

This Week at St. Mark's

- Today** 8 a.m. HE, 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal (Lg. classroom), 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 1/12** 7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 1/13** 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), 7:30 p.m. Vestry mtg. (Lg. classroom)
- Wednesday 1/14** 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)
- Thursday 1/15** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Holy Folders, BSA Troop #214 overnight through January 19 (Patience Hall)
- Friday 1/16** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), BSA Troop #214 overnight through January 19 (Patience Hall)
- Saturday 1/17** 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom), BSA Troop #214 overnight through January 19 (Patience Hall)

Important Upcoming Dates

- January 15-19** BSA Troop #214 staying at St. Mark's
- January 18** VIC Choir Festival (Bethlehem Baptist)
- January 20** Newsletter deadline
- January 23-24** Diocesan Council, Richmond
- January 25** Annual Meeting
- February 6-8** Vestry Retreat, Roslyn
- February 15** Installation of New Vestry Members
- February 17** Shrove Tuesday Talent Show and Dinner

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: jwheathe951@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.”**

January 11, 2015

St. Mark's Annual Meeting Sunday, January 25, 10 a.m.

Reports from the Rector, Wardens, Vestry and St. Mark's Ministries will be presented and the election of new Vestry Members for class of 2018 will take place.

To vote in the annual meeting, One must be at least 16 years of age in good standing with the parish (attend at least three services a year) and be registered, that is Transferred membership into the church, or have been Baptized, Confirmed or Received here at St. Mark's.

Today in celebration of being members of the Worldwide Anglican Communion, we are using as our Eucharistic Prayer, a form by the Anglican Church of Canada. The Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church USA and St. Mark's are members, represents all Anglican churches throughout the world. The center of our inspired life is the Cathedral in Canterbury, England, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, its chair or head.

Sharon's Christmas Prayer

She was five, sure of the facts, and recited them with slow solemnity convinced every word was revelation. She said

They were so poor they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to eat and they went a long way from home without getting lost. The lady rode a donkey, the man walked, and the baby was inside the lady. They had to stay in a stable with an ox and an ass (hee-hee) but the Three Rich Men found them because a star lited the roof. Shepherds came and you could pet the sheep but not feed them. Then the baby was borned. And do you know who he was? Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars, The baby was God.

And she jumped in the air whirled round, dove into the sofa and buried her head under the cushion which is the only proper response to the Good News of the Incarnation.

by John Shea, The Hour of the Unexpected, Allan, Texas, Argus Communications, 1977

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, Earl Hughes, Nell Brill, Richard Sparks, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, and Geoffrey.

Our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Nancy DeLay, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezar-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Pat McDonald, Sylvia Beauchamp, Janet Coco, Keith Derringer, Rich Line, Kamryn Jesperson, George Daebelar, Jan, Catheline, Mike, Carolyn, Tess, and Mal.

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

Please welcome back Barbara Wilson Simpson, our guest organist today.

Everymember Canvass Update: As of January 6, we have received 70 pledges, for a total of \$211,721.

At the end of the year, our outstanding mortgage balance was \$278,806. We thank those who made a special contribution to pay it down.

Your 2015 pledge envelopes are ready. Please don't forget to pick yours up in the Narthex today before you leave. If you don't have a set of envelopes but would like one, contact the church office (703/765-3949 or stmarksalex@netzero.net).

The Vestry Nominating Committee members are Jim Bailes, Karen Ashworth, Donna Anderson and Doug Varner. Nominations are now being received. Elections will be at our Annual Meeting on January 25.

Our Youth Group is collecting new and gently used books for our friends we met last summer at the Rosebud Indian Reservation. If you would like to donate a book please place them in the box in the narthex. We will mail them at the end of the month. If you would like to donate money to this effort to support the mailing costs or purchase of additional books, please make the check payable to St. Mark's and note "book drive" on the memo line. Checks can be submitted to the office, Rev. Meredith or Will Miles. Thank you.

The 20th Annual VIC Choir Festival celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., will take place on Sunday, January 18 at 4 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church (7836 Fordson Rd.). Our choir will be participating, so be sure to attend!

It's time to sign up for the mission trip! Any youth in grades 6 – 12 (this school year) are invited. We will be going to Charleston, SC, leaving on either June 26 or 27, returning on July 3. If you plan to attend, you need to do the following:

- Tell Rev. Meredith ASAP
- Provide a \$100 deposit on January 15
- Provide another \$100 deposit on March 15
- Make a commitment to participate in all fundraisers

As always, this promises to be a community-building and life-changing trip for our youth. I hope you can come! *Rev. Meredith*

Youth Group: Our plan is to ski again this year at Wintergreen, leaving Friday evening the 13th of February, returning on Sunday the 15th. This is a three day weekend, so you'll have all day Monday to do your homework! Once we know how many will attend, we will figure the cost, so please let us know asap! This is always fun, and there are a few of us who don't ski - so join us either way. *Rev. Meredith*

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. This is always a great evening, and we bring in about \$600 for the trip. I'm looking for two volunteers: one to coordinate purchasing the food and finding cooks to volunteer, and another to coordinate the talent show (gather a list of who's performing). Many hands make light work, so if you can help it would be greatly appreciated. Remember, if you plan to go on this trip, we need you to serve food at this event. Let me know if you can help! *Rev. Meredith*

Birthdays

January 11 – Amber Wihshi, January 13 – Will Miles
January 15 – Wally Tienken, January 17 – Mahlon Drabick

Adult Forum Schedule

January 11	<i>John the Baptist – For Us or Against Us?</i>
January 18	<i>Civil Rights, Civil Wrongs</i>
January 25	<i>Review of St. Mark's Year – A Video Display</i>
February 1	<i>Disaster Preparedness – Ready for the End of Time?</i>