



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

**Today Dedication
Sunday. Please bring in
your Pledge!**

**November 25 Thanksgiving
Eve service, 7:30 pm**

**November 26 Thanksgiving
Day – church office closed**

**November 29 First Sunday
of Advent**

**December 19 Greening of
the Church**

**December 20 Lessons and
Carols**

**December 24 Christmas Eve
Services, 5:00 pm and 10:00
pm**

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

November 22, 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 make use of one of our visitor’s cards and give to our clergy or place in the offertory plate.

St. Mark’s Everymember Canvass and Pledge campaign concludes today with Dedication Sunday, and we ask you to consider the following words from A Prayer of Abundance: *Gracious and Loving God, You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Amen*

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 Coco, Kamryn Jespersion, Susan Oldow Patterson, Josephine, Linda, Ashley, Avery, Fr. R. Stephen Powers, Doug Smith, Sr. and Jr., Matt, Bill, Al, Gerry Massey, Shawn West, Martise Williams, Victoria and family, Walter, Keleigh, Father Paul Platt, David Raj, Sandy Powell, Rosalie Duncan and Robert.

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

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 Tuesday in December beginning December 1st and each following Tuesday. In the large classroom at 10:00 am..

Janet and Kingsley Davis are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Lilliann Sue Jenkins on November 11, 2015.

Nurturing Parenting Program – St. Mark's is again assisting Fairfax County in their Spanish language Nurturing Parenting program by providing meals for the families. Our next meal will be the final dinner on December 9. Help is needed in cooking, setting up and cleaning up. **Volunteers** are needed at 4:00 and 6:00 for clean-up. Volunteers are invited to join the families in the meal, served at 5:30 pm. Program with our clergy follows.

Salvation Army Angel Tree: Only two names left so please contact Bonnie Wilkins for details. The new unwrapped gifts must be returned to the church by November 29th.

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: 31 pledging units for \$95,400. Our goal is 100 pledges.

Women of Spirit: Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 23rd at 6:30 pm. Please read Chapters 10-12 of Nadia Bolz-Weber's "Accidental Saints."

Youth Group - Our next meeting is December 6th! Our Christmas party will be after the pageant on December 13th.

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. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door and the proceeds will be split between Mount Vernon and St. Mark's.

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 12, the day of our Christmas Pageant. Each member of the congregation is asked to bring a can or two of healthy food to be taken home by a child for a weekend. Thank you!

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.

November Birthdays

11/23 – Barbara Foster, 11/26 – Zenani Da Costa, 11/28 – Clara Bottner, 11/26 – Sarah Heffner, 11/30 – Terry Tienken

This Week at St. Mark's

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| Today | 8:00 a.m. HE, 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal (large classroom), 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum (PH), 10 a.m. HE and Sunday school, 1:00-3:00 p.m. San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH), 4:00-8:00 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary) |
| Monday, 11/23 | 7:00-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (PH). |
| Tuesday, 11/24 | 8:45-10:00 am - workout class (PH), 7:00-9:00 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible Study (large classroom), 7:00-9:00 pm – San Marcos retreat (large classroom) |

- Wednesday, 11/25** 10:00 am HE, The Fairfax, 7:30 pm – Thanksgiving Eve service
- Thursday, 11/26** Thanksgiving Day – office closed
- Friday, 11/27** 7:00-9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Saturday, 11/28** 3:00-6:00 pm – Eagle Scout ceremony and reception (Sanctuary and PH), 6:00-8:00 pm – Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 8-9:30 pm – Pan de Vida Thanksgiving dinner, 7:00-9:00 p.m. San Marcos Bible Study (lg. classroom)

Adult Forum

- Today** Interfaith Literacy
- November 29** Preparing for Advent, The Rev. John A. Weatherly
- December 6** 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.