



THE LION'S MARK

THE NEWSLETTER OF SAINT MARK'S CHURCH

AUTUMN 2008

ISSUE 20

The Mission of God

It is amazing to me how easily we have taken in stride the landings, in the past few years, of several spacecraft on Mars. These are amazing feats of engineering and imagination that have extended the reach of human knowledge and experience. Following established custom, NASA refers to its various Mars exploration programs as "missions". The use of the term for space exploration makes sense: someone on a mission is "sent out," just as the rockets and their unmanned landing craft are blasted off - sent out - into the sea of stars.

In the church, where the idea of a mission comes from, we are often confused by the term. We use it in different ways at different times, and it can easily sound like a bit of ecclesiastical jargon. But perhaps thinking about NASA's missions to Mars can help us remember what it means to talk about the church's "mission".

The folks at NASA are not responding to some plea for a visit from Martians. The idea for a mission to Mars had to exist first in the mind of some scientist or politician, or both; the thought being that it would be a good idea to go to Mars and see what we can do there. Then the people with the idea had to find a way to make it happen - gather a team, make a plan, figure out how to pay for it. And then the plan had to be implemented: the rockets ordered, the landing craft built, the journey mapped out, the countdown, the launch, and on into space. The results of recent missions to Mars have been quite stunning - just to go by the visual evidence that you and I have seen in the news. But the mission began in the minds of those who did the sending, not with those that were sent.



Fr. Sean Mullen

The mission of the church is similar. The church's mission begins in the mind of God. God has in mind a plan to extend the knowledge and experience of his mercy and love in the world. For reasons not always clear to us, God relies on us, his

church, to plan out details of that basic mission, to give it particular shape in specific times and places, and to find a way to pay for the work that must be done.

Then, with his grace, he enables us to implement the mission: to order what supplies we need, to build what structures we require, to map out the journey and eventually to launch out into the seas of human need. There is a lot of work for the church to do, but the

idea of the mission was not ours, nor is it primarily a response to a cry from afar.

God plants the idea of his mission in our hearts and whispers (or shouts) in our ears to go out and do it!

This summer, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania agreed to my proposal that Saint Mark's should be allowed to adopt the Church of Saint James the Less in North Philadelphia as a mission of our parish. What does this mean? First and foremost it means that we have an opportunity to extend the knowledge and experience of the mercy and love of God. It means that to meet that opportunity we are being sent out beyond the comfortable confines of our beautiful piece of Locust Street. It means that God is giving us work to do: to plan and resource a meaningful program of transformation with those who will become our new neighbors - albeit at a farther remove (5.5 miles away). And it means that we will have to take the lead in finding ways of implementing a program of worship, learning and service to accomplish the transfor-

mation that comes when the Gospel is meaningfully engaged.

Saint James the Less stands right now as a beautiful but empty place - vacated (reluctantly) more than two years ago by the community of worshippers there who had grown disaffected with the Episcopal Church. The lovely buildings there were sturdily built to function as an enduring outpost of the mission of God; emptiness - especially in an area of the city so near to significant poverty and need - does not become them. To my thinking they represent an obvious opportunity for the extension of the knowledge and experience of God's mercy and love in the world. And I believe that God has been whispering (or shouting) in my ears for some time to do something about this opportunity.

It is critical to remember that the mission begins in the mind of God. It is a gift that comes by our willingness and desire to discern what we can of the mind of God that we become partners in the work of that mission. It is God's idea to extend the reach of the knowledge and experience of his mercy and love in the world. That was the very idea God shared with Mary when Gabriel visited her to tell her what holy thing God would conceive in her by the Holy Spirit. It is our challenge to give that mission particular shape in specific times and places, as we bring Jesus into the world in other ways.

How astonishing it is that we can take almost for granted the notion that we can send robots on missions to Mars! And yet in the church we find it daunting (I must admit, I do) to imagine a mission just 5.5 miles away in a different part of our own city. But if this mission really has come to us from the mind of God, who asks us to do what we can to extend the reach of his mercy and love in the world, what choice do we have but to prepare to launch?

