

March 25, 2018 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: stmarks.net/connect/calendar

From the Vestry and Parish Leadership

1. Easter Festival Fund. The Easter Festival Fund supports the costs of the special music, professional musicians, and the greening of the Nave at Easter. When supporting the music and greening at Easter, you can also remember, honor, or give thanks for loved ones or special persons, which will be printed in the bulletins for the Easter services on Sunday, April 1. A form for donations and dedications can be found in the bulletin and in the tract racks in the nave. Place the completed form and check/cash either in the Sunday collection plate, the clergy/staff drop box on the 2nd floor outside the church office, or in the mail to 301 A St. SE, Washington, DC 20003. **To be included in the bulletin, contributions must be received at the church by TOMORROW, Monday, March 26.** Direct any questions to Michael Knipe at haroldknipe@gmail.com or 202.487.3990.

2. Extended Vision 2020 Campaign: We are imagining our spiritual home's tomorrow in more creative and exciting ways. Vision 2020 raised over \$4 million in gifts and in the sale of Baxter House. However, since we reached and stretched on our improvements during the Vision 2020 campaign, we still now service a debt of approximately one million, which costs us \$70,000 a year. We have some fundamental maintenance and structural issues that need to be addressed soon in order to keep us safe and comfortable in our communal space. Erasing or significantly reducing the 2020 debt and making other capital improvements are the primary drivers of this campaign along with our desire to make a significant gift to our broader community. Because we are sustained by the power of community and strong pastoral support, the Extended Vision 2020 presents an opportunity to support and ensure that St. Mark's will continue to be a force that continues to sustain us, and allows us to contribute to the broader community. We invite 100% participation; the glass is half-full.

Pledges are a three-year commitment and will be accepted until May 31, 2018, with payment due in full by March 31, 2021. Pledge forms are in the Church Office, online and will be in the track racks in the nave at each entrance. Co-Chairs Rob Hall and Jackie Boddie can be reached at ExtendedVision@stmarks.net, to address any questions or concerns you may have. Please contact us if you would like to meet and discuss the Extended Vision.

Youth & Family Ministries

3. March 31- Walking After Jesus: Looking for meaningful way to experience Holy Week with your family? Join us for this year's Walking After Jesus-- a creative storytelling of the events of Holy Week on **Saturday, March 31 from 10am-11am.** We will take a journey through Holy Week but will find ourselves a few steps behind Jesus at every turn. Along the way we will encounter a few people who help to tell the story and show us where to go next as we move closer and closer to Easter Sunday. Led by our wonderful clergy and some very animated parishioners, this will be a great way to experience the story of Holy Week as a family while we all prepare for Easter Sunday.

4. April 1- Easter Sunday: We will have our traditional **Easter Egg hunts following the 9am and 5pm services.** Please bring a dozen eggs (plastic filled or dyed- up to you!) and a basket to participate. There will also be an **Easter potluck lunch-** interested families email Lisa Ramish at lisa.ramish@gmail.com.

5. April Parenting Class - Growing Together - Growing Apart: For children, "growing up" can mean periods of building deep bonds. Yet, childhood and adolescence must also necessarily include periods of separation and experiences of loss. Over the course of four consecutive Sunday mornings, we will explore how we build strong connections in our families and how we embrace the pain inherent in letting go. We hope you will join teachers Bill Jordan, Kit Arrington, Jim Ashley and Julie Murphy **on Sunday mornings, April 8 - 29, from 9 am to 11 in the Adams Room** to explore how we build strong connections in our families and how we embrace the pain inherent in letting go. To sign up or for more information, email Julie Murphy at juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com.

6. April 22- Earth Day Garden Cleanup and Celebration: The Green Lions Committee working with Youth and Family Ministries is sponsoring an event for families with young children (**age 5 to 10**) on **Sunday, April 22nd right after Sunday school (11am-12pm)**. Parents are asked to come to help supervise and siblings are invited. There will be some activity games, simple tasks in the gardens, and "green treats." In case of rain, the event will be held indoors. To help us plan and get details, please email Caroline to RSVP or for more information.

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

Music & Arts

7. 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 Kempeskie, Director of Music: jeff@stmarks.net

8. Music Lessons. At the St. Mark's Music Studio, Julia Morris (juliamorris23@gmail.com) teaches flute lessons; Diane Atherton (dianesvoicestudio@gmail.com) and Adam Caughey (adamcaughey@gmail.com) offer voice lessons; and Stephanie Ng (stephanien217@gmail.com) and Jeff Kempeskie (jeff@stmarks.net) teach piano lessons. Students of all ages and experience are welcome. Learn more about our teachers at stmarks.net/music.

