



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 Roberts Wetmore, who had pedaled a bicycle from Lincoln for the occasion.

During the formative years of the parish, services were held in the old Academy on the north side of town, as well as the City Hall and the old YMCA building on the corner of 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. The Parish Hall was added in 1955 and upgraded with additional meeting space in 2005.

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.

The apostle Paul writes to Timothy *"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."*

The word abundant, in one form or another, is found in the Bible 146 times. So it is no surprise that people often say "Our God is a God of abundance!" But what does it mean that God is an abundant God. It means that everything we have was given to us from God. God has greatly blessed most of us in this parish and sometimes it is easy to forget that fact. After working long and hard, we sound like that old commercial, we have what we have because, "WE EARNED IT!" In our sinful hearts we forget who it was who gave us the health, the means, and all that had to happen so that we could be blessed to "earn" a living.

But God's abundance is more than just stuff. The Psalmist proclaims, *"But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house, I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you."* (5:7) God fills us with love that overflows our cup. God surrounds us with God's presence and enfolds us in God's arms.

So how is it we experience God's abundance in our lives? We experience God's abundance in communion and community. Being part of a people of faith as we love and serve both God and our neighbors brings us that abundant life Jesus speaks to in John's Gospel, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

Jesus also spoke to the abundance we accumulate and how it can become a barrier to our relationship with God. In Luke Jesus tells us about the widow and the two mites. *"He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.'"*

So many churches make decisions based on what they think they can do. There is a fear of only going as far as we think we can go, based on our money, our experience, or our comfort zone. Many see a world of scarcity. Faithful Christians believe and trust in a God of abundance. There is an old saying *"The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you."*

And what happens when we trust and believe? Paul reassures us that God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. (continued on page 3)

Worship Services

Sundays

8:00 am Eucharist

Traditional Rite I Service with sermon and music; Morning Prayer on 5th Sundays

10:30 am Eucharist

Rite II Service with choir; Children's Chapel during Liturgy of the Word portion

Weekdays

Eucharists

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

6:00 pm Wednesdays, following 4:30 Bible Study

7:00 pm Thursdays (1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th) with healing, Order of St. Luke Ministry

Holy Baptism

Baptism is the accepted method for becoming a member of the Episcopal Church for all ages. Baptisms are generally held as part of the regular Sunday worship and traditionally are done on All Saints Sunday in November, Epiphany I in January, the Easter Vigil the Saturday before Easter Day, and Pentecost Sunday. Other times may be arranged by contacting the clergy or the church office.

LENT 2012

SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 21

6:00 PM.....

\$3 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 per family

Sponsored by Brotherhood of St. Andrew & EYC
with all proceeds to benefit Youth Ministries.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 22

7:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

12:00 Noon - Community Service with Ashes

3:30 PM - Special Service for Children
with ashes and Eucharist

LENTEN SUPPER AND PROGRAM

5 SUNDAY EVENINGS

February 26th through March 25

5:00 - 6:45 PM



A simple supper for 5 Sundays in Lent at 5:00 pm, followed at 5:45 by program for adults, youth and children. Adults will be talking about how we implement the 5 fruitful practices here at St. Mark's. Youth will have activities designed by their EYC leaders. Children will be looking at prayer, how we pray and tools that can help with our prayers. Nursery can be available, if requested. We ask that you let the church office know if you plan to attend and need nursery.

(continued from page 1) At the annual meeting I mentioned that we may have to look at what is called a faith budget for 2012. Later someone asked me what I meant. A faith budget is a budget that outlines the ministries and expenses of the church and provides as much information about giving and spending as possible. It is like a regular budget except that the known giving is less than the expected spending. That is the faith part. We believe that somehow if God is calling us to do this work, God will provide. Now an important part of the faith journey is for us to not say, "Well, they are already short, so they will not miss what I would give." It is important to understand that most likely God will provide through the people of God who are here already in this parish.

The vestry and parish members who attended the annual meeting all agreed that what God is doing here at St. Mark's is powerful, for both our congregation and this community. Now is not the time to stop a ministry, to reduce staff, or to bury our heads in the sand and say, "We can't; we shouldn't; we won't."

