



## 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 20, 2016**

### **From the Rector**

The Last Sunday in Pentecost. This Sunday is always a bit of a shock to me. We know that Advent is around the corner, therefore I am unprepared to end on this note in the Gospel. Why is it in the midst beginning a new Church year, and perhaps in the anxiety of holiday preparations, do we find ourselves at the foot of the cross? I mention this, because as we come to the end of the church year, we are asked to remember that Jesus, when all is said and done, is our Lord and Savior, based upon this humiliating reality of a crucifixion.

Just about everyone there, from the guards and the Pharisees, to the thief on the cross next to him, taunted Jesus, saying to him: "If you are the messiah, if you are **the** king, then save yourself - and save us." It is pretty obvious from the gospel story that none of these people recognized Jesus for who he was: And this - it seemed - meant to them that they could abuse him as they might abuse any convicted criminal.

To them - nothing special was going on - it was business as usual, business without thinking, business without considering what it was that God would want out of them whether or not this man on the cross was the Messiah - or simply a misguided fool. I believe certainly, that if those who acted this way at the foot of the cross could come back and stand before Christ again - as we stand before him – they would act a totally different way: But there had been a lot of foreshadowing, and they were warned.

The prophet Isaiah said this...

“He had no form of majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him - and so it was he was despised and rejected by others, a man of suffering and acquainted with grief.”

## **Confirmation and Reception Classes – 11:15 am – Rector’s Office**

Today 10:00 am – Instructed Eucharist; 11:15 am – The Sacraments

November 27 Introduction to the Episcopal Church

December 4 11:00 am – Confirmation

Now available on the Tract table in the back of the church is “Alleluia! Amen”  
A Child’s Guide to Communion.

### **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 and the Magruder/Vangroll families.

Also for our extended family: Emmett S., Cordelia S. Warren S., Shirley and Marva Alums, Abdulazeen W., Liz S., Phyllis Nezat-Biggs, Sylvia and Rev. E. 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 and E. Ray Antone of Machias, Maine who is very ill and close family friend of the Dells.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm’s way, we lift up 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.

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\*\* 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

**Pledge Count:** As of November 13<sup>th</sup> (Dedication Sunday), St. Mark's has received 50 pledge cards for 2017 for a total of \$178,672 (plus \$7,550 toward the mortgage fund.) This represents about 70% of our goal for both number of pledges and total amount pledged. If you haven't submitted a pledge card already, they are in our bulletins this Sunday. Please prayerfully consider your gift to St. Mark's for the coming year, fill out the card, fold it and place it in the offering plate. Or you may mail your pledge card in. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**Thanksgiving Service** is this Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 pm with San Marcos.

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>** is first Sunday in Advent. The Rev. Meredith Heffner, Preacher.

**Salvation Army Angel Tree.** If you signed up to sponsor a child, please bring your gifts to the church or to Bonnie Wilkins before December 4. Contact her at 703-765-4253 or email greytodog@verizon.net.

**Skilled CNA available** for morning or evening shifts. Please call Yaa at 703-459-0401.

**We need helpers and greeters** for our Nurturing Parent dinners, November 30 and 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/5jpgHi6Ypqv8y452>.

**UCM** is collecting canned goods and gift donations for 1,000 children and must be donated by December 9. Holiday food will be accepted up to one week prior to both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Coming in January:** Romans, the Book that changed Christianity. A Bible study for Tuesday mornings to examine the book that influenced Martin Luther and the beginning of the Reformation, which will celebrate its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Upcoming Birthdays

11/20 – Beth Oakes, 11/23 – Barbara Foster, 11/25 – Preston Bryda, 11/26 – Sarah Heffner, Zenani Dacosta and Kwabena Marfo, 22/27 – Nihal Masih, 11/28 – Clara Bottner, Cherian Pulimootil, 11/29 – Matthew Haberman and Max Donaldson, 11/30 – Terry Tienken

## This Week at St. Mark's

- Today** 8:00 am HE, 9:15 am, Adult Forum (PH), 10 am HE, 1:00-4:00 pm San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH), 4:00-6:00 pm Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Monday, 11/21** 7:00-8:30 pm BSA Troop #4077 (PH), 5:00-7:00 pm NVA Tutoring (large classroom)
- Tuesday, 11/22** 5:00-9:00 pm – San Marcos Thanksgiving dinner (PH), 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida Bible Study (Sanctuary), 7-9:00 pm- GS Troop 4841 (large classroom)
- Wednesday, 11/23** 10:00 am HE - The Fairfax, 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Service with San Marcos
- Thursday, 11/24** 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)
- Friday, 11/25** 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)
- Saturday, 11/26** 6:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S, PH)

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

- Today The Eucharist Explored
- November 27 Hazardous Saints, Oscar Romero
- December 4 Bishop Gulick
- December 11 Pageant with Live Animals
- December 18 Lessons and Carols