

July 2007

Volume 6 Issue 11

THE LION'S ROAR

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Outreach Evolving at St. Mark's

On the second Tuesday evening of each month, your Outreach Commission is hard at work considering requests for grants and formulating an evolving approach to its work. Over the years, significant changes have occurred in the way St. Mark's has distributed its outreach resources that many parishioners – especially newer members – and May Fair volunteers may not know about.

The Outreach Commission members, appointed by the Rector to staggered three-year terms, recommend to the Vestry how the hard-earned money raised by the collective efforts of hundreds of May Fair volunteers is disbursed.

Recently the commission clarified its strategy, describing three explicit criteria to evaluate new projects:

- 1) the project should have a clear, unambiguous, Christian mission
- 2) it must involve a significant number of parishioners who volunteer in the name of St. Mark's Church
- 3) it should be an organization with which St. Mark's can establish a partnership, rather than merely appear on a list of donors (These criteria are available to grant applicants on the St. Mark's website.)

Many years ago, the commission accepted grant applications and disbursed small amounts to as many as twenty organizations based loosely on what we might call the "United Way" model. In more recent years, new points of view have shaped and changed the giving strategy, so that the original model is now obsolete.

Some years ago, the commission decided to give much larger grants to necessarily fewer recipients, and then taper off in subsequent years. Beneficiaries of this strategy included CaTS ("career transitioning" www.newcanaancats.org), dealing with unemployment issues; GetAbout, helping to transport elderly people in town; and the Fairfield County chapter of STRIVE, a faith-based organization helping disadvantaged people find and retain jobs.

Four years ago, the commission created and funded its own program – Camp Hand-in-Hand, a summer day camp taking

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Consecration of New Connecticut Bishop Suffragan

The Rev. Dr. Laura Ahrens became bishop suffragan of the [Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut](#) in historic Woolsey Hall at Yale University on Saturday, June 30, 2007. She is the first woman bishop in the Diocese of Connecticut, the 14th woman elected to the House of Bishops, the 1,018th bishop of the Episcopal Church, and the latest in a line that began with her diocesan ancestor, Samuel Seabury, the first bishop of [Connecticut and of the Episcopal Church](#). (Seabury was consecrated in Scotland rather than England in 1784 because he wouldn't swear an oath to King George III.)

Connecticut Bishop Andrew D. Smith, Connecticut Bishop Suffragan James E. Curry, New York Bishop Suffragan Catherine Roskam and Olympia Bishop Vincent Warner joined chief consecrator Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori as consecrators. Bishop Warner was rector of St. Andrew's in Wellesley, Massachusetts, Ahrens' church while growing up and the church that sponsored her for priestly ordination and later ordained her a priest.

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Autumn '07 Sneak Preview

Mid-summer provides the time for us to smell the roses and enjoy summer pleasures like reading, travel and renewed family connections. I'm enjoying the change of pace and hope that you are, too.

Churches slow down in summer, but we're worshipping Sunday after Sunday while planning new ventures for autumn. Each year brings a balance of continuity and change: this September will witness the usual joyful flurry of ministries as we work toward the conclusion of our interim period. Elsewhere in this Lion's Roar, read an important article by our Outreach Commission that seeks to refocus our community ministry and evangelism in Christ's name. Adult education courses are shaping up, our church school will blossom and our music ministry builds on strong foundations.

Come September, you will meet two clergy who will fill important vacancies while we await a new rector:

- The Rev. Anne Richards will serve as Sunday priest assistant for the duration of our interim. Anne currently serves as chaplain at Grace Church School in Manhattan, which frees her for Sunday service. Anne and I served together for three years at Grace Church in New York, and those with NYC ties may know Anne from her work over the years at the Diocese of New York, St. Luke's in the Fields or Church of the Heavenly Rest. Anne will be with us on Sunday mornings, beginning September 16, to celebrate, preach and teach a 9:00 class.
- The Rev. Carol Hoidra will serve full-time as our youth minister and clergy pastoral assistant. Recently ordained a priest after a full career in business, Carol welcomes the mentoring we can provide while she leads Tuesday nursery school chapel, teaches 8th grade confirmation, coordinates Sunday evening EYC and our winter trip to Taize. Carol also will assist me with the pastoral care of parishioners of all ages. Carol begins her ministry on September 1 and will reside in the home formerly occupied by Rita Powell. Carol has committed to be with us for the next program year and will then take stock with the new rector after his or her arrival.

