



## 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.”**

**December 4, 2016**

**From the Rector**

Today, with our eyes open to the sin and evil present in our world, we Confirm and Receive members of the Body of Christ, who made these promises once through Baptism. Today, we again commit our lives to God. We again promise to follow Jesus and Savior and Lord.

We are being invited to enjoy a friendship with Jesus. In order to have a relationship with Jesus, we need to allow Jesus to come as close to us as we would allow a very good friend. To those being Confirmed and Received today, we invite you to open your heart to Jesus. As we pray for you, will you then invite Jesus to come close – to enjoy a relationship of trust and love?

We know that close friendship requires a lot of time – every day. It means sharing one’s feelings and dreams and hopes and sorrows. It means listening and listening – taking time to truly be a friend. One way that you can enter into that relationship, is to commit part of your time and treasure to God and God’s work. If you have not made a pledge to the Church, this is the day to make that promise. If you have, this might be a good time to increase your commitment. I would encourage each one of you to seek an opportunity to give.

We are also called to serve. Look around our congregation for opportunities to serve and help. If you open your eyes and your heart, opportunities will abound. If the teachings of Jesus are to be written on our hearts, we need to be very familiar with them – we need to read our Bibles – one verse at a time and allow the words of Jesus to stick.

To do what Jesus would have us do is very personal and comes from within – from the depth of our hearts and minds. It is behavior which defines who we really are – what is really important to us. To do what Jesus would command requires a decision on our part – some effort to discern just what God would have us do and be. It means living under God’s guidance, protection, wisdom

and love - not because we have to, but because we want to. Therefore, we welcome and embrace those who are stepping forward to receive this love from God, and God's servants.

### **Welcome Newcomers and Visitors**

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services. 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.

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity, especially in the St. Mark's Parish: Beth Oakes, Donna Anderson, Richard Sparks, Phil Brown, Shirley Hunter, Betty Hughes, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, Sarah Derringer, Muriel Hughes, Mary, Caroline Bradford, Don Lopez, Jeanette Parris, Kimberly Earle, Carol Farley, Fred Landon, the Lewis family, the Magruder/Vangroll families and Kevan Campbell. Also for our extended family: Emmett Sims, Liz S., Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Sylvia Valverde, John R., D. Crumel, William Pimental, Vicki Robb, Kenneth Leland and family, Ken Crabb and family, friends of Dickie Emerson, Rod Pearson, Sr., Barbara Butler, Richard Stockstill, Carol Ostergard, Chantia Savoy, Monica Hietsch, family and friends of Grace Riggles, E. Ray Antone of Machias, Maine who is very ill and close family friend of the Dells, Betty Bradley, Sandra Robinson, Sally Belk, Terry Swette, Carly Allphin, Chris Coley, Keitch and family, Betty Hall, Paula Martin Derr and Frank Derr and family. For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way, we lift up Colin Maloney, Robert Payne, Tim, Emily and family and Walter Smiley. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.

### **Announcements**

**Pledge Count:** As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, St. Mark's has received 62 pledge cards for 2017 for a total of \$202,692 (plus over \$7,000 toward the mortgage fund.) We are making progress but still need more pledges to meet our goals. If you haven't submitted a pledge card already, please consider filling one out as soon as possible to help our Treasurer and Vestry make plans for the upcoming year.

**Family and children Advent calendars** are available in the Narthex for those who would like to observe the Season. A donation of \$1.00 is appreciated.

**The Nominating Committee for the Vestry** is seeking candidates willing to serve on the Vestry for three and one year terms. You must be at least 16, a Communicant and known to the Treasurer, and willing to serve. Our Vestry

retreat this year will be February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at Roslyn, in Richmond, and attendance is necessary. Meetings are held usually after service the second Sunday of the month or at 7:30 pm the second Tuesday of the month. Mr. Russell Bradley, the outgoing Senior Warden, is the chair of the committee and is willing to inform interested persons of the many duties and responsibilities.

**Service of Light and Hope,** TODAY at 5:00 pm, at Iglesia de Santa Maria, 7000 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington.

**Youth Christmas Party,** December 11<sup>th</sup>, after the 10:00 service. There will be a white elephant gift exchange and pizza!! See Yuris Guzman or Rev. Meredith for more information.

**Christmas Pageant Rehearsals:** December 4 at 10:00 and December 11 at 9:00.

**We need helpers and greeters** for our Nurturing Parent dinner on December 14. Please contact Kathy Hughes or the Rector.

**Can you make a commitment to joining one of our Sunday ministries?** We have some wonderful ministries for you to consider joining: Altar Guild – Pat Hoppe, Flower Guild – Delsa Chui, Lay Eucharistic Ministers - Donna Anderson, Lectors – Russ Bradley, Intercessors – Jeanne Shafer, Acolytes – Pam Hamrin, Choir – Tatiana Andronikova, Ushers – Wally Tienken, Greeters – Bonnie Wilkins, Tellers – Karen Ashworth, Andronikova and Daughters of the King – Sheryl Sims. Please consider signing up at <https://goo.gl/forms/5jjpgHi6Ypqv8y452>.

**UCM** is collecting gift donations, such as books, games, puzzles, balls and small denomination gift cards for their Holiday Gift Room. The collection is for 1,000 children and a box will be in the Narthex until December 4 and will be delivered for you or you can take them to UCM by December 9. See Bonnie Wilkins or Rosemary Kley for details.

**Shared Christmas dinner** at Rising Hope on Russell Road, across for Aldi. If you are looking for a place to volunteer, they can use help in preparation or serving.

**Rising Hope UMC** needs volunteers to help with their Christmas event, December 13-16 assisting families with their shopping and clean up on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Shifts are 9:15 am-12:30 pm or 12:45-4:30 pm. Sign up at <http://www.signupgeius.com/gp/508094aabab2eab9-2016> or contact Mary Hamilton at 703-360-1676 or mhamilton@risinghopeumc.org.

**Good Shepherd Housing** is looking for a full-time Housing Coordinator position. Please respond to [cristina.schoendorf@ucmagency.org](mailto:cristina.schoendorf@ucmagency.org). Click on the link [Housing.Services.Coordinator.Position](#).

### **Upcoming Birthdays**

12/5 – Bill Mendez, Jr., 12/6 – Doug Straley, 12/7 – Kendra Scott and Melissa Haberman, 12/9 – Tom McIntyre and Jimmy Bailes, 12/10 – Meaghan Weatherly and Andrew Alonzo, 12/11 – Grace Manley

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

<b>Today</b>	8:00 am HE and Healing, 9:15 am, Adult Forum (PH), 11:00 am HE and Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, 1:00-4:00 pm San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH), 4:00-6:00 pm Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
<b>Monday, 12/5</b>	7:00-8:30 pm BSA Troop #4077 (PH), 5:00-7:00 pm NVA Tutoring (large classroom)
<b>Tuesday, 12/6</b>	7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida Bible Study (Sanctuary), 7-9:00 pm- GS Troop 4841 (large classroom)
<b>Wednesday, 12/7</b>	10:00 am HE and Healing - The Fairfax, 12:30 – HE and Healing – The Pentagon, 5:00-9:00 pm Nurturing Families (PH, GH)
<b>Thursday, 12/8</b>	9:30 am – Morning Prayer, 9:00 am-12:45 pm – Biology Class (PH), 10:00 am – Holy Folders, 5:00-7:00 pm – NVA Tutoring (classroom), 7-9:30 pm – San Marcos (large classroom), 7-9:00 pm – Girl Scout Troop 4841 meeting (PH)
<b>Friday, 12/9</b>	7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)
<b>Saturday, 12/3</b>	9:30-11:00 – Megan Kelly Violin Studio (PH), 6:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

### **Adult Forum - 9:10 am in Patience Hall**

Today	Bishop Gulick
December 11	Pageant with Live Animals
December 18	Lessons and Carols