Outreach

9. Episcopal Church in Jerusalem Contributions Needed: As our three pilgrim groups who visited the Holy Land experienced first-hand, political realities in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza cause limited access to education, health care and economic opportunities. Yet, the importance of Christians living and working in the region is essential to a civil society as Christians continue to provide a vital bridge between Muslims and Jews. **At Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we will collect funds to support the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and its institutions** which serve all, not only Christians. If you will not be present at either service but would like to contribute, please send a check made out to St. Mark's with GFO in the memo line. Contact: Mandy Paust paustak@gmail.com from the Middle East Working Group.

10. The Green Lion's (St. Mark's Environmental Action Group) Earth Day is Everyday. Ready to make an impact? Learn more or join the Draw Down Challenge today. The 100 most substantive solutions to 'draw down' global warming. See how your daily choices matter: <https://drawdown.ecochallenge.org/> Questions? Contact Victoria Doyon 202-286-3112

11. Israel/Palestine Film Festival: Film is a wonderful way to explore the complex, difficult, and emotional issues that have prevented peace in Israel/Palestine for over three generations. **A free series with discussion** following each showing – Voices from the Holy Land – is being offered in

March and April at multiple locations in DC, MD., and VA. All but one, April 14, will be on **Sundays at 2:30**. Titles include: Disturbing the Peace; Roadmap to Apartheid; Censored Voices; Jews Step Forward; Thank God It's Friday; The Field; Gaza – A Gaping Wound; Gaza in Context; The Danger of Neutrality; Bethlehem: Hidden from View; and Palestine Pre-1948. For more information go to www.voicesfromtheHolyland.org Co-sponsored by the St. Mark's Mid-East Working Group.

12. Sexual Harassment Bystander Intervention Training on Saturday, April 28: from 1-3pm in the Elders Room. The #MeToo movement has finally given the seriousness and pervasiveness of sexual harassment the attention it deserves. What is your role in preventing and ending sexual harassment in your workplace and community? Come to this two-hour training led by trainers from the awesome local non-profit organization, Collective Action for Safe Spaces (CASS). You'll learn tangible ways to intervene if you witness harassment, discrimination, or even microaggressions. The training cost \$25 per person and reservations are required. To reserve your spot or ask questions, email Lindsey Jones-Renaud at LJonesRenaud@gmail.com.

Parish Life

13. TODAY - Easter Decorations Everyone is invited after both services to come fold and string origami doves--materials and instructions provided--in the parish hall. Kids will have the opportunity to color eggs with Tracy and Caroline too! Questions, please contact Tracy Councill, tracy@tracyskids.org.

14. It Takes a Village – Or At Least St. Mark's - Thanks to the over 30 people who helped make Lilly March's reception a success on March 16th. A special thanks to Peter Mosley who MCed our memories of Lilly. Raiford Gaffney and Shelly McGinnis.

15. St. Mark's Reading Group meets on the **third Wednesday** of every month in the Dozier Library at **12:30 p.m.** On **April 18**, we will discuss *Stay With Me* by Ayobami Adebayo. Contact: Linda Ewald, llerbe@yahoo.com 301-541-5133

Christian Education

16. Crisis, Immigration, and Imagination – Loss and Reclaiming of Peoplehood in the Ancient and Post-Modern Worlds (Jesus Seminar) April 13, 14: Hal Taussig of Union Theological Seminary and Chebon Kernell, Executive Secretary of Native American and Indigenous Ministries/United Methodist Church and enrolled member of the Seminole Nation ask: what if the New Testament and related texts were not written to start a new religion but to address dislocations of populations, violence, and loss within the Roman Empire? **Second Century Mediterranean Christ-communities and 21st-century Native American communities share common challenges.** Each experienced forms of violence, migration, and forced refugee status, but also expressed spiritual resistance and renewal. How can this help us address similar conditions and renewal in Native American settings? **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. Register: <https://is.gd/jsordc2018>

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

- * **Sunday Morning Bible Class**, Sundays, **10-11 am, January 28-April 15, 2018 Penniman Room**
Studying the Book of Esther.
Convener: Bob Ewald (llerbe@yahoo.com) (301) 541-5133 One-time Bible Class fee: \$25
- * **SMCC Meditation**, Mondays 7:30-9pm, the Nave. Contact: Collie Agle chagle@washpathfind.com
- * **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 (xqueenmommy17@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