



## 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.”**

**July 31, 2016**

**From the Rector**

In the opening collect this morning, we prayed for the Church, for God to cleanse and defend it. Well, guess who God has called to be on the clean-up committee? That’s us. And that’s why knowing our history helps us get a head start on our future because there is hope, and because knowing we’ve done it before can empower us to figure out how to do it again.

Here’s how author and publisher Phyllis Tickle explains it:

To understand what is happening to us as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians, we need first to understand that just about every 500 years the Church feels compelled to hold a giant rummage sale. She reminds us that dealing in 500 year cycles, give or take a few decades, means that the last garage sale occurred in about the 16<sup>th</sup> century with the Great Reformation. And 500 years before that was the Great Schism that split the Eastern Orthodox and Western Churches. 500 years before that takes us to the fall of Rome, and 500 years before that, well I think you get the point.

At those 500 year cycles, says Phyllis, everything about the Church that we thought we knew gets reexamined. It gets put out on tables in the parking lot, sorted through, turned over and examined. Some of it is still good; some of it can be recycled and some of it, well, frankly, some of it needs to go out to the curb.

It all sounds kind of exhausting, doesn’t it? Can’t we learn it once and for all and be done with it? Some people seem to think that’s how it works. God said it, I believe it; that settles it folks. But the blessing we claim is being a part of the family, of faith that questions, that challenges, that is blessed to be a blessing not only to those who are already here, but to those still standing at the door thinking they are strangers to the God who yearns to draw them into His loving embrace.

## 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, Richard Sparks, Phil Brown, Shirley Hunter, Betty Hughes, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, Sarah Derringer, Muriel Hughes, Mary, Caroline Bradford and Jeannette Parris.

Also for our Extended Family: Elizabeth Jenkins, Bill, Gretchen, Martise Williams, LaVonne T., Joan Chatmon, the Fullerton family, Julie Stockstill, Karen Mendonca, family and friends of Rosalie Duncan, Corinne Dumont, Susan, Scott Taylor, Isaiah Long, Kimberly Earle and the Magruder family.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way, we lift up Andrew Kley, Colin Maloney, Patrick Bates, 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.

\*\* Names are kept on the prayer list for four weeks unless requested otherwise. If you would like to add or remove someone, please call the Church office Tuesday-Thursday between 9:00 and 3:00. Thank you. \*\*

## Announcements

**St. Mark's Book Group** will meet on Monday, August 1, at 7:00 pm in the library.

**Cherubs Music Program** starts in the fall with Jan and Larry Moyer as the teachers. It is a music program for children in K or first grade so if you have a rising K or first grader and would be interested in enrolling him/her in Cherubs Music, please contact Ashley Bryda at 571-435-0676 or ashpearson@aol.com.

**St. Mark's Shrine Mont Weekend:** This is the last week to sign up for St. Mark's Shrine Mont weekend. This year our gathering is August 19-21 and our theme is *All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Things Great and Small*. It will be an intergenerational program. Join us both nights or come Saturday morning and stay one night. Information is on the back table or talk to, call or email Mother Donna at 703-795-2794 or [revmom53@gmail.com](mailto:revmom53@gmail.com).

**Next book discussion** of *BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME* will be Tuesday August 9, at Pohick Church. Not necessary to read the book!

**The ROCK Kitchen** at the Elks Club on Route 1 near St. Louis Catholic Church and Collard Drive is short on mid-day prepared meals for August and September because of vacations. Lynn Thompson of Good Shepherd has requested anyone who is willing to prepare or purchase a large casserole to contact her at [lynn@gs-cc.org](mailto:lynn@gs-cc.org) or Rosemary Kley.

**Walk, run or bike** on Tuesday mornings with Tia Murchie-Beyma at Huntley Meadows Park across from the Shops at Telegraph. Meet in the parking lot at 8:30 am, exercise and meet after at Grounded Coffee.

**Fairfax County's Parenting Education Program** will return to St. Mark's on Wednesday evenings starting September 21 and continue until December 14.

### **Upcoming Birthdays**

8/2 – Earl Hughes and Delsa Chui, 8/3 – John Bradley, 8/4 – Donna Anderson and Felicia Awofisayo, 8/6 – Henry Marfo, Eric Luxner, Billy Dean and Thalia Grigsby, 8/7 – Taylor Manley, 8/11 – Grace Heffner, 8/12 – Jackson Magnini, 8/13- Karen Ashworth, 8/14 – Doug Varner, 8/16 – Pamela Smith, 8/21 – Stacie Jones, 8/22 – Mathilda Williams, 8/23 – Charlie Cagle and Rob Bluey, 8/26 – David Geiss, 8/27 – Kim Fairchild, 8/28 – Susan Poe, Jeff Pierce and Samuel Slobodin, 8/29 Bev Weatherly

### **Upcoming Anniversaries**

8/28 – Pat and Mahlon Drabick, 8/29 – Michael and Jeanette Parris

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

<b>Today</b>	8:00 a.m. HE, 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum (PH), 10 a.m. HE, 1:00-4:30 p.m. San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH), 4:00-6:00 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
<b>Monday, 8/1</b>	7:00-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (PH)
<b>Tuesday, 8/2</b>	8:45-10:00 am - workout class, if raining (PH), 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida Bible Study (Sanctuary)
<b>Wednesday, 8/3</b>	10:00 am HE and Healing, The Fairfax, 12:30 pm – HE and Healing, The Pentagon, 7:30-9:30 pm – San Marcos (PH)

**Thursday, 8/4**

8:45-10:00 am – workout class, if raining (PH), 9:30 am – Morning Prayer, 10:00 am – Holy Folders, 7:30-9:30 pm – San Marcos (large classroom)

**Friday, 8/5**

7:00-9:30 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

**Saturday, 8/6**

10:00 am-noon – Daughters of the King (large classroom), 6:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S, PH), 7:00-9:00 pm – San Marcos Bible Study (large classroom)

**Adult Forum**

Today

“The Richman”

August 6

“The Bridegroom Comes”

August 14

The Rev. William R. Beers, Food for the Poor