

## December 24, 2017 Announcements

Announcements, **not to exceed 150 words**, are to be submitted to [bulletin@stmarks.net](mailto:bulletin@stmarks.net) by **5:00 pm on the Tuesday** proceeding the Sunday you wish the announcement to run.

Official Parish Calendar online at: <http://www.stmarks.net/connect/calendar/>

### **From the Vestry and Parish Leadership**

**1. Become a Hospitality Hero in 2018.** We have had a highly successful year providing hospitality for all, or almost all, Sundays at 10:45 coffee hour, Sunday lunch and after 5 PM service. Please sign up for slots for 2018 on the posters in Baxter Hall for 10:45 coffee hour and Sunday lunch; and, starting on December 31, on the poster in the Nave at the 5 PM service. Please plan to be a 2018 St Mark's Hospitality Hero!

### **Parish Life**

**2. TODAY More Free Calendars December 24th!** Free calendars will again be offered to the congregation today, only after the 10 am service, and will be displayed either in the foyer or in Baxter Hall. Questions? Contact Jack Richards or Kathy Tatko.

**3. Advent Art Installation:** This Advent season, the Arts Council has created a progressive installation titled "Icons of Holy Families." Using found objects, collage, and traditional painting media, eleven parishioners created artworks mounted in salvaged dresser drawers, reflecting on the holiness of families. They will be displayed in the Nave through the Christmas season.

1. Saint Adea, by Elin Whitney-Smith
2. Star Dancers, by Chuck Divine
3. Puerto Rico, by Marilu Sherer and Tracy Council
4. Hope, by Betty Foster
5. Sketch of Holy Family by Karen Woodall
6. Rohingya Refugee Families, by Lucy Brown
7. Recovering Our Selves, Martha Connor-Donnelly
8. Take Courage, Amber Macdonald
9. The Babies and the Ancestors, by Tracy Council
10. The St. Mark's Family, by Lynda Bugge and Penny Farley

Please take some time to explore the creations and read the artists' statements. Contact: Tracy Council [tracy@tracyskids.org](mailto:tracy@tracyskids.org).

**4. TODAY Deck the Halls:** we have a very short window to green the nave for Christmas this year because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. That means **we need as many people as possible to lend a hand**. We will be in **the Nave** from **Noon to 3pm today**. No artistic talent is necessary. We are mostly moving in plants and things. Email [lisa.ramish@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.ramish@gmail.com) with questions (or reassurances).

**5. Degreening:** Please help us take down the greening decorations on **Sunday, December 31st** from **12:30 to 3:30pm** in **the Nave**. It is New Year's Eve day but we would love to have the decorations down in time for Epiphany. Many hands can make light work! **Please email [Lisa.ramish@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa.ramish@gmail.com) to let her know she can expect you.**

**6. Family Night** with our friends from Capitol Hill Group Ministry was a wonderful success! Thanks to the efforts of cooks, greeters, teenaged Santa's helpers, and folks who donated money, we had a terrific party. It was especially nice to have Michele there to give the welcome and to say a blessing before we ate.

Very much hoping we did not miss anyone, our thanks go to: Valerie Byrd, Lena Lupica, Elizabeth Becker, Elizabeth Armstrong and daughter Smith, Josie Jordan, Susan Ryerson and Rich Rubenstein, Jane and Rick Rutherford, John Sedgewick, Lisa and Dan Ramish with Miles and Nathaniel, Maria (Lisa's mom), Mike Townsend with William and Emily, Suzanne Wells and Elizabeth Godec, Raquel and Joe Cref-Merza, Zoe Wolfel, Steven D'Alessandro, Ray Murray and Macray, James Massey-Johnson, Jan Aricola and Annelise, Agatha Tan + Erwin, Freddy and Asmara, Jane Byrne, Pam and Dick Bradshaw and Doug, Elizabeth and Fiona Campbell, Kenn Allen and Maureen Shea, Betsy Agle, Fritz Henn, Jordan Meyer, Kit Arrington, Raiford Gaffney, Mark Bohannon, Margie Ware, David Deutsch. Special thanks to Caroline McReynolds-Adams for admirably organizing the teen shopping, wrapping and distributing brigade; to Joel Wilson (our very favorite Santa), to Lisa Ramish for the wonderful art project.

