

September 2, 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.

The Official Parish Calendar is online at: stmarks.net/connect/calendar

From the Vestry and Parish Leadership

1. Updated Parish Directory and Connect with Realm: As noted in the last e-gospel, **on Wednesday August 22nd**, an updated version of the parish directory was created and sent out via e-mail to all parishioners directly from our new database called "Realm." If you haven't seen the directory, try searching your e-mail for the subject "parish directory." If you still don't find the directory, please send an e-mail to Patricia@stmarks.net to confirm that we have your correct e-mail address.

Going forward, our goal is to send out the directory quarterly. **Realm also allows us to expand our electronic community for our membership** where, among other things, parishioners could log in and look up basic contact information, register for not only Sunday School but also the Parish Retreat, buy tickets to the Maundy Thursday dinner, a dance or crab feast, review your past contributions, make a pledge to support the church, and set up recurring contributions all in one place!

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work on ways to help our dynamic community stay connected.

Parish Life

2. Parish Fair: On **Sunday, September 9, following the one 10 am service**, we will host a Parish Fair **in the Nave**. Fun and informative, it will feature information on all of the many activities, organizations, services and opportunities that make up the lifeblood of our church. **If you would like to have your group featured, please contact Julie Murphy** at juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com as soon as possible. We will make you a sign and assign you a table. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to learn more about how you can get involved and for groups to sign up, recruit and promote!

3. Scott's Ordination Celebration: On **Sunday, September 16**, we will celebrate the September 15 ordination of our wonderful Assistant Rector, Scott Lipscomb **after all three services**. **If you would like to help** with coffee hour after the 9 am service, with pub lunch after the 11:15 service or with a reception after the 5 pm service, **please email Julie Murphy** at juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com and she will put you in touch with those taking the lead on these celebrations!

4. The St. Mark's Reading Group typically meets on the third Wednesday of every month in the **Dozier Library at 12:30 pm**. On **September 19th**, we will discuss Judas by Amos Oz. Contact: Linda Ewald, llerbe@yahoo.com, 301-541-5133.

Christian Education

5. Catechesis Level I Adult Formation Class: "Help me get closer to God by myself." That's a quote from a young child who expressed very concisely the underlying principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). We adults prepare the room, arrange materials, tell the stories, ask questions, and give children the opportunity to enter into the stories in a deep and profound way – by themselves!

If you are interested in learning more about the program, or interested in teaching Sunday School, then come join us on Saturday, September 8 at 9:00 am in the Dozier Library downstairs. On that day, we'll meet until 4:00 pm, but will spend time sorting out meeting dates and times going forward, which are flexible. Nora Howell, certified by CGSUSA (cgsusa.org), will be teaching this class at no charge to St. Mark's parishioners (value \$700). Questions? Send them to Nora at nora.howell.va@gmail.com. **Ready to sign up? Do so on the clipboard in the foyer.**

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

- * **Sunday Morning Bible Class, 10-11 am, September 16, 2018 - May 19, 2019, Penniman Room Studying First Samuel (Hebrew Scriptures)**
Convener: Bob Ewald (lherbe@yahoo.com; (301) 541-5133)
First Samuel is the story of Israel's (rocky) transition in leadership from Priest (Samuel) to King (Saul, David). The course consists of class discussion of the text assigned for that day.
- * **SMCC Meditation, Mondays 7:30-9:00pm, in the Adams Room.**
Contact: Collie Agle, (202) 255-2687 or charles.agle@gmail.com
- * **Centering Prayer, Thursdays 7:30-8:30am, in the Nave.** Centering Prayer is rooted in the contemplative practices of the Desert Fathers. It is an early Christian contemplative practice that places a strong emphasis on interior silence. Our gathering is for individuals who would like to begin their work day in silence and non-busyness. Cynthia Bourgeault, an Episcopal priest, writes in her book *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening* "that even though we can perhaps find ways to stop 'outer noise' it is much more difficult to still the 'inner noise.'" Please contact Collie Agle if you are interested or curious, at (202) 255-2687 or charles.agle@gmail.com.
- * **Tuesday Evening Religious Discussion Group – starts again Sept 11th at 7:00pm in the Library.** We will begin the new season discussing religious fundamentalism.
Co-Coordinator: Bill Jones (billclough@icloud.com) Kathleen Grant (queenmommy17@gmail.com)
- * **The Wednesday Bible Class** will study the same prophets Jesus studied. This year we will focus on the Hebrew prophets. These pesky individuals insisted on speaking God's truth to those in power and wound up included in the Bible. We quote them still today (e.g, Amos — "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."). Who were they, what impact did they have, and what do they offer us today? As a resource & guide we will use the classic work "The Prophets" by Rabbi Abraham Heschel. Class **starts on Wednesday, 09/05 at 11:30 am (note time change) until 12:45 pm.** Brown bag lunch follows. Location: **Elders Room in undercroft.**
Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney, rgaffneydc@gmail.com. .

Youth & Family Ministries

7. TODAY, No Sunday School: We will be back in Sunday School for the new school year on Sept. 16, with registration and open house during the Parish Picnic on Sept. 9.

8. 9/9, Parish Picnic Kids Activities and Youth Table: After the single 10am morning service on Sept. 9, there will be a parish wide picnic with fun **kids activities in the courtyard until 12:30pm**-- face painting, carnival games, prizes, and more! Also, stop by the **youth table in the Nave** during the parish programs fair to learn more about our 2018-19 programming and register for Sunday School.

9. 9/16, Sunday School Begins! The 2018-19 Sunday School year will begin **Sept. 16 at 10am in the undercroft** for youth ages 3 to 18. Volunteers will be on hand to help you find the right classroom and get registered. All are welcome!

10. 9/16, Youth at Sunday Suppers: Youth and families are taking over the Sunday Suppers outreach! Sign up to bring a casserole, serve the meal, help drive the youth, and more. **Orientation and training is at 5pm and we leave for Franklin Square at 5:30pm.** This is a great way to give back to our neighborhood and spend time together, and we need everyone's help to make it work. Sign up to volunteer at <https://bit.ly/2LCvt72> or email Caroline.

11. 9/22-23, Middle School Lock In: Youth grades 6th-8th are invited to kick off the school year at our annual Fall Lock In at the church. Movies, games, good food, and fun will be had by all. Register today: <http://www.stmarks.net/grow/youth-and-family-ministry/>.

12. 9/29-30, High School Retreat: Youth grades 9th-12th are invited to spend a relaxing weekend away at **YMCA Camp Tockowgh in Worton, MD.** Start off the school year right with climbing walls, archery, canoeing, bonfire and more. Register today: <http://www.stmarks.net/grow/youth-and-family-ministry/>.

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

Music & Arts

13. 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) teaches piano lessons. Students of all ages and experience are welcome. Learn more about our teachers at stmarks.net/music.

Worship

14. Ush with Us on Sundays! St. Mark's is expanding the corps of people who welcome all to worship each Sunday. We know the importance of greeting people warmly and helping them enter into worship with all that they need to participate comfortably. Ushers make that happen...by arriving 15 minutes early, greeting and giving out bulletins with the correct hymnal(s), and taking up the offering. To help this ministry flourish, St. Mark's begins this fall to use a software program designed to facilitate advance scheduling, process substitution requests, and provide automatic reminders. Whoo hoo! Ushering once every few months, monthly, or weekly are all options. Consider whether being part of the usher corps is a way that you might want to support our church. **If you are interested, email josiejordan52@gmail.com.**

Outreach

15. Sip and Savor with CHGM: Capitol Hill Group Ministry (CHGM) will hold its third annual Sip and Savor event on **Saturday, September 8th, 7:30 -10:30 pm at the historic Eastern Market's North Hall.** Sip and Savor will be a lively celebration of local food, craft beer, wine, cider, spirits, and music--all in support of our homeless neighbors. Join us for unlimited food and beverage samples from 24 of the Capitol Hill area's best restaurants, breweries, wineries, and distilleries while you enjoy music performed by local artists and bid on fabulous silent auction prizes. New this year--spirits and more wine vendors! **Early Bird tickets are \$60 through August 10th. \$25 teetotaler tickets are also available.** For more information and to purchase tickets and sponsorships, visit <http://sipandsavor.chgm.net>. We'll see you there!

16. Eat Pancakes and Support Refugees: Saturday, September 22 (9:00 am – noon) 522 7th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003. This is not your *ordinary* pancake breakfast. Our pancakes feature exciting toppings.... The *suggested donation* of \$10 pp (discount for kids) fully supports the ongoing needs of the Capitol Hill Good Neighbor Refugee Project. Come eat pancakes and meet neighbors from the Afghan Refugee support team . (Want to reserve a table for your family and friends....ryhop21@gmail.com)

17. Volunteer with Refugee Resettlement Team: Want to make a positive impact in someone's life? This is an invitation to Volunteer with our Capitol Hill Good Neighbor Refugee Resettlement Team. Refugees need *friends* and mentors! The Good Neighbor program has helped to furnish apartments for many Afghan families during the past 18 months and these families are grateful for the welcome they have received in the US. However, they face many challenges in acclimating to a new life. Gaining basic English competence and developing confidence and networking skills are all important to their future assimilation and sustainable employment.

Interested? Here are two opportunities to explore how you might get involved: **The Employment Mentors met on Wednesday, August 29 (7:00-8:30 pm) at St. Mark's Church** (3rd and A Street SE - lower level in the Rector's Room). **The English Tutoring Team will meet Tuesday, September 11th (7:00-8:30) in the same location.** Want more information? Contact: margaretmclaughlin50@comcast.com or karen.getman@gmail.com

Banns of Marriage

18. I publish the **banns of marriage** between Rhonda Summey and Garry Hester. If any of you know just cause why they may not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are bidden to declare it. This is the second time of asking.