A SEASON OF CELEBRATIONS

Growing up as a Lutheran, I remember one of the great debates 25 years ago was whether or not to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday. Those against the weekly practice always used the argument that it would cease to be "special". Similar arguments went like this: "Communion is a Feast. You can't have a Feast EVERY week!" How the

party pooper Lutherans of my childhood would cringe at the dizzying shameless celebration of beauty in the architecture and liturgy of Saint Mark's. However, the catholic tradition teaches that God's sacrifice and outpouring of grace is offered on our altars, not only weekly, but daily! Indeed, for us, every day is a feast. Part of the fun of selecting the music for the Mass

week in and week out is that every Sunday is an opportunity to offer music ranging from Gregorian Chant to the motets of Palestrina. The barn burners of the Victorian Romantics to the newest compositions of our very own James Testa or England's Roxanna Panufnik.

--Matt Glandorf

This season let us highlight five spectacular musical events.

October 5th: We give thanks for the lives of our pets with a special St. Francis Day Evensong. The choir will sing Kenneth Leighton's *Preces and Responses*, *Magnificat and Nunc dimittis* in G of Herbert Sumsion and John Rutter's spectacular double choir motet *Hymn to the Creator of Light*. It is always a most wonderful experience to offer Evensong with all of God's creatures great and small. Our experience each year has proved that the adage is indeed true "Music soothes the savage beast" (William Congreve).

October 12th is the birthday of Ralph Vaughan Williams, and 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of his death. In response to a request of the Archbishop of Canterbury (believe it or not) the choir will offer his setting of the Mass in G Minor, composed for Westminster Cathedral, London. Vaughan Williams, most famously known as the composer of *For all the Saints* was instrumental in shaping the voice of Anglican Church music of the 20th century. Combining the techniques and modal counterpoint of the Tudor period and English Folksong with the lushness of the French school (particularly Ravel and Debussy) he made a sensation with his *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* in 1910. Other minor anthems of his will also be sung on that day.

October 19th has been designated as "International Organ Day" in which organ recitals will be given all over the country. Diane and I will be offering a special program that Sunday afternoon at 4pm with solo works, improvisations duets and the American premiere of *Kyrie cum Jubilo* by Roxanna Panufnik (b. 1968) who has been a guest at Saint Mark's when our choir gave the Philadelphia premiere of her *Westminster Mass*. Mark your calendars and bring friends to hear our fine Aeolian-Skinner landmark instrument!

On **November 3rd**, we commemorate the Feast of All Souls with a solemn Requiem Mass. This year the Saint Mark's choir will offer Tomas Luis da Victoria's *Missa Pro Defunctis a 6* with member of Piffaro, the Renaissance windband accompanying on cornettos and sackbuts. (The sackbut is the forerunner of the trombone). We are always quite moved and humbled by the opportunity to offer the Mass of the Dead on behalf of beloved, faithful departed in the parish and our families and friends.

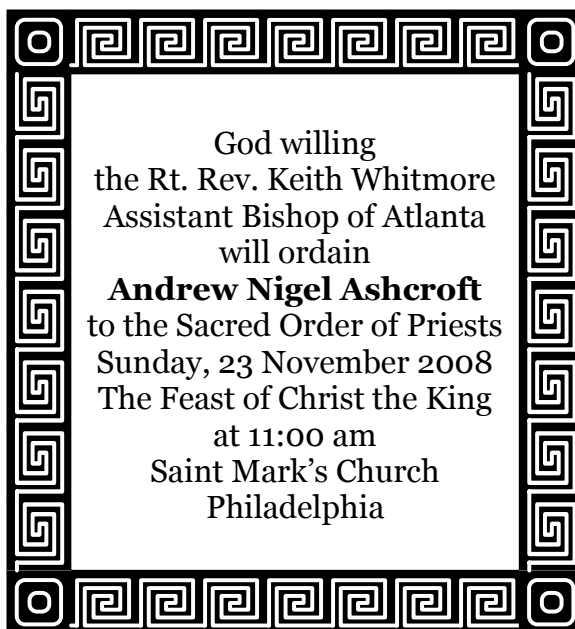
On **November 16th**, The Curtis Institute of Music will present Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* at Saint Mark's at 4 pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Tuesday Concert Series:

This Fall, the weekly concerts, *More Than Just Organ*, move from Wednesdays to Tuesdays. Please check the concert schedule to make sure you don't miss any of the talented performers or great, free concerts.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CURATE

