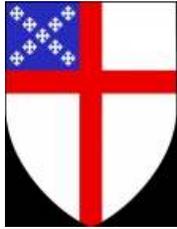


Phone: 360-249-3281

Website: www.stmarksmonte.com



Rev. Lorraine Dierick, Priest
Rev. Bonnie Campbell, Priest
Rev. Joyce Avery, Deacon
Corby Varness, Preacher
Jim Campbell, Preacher

Worship
Sundays at 10 a.m.

St. Mark's Newsletter

Click on Newsletters in the middle left of our Home Page.

St. Mark's Church Video

Click on St. Mark's Video in the upper right of our Home Page.

St. Mark's Sermons

All of the sermons from our Sunday worship services are placed on our website to be read and studied further within a couple of days of being preached on Sundays. Click on Recent Sermons in the middle right of our Home Page.

St. Mark's Bishop's Committee Minutes

A list of all meeting minutes from 2009 on is found below the Upcoming Meeting Agenda. Click on Administration in the middle left of our Home Page, then click on BC Meeting Minutes in the right side of the page

Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

ST. MARK EPISCOPAL CHURCH
124 NORTH SYLVIA STREET
PO BOX 533
MONTESANO, WA 98563

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Newsletter

September-October, 2015

Continuing Activities

Weekly Bible Study--Wednesdays, 10:00AM, at St. Mark's

Our weekly Bible study on Wednesdays generally uses the weekly Lectionary readings used in the Sunday worship services. No preparation is needed. Please join us for this study each week—Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30AM. (We're also looking at some interesting videos for part of our time each week to enhance our Bible learning experiences.)

Feed Your Spirit Book Club—Monthly on Second or Third Mondays, 12 Noon

Our monthly book club generally meets on the second or third Monday each month. We read a new book every other month and also discuss other books people have read for an hour (or more as some might feel led to do, over your brown bag lunch). Invite your friends and neighbors to join us! The webpage is at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=193>

Worship Information—Sundays at St. Mark's

Readings—shared, people volunteer just before the start of the service for the Old and New Testament readings. *Flowers*—provided by the Worship Team most Sundays. However, if you want to supply them for a specific Sunday (maybe to remember a loved one or celebrate an important event), this can be arranged in advance—just make it known to the Altar Guild folks. *Prayers for Healing*—3rd Sundays, just before the Peace. Anyone can come to the altar rail and request laying on of hands and prayers for themselves--or for anyone else named. Prayers do work!! And the anointing oil used smells good!

Upcoming Events

Kids Halloween Treats (10/31/2015) at St. Mark's

Many kids get treats, there are dog treats, and coffee and restrooms are available for all in this evening of fun in the neighborhood. From about 5-7pm, many kids with their parents come by, and the costumes are awesome!

Blessing of the Pets Sunday (10/4/2014) at St. Mark's

Our 13th annual special service for our pets—a time of joy for all involved. The collection taken this year will be split between the Grays Harbor PAWS and the Freedom Tails programs, as always.

Other Ongoing Activities at St. Mark's (in Calder Hall)

Sundays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous
Tuesdays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous
Thursdays 12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous
7 pm Gamblers Anonymous
Fridays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Recent News

Annual Church Picnic (Labor Day Weekend Sunday, 9/6/2015) at St. Mark's

We had it here at church! Inside!! We know not to test mother nature! And, we were right—rainy big time! Lots of great food and fun talk! And we also supplied the Chaplains on the Harbor Sunday evening meal again at St. Andrew's, Aberdeen for the local homeless community. The Rev. Sarah Monroe from Chaplains was with us to preside and preach.

Back to School Supplies Drive at St. Mark's (Month of August/2015)

We collected lots of emergency/extra supplies for the local Montesano school kids again this year, and then found out they do not need them yet. So, we're giving them to the school community in Westport instead. We still have some donated \$\$ for future needs, and we gave Montesano High School \$500 to be matched by the Invest Ed program for emergency needs for students at school.

Summary of St. Mark's Finances—8/16/2015 (Last--6/15/2015)

Net Operating Year to Date-- \$1,659.94 (Last--\$1,559.15)

We are getting well ahead for the year at this time. We should run more ahead each month until November, based on planned expenses. The heat pump system checkup was done, and there were no problems, so the bill should be fairly low.

Total Operating Expenses-- \$14,316.74 (Last--\$11,494.20)

Highlights—All bills received are paid current, no regular ones left for August.

Outreach to Date--\$2,623 Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid--\$2,073

Total Operating Revenues-- \$15,976.68 (Last--\$13,053.35)

Overall, total revenues for the year are doing well and as expected.

