

This Week at St. Mark's

Today	8 a.m. HE and Healing, 9:10 a.m. Adult Forum, 10 a.m. HE and Healing, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. Choir rehearsal, 11:15 a.m. DOK Bible study (4 th -6 th grade classroom), 11:30 Vestry mtg. (Lg. classroom), 1 – 3 p.m. Eucaristía - San Marcos (Sanctuary, Patience Hall and Gibson Hall), 3:30 – 5:45 p.m. Amazing Grace Ghanaian Fellowship (Patience Hall), 4 - 8 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Monday 4/7	9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. French playgroup (Gibson Hall), 7 – 8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
Tuesday 4/8	9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Round the Block Fitness class (Patience Hall), 6:30 – 9 p.m. GS Troop #4841 (Patience Hall), 7 – 9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary)
Wednesday 4/9	9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Round the Block Fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 12:30 – 3 p.m. GS Troop #1914 (Patience Hall)
Thursday 4/10	9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Round the Block Fitness class (Patience Hall), 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Chapel), 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom)
Friday 4/11	9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Round the Block Fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Saturday 4/12	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; ♦ **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.



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.”**

From the Associate Rector

I was a little bothered last Sunday, when after rejoicing over what we thought was an early spring rain, we spent an afternoon in the snow. The crocuses in my yard closed up, and I began to believe that winter would never end. I needed a little hope.

Our Gospel reading today is challenging on many levels, but the story gives us this badly needed hope that just as Lazarus was raised from the dead, he raises us, too - not just after we die, but every day of our lives. We know this as we hear his friend, “Lazarus, come out!” It’s as if he is saying to each of us, “Come out from those things that keep you from living a life marked by resurrection.”

So the questions we ask ourselves are these: how do we come out of our losses or our fears? Our despairs or our unsettled grief? How do we let Jesus unbind us so that we can get up, like Lazarus, and live – welcoming the new life, and hope, of spring? My prayer is that we find the way as we continue through this season of Lent.

May God bless you all-
Rev. Meredith

April 6, 2014

Adult Forum

- **Today**
Daniel Stroud on his journey to Iona
- **April 13**
The Grief of Loss as Divine Judgment
- **April 20**
Easter
- **April 27**
The Promissory Language that Breaks Despair
- **May 4 – 25**
St. Mark's Speaks: Discussions with members of St. Mark's on their passions.

Important Upcoming Dates

- **April 26**
Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show – Mission Team fundraiser
- **May 4**
Crop Walk

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during this season of Lent. 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 Auldrige, Shirley Hunter, Phil Brown, Pam Smith, Rosemarie Beyma, Clara Bottner, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, John, Beth and Pacita.

Our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Nancy DeLay, Summer Ostanato, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Susan Clark, Barbara Kent, Keith Derringer, Krystal Simms, Al Bornmann, David McCune, Katie Socrates, Alex Pena, Pat McDonald, Alex Shriver, the Vangroll family, Heidi Heyse, Dee, Kaitlyn, Megan, Amanda, Don, and Fran.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way. We lift up especially Andrew Kley, Brian Hobin, Ryan Kiggans, Tyler Miller, Austin Grainey, Justin Rodriguez, Robert Payne, Michael Bloomrose, Eric Martindell - civilian in Afghanistan, Jeff, Carl, Kevin, Dale and Vania. 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.

Announcements

Thank you to all who helped with the reception after Eunice Johnson's funeral on Monday.

Thank you to the Miles family and especially Ben for his Eagle Scout project, the outdoor worship area.

Donations for Easter flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for an individual or individuals may be made by using the special envelopes that are included in today's bulletin. All donations should be received in the church office by Monday, April 14th for names to appear in the bulletin.

Mortgage Activity Since 2013

Balance 12/31/13	\$316,683.00
Payments	11,926.00
(Principal applied)	(9,762.00)
(Interest)	(2,164.00)
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Balance 3/12/14	\$306,921.00

The Lenten Bible study will not meet on Tuesday, April 8th. The class will meet on Tuesday, April 15th instead.

Easter candy is needed for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Donations will be accepted through Tuesday, April 15th.

Save the date - Saturday, April 26th is the annual spaghetti dinner and talent show. All proceeds will go to our Mission Team.

Mark your calendar for the 2014 Crop Walk on Sunday, May 4th at 1 p.m. Go to <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/stmarksalex> to join the St. Mark's Crop Walk team or to donate.

St Mark's supports the efforts of United Community Ministries to assist people in need. As with most not for profit agencies, UCM must rely on many volunteers to carry out its valuable work. UCM is seeking volunteers to perform data entry, to keep track of its inventory. UCM asks that volunteers commit for a 1/2 or whole day schedule on a weekly basis. Interested congregation members may contact Marcos Castillo at (703) 768-7106.

UCM's food pantry is in particular need of corn, tomato sauce and pasta.

Spring is Here! Clean up, clean out and take the extra to ReStore! ReStores depend on donations of new and used home improvement supplies, furniture, building materials, tools and more! To donate, drop off at the store (7770 Richmond Hwy. - behind Gold's Gym) on: Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm or Saturday, 9am-4pm. For larger items, call (703) 360-6700 to schedule a pick up.

AARP is teaming up with Mt. Vernon at Home, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, and Fairfax County Building for All Committee (BFAC) to bring you a free community workshop "Staying Home: Making Smart Choices for Easy Living" on Thursday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center. A panel of experts will share practical tips to minimize the financial costs of home modifications, avoid frauds and scams, and learn about local resources available. RSVP requested as seating is limited. Register online or call 1-877-926-8300.

Birthdays

April 6 – Marifer Cruz

April 7 – Kai Moyer

April 11 – Madison Weatherly

Anniversaries

April 8 – Karen Ashworth and David Powers

April 12 – Bev and John Weatherly