr. David Briggs, a British organist currently in residence at St. James Anglican Cathedral in Toronto. He has built a reputation as an exciting performer and communicator, with particular emphasis on orchestral transcriptions and the art of improvisation. From a review in Sydney, Australia:

“Few would have expected an hour of such stunning virtuosity, technical competence and musical excellence, the like of which has been heard only on a handful of occasions at this venue over the last decade or so… a consummate artist…”

So why not take this opportunity to throw caution to the wind and see just how exciting and enjoyable an organ concert can be? When it’s over, and if you truly feel the evening would have been better spent staying at home to do laundry, come and see me and I will refund your ticket price immediately. By the way, all concerts are free, and don’t forget the festive reception!
News from the Diocese of Chicago

Camp Chicago 2016: Daydreaming of warm summer days? Well, now is a good time to start! Online Registration for Camp Chicago 2016 is now open! Go ahead and get signed up for all the laughs, friendships, experiences, and faith that camp has to offer. Camp Chicago will offer three sessions again this summer for campers age 7-17. Learn more: http://www.episcopalchicago.org/at-work-in-the-church/youth-ministry/camp-chicago/.

Happening #100: March 4-6, 2016 @ Trinity, Wheaton. This is a two night diocesan retreat for high schoolers that's not to be missed. For more information, go to http://www.episcopalchicago.org/at-work-in-the-church/youth-ministry/happening/.

Happening #100 Reunion: March 6, 2016 @ Trinity, Wheaton. As we prepare for the 100th Happening event in the diocese, we are inviting all past participants and staff to attend a reunion celebration on March 6, 2016 at Trinity, Wheaton. This will be a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends and celebrate the wonderful impact this program has had on so many lives over the years! Register here: https://episcopalchicago.formstack.com/forms/happening100reunion.

Cathedral Youth Day: Coming April 16, 2016 @ St. James Commons. We are preparing a one day event to be held at St. James Commons on April 16 for youth in grades 6-12 from all over the diocese. Come join us for music, worship, games, good food, tours of St. James Cathedral, and a chance to meet awesome people from your diocese! Registration and more details coming soon! *Please note the date for this event has changed from the initial save the date.*

Reading the Bible in 72 hours!

Reading Luke Through Lent
40 days / Feb 10 – March 25

Group discussion at Tuesday Bible study, 9:15 a.m. and Adult Forums Sundays at 9:30 and 10:20 a.m.

Week 1: John the Baptism, Mary and Elizabeth
Day 1 2/10/16 Skim the Gospel
Day 2 2/11/16 p. 3-4
Day 3 2/12/16 p. 5-6

Week 2: Birth of Jesus, his baptism and the beginning of his ministry
Day 4 2/15/16 p. 7-8
Day 5 2/16/16 p. 12-13
Day 6 2/17/16 p. 14-15
Day 7 2/18/16 p. 16-17
Day 8 2/19/16 Review

Week 3: Miracles and parables
Day 9 2/22/16 p. 18-19
Day 10 2/23/16 p. 20-21
Day 11 2/24/16 p. 22-23
Day 12 2/25/16 p. 24-25
Day 13 2/26/16 Review

St. Mark’s has youth opportunities!

*Sunday School at 10:15 and noon
*Wednesday Night Youth Groups
*Service opportunities: make PADS lunches, work at People’s Resource Center’s Food Pantry
*Participate in Mission Trips to Kentucky (ASP) and/or Southeast Mexico
*Serve in leadership roles, at St. Mark’s and in the Diocese
*Serve in worship, especially on All-in Sundays
*Attend worship

*Volunteer in the nursery, help with VBS, serve as interns, acolytes, ushers, musicians, readers, join committees, and much more.

Please ask how you can be involved at St. Mark’s!
Youth@StMarks
Contact Kim Reed, Youth Ministry Coordinator Kimreed178@gmail.com or (630) 660-3611

Hey, High Schoolers!
Come join us!