- Susan Sedgewick, Lynn Kneeder, Stephanie Deutsch

**7. St. Mark's Reading Group** meets on the **third Wednesday** of every month in the Dozier Library at **12:30 p.m.** Feel free to bring your lunch. We decided **not to meet in December. January 17** we will discuss *The Spectator Bird* by Wallace Stegner. **February 21** we will discuss *Everyone Brave is Forgiven* by Chris Cleave. Contact: Linda Ewald, llerbe@yahoo.com 301-541-5133

**8. Only one week left!** Register for the **Anxiety and Joy Guild Summer Seminar, July 7-12, 2018.** Sponsored by the Guild for Transformational Studies' Summer Seminar it will be held at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond, VA. To ensure a space, please **register before December 31, 2017.** Jakob Boehme says, "The Holy Spirit leads us by anxiety to a new birth." What might this mean? Is anxiety itself the push of the new being? What orientation of heart and mind might be needed to explore the creativity that is within anxiety? What might be the relationship between the difficult symptoms we experience and freedom and joy? In this seminar, we will use discussion, writing/journaling, art expression, movement, music, silence and above all our own experience and self-reflection to explore the many sides of anxiety and joy. Please email [susanlynnthompson@gmail.com](mailto:susanlynnthompson@gmail.com) for a registration form and further information. Scholarships are available.

### **Worship**

**9. The Advent vestments** were created in a workshop of parishioners, led by Tracy Councill. The chasubles represent two themes: all people on their spiritual journeys, and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, resting atop the Tree of Jesse. The pulpit fall represents several additional Advent themes, including a child playing above an adder's den, the Peaceable Kingdom, Swords into Plowshares, and people from all over the world. They are block printed on hand-dyed silk. Doris Burton led the congregation in weaving two stoles in shades of blue and purple.

**10. Bread and Wine 11:15am.** Thanks to you, December is filled. I have posted January. Thanks again, Cecilie and Bill. <https://is.gd/stmbw2017winter> [cecbill@mac.com](mailto:cecbill@mac.com).

## **Christian Education**

**11. Christian Education Weekend.** At the start of each year we have a Christian Education weekend, a chance for parishioners to gather, reflect on a pertinent topic, and socialize. This year we will come together on **Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** in the Parish Hall at St. Marks Church. We will be together from 9 am until 9 pm. Lunch and dinner will be provided. 2017 has placed a focus on power differentials in our society around gender, orientation, race, ethnicity and economic conditions. In our Saturday session, we will explore the topic – “Are we truly brothers and sisters?” as a means for understanding who we are called to be. The weekend is open to all parishioners. The cost will be \$30, which will cover meals. Sunday School teachers attend without charge. Contact: Don Ellison Don.Ellison@icf.com

**12. Ongoing Christian Education.** These groups meet weekly and are open to newcomers:

\* **Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 11:00am-12:15pm, Elders Room** (Brown bag lunch until 1pm)  
Studying The Dream of God by Verna Dozier.

Leader: Peter Mosley Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney, rgaffneydc@gmail.com

\* **Sunday Morning Bible Class, Sundays, 10-11 am, Penniman Room**

Studying the Book of Amos Convener: Bob Ewald (lberbe@yahoo.com (301) 541-5133)

\* **SMCC Meditation, Mondays 7:30-9pm, the Nave.** Contact: Collie Agle chagle@washpathfind.com

