

Registration for Shrine Mont camps is now open for summer 2013 sessions. Be sure to sign up by March 16, 2013 so that you can receive the early bird discount of \$20. Any family sending more than one

youth to camp in 2013 will receive a \$25 discount off each child's tuition. For more information, go to www.shrinemontcamps.net.

This Week at St. Mark's

Today	8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum, 10 a.m. HE, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 1 – 4 p.m. Eucaristia - San Marcos (Sanctuary, Patience Hall and Gibson Hall), 3:30 – 5:45 p.m. Amazing Grace Ghanaian Fellowship (Patience Hall), 5– 8:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Monday 1/14	9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. French playgroup (Gibson Hall), 7 – 8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
Tuesday 1/15	6:30 – 9 p.m. GS Troop #4841 (Patience Hall), 7-9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary), 7:30 p.m. St. Mark's Book Group (Library)
Wednesday 1/16	10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax
Thursday 1/17	10 a.m. Holy Folders (Gibson Hall), 7:30-9:30 p.m. Girl Scout Council Service Unit mtg. (Patience Hall)
Friday 1/18	5 - 7 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Saturday 1/19	9 a.m. – noon Kids Pro Soccer (Patience Hall), 3 – 5 p.m. Amazing Grace Ghanaian Fellowship Bible study (Lg. classroom), 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Church contact information:

Address: 6744 S. King's Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22306 ♦ **Phone:** 703-765-3949; fax: 703-765-3981 ♦ **E-mails:** Office: stmarksalex@netzero.net; Rev. John Weatherly: jweathe951@aol.com; Rev. Meredith Heffner: revmeredith@cox.net; Rev. Cherian Pulimootil: cheriapp@hotmail.com ♦ **Internet:** Website: www.stmarksalex.org; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stmarksalex>. ♦ **Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Clergy are usually in the office until 4 p.m. The office is closed on Fridays and national holidays.



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.”**

January 13, 2013

Important Upcoming Dates

- **January 20**
11:15 a.m. LEM Training
- **January 27**
Annual Meeting
- **February 12**
Shrove Tuesday
Talent Show and Pancake Dinner – fundraiser for youth mission trip
- **February 13**
Ash Wednesday
7:30 a.m. Imposition of Ashes
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- **February 15-17**
Youth Group Ski Trip
- **February 23-24**
Vestry Retreat
- **April 24 – 28**
Adult mission trip to W. Va.

Adult Forum

- **Today**
The Organization of the Episcopal Church
- **January 20**
Issues Facing the Diocesan Council
- **January 27**
Review of St. Mark's in 2012 & Pre-Annual Meeting Discussion, Budget
- **February 3**
Understanding the Basics of Cyber-Security

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during this Epiphany season. If you are looking for a church home, or want more information about St. Mark's, please introduce yourself to the Vestry Person of the Day or to the Clergy. We hope you will fill out the newcomer's card that you will find in the church pew and put it in the offering plate or give it to one of the ushers. We are glad you are here! If you would like to receive our weekly announcements by e-mail, please contact the church office at stmarksalex@netzero.net.

From the Rector

Our Gospel this morning begins with the reality that as Christians, we are people of Expectation. John the Baptist, as a Prophet of God, is apparently filled with expectation, as he gathers the hopeful at the River Jordan. His expectation is powerfully fulfilled, by the appearance of Jesus, just as he is beginning his ministry. How powerful are our expectations?

In fact, common obstacles to a healthy, positive faith relationship with God are the obstacles of our anxieties, our preoccupations and our expectations. We have countless expectations of ourselves, others; - of our leaders, our friends, our children, our parents, our spouses. And they have expectations of us.

Feelings of betrayal by God supersede all other disappointments. When a youth fails to meet our expectations, we write it off to adolescence. When a friend or spouse doesn't come through, we chalk it up to human sin. When a leader falls short of our expectations, we blame the corrupting power of power. But, when God fails to meet our expectations, how do we explain that? How can we keep on believing and trusting when God doesn't do what God should do?

William Porcher DuBose, probably one of the most original and creative thinkers the Episcopal Church has ever produced, spent most of his adult life at the University of the South, my college alma mater. A chaplain in the Confederate army, he was one of the founders of the resurrected University after the Civil War. Before his death in 1918, he wrote; “God has placed forever before our eyes, not the image, but the very person of the Spiritual Man. We have not to ascend into heaven to bring him down nor to descend

into the abyss to bring him up, for he is with us, and near us and in us. We have only to confess with our mouths that he is Lord and believe in our hearts that God has raised Him from the dead and by raising us in Him, and we too shall live”.

This is the great gift of faith. To receive it, we need only have the desire to be filled, willing to be led, repenting of our sins, and forever entrusting ourselves into His care. The choice is ours. We keep expectations alive in our daily prayer, fellowship and celebration of the sacraments. Like these outward signs, comes the inward reality that God has fulfilled his expectations of us, through the gift of Jesus Christ..

