

This Week at St. Mark's

- Today** 8 a.m. HE, 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal (Lg. classroom), 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. HE, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. DoK Lenten study (lg. classroom), 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 2/9** 7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 2/10** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 8:30 p.m. GS Troop #4841 (Patience Hall), 7 – 9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary)
- Wednesday 2/11** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 12 – 5:15 p.m. GS Troop #1914 CPR training (Patience Hall)
- Thursday 2/12** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom)
- Friday 2/13** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), Youth Group leaves for ski trip (return 2/15)
- Saturday 2/14** 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Important Upcoming Dates

- February 17** Shrove Tuesday Talent Show and Dinner
February 18 Ash Wednesday 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. service
August 21-23 Shrine Mont

Adult Forum Schedule

- February 8** *Saints and Their Importance Today*
The Rev. Donna Foughty
- February 15** *What We Learned on Our Retreat*
St. Mark's Vestry

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: jwethe951@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.



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.”

February 8, 2015

From the Episcopal Church Foundation's *Vestry Papers*

Why do vestries go on retreats? Why do they clear their busy calendars and make such time a priority for the health of their congregation? Vestries and clergy intrinsically know the team building and energizing value of taking time away, apart.

The common thread is a search for meaning (the universal search!) which informs our ministry as servant leaders in the local church. More specifically, our Vestry want to know how to focus and harness their individual and collective gifts to build or keep vitality in their congregation.

Every retreat should be wrapped in prayer.

Each member of the vestry brings a rich experience of leadership in the world. The church is a different place where new skills and approaches, sometimes at odds with the world, are used and may need to be learned.

Retreats are key times in which to establish the culture of the vestry and the way it embodies the reign of God honoring Jesus' words that he came bringing abundant life.

There are well-worn paths to both a depreciative culture as well as paths to health and abundance. The vestry chooses the path. The retreat can be a place that names that which we value. These may include such principles as disallowing anonymous information and communication triangles, using consensus in decision-making, seeking to become tithers, committing to a significant level of outreach, use of appreciative language, and more. We forge a covenant at each retreat, and then use the covenant at each meeting to remind each other of the commitment made.

Baptism is the origin and source of all ministry. The ministry of a vestry serves as a beacon in every church to shed light on this focus and to energize the gifts of the Spirit given in baptism. Every vestry is called to lead in discerning and building the form and face of the reign of God. Vestry retreats are food for this journey.

*The Rev. Dr. Randy Ferebee and the Rev. Alan Akridge
Directors of Epiphany Institute +*

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during this season of Epiphany. 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, Beth Oakes, Betty Hughes, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Richard Sparks, Donna Anderson, Pete Farley, 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, Janet Coco, George Daebelar, Danny Butler, David Geeslin, Shelly McDonald, David McDonald, Vicki Rohr, Bob Schaffer, Catheline, Mike, Carolyn, Tess, Mal, Jack, Jane, Gulshan, Paul, and Leila and Carlton.

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

An 8-week Lenten study, sponsored by Daughters of the King, will begin today at 11:15 a.m. in the large classroom. The book, *The Workbook on Abiding in Christ – The Way of Living Prayer*, is \$5. It is a daily reading, reflecting and journaling workbook. Attendance at scheduled meetings is expected. Meeting dates are: February 8, 15, 22; March 8, 15, 22; and April 12 and 19.

Our first mission trip fundraiser is our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show on February 17. We begin serving at 5 p.m., winding up for the start of the talent show at 7. Tracy Tienken has graciously volunteered to coordinate the talent show. If you would like to perform, see Tracy or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Thanks to all who donated cans of soup for last week's "Souper Sunday." The collection totaled a record 96 pounds! A special thank you to Rosemary Kley who organized the collection.

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

Do you receive our weekly e-mail, *The St. Mark's Weekly*? If not, please contact the church office so you can be added to the mailing list. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on around the parish.

Steal this book! Help yourselves to the books in the library.

Birthdays

February 9 – Kristina Campbell
February 13 – Emily Davis, Sherlock Grigsby, Kathryn Weatherly
February 14 – Ebenezer Darko

Anniversary

February 13 – Barbara and Carl Foster



Prayer for the Vestry Retreat

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen