



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.”**

Important Upcoming Dates

**December 13 – Christmas
Pageant and Vestry Meeting**

**December 19 - Greening of
the Church**

**December 20 - Lessons and
Carols**

**December 24 - Christmas
Eve Services, 5:00 pm and
9:00 pm and San Marcos,
7:00 pm**

**December 25 - Christmas
Day Service, 11:00 am**

December 6, 2015

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church welcome you to our services this Advent season. If you are looking for a church home, or want more information about St. Mark’s, please make use of one of our visitor’s cards and give to our clergy or place in the offertory plate.

Your pledge to the work and ministry of the Church is desperately needed. Pledge cards may be found in the back of the Church and will be received whenever you are able to prayerfully consider your commitment. Our goal is 100 pledges for 2016.

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity, especially in the St. Mark’s Parish: Beth Oakes, Richard Sparks, Shirley Hunter, Clara Bottner, Betty Hughes, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, Sarah Derringer, Muriel Hughes and Mary.

Also for our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Nancy DeLay, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Sylvia Beauchamp, Janet Cocco, Kamryn Jespersion, Susan Oldow Patterson, Josephine, Linda, Ashley, Avery, Fr. R. Stephen Powers, Doug Smith, Sr. and Jr., Matt, Bill, Al, Gretchen, Gerry Massey, Shawn West, Martise Williams, Victoria and family, Walter, Keleigh, Father Paul Platt, David Raj, Sandy Powell, Rosalie Duncan, Robert, David Biggs, Juliana, J.W. White and Vicki Robb.

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, Colin Maloney, Tim, Emily and family.

Announcements

Preston Bryda – We wish you a belated happy birthday.

UTO Update: The Episcopal Church Women-UTO Board greatly appreciates your recent donations. In 2015, the ECW has distributed \$1,558,006.85 in 55 grants. If you would like a Thank Offering box or the 2015 Grants Award brochure, please ask about them in the church office.

Advent Bible Study: “The Word and the Wonder” – Explore the wonder of those who anticipated the coming of Christ through Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and Simeon for four Tuesdays in December. In the large classroom at 10:00 am.

Youth Group - Our next meeting is **TODAY!** Our Christmas party will be after the pageant on December 13th.

Daughters of the King will meet today and the next Sunday immediately following the 10 am service in the large classroom.

Nurturing Parenting Program final dinner is December 9th with program to follow.

VTS is looking for someone to house an international student over the holidays. If you are interested, please contact Hartley Wensing at hwensing@vts.edu or 703-625-1236.

Angel Tree: Thank you to all who participated in our Salvation Army Angel Tree program. Fifty children will receive your generous gifts and prayers.

UCM and Rising Hope are accepting unwrapped gifts and food donations by December 9 at UCM office on Fordson Road. Also, donate unwanted household items to The Back Porch in Sacramento Center. Rising Hope will serve meals all day on Thanksgiving and Christmas; donations and helping hands welcome.

Pledge Drive to Date: 58 pledging units for \$208,888, plus \$8,500 toward the mortgage. Our goal is 100 pledges and \$250,000. Please help with your pledge!

Women of Spirit: Our last meeting of the year will be on Monday, December 7th at 6:30 pm. Please finish “Accidental Saints.”

St. Mark's book group will meet on December 8 at 7:00 pm in the library.

Christmas Concert – December 12 at 3:00 pm in St. Mark's Sanctuary. Violist Melinda Brooks and pianist Irion Hoffmann of Mount Vernon Methodist Church will perform favorite Christmas music. Children are welcome to come sing traditional Christmas songs at the end of the concert. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door and the proceeds will be split between Mount Vernon and St. Mark's. **Volunteers needed** to put out cookies and juice after the concert.

VOICE: There will be a Route One/Mount Vernon Action Team Meeting on November 30 at 7:30 pm at Bethlehem Baptist Church. One of the issues is a "Get Out the Vote" campaign. See Rosemary Kley for more information and all are welcome.

Canned Goods Drive for the Pantry of Groveton School Backpack program on December 13, the day of our Christmas Pageant. Every person is asked to bring a canned food contribution to the Pageant presentation. Thank you bringing in the plastic bags which will be used to send food home of weekends to hungry children attending Groveton Elementary School.

Walk, run or bike on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 with Tia Murchie-Beyma at Huntley Meadows Park across from the Shops at Telegraph. Coffee follows.

Birthdays

12/6 – Doug Straley, 12/7 –Kendra Scott, 12/9 – Tom McIntyre and Jimmy Bailes, 12/10 – Maegan Weatherly and Andrew Alonzo, 12/12 Craig Shelton, 12/15 – Kim Lewis, 12/19 – Wilhelmina Scott-Boyle, 12/21 – Mary Jane Stockstill, 12/23 – Zach Heffner, 12/24 – Alexander McIntyre, 12/27 – Nik Garcia, 12/28 – Mary Magnini, 12/29 – Alan Norman, 12/30 – Kathy Hughes.

Anniversaries

12/28 – Kathy and Earl Hughes

12/31 Jean and Jim Bailes

This Week at St. Mark's

Today

8:00 a.m. HE and Healing, 8:00 am-noon – San Marcos Retreat (large classroom), 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary), 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum (PH), 10 a.m. HE and Healing, 10:45 am – Daughters of the King (large classroom), 1:00-3:00 p.m. San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH), 4:00-8:00 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)

Monday, 12/7	7:00-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (PH)
Tuesday, 12/8	8:45-10:00 am - workout class (PH), 7:00-9:00 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible Study (large classroom), 7:00 pm St. Mark's book group (library)
Wednesday, 12/9	10:00 am HE and Healing, The Fairfax, 12:30 pm – HE and Healing, The Pentagon
Thursday, 12/10	8:45-10:00 am – workout class (PH), 9:30 am Morning Prayer, 10:00 am Holy Folders
Friday, 12/11	7:00-9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Saturday, 12/12	9:00 am Rehearsal for Christmas concert (Sanctuary), 9:45-11:30 am- Megan Kelly Violin Studio (PH), 3:00 pm Christmas Concert, 6:00-9:30 pm – Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7:00-9:00 p.m. San Marcos Bible Study (lg. classroom)

Adult Forum

Today	The Art of Interfaith Leadership
December 13	Christmas Pageant
December 20	Lessons and Carols, The History behind the stories, and the story behind the Scriptures
December 27	No Forum, Coffee and Discussion

Civil War historian Allen Guelzo asked in a recent Atlantic Magazine, (Atlantic, Aug. 29th) “Did Religion make the American Civil War worse?” Guelzo turned the question around, and maintained that “War and its aftermath made things worse for religion in America”. Our Forum in “Interfaith Cooperation”, through a taped interview with Eboo Patel, will explore religion, as the heart of cooperation rather than destruction and division. He is inspired by his faith as a Muslim, Indian heritage, and American citizenship. Join us at our Forum discussions each Sunday.