

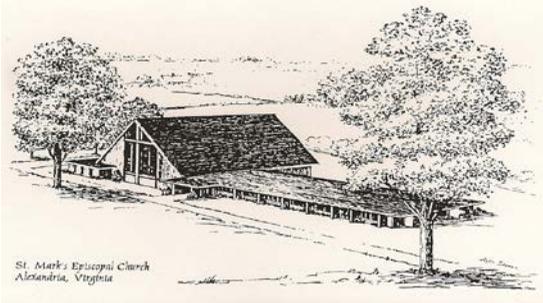
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

“Opening the doors of Christ’s love:

December 9, 2018

This Week at St. Mark’s

- Today**
8:00 am – HE, - The Rev. John C.N. Hall
10:00am – HE, - The Rev. John C.N. Hall
1:00pm- 4:00pm – Iglesia San Marcos (S, PH,GH)
4:00pm-8:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S,PH)
- Monday, 12/10**
7:00-8:30pm – BS Troop 4077 (PH)
- Tuesday, 12/11**
7:00pm-9:00 pm-Pan de Vida (S)
- Wednesday, 12/12**
10:30am – The Fairfax
- Thursday, 12/13**
9:30am – Morning Prayer
10:00am – Holy Folders
- Friday, 12/14**
4pm – 8pm – Piano Recital
- Saturday, 12/15**
1:45pm – 6:00pm – Truth Deliverance Church
6:30pm – 9:00pm – Pan de Vida
- Sunday, 12/16**
8:00am – HE – The Rev. John C.N. Hall
10:00am – HE - The Rev. John C.N. Hall
Christmas Pageant



From the Desk of the Interim Rector

I spoke with a woman the other day who said she was concerned about the future, saying, “We live in such an uncertain world.” A quick glance at a newspaper or a few minutes of cable news echoes this woman’s thoughts. The future often seems unclear. Unfortunately, many folks who believe they have the future all figured out – often don’t. So, we live in the uncertainty. In this season of Advent, please remember that Jesus often says, “Be not afraid.” Throughout the Gospels, his message is clear, “Don’t be afraid. I am with you. Only believe.”

The truth is, we have very little information about the future. We don’t know what tomorrow may bring. But, as Christians, we wait on the Lord to reveal the future in the person of Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus. We declare, “Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.” We don’t know precisely what this means. We don’t know when it will happen. We don’t know all the details of what’s coming. We don’t even know for certain what this evening will bring. But in truth, we know that we can trust God with our future. So, let it go. Trust God and just let it go. Advent proclaims “Christ will come again.” Christ’s coming may be dramatic. Or, it may be as simple as seeing Jesus in the eyes of an infant. So, rather than worrying about it, let’s proclaim it, and focus on how Christ wants us to live right now.

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, Sarif Harding, the Vangroll Family, Sylvia Beauchamp, Sylvia Wren, David, Ellen, and Erin Mitchell, Roger Ray, Sally Belk, John 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.

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 Progress: Last Sunday Bishop Goff compared the Advent Season of anticipating and waiting for the arrival of Christ to our interim period of waiting for our new Rector. Please continue to pray with hope and anticipation for the next St. Mark's Rector.

UCM: Thank you for your generosity to UCM! For the last 2 weeks, St. Mark's 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.

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. Then, 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.

Parish Cleanup: Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped us make St. Mark's look beautiful for Bishop Goff's visit. We had volunteers from St. Mark's, San Marcos, Pan de Vida, and River Farm Cooperative School. Our volunteers were able to complete all but two of the items on the to-do list. If you spot anything that needs fixing, please let a member of the Vestry know about it.

2019 Stewardship Campaign Pledges: We have received 35 pledges to date in response to our 2019 Stewardship Campaign totaling **\$134,514.00** 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!

Special Offerings: Special envelopes for Christmas Flower contributions and Special Gift contributions for our part-time staff are in the bulletin. All names received by **December 18th** for flower remembrances will be included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service bulletins. Please make donations payable to St. Mark's Episcopal Church and its purpose on the notation line.

Adult Forum

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

December 16th – The United Community Ministries (UCM) Ms. Tonya Bailey, Presenter

Upcoming Birthdays !!

12/9 – Jimmy Bailes

12/10 – Andrew Alonzo

12/12 – Ernest Cole, Jr.

12/15 – April Johnson

12/16 – Kim Lewis