



# THE LION'S MARK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR SAINT MARK'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA

A COMMUNITY THAT GATHERS IN FAITH, SERVES IN LOVE, AND PROCLAIMS HOPE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

## LIVING PEACEABLY IN A VIOLENT WORLD

**V**iolence and religion are hardly new acquaintances. We happen to live in a violent world in which we often see violence recruited in the supposed service of religion.

This situation is not an innovation; the Scriptures themselves are full of violence — not infrequently invoking the intentions of the Almighty. Even Jesus was not immune to the use of violent language, at least. The Cross's edges have been sharpened more than once to lead crusades. From within a garrisoned faith, however, a prophetic voice of peace has persistently asserted itself, and for Christians this voice finds its aim, its hope, and its reality in the person of Jesus, who, despite sometimes harsh talk, never took up a weapon, told others to put theirs away, and died at the hands of violent men. It is not for nothing that we sometimes call Jesus the Prince of Peace — for we see a witness to a deep and abiding peace in his teaching and in his preaching, in his suffering and in his death.

The church has not always been on the right side of violence (which is to say the opposite side). We have had to repent and amend our ways more than once, to lay down our arms and declare our fealty again to the Peaceful Prince whom we have betrayed. Perhaps it is in our DNA, since it was St. Peter who had to be told to sheathe his sword, since even St. Paul had to put aside his violent (childish) ways and turn to peace and own up to his weakness. We are prone to wander in the worst possible ways.

So much violence surrounds us, no matter how near or far we cast our gaze. Our own history as a church is soaked in blood — who can count the heads? Have we any ground to stand on if we search for peace in a violent world?

When I think of the great religious figures of the last century — a century of violence — I consider peaceful voices: Ghandi, Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King, Archbishop Tutu. Religion in the last century only really triumphed when it was wedded to a peaceful cause, driven by peaceful hopes, singing songs of peace. Perhaps this is why religion triumphed so seldom — the peaceful songs of Zion get stuck in our throats, while the whoops of war are belched out with ease.

These days we have been trained not even to hope for the triumph of religion, so much do we distrust the enterprise, even though we be people of faith. We know how prone to wander we are, and how effectively we do so in groups. And we know how unlikely it is for religion to wed herself to peace — to be faithful to her spouse.

But we should not give up on the marriage. There are so many things to argue about, to fight about, to wage war about, and a great industry has thrived at home and abroad engaging the arguments, taking up the fights, waging the wars. The church, to my ears, is called again to sing her peaceful songs, to dance harmlessly though it will put her in danger, to embrace lovingly her Prince of Peace and keep her lips close to his and let everyone watch as she embarrasses herself with public displays of peaceful affection for him.

The posture of peace that the church may be called to adopt is not, per se, a recipe for every social ill, or a prescription for public policy; it is, rather, a personal stance. I don't know what the answer is to racial tensions in America. I don't know how to address the proliferation of guns in our nation. I don't know what the solution is to the conflicts in the Middle East. I don't know how we will address immigration issues here. I don't know what will become of the world when we deplete our natural resources. But I know that there are ways of addressing these vexing matters that hew closely to peaceful solutions, and there are ways of addressing these matters that seek power through violence. Christians are beseeched to consider the peaceful way, and to long for a peaceable kingdom.

Peace almost always seems to be the weakling's way. And the church has chosen to emblazon herself with the weakling's sign: to take up the weakling's Cross, on which a weakling died at the hands of supposedly powerful men, and to lift it high as a banner. That banner has brought peace when saints have been willing to stand beneath it peaceably, rather than sharpen it as a sword. As we survey this violent world, we have a choice about whether to sharpen the cross to a point or to raise it high as a banner of peace. Only one choice will ever really lead to triumph, though it may cost us to leave the tip blunt.

— FR. SEAN MULLEN

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## FROM THE STEWARDSHIP CHAIRMAN...

Many of us, I am sure, when we hear the words “stewardship campaign,” we only think about pledge cards and the every-member canvass. Many of us might want to run for the hills. Yet stewardship is about much more than those weekly envelopes, just as St. Mark’s is more than the Sunday celebration of the Mass.