What a great pleasure to be writing to you as your new curate! I wanted to share a little about myself, so that you have a sense of the experiences and interests that I am bringing to St. Mark's. I was born in Cape Town, South Africa to an American mother and an English father. My father was ordained in the Anglican Church of South Africa and I grew up watching him minister in the midst of apartheid. We moved to a parish in Minnesota, which is where I did the rest of my growing up. I attended Gordon College in Massachusetts, where I majored in English, history and philosophy. I spent my junior year at Oxford University studying church history and Christian spirituality, where I began to think about ordination. After graduating from college, I spent a year working in a small Anglo-Catholic parish and in the publishing industry, and then the Diocese of Massachusetts sent me to Yale Divinity School and Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. During my 2nd year at Yale, I spent time work-



ing at "Ground Zero" and after that experience decided to take some time off to work, get married to Jennye, and do some thinking about ordination. I spent three years in corporate life, and three years working as a finish carpenter in Scottsdale, Arizona. While I was in Arizona, I became friends with some Anglican Benedictine monks, who eventually sat me down and told me that I needed to go back to seminary. I spent a semester at Nashotah House, a small Anglo-Catholic seminary in Wisconsin, and then finished my final year at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. At General, my wife and I welcomed our first child, a little daughter that we named Esme Beverly, who has turned out to be quite wonderful and quite a hand-

ful. In May of this year, I graduated from General, was ordained a deacon and Esme was baptized at the same time, in the Chapel at General. And now we are tremendously excited to move to Philadelphia and become a part of the community of St. Mark's. I look forward to meeting and worshipping with you.

--Andrew Ashcroft

St Mark's to Adopt a Homeless Family

For the last few months Saint Mark's has been working with ECS to help support a homeless family setting into permanent housing. We have learned that our family is a mother with four children, ages 10 months to five years, including a three year old with cerebral palsy. The mother works 40 hours a week as a nurse's aide. The family will need furniture, linens, kitchen equipment and pantry items, including tupperware type storage containers and cleaning supplies. On October 17th we will have a special party here at Saint Mark's at which time we will invite the parish and guests to help the

family out with appropriate gifts. A more detailed list will be available in the beginning of September. We are planning a wine and cheese party in the Rectory on October 17th for those who would like to donate any of the items on the list or help with moving these things to our family's new apartment. Of the 28 families, ECS has settled, 26 have been successful. We are excited that Saint Mark's can join in their effort and we're hoping to see all of you for a fun party on the 17th. For additional information, call Juli Reddy, at 215 545-7626, or Katherine Sullivan at 215 893-0311.

Roof Update

Phase one of the Saint Mark's roof rehabilitation project is nearing completion. John Reynolds and his crew are preparing to move to the church's west end, having nearly completed repairs on the south aisle and nave.

Once again, a substantial amount of rotted wood plate was found in the aisle and altar gutters which both slowed the pro-

gress of the project and deposited quite a bit of dust inside the church. We appreciate everyone's understanding during this time and are confident that the great attention to detail and the high quality of the work that is being done will far outweigh this temporary inconvenience.



South East Altar Gutter Before



South East Altar Gutter After

Who is paying to fix our Roof?

For many months now excellent craftsmen led by John Reynolds have been rebuilding the copper gutters on the church roof. The complexity and detail of this work has astonished me, as has the expertise and skill of John and his men. They are doing excellent work that will last for many years to ensure the integrity of our beautiful church building. Within a month or two they will conclude the first phase of the project – we still have several more phases to go before all our roofs are repaired and watertight!

This work has been made possible by capital gifts bequeathed to the church by faithful members in their wills. Cliff Crowers, Keith DeVries, Peter Arxer, Charlotte Maurer, Tony and Carmella Badagliacco are to thank, in various measure, for enabling this important

work, as well as the funding of the Master Plan to continue the preservation of our historic buildings, and ensure their use for the mission of the Gospel. Without their generosity, it might not have been impossible to do the work we are undertaking, but it would hurt an awful lot!

Each of those wonderful, faithful members of this parish remembered Saint Mark's in their wills. Bequests of this kind are of invaluable assistance to the parish in addressing the needs of a large, beautiful and historic physical plant without diverting resources from mission and ministry. Another significant gift to the parish – a bequest of more than \$1 million from beloved Tony Ridgeway received last year - has greatly strengthened the endowments of this parish.

