

This Week at St. Mark's

- Today** 8 a.m. HE, 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal (Lg. classroom), 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum, 10 a.m. HE, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11:15 DOK Lenten Study (library), 11:15 a.m. Pastoral Care Committee information mtg. (Rector's ofc.), 11:15 a.m. Mission Team (lg. classroom), 11:15 a.m. Seminarian Support Committee (Rev. Meredith's ofc.), 1 - 3 p.m. San Marcos Eucaristía (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 4/20** 7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 4/21** 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Life Line Screening (Patience Hall), 7 - 8:30 p.m. GS Troop #4841 (Patience Hall), 7 - 9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary)
- Wednesday 4/22** 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 12 - 3:30 p.m. GS Troop #1914 (Patience Hall)
- Thursday 4/23** 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom)
- Friday 4/24** 7 - 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Saturday 4/25** 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Spaghetti dinner & talent show (Patience Hall), 6 - 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 - 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Important Upcoming Dates

- May 9** Workshop: "Being a Home Visitor"
- July 26** Bishop Shannon's Visitation
- August 3 - 7** Vacation Bible School
- August 21 - 23** Shrine Mont Weekend

Adult Forum Schedule

- April 19** *Our Anglican Heritage and Authority*

Church contact information:

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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.”**

April 19, 2015

Caring for Creation (From www.episcopalchurch.org)

Give us a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.
(Prayers of the People, Form IV, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 388)

What does it mean to “care for creation”?

It means that Christians are commissioned to model for all humankind how to love and serve this earth, the part of the creation upon which we dwell.

What is the source of this commission?

The Holy Bible declares our obligation to care for God’s creation.

What specifically does the Bible say about this obligation?

Genesis 1:26-28 states that human beings are created in God’s “image and likeness” and given dominion over all other creatures. “Dominion” does not mean “domination,” but refers to the need for humans to exercise responsibility for the earth as God’s representatives. In Genesis 2, the human beings are given the garden to tend and serve, symbolizing our obligation to care for creation. Human beings do in fact exercise dominion over “this fragile earth, our island home” (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 370). God wills that we exercise it in accordance with God’s desires and purposes. God declared the whole of creation to be “very good” (Gen. 1:31): earth and the life that dwells upon it have value in and of themselves. As “the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it” (Ps. 24:1), we human beings are called upon to tend, serve, and protect the earth as a sacred trust for which we shall one day give an accounting.

What does “created in the image and likeness of God” mean in relation to our obligation to care for the creation?

The God who is Love unconditionally loves all of the creation and not merely us who are able to enter into a conscious relationship with God. We may express the divine image and likeness by loving the creation as God loves it, and by exercising stewardship and earth-keeping as an act of love.

Why is this a time in which Christians should be especially concerned with the state of God’s earth?

Thousands of species are dying off as they are being hunted or their habitats degraded or destroyed. The earth’s air, waters, forests and soils are suffering more and more pollution and depletion. Less land for farming is available to

feed this huge and growing population, and disease, malnutrition and starvation are ever-present facts for millions of people. Greatly expanding usage of fossil fuels contributes to global warming, with consequences not yet fully understood but possibly severe for the whole earth. The very beauty of the earth is in peril. Furthermore, the vast majority of earth's human population is made up of the poor, those on whom God's heart is especially fixed, as Jesus taught, and they suffer in greater proportions from this "groaning" of creation (Rom. 8:22).

Given these conditions how can we as Christians show our love for the creation and care for it in ways that meet these challenges?

All of us can exercise stewardship by prudently and sensibly using those elements of the creation we need to sustain our own lives and the generations to follow. At the same time, we can work to preserve whenever possible other creatures and their habitats. Specifically, we can care for the land upon which we dwell and grow our foodstuffs, by preserving or restoring the earth's soils, air, and water, and by protecting the creatures that form its ecological communities.

What can we do to preserve other creatures and their habitats?

We can learn about the great diversity of living things and their environments, and urge our neighbors, churches and governments to become better educated about regional, national and global pressures on the environment. With better knowledge we can do a better job of keeping species and their habitats free from harm.

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

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

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, Betty Hughes, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Richard Sparks, Donna Anderson, Pete Farley, Nihal Masih, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, and Geoffrey.

Our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Nancy DeLay, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Sylvia Beauchamp, Janet Coco, , Kamryn Jespersion, Don Wills, Bob Schaeffer, Maudine Perry, Tom Simpson, Benjamin Harrison, Jr., Don Lopez, Vicki Robb, and Josephine. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.

For those who have died, especially Brenda Beatty, friend of the Luxners.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way. We lift up especially Andrew Kley, Robert Payne, Karl Lautenschlager, and Tim, Emily and family.

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

Mission Team meeting today after the 10 a.m. service in the large classroom. Contact Rev. Meredith if you are unable to attend.

Pastoral Care Ministry Meeting Today: We are forming a group of volunteers to assist our clergy by supporting and responding to other's needs, cares, concerns and joys. If you are looking for a way to serve our community, join Father John in his office after the 10:00 service to learn more about our Pastoral Care ministry. We want to provide prayers, home visits, Eucharist, meals, a phone call or cards for those in need who are experiencing events such as new births, illness, or surgery, and for those who are alone or unable to attend church. Help us ensure that no one walks this journey alone.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 25 is the annual spaghetti dinner and talent show. Sign up if you'd like to perform! Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and are available through the Social Saints and from the church office. All proceeds will go to our Mission Team. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:30 and the talent show will begin at 7:00.

Parents of Young Children: Join us on Saturday, May 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the home of Ashley and Eric Bryda, 2630 Groveton St., to talk about children's formation at St. Mark's. Childcare will be provided at the church and refreshments will be served. If you haven't received an E-vite, RSVP to Revmeredith@cox.net or call the church office at 703/765-3949.

Starting on May 2, there will be a farm stand at St. Mark's every Saturday. In addition to buying fresh produce, you will be able to join a CSA (community support agricultural endeavor). For more information, go to orchardcountryproduce.com.

If you are interested in serving as a substitute teacher for Sunday School, please contact Karen Ashworth at 703/768-3576.

In his pastoral address to Annual Council, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston announced a new racial reconciliation initiative for 2015: "We will begin this effort by holding a series of listening sessions in the mid-year around our diocese. These sessions will be the same *Indaba* style gatherings that were so successfully used here a few years ago to address tensions and divisions regarding the Church's ministry in the quickly evolving matter of human sexuality. *Indaba* listening sessions involve no debate, no cross-talk, but rather give every person present the opportunity to speak their hearts and minds in a safe, non-reactive environment." The next listening session will take place on Thursday, April 23 at The Falls Church from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The sessions are open to all members of the Diocese. If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@thediocese.net or 800-DIOCESE x1048.

Birthdays

April 19 – Jean-Luc Maignot
April 20 – Kaeden Weatherly
April 22 – Michael Parris, Rosemary Kley
April 23 – Rico Chui, John Miles
April 24 – Jillian Gorman
April 25 – Rebeccah Carrier

Anniversaries

April 20 – Ann and Rich Sparks
April 21 – Susan Byers and Len Slobodin
April 25 – Tom and Dana Gorman