As members of St. Mark’s, we are part of the Body of Christ; we are more than just a checkbook. We are the hands of Christ serving in our community. As a community we not only donate to the upkeep of the church, but we sing in the choir, participate in the liturgy as a server or a lector, make soup for the Soup Bowl or serve it on Saturday mornings, volunteer at the St. James school, prepare food for the coffee hour, bag food in the Food Cupboard, do presentations at the Forum, or make visits through Caritas. The list of our activities is seemingly endless.

All of these ministries and activities are part of our stewardship of the gifts God has provided us. We have a God-given responsibility not only to minister those within the St. Mark’s community, but to the larger community we are sent out to serve. We provide our time, talent, and treasure in these endeavors.

The Stewardship Committee is charged with the task of helping to supply those resources, both human and material, needed to carry out these ministries, that the work of St. Marks can continue into future years. Committee this year is composed of Brett Hart, Diana Fryer, Phoebe Kornfeld, Daniel Green, Roy Clouser, and myself. You will be hearing more from us in due course.

— BARRY LEVIS

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## SAINT MARK’S CHOIR TOUR TO ENGLAND



The word “religion” is derived from the Latin “religio” which means to “link back”. It is fundamentally about connections and connecting to the life sustaining sources in which we all participate. In that sense, our trip to England was truly a Pilgrimage. For many of our choristers this was their first trip to England, let alone to Europe. I believe we all became acutely aware that we were participating in a daily round of offering sung prayer that is centuries old, in a sacred place in which the very

fabric was saturated with prayer.

*During our week, those stones echoed with the same words;*

*“O Lord, open thou our lips”*

*“O Lord, make speed to help us”*

*“Glory be the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost”*

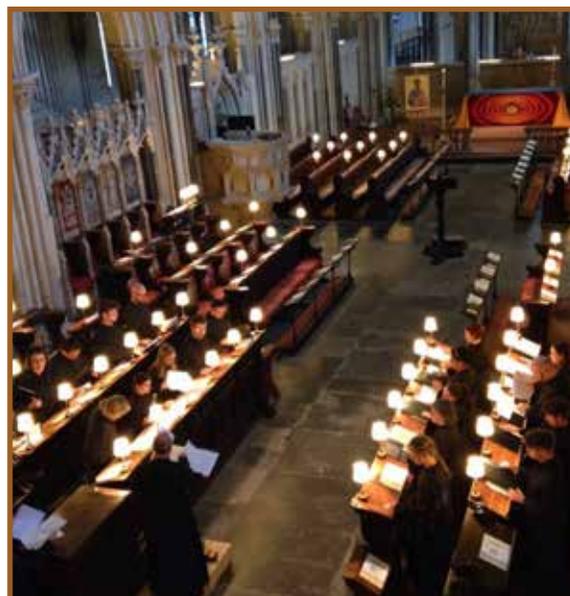
*“My Soul doth magnify the Lord”*

*“He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts”*

*“He hath filled the hungry with good things”*

*“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace”*

*“to be a light to lighten the gentiles”  
... and so on, “world without end,  
Amen”*



In a fun sense, it was incredible at our last Evensong in St George’s Chapel, Windsor to be shown to my music stand, realizing that I was staining directly over the graves of Jane Seymour, Henry VIII and Charles I. Singing an anthem by Gabriel Jackson with words by King Henry VI whose remains rested only a few feet away from where we sang.

In a more profound way, our music was offered on behalf of those not only present at the sung daily services, but most especially for those suffering in Iraq, Syria, Palestine and Israel as well as the continuous violence and bloodshed on our own country. Did our music matter? Is this really just about wearing silly robes and going through an ancient pageantry that is merely quaint and Anglophilic? I came to believe firmly that it DID matter. The fact that we were there, singing and imploring God for peace, justice and care, we became a living sacrifice as we offers our selves and bodies. Hopefully, our song could be used as a vessel to help turn people’s minds and hearts to other things, that we could all be reminded of the great light of the Incarnation that our God is the God of the poor, the lowly, the downtrodden and the oppressed, and that we are loved.