Now is the time to proclaim that our God is a great God. Now is the time to show that we truly believe that God will provide, through transforming us into generous and cheerful givers, each according to their blessings.

St. Mark's will be faithful to our calling to be Christ Centered, touching lives, transforming hearts, teaching God's word, through every person, to every person, sharing with every person the abundant love of our God that overflows. And for that we say, "Thanks be to God."

Shawn +

A Recent Letter to the Rector

Dear Fr. Shawn,

At the annual meeting, you said that the pledges for the coming year may not be enough to cover the expenses for 2012, and that is a shame! The Bible urges us all to "tithe". Tithe is defined as one-tenth of the annual produce of one's land or of one's annual income paid as a tax or contribution to support one's church or its clergy. We, like many churchgoers, believed that we could not afford to put that much of our income in the collection place each week. We were wrong!

In spite of the many challenging situations we have faced in our 2 year marriage, we began to realize that we have been blessed in many ways. We also began to realize that everything we have is God's to begin with and we should give some of it back—10%, to be exact. But we were afraid that it was more than we could afford. After all, we might have to eat fewer country ham biscuits from Bojangles or fewer milk shakes from Tony's. But after serious discussions, we decided that tithing - 10% - would be the proper pledge. We put that amount on our pledge card, and we are glad we did. Every time we sit down to write a check to the church, the money is always there! God does provide what we need to do His work!

We want to encourage every member of St. Mark's to give serious consideration to increasing their pledges to 10% of their income. If you make the pledge, God will make it possible. And you can take that to the bank! Joe and Janet Saunders



T'ai Chi on Wednesdays
Noon to 1:00 pm
Beginning February 1
led by Carol Feezell
cost - \$3.00 per class

T'ai Chi is an ancient form of meditative exercise, practiced in China and easily recognized by its slow, captivating movements. Anyone can practice it anywhere, anytime, in almost any state of health. There is no age limit.

Benefits include: improved health
 reduced stress increased energy
 relaxation better quality sleep
 better flexibility, strength and balance
 more focus and quiet for your mind

Carol Feezell will be the instructor and guide. She has practiced t'ai chi since 2001 and taught for 5 years and enjoys sharing her love of the practice with others. Dress in comfortable clothes and shoes. No special equipment is needed. Contact Carol at 704-691-4937 or visit her website www.greatenergy4you.com if you have any questions.

Comings & Goings

Office Hours The church office is closed on Fridays but messages are checked during the day. If you have a pastoral emergency, contact Fr. Shawn at 704-718-7034 or Fr. Greg at 828-230-7617. Be sure to keep these numbers handy.



During Playground Construction the Franklin side (with the doorbell) will be harder to access. If you use the side or front hall glass doors, you may have to knock loudly for us to hear you and come to the door. Or call the office on your cell to be let in.

CPC's Miles of Pennies: We continue to collect your change in the large jar by the main church doors for our Miles of Pennies. MOP money goes to provide children's printed materials around the world. A mile is \$844.80 and we have sent in one mile.



ECW Women's Circle: All are welcome at the ECW Circle Group meeting the first Monday of each month at 10:30 at Covenant Village. Betsy Steketee coordinates the group and they are doing a survey-type study of the Old Testament this year. The next Circle Meeting is February 6th, when we will look at Israel under the kings Saul, David and Solomon.



Prayer Shawl Ministry: Knitters and crocheters make prayer shawls for others to be "wrapped in prayer". Nancy Brewbaker coordinates knitters and Fr. Shawn has them to give to anyone you know needs one. To date 28 shawls have been made and given out.

St. Mark's Nursing Home Birthday Ministry on the 1st Friday of the month at 3:30 pm brings flowers and a card to **Abingdon Place** residents with birthdays during the month. The group shares a simple Bible story, along with cake and ice cream. Plans are to expand to other sites soon. Anyone interested in donating flowers, giving bud vases, or being part of the group that visits, contact Troy Merritt (704-604-3636) or Mike Janik (704-825-9942).



