

February 18, 2018 Announcements

Announcements, **not to exceed 150 words**, are to be submitted to bulletin@stmarks.net by **5:00 pm on the Tuesday** preceding 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. Early Morning Lent Eucharist. We will gather for a simple service of Lent at **8am** on **Wednesdays February 21, 28 and March 7, 14, 21**. Coffee, Juice and Rolls afterwards and you off to work by **8:30 am**.

2. St. Mark's Annual Meeting: Everything You Need to Know!

Our 2018 annual meeting will be **February 25th beginning at noon**. Check-in and lunch will begin in Baxter Hall immediately following a single morning service at 10:00 am. All church members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting, where we hear about the state of the parish and elect new leadership to help our clergy and staff attend to the day-to-day business of St. Mark's. This year, we will be electing three Vestry members and one Diocesan delegate.

The candidates running for the Vestry positions are: Katherine Anderson, Jane M. Byrne, Christina Herman, Brandon Dunn Knight, and Amber Macdonald. One candidate is running for the single open Diocesan Delegate position: Peter Wesley Nye.

We will be posting statements and pictures from the candidates in the foyer and by eGospel. Please take some time to get to know the candidates and to thank them for offering to serve our community in these important roles.

Remember that only members of St. Mark's are eligible to vote at the annual meeting! Under the current bylaws, you must have made a financial contribution to St. Mark's in the twelve months preceding the annual meeting, and either already appear as a member on the parish register or affirm in writing your wish to be a member. You also have to be at least 15 years old. Sorry, kids!

In the weeks before the annual meeting, we will be posting a list of all members eligible to vote. Please check to make sure your name appears on the list. If you haven't made a financial contribution in the last twelve months that can be identified to you (for example, by check or online), please do so if you want to be eligible to vote. If you are new to the parish and would like to affirm your wish to be a member, forms will be available on the day of the meeting for you to sign. If you have any questions about membership and your eligibility to vote at the annual meeting, please reach out to Karen Wiedemann (karen.wiedemann@gmail.com) or Nora Howell (seniorwarden@stmarks.net).

Youth & Family Ministries

3. February 25- Kids Activities at Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will take place after a single 10am morning service on Feb. 25. After we all have lunch together in Baxter Hall, kids can head down to the undercroft for games and crafts while the meeting is going on.

4. February 25- HS Service Trip Registration due: The High School youth are heading to East Tennessee with Appalachian Service Project this summer, June 17-23. Registration is due on Feb. 25. Email Caroline for more information.

5. March 4- Youth @ Sunday Suppers Meeting: As a means of establishing a consistent service opportunity, the middle and high school youth will be taking a larger responsibility at the monthly Sunday Suppers outreach. Join us for an info meeting on March 4 at **11am** to hear about how we can make this a successful, meaningful, and sustainable monthly project for our kids and our community.

6. March 11- Acolyte Training:

Are you interested in becoming an acolyte? Don't miss the March 11 acolyte training from 12:45pm-1:30pm! The role of youth acolyte is an important rite of passage in our community and is a ton of fun. All are welcome! Email David Deutsch for more information: dsd@his.com.

7. Supporting Aging Parents while Raising Children: Capitol Hill Village is hosting a free four-part series in March for adult children who are concerned about their aging parents, neighbors, and friends - whether they live nearby or far away. Come to share concerns, get resources, and learn strategies about how you can support your family to ensure that loved ones are planning for their future: **Tuesdays: March 6, 13, 20 and 27; 7:00-8:30 pm** - on Capitol Hill. Enrollment is limited, so sign up early! For more information or to register contact: Molly Singer - msinger@capitolhillvillage.org or call 202-543-1778.

Questions regarding these activities? **Contact Director of Youth and Family Ministries Caroline McReynolds-Adams** caroline@stmarks.net

Outreach

8. Sunday Suppers Sandwich Making and Serving Today! Please join us in **Baxter Hall today**, at **4:15 P.M.** as we prepare sandwiches, in support of Sunday Suppers, a group guided by St. Mark's members Dan and Lisa Hawkins. We usually complete sandwich making in about **30 minutes**, and leave Baxter Hall to make **delivery at 5:45 P.M.** We always need at least 3-4 sandwich making volunteers! For **servicing**, volunteers are needed from **6-7:30 in Franklin Square**. The **next serving date is March 18th**. Please help us with this important program. Questions? Contact Alix Pereira alix.pereira@gmail.com about sandwich making (Jack Richards is away) and Lisa Ramish to sign up for serving Lisa.ramish@gmail.com.

9. Tomorrow: Multi-Faith Dialogue on Israel/Palestine Conflict - What could be more polarized than the Arab Israeli conflict? Is it possible to be a change agent in such a situation? Follow up the Epiphany sermon series by coming to hear Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace (www.cmep.org) as she hosts a conversation with Rabbi Dr. Daniel Roth from Israel & Aziz Abu Sarah, a Palestinian-American, about multi-faith dialogue and engagement in constructive conflict, peace, and the reality of life in Israel and Palestine. Many of us know Aziz who heads MEJDI, the tour group we have used for our pilgrimages. Building on our Epiphany sermon series, they'll also discuss how we can be change agents and reconcilers in the midst of conflict. **February 19th(President's Day) at 6:30 in Baxter Hall**. Light refreshments will be available. Sponsored by the Mid-East Working Group. For questions, please contact Maureen Shea – mtshea@aol.com

10. THANK YOU from the Vassar Haiti Project: "Thank you members of St. Mark's for welcoming us back to Capitol Hill... **We sold over \$34,000 of Haitian art and handcrafts** - with 65 paintings sold! That means that when we return to Haiti in March, we will be able to buy four score of paintings, giving the artists something of a boost, for sure! .. The monies will go towards the educational initiative that sustains the primary and secondary schools that we support. The ongoing needs of salaries, books, uniforms and the food program will be insured for another year for over 300 students. The profit of the event will be about \$15,000... The 20 students who came ...will reflect upon this as one of the highlights of their undergraduate tenure at Vassar... thank you for supporting our work in Haiti which gives great possibility and hope to these children of God." www.thehaitiproject.org

11. The Good Neighbor Refugee Team is preparing the 13th apartment for a family of five (8 year old daughter and sons, 6 and 4) who will be **arriving in February** from Afghanistan. Our experience has led us to divide the responsibility for organizing the donations among the eight congregations.

St. Mark's and St. Peter's have teamed up for organizing the Bed and Bath supplies. By law, we must have NEW mattresses (3) twin and (1) queen. Also needed are mattress pads, duvets, sheets, blankets and pillows (twin and queen size) as well as towels and bathroom supplies – mat, shower curtain, shampoo, soaps, toothbrushes, etc. All in new to good condition.

If you have items for this family or for the future or questions: Contact Karen Getman karen.getman@gmail.com. Karen can arrange for drop off or pick-up. Checks (for purchase of mattresses and new items) can be made out to Lutheran Church of the Reformation and noted for GNP-Refugee.

Other household items can still be donated as well. Dale Manty from Lutheran Church of the Reformation is managing the larger furnishings, beds, as well as computers, television, lamps and other items. Contact: dmanty@umich.edu. Beth Hannold from Capitol Hill Presbyterian is managing kitchen supplies and small appliances. Contact: eahannold@aol.com. All donations (goods or money) can be receipted if requested. Thanks to all for your continuing generosity and encouraging others to give to this important way of welcoming refugee families.

12. DC Environmental Film Festival: Concerned about environmental issues? Like to watch films? The Green Lions urge you to check out the Environmental Film Festival, which runs **March 15-25 in venues around Washington, DC**. Many of the films are also available to watch on line. For more information: <https://dceff.org/>. Contact: Christina Herman christina.herman55@gmail.com.

Parish Life

13. St. Mark's Reading Group meets on the **third Wednesday** of every month in the Dozier Library at **12:30 p.m.** On **February 21** we will discuss *Everyone Brave is Forgiven* by Chris Cleave. On **March 21** we will discuss *Sing Unburied Sing* by Jesmyn Ward. Contact: Linda Ewald, llerbe@yahoo.com 301-541-5133

14. Third Ager & Green Lions Winter Potluck Re: Presentation by **Jack Wennersten** author of *Rising Tides, Climate Refugees in the Twenty-First Century*. Rising Tides sounds an urgent wakeup call to the growing crisis of climate refugees, and offers an essential, continent-by-continent look at these dangers. The crisis is everywhere and it is imminent. Detailing a number of solutions, John R. Wennersten and Denise Robbins argue that no nation can tackle this universal problem alone. The crisis of climate refugees requires global, concerted solutions beyond the strategic, fiscal, and legal capability of a single country or agency. When: **Saturday, February 24th at 12:00pm**. Where: **Baxter Hall**. Bring your favorite "**Winter**" dish to serve 8; dessert, tea and coffee setups will be provided. All are invited—not just those over sixty. Questions? Contact Don Gangloff at Susan Sedgewick jssedgewick@gmail.com or Gretchen Willson gretchenwillson943@gmail.com

15. Save the Date 4/13, 14 – How a Massive Immigration Crisis Birthed Early Jesus Literature (Jesus Seminar on the Road): Led by Hal Taussig of Union Theological Seminary and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. From the Syrians to the Rohingya, increasing flows of immigrants and refugees are much in the news and in our hearts. Perhaps, as people following Jesus, we've been here before. What if the New Testament wasn't written to start a new religion but to address massive dislocations of populations within the Roman Empire? Inspired by diaspora studies, this workshop reexamines this literature as a new Exodus experiment based on Israel's exodus from Egypt. What new interpretations of popular "Christian" texts result from this approach? And how might this guide our thinking and actions today? **Baxter Hall, Friday, April 13, 7:30–9:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 14, 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.** Contact christoph.berendes@netalyst.com.

Christian Education

16. Baptism Course for Parents: This course is designed for parents who wish to present their child for baptism. The class consists of a facilitated discussion for parents to explore the parenting issues posed by the Liturgy of Baptism. (Adult candidates for baptism should contact the church office to meet with clergy.) While taking the course, parents may choose a baptism date and select the 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., or 5:00 p.m. service at which they wish their child to be baptized.

Date & Time: March 4, 11, 18, 25, Sundays from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Leaders: Jennifer and Steve Dalzell

Location: St. Mark's, room TBD

Fee: \$25 contribution per family

17. The Belonging Class (Formerly Life, Community & Faith)

Religion can be understood as making sense out of our existence, or sense out of what appears to be inexplicable. The Belonging Class is a facilitated discussion about our experiences rather than a lecture. We start with our own experience of how we function in our daily lives and examine our responses to key life issues with others in our class. With an emphasis on authenticity and curiosity, we share our spiritual journeys and consider how our stories are reflected in the Christian story. We explore the ways in which we seek and sometimes fail to connect to ourselves, others, and God. The class is open to all.

Newcomers are encouraged to attend!

Dates & Time: March 7 - May 2, 2018 (excluding March 28) Wednesday evenings, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Leaders: The Rev. Michele Morgan, Martha Connor-Donnelly, Charlie Rupp

Location: Adams Room, with one all day Saturday retreat either March 10 or 17

Fee: \$85

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

*** Tuesday Evening Bible Study, 7:30-9pm, Dozier Library.**

Discussing mysticism in relation to the Gnostic Gospels

Co-Coordinators: Bill Jones (billclough@icloud.com), Kathleen Grant (queenmommy17@gmail.com)

*** 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, January 28-April 15, 2018 Penniman Room**

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

The story of Esther, a member of a religious minority, who cleverly and courageously engineers the rescue of her people from state-sanctioned genocide. The course consists of class discussion of the text assigned for that day. One-time Bible Class fee: \$25

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