

chaplains and support staff. For more information, visit <http://www.shrinemontcamps.net>.

20th Annual SOUPer Saturday will be on Saturday, January 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Old Town. Purchase a handcrafted bowl for \$20 and a complimentary serving of soup (courtesy of Chart House restaurant) is included. Proceeds go to UCM.

Be inspired! The annual MLK concert is set for next Sunday, January 19, at 4:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Old Mt. Vernon Highway. Hear some creative, beautiful music by choirs from the VIC area.

During this past week's extreme temperatures, the county-operated Eleanor Kennedy Shelter, located at the edge of Ft. Belvoir, sheltered 85 souls in the "overflow" room. VIC-Hop at Rising Hope is at full capacity of 24 all week.

News from UCM

- Thank you for helping bring holiday smiles to 1,200 children. UCM's Holiday Gift Room was chocked full of toys, books, games and warm clothing -- thanks to generous community support!
- UCM provided life-changing assistance to 11,538 people in 4,392 Alexandria families in 2013.

Birthdays

January 13 – Gregory Brunson, Will Miles

January 15 – Wally Tienken, January 17 – Mahlon Drabick

This Week at St. Mark's

Today	8 a.m. HE, 9:10 a.m. Adult Forum, 10 a.m. HE, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. Choir rehearsal, 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 1/13	9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. French playgroup (Gibson Hall), 7 – 8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
Tuesday 1/14	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 (Library)
Wednesday 1/15	9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Round the Block Fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax
Thursday 1/16	9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Chapel), 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Round the Block Fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom), 7 – 9 p.m. GS Service Unit 53-6 (Patience Hall)
Friday 1/17	9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Round the Block Fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Saturday 1/18	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: jwethe951@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.



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 Senior Warden

Dear Friends,

One of the responsibilities that the Senior Warden is tasked with is keeping the parish informed of what the vestry and clergy are working on to keep St. Mark's moving in the right direction. I try to always be straightforward and honest with you, and to work with our vestry to make sure that we are open, transparent, and focused on doing God's work in this parish and in the community.

In 2014 we hope to further grow the Body of Christ here at St. Mark's by expanding our work in His vineyard. In order to do this, adequate financial resources from your pledge offerings are needed.

In 2013, our budgeted expenses were around \$315,000. We received \$267,000 in pledges and another \$70,000 in non-pledge offerings and other income. As faithful stewards of our resources, the clergy and vestry simply cannot use non-pledge income as a major factor in planning our operating budget.

One key area we want to expand in 2014 is our compensation for Reverend Meredith. I think you will agree that what she adds to the St. Mark's parish family is beyond measure, and we would very much like to make her compensation package appropriate with Diocesan guidelines. But right now the numbers are telling us that this just isn't possible – nor can we do anything additional for the rest of our talented and dedicated staff.

For 2014, we are attempting to create a program based on just over \$350,000 in expenses. Perhaps we can budget for a little over \$60,000 of non-pledge and other income as a notional planning figure. We would need \$265,000 in commitments to simply maintain our 2013 budget. We would need \$290,000 in commitments in order to attain our vision for 2014.

Unfortunately, as of today we are about a dozen pledges short of our commitment goal. If we were able to concretely plan on \$290,000 pledge offering commitments, we could do so much more.

January 12, 2014

Adult Forum

- **Today**
A Review of the Ordination Exams 2014 – What Does the Church Expect Its Seminararians to Know? with Seminararian Daniel Stroud
- **January 19**
The 2014 Budget at St. Mark's
- **January 26**
The End of the Year Review
- **February**
Series on prayer

Important Upcoming Dates

- **January 25**
Movie night – a fundraiser for the mission trip
- **January 26**
Annual Meeting
- **February 1-2**
Vestry retreat
- **February 14-16**
Youth Group ski trip

If we can secure these dozen pledges before our annual meeting on January 26th we can confidently present you with a budget that is both faith based and also grounded in fiscal reality – a budget that at the very least holds the line with 2013 and perhaps even grows a little.

So, if you have not yet made a commitment to St. Mark's for 2014, I ask you to prayerfully consider doing so today. If you have pledged already and would like to increase that pledge to help us meet our goal, it would be greatly appreciated. In this matter, our clergy and the vestry are in your hands. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to discuss them with me or any member of the vestry.

Thank you,

Jim Bailes
Senior Warden

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during this Epiphany 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, Phil Brown, Pam Smith, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, John, Beth and Pacita.

Our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Bob and Nancy DeLay, Summer Ostanato, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Wendy Wills, Shelby Henry, Sylvia Beauchamp, Cathy Sears, The Pritchett Family, Mary Kay Young, Ann Zubia, Sally Beavers, Carol Bogan, Sherry Embrey, Betty Hughes, Helen Sutton, the family of Mark Craig, the Romine family, Cathy Bluey, Thad Hecht, Dee, Natalie, Kaitlyn, Helen, Kerry, Brendan, Amanda, Andre, Alex, Megan and Don.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way. We lift up especially Cpt. Andrew Kley, on his return to Afghanistan, as well as Brian Hobin, Ryan Kiggans, Tyler Miller, Austin Grainey, Justin Rodriguez, Robert Payne, Eric Martindell - civilian in Afghanistan, Jeff, Carl, Kevin, 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.

Every Member Canvass Update (as of 1/8/2014)

Update	Amount pledged:	No. of pledges:
<i>Operating Fund</i>	\$206,035	72
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	\$6,600	4

Announcements

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Manbhari G. Masih by Nihal Masih.

Help take down the stable. Volunteers are asked to meet after the 10 a.m. service today to take down the stable and put it away until next year. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Your 2014 pledge envelopes are now available. Please pick up your set in the Narthex before you leave today.

There will be a mission trip meeting after the 10 a.m. service next Sunday, January 19th. All team members are expected to attend.

Movie Night – January 25th! Mark your calendars to join us for dinner and *Dances with Wolves*. All

donations will benefit our mission trip to South Dakota.

Thank you so much for your most generous gifts. It is a blessing to work and minister with you here at St. Mark's. All the best for a happy 2014, Rev. Meredith and Emily

Life Line Screening will be at St. Mark's on Thursday, February 13th, offering a range of tests for vascular and heart disease. Register by calling 1-800-324-9458 and Life Line will make a \$10 donation to St. Mark's and you will receive a \$10 discount on the cost of the screening package. You may also register online at www.helpinghandsforhealth.com or by completing a registration form which may be found by the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Shrine Mont camps registration will open on January 14. They are also hiring counselors, nurses,