



The Gryphon's Roar



October, 2008

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
 3100 Murfreesboro Pike
 Antioch, Tennessee 37013
 P.O. Box 741
 Antioch, Tennessee 37011-0741
 615-361-4100

**“We at St. Mark’s are on a journey seeking God in you,
 ourselves, and all creation”**

Weekly Schedule

Sundays	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	9:15 AM	Sunday school
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist
2 nd Sunday	9:00 AM	Breakfast – Sept. – May
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Fridays	8:00 PM	AA Meeting
Saturdays	8:00 AM	Centering Prayer

The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt	Bishop of Tennessee
The Reverend Battle Beasley	Rector
Frank Brannon, M. Div.	Pastoral Care Coordinator
George Kurz	Senior Warden
George Noren	Junior Warden
Charles Cross & Les Worsley	Treasurers
Carey Hardison	Clerk of the Vestry

Next month deadline for submissions is Sunday, October 19, 2008
Gryphon submissions to: submitgryphon@aol.com

St. Mark's Vestry:

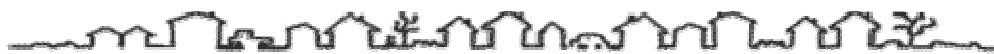
Jim Hall, Suzanne Lindsey, Judy Robnett	(2010)
Suzie Abrahamson, Jim Johnson, George Kurz	(2009)
Mary Ann Campbell, George Noren, Cheryl Walker	(2008)



Dear People of God,

I've been reflecting back on my nearly 8 years here at St. Mark's and I find myself in need of renewing my awareness of how much we have grown. There are many folks here who were not here when I began and there are new folks who visit us almost every week. I need to say that I believe the reason people who visit us stay with us is because of our greeters and those on the welcoming committee. Who here has not been greeted warmly by Ann and Norm Baker at the 10:30 service? When I see Norm and Ann present I have no doubt that every visitor will be warmly welcomed as they enter the Church - likewise, Shirley and Herb Stewart at the 8 o'clock service. We have several folks who are faithful members of our "welcoming" group. Those are the folks who have the brown bags with our newsletter, a brochure about us and the Episcopal Church and a loaf of bread to give to visitors after the service. Those folks invite visitors to join us for coffee time as well. What concerns me is how much I and I believe others of us take their ministries for granted. I am guilty of simply believing that those greeters and welcomers will do the job of offering hospitality to all visitors for me and for all of us. When I ask what drew you to St. Mark's most people say, "it was warm and welcoming, and I felt wanted and invited to be a part of this community". As we have grown I wonder if we have not become a little prideful about that and at the same time a little complacent in offering that spirit of hospitality to others. I know that I have become more than a little of both. For that I apologize to those of you who have been doing this ministry of hospitality on behalf of our community. I say all this not to bring out a guilt stick to beat the rest of us up with, rather as a gentle reminder of the grace of God in our community as we strive to offer hospitality, as we strive to seek God in each person who is gracious enough to visit us. May we all be reminded that at one point we too have been visitors, strangers in a sometimes strange land, and in remembering to seek to make at home those who are now entering our home.

God's peace,
Battle +



Contact us:

St. Mark's Website –
<http://www.stmarksantioch.org>
The Reverend Battle Beasley via email:
stmarksrector@bellsouth.net or
pathwayspartners@yahoo.com

The Gryphon is the newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and as such welcomes articles and suggestions from ALL parishioners. This is your venue for expressing thoughts you would like to share, important events in your families' lives, suggestions you might have to make our parish life better. Please do not hesitate to use it.

Lorna

Mark Your Calendar:

- 4 October - "Africa Day"
- 5 October - Begin Stewardship Campaign
- 19 October - Bishop Bauerschmidt's annual visit
(8:00 am & 10:30 am services - reception to follow)
- 25 October – Ecuador Dinner at St. Mark's
- 2 November - End Stewardship Campaign



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who completed our Time and Talent/Rule of Life Survey. Please watch the Lay Ministers' schedule published in *The Gryhon's Roar* for the scheduling of Chalice Bearers, Acolytes, Readers, Ushers, Oblation Bearers, Coffee Hosts, Nursery Workers, and Greeters. If you cannot serve when scheduled, please swap with someone else on the schedule and let Les Worsley (361-6005) or the Rector (361-4100) know the name of the person with whom you swapped. If you are unable to find someone with whom to swap, please let Les or the Rector know and they will draft someone on Sunday morning.

It is requested that Chalice Bearers and Acolytes be vested and in the Rector's office at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the service. Readers should arrive in time to review the lessons they are scheduled to read that day – about 10 to 15 minutes prior to the start of the service. Ushers and Nursery Workers should arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the service.

As the need arises in the life of our congregation for other ministries, someone will contact you or announcements will be made in church about volunteering for the items in which you indicated an interest.

Thank you for all you do for St. Mark's.

