



ST MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CALLED TO BE CHRIST CENTERED

Touching Lives + Transforming Hearts + Teaching God's Word

On July 13, 1877, the first service of record for what was later to become St. Mark's Parish was conducted by the Rev. William Robards Wetmore, who pedaled a bicycle from Lincolnton to be here.

During the parish's formative years, services were held in the old Academy on the north side, as well as City Hall and the old YMCA building on Main Avenue and South Street.

A church building was erected on West Long Avenue and was consecrated November 20, 1903, by the Rt. Rev. Junius M Horner. St. Mark's officially became a parish in 1915 with an enrollment of 74 communicants.

The present location of St. Mark's was acquired and converted in 1948 and the Parish Hall added in 1955. Upgrades with additional meeting space were done in 2005 and our playground was added in 2012.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

258 W. Franklin Blvd.

Gastonia, NC 28052

704-864-4531

fax 704-865-3367

www.stmarksgastonia.org

The Rev. Shawn Griffith, Rector

The Rev. Greg McIntyre, Asst. Rec.

The Rev. Pat Cheshire, Deacon

Mrs. Julia Bozarth, Dir. of Music

Mrs. Polly Redd, Dir. of Christian Formation & Communication

Mrs. Trish Anderson, Bus. Admin.

Mrs. Jean Eaddy, Office Admin.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday BCP

Lent starts this month. Yeaaaaa!!!! O come on, you know you love Lent. Starting the service on your knees, praying the penitential order for an hour and a half, singing those 400 year old dreary hymns, having ashes smeared across your forehead and being told you are dust, although a very high quality dust.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. On "Fat Tuesday" or Shrove Tuesday, we (at least symbolically!) use up all the rich foods in our houses to ready ourselves for a time of fasting and preparation. On Ash Wednesday, we are invited "in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; . . ." (BCP, p. 265)

The Ash Wednesday liturgy is powerful, and can be quite moving even under normal circumstances. But for those who have been faced with some kind of life-changing experience, a life-threatening illness or accident, the Ash Wednesday service can be startling. Watching the priest mark the sign of the cross with ashes, especially on a baby's forehead, can be disturbing, even shocking. "You are dust and to dust you shall return." It can be a little too close to one's own experiences and fears for comfort. And it can be far too close to the truth when the priest makes the sign of the cross on our own foreheads and speaks those words.

Ash Wednesday, of course, is not about comfort. Some people think it is too negative and they stay away from church that day -- too maudlin, too self-absorbed, too depressing. Who wants to walk around with a smudge of ashes on their forehead? And who wants to think about death, anyway? And then there's Lent -- again, too negative, too depressing, too serious, too much of a focus on sin. "Why can't we just be positive?" people ask. "Why can't we just talk about the good things, the happy things? Why all this focus on sin and negativity? Why can't we just go straight to Easter?"

In our culture, we still have a strong tendency to deny death, even while our media and entertainment are full of images of violence and death. But we don't want to think about (*continued on page 2*)

Worship Services

Sundays

8:00 am Eucharist

Rite I with sermon & music,
Morning Prayer 5th Sundays

9:00 am Breakfast

9:30 Sunday School classes

10:30 am Eucharist

Rite II with sermon & music,
with Children's Chapel

Weekday Services

8:00 - 9:00 am Monday -

Thursday, Morning Prayer

3:30 pm 1st Wednesday of
the month, Covenant Village

4:30 pm Wednesday Bible
Study group with Eucharist
at 6:00 pm

7:00 pm 2nd Thursday HE
w/Healing, Order of St. Luke

Holy Baptism is the main way to become a member of the Episcopal Church. Baptisms are usually done at Sunday worship 4 times a year: All Saints (Nov), Epiphany (Jan), the Saturday before Easter Day, and the Day of Pentecost. Baptism may be scheduled by contacting the clergy or the office. The Rite of Confirmation occurs when our Bishop visits and is an adult affirmation of faith. Speak to the clergy about becoming a member of St. Mark's by baptism, confirmation or by transferring your letter from another church.

(continued from page 1) the reality of it, we don't want to talk about it, we don't want to acknowledge it. However, as most traditions tell us -- including our own -- we miss something deep, and rich, and important when we try to ignore the fact that we will die. The Buddhist tradition teaches that we should live each day as if it were our last. This is an admittedly difficult practice, but it teaches us where our priorities are -- where our treasure is. That's one thing that those facing life-threatening illnesses learn the hard way -- once you have stood on the brink, things never look the same again. What is important in your life becomes a little clearer -- it's easier to brush aside the trivial things that consume the precious time you have left, however little or much time that might be.

Living in the present moment is an ancient Christian practice, one common to many faith and wisdom traditions. This is the point of the familiar Gospel lesson -- to know where our treasure is, to understand what is important. It is the awareness of the gift of life, the gift of time, the gift of love. There is no time to waste, and Ash Wednesday reminds us of this. It is a day that calls us back to our human-ness, our mortality, our finiteness. It reminds us of how important it is to know where our treasure is, where our hearts are. Often when we read or hear this verse about treasure, we tend to think of it as money and possessions. But treasure is also time and people and our lives and our relationship with God -- and not only this precious life we have now, but also what we anticipate in the life to come.

Ash Wednesday tells us to not take a moment of this time for granted -- to live and love to the fullest, to treasure this precious world, to treasure those we love and those who love us, to treat this precious earth and these precious people with tenderness and respect. As the old saying goes, the past is gone, and the future has not yet come to pass -- this present moment is all we have. This moment. Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent tell us to pay attention to the present moment. And to realize that it can all be gone in a heartbeat. It can all be gone in the time it takes to trace the sign of the cross on a child's forehead.

Peace, Shawn



**Ash Wednesday Services at St. Mark's
Wednesday, February 13**

7:00 am and 7:00 pm

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

**The Traditional 12:00 noon Community Ecumenical Service
with Imposition of Ashes will be at All Saints this year.**

2013 Budget

Receipts

Pledges	\$319,000
Non-pledged income	20,000
Loose offering	6,000
Arrears pledges	1,500
Interest from checking	250
Special gifts	<u>\$ 3,500</u>
Total receipts	\$350,250

Disbursements

Program

Christian education	
Youth Sunday school (new)	\$ 2,500
Adult Sunday school (new)	500
VBS (new)	500
EYC	
EYC general funds (new)	1,000
Mission trip (new)	2,000
Contra account (3,000)	
Parish Life	1,200
Church Development	250
Communications	500
Acolyte festival	800
Diocesan convention	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
Total Program	\$ 11,250

Worship

Altar	\$ 1,100
Contra account (1,100)	
Choir/Music/Equipment	1,500
Worship aids	<u>\$ 900</u>
Total worship	\$ 3,500

Outreach

Outreach committee	\$ 4,700
Contra account (1,100)	
Diocesan pledge	23,500
Assoc. Rector's Disc Fund	500
Pastoral care	<u>\$ 500</u>
Total outreach	\$ 29,200

Administration

Salaries	\$211,537
Contra account (5,019)	
Music supply support	300
Rector's cell phone allow	500
Assoc rector's cell allow	500
Rector's travel allow	2,500
Assoc rector's travel allow	1,000
Rector's continuing ed	1,000
Assoc rector's continuing ed	1,000
Staff continuing ed	1,000
Insurance - healthcare	20,700
Insurance - property	5,100
Pension	22,542
Church utilities	16,500
Maintenance/repair	18,000
Office	12,000
Website	540
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 1,800</u>
Total administration	\$316,519
Total disbursements	\$360,469
Total contra accounts	\$ 10,219
Net income	0



Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 12

6:00 pm ...

**Adults \$3 - Children \$2
Maximum of \$10 per family**

Sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and the Youth of the Parish

**All proceeds to support
Youth Scholarships**

Comings & Goings

Office Hours: The office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 to 5 and closed on Fridays. If you have a pastoral emergency anytime the office is closed, contact Shawn at 704-718-7034 or Greg at 828-230-7617.