THE INTERNATIONAL **The Order of St. Luke** ORDER of ST. LUKE THE PHYSICIAN meets each Thursday @ 7 for Eucharist with Healing. The service is at St. Mark's the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th weeks and at All Saints the 4th week. If you have questions or want information, speak to Deacon Pat Cheshire.



Bible Study Groups:

The Wednesday Afternoon Group meets at 4:30 pm each week in the Balthis Room to study the Acts of the Apostles. Everyone is welcome. The Wednesday Bible Study is followed by a mid-week Eucharist for those who wish to stay.

Belmont Evening Group meets once a month on a weeknight at 6:30 pm at the home of Blaine and Cookie Rudisill in Belmont. They are studying Genesis. The next date is Wednesday, February 1st. For directions or information, call Rudisills at 825-3045.

Daughters of the King meets the 2nd Sunday of each month following the 10:30 service. Any woman interested in studying to be a daughter should speak to Edna Forbes, new president, or any daughter. Our new chapter officers will be installed February 12. Please hold Brenda Gilbert in your prayers as she begins as Diocese DOK President.



Our IHN Guests are with us January 29 through February 5. Volunteers are still needed for meals, hosting overnight, set-up and tear-down, and laundry. Jimmy and Ann Jordan have a chart for sign-ups with lots of ways to help extend the famous St. Mark's Hospitality.

Cursillo is a very special retreat weekend held twice a year at Christmont Center, Black Mountain. Cursillo helps each person look at what Christ has done for you and what you can do for Christ. The next weekend will be May 10-13. David Burns will be the leader for the weekend and can give you information if you are at all interested.



Salvation Army Team C served dinner at the shelter on the 10th and 24th in January. Each meal was well received and appreciated by the crowd. The menu consists of ham, potato salad, green beans, rolls, peaches and a selection of desserts. Jim Barber, Carol Barker and Bruce and Betsy Steketees served the group and food was provided by them with Shirley Bishop, Anne Carriel, Jean Eaddy, Candy Grooms, Fred Hadfield, Ann Jordan, Eleanor Martin and Elizabeth Seabrook. Once again the Cramerton Food Lion generously assisted with the ham cost.

Gaston Faith Network tells us **CASH** (Creating Assets, Savings & Hope) sponsors free Income Tax Preparation Sites for anyone who worked in 2011 and earned less than \$50,000. AARP sites are also available with help for senior adults. A sheet of information about these free tax services is hanging on the wall outside the kitchen.



More and more I hear people saying, "Why can't we just get along?" I think we all are very aware of how that is playing out in the political arena, particularly in Washington these days. This past weekend I attended the Diocesan Convention for the Diocese of North Carolina and there were times when voices of the church were raised in anger and angst. So, why can't people just get along? By nature we are creatures who from the beginning are worried only about ourselves. As babies we cry for food and attention. As children we learn how to manipulate our parents to get what we want - more than one father is "wrapped around a daughter's finger". As teens and young adults we are fearless because we are sure that we are invincible until someone we know is injured or killed in a "stupid accident". As grown-ups we still want our way most of the time. Yet, we do need to find ways to get along better with others. I would suggest two things that I try to do. One way is to try to think of things from the other person's point of view. It can be hard to put yourself in another's position, but it can help you to see with fresh eyes and understand why they might feel the way they do. The other way to get along better is to be a better listener. I practice paying attention to a person when they speak. I am easily distracted, so I have to work very hard at this. Often I have to take notes and write things down if I am going to fully listen and remember the conversation in the end. Jim has found that he has to close his eyes to concentrate and listen. We all have ways we work to pay attention. With children, it is so easy to ignore what they are saying, but they often have important things to tell us and for us to hear. Greg recently talked about an encounter with Gracie while writing his sermon, and I know that I regularly hear wonderful insights into God's plan from the children in our Sunday morning programs. Take a few moments in the next several weeks to really listen with your whole heart. Put aside your pre-conceived notions of what the person is trying to say. Stop planning what you are going to say in response and really listen to the words. Watch the person's eyes and hands. Be in tune with their tone and voice. You may find that God is trying to tell you something as well.