After Sunday Eucharist, I watched Mother Erika go around and blessing various members of our choir and felt eternally grateful for the beautiful, talented and slightly wacky (and ALWAYS lively) group of individuals, now linked together

in ways I couldn’t have anticipated. We were grounded and linked not only by our music, buy by Love Itself.

— MATTHEW GLANDORF

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## SUMMER CHOIR CAMPS FOR KIDS

During the first week of August, Saint Mark's Church was teaming with over 40 children and youth who participated in our Vacation Music School for children ages 3 — 8 and our Summer Choir Camp for children ages 9-15. The eighteen campers who were enrolled in our Summer Choir Camp included many choristers who already sing in the Boys and Girls Choir as well as other children from Philadelphia, New Jersey and Pittsburgh. Several of our campers who were new to Saint Mark's are planning to join the choir and begin participating this coming September!



The week-long camp included many activities, but first and foremost singing. Dr. Darryl Roland conducted 3 hours of rehearsals each day. Campers began by practicing in the choir room, singing a variety of vocal warm-ups, focusing on vowel production and placement, and learning new repertoire.

In the afternoon, campers moved to Saint Mark's church to rehearse in the elegantly carved choir stalls. During this rehearsal, we focused on polishing and refining music that we learned in the morning. We also practiced processing in and out of the church as well as standing and sitting in the choir stalls. Campers worked toward doing everything as an ensemble and with attention to detail. The rehearsal schedule was interspersed with two snack breaks and other activities.

Each morning included a presentation by a guest musician, including an opera singer, classical guitarist, organist, violinist and harpist. In addition to performing for our campers, these musicians described how they got interested in music and how their instrument was played. They also were available to answer many questions posed by our campers!

Drama instructors from the Walnut Street Theatre joined the Summer Choir Camp faculty to instruct our campers in improvisation. We discovered that being a part of an acting ensemble has a lot of similarities to being a part of a choral ensemble. Campers enjoyed practicing a variety of improvisational techniques, which provided a good deal of physical activity and movement. The camp day also included some time when campers could divide themselves into smaller groups, playing a variety of

board and card games as well as working on arts and crafts.

Family members of campers attended a final presentation where campers demonstrated what they had learned in the course of the week. Dr. Roland began by presenting a variety of choral techniques and directing several anthems and Walnut Street Theatre staff followed by leading the campers in several improvisations and a dramatic sketch. Campers had a lot of fun and felt a sense of pride in themselves for what they had accomplished in one week and parents were pleased to see, first hand, their children sing and act.

A big thank you to so many volunteers and staff members helped to make our week of music camps a success, helping with lunch, snacks, transitions, setups and much more, and to everyone helped to make our campers and their families feel welcomed and part of Saint Mark's community.

— DARRYL ROLAND

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## HOMECOMING SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 7

Our choirs and all other regular programs (Christian formation, etc) resume on Sunday, September 7, which we call Homecoming Sunday because so many of us are away for parts of the summer. It's a great time to return to the regular life of the church and to be joined again to your family in Christ at Saint Mark's. A picnic will take place in the parish gardens following the 11 am High Mass. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

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## THE RETURN OF THE SIMPLE SUPPER

Once again, our 20s/30s group at Saint Mark's gather together for monthly simple suppers. These get-togethers take place in the homes of our members and are a really wonderful way for our young adults to get to know one another better.

The dinners are as simple or as complicated as the host would like — the conversation is always engaging, the atmosphere relaxed, and there is always plenty of laughter. We also always take the time to have Mass together in the home with hearty, home-baked bread

and a glass of simple red wine. If you're new to Saint Mark's and interested in getting to know this 20s/30s group better, or if you've been a member for a while now and want to grow your relationships here, these Simple Suppers are for you. And friends, roommates, neighbors, and work colleagues are always welcome. Please take the time to put these dates on your calendar. Interested in hosting? There are just a few suppers still open for 2014-2015. Contact Mother Takacs, and she'll be happy to add you to our list!

