

## **December 9, 2018 Announcements**

*Announcements, **not to exceed 150 words**, are to be submitted to [bulletin@stmarks.net](mailto: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](http://stmarks.net/connect/calendar)

### **From the Vesty & Parish Leadership**

**1. NAVE RESTORATION AND EXTENDED VISION 2020:** We have recently received an updated proposal from Aeon, our restoration contractor, for Phase 2 of the Nave restoration work. Aeon's very detailed and extensive bid came in higher than we expected. We believe that as leaders of the parish we have an important fiduciary duty to the parish to understand the proposal in detail, and we have already started that process with Aeon. We also are re-assessing the goals and priorities of our Extended Vision 2020 campaign, and we ask for your patience as we develop our recommendations to the parish. We also ask that you place a hold on your calendar for Saturday night, January 26, for a special event we plan to hold in the Nave to commemorate our progress thus far and to announce a path forward.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Michele at [michele@stmarks.net](mailto:michele@stmarks.net), or Nora at [seniorwarden@stmarks.net](mailto:seniorwarden@stmarks.net), or Kenn at [juniorwarden@stmarks.net](mailto:juniorwarden@stmarks.net), or Rob Hall at [prhall3@gmail.com](mailto:prhall3@gmail.com), or Jackie Boddie at [jl3135@gmail.com](mailto:jl3135@gmail.com). We will be getting back to you soon.

### **Youth & Family Ministries**

**2. Ongoing - Pageant Sign Ups begin + Mini Advent Wreath Making at Coffee Hour-** Be sure to stop by the undercroft bulletin board (at the end of the Sunday School Hallway) to sign up for a part in our Christmas Pageant. Youth of all ages are encouraged to participate.

**TODAY - CHGM Gift Party (Middle + High School youth):** St. Mark's youth are sponsoring two shelter families through Capital Hill Group Ministries, and on Dec. 9 after Sunday School we will go to Walmart to shop for gifts and return to wrap them. Pizza lunch provided. Each youth needs to bring \$20 to cover a gift. Adult drivers needed- contact Caroline for more information.

**TODAY- Sunday Suppers:** Our December Sunday Suppers Outreach is TONIGHT! Bring casseroles, help drive youth, and/or serve a meal at Franklin Square. We will **meet at 5:45pm** for pizza and **head to Franklin Square at 6pm**. This is a great opportunity to earn service hours, hang out with friends, and give back to our community. Sign up today! <https://bit.ly/2Rd7lvh>.

**Dec. 16- Family Fellowship Ice Skating at Canal Park Ice Rink:** Families of all ages are invited to join us after Sunday School to walk down to Canal Park Ice Rink! Group rate is \$10/person.

**Dec. 23- Christmas Cookie Decorating Party + Pageant Costume Pick Up + Lead Rehearsal (No Sunday School)**

**Dec. 24- 4pm Christmas Pageant**

Questions regarding these activities? **Contact Director of Youth and Family Ministries Caroline McReynolds-Adams** [caroline@stmarks.net](mailto:caroline@stmarks.net)

## Music & Arts

**3. Handel's Messiah Concert:** The Chancel Choir is teaming up with DC Strings orchestra to present a performance of part I of Handel's Messiah and Saint-Saens' Christmas Concerto on **Friday, Dec. 7th at 8:00 pm in the nave**. Please join us for this special concert.

**4. Carols & Cheer:** Come sing your favorite Christmas carols while socializing and enjoying some food and drinks. **Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 6:30-9:30 pm**. Bring a beverage or some food to share or \$5. Drop in anytime.

**5. ISO String Players for a Good Neighbor Refugee Project Benefit Concert:** Do you play violin, viola, cello or bass? Are you interested in playing with a chamber string group here on Capitol Hill? Then Second Strings Orchestra, is looking for you! Formed in 2015, the group is comprised of adult musicians who love all kinds of music and enjoy the challenge and camaraderie of the ensemble. **We are planning to use our February concert at St. Mark's Church as a benefit for the Good Neighbor program's work** supporting refugee families in the DC region. We rehearse at **Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church on Tuesday evenings, 7:30PM - 9:00PM**. Email: (ruth.kroeger@gmail.com) for more information. Thanks, and we hope you'll join us for this great cause!

**6. Get Involved in Music.** We're always looking for more people to participate in the music program! The **Chancel Choir** rehearses **Thursdays 7:30-9:30 pm**, the **Boys & Girls Choir** rehearses approx. **every other Sunday from 11-12:30 pm** and the **Handbell Choir** rehearses the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 6:45-8 pm**. Let us know if you play an instrument and we can also find ways to get you involved. Contact Music Director Jeff Kempeskie at jeff@stmarks.net for more info.

**7. Music Lessons are available through the St. Mark's Music Studio:** Julia Morris (juliamorris23@gmail.com) teaches flute lessons; Diane Atherton (dianesvoicestudio@gmail.com) offers 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.

## Outreach

**8. Sunday Suppers Sandwich Making Today!** Please join us in **Baxter Hall today, at 4:00 P.M.**, as we prepare 90 sandwiches, in support of Sunday Suppers, managed and supported by St. Mark's parishioners. We usually complete sandwich making in about 30 minutes. Please help us with this very important program. Questions? Please contact Co-Managers Jack Richards @ ktjr89@verizon.net) or Alix Pereira @ alix.pereira@gmail.com

**9. Mid-East Working Group Sales!** Worried about finding the perfect gift? The Mid-East Working Group is selling Palestinian olive oil and olive wood ornaments and crèches from Bethlehem. There is special urgency this year because of the Trump Administration decision to cut humanitarian funds to UNRWA and USAID. These cuts are having severe consequences for two Episcopal institutions – Ahli Hospital in Gaza and the Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children in East Jerusalem. Therefore, all profits from this year's Advent sales will be sent to the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem for Ahli Hospital and the Princess Basma Centre.

We hope you will be generous as always in your purchases. A bottle of olive oil with a ribbon and an olive wood ornament attached is a lovely gift for your favorite cook. What better time to give a crèche from Bethlehem to a young family learning the nativity story? **The sale runs until December 23.**  
<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2018/10/26/cuts-threaten-humanitarian-institutions-ministries-aiding-palestinians/> Contact: Maureen Shea mtshea@aol.com

**10. Celebrate the Joy of Christmas with Christians in the Holy Land.** Thanks to the internet, congregations in D.C. and in Bethlehem pray, sing and worship together in one of the most moving experiences you will have to celebrate Christmas. The two congregations alternate in leading prayers and hymns. The service is **December 15 at 9:30am EST. Come to the National Cathedral, or join online at [www.cathedral.org](http://www.cathedral.org).**

**11. Be Santa to a needy family!** This year, instead of St Mark's hosting a Family Night Christmas party for Capitol Hill Group Ministry we are joining their Adopt-a-Family Holiday program, where volunteers provide wrapped Christmas gifts for a family. CHGM has small, medium, and large-sized families who have registered their wish lists. How it works: You sign up to adopt a family, Shelah Wilcox from CHGM will send you your family's wish list of items of clothing, simple toys, household items, etc. (She will also provide you with a donation receipt.) **Wrapping Party at St. Mark's Baxter Hall will be on Monday, Dec 17th at 6:30.** Wrapping supplies and light dinner will be supplied. It is fun to organize a small team to shop and wrap for a family. To sign up for a family, email Shelah Wilcox at [wilcox@chgm.net](mailto:wilcox@chgm.net). Let her know the size family you would like and that you are from St. Mark's. Want to learn about other ways you can help Santa? Contact Susan Sedgewick ([jssedgewick@gmail.com](mailto:jssedgewick@gmail.com)) or Stephanie Deutsch ([scd@his.com](mailto:scd@his.com)). Look for a flyer about this wonderful and fun way to serve our broader community.

**12. Grate Patrol is looking for a person or family to join the team.** Grate patrol provides 200 lunches for the Salvation Army to distribute on the fourth Sunday of each month for those living on street 'grates'. We currently have 3 team members and would like to have 4, so that each of our commitments are just 3 months per year. This relatively easy outreach is a wonderful community service. Leading a given Sunday includes shopping for supplies (which are reimbursed), making an announcement the day of preparing the lunches, preparing the lunches with help, and delivering them to the Salvation Army on New York Avenue. Whose hands do God's work? Our hands. Contact Edna Boone at [ednaboon@gmail.com](mailto:ednaboon@gmail.com)

**13. Special New Year's Supper:** We have a gap in Sunday Suppers coverage for a rare 5th **Sunday, December 30th**. It is a tough time to get help because so many people are out of town for the holidays. If you are able to help in any way - cooking, serving or getting items for the To Go bags, we would be very grateful. Please email [Lisa.ramish@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa.ramish@gmail.com).

### *Parish Life*

**14. Parish Prayer List:** with the beginning of the new church year, we have assembled a new parish prayer list. If you or a loved one would like to be added to the list, **please email Scott**, our Assistant Rector: [scott@stmarks.net](mailto:scott@stmarks.net), and he will be happy to add any names!

**15. Advent Reflections, 7:30 to 9:30 pm on Tuesday, December 18 in the Dozier Library.**

What is the meaning of Advent for adult Christians? Advent is a season that invites us to slow down and embrace the silence in our hearts. It's an excellent time to explore the dark nights of the soul and find solace in recollection and contemplative practices. Please join us on December 18! Coordinator: Patricia Catalano, [patricia.catalano@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.catalano@gmail.com)

**16. Dec. 22 Film Club Outing - "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) -** Join us on Saturday, Dec. 22, for a holiday outing to see Frank Capra's masterpiece, starring James Stewart, with Donna Reed, Henry Travers and Lionel Barrymore. **Saturday Dec. 22, Showtime 7:00 PM, Meet at 6:30 PM. AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, Maryland.** (Purchasing advanced tickets online is recommended.) For further information, contact Alicia Ruble, at 202-420-9256, or [blurbologist@hotmail.com](mailto:blurbologist@hotmail.com) or [amruble@outlook.com](mailto:amruble@outlook.com).

**17. The Annual Bob Hahn and Crane Miller Memorial Bird Watching Trip** to Blackwater NWR will be a short-notice event, most likely occurring in January instead of December. If you would like to be placed on a list for a short notice trip please contact either: Jane Miller (202) 669-2528, [jlm104@earthlink.net](mailto:jlm104@earthlink.net) OR Gretchen Willson (202) 362-4417, [gretchenwillson943@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenwillson943@gmail.com). Last season's trip occurred on a lovely, crisp but not frigid January Saturday. We will be looking for similar "fair" weather.

### **Christian Education**

**18. Wrestling with the Angel.** Each **second Sunday of the month we meet at 1:15 downstairs in the library** to discuss theology and ethics. Our next meeting will be on **December 9**. In keeping with the season of Advent, we will be exploring hope and expectation in Christian thought: what is it that we are looking for when we talk about God acting in our world? How do these human expectations compare to God's actual presence and call? All are welcome to join us! For more information, contact our Assistant Rector Scott at [scott@stmarks.net](mailto:scott@stmarks.net).

**19. Identity, Self and Society: Who am I Really?** As identity becomes an increasing factor in our society, this coming **Christian Education Weekend** will explore the different identities we each assume at home, work, social life, church, and extended family. We will look at the intersections and differences we experience, what do we gain and give up with each identity, what this means for our relationships, and examine where does this leave us? **January 11-13, Claggett Retreat Center, Adamstown, MD** Cost: \$210.00 per person, lodging and six meals included. Sunday school teachers attend for free!

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

- \* **Sunday Morning Bible Class, 10-11 am, through May 19, 2019, Penniman Room**  
**Studying First Samuel (Hebrew Scriptures)**  
Convener: Bob Ewald ([llerbe@yahoo.com](mailto:llerbe@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.
- \* **SMMC Meditation, Mondays 7:30-9:00pm, in the Adams Room.**  
Contact: Collie Agle, (202) 255-2687 or [charles.agle@gmail.com](mailto:charles.agle@gmail.com)
- \* **The Wednesday Bible Class** is studying the Hebrew prophets using the classic work "The Prophets" by Rabbi Abraham Heschel. Class continues on **Wednesdays at 11:30 am (note time change) until 12:45 pm**. Brown bag lunch follows. Location: **Elders Room in the undercroft**. Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney, [rgaffneydc@gmail.com](mailto:rgaffneydc@gmail.com).
- \* **Centering Prayer, Thursdays 7:30-8:30 am, in the Nave.** Centering Prayer is an early Christian contemplative practice that places a strong emphasis on interior silence. Please contact Collie Agle if you are interested or curious, at (202) 255-2687 or [charles.agle@gmail.com](mailto:charles.agle@gmail.com).