

more information, please contact Donna Anderson (gsadwa@sbcglobal.net) or Sheryl Sims (sesims4@cox.net).

UCM's Food Pantry can always use your help. Please put your non-perishable donations in the wicker basket at the rear of the sanctuary. The first Sunday of the month is UCM Sunday.



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**“Opening the doors of Christ’s love:
an inviting, embracing and serving community offering
Good News in the midst of a confusing world.”**

This Week at St. Mark’s

Today	8 a.m. HE, 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum, 10 a.m. HE, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. Choir rehearsal, 11:15 a.m. Worship Committee mtg. (Rector’s ofc.), 11:15 a.m. Daughters of the King mtg. (Library), 1 – 3 p.m. Eucaristia - San Marcos (Sanctuary, Patience Hall and Gibson Hall), 3:30 – 5:45 p.m. Amazing Grace Ghanaian Fellowship (Patience Hall), 5– 8:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Monday 9/30	9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. French Playgroup (Gibson Hall), 10 a.m. Bible study (Lg. classroom), 7 – 8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
Tuesday 10/1	6:30 – 9 p.m. GS Troop #4841 (Patience Hall), 7-9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Library)
Wednesday 10/2	10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 12:30 p.m. HE at The Pentagon, 5:30 p.m. Healthy Families program (Patience and Gibson Halls), 6:30 p.m. ALPHA Program dinner (Patience Hall), 7:15 p.m. ALPHA Program (Sanctuary)
Thursday 10/3	9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Chapel), 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Gibson Hall)
Friday 10/4	7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Saturday 10/5	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Parish Youth Ministries Volunteer Day (St. Thomas, McLean), 3 – 5 p.m. Amazing Grace Ghanaian Fellowship Bible study (Lg. classroom), 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Church contact information:

Address: 6744 S. King’s Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22306 ♦ **Phone:** 703-765-3949; fax: 703-765-3981 ♦ **E-mails:** Office: stmarksalex@netzero.net; Rev. John Weatherly: jweathe951@aol.com; Rev. Meredith Heffner: revmeredith@cox.net; Rev. Cherian Pulimootil: cheriapp@hotmail.com ♦ **Internet:** Website: www.stmarksalex.org; Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/stmarksalex. ♦ **Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Clergy are usually in the office until 4 p.m. The office is closed on Fridays and national holidays.

September 29, 2013

Important Upcoming Dates

- **October 2**
ALPHA program begins
- **October 6**
St. Francis Day Celebration
Blessing of the Animals
11:30 a.m. Acolyte training
- **October 27**
Begin Every Member Canvass

Adult Forum

- **Today**
Rites of Belonging with The Rev. John Weatherly
- **October 6**
Open Communion, Open Table with The Rev. Dr. Robert Prichard
- **October 13**
Open Communion, Open Table: Follow Up
- **October 20**
Critical Issues Facing Us Today
- **October 27**
Critical Issues: Every Member Canvass with Doug Varner
- **November 3**
Critical Issues with Daniel Stroud
- **November 10**
Critical Issues with the Rector

From the Rector

A preacher by the name of Taylor Mills, a United Methodist Pastor in Durham, North Carolina, wrote about our readings today:

“It is always the wrong people who get guilty feelings
It is always the saints who are most aware of their shortcomings, It is always the holy who wonder
- have I done all I can do?
- am I being too self-centred?
- am I putting my family and its comfort way too far ahead of everyone else?...”

It is not having money that is the problem - it is allowing that money and concern about money to dominate us to point where we do not care about others outside our sphere of interest. It is a good sign that most of us have difficulty with today's Gospel reading.

It tells me that most folk still care, that they are heeding Moses and the Prophets and have listened to and are being convinced by the testimony of the one who has risen from the dead. Indeed you are here today precisely to listen to the one who has been raised from death, the one who the rich man while in Hell told Abraham his five equally rich brothers would heed. You are here, I am certain, not simply to be blessed and strengthened by God, but to show God true worship by listening to his word and then by going and doing it. So allow the words of Jesus in today's gospel and the teaching of Paul that he shared with Timothy to do that without getting too much into your guilt, unless of course God is putting the conviction upon you that you love money and that you have allowed a chasm of non-caring to grow up between you and whoever your Lazarus is.”

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during this Pentecost season. If you are looking for a church home, or want more information about St. Mark's, please introduce yourself to the Vestry Person of the Day or to the Clergy. We hope you will fill out the newcomer's card that you will find in the church pew and put it in the offering plate or give it to one of the ushers. We are glad you are here! If you would like to receive our weekly announcements and other parish news by e-mail, please contact the church office at stmarksalex@netzero.net.