Every one of us who worships at Saint Mark's is indebted to the generosity of

these good people.

Reflecting on that generosity begs the question: Have you remembered Saint Mark's in your will? Are you able to plan for a gift to this parish to ensure that others find here what you have found? Every parish knows what's special about it. Not every parish enjoys the long legacy of generosity that this parish does. Not every parish has the example of recent members continuing that legacy that this parish does. And not every parish has the promise and potential to continue to grow in mission and ministry that this parish has. Please consider prayerfully if you can include as part of your legacy a gift to Saint Mark's that helps us continue to respond to God's challenge to build his kingdom right here on Locust Street.

— Fr. Sean Mullen

YOU ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SAINT MARK'S FAMILY

This past Spring when the Vestry agreed to contract with John Milner Architects to produce a Master Plan for the buildings and grounds of the parish they established two broad goals in laying out the scope of the plan:

- preserve and enhance the beauty and structural integrity of this National Historic Landmark for future generations.
- ensure that the ministries of Saint Mark's are carried out in a modern, safe, and secure physical plant.

Be Part of the Master Plan

During the summer months architects, conservators, engineers, and various other experts have been looking, crawling, and climbing around all three of our buildings to assess their condition and to propose appropriate steps for historic preservation. Late last spring the architects began talking with the Vestry and leaders of various ministries to assess how well the buildings function as space for ministry and looking for ways to improve usability and accessibility. It's im-

portant that every member of the parish have an opportunity to provide input in this process as we think about the historic preservation of our buildings and especially about the utilization of space. To that end, we have asked the architects to come to spend a Sunday morning in conversation with anyone and everyone who is able to come to provide feedback and ideas about the preservation and use of our buildings and gardens. Architect Christopher Miller will lead the discussions on

Sunday, 28 September, in the Parish Hall. The first session will be from 9:45am to 10:45 am. The second session will be from 12:45 pm to 1:45 pm. Anyone who wants may attend. Questions and ideas are encouraged. You might have an idea that no one else has thought of, so even if it seems crazy or impossible, you might as well mention it – who knows?! Please make some time to be a part of this important discussion about our plans for this parish.

...and Join in Planning for Ministry

In our planning for the future of the Parish, the clergy and Vestry have talked about the need to imagine where we'd like the parish to be five or ten years from now. We know that it is the vibrancy and fruitfulness of our ministries - propelled by a happy and healthy parish community - that will enable us to achieve the kinds of things we dream about. We are asking leaders of various Ministries to come together at a **Ministry Summit on Tuesday, 7 October at 6 pm in the Parish House** to begin to talk about medium-to-long-term goals in our various Ministry Areas. All those who serve or who have served in leadership positions of ministries are encouraged to attend. In

time we will follow-up this discussion with an opportunity for everyone in the parish to comment on the goals we begin to articulate. Beginning to talk about these goals will also help us as we conclude the Master Plan later in the year. We can try to decide if we feel we have the programs, the staff and the facilities to achieve our goals. This way we can make decisions about modifying our goals or working harder to grow to achieve them. If you are wondering if you should come to this meeting, chances are you should! You can always contact one of the parish clergy to help you decide.

...and Prepare for Stewardship

After reading the inspirational message from our Stewardship Team, we should begin to assess the extent of our involvement in Saint Mark's., the benefits we take away from this place, and our ability to contribute to it's growth and development. We should also mark our calendars and be sure to attend the parish brunch at the Racquet Club. As with all else we do, stewardship at Saint Mark's is enjoyable and inspiring, and worthy of our efforts.

A Message from the Stewardship Team

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is the last year for Yankee Stadium. As a boy growing up in Kansas City in the 1950s, where the American League Kansas City Athletics were derisively known as a "farm team" for the Yankees -- we did send them Roger Maris, among others-- I have mixed feelings about its' demise.

But God uses even the most godforsaken places to make His purposes known. John Paul II held a Mass in Yankee Stadium Kansas City there during his first visit as pope in 1979. There he recalled us to something fundamental: the poor, he said, "are your brothers and sisters in Christ. You must never be content to leave them just the crumbs from the feast. You must take of your substance, and not just your abundance. And you must treat them like guests at your family table."

