



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

“Opening the doors of Christ’s love:
Offering Good News in the midst of a confusing world.”

August 27th, 2017

Who is Jesus?

As Jesus walked along he asked his disciples: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

They answered him, "John the Baptist; Elijah; one of the prophets."

"But who do you say that *I* am?"

Without missing a beat, Peter jumped up and said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Then, Jesus did a strange thing for someone trying to spread the Good News. He sternly orders them **not** to tell anyone about him.

I think we often hear the terms Son of Man and Son of God in such a way as to make them interchangeable – but they aren't. “The Son of Man” is a term used for a human being, an apocalyptic figure in the New Testament – another term for Jesus. On the other hand, in the Old Testament the Son of God refers to a divine being. But in the New Testament it refers to Jesus! Mark, oldest of the gospels, uses the term the most and declares Jesus as Son at his baptism. To be the Son of God is to be Son of Man who comes in glory of his father with the angels. The Son of God is the messiah.

You can see how easy it was for heresies to come about with the confusion of is Jesus divine – Son of God or is he human – Son of Man? Is he both? This would be a great discussion for a Bible study, **but the more important question is who *we* believe Jesus is – today, in the here and now – in our hearts.**

So, Jesus says: Who do *you* say I am?

We need to understand who he is to be able to share his News. We find it daunting to do so. We say we don't know enough. We can't answer all the questions. How can we explain this deep, indescribable feeling of who Jesus is to *us*? Who do we say Jesus is from our hearts – without reservation? Are we fearful if we say too much He may come close to really knowing us? Are we afraid that we might have to admit we have doubts? Or that we simply do not understand?

If that is the case, we, like the disciples, need to continue to learn from Jesus and our fellow travelers. We need to share not just our outward stance on justice but our inward spiritual connection with Jesus. What does He personally, really say to us? It's easy to talk about justice and charity but harder to talk about what touches us deep inside because when we do so we give away a little bit of who we are. But isn't that precisely what Jesus told his followers to do-- to share the good news through their own personal experience of Jesus?

Where he touches us is what we need to share. And if we feel unprepared, or ill-equipped we can gather with others to explore and better understand the mystery in our hearts and souls. And when people ask you who do you believe Jesus is you will have the faith and assurance enough to say – he is the Son of God, the anointed one. Let me tell you how *I* met him and who he is to *me*.

Intercessions, Thanksgiving, Prayer Requests

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or adversity, especially in the St. Mark's Parish: Phil Brown, Betty Hughes, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, Sarah Derringer, Muriel Hughes, Mary, Caroline



Bradford, Jeanette Parris, Kimberly Earle, Carol Farley, John Dell, Kevannah Campbell, Velma Campbell, Emily Davis, Kent White, Tyler Chui, Betty Hughes, Rosemarie Beyma & the Lewis family, including Gloria & Karen.

Extended family: Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Rod Pearson Sr., Betty Bradley, Sandra Robinson, Col. Wil Scudder, Elmore, Mike Greenham, Kwan Dae Suk, Jean Blair, Gordon Murchie, John Savage, Timmy Carper, Bob Schaeffer & Jenny Crabb.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way, we lift up Colin Maloney, Robert Payne, Tim, Emily and family, Walter Smiley, Andrew Kley and Pat Foughty. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.

Announcements

Do you have church keys? If you have keys to the church doors that you no longer need, please turn them in to the office or to the clergy. Please put your name with the keys so we can remove your name from the key log. If you have a key and still need it, please let the office know.



Sunday School: Children's Sunday School will begin on September 17. There will be registration on September 3 and 10. Also on September 10 we will have the Sunday School teachers available during the Coffee Hour.



The River Farm Cooperative School: We're a small, private school for grades K-6th. We focus on elements that we feel are missing from traditional curricula: foreign language (Spanish), inquiry-based, self-paced learning, thematic/integrative educational models in mixed-aged classes (with frequent field trips), lots of time in nature & on weekly hikes, & the arts/creative movement. In addition to all of these elements, we provide top-notch academic instruction! Visit us: www.riverfarmcooperative.com. We still have spaces for this Fall!

Outreach: Please check board in the Narthex to see upcoming opportunities. As St. Mark's parishioners, positively engage our community by reaching out!

St. Mark's Summer Music Program for Children: Diane Kutz will continue to teach choral singing to our children during the 10 a.m. service until September 10. Children join their parents at the peace.