Notes about Worship at St. Mark's

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Eucharist in the Episcopal Church. For those who are not familiar with how to receive communion, the following may be helpful. The ushers will let you know when it is time to go to the altar rail. At the altar rail, place one outstretched hand over the other to receive the bread. To receive the wine, either hold on to the wafer and dip the edge into the wine (edge only!), or consume the wafer first and then guide the chalice to your lips. If you are unable to kneel at the rail, please feel free to remain standing. If you cannot come to the altar rail, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come to the altar rail for a blessing and cross your arms over your chest to indicate you do not wish to receive communion. Come down the center aisle to the altar rail and return to your seat using the side aisles.

During the school year, Sunday School is provided from 10 to 10:40 a.m. except the third Sunday of the month for Joyful Noise Family Services, when the children remain in church. On other Sundays, the children will join us at the Peace. Children below age four can use the nursery, where they will receive care from professional nursery attendants. See Rev. Meredith if you have any questions.

Join us for Morning Prayer on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel.

Photo Policy

Time to time, we may include pictures of our parishioners in our publications. It is our policy to never include someone's name. If you would prefer for us not to use photos of yourself or others in your family, please contact Emily in the church office.

Prayer List

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity, especially:

In the St. Mark's Parish: Jean Auldridge, Shirley Hunter, David Boyd, Elizabeth Boyd, Juliana, Albie, Lou, and Janet.

Our Extended Family: Peggy Byers, Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Bob and Nancy DeLay, Summer Ostanato, Margo Digan, Karen, Trey, and Julian Smith, Eric Watson and family, Frank Strobel, Phyllis Nezar-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Wendy Wills, Shelby Henry, Malley Plath, Stephen Carrier, Noelle Black, Luke Sorsdal, Sylvia Beauchamp, John Springer, Patrice Roberts, Ken Crabb, Arlene Joyce, Joyce Juedeman, Hank Morgan, Sherrie Embrey, Diane Foster, Cathy Sears, Maria's baby, Lynn V., Natalie, Andy, Stephen, Amanda, André and Alex, and Kaitlyn.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way: Brian Hobin, Andrew Kley, Ryan Kiggans, Tyler Miller, Austin Graine, Justin Rodriguez, Robert Payne, Eric Martindell - civilian in Afghanistan, Jeff, Carl, Kevin, Timothy, Emily and Dale. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.

If you would like someone who is sick or in need added to the prayer list, please write their name in the blue book on the table in the Narthex, or give the name to Father John or Rev. Meredith. Names will be kept in our intercessions for four weeks, unless notified otherwise.

Birthdays

September 29 – Charlotte Brown

October 3 – Horatia Elliott

Announcements

The Alpha Program begins this week! Join us on Wednesday, October 2nd for dinner at 6:30 and the program, which will begin at 7:15. The Rev. Andy Morgan, Rector of Christ the Savior Anglican Church and ALPHA facilitator, will be our first presenter.

Sunday School Assistants: If you did not receive the calendar and phone list, please contact Rev. Meredith. If you are unable to assist on your assigned day, please use the list to find a replacement. Thank you.

St. Mark's is hosting one of the Fairfax County Healthy Families Programs again this year and your help is needed! This is an opportunity for students to earn their community service hours. To give everyone a chance to participate the work, it is divided into three groups: 1) setting up and setting the tables; 2) cooking; and 3) clean-up. Some of the meals will be crockpot/slower cooker meals. All who volunteer are invited to enjoy the meal too. These are the days that St. Mark's will be cooking dinner: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6 and 20. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. If you have questions before then please call Karen Ashworth at 703/768-3576 or email ashworthkc2@verizon.net.

The Parish Youth Day of Service will be on Saturday, October 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Thomas' in McLean. It is open to all middle and high school students. Join other youth from the Diocese for a day of fun and service. If you are interested, contact Rev. Meredith at Revmeredith@cox.net by tomorrow, September 30th.

Acolyte training for new and returning acolytes will take place after worship on October 6th.

Mission trip to South Dakota! Information about our 2014 mission trip was e-mailed to youth and their parents last week. If you did not receive the information and are interested in participating, see Rev. Meredith.

If you have utensils or plates that may have gone on holiday in our kitchen, please let Karen Ashworth know and she will look for them. Or if some of the church's pots, pans, or utensils are on holiday in your house, please let Karen know.

The annual meeting of the Diocese of Virginia Episcopal Church Women is being held on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at Emmanuel Episcopal, Harrisonburg, Virginia. The keynote speaker's theme is "Many Paths – One Journey...Many Ministries – Much Hope." Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the cost is \$25.00, lunch included. Please contact Delta Youngquist at 703/768-9012 for further information.

ECW 2012 Awarded Grants: Thanks to the generosity shown by members of the Episcopal Church, such as St. Mark's, awards of financial help have been given from:

- Diocese of Virginia, \$30,000 to a faith-based re-entry program for incarcerated women at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women.
- Diocese of Virginia/Tanzania, \$7,000 for solar power for Mwitibina Church (St. Andrew's) in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika, Tanzania.

Women of St. Mark's! F.H.S. – For His Sake – We are interested in prayer, service, & evangelism. If you are too, please consider learning more about The Order of the Daughters of the King. You are always welcome to attend our meeting and activities. For