Be sure to pick up your newest edition of **Forward Day By Day**. The office no longer mails them. Your April copy is on the sideboard by the main entrance.

Bible Study is held each Wednesday at 4:30 in the Balthis Room, followed by Eucharist at 6:00 pm and in Belmont at 6:30 pm once a month at the Rudisill's house. Feb 5th is the next date. Both groups are studying Genesis. Check the calendar for session dates.



Faith & Health Ministries sponsors Blood Pressure screenings and other health related information on the 4th Sunday of each month. Reba Childers is our RN/Faith Community Nurse. Check out the Faith & Health bulletin board by the kitchen for tips and information from her. Faith & Health is offered in connection with CaroMont's Congregational Nurse program and is currently planning a spring Health Fair and a wellness class for the Adult Forum.



St. Mark's Aikido Club meets for children on Tuesdays from 7-8 pm and for adults on Tuesdays from 8-9 and Thursdays from 7-9. Children ages 8 and older are welcome to come learn this traditional Japanese martial art. Classes are free and are tailored to the individual ability level, from brand new students to those working on 2nd level grading or higher. Contact Dan Gilbert at d.gilbert@yahoo.com if you have questions or stop by on a Tuesday night.



St. Mark's **The Brotherhood of St. Andrew** are busy preparing for our traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper this month and plan a spaghetti supper fundraiser in March. If you would like information about the Brotherhood, speak to Mark Taylor. Meetings are announced.

LEV Training for those interested in serving our shut-ins will be Monday, February 18 at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in this ministry, contact Dale Ward.



Decolores!

St. Mark's Cursillo Community meets every other Saturday beginning at 9:00 for their 4th Day Group Reunion. Anyone who has attended Cursillo or is interested in this weekend renewal program is welcome to come to the Saturday meetings. For additional information, contact David or Vicki Burns.

The Daughters of the King is an order of women dedicated to prayer and service to their home parish. Our St. Veronica's Chapter meets after church the 2nd Sunday of the month and is currently studying the book *Making Crosses: A Creative Connection to God*. Members wear a distinctive cross and will be happy to tell you about the Daughters. For information speak to Barbara Hartsell or Rosanne Griffith.



Daily Office: Morning Prayer is said Monday through Thursday in the church, beginning with silence at 8:00 am, the Daily Office at 8:15 and discussion of the readings over coffee from 8:40 to 9:00. There is a core group of people who regularly participate in the Daily Office to offer prayer for our parish and its ministries each day, but all are welcome. Join any time that fits your schedule.

Overflow Winter Shelter: As One Ministries operates an overflow shelter at 809 W. Airline from November through February when the temperature drops below 40°. This is a valuable service for the homeless in our city who might otherwise have to sleep in the cold. However, the shelter cannot operate without volunteers, both male and female, to stay with the guests from 9:00pm—6:00 am. When there are no volunteers, the shelter must close. If you are available on any evening to help keep the shelter open, please contact Angela Dreher call her at 704-862-6079 or email at adreher@aomofgastonia.org. This is a desperate need for our city's poorest. Please consider volunteering.



Labyrinth Retreat & Workshop: All Saints' Church is hosting a Deanery-wide day of prayer and fellowship centered around their Labyrinth. The event is Saturday, February 9th, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The day will include guidance for walking a labyrinth and the power of prayer and meditation. This is an excellent beginning for your Lenten Journey. There will be access to both All Saints' outdoor labyrinth as well as an indoor model for those who might prefer to be inside. Plan to join the clergy and laity of the Piedmont Deanery in this gathering.

Our Parish Pledge Partners: As we conclude our Annual Giving Campaign for 2013, we have much to celebrate. The financial support for our ministries is the highest it has been in over 9 years. First off, we want to thank *everyone* who gives financially, whether they pledge or not. Every dollar we receive is important to accomplishing God's work in this place. However, today we specifically thank those who have committed with a written pledge of financial support to the mission and ministry of St. Mark's for this year. Together, let us honor and glorify God in all we do.

Samantha Abbey, Tuga Adams, Ernie & Caroline Adcock, John Anderson, J.C Barber, Jim Barber, Carol Barker, Chad & Penny Barker, Jay Barnes, Celia Billings, Ann Black, Jeff & Julia Bozarth, Pete & Debbie Brake, Gary & Nancy Brewbaker, David & Vicky Burns, Ruth Burns, Jim & Mary Carter Butt, Carol Carothers, Jim & Anne Carriel, Billie May Carroll, Richard & Anna Carsner, Tom & Susan Carson, Vicki Caudill, Jane Cauthen, Pat & Kathy Cheshire, Reba Childers, Chris & Julie Christy, Brook Crawford, Henry & Jenna Danis, Jean Deci, Greg & Pam Dills, Hal & Liz Domenico, Jean Eaddy, Travis & Carol Feezell, Chuck & Edna Forbes, Annette Freeman, Jim & Cathy Freeman, Bill Gibbons, Dan & Brenda Gilbert, Tom & Angie Gray, Tripp & Heather Griffin, Shawn & Rosanne Griffith, Tim & Candy Grooms, Fred & Bobbie Hadfield, Rick & Nancy Lynn Hargis, Shane & Barbara Hartsell, Carolyn Healy, Gwin & Sally Hilton, Walter & Judy Hobbs, Ed & Carol Hoerning, Don & Fran Howe, Claude Hueitt, Norman & Anne Hull-Ryde, Bob & Beverly Ipock, Eden Isbell, Judy Jackson-Malina, Michelle Jarbeau, Shirley Jensen, Alan & Christi Jolley; Tom & Della Kirkland, Kevin & Peggy Knight, Beth Landis, Walter Lassiter, Jozef & Johanna Machnik, David & Kristin Major, Gene & Judy Maloney, Mildred Manning, Marie Martinez, Richard Martinez, Houston & Shay Matthews, Roy & Sharon McElveen, Greg & Kathleen McIntyre, Don & Pat Miller, Greg & Karen Montgomery, Tom & Nan Murphy; Duane & Sheila Pendleton, Tina Miller Queen, Andrew & Jackie Quinley, Jim & Polly Redd, Ben & Janet Rudisill, Blaine & Cookie Rudisill, Joe Saunders, Scott & Debbie Scarborough, Bill & Elizabeth Seabrook, Jason & Elizabeth Sherrill, Barry & Pat Smith, Mary Stamey, Mike & Susan Stanley, Susan Stragand, Charles & Brenda Stribling, David & Karen Summers, Mark & Donna Taylor, Paul Teem, Bill & Price Thrower, Will & Marie Thrower, Russ & Jeanna Marie Tiller, Dave Tompkins, Dave & Pat Townsend, Lynn Townsend, Gladys Ulrich, Vince & Rachel Varriale, Vernon & Mary Vaughn, Dale & Ann Ward, Matthew Ward, John & Kenna Watts, Lloyd & Jody White, John & Elizabeth Willett, Alex & Terri Williamson, David & Cathy Young.

(Note: If we have inadvertently left a name off this list, please let us know and we will make corrections in the March newsletter.)

Episcopal Church Women News



The Covenant Daytime Circle generally meets at Covenant Village the first Monday of each month at 10:30 am. This group is learning about the ministry of Paul using the Acts of the Apostles and his Epistles and focused on Paul's Missionary Journeys. This delightful group of women are interested in St. Mark's and in what is happening in the world and have met during the day for many years. Discussions are lively and timely. Any woman able to come during the day would enjoy this group. Meetings last about an hour. **NOTE: The February meeting is being cancelled because of a quarantine at Covenant Village.**

The Evening ECW Circle generally meets the second Tuesday of the month from 7-8 (so we finish when Aikido ends) for wine, dessert and Bible study, using the book, *Finding Balance: Loving God with Heart and Soul, Mind and Strength*, by the Rev. Becca Stevens. In February we will meet February 5th because of Shrove Tuesday and will look at Mary the Mother of Jesus and her ministry. This group is open to all who might work during the day and would find evenings a better time to gather for conversation and study. These meetings last only 1 hour and include great discussion.