St. Mark’s Wednesday Night
High School+ Youth Group
7:30pm to 9:00pm

Food, Friends, Discussion, and Fun

Winter/Spring Dates:
Feb. 3, 17 (Taize)
Mar. 2, 16 Apr. 6, 20
May 4, 18

Middle Schoolers!
Come to St. Mark's Wednesday Night
Middle School Youth Group

3rdWed@StMarks
7:30pm to 8:30pm in the library

WINTER/SPRING DATES:
Feb. 17 (Taize) Mar. 16 Apr. 20 May 18
End of School Year Celebration in June

1#&3rdWed@StMarks

Interested in going on the 2016 Mexico Mission Trip?

Current 8th graders and older (including adults) are eligible. Trip dates are June 13-18, 2016.
Commitment Meeting is Sunday, March 13, 2:30 p.m. in the library.
Deposits are due ($100 -- checks can be made out to St. Mark’s with "Mexico Trip" on the notation line).
For more information, contact Kim Reed, Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Important Dates in February

Wednesday, February 3
High School Youth Group at 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (Library)

Sunday, February 7:
Youth Bridge Group: PADS Lunches, Art with Cecilia and Beth, & Pizza at 11:45 a.m. (Library)

Wednesday, February 10:
Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 14:
Labyrinth at St. Mark's (Sunday School classes will visit!)

Wednesday, February 17:
Taize Service with Youth Participation (MS & HS) and Dinner

Sunday, February 28:
All-in Sunday (Youth participate in worship)

Follow St. Mark’s Youth on Facebook and Twitter! We have three private Facebook pages, one for Middle School, one for High School, and one for the Mexico Mission trip. We are in the process of creating one for the ASP trip. If you would like to join any of those pages, please let us know. You can also follow us on Twitter @stmarksyouthge1.
St. Mark’s is becoming a partner church with Bridge Communities

Bridge Communities, (www.bridgecommunities.org), is a charitable organization helping homeless, or at risk to be homeless, families in DuPage. Founded in 1988 Bridge Communities was formed on the model of providing housing for homeless families and also providing those families with intensive life-skills mentoring as well. This model has developed into an organization whose mission is: “to transition homeless families to self-sufficiency by working with partners to provide mentoring, housing, and supportive services.” The families, mostly single-mothers but also single-fathers, are screened for their ability to complete a two-year program. At the end of the two-year program the families will be employed, have savings, be able afford an apartment on their own, and, have the life-skills to be permanently transitioned away from homelessness and to be productive members of our community.

St. Mark’s started work on becoming a partner church with Bridge Communities in the fall of 2015. Bridge Communities has an excellent training program and five parishioners of St. Mark’s have completed the initial training and will continue with ongoing training over the two-year period. Two of St. Mark’s team will be mentors. Mentors meet with the parent(s) of the family weekly and they will be reviewing the client’s budget and teaching budgeting skills, reviewing job progress and training, and any and all facets of the family’s life which is part of their road to self-sufficiency. The mentors will be involved in the family’s life for two-years. In addition to the two mentors the family will interact with the Bridge Communities case manager and, likely, the team that will help the family find employment and develop any necessary skills for employment.

Bridge Communities provides tutors for the children and there is a space set up in the building which functions as a computer and resource room. There are life-skills counseling the parent(s) have to go through.

The program is more than providing a roof over the family’s head it is a transition out of homelessness.

This program works and has helped many families out of homelessness over the last 30 years.

So what will St. Mark’s be doing? First, there is the financial commitment which is approximately $1,000 a month. Second, there is a time commitment as our volunteers will be having ongoing training and the mentors will be meeting with our family once a week. We will meet our new family in February and find out what, if any, belongings our family may need. After our family is settled in then comes the hard part of making them ready to be self-sufficient in two-years. Please understand that during this two-year period we will not be able to talk about their progress or even to tell you their names. Once they graduate from the program we can then invite them to meet our parish.

Mary Elizabeth Lane is the lead mentor and Peggy Helig is the assistant mentor. Any questions or comments that you have about the St. Mark’s Bridge Communities ministry should be addressed to Mary Lane, “Mel”, at mel28forever@aol.com. Kim Toliver and Jim Grotelueschen are the the substitute mentors. David Dornblaser is the goods acquisition person. This is a new and exciting outreach ministry for St. Mark’s. Please join us in supporting Bridge Communities.

Tuesday Morning Music

For kids, age 0—5 and their parents, grandparents or caregiver!

An 8 week music and movement class.

Tuesdays, February 2 - March 22
9:30—10:15 a.m.

Room 204, across from Mahon Hall
Led by Miss Marsha
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Questions? Contact Marsha Webster 630-542-4677
musicassociate@stmarksglenellyn.org

Chorister Rehearsals Every Wednesday in the Choir Room

K-1st grade Choristers meet 4:00 – 4:40 and 2nd – 5th grade Choristers meet 4:45 – 5:30. New singers are always welcome. Each choir sings monthly, during the 9:15 worship service. We also have parties. And lots of fun. Come try us out!
### Instructed Seder
**March 2, at 6:30 p.m.**

St. Mark’s Wednesday night Lenten program series continues on March 2 with an instructed Seder, led by Linda Richman and Art Porton. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a simplified Seder, followed by a light supper. The event is suitable for families with children grade 4 and up.

The Passover Seder is a Jewish ritual feast that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover. The Seder is a ritual performed by a community or by multiple generations of a family, involving a retelling of the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. The Seder itself is based on the Biblical verse commanding Jews to retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt: "You shall tell your child on that day, saying, 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.'" (Exodus 13:8) Traditionally, families and friends gather in the evening to read the text of the Haggadah, which contains the narrative of the Israelite exodus from Egypt, special blessings and rituals, commentaries from the Talmud, and Passover songs. Questions? Pastor Robin Currie revdoc04@sbcglobal.net.

### Alliance for Smiles
On Wednesday, March 9, Mary Jensen from Alliance for Smiles will guide families in making blankets to comfort those undergoing cleft palate surgery. Dinner will be served at 6:30, followed by the activity. Alliance for Smiles organizes and sends surgical teams to sites for two week missions. A surgical team is comprised of approximately 15 medical volunteers, supported by approximately 5 non-medical volunteers. During a mission 70 to 100 underserved children receive surgery for cleft lip & palate anomalies. The AFS team works side-by-side with local medical practitioners to exchange ideas on proper medical techniques and procedures, as well as to provide follow-up care.

### Midweek events for Lent
- **Eucharist at noon every Wednesday**
- **Feb 17** Taize worship 7 PM
- **Feb 24**
- **Mar 2** Instructed Seder meal/dinner 6 PM
- **Mar 9** Alliance for Smiles projects/dinner 6:30 PM
- **Mar 16** Bobby Jo Valentine music/dinner 6:30 PM

### Jesus’ Stories Come Alive during Holy Week
**Maundy Thursday, March 24 - Agape Feast**
Join in this ancient Christian tradition of sharing a simple meal and foot washing at 6:00 p.m. in Mahon Hall followed by Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion and stripping of the altar.

**Good Friday, March 25**
**Children’s Dramatic Worship**
Follow in Jesus’ footsteps through Jerusalem. Begins in the church library at either 10 a.m. or 11 a.m.

**Easter Vigil March 26**
The new fire of Easter is lit in front of the church. Enter the darkness of the church and hear the words of hope before the lights come up and we sing our joyful songs.

**Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday, March 27 - Easter Day**
**Christ is Risen!**
Worship at 9:00, 11:15 a.m. or 1:00 p.m., Egg Hunt after each service!
Children’s Worship in room 123 with Pastor Robin at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m., 1:00 p.m.
2016 St. Mark’s Organ Concert Series Begins!

What better way to celebrate the completion of the extraordinary St. Mark’s organ than by placing it in the talented hands of some of the world’s most amazing and gifted players? The 2016 St. Mark’s Concert Series, made possible by the generosity of the parishioners of St. Mark’s, is offered free of charge to the greater Chicagoland community.

Friday, February 26, 7:30 PM
David Briggs:
The gala inaugural recital will be given by David Briggs, currently serving as organist for St. James Cathedral in Toronto, Canada. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and has served as Organ Scholar at King’s College, Cambridge.

Important Dates in February 2016

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<td>Ashes to go, worship at 7 am, noon, 7:30 pm</td>
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