

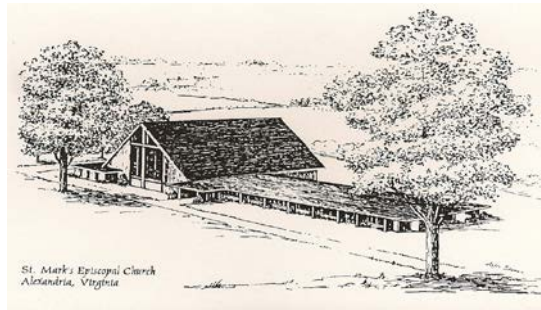
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

“Opening the doors of Christ’s love:

September 2, 2018

This Week at St. Mark’s

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|----------------|---|
| Today | 8:00 am – HE, Healing, The Rev. John A. Weatherly 10:00am – HE, Baptism The Rev. John A. Weatherly 1:00pm- 4:00pm – Iglesia San Marcos (S,PH,GH) 4:00pm-8:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S,PH) |
| Monday, 9/3 | Holiday - Labor Day |
| Tuesday, 9/4 | 8:00am – 3:30pm – River Farm Cooperative School Returns 7:00pm-9:00 pm-Pan de Vida (S) |
| Wednesday, 9/5 | 10:30am – The Fairfax – The Rev. John A. Weatherly 12:30pm – The Pentagon – The Rev. John A. Weatherly |
| Thursday, 9/6 | 9:30 am – Morning Prayer 10:00 am – Holy Folders |
| Friday, 9/7 | No Activities Scheduled |
| Saturday, 9/8 | 2:00pm – Fr. John’s Farewell Celebration |
| Sunday, 9/9 | 8:00am – HE – The Rev. John Weatherly, Preacher 10:00am – HE - The Rev. John Weatherly, Preacher |



“Enter to Worship.....Exit to Serve”

From The Rector’s Desk

In our long Gospel today, Jesus is criticizing a portion of his own community for paying God lip service; exalting human precepts and abandoning divine commandments. Rather than practicing a spirituality that changed them through grace, this group tried to impose an ideology that made other people conform to their hard-and-fast principles. Their overt concern was about ritual hand cleaning and purification, it was not about heaven's purposes but their own privileges of power and control. Such misuse of religion and authority, especially in it leadership, remains forever a possibility. Here's my approach of what I believe might be a faithful answer to this question.

The entire structure of Christian devotion -- the Lord's Prayer and the Great Litany, rosaries and revivals, Prayer Book and Hymnal, icons and incense, Bible study and Sunday school, retreats and reunions, Gospel music and Gregorian chant, public liturgy and private prayer, sacraments and sermons, holy water and holy rolling, giving thanks at a birth and praying at a death -- the entire apparatus of Christian devotion, in its diversity and complexity, serves one great purpose. If we were to assign our hearts as the place we discover our moral center, insight and compassion, devotion is to help gain and maintain a new heart; a heart of flesh rather than a heart of stone, a heart that is alive not dead, a heart that is compassionate not selfish, a heart that is open not judgmental. Christian devotion in its many forms is all about softening the heart, preventing it from becoming hard, keeping it tender. It's about, in a spiritual sense, gaining a heart like Jesus.

Jesus, in the Gospel, dispenses with ritual purity not because he opposes clean hands, but because he is encouraging God's demand for moral purity. He cites a litany of sins, the corporate failure of humanity: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, and folly. It's enough to make you cringe. If washing your hands leads you to less sin, then take the step. But it will not in itself, cause you to sin less. Instead, move beyond the easy step of washing hands, into the more challenging direction of searching out your brokenness. Then, embrace the change that comes from embracing our Lord. You might embrace washing your hands, in a whole new way. It certainly will lower the likelihood of passing that cold germ you just picked up!

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, Jeanette Parris, Kimberly Earle, John Dell, Kevannah Campbell, Velma Campbell, Emily Davis, Kent White, the Lewis family, including Gloria & Karen, Pat Hoppe, Nell Brill, Hailey Heyse, , Kathleen Lemmon, Irsula Mpouma, Richard Sparks, Janis Bicelas.

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, Shawn, Arlene Washington, Barbara, Robin Groome, Peter Butler, Annie Osborne.