E-giving –Getting started with online giving is easy. Visit stmarksalex.org and click the “Donate Now” link to create an account and make your donation.

Please wear your name tag! If you need one, please let us know.



Special Events

Mount Vernon Day to Serve: Join us at Heritage Presbyterian Church on Sep. 16 from 9-11 to assemble Power Packs (weekend meals for elementary students). Non- perishable drinks/food are needed. Donations will be collected until the 10th in the “Day to Serve” box in the Narthex. If you have questions, please contact Pamela at 703-768-2319.



Upcoming Birthdays

8/27—Kim Fairchild 8/28—Sam Slobodin

8/29—Bev Weatherly 9/2—Bob Magnini, Daniel Williams

This Week at St. Mark’s

Today 8:00 am – HE, 9:15-9:50am—adult forum, 1:00-4:00 pm – San Marcos (S, PH, GH), 4:00-6:00 pm Pan de Vida (S)

Monday, 8/28

Tuesday, 8/29 8:00am-8:00pm—Fairfax County special election polling location (PH)

7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida Bible Study (Sanctuary),

Wednesday, 8/30

10:30 a.m. HE and Healing, The Fairfax, 12:30 p.m.

7:00-9:00 p.m. – San Marcos (PH)

Thursday, 8/31

9:30 am – Morning Prayer

10:00 am – Holy Folders

11:00am--Cynthia A. Blaine memorial service (Sanctuary, PH)



Friday, 9/1

7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

Saturday, 9/2

7:00 - 9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

Adult Forums

Today, August 27

Creation (The Rev. Donna Foughty)

September 3

Out Into The World (The Rev. Donna Foughty)

Upcoming Important Dates

August 27

Sunday School teacher’s meeting

September 10

Sunday School registration opens

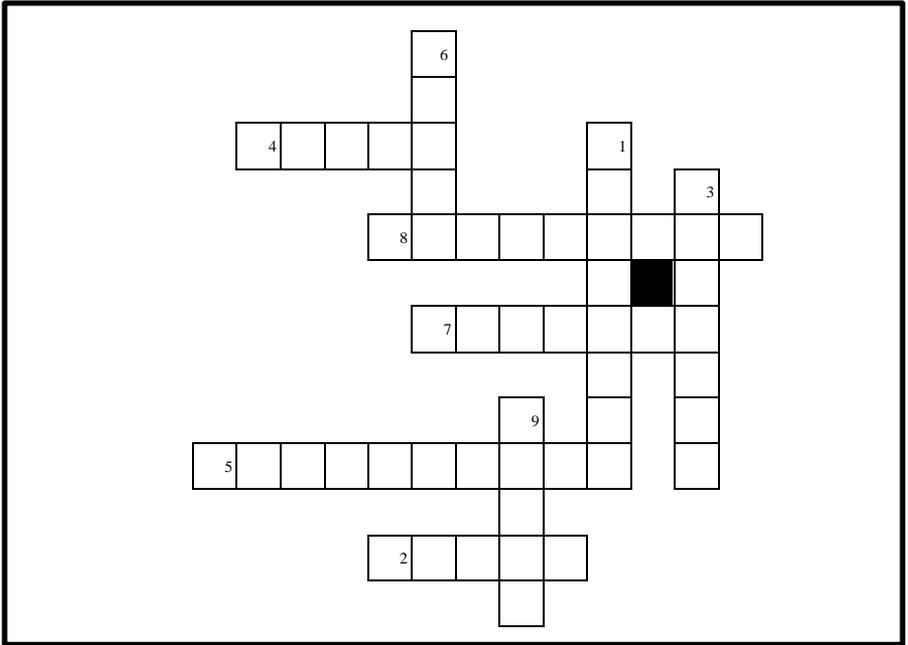
September 20

6:00 pm: Begin Nurturing Families program

September 16

Day to Serve (at Heritage Presbyterian Church)

PUZZLE OF THE WEEK



Across

2. "Our help is in the Name of the Lord/the maker of heaven and _____."
4. "She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the _____.'"
5. UCM stands for United Community _____.
7. "When she could hide him no longer she got a _____ basket for him."
8. Sunday School begins on _____ 17th!

Down

1. "Look, the Israelite people are more _____ and more powerful than we."
3. In today's gospel reading, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the _____.
6. Sign up for the Mount Vernon Day To _____!
9. "We have _____ that differ according to the grace given to us."