



Saint Mark's

# Messenger

Volume 48, No. 1

January 2008

## From the Rector: A New Year of Promise

**T**he beginning of a new year is traditionally a time to take stock and make plans for the future days ahead. How will the new days ahead be spent? What hopes lie before us? How will we conduct ourselves that we might best live into our hopes?

Well this all depends on who we are. How we see ourselves determines how we see the future. For example, let's take John the Baptist. Central to the opening chapter of Matthew's Gospel which we began to hear in Advent and now continue to use for the Sundays of 2008, this eccentric prophet calls attention to the future when he points to Jesus as the Messiah, the one who "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11). John was only able to point to the future because he knew who he was in the present, He was the one who made the paths straight for something greater than himself. In other words, his view of the future was based on his awareness of his own identity and role.

Our self awareness determines our future as well. One way we have defined ourselves as a faith community here at St. Marks is by our "Mission Statement". Do you know what it says? Here it is:

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church is an extended family of loving people bound by faith in Christ. We seek to deepen our relationship with God, strengthen our faith community, support each other, and serve our neighbors. We do this by celebrating our faith through meaningful liturgy and prayer, sharing our stories and traditions, and participating in ministries of fellowship, compassion and justice.**

*It's not Tolstoy or Shakespeare (composition by committee never is) but there is definitely substance in these words, yes? How do we measure up to our mission? Not a bad thing for us to consider in this New Year. I urge you, therefore, to consider these words of both identity and hope. Are we a family of loving people? How do we deepen our faith and strengthen each other as human beings striving for compassion and justice? How do we serve others? How do we actually celebrate our*

*faith? Many of you are involved in the ministries of the parish. All of you live out your faith, one way or another, in the world. I hope wherever we are and whatever our place in this world, that our mission is holy, live-giving and life-changing. Making it so will, indeed, bring a Happy New Year!*

In Christ,

## New Year

God of all time,  
who makes all things new,  
we bring before you the year now ending.

For life full and good,  
for opportunities recognized and taken,  
for love known and shared,  
we thank you.

Where we have fallen short,  
forgive us.

When we worry over what is past,  
free us.

As we begin again  
and take our first few steps into the future,  
where nothing is safe and certain,  
except you,

we ask for the courage of the wise men  
who simply went and followed a star.

We ask for their wisdom,  
in choosing to pursue the deepest truth,  
not knowing where they would be led.

In the year to come, God of all time,  
be our help and company.

Hold our hands as we journey onwards  
and may your dream of shalom,  
where all will be at peace,  
be our guiding star.

- Francis Brienen

## Looking Ahead

- Jan 6 ..... YG Amazing Car Race
- Jan 13 ..... I Epiphany  
8am Holy Eucharist  
10am Holy Eucharist with Baptism
- Jan 19 ..... Beloved Community Conference
- Feb 3 ..... Annual Meeting  
Combined 10am service followed by brunch (No 8am)

## Adult Formation

### Two Winter Small Groups

*Psalm 25:3-4 "Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me..."*

**R**ight after the last Christmas wrapping have been recycled, our ongoing Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Small Groups will be starting discussions of two new books, which we look forward to sharing together.

On Sunday mornings, from 9-10 am in the Kennedy Room, we will be reading "**The Saints' Guide to Happiness - Practical Lessons in the Life of the Spirit**" (Robert Ellsberg, Doubleday 2003) a charming and informative book showing how our personal lives can be inspired and enriched by stories of a variety of saints. We will begin on **January 13** for four weeks before Lent.

Our long time every other Wednesday evening group, which meet from 7-8:30pm in the Kennedy Room, will gather again on January 2, as we start "**A Serious way of Wondering - The Ethics of Jesus Imagined**" (Reynolds Price, Scribner, 2003), a thought-provoking and beautifully written book which we will explore during our three scheduled meetings before Lent.

We hope you will want to join us in either of these Small Groups: our discussions are always lively and wide ranging as we are challenged by the texts to stretch our own spiritual boundaries and understanding. We follow some spiritual practices at each session, as well, and learn new ways to deepen our own prayer life. You can order your books on line or get them at your bookstore. Sign-up sheets will be available after services. For more information please call Louise at (650) 854-4689.