As you know, Mother Davis concludes her ministry on Sunday, September 9, the same day we jumpstart autumn. By design, we will say goodbye to her as we say hello (again) to each other. So in quintessential St. Mark's style, I invite you to a special Holy Smokers' barbecue in honor of Mother Davis at 11:30 a.m. on September 9.

DMR

First Woman Bishop in Connecticut

(continued from front page)

Bishops representing all seven New England dioceses, five current and former Connecticut bishops and the bishop from Colombia (Connecticut's companion diocese) and the bishop-elect from the Scottish Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney joined in the consecration. Five of the church's female bishops joined 14 male bishops in laying hands on the new bishop's head. Scores of Episcopal clergy also vested and processed in. It was all quite grand, and holy, one of those wonderful and rare events in the church when our worldwide bonds and the unbroken time line connecting us all back to the time of Christ are made manifest in our rituals and celebrations.



In her sermon, the Presiding Bishop used the image of the quaking aspen to describe the church's strength as it trembles in awe of the work God has given its people to do. "Quaking aspens are known to scientists as *Populus tremuloides*," she said. "If you'll pardon the wordplay," Jefferts Schori said,

"Christians should consider themselves 'a populace that trembles'."

Please keep Bishop Ahrens in your prayers as she assumes her new role in the church.

Mother Davis+

Outreach Funds to Fulfill Evangelistic Mission

(continued from front page)

place at St. Mark's for children from different economic, religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. (The camp has its own staff and board of directors.)

A recent project that has met the three giving criteria most explicitly has also generated the most debate. In 2006, the commission agreed to contribute substantially to the creation of the Lion's Den Bookstore, housed on the St. Mark's campus next to Morrill Hall. At first, some members of the commission strongly felt that May Fair funds should not be invested in "on-campus" projects. Others felt equally strongly that the bookstore could be an extraordinary outreach opportunity, by marketing itself to the entire community and by making everyone in New Canaan welcome, and at the same time showcasing St. Mark's Church as a happening, vital place where all people are welcome. A year later, the commission unanimously approved a smaller follow-up grant, signaling that the location of the funded activity, in this case the on-campus bookstore, was not relevant as long as the community at large benefited.

The essential change in outreach has been to move in the direction of investing the May Fair funds in projects that actively promote the Christian mission of the church. The majority of the commission members are in agreement that the May Fair funds should be used to take the word of God into the community, and that St. Mark's should use its Outreach funds to fulfill an evangelistic mission rather than to distribute them as a generic kind of grant-making agency. The discussions about what constitutes Christian work have made the meetings stimulating and occasionally contentious. But it wouldn't be St. Mark's if it were otherwise!

The members of the commission are planning an after-church forum for late September during which they will more fully describe the grant-making strategy and plans for the near future and welcome comments from parishioners.

Waveny Land Sale Update

On June 10, a special parish meeting approved a vestry proposal to sell some 6.25 acres of our campus to Waveny Care Network. This vote represents the first of many milestones in a complex arrangement that benefits St. Mark's Church, Waveny and the town of New Canaan.

Later in June, the Diocese of Connecticut's Standing Committee gave its initial approval as required by canon law.

Our next step involves a formal option agreement between the vestry and Waveny's board that guarantees terms by which Waveny's due diligence will take place. Once this option contract is complete, Waveny will engage specialists to conduct a business feasibility study, followed by an architectural feasibility study of the proposed land. These processes will consume many months of important due diligence before further negotiation continues between the two parties.

Stay tuned for regular updates throughout the autumn.

Capital Campaign for "Architectural Jewel" in Hartford

As the seat of the first Episcopal Diocese in North America, Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford remains a symbol of more than two centuries of witness, worship and outreach. Consecrated in 1829, during Andrew Jackson's administration, this historic landmark is a parish church as well as the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.

A capital campaign has been initiated for restoration to the exterior, including repair to the stunning stained glass windows. Friends of the cathedral

are invited to participate in this campaign. Log on to the website for ways to make a gift:

www.cccathedral.org or call 860.527.7231.



“Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability”

Sam Keen, American Philosopher

The store bear and the Lion's Den volunteers have put their feet up and are finally reading those books set aside for summer reading. Behind the scene, the shop keeper finishes up Christmas shopping and Fr. Rider peruses books for next fall's classes. Enjoy the long, hot days and cool evenings and pore through your pile of vacation reading. We look forward to seeing you on opening day, Sunday, September 9th.

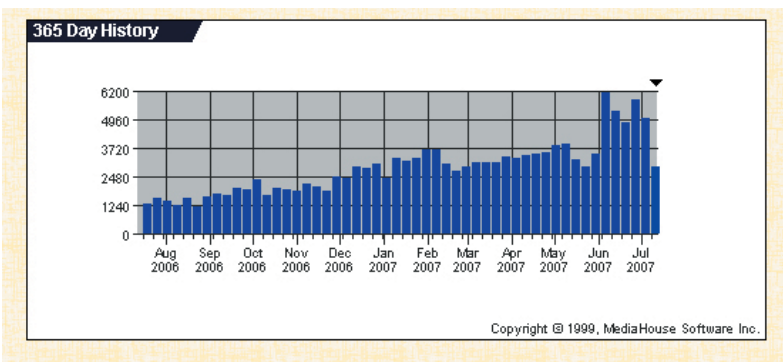


www.stmarksnewcanaan.org

As our web site enters its third year, we can see that its usage keeps growing at a significant rate. The site has been designed with a counter that allows us to monitor key web statistics, i.e. the number of visitors, most viewed pages, entry point, and length of time viewing the site, etc. Looking at the bar graph below representing the weekly number of visits to the website over the past year, one can see the average weekly hits since last August has almost tripled, from approximately 1250 to 3600 (with obvious spikes at times). Here are some fun stats about our website:

- Shortly after the parish profile was published, there were 60 active sessions (people) surfing the site at one time.
- Average number of sessions at one time is normally 8
- The most viewed pages continue to be the calendar, sermons - past and present, May Fair, the Lion's Roar, music and special events.
- When the Lion's Roar is sent out as a web link, approximately 170 readers visit the link within 48 hours

What our stats counter cannot keep track of, is the number of trees saved by substituting web communications vs. the printed alternative. Have fun surfing, you're in lots of good and green company.



Rector Search Committee Update

The Rector Search Committee continues to be busy this summer as they are in the intensive stage of the search process. Second round calls by teams “Alpha” and “Omega” are being made, as well as reviewing sermons supplied by candidates via e-mail, tape, and DVD. In addition, they are doing background research work via the Internet.

Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they discern God's will for the future of our parish.

May Fair memories are coming together with a collection from parishioners young and old. Read the memories and view the photos on the website:



<http://www.stmarksnewcanaan.org/mayfair.asp> or outside the library. Add your May Fair memories to the collection by contacting Lisa Bonarrigo at (203) 979 7272 or by emailing her at Lisabonarrigo@nyu.edu or to Rhonda Morrill, rmorrill@stmarksnewcanaan.org.

Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation, Please Help

Many thanks to all who continue to donate unexpired items to the Food Bank. Donations may be left in the church house foyer. Please contact Wendy Hilboldt (972-3459) if you wish to volunteer.

Updated needs for the pantry . . .

canned fruits and vegetables
bottled juice and juice boxes
mayonnaise
ketchup
peanut butter
pasta sauce
instant coffee
paper products (PT, TP, napkins, and kleenex)
milk products (instant, evaporated, pudding packs, boxed milk)
toiletries
dish and laundry detergent
cleaning products

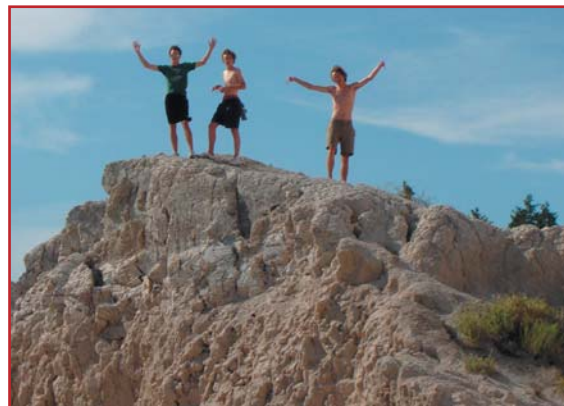
South Dakota Trip Provides Insight Into Native Culture

The last week of June was a great one for those of us who journeyed to South Dakota. The group consisted of eleven EYC members, who were a mix of high school upperclassmen and graduates. Two chaperones came as well: Rita Powell and her friend Lucas Grubbs, a priest at Christ Church New Haven.

