

This Week at St. Mark's

- Today** 8 a.m. HE and Healing, 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal (Lg. classroom), 9:10 a.m. Adult Forum, 10 a.m. HE and Healing, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 1 – 3 p.m. Eucaristía - San Marcos (Sanctuary, Patience Hall, Gibson Hall), 3:30 – 5:45 p.m. Amazing Grace Ghanaian Fellowship (Patience Hall), 4 - 8 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Monday 12/8** 7 p.m. St. Mark's Book Group (Lg. classroom), 7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 12/9** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. Bible Study (Lg. classroom), 7 – 9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary), 7 – 8:30 p.m. GS Troop 4841 (Patience Hall), 7:30 p.m. Vestry mtg. (Lg. classroom)
- Wednesday 12/10** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 12 – 3:30 p.m. GS Troop #1914 (Patience Hall), 5:30 – 9 p.m. Nurturing Families program (Patience Hall, kitchen, Gibson Hall)
- Thursday 12/11** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Chapel), 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom)
- Friday 12/12** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Saturday 12/13** 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary, Patience Hall), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Adult Forum Schedule

December (all Sundays) *The Readings of Advent*

Important Upcoming Dates

- December 14** 10 a.m. Christmas Pageant
December 20 Youth Group Christmas party
December 21 Lessons and Carols



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.”**

December 7, 2014

Years ago, Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks did a popular series of comedy sketches called the "2000-Year-Old Man" which prompted several hilarious albums. The premise has Reiner interviewing the Brooks playing the old man and inquiring concerning life way back when. At one point, Reiner asks the old man, "Did you always believe in God?" Brooks replies, "No. We had a guy in our village named Phil, and for a time we worshiped him." Reiner wonders, "You worshiped a guy named Phil? Why?" "Because he was big, and mean, and he could break you in two with his bare hands!" The interviewer asks, "Did you have prayers?" Brooks answers, "Yes, would you like to hear one? O Phil, please don't be mean, and hurt us, or break us in two with your bare hands." Reiner: "So when did you start worshiping God?" And then this wonderful answer: "Well, one day a big thunderstorm came up, and a lightning bolt hit Phil. We gathered around and saw that he was dead. Then we said to one another, "There's somthin' bigger than Phil!"

Every year we have a chance to take back Christmas, and bring back the meaning and the purpose. The world tries to hold it for ransom each year, with its outpouring of sales and this year's list of must have toys; the world tries to make demands and hold Christmas for captive but it never works. The birth of the Christ child is just too powerful, even for all the retail sales. The sight and the sounds and the remembrance of this child born so long ago changes all the rules. His very presence makes the glitter of our Christmas presents pale in comparison.

Church contact information:

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Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during Advent. 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.

Prayer List

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

In the St. Mark's Parish: Shirley Hunter, Clara Bottner, Beth Oakes, Betty Hughes, Rebecca Carrier, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, and Geoffrey.

Our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Nancy DeLay, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Pat McDonald, Sylvia Beauchamp, Jan Varner, Evelyn Lang, Stacy Kley, Janet Coco, Julie Cain, Patricia Scott-Boyle, Conway Telfayan, Keith Derringer, Rich Line, Kamryn Jesperson, Cheryl F., Karla, Sandra, Aylene's father, Jack, Kerry, and John.

We pray for those who have died, especially Phyllis Scudder, a resident of The Fairfax.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way. We lift up especially Andrew Kley, Robert Payne, and Tim, Emily and family. 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 to add anyone to the list, please call the church office or let the clergy know.

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

Angel Tree. A big thank you to all who contributed so generously to the Salvation Army Angel Tree program and to those who helped me track and load the gifts in our cars. We provided gifts to 64 children. I was told that as a small church, St. Mark's does more outreach than many large churches. We are very blessed. Bonnie Wilkins

Thank you to all those who helped cook and prepare our meal Wednesday night, the last night that St. Mark's cooked for the Fairfax County Nurturing Families program. We thank especially Kathy Hughes for cooking, David Boyd for his organizing of the set-up and meal planning, and Cheryl Lewis for her prep work.

The St. Mark's Book Group will meet on Monday, December 8 at 7 p.m. in the large classroom.

Join us for the continuing Tuesday Morning Bible Study on December 9 from 10 to 11:15. "The Light Will Shine" – a study for Advent from Kerygma.

Special envelopes for Christmas Flower contributions are in today's bulletin. Names received by December 15 will be included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service bulletins. We will also be asking for gifts to the staff for Christmas, and those envelopes are available at the back of the church and will also be included in the bulletin on the 14th. Please make donations to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and its purpose on the notation line.

Youth Group Christmas Party! Join Rev. Meredith and Fr. John on Saturday, December 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. for our annual pizza dinner and bonfire. Signup Genius coming soon.

Birthdays

December 7 – Kendra Scott

December 9 – Tom McIntyre, Jimmy Bailes

December 10 – Maegan Weatherly, Andrew Alonzo

December 12 – Craig Shelton