To be fully Christian, we need to give of our substance, our inner core as persons, and not just our abundance. What does this mean for us at St. Mark's, where we are blessed to enjoy the fruits of prosperous and generous parishioners who went before us? What does giving of our substance this mean when all the news around us seems bad, when food and gas prices skyrocket, the parish buildings need remodeling, the stock market lunges south, and people lose their jobs? If anything, it seems to be a time to tighten our belts and lower our expectations. There is something wonderfully human and rational about this perspective, but surely it is the opposite of what Jesus calls us to do. Let's face it: if you are doing well, it is easy to give of your abundance. You don't need it; besides, it's important we continue support for our wonderful liturgies. But at the end of the day, God is not looking for a tip. He wants our hearts and He wants the substance of who we are, even when times are tough.

At St. Mark's, our worship lifts us, our families, friends and work before God, and then returns us to these worlds with a renewed commitment to God and his Kingdom. Indeed, this is a most exciting time. Consider the wildly successful mission to Honduras! Nothing could be of more 'substantial.' In addition to the many needs before us -- our the Soup Bowl, the Food Cupboard, Caritas, St. John's Hospice, and our other ministries -- and the needed renovations to the parish buildings -- Fr. Mullen has brought before us the adoption of St. James the Less as a mission. We welcome these challenges, even as we pray for the grace and courage to meet them. These activities are the fruits of our worship and prayers; they are all signs that God is calling St. Mark's to build up his Kingdom.

So, metaphorically speaking, are we at St. Mark's on the farm team or do we want to play in God's major league? In our reflections on stewardship, we are called to examine prayerfully the depth of our spiritual commitment and discern: what is giving of my abundance, and what is giving of my substance? Will I answer God's draft call?

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 9th, and attend the Commitment Sunday Mass and the all-parish Commitment Brunch immediately following at the Racquet Club.

Yours in Christ,

Bruce Nichols
for the Stewardship Committee

Nick Bisaccia, Rian Nemeroff, Kurt Wulfekuhler, Rick Stover, Kathie Dalzell, Aileen White, Bruce Nichols and Mary Jane Barrett

Calendar of Events

September 1 **MONDAY**

Labor Day

Mass at 10 am

Office Closed

September 3 **WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study Resumes 6 pm

September 7 **SUNDAY**

Homecoming

Choir Resumes

Parish Picnic & Welcome to New Curate

Sunday School Resumes

Adult Education Forum Resumes

September 9 **TUESDAY**

Organ Concerts Resume

September 16 **TUESDAY**

ECCP Luncheon, noon

Finance Committee 5 pm

Vestry meeting 6:30 pm

October 5 **SUNDAY**

Blessing of Animals 3:30 pm

Choral Evensong 4 pm

October 7 **TUESDAY**

Ministry Summit 7 pm

October 13 **MONDAY**

Columbus Day Observed

Parish office closed

Mass at 10 am

October 17 **FRIDAY**

Homeless Family Party

October 19 **SUNDAY**

International Organ Day

Concert at Saint Mark's

October 21 **TUESDAY**

Finance Committee 5 pm

Vestry Meeting 6:30 pm

November 2 **SUNDAY**

ALL SAINTS DAY, Transferred

Choral High Mass

Sunday Supper, Communications 6 pm

November 3 **MONDAY**

ALL SOULS DAY, Transferred

Requiem 7 pm

November 8 **SATURDAY**

Diocesan Convention

November 9 **SUNDAY**

Stewardship Sunday and Brunch

November 16, **SUNDAY**

Curtis Institute Concert

Vivaldi's Four Seasons 4 pm

November 18 **TUESDAY**

ECCP Luncheon, Noon

Finance Committee 5 pm

Vestry Meeting 6:30 pm

November 23 **SUNDAY**

Ordination of Curate

November 27 **THURSDAY**

THANKSGIVING

Mass at 10 am

Office Closed

November 28 **FRIDAY**

Mass at 10 am

Office Closed

November 30 **SUNDAY**

ADVENT I

Advent Lessons and Carols 4 pm

Rector's Open House

MINISTRIES AT SAINT MARK'S

If you are new to Saint Mark's or even if you've been coming here for many years, you might be looking for some opportunities to serve your fellow parishioners and the larger neighborhood just outside our gate and doors. The Lion's Mark will be highlighting service ministries that could use your help right now.