### A New Years Resolution

*Preface to "Leaves of Grass" (excerpt)*

**L**ove the earth and sun and the animals,  
despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks,  
stand up for the stupid and crazy,  
devote your income and labor to others,  
hate tyrants, argue not concerning God,  
have patience and indulgence toward the people,  
take off your hat to nothing known or unknown,  
or to any man or number of men,  
go freely with powerful uneducated persons,  
and with the young, and with the mothers or families,  
re-examine all you have been told in school or church  
or in any book,  
and dismiss whatever insults your own soul;  
and your very flesh shall be a great poem....

~ Walt Whitman

### Listening for God

**O**ur reading group will meet on Sunday January 27th in the Kennedy Room at 11:30. Marge Smith is our facilitator and we will be considering Joe Ashby Porter's short story, "Roof Work". New readers are always welcome to join the group. Copies of the book we are following, "God: Stories", are available from Phyllis Annett (650) 851-8874.

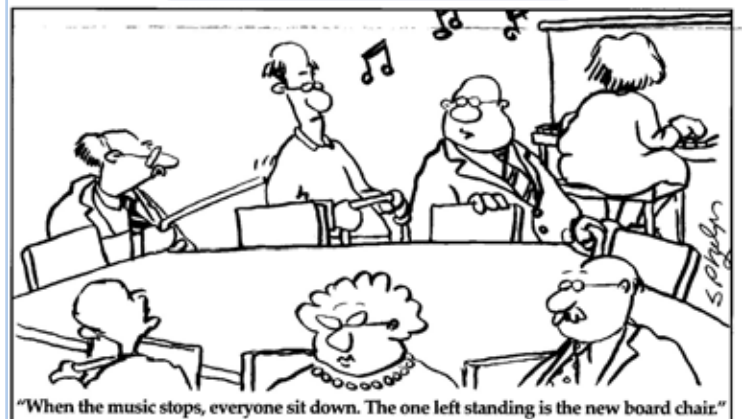
### Annual Meeting & Brunch

**S**t. Mark's will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 3, in the church, immediately after a combined 10:00 a.m. service (**no 8:00 a.m. service**). Immediately after the meeting, there will be a potluck brunch in the Parish Hall.

At the Annual Meeting, the congregation will elect new Vestry Members and Diocesan Deanery Delegates, vote on the adoption of the 2008 budget, and we hear annual reports from our parish's ministries. The Annual Meeting allows newcomers to get a sense of all that is going on at St. Mark's and long time members to learn about progress that has been made. Childcare is provided during the meeting. The potluck brunch lets us all enjoy some fabulous food and conversations with our fellow parishioners, both new and old. It has always been very enjoyable. Please come! In addition to yourselves, you are (of course!) asked to bring food. The assignments are based on the first letter of your last name. Families with more than one last name can choose which name to use. Please bring enough for 10 to 12 people.

#### The assignments are:

- A - C Drinks
- D - J Fruit or Fruit Salad
- K - P Bread or Muffins
- Q - Z Main Dish



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
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## From the Associate Rector: **Water Play**

**L**ast summer I sat on the Pacific shore in Capitola very early in the morning. The sun had just come up, the day was still waking, and the beach was peppered by only two or three walkers passing by. If I were shooting a movie, I would have begun the waves and crescendos of an orchestra to punctuate the movement that began over the ocean as I sat and watched. Seemingly on queue, hundreds of pelicans rose up from the water, turned around and dove right back in, hitting the water gracefully and gloriously rising up again. For twenty minutes these birds rose and dove and rose in an unpredictably beautiful vertical dance with the sky and sea. At the same time, seals began to pop up here and there, their black and brown heads bobbing above the water-line, peeking at the human observers on land, disappearing again only to pop-up in another spot. And then, as only God could script, schools of dolphins, three or four groupings, began their acrobatic leaps from the ocean waves into the air and down again. In an arc of unmatched magnificence, they jumped up and out and into the water amidst the diving pelicans and the bobbing seals.



There was a wildness to this water-play, and as I sat there in amazement, it occurred to me that what I was witnessing was a grand metaphor for... baptism. In our churches, our baptisms are dignified events – even with full immersion, we are quick with a towel and careful to go easy. But the meaning of baptism, the meaning and the implication of baptism is anything but clean and tidy. Baptism is an initiation into a life with and in Christ. It is an immersion into the living water of God’s world, which sometime plays out in the ups and downs of a pelican’s dive and rise, or a dolphin-like leap of faith, or a calm and peaceful bobbing on the surface. Baptism is the opening into life with a capital L, a saying “Yes” to all that life holds and “Yes” to the community that life brings.

This Epiphany, we will celebrate baptism: the baptism of our Lord, the baptism of our brother Charlie, the baptism of our sister Kathleen. May this Epiphany bring the grandeur of God’s creation into our lives; and may that same grandeur that is given to us in baptism be born into the world by us.

Lori

## Christmas Cheer on its way to Iraq

**T**hanks to the generous contributions of time and treasure of St. Mark’s parishioners, the Outreach Alliance and the Adult Formation Commission have been able to ship off three boxes of decorated greeting cards and \$200 worth of candy to the 153rd MP Company recently deployed to Iraq on a very dangerous mission. Upon being contacted about the shipment, Captain Joseph Yawn of the 153rd wrote, “The Soldiers of the 153rd MP Company are deeply grateful for St. Mark’s and all they continue to do for our deployed men and women. Please continue the support; our morale remains high due to your patriotism ...” The Outreach Alliance and Adult Formation Commission hope to continue our collaboration in supporting these troops and their support of Iraqi preschool children and other Iraqi civilians. You may have noted that we are including them on our prayer list reflecting an offer to the 153rd that St. Mark’s “adopt” them for the duration of their time in Iraq.

## An Epiphany on the meaning of The Beloved Community

**“I**n Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even tho we were total strangers.

It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self isolation in a special world...Though “out of this world” we are in the same world as everybody else, the world of the bomb, the world of race hatred, the world of technology, the world of mass media, big business revolution, and all the rest...It is a glorious destiny to be a member of the human race, tho it is a race dedicated to many absurdities and one which makes many terrible mistakes; yet, with all that, God Himself gloried in becoming a member of the human race.”

~ Thomas Merton  
*Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

## Children and Families Commission Religious Development

See you at Godly Play!

**J**anuary's Godly Play Stories teach our children about the life and the work of Jesus. It's always a good month to ask your child(ren) about the stories they've heard and what they've wondered about in Godly Play.



- Jan. 6 ..... Epiphany
- Jan. 13 ..... Holy Baptism
- Jan. 20 ..... Parable of the Good Shepherd
- Jan. 27 ..... Parable of the Good Samaritan

Opportunities to learn more about Godly Play abound. Make an appointment with Mary Greene or your child's teacher; sign up to sit in on a class; or pick up the seasonal parent pages available at the entrance to the Parish Hall near the preschool classroom.

**Thanks** to our January Godly Play Teachers!

**Matt Santos, Rachel Ramsey, Elisa Schmidt, and Joanie King.**

Each week these dedicated teachers memorize stories before class, then tell them with care and reverence to convey to our children the good news of the people, the stories and practices of our faith.



Rock out with Godly Play Music!



**T**hanks to Joanie and Matt Santos for their creative and fun musical additions to the start of our Godly Play classes. Arrive at 9:50 to enjoy it all!

### Programming Highlights

**S**aint Mark's children and families joined enthusiastically together in Advent with the Outreach and Adult Education Commission to make advent wreaths, write Christmas letters to US troops and to learn about our Advent outreach plans.

Our Christmas pageant of holy chaos celebrated the beautiful story of Jesus, Mary, Elizabeth and the prophets through the voices of St. Mark's delightful and talented youth and children. A great expression of gratitude goes out to the pageant director, Joanie King, for her limitless talent and positive energy. Behind the scenes show-makers include Jill



Olerich, Rachel Ramsey, Elisa Schmidt, Brooke Kernick, Lori Walton, Laurie Reynolds, Laurie Dingler, Sally Bemus, Carolyn Burt, Beth and Bill Wang, Margaret Miller, Bert Bell, Simon Binns and Stuart Cobb. Thanks also to Jim Welch for his skillful organ playing, to Katie Crewdson for her lovely singing, and to all of the actors!



## Teen Talk

### Happy New Year!

The world is about to turn... the life and ministry of Jesus was about turning things on their heads—not for its own sake, but for the sake of bringing about the kingdom of God on earth. One day this fall we talked about the Trinity, and relationships, about how “Father” and “Son” aren’t names of people, they’re names of relationships. So God is present in all our relationships with family, friends, and strangers. Might this also mean that the connections, the relationship, are more important than titles and hierarchies? What if we picture God, the Holy Trinity, not as a triangle



Shawn Owen, Olivia Nash, and Abi Schmit wonder about hierarchy—is God really like that?

with the important guy on top, but rather as interconnected circles, made of the stuff of our lives and what makes them holy?

Kind of like youth group! Youth group is one of those circles, a time to connect with your friends and see what’s holy in your life. Sunday nights are when we practice unconditional love—it doesn’t matter about grades, clothes, friends, dates, iPods, you are accepted and loved exactly as

you are. “There is love all around you! Seek and you will find...”

- Liz Graves

### Upcoming Youth Events

- Jan 6 ..... The Breakfast Club (10am)
- Jan 6 ..... The Amazing Car Race  
(scavenger hunt)
- Jan 19 ..... Beloved Community  
in Conversation 11am-3pm
- Jan 20 ..... Nightwatch at  
Grace Cathedral
- Feb 29 ..... Lenten 30-hour Famine  
with JC Superstar



### Nightwatch

Join us Sunday, January 20—Monday, January 21

as we travel to San Francisco, meet up with new and old friends from around the Bay Area, and celebrate the legacy

of Dr. King and other past and present heroes. We get to sleep in Grace Cathedral. Register online at <http://www.gracecathedral.org/calendar/detail.php?eid=1190>, then email Liz to let us know you’re coming and whether you need or can provide a ride. It’s gonna rock!

### Beloved Community in Conversation

Bring your family for a fun intergenerational afternoon event—like a mini-parish retreat! From 11am-3pm on **Saturday, January 19**, Bishop Marc will be here—to listen to you! He wants to know what our teens think the church should be focusing on. **Don’t miss a special lunch just for Youth with the Bishop!** The resulting vision—to be presented at a special convention in 2008—won’t be complete without your ideas!

## St Mark's Community

## From the Music Staff

## Ring In The New Year With Outreach Alliance

**T**he New Year has always had special significance for me. I like to think about my life and my family and imagine a way to make the quality of life better in the New Year. A couple of years ago I decided that it was time to get a dog. Sometimes it is a very small thing like grinding coffee in the morning instead of just taking it out of the can. Ten years ago I decided to start swimming three days a week at 6:00AM to get ready for a triathlon. I still swim three days a week! At St. Mark's, we try to go beyond just making changes that will benefit ourselves.

So I ask myself: what new opportunities will arise for Outreach Alliance? Our current projects provide aid to individuals in our own community who are homeless and trying to become part of the work force (Downtown Streets Team). We help the children at St. Andre's in Haiti with their education. We provide support to victims of Aids/HIV (Global Aides Interfaith Alliance). We just started providing money to help young children in Iraq get medical treatment in the U.S.

It is very exciting and challenging to be the co-chair of the Outreach Alliance Commission because you never know what new projects will be brought to our attention. Outreach does not just happen in one commission. In 2008, I hope there will be more coordination with other commissions like the Child and Family Commission, Adult Formation Commission and Youth Ministries Commission, that may also have great ideas for outreach projects. Come to our first meeting of the New Year, January 13. What ideas do YOU have for making a difference in 2008?