Our first Simple Supper of the program year will take place on Wednesday, September 17, at 6:30 pm at the home of Matthew Fischetti. For directions, and to RSVP, please contact Mother Takacs.

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### UPCOMING DATES

*All Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
unless otherwise noted*

September 17  
October 15  
November 19  
December 10  
January 21  
February 11  
March 18  
April 15  
May 20  
June 17

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## SAINT MARK'S FAMILIES

Fall doesn't just mean back to school — it means the beginning of all of our family activities here at Saint Mark's. Just weeks after the joy of our Vacation Choir Camps, we are back to our normal schedule for the program year, with weekly children's formation both with our Boys and Girls Choir and Schola.

Schola is a unique Sunday school program that incorporates singing, music theory, and musical games into a faith-based curriculum. Each week, our students sing together and learn more about the language of music. They also spend time learning about worship leadership, praying together, and learning Bible stories. Schola, now in its third year, is led by Mother Takacs and David Stoverschlegel, a member of our choir and professional music educator, as well as by countless volunteers who join us for Bible stories, games, and arts education. Schola begins at 10:00 am on Sunday, September 7 upstairs in the Parish Library.

And our family activity schedule is very full this fall! All families are welcome to join us for these activities, and remember — neighbors, family, and classmates are always invited too.

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## WELCOME NEW MINISTRY RESIDENTS!

On Saturday, August 16, a new cohort of Servant Year residents will be moving into the Saint Mark's rectory. Two of those residents will be working here at Saint Mark's. Ellen Doster, a recent graduate of The University of the South at Sewanee, will be our ministry resident for Children and Family Ministry, and James Roll, a recent graduate of Kenyon College, will be heading up our Outreach Ministries. Ellen and James bring unique gifts to Saint Mark's and a passion for doing good work in God's name. Please join us on Sunday, August 31, for a special coffee hour to welcome all of the residents of Saint Mark's house!



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## BLESSING OF ANIMALS OCT 5 • 3:30 PM

Every year on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Francis of Assisi we gather in the west garden with our pets to give thanks to God for them and so our pets can be prayed over and blessed. So many of us have so many reasons to be grateful for the gifts given to us by our pets and other animals. Please plan to come with your pets on Sunday, October 5 at 3:30 pm in the garden. Then bring your dogs and cats, and anything that will fit in the door into church to join us for Evensong at 4 pm, when we sing God's praises. By custom at Saint Mark's, the Rector reads as one of the lessons at Evensong the wonderful story of St. Francis

and the Wolf of Gubbio.

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## WEDDINGS AT SAINT MARK'S

Saint Mark's is not only much sought out as a place to be married, quite a lot of love from within our parish family is blessed in God's sight here, too. In the next seven weeks your clergy are conducting no less than 13 weddings for couples from within and without the parish. Please pray for all those who are married in this place, and give thanks for them!

# FAMILY EVENTS

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## A FAMILY BRUNCH

All are welcome to join us for our first family brunch of the season on Sunday, September 28, at 10:00 am in the Saint Mark's Gardens. This is during our normal Schola time, but children and parents both are welcome to join in the fun. Bring your favorite brunch nibbles to share, and we'll spend some time playing, sharing delicious food, and getting to know each other better.

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## A TRIP TO LINVILLA ORCHARDS

On Saturday, October 4, our Saint Mark's Families will travel to Linvilla Orchards for a fun fall afternoon of hay rides, pumpkin picking and apple butter eating. We will meet at Saint Mark's at 10:00 for Mass and then out to Delaware County to this classic Philadelphia fall destination.

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## MAKIN' SOUP WITH RAY!

Join our resident chef Ray Moderski to help make soup for our guests at the Saturday Soup Bowl. What a wonderful way to share in some time together as a family (and as a church family) and to help those who are hungry in our city. Meet us at 11:00 a.m. in the parish hall kitchen on Saturday, November 22.

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## COOKIE BAKING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

On Saturday, December 20, at 11:00 a.m., all are welcome to join us in the Parish Kitchen for cookie baking and decorating as we trim our tree and prepare to move from the season of Advent into Christmas. Join us for all kinds of fun and games. All are welcome!

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## AND THE FUN GOES ON...

Hold the date for a fun family movie night on Friday, January 16! There will be popcorn and laughs a plenty.

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# A REFLECTION

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## STEWARDSHIP AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Joining the tide of people on Commitment Sunday at Saint Mark's as we walk forward to place our pledge cards into the earthen vessel under the Rood Beam with its awe-inspiring crucifix is a powerful experience. For me, it is akin to Easter morning when we all break into song with "Jesus Christ is risen today" after the almost unbearable wait to do so. Being part of that moment when we are all at the same time actively coming together to witness to our faith, to commit our resources to sustain and grow the good works of our parish is joyfully reassuring. This is all the more so for me when I think of the non-linear path that led me to decide to join that flow of people about five years ago.

Let's skip my growing up on Long Island, raised by loving, God-fearing parents, college upstate New York and in Austria, teaching German in London, graduate school in North Carolina and research in Germany and Africa for a Ph.D. in political science, teaching history in France, and then law school en route to becoming an attorney practicing internationally.

Let's just focus on events of this millennium, which started with my accepting a job in Germany as a lawyer for a California-based biotech company and led to my recent early retirement. For my new job in 2000, I moved from London to the lovely university city of Marburg on the beautiful Lahn River. It was a busy, exciting time. The travel was constant and varied, and included regular trips from Europe to California to work at the company's headquarters for a week at a time. You might say it was a taste of life in the fast lane.

Eventually, that same company brought me back to the U.S., first to San Francisco and finally to Philadelphia, and it was then that my thoughts turned to finding a place to worship and receive the sacraments regularly. While I was in Germany, I did not consider becoming a member of a church. I objected to the Kirchensteuer, the additional church tax that would be levied if I responded that I was Protestant to the question on my income tax form as to whether I was Catholic or Protestant. The principle of separation of Church and State is deeply ingrained in me, and I value highly transparency with respect to the use of any organization's funds. As deep as my sense of duty may be to

give thanks to the Lord at all times, for me, in Germany, it was one thing to give as generously as possible when the offerings were collected on Sunday, and entirely another to submit to a state-levied tax that would disappear into an impenetrable bureaucracy.

Here at Saint Mark's I have great confidence that our pledges are being transparently applied to good works for the glory of God. The leadership and example set by the Saint Mark's clergy in their sermons and actions day in and day out are a constant reminder of the Rector's summary last year as to why we pledge, namely, that Jesus is the case. The missions and work to which Saint Mark's is dedicated, so appropriate for this 21st century inner-city parish and its future generations, give us daily the opportunity to fulfill Jesus' commandments and witness to His love. Through our pledges, with all of us pulling together, so much more can be accomplished by the Saint Mark's community than could possibly be accomplished by any individual alone.

Since taking early retirement recently, I have been using this blessing of time to progress a few family history projects. My Jewish grandfather had fled Germany in 1935 with his two teenage sons, my father and his brother. Their mother was Christian, and so too were the boys, but she had died in the 1920's, and my grandfather was thankfully clear-thinking enough to understand that because of his Jewish heritage, he and his boys would not be safe in Nazi Germany. At almost 50 years of age, he left everything behind for a new life in the U.S.

With the death of my father two years ago, as the only German-speaker left in the family, I inherited my grandfather's German-language books and family papers in a few boxes covered in thick dust at the back of the attic of my father's house. As I translate some of the materials for my siblings and their children, I have gained a greater understanding of the often serious struggles faced by the refugee émigrés as they forged a new life here in the U.S. for themselves and for their children.

One of several treasures preserved in the boxes from the attic was my German grandparents' September 30, 1918 wedding album. My grandmother had used the wedding album as the basis for a family scrapbook of sorts, with entries about important family events and the occasional postcard or letter taped in as well. I have found it fairly easy to translate, with much of the handwriting being quite legible, although recently I hit a brick wall trying to decipher the handwriting in one of the letters to my grandmother.

In November of 1919, my grandmother made an entry in the wedding album that she was happier than she had ever been in her life, because she had just learned that she was pregnant with her first child. Just after that entry is the difficult-to-decipher letter from a man with the initials AW. I could read enough of AW's letter to understand that he was congratulating my grandmother on the wonderful news she had written to him about and telling her how deeply moved he was that she had invited him to be a godparent to the child, a role he would gladly accept.

Figuring that if my grandmother had asked AW to be a godparent to her first child, she must have thought AW was special, I took a break from trying to decipher his handwriting and searched online to see if I could discover anything about him. To my great surprise, I not only learned something about AW, but I even caught a glimpse of why my grandmother might have considered him to be special.

It turns out that AW was a talented German economist who was raised as a Christian by a Jewish mother and a Christian father. When the Nazi's came to power in Germany, AW and his sister lived in Berlin with their widowed mother. She committed suicide at their home in 1942 when the SS came to take her away to a concentration camp, but AW and his sister managed to live out the war in Berlin.

For two years during the post-war housing shortage, AW hosted a theologian studying in Berlin to become a pastor, and years later that pastor wrote about AW and why AW was special to him. The pastor recalled a conversation when AW described how difficult some of his experiences had been and how through it all he had relied often on a verse from the Gospel of St. Mark that AW thought would be important to the pastor also: "For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" (Mark 8:36)

I will be thinking of AW and the Gospel verse that lit his path in dark times when I join others on Commitment Sunday at Saint Mark's this year to walk forward to place my pledge card into the earthen vessel for the glory of God and in thanksgiving for all of His blessings. -

— PHOEBE KORNFELD

# MEDICAL MISSION IN HONDURAS

Early in July fourteen members and friends of Saint Mark's travelled to Honduras to run, for the third time in six years, a free medical clinic, in cooperation with the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras.



Many thanks to Ken Pearlstein for his excellent leadership! Kenny reports that over 600 patients were seen in the four and half days the clinic was open. We toted 800 lbs of supplies and 150 lbs of Phillies baseball paraphernalia (including 100 nap sacks, T-shirts and baseballs, one for each student belonging to the Episcopal school adjacent to the church where we set up clinic). Kingsway Charities, our primary medical supplier, donated \$16,601.95 in medical supplies. We also experienced considerable success fundraising online with more than \$6,000 of contributions from parishioners and friends.



We are particularly grateful to Dr. Corinna Franklin for assuming responsibility for all pharmaceuticals under the umbrella of her hard-earned medical license. Thanks, too, to Drs. Rey Ramirez, Janet Hines and Michelle Moreschi. Special thanks to Bob and Bonnie Dettore for helping manage the budget and for securing a spectacular array of gifts from the Phillies organization!

This year we really deepened the ties to the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras, who had organized a team to work with us as interpreters and helpers of all kinds. Honduras remains a place of great poverty, violence, and struggle, and we know that our small effort makes only a tiny dent in these big issues. But we hope we had a slightly larger impact on the lives of those we served. They certainly had an impact on us, reminding us of our common humanity, and the bonds of faith that point us all toward the same hope in Christ, and toward his love.



## A HEAVENLY BANQUET

This past June, in a session on theology and sexuality, the 10:00 Sunday Forum talked about the church as a banquet.

It's a metaphor we've all heard many times, but writer James Alison has extended it in a particularly compelling way. He asks us to think about Jesus as an extraordinarily talented chef who invites us to a wonderful meal because he thinks we are the kind of people who will truly enjoy it. The invitation tells us not only how superb Jesus is as a chef, but how refined our own sense of spiritual taste may become:

*You have been invited for two reasons, which are really one: because the Chef likes you, and because he wants to feed you. In fact, this is the Chef's way of showing that he delights in you: by feeding you of his very best in such a way that makes you even more aware of how aristocratic, privileged, and fortunate you are. The food is a sign of his delighting in you, and at the same time a nourishment that will put you into a rollicking good humour. Thus it will both enable you to think more imaginatively, and give you the energy to realise whatever it is that your growing good humour suggests that you would really like to accomplish. <http://www.jamesalison.co.uk/texts/eng66.html>*

"Aristocratic? Privileged?" These are not words that we typically associate with Christian humility and service. Nor is "rollicking good humour," for that matter. But Alison wants us to think about being aristocratic and privileged because he wants us to know that as Christians we are born and bred to have a deep appreciation for God's handiwork. And that should put us in a good humor when it comes to serving others.