Sunday Happenings

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Eucharist in the Episcopal Church. For those who are not familiar with how to receive communion, the following may be helpful. The ushers will let you know when it is time to go to the altar rail. At the altar rail, place one outstretched hand over the other to receive the bread. To receive the wine, either hold on to the wafer and dip the edge into the wine (edge only!), or consume the wafer first and then guide the chalice to your lips. If you are unable to kneel at the rail, please feel free to remain standing. If you cannot come to the altar rail, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come to the altar rail for a blessing and cross your arms over your chest to indicate you do not wish to receive communion. Come down the center aisle to the altar rail and return to your seat using the side aisles.

During the school year, Sunday School is provided from 10 to 10:40 a.m. except during our monthly Joyful Noise Family Services, when the children remain in church. On regular Sundays, the children will join us for Holy Eucharist. Children below age four can use the nursery, where they will receive care during the entire worship service from professional nursery attendants. Come again. We sincerely hope that you will want to make St. Mark's your spiritual home.

Prayer List

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity, especially:

In the St. Mark's Parish: Jean Auldridge, Shirley Hunter, Terese Tyner, Rosemarie Beyma, Kathy Hughes, Beverly Weatherly, Alan, Juliana, Albie, Carol, Lou, and Janet.

Our Extended Family: Peggy Byers, Donna Mayne, Adrienne Boyd Akers, Eric Martindell, Elizabeth Jenkins, Bob and Nancy DeLay, Rod Pearson, Lynn V., the Bailey family, Josephine Perich, Scott Edgar, Noby Fisher, Monica Heitsch, John Springer, Beth Oakes, Sunny Nolan, Mr. & Mrs. Song Ja Lim, Lou Pinto, Alli Puryear and her mission team from Catalyst Church, Wendell Mohr, Susan Bailey, Phyllis Negart-Biggs, Summer Ostanato, Frank and Molly Plagh, Steve Costa, Beulah Small, Jan and family, Gina, Jamie, Scott, Erick, Becky, Salome, Frank, and Jay.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way: Brian Hobin; Andrew Kley; Ryan Kiggans; Tyler Miller; Austin Graine; Justin Rodriguez; Robert Payne; Eric Martindell; civilian in Afghanistan; Jeff; and Carl. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.

If you would like someone who is sick or in need added to the prayer list, please write their name in the blue book on the table in the Narthex, or give the name to Father John or Rev. Meredith. Names will be kept in our intercessions for four weeks, unless notified otherwise.

Birthdays

January 13 – Gregory Brunson, Will Miles

January 15 – Wally Tienken; January 17 – Mahlon Drabick

Announcements

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. M.G. Masih by Nihal Masih.

Please welcome back Barbara Wilson Simpson, our guest organist today.

Your 2013 pledge envelopes are available. Please pick up your set in the Narthex today before you leave. Help save St. Mark's some postage!

Would you like to become a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM)? If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please see the Rector. Training will be held after the 10 a.m. service on January 20th.

Youth Group Ski Trip. The ski trip has been changed to the weekend of February 15th. Please let Rev. Meredith know by January 20th if you can attend. (Revmeredith@cox.net)

Join us for the adult mission trip to West Virginia, April 24th – 28th. The cost is \$200.00. We have six openings available. See the Rector if you are interested.

Youth Mission Trip Deadline. Today is the deadline to sign up for our mission trip June 20th – June 28th to Rutland, Vermont. Please e-mail Rev. Meredith at Revmeredith@cox.net ASAP if you are interested.

The St. Mark's Book Group will meet on Tuesday, January 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the library.

UCM's Food Pantry needs food donations now! Bring your food donations to UCM's office at 7511 Fordson Road in Alexandria from Monday through Friday, 9 am through 5 pm. Items most needed in the pantry are: canned meat and tuna, soups, canned vegetables, pasta, rice and tomato sauce. For the complete list, go to www.ucmagency.org/FoodPantryWishList.html

The 18th Annual Ventures in Community (VIC) Choir Festival, celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., will take place on Sunday, January 20th at 7 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church (7836 Fordson Rd.). For more information, call Denise Morgan at 703/718-8208.

2013 Budget as approved by the Vestry on January 6, 2013

<u>Income</u>	<u>CY2013 Budget</u>
Offering	\$254,296.00
Plate	2,204.00
Building Use	16,000.00
Other	31,300.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$303,800.00</i>
<u>Expense</u>	
Staff*	\$214,401.00
Office/Admin	8,900.00
Building Operations	56,400.00
Worship	2,500.00
Education	2,250.00
Meet/Lay Development	900.00
Parish Life	3,200.00
Outreach**	20,400.00
Evangelism	700.00
Other	5,000.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$314,651.00</i>
<i>Net Income</i>	<i>-\$10,851.00</i>

*2% increase to staff salaries

**10% increase to Diocese

The Annual Meeting will take place on January 27th at 11:15 a.m.