

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 a.m. DoK Lenten study (lg. classroom), 11:15 a.m. Worship committee mtg. (Rector'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 3/16 7 p.m. St. Mark's Book Group (lg. classroom), 7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)

Tuesday 3/17 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 3/18 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 6:30 – 9 p.m. Lenten potluck dinner and program (Olivet)

Thursday 3/19 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom), 7-9 p.m. GS Service Unit mtg. (Patience Hall)

Friday 3/20 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)

Saturday 3/21 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Brownie Badge event (Patience Hall), 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Important Upcoming Dates

March 29 Palm Sunday
April 2 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Agape meal
April 5 Easter Sunday
April 25 Spaghetti Dinner
August 21 - 23 Shrine Mont

Adult Forum Schedule

March 15 – 22 Lent Forum: *Embracing Forgiveness* – video & discussion

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.”

March 15, 2015

Too soon into my ministry, I accepted an invitation to speak before a Presbyterian congregation where as a high school student I once worked as a groundskeeper. It had been 15 years since I had been there, but the Pastor was the same one I had worked for. He had been stunned to learn that I had been ordained, albeit in the Episcopal Church, having once said I would never finish high school. I had dated his daughter for a brief time until I went away to college. But he was a gracious man, and invited me to preach at a Sunday night service. I had prepared my sermon for the evening, and even thrown in some Greek which Presbyterians think add depth to their sermons. When you have to preach for 45 minutes, spending 20 minutes explaining a Greek phrase makes a lot of sense. I arrived at First Presbyterian, and walked to the office with my vestments to greet Pastor Nelson. A few minutes later as I was getting vested, I reached into my coat pocket to retrieve my sermon. To my complete horror, I found the pocket empty. This was before smart phones and retrieving sermons from e-mail...where I now always send my sermon Saturday night. I did know the church well, so could have found my way out without anyone seeing me and driven home...but Pastor Nelson was there and he was consciously or unconsciously blocking the door. Now, I had prepared a sermon, and had also read over it many times before the evening, so I did know the outline and content of the message I was going to preach. I ended up preaching at least 12 minutes...barely a warm up in that hallowed space, but enough. Afterwards as I stood at the door to greet those leaving the service, one woman came up to me and thanked me for my words. She said she had been particularly impressed that I did not use a manuscript, because after all, the Christian message is simple, and should always be preached from the heart, and not from a text. If she had only known how desperately I had wanted those words in my hand, and not sitting on my desk back at home. “But God is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even though we were dead through our trespasses”. Eph. 2

John

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during Lent. 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, Kathryn Weatherly, Kathy Hughes, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, Geoffrey and the Dean family.

We pray for those who have died, especially Porter Lindsay, friend of the Luxners.

Our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Nancy DeLay, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Sylvia Beauchamp, Janet Coco, Danny Butler, David Geeslin, Shelly McDonald, David McDonald, Vicki Rohr, Bob Schaffer, Quinn McLaughlin, Kamryn Jesperson, Don Wills, Bobby Bishop, Sunny Haggard, Young Boon Kim, Bob Schaeffer, Maudine Perry, Tom Simpson, Benjamin Harrison, Jr., Cheryl F., Jack, Jane, Gulshan, Paul, Leila, Carlton, Tom, Gloria and Krystal.

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

Mission Team: Forms and the second deposit of \$100 are due today! See Rev. Meredith with any questions.

The winners of the raffle to benefit the mission trip to Charleston, SC are: Jimmy Bailes, Katie Earle, Kay Shelton, Tyler Chui, Laura Landon, Elizabeth Biddle, Pat Straley, Ann Sparks, Carol Parker, Courtney Nugent, Susan Byers, and Tony DeSante. Thanks for all who supported us and especially to Kathy and Earl Hughes for donating the raffle items. See Rev. Meredith to collect your ornament.

The St. Mark's Book Group will meet tomorrow, Monday, March 16, at 7 p.m. in the large classroom.

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

The Bishop's Visitation will be on July 26. Confirmation and reception classes will begin in May.

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 first three of these listening sessions will take place in late April in Northern Virginia, Fredericksburg and Richmond.

- Thursday, April 16: Epiphany, Richmond, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 18: Trinity, Fredericksburg, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Thursday, April 23: The Falls Church, Falls Church, 7:30-9 p.m.

The Hand-in-Hand Listening Sessions are open to all members of the Diocese. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@thediocese.net or 800-DIOCESE x1048.

We're giving away books! There are some wonderful books in the library that are yours for the taking.

GS Troop 4841 is hosting a Brownie Badge Event at St. Mark's on Saturday, March 21. The event is open to any girl in 2nd or 3rd grade, whether she is a current Brownie or just interested in finding out more about what being a Brownie is like. Please contact Linda Larson for information at lalarson77@yahoo.com.

VOICE Annual Meeting: Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 p.m. at Nativity Catholic Church in Burke. Call Rosemary Kley if you are interested in attending – 703/719-6238.

Life Line Screening will be at St. Mark's on Tuesday, April 21 offering preventive health screenings. To register for an appointment and to receive a special \$10 discount, visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners or call 1-888-653-6450.

Birthday

March 16 – Kingsley Davis