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

Announcements

College Bound!! Our prayers and hopes go out to our College bound family members:

Megan Murchie-Beyma - Washington & Lee University
Natalie Pineda – Virginia Commonwealth University
Tyler Chui – Virginia Commonwealth University
Emily Marquez – Fashion College of New York
Sofia Campos – Northern Virginia Community College
Kate Larson – Old Dominion University
Gabriella Pineda – Northern Virginia Community College
Afia Marfo – William & Mary College
Christian Pineda – University of Utah
William Pineda – Mary Washington University
Kobe Marfo – Rutgers University

Audit Committee Volunteers: Velma Scott-Boyle and Wally Tienken have volunteered to conduct the church's audit for 2017. This is an annual requirement for all Episcopal churches. Charlotte Brown and Becky Sanders will be gathering the information in preparation for the audit. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please see Velma or Wally.

Mount Vernon Community Day: Please plan to attend the Ventures in Community/Mount Vernon Community Day to Serve on Saturday, September 22, 2018, 9am-11am at 2000 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Local churches will meet to assemble "Power Packs", donated food for underprivileged children in the community. If you have any questions or need additional information on donating food, please contact, Heather Colley (916-223-9018), Nancy Waller (703-360-5519) or Rodney Fisher (rodneyfisher85@gmail.com).

United Community Ministries: UCM is currently in need of disposable diapers (sizes, 4, 5, and 6) as well as canned tuna, chicken and low-sugar cereals. More information can be found at www.ucmagency.org. Thank you for your generosity.

Needed: If you have any empty detergent bottles with screw on tops, please contact Ann Sparks. Thank you!

Adult Forum

TODAY – September 2nd – Looking Back on 21 years
(bring pictures to share) – The Rev. John Weatherly

SAVE THE DATE!!!: As you know, our Rector, the Rev. John Weatherly is retiring after twenty-one years at St. Mark's. His last day of worship will be September 9, 2018--but before his last day, we will celebrate on Saturday, September 8, 2018, beginning at 2:00 pm. We will have the food catered but need help with desserts on Saturday September 8, 2018. On Sunday September 9, 2018 we will continue celebrating after the 10:00 service. For September 9th, we need help with finger food and more desserts, yes there will be a cake. We also need volunteers for set up and cleanup on both days. More details and information will be forthcoming. If you would like to volunteer to help with the celebration, please contact Sheryl Sims, Jim Bailes, Charlotte Brown or Kathy Hughes. **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!! (Please note: In recognition of Fr. John's longtime service to St. Mark's and our church community, the Vestry will present the loose plate offering to him on Sunday, September 9th, his final Sunday with us.)**

Mortgage Update: As of August 10, 2018 our mortgage balance is **\$125,266.51**. Please help us continue to reduce our debt with your generous gifts.

Sunday School: The Sunday School will be begin its new year on Sunday, September 16th at 10:00am. We will have classes for Pre-K to high school. Registration forms will be available soon. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Belinda Appiah, Nana Marfo or Pam Hamrin.

FOR EXISTING MY-E-OFFERING PARTICIPANTS: Electronic withdrawals from credit card and ACH/Direct Withdrawal have not been made for June. The company has updated their system and everyone must re-enter your donation information following these instructions:

To reset your donation, follow the steps below:

1. Go to members.myeoffering.com
2. Click "Forgot Password?" in the top right
3. Follow the instructions to reset your password (you can use your previous password, if desired)
4. Sign in and follow instructions for setting up a "wallet" and new recurring donation for the remainder of 2018. **PLEASE** make up the missed June donations through the use of an offering envelope or setting up a one-time donation when you are on the MyEOffering website. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or need assistance, call MyEOffering at 1-877-393-3330. **NOTE:** You will **NOT** see your previous year's donations on this website. St Mark's bookkeeper Mike Morgan will be contacting the individuals by email with any additional information.

Rector Search Committee: The Vestry met and appointed a search committee for St. Mark's new Rector. We thank the eight parishioners who have volunteered to serve: Ashley Bryda, Al Dominic, Rosa Krewson, Eric Murchie-Beyma, Gaby Pineda, Sheryl Sims, Mary Jane Stockstill, and Bonnie Wilkins, who will serve as the committee's chairwoman.

Upcoming Birthdays !!

9/2 –Bob Magnini/Daniel Williams
9/3 – Pamela Hamrin
9/6 – Jeff Gray

9/8 –Delta Youngquist
9/10 –The Rev. John Weatherly (Wish him
Happy Birthday before he leaves)