

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

“Opening the doors of Christ’s love:
Offering Good News in the midst of a confusing world.”
December 2, 2018

From the Desk of the Interim Rector

Advent is the journey! Again, this Sunday, we will begin walking our four weeks toward Bethlehem. Once more, we will trace the steps to the Christ Mass (Christmas) and the birth of Jesus – Emmanuel, God With Us.

Journeying is nothing new for the People of God. From the beginning, our Scriptures recount the movement of God’s family. Some travel is physical, some is emotional, some spiritual. But in all cases, God beckons us to faithfully follow to a new and exciting place.

Indeed, here at St. Mark’s, we are on a wonderful journey. We are called to travel through the land of discovery as we seek a new rector and God’s new plan for our congregation. The map for our walk in the days ahead is a process – not sequential, but occurring and reoccurring as the journey goes on. God willing, we will be -

- Coming to terms with our congregation’s history;
- Discovering our new identity and mission;
- Growing in leadership;
- Reconnecting with the Diocese; and
- Establishing a new commitment to engage in ministry with our new rector.

I look forward to our walk together – not just in Advent – but in the life-giving days of discernment and discovery that await.

Fr. John Hall

Intercessions, Thanksgiving, Prayer Requests

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or adversity, especially in the St. Mark’s Parish: Lindsay Drabick, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, Sarah Derringer, Muriel Hughes, Mary, Caroline Bradford, Kimberly Earle, John Dell, Kevannah Campbell, Velma, Emily Davis, Kent White, the Lewis family, including Gloria & Karen, Pat Hoppe, Nell Brill, Hailey Heyse, Irrsula Mpouma, Richard Sparks, Jackie Cerio, Rosemary Kley, Jeff Gray, Mary Magnini, Eloida Reyes and Sheyla Cornwall.

Extended family: Rod Pearson Sr., Betty Bradley, Sandra Robinson, Elmore, Mike Greenham, Kwan Dae Suk, Jean Blair, Gordon Murchie, Bob Schaeffer & Jenny Crabb, Carol Ostergard, Kevin and Richard Campbell, Baby Iris, Grayson Howard, Isatu Samura, Wendell Patterson, Emmett Sims, Sarif Harding, the Vangroll Family, Sylvia Beauchamp, Sylvia Wren, David, Ellen and Erin Mitchell, Roger Ray, Sally Belk, John Sims, Warren Sims, Shawn, Arlene Washington, Barbara, Robin Groome, Peter Butler, Annie Osborne, Janis Becker, Richard, Reed, Josh, Steve Ellis, Indira Murillo, David Haggard, Ron Graves, Sook Ja You Kimberlee, Mary and Patty Klosky.

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

We pray for the family of Jane Gray Redmond, sister of our member, Jeff Gray who died on November 27, 2018 in Portland, Maine.

Announcements

Rector Search Prayer: Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will direct our paths and open our hearts to hear God's will and to discover where God is leading us to be in the future.

We thank you Lord for the community of St. Mark's church. For the love among us, and the ministries we do. Be with us now as we prepare to call a new rector.

Guide the search committee as they help us to discern our future and how we may continue to know Your will for our parish family.

Strengthen us as we look to a new future built on the foundation of the past. Help us to know what to keep and what to let go.

Enlighten the heart of the person who will be our new rector that they will hear Your call.

Give us all courage and faith to trust You to lead us to a new and exciting future.

Rector Search Survey: Thank you to those who have completed the survey. We have received about 45 responses. We really need your comments. Please take the time to complete the survey if you haven't already. We are leaving it open for one more week. Paper copies and a collection box are in the narthex or you can complete it online at <https://tinyurl.com/StMarksDiscernmentSurvey>.

UCM: Thank you for your generosity to UCM! For the last 2 weeks, St. Marks has donated 30 pounds of nonperishable food to United Community Ministries (UCM) for our neighbors in need. Some days, the shelves at the UCM food pantry are fairly well-stocked, most other days they are clearly in need. But they are never completely full. Our donations, large or small, always make a difference. UCM, a local non-profit organization provides temporary assistance to families in crisis, has a food bank, thrift store, Healthy Families program, early learning center, and youth development programs. For additional information, see UCM website <http://www.ucmagency.org> or contact Rodney Fisher.

