



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 26, 2015

Once there was an ecumenical crusade that was being held in a large city church. Every imaginable denomination was in attendance for this unprecedented event. One afternoon the gathering was in session when all of a sudden an usher rushed in shouting, "The building's on fire! The building's on fire!" Confusion reigned as each church group came together and did what came natural:

The Methodists gathered in the corner to pray. The Baptists cried, "Where's the water?" The Roman Catholics passed a plate to cover the damages. The Unitarians reasoned that the fire would burn itself out if just given the chance. The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson to appoint a committee to look into the matter and make a written report. The Episcopalians formed a procession and left the building. The church secretary grabbed a fire extinguisher and put the fire out.

We have been blessed here at St. Mark's for almost 8 years, Emily Cole has been our Parish Administrator. There are few vocations in the church that are as overlooked, yet so vital to the life of a parish. It's more than the bulletins, newsletters, or church records, it's the flow and clutter of life often at its most vulnerable. Emily consistently has been the one who carried the fire extinguisher around, and when the fire was safely out, would put it aside, making sure that a newly charged extinguisher was in place, and keep on with managing our lives. She has been both Martha and Mary to us, and we will be forever grateful.

Yours in Christ, The Rev. John A Weatherly, Rector

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, 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 4/27** 7 - 8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 4/28** 7 – 8:30 p.m. GS Troop #4841 (Patience Hall), 7 – 9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary)
- Wednesday 4/29** 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax
- Thursday 4/30** 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom)
- Friday 5/1** 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Saturday 5/2** 7 a.m. Farm stand, 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (lg. classroom)

Important Upcoming Dates

- May 9** 10a.m. – 12 p.m. 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 26** *Our Anglican Heritage*

Church contact information:

Address: 6744 S. King's Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22306-1318 ♦ **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. The office is closed on Fridays and national holidays.

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, Susan Oldow Patterson, David Raj, 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 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

Thanks from the Mission Team to everyone who helped with the spaghetti dinner, especially to the Social Saints and the talent show performers. We couldn't do this without you!

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., for some fun and 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.

Four teens and two adults are needed to provide childcare from 4 to 7 p.m. on May 2 at St. Mark's. See Rev. Meredith.

Starting on May 2, there will be a farm stand at St. Mark's every Saturday morning. 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.

There will be a Mission Team meeting on May 3 after the 10 a.m. worship service. We will review the packing list and prepare for the Mothers' Day Breakfast fundraiser.

The St. Mark's Book Club will meet on Monday, May 4 at 7 p.m. in the library.

Women of Spirit will meet for 5 weeks beginning on Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. We will be reading Rachel Held Evans' *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church*. Please purchase your book and read the Forward, Prologue and Chapter 1 before we meet. Questions? Contact Rev. Meredith at 703/765-3949. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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

Copies of the parish directory are available in the Narthex if you would like to take one home with you. Please let the church office know if you would prefer that we send you one via e-mail or if any of your contact information needs to be updated.

Birthdays

May 2 – Shirley Hunter, Jeff Kissler