

December 31, 2017 Announcements

Announcements, **not to exceed 150 words**, are to be submitted to 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 today, on the poster in the Nave at the 5 PM service. Please plan to be a 2018 St Mark's Hospitality Hero!

Worship

2. 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.

Christian Education

3. 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 6th** 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

4. 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 (lherbe@yahoo.com (301) 541-5133)

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

Music & Arts

5. 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 Kempksie, Director of Music: jeff@stmarks.net

6. 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 Kempkie (jeff@stmarks.net). Students of all ages and experience are welcome. Learn more about our new teachers at stmarks.net/music

Youth & Family Ministries

7. There is no Sunday School today or next week. Sunday School will resume at 10am on January 14.

8. There is no Children's Chapel today. We will be back in Children's Chapel on January 7.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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

Outreach

13. Outreach Support of CHUMC Meals Program. Today, please pick up a casserole pan (which contains an easy recipe, a date label, and detailed delivery suggestions) on the table near the High Altar. The pans are provided to the congregation on the first and second Sundays of every month. Parishioners are encouraged to prepare one or more casseroles and deliver them in person to the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church (CHUMC) located three blocks from St. Mark's Church. CHUMC, in turn, feeds our needy and hungry neighbors on the hill throughout the week. Need more information? Please contact Jack Richards (703) 751-1456.

14. 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).

Parish Life

15. TODAY Degreening: Please help us take down the greening decorations today 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! Contact: Lisa Ramish

16. TODAY 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 susanlynthompson@gmail.com for a registration form and further information. Scholarships are available.

17. MARDI GRAS DANCE SAVE THE DATE! We hope everyone will join us on **Friday, February 9 from 6 to 10 pm** for a keep-the-winter-blues-away Mardi Gras dinner and dance. This is an all-parish event with babysitting, kids' activities, a live band, a delicious dinner and dancing until the Fat Tuesday lady sings! Tickets go on sale soon! Contact: Julie Murphy, juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com.

18. 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.

19. 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. On **January 17** we will discuss *The Spectator Bird* by Wallace Stegner. On **February 21** we will discuss *Everyone Brave is Forgiven* by Chris Cleave. Contact: Linda Ewald, llerbe@yahoo.com 301-541-5133