Pat Worsley

Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Class

Just a reminder to those of you who have new employees in need of the POSM, there are two upcoming sessions. Please have them attend as soon as possible. They may call the office at 615 251 3322 to sign up.

October 13 – St. Bartholomew's Church Nashville, 6-9 PM

November 15 – St. Michael's Church Cookeville, 9 AM – 12 Noon

An Opinion

By Jim Hall

The Old Testament reading for Pentecost 19, September 21, took me back to another time and place and a conversation that I had with a parishioner after a service where the same lesson was used. As best I can remember, he said that he recalled that I had said at some time in the past that the Bible did not mince words, although some had been euphemized, but he was surprised to hear the lay reader use a slang word for bird droppings. It happened that the church did not use bulletin inserts with the lessons printed or he might not have had the problem with the word “doo” as he heard it. Read Exodus 16: 13 to get the full story.

I was almost an adult before I realized that there were no drawers named for someone named Chester, but that there was such a thing as a chest of drawers. I also learned late in life that in French a long chair is a chaise longue, but we have “corrected” the French and moved some letters around to make it a chaise lounge, which may be alright since we do use a chaise longue for lounging.

If we can't understand our mother tongue, how can we claim to have a full understanding of divine language, a message from God? There are some among us who claim to have what I call immaculate perception, clergy and laity alike. A little humility, please.

In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, a crowd around Jesus hears a voice from heaven. “The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him” (v. 29).



The Picture of the Children – Santiago Apostol See Photos Displayed in Reynolds Hall

Perhaps the unhappiest by-product of photographs is the predisposed smile of “say cheese”. Too often children mimic this learned behavior but not the children of St. Mark's companion church, Santiago Apostol! Look at these sweet faces, quietly standing with unaffected mannerisms and a genuine enjoyment of having their picture made.

Can you imagine twenty-five children in church? What a reassuring sense of God's nearness and care! He said to come and they do with passionate intentness that seems to radiate in their faces. Every little face commands attention. A person can't help but be captivated by them.

On the back row are some familiar faces thoroughly enjoying the little ones around them. They return with many stories, but the one common thread is the stories about the children. They bring back pictures that convert the phrase, “our companion church” into realism. The reminiscences of their visits encourage us to be better companions. In the weeks ahead there will be opportunities to send gifts and pictures to the children telling them about the people of St. Marks.

A Poem by Douglas Baxter

If you don't have the will,
Then you don't have the way.
It's hard to make a correction
If your life has no direction.

So I'm here to say,
That you need to pick a day,
To start a life that has a course,
In which God is the only source.

It may not be easy.
Every day may not be breezy.
You may have troubles that still abound,
But count on your Lord always around.

For once you've chosen to be His own,
You'll feel his love in every bone.
He'll be there for when times are tough,
And in the end, that will be enough.

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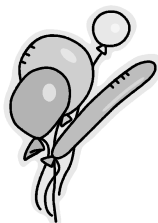
The Shack by William P. Young

This wonderful work of fiction reads like non-fiction. You will feel such closeness with the main character, Mack, that you will believe (and hope that) he really exists. During a family vacation Mack's daughter is abducted and murdered. Four years later he receives a note (could it be from God?) and he returns to the cabin. From the book..."In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant THE SHACK wrestles with the timeless question. "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him." It will change the way you think about God and leave you craving God. Don't wait for the library to get it. Go out and buy it, read it, and then pass it on to all your family and friends. I can't reveal much of the plot for fear of ruining it for you but it is definitely a re-read for me! Susie McEwen

Time to Celebrate

October Birthdays

Rebecca Simpson	5
John Seufert	9
Carey Stephenson	12
Amanda Crouch	14
Pauline Hall	15
William Udeh	15
Latasha Williams	15
Eileen Cardwell	17
Suzanne Lindsey	18
Bobby Jackson	19
Linda ClenDening	20
Richard Hardison	26
Sharon Rice	28
Lynn Poehl	29
Peggy Tucker	29



October Anniversaries

Steven Failor & Melanie Pafford-Failor	10, 1992
Cathey & Gene Gwyn	20, 2001
Jim & Beverly Hargrove	8, 2005

Energy Conservation

By Greg Hall

This month we are looking at how solar energy can power our society. Solar radiation can be used for space heating, domestic hot water and power production. Solar cells have provided power for the space program since the first weather satellite in the 1960's.

These cells convert sunlight into electric power; collections of these cells combined to produce a desired voltage are called PV arrays – short for Photo Voltaic. Think of the international space station – all its power comes from PV arrays. Until recently, PV's have been too expensive to power a modern power-hungry home. Now they are enjoying a surge in demand that continues to make them more affordable.

Solar has long held the tantalizing promise of unlimited nonpolluting power. Several factors are working to bring down their cost. Growing awareness of air pollution and the need to control our electric power bill have combined to create the perfect storm of renewed interest in this clean unlimited energy source. This has led half the states (TN is not yet one of these) to take political action to encourage the use of renewable power. Successful ballot initiatives in at least a dozen western states require up to 30% of energy sold by utilities to come from renewable sources.