## **Music & Arts**

**13. Sing in a Choir!** Singers of all voice parts are needed in the **Chancel Choir (rehearses Thursdays 7:30-9:30)** and the **Boys & Girls Choir (rehearses approximately every other Sunday 11:00am-12:30pm)**. The **Handbell Choir** is also looking for people to ring hand bells (rehearses approximately **every other Wednesday 6:45-8pm**). No prior experience is required. Questions? Contact Jeff Kempaskie, Director of Music: jeff@stmarks.net

**14. Music Lessons.** The St. Mark's Music Studio has two new teachers! Annie Simon (simon.annie@gmail.com) now offers voice lessons in addition to Adam Caughey (adamcaughey@gmail.com). Stephanie Ng (stephanien217@gmail.com) now offers piano lessons in addition to Jeff Kempaskie (jeff@stmarks.net). Students of all ages and experience are welcome. Learn more about our new teachers at stmarks.net/music

## **Youth & Family Ministries**

**15. There is no Sunday School on the following dates:** Dec. 24, Dec. 31, and Jan. 7. We are back in Sunday School at 10am on Sunday, January 14.

**16. There will be no Children's Chapel on Dec. 31.** We are back in Children's Chapel on Jan. 7.

**17. January 7- Family Fellowship Ice Skating:** While our Sunday School teachers are receiving a much needed break, join your St. Mark's family on January 7th at 10am for a fun ice skating outing! We will gather in the Adams Room for donuts at 10am and then walk down together to the [Canal Park Ice Rink](#). This is an event for the entire family, so everyone is invited! To RSVP and receive the group rate on skating admission and rentals [EMAIL CAROLINE](#) by Jan. 4.

**18. January 21- High School Service Trip Interest Meeting:** Calling all rising 9th-12th grade youth! Join us for an informational meeting at 11am in the Adams Room on Sunday, Jan. 21 about our trip to rural Appalachia with Appalachian Service Project this summer, June 17-23.

**19. January 28- Middle School Service Trip Interest Meeting:** Calling all rising 6th-8th grade youth! Join us for an information meeting at 11am in the Adams Room on Sunday, Jan. 28 about our trip to Harper's Ferry, WV with FLOC'S Outdoor Education Center this summer, July 12-15.

**20. Save the Date for our annual Family Ski Trip- Feb. 16-19!** We will be returning to Canaan Valley, WV for our annual ski weekend. More info to come.

Questions regarding these activities? **Contact Director of Youth and Family Ministries Caroline McReynolds-Adams** [caroline@stmarks.net](mailto:caroline@stmarks.net)

### **Outreach**

**21. TODAY Advent Gifts from Bethlehem and the W. Bank – through Dec. 24 after all services.** Olivewood crèches, ornaments, and Canaan Fair Trade olive oil. A 20% donation from the sale will be contributed to the Diocese of Jerusalem schools and clinics. The Middle East Working Group manages the sale (with assistance from the Pilgrimage Groups)/ As usual we will have the true extra virgin olive oil and tapenades from the Canaan Farm Co-operative. Pilgrimage groups from 2013, 2015, and 2017 visited the Co-op and many were hosted by farm families who benefit from the co-op sales and community action initiatives. Buying olivewood products strengthens bonds of goodwill with the farmers and carvers and the charitable work of the Jerusalem Diocese in the W. Bank and Gaza. **Give a gift that gives twice!** Questions? Contact: Karen Getman [karen.getman@gmail.com](mailto:karen.getman@gmail.com)

**22. Alisa Earnest – Seeking 20s/30s Pen and Phone Pals and an Update:** – Alisa Earnest was arrested and jailed more than two years ago. She's now at Greensville Correctional Center (Jarratt, VA), and expects to be released in 2025. We particularly need 20s/30s to be in touch with her by phone, email, or letter, especially if you share her interests in science fiction, LGBTQ with emphasis on T (trans), mental health/relationships, or mechanical and automotive engineering. For more on Alisa, parish support, the legal effort and the giant birthday card, see the 2017 status report: <http://j.mp/aestm171028> or contact Christoph Berendes ([berendes@netalyst.com](mailto:berendes@netalyst.com)).