Peace, Polly

**MARDI GRAS / EPIPHANY
CELEBRATION**

**For All St. Mark Adults
Friday, February 17
6:00 - 9:00 PM
at the home of
Jim and Anne Carriel
3704 St. Charles Court**



If you cannot make it to New Orleans this year for Mardi Gras before Lent begins, plan to attend the St. Mark's Mardi Gras Celebration at Jim and Anne Carriel's. Bring an hors d'oevre to share with the crowd and your own beverage to enjoy and join the fun. Anne will supply the beads. Purple, green and gold are the colors of the evening and everyone is invited. Call Anne at 866-7298 for directions.



**Brotherhood of St. Andrew
Sunday, February 12**

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew invites all men and youth to attend a re-organizational meeting of the St. Mark's Chapter on Sunday, February 12 after the 10:30 service. A simple lunch of soup and sandwiches will be served and the meeting will last about 1 hour.

The purpose of this meeting is to increase BSA membership and participation within the parish. We will discuss the alignment and support of the Brotherhood with the Youth Group and Youth Ministry activities at St. Mark's. Key focus will be on:

- Daily Prayer Practice
- Growth & Participation in Chapter
- Support for a Diocesan Mission Trip
- Sponsor Camp Henry Scholarships
- Organize & sponsor at least 3 activities for men & youth with EYC (such as Crowder hike, Camp Rockmont, Whitewater Center, hockey game, etc.)

Shared Ministry is the vision for St. Mark's in 2012, an approach that sees **every member of the parish**, not just the clergy and staff, as part of the "ministry team". In this space we highlight the work of one area of ministry. This month we focus on **The Ministry of Hospitality**.



SPOTLIGHT ON...
The Ministry of Hospitality



Hospitality is defined as the generous and cordial reception of guests. For the church it centers on how we welcome visitors to our services and other activities. St. Mark's has always been known as a parish that made people feel welcomed. The harder part is getting people connected to activities and ministries that interest them and use their gifts, help feed their personal needs, and continue to build their relationship with God. **The Hospitality Support Team** helps coordinate and train Ushers and Greeters for Sundays, leads our efforts to welcome and integrate Newcomers into the life of the parish, offers a "St. Mark's 101 Class" at least once a year so newcomers can learn about this parish and how we do what we do, and provides Sponsors to "mentor" individuals who are new to the parish as they begin to learn about our activities. If you are interested in being a part of the Ministry of Hospitality, speak to Richard Martinez, vestry liaison for hospitality, or to Tim Grooms, Hospitality Support Team Leader, who is passionate about St. Mark's being a welcoming parish. Always remember that your smile and words of welcome to people may be the one moment that allows a visitor see St. Mark's as the warm, caring community of faith that it is.

Those who attended the Annual Meeting on January 15 heard about the New Model for the St. Mark's Vestry to provide leadership through prayer, discernment and visioning while the "work" of the church is done through a new structure of support teams and ministry teams.

In each of 10 areas of ministry at St. Mark's,

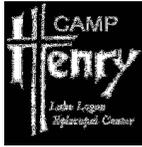
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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Communications | Parish Life |
| Financial Responsibility | Building and Grounds |
| Christian Formation | Outreach |
| Hospitality | Stewardship |
| Pastoral Care | Worship |

there will be a small Support Team (generally made up of 3 or 4 people, possibly including a vestry liaison and a member of the church clergy/staff) who works to enable and strengthen the individuals and groups that provide a variety of ministries to both the parish and the community. This is already happening in several areas. As an example, the Pastoral Care Support Team and their 7 supported groups for ministry are noted in the box:

LEM	Home Meals	Bereavement	Hospital Visits
Missing in Worship	Family Hardship	Healthcare & Wellness	
PASTORAL CARE SUPPORT TEAM			

Each of these areas has a team leader, such as Dale Ward for the LEMs, or Brenda Gilbert for Bereavement. They report to Jay Barnes who is the Support Team Leader who then coordinates with the office and clergy about what is needed in these areas and calls meetings of the Support Team to help promote and encourage others to be involved in Pastoral Care. Other ministry will be highlighted in this newsletter and on a display in the Parish Hall as the Support Teams are formed. Be on the lookout!

