

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
NEWS FROM THE VESTRY
April 2016



Here is a summary of what the vestry is working on:

FR. WILDGOOSE'S VISION FOR THE CHURCH Members have been asking Fr. Wildgoose about his vision for the church. He would like to focus on 3 areas:

- Christian education
- Our edifice
- Evangelism

Vestry members suggested that we also focus on membership, a plan for growth in our overall ministry, and re-engaging young adults who grew up in the church but no longer attend. Fr. Wildgoose plans to have a retreat with the vestry this fall to revisit the mission of the church.

NEW FIRE ALARM The Plainfield Fire Department has inspected and approved the new fire alarm system. Nine red pull stations have been installed at various exit points. In case of a fire, you should pull one of the alarms, which will alert everyone in the building of the emergency, and get out immediately.

FROM THE SUGGESTION BOX

Can we please have a separate cup with wine that is not the cup for dipping?

Communion Distribution

Dear members of St. Mark's,

I write to explain my reason for doing the distribution of communion here at St. Mark's the way I do.

The idea of a corporate communion stems from the Last Supper that Jesus had with His disciples on the first Maundy Thursday (the night before Jesus died on the cross). From this supper, we have the birth of the Eucharist as we know it today. Jesus of course being Jewish by birth, adapted the Jewish custom of the Passover meal (which is done in commemoration of the Exodus of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt). During these customs, the bread and wine are an integral part of the meal, which is a symbol of unity, love and fellowship. Those who partake in the meal, all break from one bread and drink from one cup. Hence, the church on a very large scale has continued with this theology and tradition to this very day.

I understand the concern of the transfer of germs, etc. when it comes to sharing a common cup. I can assure you that the church has done extensive research where this issue is concerned. After much research and scientific experimentation, it has been found that the properties in wine actually kill germs that would normally be spread by other liquids. This is also a reason that for centuries, doctors have even suggested that a "little" red wine with dinner is good for our system.

The LEMS also do a good job in controlling the chalice when it comes to those that choose to dip the wafer in the wine, as well as wiping the brim of the chalice after those who wish to sip have done so. After several conversations, I have also been informed that the idea of intinction and the use of the intinction set has not always been in use here at St. Mark's. While it may be true that this has been done for quite a while, it has not always been done.

Submitted by Fr. Wildgoose+

THANKS FOR YOUR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS