



## 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.”**

November 29, 2015

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

**TODAY - First Sunday of  
Advent**

**December 13 – Christmas  
Pageant**

**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**

### **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.

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, Robert, David Biggs and Juliana

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 1<sup>st</sup> and each following Tuesday. In the large classroom at 10:00 am.

**Daughters of the King** will meet today and the next two Sundays immediately follow the 10 am service in the large classroom.

**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.

**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:** 51 pledging units for \$171,780. Our goal is 100 pledges and \$250,000.

**Women of Spirit:** Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Please read Chapters 13-15 of Nadia Bolz-Weber's “Accidental Saints.”

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

**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**

11/30 – Terry Tienken, 12/ 3 – Ethan Morrison, 12/4 – Ali Foster, 12/5 - Bill Mendez, 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

### **This Week at St. Mark's**

<b>Today</b>	8:00 a.m. HE, 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, 10:45 am – Daughters of the King (library), 1:00-3:00 p.m. San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH), 4:00-8:00 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
<b>Monday, 11/30</b>	7:00-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (PH)
<b>Tuesday, 12/1</b>	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)
<b>Wednesday, 12/2</b>	10:00 am HE, The Fairfax ,12:30 pm – HE, The Pentagon
<b>Thursday, 12/3</b>	8:45-10:00 am – workout class (PH), 9:30 am Morning Prayer, 10:00 am Holy Folders

**Friday, 12/4** 7:00-9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)  
**Saturday, 12/5** 3:00-8:00 pm – Private Event – Patience Hall, 16:00-9:30  
pm – Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7:00-9:00 p.m. San Marcos  
Bible Study (lg. classroom)

### **Adult Forum**

**Today** 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. 29<sup>th</sup>) “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.