

## This Week at St. Mark's

Today	6 a.m. Volunteers leave for SOME, 8 a.m. HE and Healing, 9:10 a.m. Adult Forum, 10 a.m. HE and Healing, 10 a.m. Children's Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. Seminarian Support Committee mtg., 11:30 a.m. Choir practice (Lg. classroom), 1 – 3 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 5/6	9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. French Playgroup (Gibson Hall), 10 a.m. Bible Study (Lg. classroom), 7 – 8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
Tuesday 5/7	6:30 – 9 p.m. GS Troop #4841 (Patience Hall), 7-9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Classroom)
Wednesday 5/8	11 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 12:30 p.m. GS Troop #1914 (Patience Hall), 7 p.m. Women of Spirit (Lg. classroom)
Thursday 5/9	<b>Ascension Day</b> 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Chapel), 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Gibson Hall), 7 p.m. Region VI mtg. (Patience Hall and Sanctuary)
Friday 5/10	5 - 7 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Saturday 5/11	10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Private event (Patience Hall and kitchen), 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](mailto:stmarksalex@netzero.net); Rev. John Weatherly: [jweathe951@aol.com](mailto:jweathe951@aol.com); Rev. Meredith Heffner: [revmeredith@cox.net](mailto:revmeredith@cox.net); Rev. Cherian Pulimootil: [cheriapp@hotmail.com](mailto:cheriapp@hotmail.com) ♦ **Internet:** Website: [www.stmarksalex.org](http://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.



May 5, 2013

### Important Upcoming Dates

- **May 12**  
Mother's Day Breakfast  
Last day of Sunday School
- **May 19**  
St. Mark's in the Park
- **June 20-28**  
Youth mission trip to Vermont
- **August 23-25**  
Shrine Mont weekend

### Adult Forum

- **Today**  
*The Episcopal Church's  
Young Adult Service Corps*  
with Keri Geiger

# 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.”**

### Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during this Easter 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](mailto:stmarksalex@netzero.net).

### From the Rector

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let everyone who hears say, “Come.” And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

These are the grand words that conclude the Book of Revelation, and therefore the entire Bible. The whole library of scripture ends with this flourish, “The Spirit and the bride say, Come!”

It is an invitation that appears over and over again in scripture. In the Book of Exodus (24.1, 12), Moses hears the voice of God saying, “Come up to the Lord! Come up to me on the mountain!” Isaiah (55.1) invites the people, “Ho! Everyone who thirsts! Come to the waters!” Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew 11.28), “Come unto me, all you who are weary and heavy laden.” And the final chapter of the Bible repeats, “The Spirit and the bride say, “Come. Let everyone who is thirsty come.”

After so much smoke, fire and mystery in the Book of Revelation, the final vision set forth to John is a wedding. Which could be interpreted as a tribulation of its own manner. The message that this invitation gives is that church life is meant to be a wedding. And more than a wedding, meant to be a marriage.

As you may have read, people are postponing getting married, if at all.

Some people say that our entire culture is more and more cautious about making any kind of commitment. We do not join bowling leagues and social groups, they say. They say that we prefer to do the same things, but just not be committed to them. On the other hand, we all seem willing to make two-year commitments to our cable or cellular phone companies! The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." But we have to be honest. The Christian life is an invitation to commitment. It is a commitment to grace and glory, fullness and life. And deep joy. The joy that comes from fully loving, and being fully loved.

### 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, Kathy Hughes, Beverly Weatherly, Beth Oakes, Dave Boyd, Elizabeth Boyd, Alan, Juliana, Albie, Lou, and Janet.

Our Extended Family: Peggy Byers; Donna Mayne; Elizabeth Jenkins; Bob and Nancy DeLay; Summer Ostanato; Margo Digan; Karen, Trey, and Julian Smith; Eric Watson and family; Abigail Dawn; Frank Strobel; Jocelyn Aguilar; the Echols family; the Lawrence family; Phyllis Nezar-Biggs; Daniel Gold; Vickey Richey; Bonnie and Chip Block and their family; Wendy Wills; Nation Hahn; Lois Plumlee; Sandra Socrates; Shelby Henry; George; Arlen; John; Andy; Kat; and Diana.

We pray for those who have died, especially Jamie Kirk Hahn, friend of Daniel Stroud.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way: Brian Hobin, Andrew Kley, Ryan Kiggans, Tyler Miller, Austin Grainey, Justin Rodriguez, Robert Payne, Eric Martindell - civilian in Afghanistan, Jeff, Carl, Kevin, Timothy and Emily. 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

May 6 – Debbie Clay-Mendez  
May 9 – Candi Carpenter, Lovette Elliott  
May 10 – Teresa Brunson

### Announcements

**Please pick up your copy** of the St. Mark's newsletter from the Narthex before you leave today.

**Women of Spirit** will meet on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Please read chapters 4 and 5 of *God's Hotel*.

**Come to the Mother's Day breakfast** next Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. Proceeds will go to the mission trip. Also on May 12<sup>th</sup> the high school seniors will be sharing their reflections during the 10 a.m. service. Join us!

**St. Mark's in the Park** is May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for this annual outdoor service at 10 a.m., followed by a cookout. St. Mark's will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Bring a dish to share.

#### Mission Team schedule for May:

- ♦ May 12, 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Breakfast
- ♦ May 19, 11:30 a.m. – Mission Team meeting
- ♦ May 26, 10 a.m. – Car Wash at St. Mark's

**Youth ages 13+ are invited** to join Fr. John and Rev. Meredith to worship at Epiphany D.C. with the homeless on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have room for 15. Please sign up with Rev. Meredith as soon as possible.

**Plan ahead for Bring Your God-Parent or God-Child to Church Day** on June 16<sup>th</sup>!

**Shrine Mont registration forms are now available.** Our annual parish weekend will be Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> this year, with an option to arrive on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Shrine Mont is approximately 2½ hours away and - with a pool, hiking trails and beautiful

scenery - it's a great weekend getaway. There will be a lot to do if you choose (including a hayride and an ice cream social) or you can just sit on the porch with a good book and relax! We have reserved two houses on the "hill", with meals at Tucker Hall. Costs will be approximately \$98.00 per person for a Saturday night stay. There is no charge for children under the age of 13. Fees include accommodations and meals. Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Small scholarships are available – see Fr. John or Rev. Meredith. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, so sign up soon – space is limited!

**Morning Prayer.** Join us for Morning Prayer on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the little chapel.

**Tellers needed:** If you are interested in serving as a Sunday teller, please call or e-mail Ed Kley at [epkley@earthlink.net](mailto:epkley@earthlink.net) or 703/719-6238. No experience needed, we will train anyone. It takes about one to two hours a month of time after a 10am service.

**Would you like to join the dedicated volunteers of the Flower Guild?** If you would like to help once a month with the floral arrangements for the church, please call Maureen Ison at 703/768-6176.

**UCM's Food Pantry** needs food donations now! Please put your non-perishable donations in the wicker basket at the rear of the sanctuary. The most needed items are tuna, canned meats, peanut butter, soups, pasta, rice, and canned vegetables.