Alison is bold to suggest that as we spend more and more time with God we may come to appreciate God ever more deeply. Our joy in God's creativity lives deep in us, waiting to draw us ever nearer to God and also send us out into the world to create as God creates. The hope is that we learn so much about the beauty of God's holiness and the abundance of God's love that we forget about what kind of people we are and revel in sharing what God is. The more we refine our taste for God's banquet, the more we become focused on the chef and on sharing the beautiful food with people who haven't tasted it yet.

That sense of joy in God is close to what many of us experience in prayer and worship, and it's a sense that our parish cultivates unabashedly. At the Sunday Forum we aim to deepen our joy in tasting the fruits of God's labor. Like guests at a wonderful meal, we read the menu with a sense of eager anticipation and we can't wait to talk about what our host has done for us. Rest assured that the sous chefs at Saint Mark's have been working on some terrific new dishes to share with you. Stay tuned to these pages and be sure to check us out online at <http://www.saintmarksphiladelphia.org/forum/> for ongoing updates! You are cordially invited to revel with us in God's fine work.

— MOTHER NORA JOHNSON

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# SUNDAY 10:00 FORUM

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## FAITH IN THE WORLD

These are turbulent times, and we at Saint Mark's want to explore all the issues further and reach out as energetically as possible to the world around us. Join the Forum this season for a sustained meditation on our place in the world. We will hear about important outreach programs that impact our parish: Servant Year, the medical mission to Honduras, the Saint James School. We will also hear about worldly connections: faith and money, and faith and the arts. A special focus this semester will be aimed at helping us understand more about the roots of religious violence and conflict in our world. Join Prof. Phil Cary in an exploration of the book of Jonah, probing ideas about God, punishment, and justice in the Jewish and Christian traditions, and Prof. Roy Clouser in an introductory exploration of Islamic traditions and teachings. Let's join together as a church that learns about the world as well as praying for it and serving in it.

COME BY FOR A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE, STAY FOR A GREAT CLASS AND A ROUSING DISCUSSION!

All classes meet in the parish hall at 10:00, ending in time for the 11:00 Mass. Contact Mother Nora Johnson if you have questions or would like to hear more: [njohnso1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:njohnso1@swarthmore.edu).

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### SEPTEMBER 7 | HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Meet the Servant Year Interns! Lindsay Barrett-Adler, Director of Servant Year, introduces us to the interns who will be working and living at Saint Mark's this year and tells us more about the program throughout the diocese. Come help us kick off another fruitful year of collaboration with this important service program.

### SEPTEMBER 14 | SAINT MARK'S MISSION TO HONDURAS

Hear from Father Mullen and members of the team that made a medical mission trip to Honduras this past July. The team found themselves particularly moved by the children who flocked to them while they were working in Puerto Cortez, and their thoughts about the plight of Honduran children on our borders are especially urgent.

### SEPTEMBER 21 | SCHOOL SUNDAY

Come hear the latest news about our beloved Saint James School, from members of the staff and their supporters. There are wonderful new developments to celebrate!

### SEPTEMBER 28 | STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES: THE BOOK OF JONAH

A comic masterpiece about going to hell and back, and what this has to do with learning to love people we'd rather see dead. Also, the joke's on us. To hear why, come hear parishioner Prof. Phil Cary, author of a commentary on the book of Jonah. First session of a four-part series, continuing October 5, 12, and 19.

