



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.”**

March 26, 2017

From the Rector

Commentary for this week's Gospel:

JOHN 9:1-41 This long passage includes one of six signs by which John told how Jesus was revealed as the Son of God. In this case, the sign or miracle was the giving of sight to a blind man. The purpose of the miracle was not to let him see, but to elicit his confession of faith. And ours too.

The frequent reference to blindness in the scriptures indicates its prevalence in the ancient Middle East. Several known diseases could cause the loss of sight during anyone's life. For instance, the existence of a venereal disease or some other infection such as measles during pregnancy could cause a child to be born blind. Jesus performed several miracles of healing blind people. Paul apparently suffered some sort of psychosomatic blindness at the time of his conversion. (Acts 9:3ff) In all of these biblical instances there was a clear relationship between the physical and the spiritual condition of the persons concerned. Sin and sickness were inevitably linked in the minds of everyone. Consequently, the questions of the disciples and the blind man's community, and challenge of the Pharisees in vss. 2-17 was by no means inappropriate.

As noted above, John had another purpose in telling this story. He gave that reason in vs. 2 quoting Jesus' response to the disciples. The rest of the story really only expands upon this statement. The blind man gave Jesus the opportunity to show forth once again his own true nature for all to see and believe. What the Pharisees did not understand, of course, was the nature of their own spiritual blindness (vss. 40-41) The man who had been healed did make his confession of faith (vss. 35-38) and so brought forth the clarification of the difference between those who are willfully blind and those who trust in Jesus, the Son of God.

John, of course, told this story against the background of the Jewish-

Christian controversy raging in his own community at the end of the 1st century. Much as we still struggle with conflict among religious traditions in the Middle East.

copyright - Comments by Rev. John Shearman

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: Clara Bottner, Beth Oakes, Donna Anderson, Nell Brill, Richard Sparks, Phil Brown, 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, the Magruder/Vangroll families, the Lewis family, including Tom and Gloria, and Kevan Campbell.

Also for our extended family: Emmett Sims, Liz S., Phyllis Nezar-Biggs, Sylvia Valverde, John R., D. Crumel, William Pimental, Rod Pearson, Sr., Richard Stockstill, Betty Bradley, Sandra Robinson, John Gray, Gerry Cox, Tara Wilkins, Gordon Merritt, Carol Ostergard, the families of John Jostin, Clifford Fisher, Aminah Robinson and Col. Wil Scudder. 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

The Seminarian Support Committee for the Rev. Cornelia Eaton will meet this Sunday, March 26, in The Rev. Meredith Heffner Memorial Room at approximately 11:30 am. Goodies will be provided.

Acolyte training/refresher next Sunday, April 2, after the 10:00 am service.

E-giving – Earlier this year, St. Mark's introduced e-giving as another option for fulfilling your pledge or making a donation. Now, you can help us track your online giving by placing an "I Give Online" card in the collection plate each Sunday. These cards are available in each pew. Getting started with online giving is easy. Visit stmarksalex.org and click the "Donate Now" link to create an account and make your donation.

Give electronically to the ministries of St. Mark's! Your help is needed to fund our 2017 Mission Trip to the Navajo Nation, June 23 to July 1. Twenty-three St. Mark's and San Marcos' Missioners are signed up to go and we have raised about \$12,000 of the \$22,000 needed. Our next fundraiser is a bake sale on Palm Sunday, then our Mother's Day Breakfast, International Dinner at the end of April and our first car wash on May 7, during St. Mark's in the Park. We are planning a Yard Sale and one more car wash in June.

First Sunday of the Month, please wear your name tag! If you do not have a name tag or need a replacement, please let us know.

Database Update: If you would like to provide any new information or those who have not provided such information, please fill out a newcomer's card in the Narthex or email Mari at stmarksalex@netzero.net. Thanks.

Daughters of the King will meet in the library following the 10:00 am service today and April 2 and 9. Our Lenten study will be on "*Shadows, Darkness and Dawn*" by Thomas Steagald.

May 20th at 10:30 am – Institution of the Rev. **Meredith Heffner** as Rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, Potomac, MD.

From The Rev. Donna Foughty: Please note change of address for church emails – Revmum02@hotmail.com. It's that time of year again – time to get our **Shrine Mont** dates set up. Please pick one of the possibilities below or send me a suggestion. August 11-13, August 18-20, August 25-27 or we could choose a fall weekend. **Please get back to Donna Foughty ASAP.**

Plastic Easter Eggs and small, wrapped candies are welcome donations for St. Mark's Easter Egg hunt! There are two baskets the Narthex for collection.

Red Tent Weekend, May 12-13. Women only weekend at Roslyn Retreat to nourish the mind, body and soul. \$125 per person. Share wisdom and wine at a BYOB evening around the fireplace. Saturday includes buffet breakfast, nature walk or yoga class (\$10), Set and knit or crochet, creative craft project, lunch in dining hall, massage (\$55+ tip). Call 800-477-6296 to make reservations.

Upcoming Birthdays

3/27 – Margaret Duczakowski, 3/30 – Earl Winsor, 3/31 – Patricia Straley, Quincy Dominic, Ben Miles and Hailey Johnson, 4/1 – Stephanie Miles

This Week at St. Mark's

Today

8:00 am HE, 9:15 am Adult Forum, 10:00 am HE, 11:30 am – Daughters of the King (library), 11:30 am Seminarian Support Committee Meeting for The Rev. Cornelia Eaton, The Rev. Meredith Heffner Memorial

Room, 1:00-4:00 pm San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH),
4:00-6:00 pm Pan de Vida

Monday, 3/27

7:00-8:30 pm BSA Troop #4077 (PH)

Tuesday, 3/28

10:30 am – Bible Study. All welcome! 7:00-9:00 pm –
Pan de Vida Bible Study (Sanctuary), 7:00-9:00 pm- GS
Troop 4841 (PH)

Wednesday, 3/29

10:30 am HE, The Fairfax, 6:30 pm – Pot luck at All
Saints Sharon Chapel, 7:15 pm – Sacred Time and Space
in the Anglican tradition, 7:00-9:00 pm – San Marcos
(PH)

Thursday, 3/30

9:30 am – Morning Prayer, 9:00 am-12:45 pm – Biology
Class (PH), 10:00 am – Holy Folders, 7:00- 9:30 pm –
San Marcos (large classroom)

Friday, 3/31

7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

Saturday, 4/1

6:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

Forum Discussion Sundays at 9:10 am

Today

The Scriptures of the Day, The Rev. Cornelia Eaton

April 2

The Scriptures of the Day, The Rev. John A. Weatherly

April 9

Palm or Passion Sunday

Calendar

Wednesday, 3/29

6:30 pm Lent Potluck at All Saints Sharon Chapel.
Sacred time/space in the Anglican tradition

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday

8:00 and 10:00 am – Blessing of Palm, Procession, Bake
sale for Mission Trip

Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm Potluck Dinner, 7:30 pm Service with San
Marcos

Good Friday

12:00 noon, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, 6:00 pm
Stations of the Cross (en Espanol), 8:00 pm Tenebrae
Service

Holy Saturday

9:00 am Clean Up, 11:00 am First Communion Class

Easter Sunday

8:00 and 10:00 am Festal Eucharist with Brass, Easter egg
hunt after 10:00 service, Baptism of Dorothy Ann Bryda

May 7

Mother's Day Breakfast for Mission Trip

May 20

10:30 am – Institution of The Rev. Meredith Heffner, St.
James' Episcopal Church, Potomac, MD