Church Periodical Club reminds you to bring your change to the jar in the Narthex for the Miles of Pennies Campaign for children's books. We are working on our 2nd mile of \$822.00.

Beginning Ash Wednesday, Christians all over the world observe the Season of Lent, a period of 40 days when we remember the ministry and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Modeled after his 40 days in the wilderness, we take time to “watch with him” as he prepares to go to the cross for our sins. Here are some suggestions for practicing a “Holy Lent”.



LENT



Lenten Supper Program
5 Sunday evenings
Feb. 17 & 24, March 3, 10 & 17
5:00 - 6:45 pm

A Simple Meal @ 5 pm

Adult Program on “Serve and Grow”

Children’s Program on Symbols of Lent

Nursery Provided for those 4 & under



Churches: Reflections? Carpet Labyrinth, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Toronto, New Jersey

**Devotional Time with the
Labyrinth and Stations of the Cross**
Fridays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Lenten Devotionals

Many people practice some form of fasting and devotion during Lent. We often give up something for the 40 days as a form of denial of ourselves and/or increase our devotional readings or other study. If you are interested in adding a “meditative” study, check out the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) at their website www.ssje.org and sign up for their on-line “Brother, Give Us a Word” devotion which comes to your email every day. There also is an excellent daily 3-minute retreat available from Loyola Press at www.loyolapress.org. Follow the “our Catholic faith” link to prayer and then to the 3-minute retreats to sign up.

A booklet of Meditations from Episcopal Relief & Development along with a Hope Chest and a St. Mark’s Booklet to pray for the members of the parish are all available in the Parish Hall. Pick up your copies. All collected money can be brought at Easter and will go to ER&D for their hunger programs.

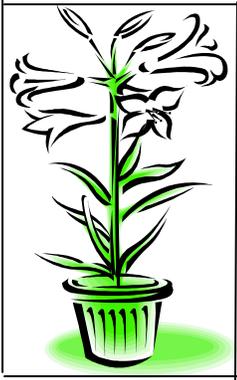
Front Porches - A Reflection by the Assistant Rector:

Not long after Kathleen and I were married we rented a little house in Black Mountain, NC that was built in 1831. The man who owned it was a local historian and he told me that at one point the main road from Old Fort to Asheville used to run right through the yard. It used to be a stop on the old stagecoach route. And one can extrapolate that Daniel Boone himself, who traveled though there often, had most likely stood in our yard. I liked to look out the window and think about that.



The porch of this house was very close to the road, only about fifteen feet from it. One day I asked our landlord about this and he said that people in rural areas used to build houses close to the road intentionally. That way neighbors and travelers would stop and talk as they passed by. They would sit on the porch and chat. That is how they got their news back then. That’s how they stayed connected—by porch sitting, not facebook.

During that time of my life I was the director of Camp Henry, our diocesan camp. Some summer camps rely on great programs and fun toys like archery ranges and horses and water slides to attract campers. Camp Henry relies more on the Holy Spirit and the creativity of their staff. The “skills” that Camp Henry offers have names like Getting Muddy, Dorm Room Cooking, How to be a Man, and Rock Flippin’—pretty much whatever the staff comes up with the night before. When I was there, we had one called “The Lost Art of Porch Sitting”. This skill involved rocking chairs, lemonade and a porch. That was it. No agenda. No program. No set topic of *(continued on page 8)*



Easter Memorials and Honorariums

Your donations provide the beauty of Easter lilies to decorate God's house as we prepare to celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Place this form along with your check or cash donation in the alms basins on Sundays or mail to the church office.

Deadline: Palm Sunday, March 24, 2013

Please provide the following printed information:

Given in loving memory of:

Given in honor of:

Your name:

Phone number:

YOUTH NEWS

February is a busy month for our youth with lots of activities both in town and away. Mark your calendars and don't miss a single meeting.

February 3: The month begins with collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring at both services. Then from 2-4 pm that day, both Club 45 and the EYC will gather at Martha Rivers Shelter #1 for a game of Flag Football, with snacks provided. Everyone is welcome.



February 9: Our EYC will participate in the Diocesan Youth Lock-In & Ski Trip at St. James, Black Mountain. They are skiing at Cataloochee in Maggie Valley. The group goes up on Saturday and returns on Sunday evening late. They will need sleep-over items, ski gear, and snacks to share. Watch for details.

February 12 both Club 45 & EYC help the Brotherhood with the traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Everyone should be at the church by 5 pm.



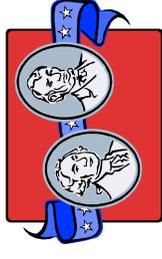
February 17 there is no EYC,

February 24 the EYC meets for Dinner and Program at Church.

March Plans include a Field Trip to Valdese to walk the Waldensian Trail of Faith and a spaghetti supper fundraiser with the Brotherhood to raise mission trip funds. Several Service Projects are also being planned.

People are always needed to help provide meals for the youth when they meet and you do not need to be a parent of a young person to do that. Anyone who would like to help with a meal can contact Pam Dills (pam@pagepowersystems.com) to volunteer.

February 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sundays: 8 am HEI 9 am Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 am HEI 2 pm EfM Group EYC as noted</p>	<p>Mon-Thurs: MPH 8-9am in sanctuary</p>	<p>Tuesdays: 7 pm Children & Adult Aikido</p>	<p>Wednesdays: 4:30 pm Bible Study, followed by Eucharist @ 6 6:30/7 pm Choirs</p>	<p>Thursdays: OSL 7 pm @ either All Saints or St. Mark's for HE or Study 7 pm Adult Aikido</p>	<p>15 pm Vestry Re- treat tonight through Saturday afternoon →</p>	<p>2 Vestry Retreat continues 9 am Cursillo 4th Day</p>
<p>3 Souper Bowl of Caring Collection @ both services, Brotherhood meets 2-4 pm Club 45/EYC Flag Football @ Martha Rivers</p>	<p>4 Covenant Circle cancelled due to noir virus quaran- tine</p>	<p>5 6 pm Outreach Committee Meeting 7 pm Tuesday ECW Circle</p>	<p>6 3:30 Covenant Monthly Eucharist 6:30 pm Belmont Bible Study@ Rudisill's</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 5 pm EYC Lock-In @ St. James, Black Mt. for Diocesan Ski Trip; Deanery Laby- rinth Retreat, 1-4pm @ All Saints</p>
<p>10 DOK meets af- ter 10:30 service 2-3:30 Gospel Hymn Sing & Ice Cream Social, All Saints EYC on Ski Trip</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Shrove Tuesday 5 pm Pancake Sup- per </p>	<p>13 Ash Wednesday Services of HE w/ Ashes @ 7 am and 7 pm Community Service @ 12 noon @ All Saints</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day 7 pm OSL @ St. Mark's </p>	<p>15 9-1 Labyrinth & Stations</p>	<p>16 9 am Cursillo 4th Day</p>
<p>17 Vestry meets after church No EYC Meeting 5-6:45 Lenten Sup- per & Program</p>	<p>18 Presidents' Day 7-8:30 pm LEV Training w/ License Renewal & Update</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 12:30 Commu- nity Lenten Service 1st Pres, w/ lunch at noon</p>	<p>21 </p>	<p>22 9-1 Labyrinth & Stations</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Faith & Health Blood Pressure checks in Balthis 5pm EYC dinner and program 5-Lenten Supper</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 12:30 Commu- nity Lenten Service 1st ARP, w/ lunch at noon</p>	<p>28</p>		

February Schedule of Sunday Lay Servers

Vestry Person Responsible for February Lock-Up - Judith Maloney

February 3, 2013 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Layreaders: 8:00 Ed Hoerning, Pat Townsend;
10:30 Mike Janik, Paul Johnstone, Claude Hueitt (C)

Ushers: Mike & Susan Stanley

Acolytes: Clay Williamson, David John Major,
Allison Sherrill

Greeters: Jim & Anne Carriel

Breakfast: Travis Feezell

Nursery: Ann & Jimmy Jordan

Children's Chapel: Debbie Brake, Travis &
Cooper Feezell

Coffee Hour: Liz Domenico

February 10, 2013 Last Sunday after Epiphany

Layreaders: 8:00 Liz Willett, Vickie Caudill; 10:30
Russ Tiller, Liz Domenico, Brenda Gilbert (C)

Ushers: Jean Eaddy & Debbie Brake

Acolytes: Austin Biles, Sophia & Anthony Varriale,
Ethan Barker, Harry Tiller, *Tripp Griffin*

Greeters: Walter & Judy Hobbs

Breakfast: Dale Ward & Claude Hueitt

Nursery: Penny Barker & TBA

Children's Chapel: Nancy Lynn Hargis, Beth &
Jack Sherrill

Coffee Hour: Vicky Burns

February 13, 2013 Ash Wednesday Services at 7:00 am & 7:00 pm

7:00 am Reader: Claude Hueitt

Ash Wednesday Continued:

7:00 pm Reader: TBA Ushers: Ernie Adcock

February 17, 2013

1st Sunday in Lent

Layreaders: 8:00 Jeff Bozarth, Judy Maloney;
10:30 Alex Williamson, Joe Saunders,
Chris Christy (C)

Ushers: Greg Montgomery & Duane Pendleton

Acolytes: Alex Campbell, Duncan, Valerie, & *Tina*
Queen, Abigail & Eli Dills

Greeters: Jean Eaddy & Ben Ipock

Breakfast: Don & Pat Miller

Nursery: Brenda & Breanna Gilbert

Children's Chapel: Polly & Jim Redd, Maggie
Griffin

Coffee Hour: Marcia Thrower

February 24, 2013

2nd Sunday in Lent

Layreaders: 8:00 Ed Hoerning, Judy Malina;
10:30 Chad Barker, Jay Barnes, David
Burns (C)

Ushers: Don & Pat Miller

Acolytes: Reynolds & Mary Katherine Lyon,
Shawn & Georgia Rabourn, Clay & *Alex*
Williamson

Greeters: Chuck & Edna Forbes

Breakfast: Jim Redd

Nursery: Tom & Angie Gray

Children's Chapel: Marcia & Ethan Thrower,
Terri Williamson

Coffee Hour: TBA



ALTAR FLOWERS

It is time to sign up to provide the Altar flowers for Sundays in 2013. Up to 3 families per week may give flowers in memory or honor of a loved one or an occasion and there are lots of available dates. The cost is \$43.00 per week. We use greenery during Lent, but you can still sign up and put the commemoration in the bulletin. The extra funds are used for flowers when no one gives them. The sign-up sheets are located on the table by the elevator. You can call the office if you have questions.



ST MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

258 WEST FRANKLIN BLVD.

GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28052

(continued from page 6) conversation. Only the will to be with one another and enjoy fellowship and leisure.

It seems that somehow our society has begun to lose sight of the value of things like porch sitting. Every time I get together with other people it seems there is always an agenda. The time is structured. There is always something that needs to be accomplished. There are always needs that have to be met. It seems we have lost the desire, even the ability, to just *be* with one another merely for the sake of *being* together. And so it seems to me that we need times and spaces when we can simply get together and sit on the front porch, drink a nice seasonal beverage, and get to know one another in more authentic ways.

I once heard a priest compare a church building to God's front porch in the world. I like this notion. If we think of our church in this way it means that good fellowship is going to happen, important conversations are going to take place, all people will be welcomed up on the porch, and then the lives of everyone who has spent time on the porch will be changed. God's front porch provides shelter from the wind and rain and sun, but it is also open and gives people a better perspective on the world around them than being cooped up inside. God's front porch interacts with the world around it and is not insular.

When people ask me how I like St. Mark's, I always find myself saying some version of the same thing. "It's great there." "What I really love are the people." "The place is filled with real characters who are kind and fun and forgiving." And when I ask other people what they love about St. Mark's, the phrase "the people there" is usually high on the list—if not at the top. This coming year I feel like we need to capitalize on this huge asset we have. The asset is us! We need to figure out how to use the front porch God has given us. Let's find a way together.

Greg +