### OCTOBER 5 | STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES: THE BOOK OF JONAH, PART TWO.

### OCTOBER 12 | STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES: THE BOOK OF JONAH, PART THREE

### OCTOBER 19 | STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES: THE BOOK OF JONAH, PART FOUR

### OCTOBER 26 | THINKING ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

Members of the Stewardship speak to us about the lively, creative work they are doing to support the parish, and about the place that stewardship has in their own lives. This is a good time to ask questions and grow in understanding about what it means that God's riches are partly in our own hands.

### NOVEMBER 2 | BLOOMSBURY GOES TO CHURCH: THE RELIGIOUS ART OF DUNCAN GRANT AND VANESSA BELL

Parishioner John Williams will discuss and show religious murals that Bloomsbury painters Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell did in an Anglican country parish and Lincoln Cathedral. Both Grant and Bell were at best irreligious, but these works speak to a deeper level of understanding God through art. Mr. Williams received a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida and was a Humanities adjunct instructor there, teaching among other classes, a course on the Bloomsbury Group.

### NOVEMBER 9 | AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

Parishioner Roy Clouser, Emeritus Prof. of Philosophy and Religion, will teach a three part introduction to Islam, providing theological and historical background to help us think about contemporary issues in faith and politics. Series continues on November 16 and 23.

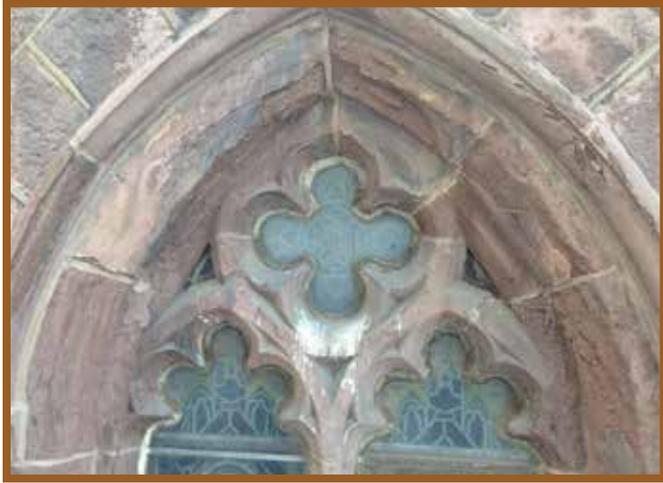
### NOVEMBER 16 | AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM, PART TWO

### NOVEMBER 23 | AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM, PART THREE

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# SAVING A TREASURE

After years of planning, preparation and fund-raising, our historic preservation project, Saving A Treasure, is now underway.



For weeks already this summer masons have been chipping away the old mortar from between the sandstone blocks of the façade up at the highest, clerestory, level, readying those stones for repair and rehabilitation. Protective glazing has been removed from the upper-most stained-glass windows that will soon be removed for cleaning and restoration. And our roofer has been hard at work making lots of repairs before undertaking his big section of the project, the replacement of the north and south aisle roofs, which can't take place till after the masonry is repaired.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, we have received pledges of support that get us almost 90% of the way to our fund-raising goals and the cost of this project (\$1.85 million). A generous donor has challenged us to raise \$150,000 and pledged to match it if we do.

This is the first major project of restoration we have undertaken in nearly 30 years. We need everyone in the parish and all our friends to help us reach our goal, and if you haven't yet made a pledge, this is the time to do it. With work

already begun, we need to reach our fundraising goal by October 31. Please make a gift to this important work of saving a treasure, and ensure that Saint Mark's ministries continue in this beautiful and historic building for generations to come.

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CONTACT FR. MULLEN FOR INFO ON HOW TO PLEDGE.



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2ND ANNUAL RUN FOR THE STUDENTS OF ST. JAMES SCHOOL

**SAT SEPT 6 8AM**  
LLOYD HALL ON KELLY DRIVE

5K & 1 Mile Kids' Run • Walkers Welcome!  
VIP After Party at Vesper Boat Club!

**REGISTER NOW!** [www.StJamesPhila.org/RUN](http://www.StJamesPhila.org/RUN)  
OR come out and register same day