Non-Operating Revenues--\$633.66 Non-Operating Expenses--\$500.81

Net Non-Operating Year to Date--\$132.85 (Last--\$541.18)

Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date-- \$1,792.79 (Last --\$2,100.33)

Funds Summary—Total is \$29,233.40 (last--\$29,233.40)

Operating Fund (General)--\$4,150.08 (last--\$3,999.29)

 General/Designated Checking Account—\$3,631.23 (last--\$3,480.47)

 General/Designated Savings Account--\$518.85 (last--\$518.82)

Diocesan Investment Fund--\$24,170.26 (last--24,567.59) (Update not received for July yet)

 Memorial Fund (part of DIF)--\$1,066.82 (last--1,084.36)

Clergy Discretionary Fund/Checking Account--\$605.52 (last--\$666.52)

Other Articles on Faith and Other Things

Why The Pope Matters--Especially in today's world!

An estimated 1.5 million people are expected to join Pope Francis on September 27 for a celebration of the Mass at the culmination of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. The massive gathering, plus the pope's participation in the Festival of Families the day before, which is expected to draw close to 750,000 people, has led to the coining of the term "Popeapocalypse".

Universities are closing, pilgrims are staking sleeping plots in the Philadelphia Zoo, the mass transit system is holding a lottery for train tickets and women expecting to give birth in the area are looking at traveling to other cities -- all in anticipation of Pope Francis's visit. There is no other religious, entertainment or political leader alive today who could garner anywhere near the kind of response inspired by the pope -- a fact that leaves some people scratching their heads and wondering: why? Why does the pope matter so much?

He's A Transnational Political Leader

As the head of the Roman Catholic Church, the pope occupies a position that no other religious leader can match. Most major religions do not have a hierarchical structure that clearly acknowledges one leader who embodies the tradition like the pope does for Catholicism. The pope is the head of a cohesive, transnational organization that has been in existence for close to two thousand years. The church has a chain of command from the Vatican all the way to the local parish that is capable of transmitting information, ideology and material goods throughout the world.

Contrast this with other religions that are mostly fragmented among many different sects, and leaders among them. And even among those that do have existing hierarchies, such as the Anglican Communion, the numbers do not compare to the estimated 1.2 billion Roman Catholics. The influence of the Catholic Church is augmented by the status of the Vatican as an independent city-state that maintains diplomatic relations with countries around the world. As the leader of the Vatican, when the pope visits a country, it's not just as a religious leader, it is as a head of state. This sets the pope apart from most leaders, whether religious or political, aside from more ceremonial positions, such as the one held by the Queen of England, who is both titular head of the Anglican Church as well as of the

Commonwealth but exerts little influence on either. The pope, on the other hand, is the clear authority behind both of these titles and able to wield influence that comes with it.

Not only is the Catholic Church transnational, in many parts of the world it is an influential player in domestic politics and civic life. These domestic churches are led by local bishops, archbishops and cardinals, all of whom are appointed by the pope and who are responsible to him. This means that the kind of priorities and interests of local Catholic Church's is greatly influenced by kind of people put into the highest places by the pope.

He Has International Religious Influence

Aside from political and diplomatic power, the soft inspirational power of the pope is even more impressive. For a large section of humanity, the Catholic Church has for millennia been their conduit to the Divine, and has provided answers to the questions of how to live a moral and meaningful life. As the head of the Roman Catholic Church the pope's authority is linked back to Saint Peter, one of Jesus's disciples who is considered by the Roman Catholic Church to be the first pope. Papal pronouncements hold serious weight and the pope has great influence on how Catholics understand what is holy -- for instance he plays the central role in the process of declaring saints and shrines. The pope also is the highest representation of the Catholic Church to other faith traditions, whether to other religions, other Christian denominations or the secular world.

Not only are papal pronouncements and activities conveyed through Catholic channels, they are also the subject of media interest and are covered closely. When the pope speaks about the Christian Gospel, as he does on Wednesdays and Sundays in St. Peter's Square, through Encyclicals and in less formal settings, he often relates the religious and spiritual message not only to personal morality and salvation, but also to societal issues and political life. This frequently involves taking positions on controversial debates in countries around the world and within broader world events.

Given the immense power of the position it is clear that any pope is going to matter. However, when the role is held by such captivating figures as Pope Francis, the pope matters a lot. From the moment the newly elected pope faced the crowds in St. Peter's Square and his chosen name was announced -- Francis -- the spirit of possibility began to blow through the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope Francis's Particular Papacy

Francis has already become one of the most remarkable figures of the 21st century. From the very beginning, when he eschewed the Apostolic Palace for a simple boarding house, traded in the pope's Mercedes popemobile for a Hyundai, and declared how he wished for a poor church and church for the poor, Francis has made headlines with his -- to some -- surprising words and deeds.