A variety of state and federal initiatives provide tax deductions to home owners who buy home systems. Utilities give purchase price rebates to homeowners because their home systems help them meet their state requirements for green power. Other rules also require the electric companies to buy back power from home power producers who meet industry wide power specifications. With these incentives solar home power systems can be significantly less than \$20,000. In other words, solar is now in the same price range as a mid priced new car. The main difference is the car will wear out in a few years where the PV array will continue to produce power for more than 30 years.

Using solar for house power means controlling when and how much solar radiation enters our homes, collecting the heat energy for domestic hot water and space heating as well as converting the sunlight to electric power.

As soon as it is switched on, a properly sized solar array will reduce your bill to zero. The way PV systems do this is by producing power through the sunny hours; the system's automatic charge controller keeps the battery bank charged for night use. Excess power is then sent by the controller back into the electric grid where the power company buys it, essentially running your meter backwards, giving you a credit with them!

In this system, the grid serves as your back-up power for extended sunless periods. For those off the grid, a generator provides the back-up; having the generator allows you to keep your system going even during power outages. The charge controller automatically disconnects your house from the grid to prevent injury to linesmen when power lines go down.

Properly sized arrays and battery storage banks in a well designed and energy efficient home will keep the generator from running except during the longest stretches of overcast wintry days.

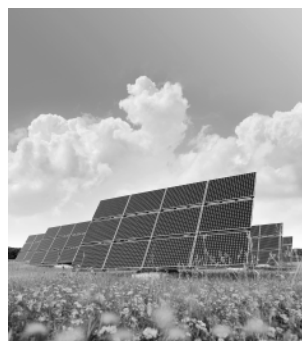
Using solar radiation for heating and for making hot water reduces two of any home's biggest demands for power. Existing homes can be upgraded for solar power – even if you don't put in a complete system, you still reap savings from higher efficiency.

Rather than PV arrays, solar's greatest contribution to utility will come from huge plants that concentrate the sun's heat to run turbines like those in conventional power plants. Using arrays of mirrors to focus and concentrate sunlight to super heat water into steam to run turbines is the next big way to scale up solar to provide the hundreds of mega watts our society uses. This type of solar generated wattage to drop from 32 cents per kilowatt hour (klwt) down to 5.8 cents per klwt! The present national average price hovers at 10.8 cents. Solar is now able and poised to make major contributions to our power mix in a very significant way. Construction cost is comparable to the cost of a coal fired plant without all the acid rain, allergy causing particulate matter and the mercury pollution of coal.

What's the potential for these concentrator solar power plants? Engineering studies show that in California's Mojave Desert alone, that state receives enough solar radiation to provide six times the power the Golden State currently uses. The desert southwest offers thousands of square miles of open space where these concentrator solar plants can be most effective. Most of these areas receive over 300 days of direct sun every year.

Utility companies' main concern is consistence – solar plants don't produce power at night. This leads to the need for storage capacity. As with hybrid electric cars, battery technology is the key to improvement. As this takes effect, utilities are creating giant storage battery banks; solar powered homes with their battery banks distributed in communities around the country can help provide that storage. Even the batteries in hybrid cars can add to that capacity.

Solar has come a long way very fast in comparison to hydroelectric and coal plants which have been around longer than a century. Even nuclear, which once seemed to offer the answer to non polluting power, hasn't kept pace. Solar advantages will continue to grow and make it even more viable as technology improves as it has done with computer systems. It is cost competitive to build and is now able to compete in the marketplace; it is also pollution free during power production; it leaves no fly ash for the landfill or any radioactive residues needing ages of safe disposal. So as God said, "Let there be light!"



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
October			1 Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00 DOK Meeting 6:30 PM Choir 7:00 pm	2 Dance Class with Arwen 7:00 – 9:00 PM	3 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	4 Quiet Day 8:00-Noon Africa Day
5 PENTECOST XXII Stewardship begins	6 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	7	8 Choir 7:00 pm	9	10 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	11 Centering prayer 8:00
12 PENTECOST XXIII Second Sunday for Second Harvest	13 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm POSM St. Bartholomew's 6:00-9:00	14	15 Brain Club 11:00 – 2:00 Choir 7:00 pm	16 Vestry Meeting 6:30 PM	17 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	18 Centering prayer 8:00
19 PENTECOST XXIV Bishop Bauerschmidt annual visit	20 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	21	22 Choir 7:00 pm	23	24 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	25 Centering prayer 8:00 Ecuador Dinner
26 PENTECOST XXV	27 Domestic Violence Intervention Group 6-8 pm	28	29 Choir 7:00 pm	30	31 AA Meeting 8:00 PM	HAPPY HALLOWEEN

2008



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