After attending the annual convocation in Chamberlain, we drove across South Dakota arriving at Thunderhead Episcopal Center (TEC) in the Black Hills region. There we were joined by a mix of teens from both the surrounding reservations and cities across the state. At the camp we



participated in activities such as Frisbee, bible discussion and daily prayer. In these prayer services, we incorporated the spirit of Taizé. Having visited the French monastery, the EYC was able to lead the camp in the monastery songs. Our time at the camp culminated in an evening service atop a nearby mountain. After hiking some distance to the cliff we partook in the calming service led by Rita and Lucas.



Nearing the end of the week, we left the camp and drove back across the state to Sioux Falls, where we held our own sendoff to the seniors and most importantly to Rita.

The emotional dinner was marked by toasts, where each member of EYC reflected upon the trip and thanked Rita for her presence over the last two years. Each toast mentioned how Rita profoundly impacted both the members

as individuals and the youth group on a whole.

“I didn’t realize how much Rita had impacted my life. This trip offered insight into another culture and was a sense of closure to my EYC career. As I begin a new chapter in a new setting, I will not forget the experiences that EYC has given me and the person who led these endeavors,” said Morgan Williams, NCHS ’07.

Submitted by Robby Bitting, NCHS 07; Robby will be attending Bowdoin College in Maine this fall. St. Mark’s wishes all our departing seniors much luck and happiness as they go forward this fall.



Help Spread the Good News!

Doesn't it make you feel good when you open up the newspaper and see an article about St. Mark's? Especially when you are involved! There are so many wonderful things happening at St. Mark's! But our whole congregation and the larger New Canaan community are not necessarily always aware of them. Help us spread the news. Rhonda Morrill and I are putting together a Communications Committee to help remedy this situation and we could use your help in submitting articles/photos for the paper. We have all the guidelines and timelines needed to make this job a snap. Contact us.....

Jill Ernst, Vestry Member: jill.ernst@gmail.com

Rhonda Morrill, Staff: rmorrill@stmarksnewcanaan.org



Autumn Adult Christian Education at a Glance: Tentative Schedule

Sunday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m. in Morrill Hall

Welcome Back Overview: How We Spent Our Summer and Hope to Spend Our Autumn

David Rider, vestry representatives, and search committee leaders speak informally about ministry at St. Mark's over the summer and into autumn. Join us for Q&A as we kick off an important program year for St. Mark's.

Sundays 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. beginning September 16

Theology of Christian Mission and Outreach (David Rider, 3 weeks)

In our Christian conversation, we often use words interchangeably like outreach, mission, community service, evangelism and charity. Are these words synonyms, or do they stem from different theologies of Christian service? Depending upon our assumptions, we can end with differing priorities for St. Mark's. In this discussion, David Rider and Outreach Commission members engage you in conversation about our parish's past and future vision for mission on and beyond our campus.

Toward God: A Class on Prayer (Anne Richards, 11 weeks)

In this class, we explore the centrality of prayer in the Christian life. We will talk about what prayer is, how to deepen (or begin) one's prayer life, and various forms of prayer. We also will discuss practical topics related to prayer, such as how we imagine God, the effects of prayer on the rest of one's life, the place of the cross in prayer; meditation; sin and prayer, and the prayers of Jesus. The text for the class will be Michael Casey's *Toward God: The Ancient Wisdom of Western Prayer* (Liguori/Triumph, 1996, available in our bookstore after Labor Day).

Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:15 a.m., beginning September 12

Paul's Letter to the Galatians (David Rider and Carol Hoidra, 15 weeks)

This Bible Study engages Paul's most polemic Epistle, one Martin Luther once said he loved more than his wife. The civilized Paul engages the barbarian Galatians who epitomized the outsiders of the biblical world as they washed their warrior hair in lime and screamed terrifying battle cries, dispatching the heads of their enemies. In the first verses, Paul invokes divine authority for his identity as he articulates a new teaching on justification by faith, a theme fatefully invoked again during the Protestant Reformation. Our class addresses Paul's overall theology (especially justification and grace) and shares our individual approaches to Scripture as we read the Epistle together.

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

†	All Saints' Sunday	November 4, 2007	10:00 a.m.
†	Baptism of Our Lord	January 13, 2008	10:00 a.m.
†	Easter Vigil	Saturday March 22, 2008	8:00 p.m.
†	Pentecost	Sunday, June 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.

At St. Mark's, we celebrate Baptism on the feast days listed above. For information, please call the church office and if you want to schedule a baptism be sure to call several weeks before the desired date.

Lapham Community Center

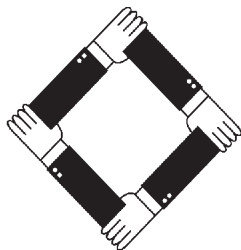
Calling a few helping hands to serve lunch to



Lunch is Served

seniors at the Lapham Community Center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in September (starting on the 5th). Each church in the area helps for one month, and St. Mark's month is September. We report for

duty at 11:00 am and usually are done by 1:00 pm. We have the pleasure of seeing older friends, helping a good cause while enjoying a wonderful lunch. Call Kit Devereaux at 972-7801 to help with this rewarding ministry.



“So what did you think about that sermon?”
“Are you folks new here, let me introduce myself...”
“How’s the job search progressing?”
“Is your mom feeling better?”

Sounds familiar doesn't it? This is the typical conversation during fellowship time following worship. It's a precious but fragile 15-30 minutes after the service that may be the only time during a busy week that you connect with your St. Mark's family. And what better way to chat than over a cup of coffee and muffin.

There are approximately 30 Sundays during the program year that we have coffee hour. All we need are two families each Sunday to set an inviting and friendly table. Even simpler, 10 monthly captains needed to recruit a month's worth of coffee hour hosts. Folks, this is really worth the effort – contact Rhonda Morrill, she'll give you the full scoop on what it takes to set the table.

(rmorrill@stmarksnewcaaan.org)

Get A Jump, Register Early for Children's Fall Programs

Registration forms for children's choirs and church school programs are now online and in the church office:

<http://www.stmarksnewcaaan.org/churchschoolregistration.asp>

<http://www.stmarksnewcaaan.org/choirregistration.asp>

Mail, fax, bring them in - do it before the fall hits.



- ♦ St. Mark's Nursery School Fall 07... has 2 openings in the 4-year old class. Contact Helen Palmesi for more information. . .203.972.7888.
- ♦ Apartment/Cottage Rental Wanted ... Tess Pinder, our beloved Sunday morning nursery caregiver/babysitter needs a 2 bedroom apartment, carriage house, or cottage to rent. Please call. . . 203.966.5189.

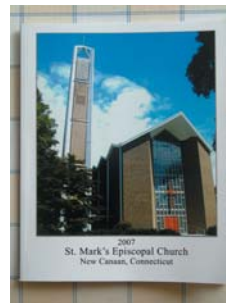


Photo Directories

have arrived and can be claimed in the narthex on Sundays. Already they have proved to be a very fun and useful tool.

Please find your name on a directory

arranged in alphabetical order. Please, only one directory per household.

An online directory can now be found on our website (stmarksnewcaaan.org) under Parish Life. Call the church office for the simple instructions to access it.

Hit Us With Your Best Shot

Do you have any fabulous digital shots of St. Mark's in action. Send them in, the best images will populate our website as it experiences a summer makeover. Photos should be high resolution. Submit your best stuff to Rhonda Morrill (rmorrill@stmarksnewcaaan.org) by July 31. Have some fun and help us tell our story online to potential newcomers.

Five things you'll never hear in church....

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew.
2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed the sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
5. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!





PIPPIN
A NC High School Theatre
Production



Weekly Service Times

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Rite I Holy Eucharist
	10:00 a.m.	Rite II Choral Holy Eucharist
	10:00 a.m.	Children's Eucharist
	6:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II with Taize Music
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II with Healing

The Lion's Roar



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

111 Oenoke Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840
203.966.4515
203.966.0439 (fax)
203.972.7888 (nursery school)
203.966.3838 (bookstore)
www.stmarksnewcanaan.org

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Organist and Choirmaster

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