Within his first year the new pope observed Maundy Thursday by washing the feet of young inmates, including women and Muslims, said that atheists could be redeemed, opined that the church had been emphasizing gay marriage and abortion too much, accused the bureaucracy of having "spiritual Alzheimer's", stated that global financial markets are "tyrannizing the poor" and, of course, his now iconic response about a gay people: "Who am I to judge?" He has gone on to use his platform to especially highlight the plight of immigrants, the homeless, the poor, Middle East peace, the persecution of Christians and most recently took on the moral question of the environment his encyclical, "Laudato Si."

The pope makes for good headlines but his priorities reverberate within world politics and within societies around the world. Pope Francis has been credited with helping to broker the rapprochement between the US and Cuba, the country where he will be visiting directly before his arrival in the U.S. Francis's actions echo the work of John Paul II who was influential in the cracking of the Iron Curtain with his visit to his home country of Poland in 1979, where 2 million people welcomed the first Pope to visit the Communist country.

In the United States, Pope Francis's "Who am I to judge" line was referenced by a Catholic State Senator in Illinois who cast the deciding vote in favor of gay marriage in 2013, before the Supreme Court made that it the law of the land. Conversely, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush was

forced to refute Francis' statement on the environment and economics. "I don't get economic policy from my bishops or my cardinals or my pope," Bush said.

Francis will be the first pope to address the U.S. Congress, which will be sure to pose challenges to political figures on both sides of the aisle. It seems likely that the pope's visit and his words will be referenced within the presidential primaries and general election. It has hard to point to another figure who has been as direct about issues such as the environment, economics, and immigration than Pope Francis.

He's Helped Reform The Catholic Church

Within the Vatican, Francis has been active in trying to reform and "clean up" the Curia as well as the Vatican Bank, which helps fund the work of the church. His effectiveness in these efforts, as well as the most pressing work on repairing the damage of lives from clergy sexual abuse, have been closely watched. While many are concerned at the slow pace of reform, it appears that, under Francis, the church is setting up appropriate structures and beginning to move in the right direction, most prominently within the bank.

As mentioned above, the pope has pretty much absolute power over the hierarchy of the church. Part of his responsibilities are to appoint new Cardinals who will eventually vote for the next pope, as well as appoint and replace bishops and archbishops who provide leadership to Catholics in countries around the world. Francis has used this power to increase the presence and power of the global south by appointing cardinals from some of the poorest regions of the world. He has also shuffled the roles of leading Catholic clergy in the United States and elevated some of the more moderate figures among the Catholic leadership as well as swiftly removing Bishop Tebartz-van Elst (Bishop Bling) in Germany for overly extravagant expenditures.

One of the most noticeable transformations under Francis has been in the space of social media. Francis's predecessor arrived on Twitter with the regrettable handle @Pope2YouVatican, which Jon Stewart mocked on his show. Nobody is making fun now. Under Pope Francis, the Twitter operation has switched into high gear with @Pontifex tweeting in multiple languages (including Latin!) and Francis has been named the most influential tweeter for the last two years. However, it is the pope's offline presence that really shows how much he really matters.

In one-on-one meetings, or in front of three million in Rio, Francis's humble, warm, pastoral spirit has resonated with Catholics and non-Catholics alike. In this world where religious and non-religious alike are hungry for a sense of connection, a desire for the articulation of inequality, and inspiration to work for a more compassionate, peaceful and just world, the Pope's words and deeds matter.

Paul Brandeis Raushenbush Executive Editor Of Global Spirituality and Religion, The Huffington Post

The Drowning Man

A fellow was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help. Soon a man in a rowboat came by and the fellow shouted to the man on the roof, "Jump in, I can save you." The stranded fellow shouted back, "No, it's OK, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me." So the rowboat went on.

Then a motorboat came by. "The fellow in the motorboat shouted, "Jump in, I can save you." To this the stranded man said, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith." So the motorboat went on.

Then a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, "Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety." To this the stranded man again replied, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith." So the helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, "I had faith in you but you didn't save me, you let me drown. I don't understand why!"

To this God replied, "I sent you a rowboat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?"

Who are you inviting to your table?

Once again I invite you to read the words of one of my favorite Christian pastors, Jon Pavlovitz, who just doesn't happen to be Episcopalian/Anglican, but models Jesus really well to me.

Jesus broke bread with people. For as often as we see him preaching on a hillside or through the city streets, we find him at the table; not just with those who agreed with him, not just with his fans, not just with the well-manicured religious folks, not just with the ragged moral outcasts.

