

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

“Opening the doors of Christ’s love:
Offering Good News in the midst of a confusing world.”
December 17, 2017

History of A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King’s after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist 1876–1929. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn ‘Once in royal David’s city’. In almost every year some carols have been changed and some new ones introduced by successive Organists: The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged. Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. ‘The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...’ seen ‘through the windows and words of the Bible’. Local interests appear, as they do here, in the bidding prayer, and personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage ‘all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light’. The centre of the service is still found by those who ‘go in heart and mind’ and who consent to follow where the story leads.

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, Rebecca Carrier, Beth Oakes, Tatiana Andronikova.

Extended family: Phyllis Nezar-Biggs, Rod Pearson Sr., Betty Bradley, Sandra Robinson, Col. Wil Scudder, Elmore, Mike Greenham, Kwan Dae Suk, Jean Blair, Gordon Murchie, John Savage, Bob Schaeffer & Jenny Crabb, Carol Ostergard, Joe Farren, Kevin and Richard Campbell, Baby Iris, Grayson Howard, Isatu Samura, Wendell Patterson, Emmett Sims, Sarif Harding, the Vangroll Family, Carol Rose, Sylvia Beauchamp, Sylvia Wren, Dan Sanders.

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, Pat Foughty and Brian Talay. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.

Worship Schedule for Christmas Eve (December 24th)

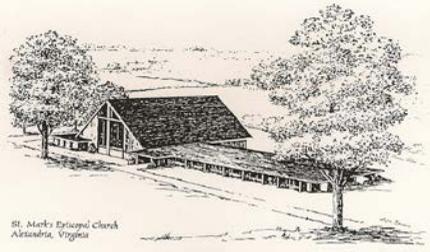
- 8:00am – Advent 4 & Eucharist
- 1:00pm – Iglesia San Marcos
- 5:00pm – Family Candlelight Service
- 9:00pm – Festal Candlelight with Special Music

This Week at St. Mark’s

- Today 8:00 am – HE, The Rev. John Weatherly, Preacher
10:00 am- Lessons and Carols, The Rev. John Weatherly, Preacher
11:15 am – Vestry Meeting
3:00-7:00 pm – Girl Scouts (PH)
4:00-8:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)
- Monday, 12/18 7:00-8:30 pm-BS Troop 4077 (PH)
- Tuesday, 12/19 7-9:00 pm-Pan de Vida (S)
- Wednesday, 12/20 10:30 am – HE and Healing – The Fairfax – The Rev. Donna Foughty
River Farm – Winter Break until January 4th
7-9:00 pm – San Marcos (PH)
- Thursday, 12/21 9:30 am – Morning Prayers
10:00 am – Holy Folders
- Friday, 12/22 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)
- Saturday, 12/23 1:30 – 4:30 pm – Truth Deliverance Center
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Pan de Vida (S)

Adult Education Forum

- Dec. 17th Lesson and Carols: The Story Behind the Story
- Dec. 24th No Forum – Services only at 8:00 am/5:00 pm/9 pm



“Enter to Worship – Exit to Serve”

Announcements

New Youth Minister: We welcome Gabriella Elizabeth Pineda as our new Minister for Youth. This 4-6 hour a week position is primarily responsible for, and not limited to, assisting the Rector with programming for 7th-12th graders, and their families, including Sunday activities, Bible study and fellowship. She will plan and support a yearly Mission Trip for youth Grades 7 and above, lead youth, volunteers, parents and staff in providing an environment that stimulates faith formation and models healthy relationships, while providing the joy and safety needed for our children and youth so that they grow toward spiritual maturity. She will assist in planning programming for 7th-12th graders and recruit, equip and nurture the ministry of volunteers. Gaby is an active member of Iglesia San Marcos, and will begin her duties the first of the year.

It's A Tea Party! Ladies of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, you are cordially invited to a Tea Party on January 6, 2018 from 12:00- 2:00pm sponsored by the Daughters of the King. Come and join us for an afternoon of good fun, good fellowship and good food. Please RSVP no later than December 31, 2017 to Sheryl Sims at sesims4@cox.net or [571-236-1982](tel:571-236-1982).

Room for Rent: Spacious basement apartment for college student or professional adult Parish member. For more details, please contact Rev. Weatherly.

New Hope Housing: New Hope Housing , serving the Route 1 corridor has received 200 Thanksgiving meals from individuals, groups and businesses. More are expected for Christmas. Volunteers are preparing meals at each of the shelter sites. If you would like to contribute or volunteer visit the New Hope website contact Sami Smyth, at ssmyth@newhopehousing.org or 703-799-2293 ext. 11 for more information.

YOUR PLEDGE IS NEEDED!

PLEDGES RECEIVED TO DATE: 58
TOTAL AMOUNT PLEDGED @12/17: \$193,333.00
MORTGAGE PLEDGES @12/17: \$7,540.00

2016 – Units pledged – 62/Totaling; \$202,692
2015 – Units pledged – 63/Totaling: \$212,208

San Marcos Coat/Glove Drive: San Marcos will be sponsoring a coat/glove drive for the homeless in December. Please bring all donations to St. Mark's. For more information, please see Rev. Weatherly.

Prayer List: The Prayer List for St. Mark's is located in the red folder in the Narthex. It will be updated as needed.

An Invitation to join the Vestry :The Vestry is seeking six (6) interested persons who may fulfill the following requirements: a confirmed adult (at least 16 years old) communicant of the Parish in good standing (being regular in attendance); and "known to the Treasurer".

The Canons establish four primary goals for the Vestry:

1. Cooperate with the Rector in the support of the spiritual welfare of the Parish and assist him or her in his duties.
 2. Care and trust of Parish finances.
 3. Care and trust of Parish buildings and property (appoint trustees, enter into contracts pertaining to property, e.g.).
 4. Choose leadership of the church (Rector, Wardens, and representatives to the Diocesan convention) and certify candidates for ordination as a deacon or priest.
- Plus, have a willingness to dedicate time and energy for the health and future of the parish, attend regular worship, events and all vestry meetings.

Vestry members serve for three year terms, unless they are filling an unexpired term.

Any interested persons please let any present member of the Vestry know. The Annual Meeting will be January 28th. The Vestry retreat to Roslyn will be March 3rd and 4th, 2018.

Vestry Declaration

Before becoming a member of the Vestry, under the Canons of the Diocese of Virginia each person must subscribe the following declaration and promise:

"I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do yield my hearty assent and approbation to the doctrines, worship and discipline of The Episcopal Church; and I promise that I will faithfully execute the office of Vestry member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Potomac Region, Diocese of Virginia, according to my best knowledge and skill".

Thank you, Thank you! Thank you for your generosity in the staff gifts (\$1308.00) and your contributions to the flowers that will be on the altar in memory of or thanksgiving for your family and friends.

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

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.



Upcoming Birthdays

12/18 – Betty Hughes/Courtney Nugent
12/19 – Wilhelmina Scott-Boyle/Ryan Johnson
12/20 –Mary Brown
12/21 –Mary Jane Stockstill