THE SAINT MARK'S SATURDAY SOUP

BOWL !!!!— Every Saturday morning at approximately 7 am, the sprightly Saint Mark's Soup Bowl Team arrives to open up the kitchen, heat up the soup, set the tables, cut bread and make coffee. At 7:30 the Team opens the doors and welcomes approximately 80 to 100 homeless men and women with a friendly hello, a delicious bowl of homemade soup, hot coffee and tasty bread from Metropolitan bakery. Sara McManus, Leslie DeLauter, Jacqui Daniels, Lisa Britton and Bob Hadfield are the current coordinators. They are always looking for people to help open up, welcome guests, serve soup and clean-up. Usually everything is done and we are able to leave between 9:30 and 10 am. This is surely one of the most exciting and enjoyable ways to serve at Saint Mark's. Our guests are always grateful and their Thank-yous can fill you with real joy. Equally important is the constant need for MORE SOUP. All of the soup we serve is homemade and donated by Saint Mark's parishioners and friends. The Soup recipes we use and the schedule of what soup is served on what Saturday is found on the parish website, www.saintmarksphiladelphia.org. Please give this ministry a try...either as a Soup Maker, a Saturday morning worker, or both. Please speak with any of the coordinators for more information.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS ON 7 SEPTEMBER !!!

Saint Mark's Church is very blessed to have so many children in Church every Sunday. Our children are great examples of parishioners living out the mission of Saint Mark's as a community that gathers in faith, serves in love and proclaims hope through Jesus Christ. One of the main supports of their mission is our program of Children's Christian Education and Formation or Sunday School. Sunday School begins this year on 7 September. Sunday School takes place during the first part of each 11 am service. The last day of the 08/09 term is 24 May 2009. There is no class on 28 December 2008.

Our Curriculum is called "Seasons of the Spirit." It is a curriculum we have been using for several years. "Seasons" is lectionary based and highlights each religious season throughout the year. Our teachers work hard to familiarize all of the children with the teachings of Jesus and the importance of love and un-

derstanding in families and among friends. Each session also offers an opportunity for the children to hone their artistic and crafts skills. There are always two teachers on duty and parents are welcome to attend and help out. We are prepared to work with children between the ages of 3 and 12 primarily, but we welcome all youngsters. Our practice is for the children to gather at the rear of the church and join their teachers at the conclusion of the Collect. The teachers then lead the children to the Library on the second floor of the parish hall for the lesson. The children return to the Service during the Peace.

In addition to this program, Saint Mark's also provides Nursery care for all infants and young children from 10 am until 1 pm. This schedule is to enable parents with small children to attend Adult Christian Education and Formation programs at 10 am and the Coffee Hour following the 11 am service, as well as the 11 am Mass.

SAINT MARK'S FOOD CUPBOARD was founded by a parishioner 29 years ago and has continued its operations right down to today. Its mission is to assist needy individuals and families in our community and has grown from being solely supported by contributions from individuals in our parish to being a United Way donor agency and a participant in PHILABUNDANCE and SHARE food programs. Several suburban parishes also support this ministry. The **Cupboard** now serves about 350 clients in Center City and South Philadelphia. Sadly, the current dramatic rise in the cost of basic food items has adversely affected many food cupboard recipients who have only marginal, fixed incomes. A long serving volunteer in our min-

istry reminisced about the days when parishioners bought in canned items for distribution and that was sufficient. We recently received a donation of ten cans of tuna. The donor had seen a half price sale at the supermarket. We would like to encourage our parish community to help us supplement our food packages. If you can, take advantage of such offers, especially with canned items such as vegetables, fruit, soups, beef stew, chili and other basic food staples. They are a welcome addition to our food packages. If you see a bargain and feel it could help a family in need, go ahead and buy it and bring it to. Every bit helps. Donated items may be dropped off during office hours or after Sunday services in the parish hall.



St. Mark's Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Bible Study Schedule, 2008–09
Wednesdays, 6 p.m., top floor of parish house

Wisdom in Job

September 3 Job 1–3 Job's sufferings
September 10 Job 4–31 Job's counselors
September 17 Job 32–37 Elihu
September 24 Job 38–42 The Lord replies

Hope for the Future ... in the Epistles

October 1–2 Thessalonians The coming of
"the day of the Lord" Poststudy dinner and yak
October 8–9 2 Timothy Warnings against false teachers
October 15–16 2 Peter Refuting skeptics

Wisdom in Proverbs

October 22 Proverbs 1–9 Paeans to Woman Wisdom
October 29 Proverbs 10–30 Common sense
November 5 Proverbs 31 An ideal wife

Hope for the Future ... in the Gospels

November 12 Mark 13 The desolating sacrilege
November 19 Luke 12, 21 Preparation and
watchfulness Poststudy dinner and yak
November 26 Thanksgiving Eve No Bible study
December 3 Matthew 24–25 Jesus predicts the end
of the age

Wisdom in Song of Solomon

December 10 Song of Solomon 1–4 The rose
of Sharon
December 17 Song of Solomon 5–8 The choicest
cedars of Lebanon
December 24 Christmas Eve No Bible study
December 31 New Year's Eve No Bible study

Wisdom in Ecclesiastes

January 7 Ecclesiastes 1–4 Vanity Poststudy
dinner and yak
January 14 Ecclesiastes 5–8 Further vanity
January 21 Ecclesiastes 9–12 Additional vanity

Unpacking the Epistle to the Hebrews

January 28 Hebrews 1–3 The Son superior to angels
February 4 Hebrews 4–6 Jesus the high priest
February 11 Hebrews 7–9 The order of Melchizedek
February 18 Hebrews 10–13 Paragons of faith
Poststudy dinner and yak
February 25 Ash Wednesday No Bible study

Hope for the Future ... in Daniel

March 4 Daniel 7–9 Four beasts
March 11 Daniel 10–12 The time of the end

Hope for the Future ... in Revelation, Part I

March 18 Revelation 1–3 Letters to churches in
Asia Minor
March 25 Revelation 4–6 Visions of heaven
April 1 Revelation 7–10 Multitudes worship;
seven trumpets
April 8 Holy Week No Bible study

Wisdom in Sirach

April 15 Ecclesiasticus or Sirach 1–4 Introduction
in praise of wisdom
April 22 Ecclesiasticus or Sirach 5–43 Proverbs
about wisdom
April 29 Ecclesiasticus or Sirach 44–51 A hymn to
the ancestors Poststudy dinner and yak

Hope for the Future ... in Revelation, Part II

May 6 Revelation 11–14 Dragon and beasts
May 13 Revelation 15–17 Plagues
May 20 Revelation 18–19 The fall of Babylon
May 27 Revelation 20–22 A new heaven and new
earth

Wisdom in Wisdom of Solomon

June 3 Wisdom of Solomon 1–5 Exhortations
to virtue
June 10 Wisdom of Solomon 6–11 Wisdom's works
June 17 Wisdom of Solomon 12–19 Wisdom's
works, continued End-of-year party

The St. Mark's Book Club meets the third Saturday of every month at 11:00 a.m. in the Library. Please join us for coffee, doughnuts and lively discussion of the following books:

September 20 Mrs. Dalloway, by Virginia Woolf. A 1925 landmark of modernist fiction that follows the wife of an MP around London as she prepares for her party that afternoon. Each character comes to life through Woolf's stream of consciousness technique.

October 18 Confessions of St. Augustine. One of the most influential religious books in the Christian tradition recalls crucial events in the author's life: his mid-4th-century origins in rural Algeria; the rise to a lavish lifestyle at the imperial court in Milan and recovery of his Catholic faith.

November 15 Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen. This novel of manners remain surprisingly relevant nearly 200 years after it was first published, offering a glimpse at the mores of a specific period while addressing the complexities of love, honor, and responsibility that still intrigue us today.

December 20 Nine Tailors, by Dorothy Sayers. The nine strokes from the belfry of an ancient country church toll out the death of an unknown man and call the famous Lord Peter Wimsey to one of his most brilliant cases. Steeped in the atmosphere of a quiet parish in the strange, flat fen-country of East Anglia, this is a tale of suspense, character, and mood by an author the critics rate as one of the great masters of the mystery novel

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