He extended fellowship to all humanity as it crossed his path. He came close and reclined beside people and across from people—and he lived with them. Sometimes he used the occasion to teach, but just as often he was simply present to them. Through this radically intimate table ministry, Jesus modeled the way that we are to live this life of faith; how we always need to make people our priority, how much relationships really matter, and how true proximity allows us to see what we need to see in people.

I don't know Kim Davis or her story or her heart, but I'm going to guess that she's probably never had a great deal of real, meaningful fellowship with LGBTQ people. She, like many Christians, knows where she stands on an "issue", and she knows the verses to recite and the platitudes to offer, but she may not have ever really considered the human beings that comprise that issue. She may not be able to see that they are brothers, children, friends, mothers, co-workers; that they have built careers and started families and endured trials and laughed and celebrated and grieved—and all that they are.

As I watched her these past few weeks, unemotionally dismissing couple after couple, matter-of-factly shutting them down one after the other, robotically appealing to a distant God she wasn't reflecting, I grieved both for the couples and for her, because it was far less than what this is supposed to be, and far less than what I see when I look at Jesus. I began to notice that in image after image that flooded into my news feed, that huge counter that always separated Mrs. Davis from those she was turning away; how that barrier was much more than just a couple of feet of painted particle board, it was the massive expanse of not knowing the other. It was the great emotional chasm created when we don't seek to understand. It was the kind of distance that only cultivates contempt.

If Kim Davis is truly acting in what she believes to be obedience to Jesus, then I'd love to see her follow his example. I'd like to see her invite all those same-sex couples she dismissed over for dinner (or better yet, visit them where they live). I'd like to see her sit across the table from them and break bread with them and listen to their stories and see their selfies and hear about their faith journeys. I'd like them to hear her story too.

If Mrs. Davis were to participate in such a sacred extension of hospitality, two things might happen that desperately need to happen across so many tables in this world. Sitting and breaking bread with real, breathing, feeling, loving flesh-and-blood gay folks, she may find their humanity surprising, their paths not so dissimilar to her own, and she might find her own faith convictions challenged there. She might even find herself seeing those people as important as her principles. She may actually come to love them deeply.

But even if none of that happens and even if her religious convictions remand unchanged, she will have done something both faith affirming and beautifully redemptive. She will have shown those watching, how Jesus responded to those he crossed paths with; none of whom were really worthy but who were treated with dignity, as if royalty. People always left Jesus' presence feeling more seen and known and loved than before, and unless we Christians do that with those we disagree with, our testimony will always be inferior to its aspirations.

I fear what will continue to happen in the wake of all of this, is the building of larger "counters"; more distance from which we can shout at one another and caricaturize one another, but I truly pray that we who claim faith will seek something more.

If Kim Davis were to ever sit at a table and share a meal with those she turned away these past few weeks, I would gladly be present and bring a dish to pass—and I know for certain that Jesus would be there too, because that was his heart and his example. Who are you inviting to your table?

--Episcopal Café, September 5, 2015

September 2015 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	31	September 1 <u>7pm AA</u>	2 <u>12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting</u>	3 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	4 <u>7pm AA</u>	5
6 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	7	8 <u>7pm AA</u>	9	10 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	11 <u>7pm AA</u>	12
13 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	14	15 <u>7pm AA</u>	16 <u>6:30pm Bishop Committee</u>	17 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	18 <u>7pm AA</u>	19
20 <u>10am Healing Service</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	21	22 <u>9:30am Worship Team</u> <u>2pm Birthday Party @ Monte Health & Rehab</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	23	24 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	25 <u>7pm AA</u>	26
27 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	28	29 <u>7pm AA</u>	30	October 1 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	2 <u>7pm AA</u>	3

Birthdays:

Loni Crass—1st Brad Fry—28th

Anniversaries:

October 2015 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	28	29 <u>7pm AA</u>	30	October 1 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	2 <u>7pm AA</u>	3
4 <u>10am Bless Pets Service</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	5	6 <u>7pm AA</u>	7 <u>12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting</u>	8 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	9 <u>7pm AA</u>	10
11 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	12	13 <u>9:30am Worship Team</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	14	15 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	16 <u>7pm AA</u>	17
18 <u>10am Healing Service</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	19	20 <u>7pm AA</u>	21 <u>6:30pm Bishop Committee</u>	22 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	23 <u>7pm AA</u>	24
25 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	26	27 <u>2pm Birthday Party @ Monte Health & Rehab</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	28	29 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	30 <u>7pm AA</u>	31 <u>5pm Halloween Treats for Kids</u>

Birthdays:

John Fry—3rd Stan Fry—8th Julie Dierick—16th Debbie Fry—25th

Anniversaries: