

WELCOME TO
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
+
CAPITOL HILL

ST. MARK'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mark's is an open community, welcoming people wherever they are on their faith journey. We celebrate the gifts of God that empower us to engage boldly in the struggles of life and to care for others with love, justice, and compassion.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2016



5:00 PM
CONTEMPLATIVE
EUCHARIST
+ LAYING ON OF HANDS

Presider & Homilist
The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Cell Phones – Please turn off your cell phone or other electronic devices at any time you are in the Nave.
Hearing – The T-Coil system can be accessed by using a hearing aid with a T-setting, or by using one of our headsets. Please ask an usher for assistance.

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Childcare: the Nursery is open! Children up to age 3 are welcome. Take the stairs to the lower level; turn right to go down the hall to the Nursery, which will be the last room on your right.

The Parish Calendar is Online at www.stmarks.net/calendar/month.

Restrooms and water fountains are available in the foyer and on the lower level.

Lost & Found is managed by our new maintenance contractor PMM. Please contact the PMM On-Site Team (202-695-9433) to see if your item has been found or to turn in an item you've found.

DECEMBER 18, 2016

Attendance:	292
Pledge & Plate collection:	\$15,620



The Advent Wreath was given to St. Mark's by Scilla Adams in loving memory of her father, Colonel Neil Ramsay. Hand-forged by Richard A. Martin, a metal sculpture in Alexandria, Virginia, this work is made of steel with solid-link chains and hammered drip pans, painted black and measuring three feet in diameter, with a cross hanging beneath the central candle.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am	Holy Eucharist (<i>Family Eucharist is celebrated the second Sunday of most months</i>)
9:00 am	Children's Chapel (<i>not offered when Family Eucharist is celebrated at 9:00 am</i>)
10:00 am	Sermon Seminar
11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
5:00 pm	Contemplative Eucharist

We formally begin the worship service with the Prelude, a musical offering designed to bring us together for worship that allows for quiet reflection before the service begins. Please respect this time by refraining from conversations in the Nave as much as possible. While greeting each other is important, we ask that you do so outside the Nave or near the doors so that others can have quiet time.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Sentences

Presider We all want a meaningful Christmas.

All But meaning is not more things we don't need, more debt, more busy-ness.

Presider God, help us to conspire for the coming of your kingdom.

All Help us conspire to worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all. Amen.

Silence is observed.

The Collect

Presider God be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

**All Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great gift of love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader Let us hear what the Spirit says to us.

People Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed.

The Second Reading "Annunciation" by Denise Levertov

'Hail, space for the uncontained God' (From the Agathistos Hymn, Greece, VIc)

We know the scene: the room, variously furnished,
almost always a lectern, a book; always
the tall lily.

Arrived on solemn grandeur of great wings,
the angelic ambassador, standing or hovering,

whom she acknowledges, a guest.

But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions
courage.

The engendering Spirit
did not enter her without consent.

God waited.

She was free

to accept or to refuse, choice
integral to humanness.

Aren't there annunciations
of one sort or another
in most lives?

Some unwillingly
undertake great destinies,
enact them in sullen pride,
uncomprehending.

More often

those moments

when roads of light and storm
open from darkness in a man or woman,
are turned away from
in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair
and with relief.

Ordinary lives continue.

God does not smite them.

But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.

She had been a child who played, ate, slept
like any other child – but unlike others,
wept only for pity, laughed
in joy not triumph.

Compassion and intelligence
fused in her, indivisible.

Called to a destiny more momentous
than any in all of Time,
she did not quail,
only asked

a simple, 'How can this be?'

and gravely, courteously,

took to heart the angel's reply,

perceiving instantly

the astounding ministry she was offered:

to bear in her womb
Infinite weight and lightness; to carry
in hidden, finite inwardness,
nine months of Eternity; to contain
in slender vase of being,
the sun of power –
in narrow flesh,
the sum of light.
Then bring to birth,
push out into air, a Man-child
needing, like any other,
milk and love –

but who was God.

Reader Let us hear what the Spirit says to us.
People Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed.

The Holy Gospel Luke 1:26-55

Gospeller The Gospel of Jesus according to Luke.
People Glory to you, O Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. And Mary said,

My soul magnifies greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his children for ever.

Gospeller The Gospel of Jesus.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Music for Meditation

Laying on of Hands is available in the Chapel, to the right of the choir.

A period of silence is observed.

An Affirmation

Presider Let us declare what we believe about our faith:
People **We believe in God the Creator,
 Who gave people, animals, and all things their names.
We believe in God the Son,
 Who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with love.
We believe in God the Spirit,
 Whose presence strengthens us.
We believe in one God, All in All. Amen**

Prayers of the People

Leader In this season of Advent, a time of waiting and hoping, but also of busyness
and shopping, be with us, gracious God, as we strive to approach this season
with joy and love.

Help us to approach the world with grateful appreciation for your creation so
that we take joy in human connection, natural beauty, and the possibility of
love and forgiveness.

People Help us, Lord.

Leader Guide us with your wisdom so that we are careful with our many resources.
Help us to use our money wisely, especially during this time when we are as-
saulted by so many calls to buy more. We know that too often these are
things that we desire now for ourselves and those we love, but will leave us
feeling empty later.

People **Guide us, Lord.**

Leader Inspire us to give more of ourselves, our presence, our listening ears. May we use our God given creativity to share ourselves in new ways that help us move more deeply into relationship with others.

People **Inspire us, Lord.**

Leader Surround us with your love so great that you sent your son to be made human, one of us. He came to us not as a king or a ruler, but as a helpless child. Let us be so overcome with that love that we share it with all in our reach.

People **Surround us, Lord.**

Leader We invite all to offer prayers of petition, intercession, or thanksgiving silently or if aloud, ending with "This is my prayer," to which all will respond, "**Amen.**"

A time for individual prayers is observed.

Leader Let us pray.

People **Hear our prayers, Holy One, and fill us with your peace that passes all understanding. Amen.**

A Prayer of Confession

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is observed.

People **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

Absolution

Presider God forgives you; forgive yourself and go in peace.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider God's peace be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All, one with another, exchange a sign of peace.

Welcome

Clergy Greeting

Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider The Lord is here.

People **God's Spirit is with us.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right indeed that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things, and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.

When the times had at last grown full and the earth had ripened in abundance, you made us in your image for yourself.

And even though we turn from you, again and again you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own to rear them in your way of compassionate love. From your own being you sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary our sister.

Jesus revealed your care for all you have made, and showed us your way of reconciliation. Looking forward to the joy of new life Jesus suffered the pangs of the cross and in rising again became the first-born of the renewed family.

You sent your Holy Spirit and gave birth to us your church. Your Spirit stays to nurture and to guide us.

Now we join hands around your table, and with all creation we hymn your praise for your unending love, as we sing,

Sanctus

All **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider To you indeed be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

And so in this great sacrament we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

People **Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Presider Therefore, loving God, recalling now Christ's death and resurrection, we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness. Strengthen us to do your work, and to be your body in the world.

Unite us in Christ and give us your peace. Through your Holy Spirit, burning as a flame, gentle as a dove, may we who receive these gifts live lives of justice, love, and prayer, and be a voice for those who are not heard. In union with your whole church we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

All **Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider And now, as our Savior Jesus taught us, we pray:

All **Our Father, in heaven,**
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Invitation to Communion

Presider We, St. Mark's, recognize this as God's table set before us and for all and this bread and wine as God's food for us and for all.

Therefore whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe,

All **All are welcome and invited to receive. Amen!**

The Communion

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please make your needs known to the minister.

Music for Communion

Post Communion Prayer

Presider Together, let us pray.

All **God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen and renew us; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit, may your light so shine through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming. We ask this in the name of Jesus Emmanuel. Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider The Wisdom of God the Love of God and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve God. Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Liturgy Request

At St. Mark's, we frequently change the liturgy (the language we use during our worship service). Our goal is to use language that reflects our common effort to put into words our relationship with God. In order to keep the liturgy truly alive and life giving, we need your input. Please feel free to contact the clergy at any time to discuss the liturgy and how the words we say affect you.

Liturgy Source

Opening Sentences, Enriching Our Worship; Collect, adapted from the Church of England ; Prayers of the People, The Wideness of God's Mercy: Litanies to Enlarge Our Prayer; Eucharistic Prayer, Book of Common Prayer and Evangelical Lutheran Worship ; Blessing, based on the words of Henri Frederic Amiel; Dismissal, Episcopal Relief and Development.

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Following the service please join us for Holy Happy Hour, at which we share conversation, food, & drink.

✠ ✠ ✠

Liturgical Leadership

Jennifer Cate, Verger

✠ ✠ ✠



PARISH PRAYER LIST

Gladys Anderson (*Matt Patton's grandmother*) • Grace Aspinall • Federica Barrow •
Alishia Daugherty Bauman (*Kristen Deutsch's cousin, Stephanie and David Deutsch's daughter-in-law*) •
Pamela Blumgart • Janice Brown • Lynda Bugge •
Sylvie Kalas Braddock (*Barbara Nelson's granddaughter*) •
Anne Carter (*Justi Schunior's mother*) • Joya Cox • Deborah Cunningham •
Andrew Earnest (*Lynda Bugge's grandson*) •
Taylor Emerson (*Randy Marks' niece*) • Mr. and Mrs. David Glaze (*of Boulder CO*) •
Dave Haglund • Celia Hahn • Rick Hayes •
Alice Kistler (*Kathryn Powers' sister*) • Dennis Lewis • Elizabeth Long •
Lilly March • Nat Marks • Lila Marks •
Lina Marks (*Randy Marks' mother*) • Jane Miller • Barbara Nelson •
Leslie F. Nickerson (*Frank Nickerson's father and Amelia Nickerson's grandfather*) •
Randell Prothro • Marilyn Stiles • Arnold Taylor •



THOSE OF OUR PARISH SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Vincent Alcazar (*Parishioner*)
Clint Billings (*son of Kevin Billings and Mary Louise Wagner*)
P. J. Boehm (*brother of Rachel Boehm*)
Preston Brooks (*Parishioner*)
Stephen Dannenmaier (*brother and brother-in-law of Bill and Molly Dannenmaier*)
Jason Earnest (*son of Erika Bugge, grandson of Lynda Smith-Bugge*)
Kurt Hansen (*nephew of Brock and Penny Hansen*)
Weston Zarek (*son of Tom Zarek*)



IN THE DIocese OF WASHINGTON:

St. Thomas' Church, DC
St. Thomas' Church, P.G. County, and the Chapel of the Incarnation
Pray for all Jewish people as they celebrate Chanukah (December 24-January 1)

IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION:

Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh - (Armagh, Ireland)
The Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements, **not to exceed 150 words**, are to be submitted to diana@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 & Parish Leadership

1) **2017 CANVASS: Be. Belong. Give.** The formal Canvass period has ended -- many thanks to our stalwart canvassers for canvassing and to so many members for pledging! As of 15 December, we're more than 80% on the way towards our goal of \$870,000 and we're down to the last 100-or-so pledgers!

If you haven't already, PLEASE make your 2017 Canvass pledge today! Together we can make that 100% mark and get our 2017 operating budget finalized -- which needs to happen in the next few weeks. To find all the forms and background information you need, go to stmarks.net/donate and click one of the links to "Pledge to Donate in the Future" or "Forms For Making or Paying a Pledge." You can pledge online, you can download a paper pledge form and mail it in, or you can pick one up in the tract racks and either put it in the collection plate or in the office mailbox at the top of the stairs. Questions? Write to Nora Howell at stmarkscanvass@gmail.com.

2) **2016 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL FUND** The Festival Fund provides the resources necessary for the special music, flowers and decorations that reflect the sights and sounds of the Holy season. In keeping with this year's Advent Conspiracy to "Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All" we are planning to "green down." The happy result may be that Festival Fund giving exceeds budget requirements. In that event we will have the opportunity to direct surplus 2016 Christmas Festival Funds to St. Mark's refugee outreach activities. **As always, your contribution to remember, honor, or give thanks for loved ones or special events will be gratefully acknowledged in the worship bulletins for the Christmas services.** To make your Festival Fund donation, please complete a donation form with payment attached (cash or check make out to St. Mark's Church with a memo line note "festival fund") and submit it one of three ways: in the offering plate; using the staff/clergy drop box on the 2nd floor; or via mail to St. Mark's: 301 A Street SE, Washington, DC 20003. Contributions must be received no later than Sunday December 18. Donation forms are in the track racks, Sunday bulletin, or contact the church office at parishadmin@stmarks.net 202.543.0053.

From the Office

3) **Announcements:** In order to ensure that there is adequate time to prepare the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins, please submit any announcements or rota changes to the office by 12:00 pm on Monday, December 19. This deadline is a change from the normal schedule, and will be strictly enforced due to staff travel and vacation.

4) **Staff transition:** Former parish administrator Diana (Church) Empsall is no longer able to continue preparing the weekly service bulletins. Her final bulletin will be Christmas Day. Beginning with the bulletin for January 1, 2017 and until further notice, please direct all bulletin-related questions and content to Andrea Wood at parishadmin@stmarks.org.

Worship

5) **11:15 Bread and Wine Rota:** January and February are now available on the SignupGenius site: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0949acac29a6fe3-bread>. Put in your request before the rush. We are now requesting 2 bottles of wine until further notice. You can sign up on the website or email me at cecbill@mac.com. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

6) Acolyte Service. Interested in being an acolyte at 11:15 services? Participating in the service adds another dimension to your experience of, and is a contribution to, our community's weekly ritual. All the training and support you might need will be provided. Interested? Contact Michael Knipe @haroldknipe@gmail.com, or 202-487-3990.

7) 11:15 Lay Servers. Would you like to play a central part in our worship? We are recruiting volunteers to be lay servers at the 11:15 service. No particular experience or training is needed although there is a manual. Volunteers generally sign up once a month or once every two months. This is an important, meaningful position. **Contact:** Linda Huntington at 301 279-2248.

Christian Education

8) January Christian Education Weekend. What do you need for yourself, your family, your community and the world to understand and make sense of these fraught and complex times? To whom will you turn while traversing these troubled waters? What can our church do to help us all navigate these seas and engage the world beyond our community in dialogue and action? If you'd like to explore these questions with others in our community, come join us on the Christian Education Weekend! Location: Saint Mark's Church; babysitting available by arrangement, A special invitation is extended to those who have not previously attended a Christian Ed weekend and to parents with children. Signup: Church foyer. Questions: Please contact us at: peter.eveleth@gmail.com, hepheather@gmail.com,, hpowers@wendtcenter.org, or crupp@ix.netcom.com.

9) Christian Education Catalog: The 2016-17 Christian Education Catalog is now available on-line at <http://staging.stmarks.net/grow/classes/> and in the tract racks in the Nave. Please take a moment to check out our classes. You'll find information on Sunday School, Adult Bible Study, and classes on a variety of topics ranging from race and privilege to the art of documentary film. Questions? Contact Lucy Brown (lucybrown66@gmail.com) and Joe Calizo (jcalizo@gmail.com).

10) Thursday Night Bible Study Thursday night religious study will be exploring the Christian mystic tradition, starting with four medieval English mystics: Richard Rolle and The Fire of Love, the anonymous author of The Cloud of Unknowing; Walter hinton and The Ladder of Perfection; and ending with Dame Julian of Norwich and Revelations of Divine Love. Our text will be Visions of God by Karen Armstrong. We hope this may become an ongoing inquiry into religious mysticism, as it is experienced in Christianity and other faith traditions. **When:** Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:00 p.m. **Where:** Dozier Library. **Fee:** \$25 contribution per semester. **Questions:** Contact Bill Jones (billclough@icloud.com) and Kathleen Grant (queenmommy17@gmail.com).

11) ONGOING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. These groups meet weekly and are open to newcomers.

SMMC Meditation, Mondays, 7:30-9:00 pm, Nave

Marching Through the Bible: Gospel of Mark, Sundays, 10:00-11:00 am, Penniman Room

Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 11:00 am-12:15 pm; brown bag lunch follows, Elders' Room

Thursday Night Bible Study, 7:30-9:00 pm, Dozier Library

12) INTRODUCTION TO LIFE AT ST. MARK'S. Three sessions from 12:30-2:00, **Sundays**, every other month. Dates: Jan. 8, 15, 22; March 5, 12, 19, May 7, 14, 21. Opportunities to formally join St. Mark's congregation during a liturgy are on Jan. 29, March 26, and May 28. Leaders: The Rev. Michele Morgan and Youth and Family Director Caroline McReynolds-Adams. In the Dozier Library.

13) CATECHESIS: Have you ever wondered what goes on in the Catechesis classrooms? Wanted to give back to St. Mark's by teaching Sunday School? Hoping to connect more closely with St. Mark's youth? We are looking for a few good volunteers to help teach. Catechesis runs from late September through May each year. Training is provided. If you'd prefer to try a couple classes before committing to the full year, that's ok too - we welcome any participation! All teachers will need to complete the "Safeguarding God's Children" class. Please contact Kris Humphrey (kristenjhumphrey@gmail.com) or Nora Howell (nora.howell.va@gmail.com) for more information.

14) MARCHING THROUGH THE BIBLE: The Gospel of Mark. This weekly class meets at 10a.m. in the Penniman Room. The Jesus stories in Mark, our Patron Saint, are the oldest in the New Testament, and reflect the struggles in the early Christian community during the first Jewish revolt against Rome (66-74 A.D.). The stories are pithy, direct, and challenging, with Jesus's sidekicks (the disciples) behaving very much like us! The course consists of class discussion of the Mark text assigned for that day. Regular attendance is encouraged. Additional outside readings are not expected. "Marching Through the Bible" is named in memory of our long-time convener, Francis "Buzz" March. Fee: \$25 per semester. Convener: Bob Ewald.

Music & Arts

15) TWELFTH NIGHT CONCERT Armonia Nova, an ensemble of period instruments and voices specializing in music of the 12th-17th centuries, will offer a concert in celebration of Epiphany and the Winter Solstice titled "When the World was Brightest: Celebrations of Twelfth Night Throughout the Lands." Performers include Constance Whiteside, artistic director, medieval & baroque triple-strung harps, Craig Resta, vielle & baroque violin, and Jay White, countertenor. **When:** Saturday Jan. 7th, 2017 7:30pm. **Where:** Nave. Free-will offering. No tickets required. All are welcome.

16) CAROLS & CHEER. Come join us Wednesday, Dec 21 for a fun evening singing your favorite Christmas carols while enjoying some snacks and drinks. Social time starts at 6:30 and singing goes from about 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Drop in any time! Please bring a snack or beverage to share or \$5.

17) MUSIC LESSONS. The St. Mark's Music Studio offers voice lessons with Kellie McHugh (kellie.mchugh.81@gmail.com) and Adam Caughey (adamcaughey@gmail.com) and piano lessons with Jeff Kempeskie (jeff.kempeskie@stmarks.net). Students of all ages and levels of experience are welcome.

18) DO YOU LIKE TO SING OR PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? If so, we want to know! Singers of all voice parts are needed in the Chancel Choir (regular Thursday 7:30-9:30 pm rehearsals in the nave). Teens are invited to sing with the Teen Choir and children are invited to sing with the Boys & Girls Choir (both rehearse Sundays, 11-11:45 in the Music Studio & Elders' Room, respectively). The Handbell Choir rehearse every other Wednesday from 6:45-8 pm. No prior experience necessary. There are also opportunities to play solo instrumental pieces year-round. Please contact jeff.kempeskie@stmarks.net.

Outreach

19) SOUP KITCHEN SANDWICH MAKING TODAY! Please join us in Baxter Hall today, from 4:00 – 4:45 PM as we prepare 200 sandwiches for Sunday Suppers, a St. Mark's supported program which provides Sunday evening meals to hungry souls. We always need at least 4-5 sandwich making volunteers! Please help us with this important Outreach commitment. Questions? Contact Jack Richards or Alix Pereira. (See also the related announcement elsewhere in this bulletin: GIVE THE HOMELESS FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP.)

20) Save the Date: January 12th : Homelessness in our city is widespread and touches both genders as well as families. Join St. Mark's Woman to Woman and the Outreach Committee as guest speaker Korin Bishop leads a discussion on Women and Homelessness in DC and across the nation. We encourage attendees to bring donations of new feminine products and/or new ladies undergarments. 7-8:30pm in Baxter Hall

21) Shelter Ministry News: Damonte and his grandmother are now in their own apartment! Many thanks to Nadine Hathaway, Tucker Harris, Neal and Janice Gregory, Christi Anthony, Carol Thornhill, and Martha Huizenga for their gifts of furniture and general household goods.

22) SUNDAY SUPPERS SUCCESS! Huge thanks to everyone who made a casserole last Sunday! We also had over two dozen volunteers and some students for Bowie state to serve the casseroles. It was really quite a party (with dancing even!). The next opportunity to participate is Sunday, Dec 18th. You can volunteer to drop off a casserole using our dump and bake recipe. You can volunteer to serve the casserole outside from 6 to 9pm. Please email lisa.ramish@gmail.com to participate. Advance notice is really appreciated!

23) Volunteer at St Mark's Shelter Ministry's Holiday Party for Capitol Hill Group Ministry supported families on Monday, December 19 at 6. We need dinner contributions. Come to Baxter Hall to help host and/or bring a dish for the dinner. Let dinner coordinator Diane Hoover (roadbikerdc@gmail.com) or Susan Sedgewick (jssedgewick@gmail.com) know if you would like to contribute sides or beverages. Come sing some carols, help with cookie decorating, and cheer Santa's arrival.

24) Advent Sale! The Annual MEWG Advent Sale of Christmas Gifts from Bethlehem and the West Bank will begin Sunday, November 27 – December 19 after all worship services. Our exceptional olivewood crèches, small nativity ornaments, and Fair Trade olive oil, za'atar and tapenade will be available. These items from farm and artisan cooperatives provide economic support to communities. Limited selection of some items, so shop early. If you anticipate needing quantities of olive oil for gifts, please contact karen.getman@gmail.com for advance orders and special delivery. A 20% donation from the sale will be contributed to refugee assistance project. The Middle East Working Group manages the sale (with assistance Pilgrimage Groups) Give a gift that gives twice!

25) Helping refugees: what are the choices? Find out on February 11. St. Mark's will host an event where you play the part of someone involved in the refugee crisis, in a scenario set in DC. Learn what people and your elected government can do. Listen to what other people think. Find common ground. Work towards solutions, not postures. For more information, go to <http://www.refugeemegagame.com>. Sign up now, it's free to participate!

26) GIVE THE HOMELESS FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP - Every Sunday, a group of volunteers provides food and friendship to the homeless in our city. It is a ministry that focuses as much on the social/emotional needs of DC's most vulnerable citizens as it does their physical needs. For years St. Mark's has provided sandwiches for guests to take with them after sharing a hot meal. Now we are also looking for volunteers to help provide the hot meals, or to serve the meals, or both. Our most pressing need is for 6-9pm on Sunday, Nov. 27th. We also need help on Dec 4, Dec 18 and Dec 25. If you are interested, please email Lisa.ramish@gmail.com.

27) The Middle East Working Group announces "The 2017 St. Mark's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land". Planning has begun for travel in mid-October 2017 a 10 – 14 day options. Once again, MEJDI Tours will provide travel support for a multi-narrative encounter with people and places.. The historical holy sites of our own Christian faith and other Abrahamic religions (Islam and Judaism) are a highlight of the pilgrimage. But differing from traditional Holy Land trips, our itinerary will include meetings with individuals whose work for peace and justice are beacons of light in a troubled land. **Interested.... want to know more?** Add your name to the sign up sheet in the foyer or contact Tom and Karen Getman at karen.getman@gmail.com **and we will contact you with preliminary itineraries, costs, and a registration of intent.**

28) Refugee Update: Curious about the status of refugee resettlement? Lutheran Social Services assures the Capitol Hill Good Neighbor project that refugee resettlement is not an endangered program. However, many families who have been vetted arrive with family connections already in the States and do not need the level of support our community offers. LSS is awaiting a good match who will benefit from the assistance our group can provide. Thanks to those who are on our volunteer list as we continue to prepare. Want more information to volunteer your friendship and skills to resettlement? Contact: karen.getman@gmail.com

Parish Life

29) BRINGING CHRISTMAS TO ALISA IN JAIL: Alisa Earnest (aka Andrew) will be spending Christmas in Piedmont Jail, in a room with one small window, with more than 8 1/2 years of prison to come. A number of us are in regular contact, but her second Christmas in jail is going to be difficult. Please consider sending a card/letter addressed on the outside to Mr. Andrew Earnest c/o Piedmont Regional Jail, PO Drawer 388 Farmville, VA 23901. If you'd like a reply, write your return address on the card/letter; prisoners don't get the envelopes. Please don't send cards w/audio chips or other gimmicks; they'll probably be rejected. More information: Michelle Strange <MichelleKnitter@gmail.com> or Randy Marks <rmarksftc@yahoo.com>.

30) HELP GREEN AND DEGREEN THE NAVE. We are looking for volunteers to help strings lights and hang ornamentation from 5-9pm on Friday, Dec 23. No special talent required! Just enthusiasm! We also need help taking everything down after the 11:15 service on Jan 8. It is really nice if you can let us know you'll be there in advance so we don't have to worry about doing it alone. Email lisa.ramish@gmail.com.

31) BUILD OUR COLLECTION. The question we're asking ourselves for this year's Christmas greening is "How would a refugee decorate for Christmas?" One answer we have so far is that they would collect items as a community and repurpose them. So that's what we're going to do. You can help by bringing in any WHITE t-shirts (with or without a design on them) that you don't mind being cut up. You can also bring in pinecones or acorns. Please put them in the box under our sign in the foyer.

32) WE NEED YOUR TALL VASES! As part of an effort at collecting materials as a community to beautify the nave, we are looking for tall, large vases to use for Christmas. You can bring large vases (preferably 12 in. or higher) to church from now until Dec 18. Please place them by the Baptismal Font. Your vases will be available for pick-up after Jan 8. Questions? Email Lisa.ramish@gmail.com

33) Columbarium News: The vestry recently voted to raise the price for St. Mark's columbarium niches from \$1200 to \$1500, effective January 1, 2017. The change was based on an analysis of the prices now being charged at other churches in our area and is the first such increase in 10 years. Anyone considering the purchase of one or more niches is encouraged to contact Penny Hansen (pennyhansn@aol.com), the Columbarium Coordinator, before the price change at the beginning of the coming year. Purchase of niches is limited to members of St. Mark's Church and their immediate family.

34) READING GROUP meets the first Monday of every month in the Dozier library downstairs opposite the nursery at 7:30 p.m. There is no meeting in January 2017; For February 6, we will read *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson. If you have read the book, please join us for the discussion. **Contact:** Linda Ewald (lherbe@yahoo.com, 301 541-5133).

35) CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP for those caring for a seriously ill or otherwise incapacitated family member or friend. The group now meets on the second and fourth Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Dozier Library. Please note the change in day and time. If you think such a group might be helpful to you, please contact Mary Welker (292-387-4083) (marymwelker@aol.com) or Pamela Blumgart (202-631-4936) (pjblumgart@mail.com) prior to attending a meeting. The group will not meet again until January 9, 2017.

36) LOOKING FOR HELP WITH HOUSEHOLD SERVICES? Help David Durant help you. After Easter, St. Mark's replaced Green Maintenance with PMM as its janitorial services provider. GM laid off David Durant who had worked at SM for 7 years. Since then, David has actively sought permanent employment. Meanwhile, he has only been able to obtain sporadic work such as detailing cars, indoor carpet cleaning, raking yards, etc.). Except for these odd jobs, and contributions from a few parishioners, he has received no other financial support; his present situation is urgent. In her letter of recommendation, Michele described David as efficient, very diligent and hardworking with a passion for caring for the people of St. Mark's. To help him obtain part-time employment or to perform odd jobs for you or your neighbors, please contact Penny Farley (p3farley@verizon.net), Pete Eveleth (peter.eveleth@gmail.com) or Nat White (whitenat1938@gmail.com).

Youth & Family Ministries

37) Nursery Closing: The nursery will be closed on Sunday Dec 25th, and January 1st.

38) TODAY: FINAL DAY FOR PAGEANT SIGN UPS! Calling all 3-13 year-old youth! Come sign up to be a part of our fun, joy-filled Christmas Pageant as an angel, animal, wise person, shepherd, reader, or member of the holy family! The Pageant takes place during our 4pm service on Dec. 24th. See Caroline or a pageant volunteer in Baxter Hall at 11am (right after Sunday School) to sign up!

39) TODAY: COOKIE DECORATING PARTY, PAGEANT COSTUME PICK-UP, AND GREENING OF THE NAVE KID'S CRAFTS! Kids of all ages are invited to join us today at 11am (right after Sunday School) in Baxter Hall for a special Advent celebration! We will have cookies to decorate, a fun craft to work on that will be used to help decorate the Nave for Christmas, and pageant costumes to pick up! See you there!

40) TOMORROW, DEC. 19 TEENS AT CAPITOL HILL GROUP MINISTRIES FAMILY NIGHT: A great group of youth helped to purchase and wrap 25 gifts for the shelter families at Capitol Hill Group Ministries, we are gathering again in Baxter Hall on Monday, Dec. 19 at 5:30pm for dinner and gift giving with our Capitol Hill neighbors. Even if you couldn't make the gift wrapping last week, I hope you will join us tomorrow! For more information, email Caroline (caroline@stmarks.net).

41) DEC. 24, CHRISTMAS PAGEANT! We hope all St. Mark's parishioners will join us for the traditional Christmas Pageant and Festival Eucharist at 4pm on Christmas Eve! This service is very family friendly and a wonderful way to celebrate the season. There will be a cookie reception afterwards, so come spend with this special evening with your St. Mark's family!

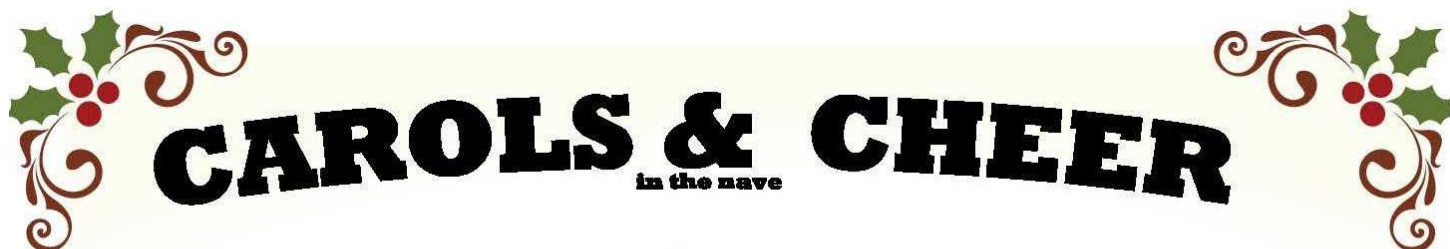
42) SAVE THE DATE: ST. MARK'S FAMILY SKI TRIP! We are once again journeying to Davis, WV over President's Day Weekend, Feb. 17-20, to spend time on the slopes, playing games, and building community. More information on pricing and registration will come in early January, but email Caroline for information! (caroline@stmarks.net).

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S: DECEMBER 18 TO DECEMBER 25

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18		
9:00am — 11:00am	Holy Eucharist	<i>Nave</i>
10:00am — 11:00am	Sermon Seminar	<i>Nave</i>
10:00am — 11:00am	Adult Bible Study/Youth Sunday School	<i>Lower Level</i>
10:00am — 12:00pm	Cookie Decorating Party	<i>Baxter Hall</i>
11:00am — 11:45am	Teen/Boys & Girls Choir Rehearsal	<i>Music Studio/Elders Rm</i>
11:15am — 12:30pm	Holy Eucharist	<i>Nave</i>
12:00pm — 1:00pm	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	<i>Adams Rm</i>
1:15pm — 3:15pm	Vestry Meeting	<i>Elders Rm</i>
4:30pm — 6:00pm	Sandwich Making for Sunday Suppers	<i>Baxter Hall</i>
4:30pm — 7:30pm	Yoga Classes	<i>Craighill Dance Studio</i>
5:00pm — 6:00pm	Contemplative Eucharist	<i>Nave</i>
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19		
10:00am — 1:15pm	Dance/Pilates	<i>Craighill Dance Studio</i>
6:00pm — 7:15pm	Sivananda Hatha Yoga	<i>Craighill Dance Studio</i>
6:30pm — 10:00pm	St. Mark's Players	<i>Elders Rm</i>
6:30pm — 8:30pm	Capitol Hill Group Ministry Holiday Family Night	<i>Baxter Hall</i>
7:30pm — 9:00pm	SMMC Meditation	<i>Adams Rm</i>
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20		
12:15pm — 1:15pm	Sivananda Hatha Yoga	<i>Craighill Dance Studio</i>
4:15pm — 9:30pm	Dance Classes	<i>Craighill Dance Studio</i>
6:00pm — 7:05pm	Sivananda Hatha Yoga	<i>Adams Rm</i>
6:30pm — 10:00pm	St Mark's Players	<i>Nave, Baxter Hall</i>
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21		
11:00am — 1:00pm	Wednesday Bible Study	<i>Elders Rm</i>
5:15pm — 6:30pm	Sivananda Hatha Yoga	<i>Adams Rm</i>
6:30pm — 10:00pm	St. Mark's Players	<i>Elders Rm</i>
7:00pm — 10:00pm	Outreach Board Meeting	<i>Penniman Rm</i>
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Carols and Cheer	<i>Nave/Kitchen</i>
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22		
12:00pm — 12:30pm	Holy Eucharist	<i>Chapel (Nave)</i>
7:30pm — 9:00pm	Bible Study Group	<i>Dozier Library</i>
7:30pm — 9:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<i>Nave</i>
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23		
5:00pm — 9:00pm	Greening of the Nave	<i>Nave</i>
6:00pm — 8:00pm	Women's AA Meeting	<i>Adams Rm</i>

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S: DECEMBER 18 TO DECEMBER 25

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
<i>CHRISTMAS EVE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24</i>		
2:00pm — 4:00pm	Christmas Eve Pageant Set-Up and Rehearsal	<i>Baxter Hall/Nave</i>
4:00pm — 5:30pm	Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Eucharist	<i>Nave</i>
5:00pm — 6:30pm	Christmas Eve Pageant Cookie Party	<i>Baxter Hall</i>
7:00pm — 8:00pm	AA Meeting	<i>Adams Rm</i>
8:45pm — 9:15pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<i>Nave</i>
9:30pm — 10:00pm	Congregational Caroling	<i>Nave</i>
10:00pm — 11:00pm	Festival Eucharist	<i>Nave</i>
<i>MERRY CHRISTMAS! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25</i>		
10:00am — 11:30pm	Holy Eucharist	<i>Nave</i>
MOST CURRENT Calendar online at: http://www.stmarks.net/connect/calendar/		



CAROLS & CHEER

in the nave

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 21
7-9PM**



**BRING:
FOOD OR DRINK TO
SHARE OR \$5
DONATION
FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

*The best way to spread Christmas cheer
is singing loud for all to hear!*



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH + CAPITOL HILL

+

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Andrea Wood, Parish Administrator for Programs and Facilities

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Patricia Schans, Finance Manager

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PMM, Maintenance Contractor

Monica Robles, PMM Staff Onsite Contact

Adjunct Clergy: The Reverends Susan Flanders, William Flanders

The Vestry

Senior Warden

Peter Sherer

seniorwarden.saintmarks@gmail.com

Junior Warden

Doris Burton

stmarksjuniorwarden@gmail.com

Class of '17

Fritz Henn, Martha Huizenga, Stephen Dalzell

Class of '18

Doug Jackson, Christina White, Karen Wiedemann

Class of '19

Stephanie Deutsch, Thia Hamilton, Beth Mahood

Officers

Andrew Stafford, *Treasurer*

Martha Huizenga, *Assistant Treasurer*

Mary Anderson Cooper, *Register*

Jack Burton, *Manciple*

Michael Knipe, *Counsel*

Diocesan Delegates

Jim Steed

Joe Tarantolo

Bill Dickinson



Welcome Guests!

We'd like to get to know you better!

We invite you to fill out this page, tear it off, and drop it into the offering plate or hand it to one of the greeters as you leave. Please take the rest of this service bulletin with you, so that you can refer to the service schedule, office directory, and information about upcoming events and classes at St. Mark's.

We hope you feel at home with us. If you have questions, please speak with the clergy or one of the greeters after the service. You can also call the office at any time and we will be happy to help you in any way we can.

Thank you for visiting St. Mark's today.

Go in peace and return often!

After completing, please tear off this page and place in offering plate or give to greeter:

(please print)

I attended:

- 9 am Holy Eucharist
- 10 am Sermon Seminar
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist
- 5 pm Contemplative Eucharist
- Special (wedding, funeral, etc.)

Name _____

Email _____

Zip Code _____

Phone _____

I am interested in learning more about:

- Baptism (child, adult)
- Getting married at St. Mark's
- Music (choir, lessons)
- Children/youth classes & programs
- Adult classes
- Senior programs/activities
- Outreach/community service
- Environmental issues
- Yoga classes
- Dance classes
- St. Mark's Players (theatrical productions)

Would you like to be contacted by a clergyperson?

- Yes
- No