- Susan Dansker

## Ponder This

**D**o not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you yourself shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.

*Phillips Brooks  
Bishop of Massachusetts 1890  
Feast Day January 23rd*

## So Who's the Dummy?

**I**f you've ever glanced up at the rear gallery of St. Mark's Chapel (the original and smaller chapel adjacent to the main church building), you may have noticed what appear to be a set of organ pipes. From a distance these gold-colored pipes are visually quite convincing, but in fact are dummies. The sound really comes from loudspeakers beneath these racks of fake pipes. Even if someone tried to blow air through these "pipes," they wouldn't make any sound.

So what's the story here?

As it turns out, the organs in St. Mark's Chapel have always been electronic organs, not pipe organs. When worship began in late 1948 in St. Mark's Chapel, a Hammond organ was loaned by Mrs. Edwin Smith. A used electronic organ was bought from a Burlingame church in 1952. Subsequently a Wurlitzer electric organ and a Baldwin organ (acquired from Richard Stenger) were used alternately in the chapel and the parish hall.

In May 1971 the Philbrick family, who had donated the large Casavant pipe organ in the church, offered to donate a pipe organ for the St. Mark's Chapel. The Moller pipe organ company prepared a design for a two-manual pipe organ, and had blueprints and other plans drawn up.

In a seemingly sudden move, an order was placed for a Conn Deluxe Artist Model (the existing organ in St. Mark's Chapel), which was delivered in December 1971. According to the plaque on the organ, it was given in memory of Stella Mossman Philbrick. A letter was sent from the church to Moller a couple of weeks later, cancelling any further negotiations.

The Conn organ uses some antique electronic components (by today's standards). It doesn't really quite know if it's a classical church organ or a theatre organ (I can make it sound like a Mighty Wurlitzer with the flick of a Leslie switch that spins the loudspeakers, creating the thumping vibrato of a Wurlitzer).

The good news is that the "mighty" Conn is still going strong, 37 years later. It has required virtually no maintenance over the years. The felt bumpers in the pedals have disintegrated, causing the pedal keys to sound like castanets at times. A few years ago someone overwatered a potted plant on top of the console, resulting in damage to the wood finish. But it seems you can't kill these older electronic organs, even if you try!

-Jim Welch

## THE BELOVED COMMUNITY ... IN CONVERSATION



Worshippers at the May 2007 Visioning Conference

The diocesan strategic visioning process – begun at the May 2007 Beloved Community Visioning Conference – will continue through the fall and spring with a series of intimate conversations with Bishop Marc about our hopes for the diocese.

Worship, music, arts, and storytelling in small groups are the contexts for imagining the community to which God calls us. The resulting vision – to be presented at a special convention in 2008 – will not be complete without your participation!

### Gather together on Saturday, January 19

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**St Mark's Church**

600 COLORADO AVE, PALO ALTO

### Meet Bishop Marc and...

#### IN THE MORNING – HEAR THE WORD!

Learn about our call as Bay Area Christians to be a Beloved Community.

Gather in small groups to engage in a conversation about what being a Beloved Community means to us.

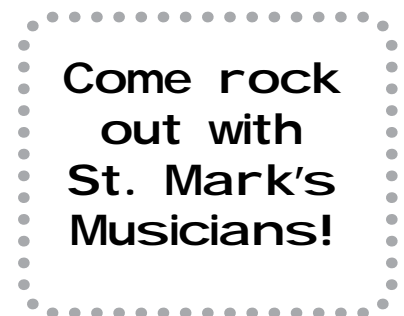
#### IN THE AFTERNOON – GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE!

Participate in one of three workshops (music, art, prayer) to deepen visioning done in the morning.

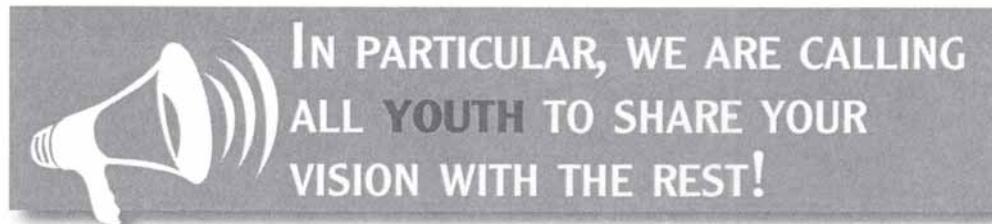
Bring your energy and creativity together in celebration of the Eucharist.

### TO LEARN MORE –

contact Julia McCray-Goldsmith at **415.869.7826** or email [juliam@diocal.org](mailto:juliam@diocal.org) or Lori Walton at **650.326.3800** or email [lori@saint-marks.com](mailto:lori@saint-marks.com)

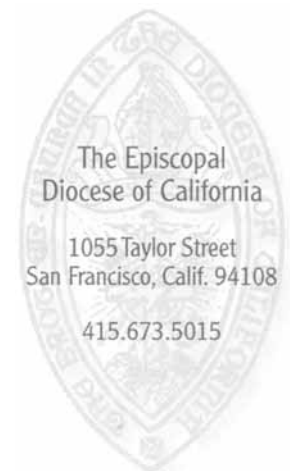


**Come rock  
out with  
St. Mark's  
Musicians!**



**IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE CALLING  
ALL YOUTH TO SHARE YOUR  
VISION WITH THE REST!**

**WWW.DIOCAL.ORG/BELOVEDCOMMUNITY**



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**St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Sunday Schedule**

8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist (St. Mark's Chapel)  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education Hour  
10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist (Church)  
Children's Programs  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (Parish Hall)

**Church Office Telephone (650) 326-3800**

**Fax: (650) 326-2186**

**email: stmarkpa@pacbell.net**

**Church Staff**

Rector: *The Reverend Matthew McDermott*

Associate Rector: *The Reverend Lori Walton*

Deacon: *The Rev. Richard Peterson (emeritus)*

Children/Family Ministries Coordinator: *Mary Greene*

Youth Ministries Coordinator: *Liz Graves*

Assisting Clergy: *Rev. Dr. Rebecca Lyman, Rev. John Butcher, Rev. Joanne Sanders*

Music Directors: *Rebecca Maggi, Tom Colohan*

Church Organist: *James Welch*

Administrative Assistant: *Katie Yates*

Sexton: *Marco Picon*

Treasurer: *Maureen Kennedy*

## St. Mark's Calendar

### Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (St. Mark's Chapel)  
9:50-11:30 a.m. Child Care (Eastside classroom 2)  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education Hour (St. Mark's Chapel)  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist w/Music (Church)  
KidsWorld Infant Care and Toddlers (Eastside classroom 2)  
Preschool (Eastside classroom 1)  
Kindergarten & First grades (Westside classroom 1)  
Second & Third grades (Westside classroom 1)  
Fourth & Fifth grades (Clubhouse-Church 2nd floor)  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (Parish Hall, Youth Room, Library)

### Monday

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer and Meditation (Kennedy Room)

### Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Compline (St. Nicholas Chapel)

### Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Centering Prayer and Meditation (Kennedy Room)  
12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing Rite (St. Mark's Chapel)

### Thursday

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, January 6

Day of The Epiphany  
10:00 a.m. The Breakfast Club -YG (Youth Room)  
6:00 p.m. The Amazing Car Race - YG

### Sunday, January 13

Epiphany 1  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Baptisms  
11:30 a.m. Leadership Meeting

### Saturday, January 19

11:00 a.m. The Beloved Community in Conversation  
Visioning Conference

### Sunday, January 20

Epiphany 2  
Nightwatch 2008 - YG (overnight)

### Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King Jr Day (*office closed*)

### Sunday, January 27

Epiphany 3  
11:30 a.m. Listening for God

### Sunday, February 3

Last Epiphany  
10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting followed by Brunch

St. Mark's website: [www.saint-marks.com](http://www.saint-marks.com)