

## Are You Being Called to Serve? Please consider this...

St. Mark's has numerous areas of ministry that might calling you!

St. Mark's is guided by a Vestry Board that meets the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. to go over finances, current business and/or needs of the church. Do you feel called to serve in this capacity!?

Please contact Fr. Philip or the office for more information or to submit your name. The St. Mark's Foundation board is another opportunity to serve. Both of these elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 29th.

We also need additional people to serve as ushers at our Sunday services. (Ushers also serve at special services, including funerals if available), or maybe you are better suited to help provide goodies for

Sunday coffee hours once a month or even be willing to serve as coffee hosts. This is a great opportunity to meet and greet! Families are always welcome. Sign up sheets are in the Parish Hall on Sundays or you can call the office. We need volunteers in all three areas so please give it serious consideration!... + + + + +

St. Mark's now has a unique little gift shop open for you to find that special item for someone! It offers books, prayer books, one-of-a-kind jewelry, wall hangings, children's gifts....too many wonderful things to mention, so you will just have to come visit the *Sign of the Lion Gift Shop* for yourself! Please bring your friends and pass the word around about our new hidden treasure at St. Mark's. It is open Sundays after each service and through the office weekdays.

## ✠ Ongoing Discernment in Our Midst ✠

One of the signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit working in a congregation is the ongoing discernment of ministries among the members. This discernment might be for ministries we often take for granted, such as the ministry of care for our own elderly parents or young children. It might be discernment for a new lay ministry, such as serving on the altar guild or as a volunteer literacy tutor. It can also include discernment for Holy Orders, including ordination to the diaconate or priesthood.

We are delighted to keep you up to date on the ongoing discernment for Holy Orders of one of our members. Last Fall, Pamela RW Kandt began her formal discernment, regarding her call to become a priest.



Pamela has blessed our congregation with many gifts of leadership during her eight years at St. Mark's. A Discernment Committee began meeting in October of 2011. Susan Massey is the Chair of the committee and the committee members are Jane Clemmons, Kim McAtee, John Kerns, Thad Hunter and Nancy Johnson.

The committee has met seven times as of this writing and will meet in the coming months prior to providing the Vestry with a recommendation. If the Vestry discerns her call to be a priest then they will make a formal recommendation to the Diocesan Commission on Ministry. We ask that you keep Pamela and the committee in your prayers.

*Nancy Johnson & Fr. Philip*



# THE LION'S ROAR

January 16 — January 29, 2012

**ST. MARK'S — INTO CHRIST ~ OUT TO SERVE**

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
701 South Wolcott  
Casper, WY 82601-3159  
Email: [stmarkscasper@aol.com](mailto:stmarkscasper@aol.com)  
[www.stmarkscasper.com](http://www.stmarkscasper.com)  
[www.wyomingdiocese.org](http://www.wyomingdiocese.org)

**Sunday Eucharist:** 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Healing Service 7:30 p.m.  
**Saturday:** Morning Prayer 7:30 a.m.

**Priest:** Rev. Philip S. Major  
**Parish Administrator:** Cindy King  
**Newsletter:** Pamela RW Kandt  
**Website:** Clint Hernandez

**ST. MARK'S OFFICE:** (307) 234-0831  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-Noon Friday

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
P A I D  
Casper, WY 82601  
PERMIT NO. 126

**ST. MARK'S VESTRY:** *Sr Warden-Mark Mathern, Jr Warden-Jane Cassel, Nancy Johnson, Lyn George, Traute Gilbert, Gwen Colgrove, Pat Hrnicek, Melissa Hyde, Jeff Harmsen, Clint Hernandez, Brian Gross, Margie Roberts, Kayla Hyde-youth rep*

## Bingo Night Fun for the Whole Family!

**6 p.m. — Saturday, Jan. 21**



An evening of laughter & fun is on tap for St. Mark's Annual Family Bingo Night. Bring a dessert for a prize — at the end of the evening, the desserts will be auctioned with participants using their winnings to bid on them.

# Initiatives for St. Mark's future & growth

During the last several months our vestry has been discussing the possibility of adopting two or three parish-wide initiatives for the coming year. Our vestry generated a list of about twenty ideas, and eventually narrowed the list down to four:

## NEWS from our RECTOR

1. Stronger communications.
2. Stronger participation and leadership of children and youth in church activities.
3. Stronger welcome for newcomers and efforts to invite former members to return to St. Mark's.
4. Increased, better, and more joyful music in worship.

These initiatives share a common, ultimate goal: to help St. Mark's Church grow in numbers and in the knowledge and love of God so that God's Kingdom will grow on Earth.

Now we need your help. We need to know what you really care about most. During our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29 we need you to share your ideas, gifts and energy with our church. We will ask each person to choose one of these four goals, and spend twenty minutes sharing their ideas and listening to ideas brought by others. Our vestry will use the results of these discussions to guide and strengthen our parish programs in the coming months.

Our discussions at the Annual Meeting will be more productive if we clarify three points prior to the meeting. First, though it may be difficult, we are asking each person to choose just one initiative to give their full attention. In the end, our efforts in the com-

ing year will be much stronger if we divide our attention among just two or perhaps three initiatives. Second, it might help to clarify what each one of these initiatives might look like if put into action in the coming year.

1. **Stronger communications** could include creating and maintaining informative bulletin boards for each group in the church or a return to weekly church newsletters.
2. **Stronger participation and leadership of children and youth** in church activities could include inviting each young adult to join at least one of our ministry teams or planning one youth oriented 10 a.m. worship each month.

❖ **2012 ANNUAL MEETING** ❖  
**Sunday, Jan. 29 ~ 9 a.m. service only — meeting follows. Brunch provided by Meals & Receptions.**

3. **Stronger welcome** to newcomers and stronger efforts to invite former members to return could include visiting former parishioners to invite them back to St. Mark's, wearing nametags at all church activities or developing a systematic way of welcoming and following up with visitors.

4. Increased, better, more **joyful music** in worship could include creating a music committee to search out and introduce new hymns and service music, introducing and teaching new, more joyful music to our congregation each Sunday, or forming an instrumental group to accompany our music..

Finally, we are talking about parish-wide initiatives. Our goal is to work together. Our goal is to strengthen our connections as we grow our parish. Please consider where God is calling us to work and grow as a church. Join us on January 29 and share your ideas about where you are willing to contribute your gifts and energy.

## Pastoral Care Committee to renew parish nursing

The Pastoral Care Committee met on Thursday, January 12, to discuss where we are and where we want to be. One area of high priority was revitalizing the parish nurse ministry. We need nurses who would be willing to dedicate the first Sunday of each month to take blood pressures in the chapel following each service. If enough people offer, you shouldn't have to do it more than twice a year. Please contact Nancy Engstrom, 237-2205, if this sounds like a ministry to which God is calling you. We will probably start this again in March.



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The office is looking for a file cabinet. If you have one to donate, we would be most appreciative! Please call Cindy at the office. 234-0831



## SUNDAY LESSONS

**Epiphany III**  
 January 22, 2012

Jonah 3:1-5,10  
 Psalm 62: 6-14  
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Mark 1:14-20

**Epiphany IV**  
 January 29 2012

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm 111  
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Mark 1:21-28

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**January 22, 2012**

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

**ACOLYTES:** 8 a.m. Edie Bennett 10 a.m. Allison Gross, Lara Gilbert, Jacob Hernandez  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Sandi Aeilts, Ruth Bon, Elaine Hough  
**BOOKSTORE:** Allison Gross, Harper Park  
**COFFEE HOSTS:** 8 a.m. Eleanore Walker, Margie Roberts 10 a.m. **VOLUNTEERS!**  
**GOODIE PROVIDERS:** Traute Gilbert, Pam Brondos  
**TELLERS:** Clint Hernandez, Margie Roberts  
**USHERS:** 8 a.m. Gary & Lyn George 10 a.m. Mark & Donna Mathern  
**WORSHIP LEADERS:** 8 a.m. Susan Massey, John Kerns 10 a.m. Neal Johnson, Dave Renaud, Nancy Johnson  
**Shovelers:** Mark Mathern, Scott McCullen, Robert Stamp

**January 29, 2012**

**4th Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Annual Meeting - 9:00 Service**

**ACOLYTES:** Claudia Wilson, Ian Gilbert, Rich Wilson  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Ruby Laughon, Jane Clemmons, Jane Hayek  
**BOOKSTORE:** Harper Park  
**COFFEE HOSTS:** Annual Meeting Brunch  
**GOODIE PROVIDERS:** Kim McAtee, "  
**TELLERS:** Jeff Harmsen, Lyn George  
**USHERS:** Margie Roberts & Helper!  
**WORSHIP LEADERS:** Meganne Acres, Lara Gilbert, Brian Gross  
**Shovelers:** Chuck Engstrom, Dave Nickerson, Peter Nicolaysen, Steve Parker, Thad Hunter

January Food Closet Volunteers:  
 Laurie Reese and ??? *Volunteers needed*

*Our own Pamela Kandt has been elected to the national board of directors for the Episcopal Women's Caucus. Pamela said "she is deeply honored to have the opportunity to serve with so many dynamic women in the Church."*