YOUTH NEWS



Camp Henry Dates for 2012

June 17-23: Senior High

June 24-30: Grades 3-5

July 1-7: Grades 6-8

July 8-10: Parents w/1st Timers & Camp Henry Service Camp

July 11-14: Mini Camp

July 15-21: Grades 4-6

July 22-28: Grades 7-9

2012 Folders are available in the church office and on the bulletin board near the kitchen. Start making summer plans now.

Many exciting activities are planned for the next several months. Take note of times and other requirements in the listing below:

- Jan 29: Bowling & Dinner @ Textile Lanes in Belmont. Meet at church at 4 or the bowling alley at 4:30, dinner at Pizza Hut across the street. Pick up at 8:00 at church. \$15.00 (Scholarship available).



- Feb 5: Members of the EYC will collect after both services for the Souper Bowl of Caring with all money to go to feed people through CAM; Both groups will later meet at Martha Rivers Park to play Flag Football - 3:00 Club 45 meets, 4:00 everyone for a cookout dinner together, 4:30-6:00 the EYC will play Flag Football.



- Feb 10-12: Winter Ski Trip @ the Gray's Beech Mountain House; Cost is \$75 to cover lift ticket and equipment (scholarship help is available). Let Greg, Rebecca, or Tom know you plan to attend by February 6th.



- Feb 19: Mardi Gras Party 5-7 pm
- Feb 21: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, arrive by 5:00 & help with event.
- Feb 26: Labyrinth Program, place TBA



Watch for future details and other activities for the young people of this parish. For more information, contact Fr. Greg, Rebecca Adams, or Tom Gray.

ICE CREAM WITH ABRAHAM & ABSALOM:

A Gospel Hymn Sing with Five Choirs



Sunday, February 12

2:00 PM

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
805 South York Street, Gastonia

Come celebrate the anniversary of

The Rev. Absalom Jones,

1st Black Episcopal Priest (1804)

and the birthday of

Abraham Lincoln (1809)

with ice cream and music in

the Gospel Tradition with the choirs of

All Saints' & St. Mark's Episcopal, Holy Trinity Lutheran, St. Stephen's AME Zion, all of Gastonia, and St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal, Charlotte.



Parish Transitions

Transfer In - Eden Isbell, from Christ Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Transfer Out - Amy Hueitt, to First ARP Church, Gastonia

Death - Thomas Strand, Andrew Quinley's grandfather, in Rutherfordton

Editor's Note: I apologize to Cathy Young and everyone else for the belated transfer-in report that seemed to say she had not been a member of the parish. Cathy was received by the bishop and reaffirmed her baptismal covenant in March 2008 and has been active in our parish ever since. The transfer-in from Shandon Methodist was a bookkeeping item they sent. I am sorry for the misunderstanding. Polly

February 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Every Sunday:</u> 8-HE I 9-Breakfast 9:30-SS Classes for All 10:30-HE II EYC as noted</p>	<p><u>Every Monday:</u> AA 8pm</p>	<p><u>Every Tuesday:</u> St. Mark's Aikido 7 pm</p>	<p>1 12-1 T'ai Chi Class 3:30 Eucharist @ Covenant Village 4:30 Bible Study/HE 6:30 Belmont BS 6:30&7 Choirs</p>	<p>2 7 pm - OSL Healing Service</p>	<p>3 Office Closed on Fridays 3:30 Abingdon Place Birthday Celebration</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Souper Bowl of Carving Collection for CAM 4pm - Club 45 5:00 Dinner together 5:30 - EYC</p>	<p>6 ECW Circle @ Covenant 10:30 am</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 12-1 T'ai Chi Class BS / HE / Choirs</p>	<p>9 7 pm - OSL Healing Service</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 DOK Officer installation (no meeting) Brotherhood of St. Andrew Lunch & Meeting after church 2:00 pm Gospel Sing!</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Valentines' Day </p>	<p>15 12-1 T'ai Chi Class BS / HE / Choirs</p>	<p>16 7 pm - OSL Healing Service 7 pm - PFLAG, Balthis</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Vestry following service</p>	<p>20 President's Day  </p>	<p>21 Shrove Tuesday EYC arrive @ 5 pm Pancake Supper-6 pm w/ Burying the Alleluias</p>	<p>22 Ash Wednesday HE w/ Ashes @ 7 am, 7 pm; Community Service w/ Ashes @ noon; Children's Service @ 3:30</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 First (1) Lenten Supper & Program; supper at 5 pm, program (children & adult) at 5:45, end at 6:45</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 12-1 T'ai Chi Class BS / HE / Choirs</p>			

February Schedule of Sunday Lay Servers

Vestry Person Responsible for February Lock-Up - Michelle Jarbeau

February 5, 2012

Epiphany V

Layreaders: 8:00 Jeff Bozarth, Pat Townsend; 10:30 John Anderson, Brenda Gilbert, Chris Christy-C

Ushers: Pat Miller, Tina Queen, *Don Miller

Acolytes: Alex Campbell, Duncan & Valerie Queen

Greeters: Jim & Anne Carriel

Children's Chapel: Christi Jolley, Travis & Colby Feezell

Nursery: Debbie Brake, Donna Taylor

Breakfast: Don & Pat Miller

Coffee Hour: Debbie Scarborough

February 19, 2012

Epiphany VII

Layreaders: 8:00 Ed Hoerning, Judy Malina; 10:30 Ben Rudisill, Joe Saunders, David Burns (C)

Ushers: Will & Marcia Thrower, *Alan Jolley

Acolytes: Coralie Watts, Reynold & Mary Lyon

Greeters: Bill & Price Thrower

Children's Chapel: Polly & Jim Redd, David John Major

Nursery: Tom & Angie Gray

Breakfast: Dale Ward and Claude Hueitt

Coffee Hour: Vicky Burns

February 12, 2012

Epiphany VI

Layreaders: 8:00 Elizabeth Willett, Judy Maloney; 10:30 Fred Hadfield, Cathy Young, Paul Johnstone (C)

Ushers: Mike Stanley, Don Howe, *Dan Gilbert

Acolytes: Austin Biles, Christina & Jackson Vaughn

Greeters: Chuck Forbes, Bill Seabrook

No Chapel due to Family Service at 10:30

Nursery: Ann & Jimmy Jordan

Breakfast: Travis Feezell

Coffee Hour: Liz Domenico

February 26, 2012

Lent I

Layreader: 8:00 Jim Redd, Mary Stamey; 10:30 Ann & Dale Ward, Wendela Correia (C)

Ushers: Kevin & Peggy Knight, *Duane Pendleton

Acolytes: Stewart Butt, David John Major, Jackson Cloninger

Greeters: Jean Eaddy, Debbie Brake

Children's Chapel: Julie Christy, Terri Williamson, Emma Gray Taylor

Nursery: Chad & Penny Barker

Breakfast: Greg & Pam Dills

Coffee Hour: TBA



ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2012 altar flower sign-up sheets are located near the elevator. Up to 3 families may provide flowers for any given Sunday in memory or honor of a loved one or an occasion. Cost is \$43.00 per donation and special requests for type or color of flower used are accepted. Altar flowers may be taken home or sent to the hospital or other shut-ins at the request of the donors. If you would like more information about how to give altar flowers, call the church office and speak to Jean or Trish. We have two potted ferns which are used on Sundays when no donations for flowers are given.



3rd Annual East Carolina Acolyte Festival

April 27-28, 2012

**St. Andrew's by the Sea
Nags Head, North Carolina
Cost - \$35.00 (inclusive)**

This is the festival several of our acolytes attended last year (then the National Festival was cancelled because of the earthquake). It was a fun two days at the beach with other Episcopalians and informative workshops. If anyone is interested in attending this year's festival, speak to Alex Williamson or Fr. Shawn.



ST MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

258 WEST FRANKLIN BLVD.

GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28052

**The Gastonia Ecumenical Lenten Series,
traditionally held on Wednesdays in Lent,
with Lunch & Service with Sermon
centered on a Lenten theme and
held in various Churches around the downtown area,
has not been finalized yet.**

**As soon as we know the schedule,
we will get it out to everyone.
The Community Ash Wednesday Service
will be February 22 at noon at St. Mark's.**