Special Offerings: Special envelopes for Christmas Flowers and for our part-time staff are found in the bulletin today. All names received by **December 18th** for flowers will be included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service bulletin. Please make donations to St. Mark's Episcopal Church and its purpose on the notation line. The loose offering today will be designated for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Angel Tree-Help Needed: We need a volunteer to assemble a bike that has been purchased as a Salvation Army Angel Tree present. The bike will arrive on Thursday, November 29th. If you can help, please contact Bonnie Wilkins or David Walton. Your help is really appreciated.

Reminder: All gifts must be returned to St. Mark's by December 2nd or to Bonnie's house by December 4th. Thank you on behalf of the Alexandria children who will have a happier Christmas because of you.

Altar Guild: One of our four Altar Guild shadowing hands-on sessions was successfully completed on Sunday after the 10:00am service. Four members of the Daughters of the King participated. We will regroup on December 15th and December 22nd will be the last shadowing session. **All church members 12 and older, male and female are welcome to participate.** No registration is required, just come to the Sacristy on the designated Saturdays at 10:00am.

2019 Stewardship Campaign Pledges: We have received 33 pledges to date in response to our 2019 Stewardship Campaign totaling **\$128,169.00**. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Book of Common Prayer: Please note that we have “**Selections From the Book of Common Prayer Large Print**” in the back of the church on the bookshelf. Parishioners should ask the ushers for a copy and **PLEASE** return the copies after service. Thank you!

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

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



Adult Forum

Today – Meet the Suffragan Bishop

December 9th – The Gospel of Matthew – Kim Lewis, Presenter

December 16th – The United Community Ministries (UCM) Mr. Courtney Sewell, Presenter



Upcoming Birthdays

12/4 – Pam Smith/Allison Foster/Zoe Buckles

12/9 – Ademola Awofisayo



This Week at St. Mark’s

Today 8:00 am – First Advent, HE, The Rev. John C.N. Hall, Preacher
 10:00 am-HE and Confirmation, The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Suffragan Bishop, Preacher
 1:00 – Bishop Goff at San Marcos (S, PH, GH)
 3:00-7:00 pm – Girl Scouts (PH)
 4:00-8:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

Monday, 12/3 6:00 – 9:00pm- AA Drama Group (Narthex)
 7:00-8:30 pm-BS Troop 4077 (PH)

Tuesday, 12/4 6:00-9:00pm – AA Drama Group (PH)
 7-9:00 pm-Pan de Vida (S)

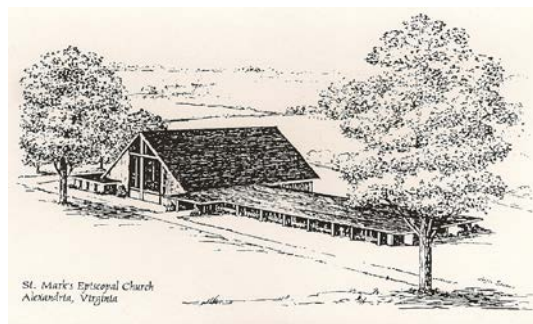
Wednesday, 12/5 10:30 am – HE and Healing – The Fairfax,
 6:00-9:00pm – AA Drama Group (PH)
 7-9:00 pm – San Marcos (PH)

Thursday, 12/6 9:30 am – Morning Prayers
 10:00 am – Holy Folders

Friday, 12/7 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

Saturday, 12/8 1:00pm – Wedding (S)
 1:45 – 4:30 pm – Truth Deliverance Center (PH)
 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Pan de Vida (S)

Sunday, 12/9 8:00am – HE – The Rev. John C.N. Hall, Preacher
 10:00 – HE – The Rev. John C. N. Hall, Preacher



“Enter to Worship – Exit to Serve”