

*Names will be kept in our intercessions for four weeks, unless notified otherwise.*

### Announcements

**Women of Spirit** will be reading Chapter 3 of Rachel Held Evans' *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church*. Questions? Contact Rev. Meredith at 703-765-3949. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Mission Team:** Our next meeting will be on May 31<sup>st</sup> after worship.

May 31 – **St. Mark's in the Park** at 10:00 am, with pot luck lunch. A-L bring salads and M-Z bring desserts. Hamburgers and drinks provided by Vestry. **Annual Crop Walk** at 2pm at Heritage Presbyterian Church, sponsored by VIC, 2 miles through Waynewood area. Details and maps in Narthex. A UCM is designated to receive ¼ of the donations. Sponsored by Church World Service to bring help to war-torn Europe, **CROP WALK** continues to address needs both a home and abroad. (Enjoy a leisurely stroll in beautiful surroundings, with other of our faith ... thinking of those who need to walk to find food, water, shelter ....)

### Birthdays

May 25 – Nana Marfo

May 26 – Pat Hoppe

May 28 – Susan Byers

May 29 – Roland Parris and Elizabeth Biddle

### Important Upcoming Dates

**Tuesday Bible Study:** May 26, June 2, 9, 16 and 23

**July 26** Bishop Shannon's Visitation

**August 3 – 7** Vacation Bible School

**August 21 - 23** Shrine Mont Weekend

### Adult Forum Schedule

Today - 9:15 am – Patience Hall – Amos and Hosea



## 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.”**

May 24, 2015

### Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services this Pentecost 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, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet and Judy.

Our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Nancy DeLay, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Sylvia Beauchamp, Janet Coco, Kamryn Jespersion, Don Lopez, Vicki Robb, Susan Oldow Patterson, David Raj, Bud Woodson, Fr. Stephen Plumlee, Josephine, Emma Jane, Vincent, Renee, Charlotte Douthit, Morris Davis, Keith Derringer and Michelle Smith. 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.*

## 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 5/25** 7 – 8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 5/26** 8:30 p.m. GS Troop #4841 (Patience Hall), 7 – 9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary)  
10-11:15 a.m. Bible Study (Jonah and Ruth)
- Wednesday 5/27** 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax
- Thursday 5/28** 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom)
- Friday 5/29** 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Saturday 5/30** 7 a.m. Farm stand, 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (lg. classroom)

### 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](mailto:stmarksalex@netzero.net); Rev. John Weatherly: [jweathe951@aol.com](mailto:jweathe951@aol.com); Rev. Meredith Heffner: [revmeredith@cox.net](mailto:revmeredith@cox.net); • Internet: Website: [www.stmarksalex.org](http://www.stmarksalex.org); Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stmarksalex>. • Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4: p.m. The office is closed on Fridays and national holidays.*

## Today's Gospel

John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'



### Questions of the Christian Faith: "What is Pentecost Sunday?"

Pentecost ("the Fiftieth [day]") is a prominent feast in the calendar of Ancient Israel celebrating the giving of the Law on Sinai, and also later in the Christian liturgical year commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the remaining eleven Apostles of Christ after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. The feast is also called Whit Sunday, Whitsun, or Whit, especially in the United Kingdom, where the following Monday was traditionally a holiday. Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Sunday, hence its name. Pentecost falls on the tenth day after Ascension Thursday.

Pentecost Sunday is a commemoration and celebration of the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the early church. After Jesus' ascension to heaven, the Disciples returned to Jerusalem and joined together in prayer in an upper room. On the Day of Pentecost, the sound of a violent wind filled the house and tongues of fire came to rest on each of them and all were filled with the Holy Spirit. This was the beginning of the church as we know it.

The celebration of Pentecost is a reminder that we are co-heirs with Christ, that the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7); that we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13); and that the Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead lives inside believers (Romans 8:9-11). This gift of the Holy Spirit is promised for all who come to believe and is an intimate part of Baptism.

