

March 24, 2019 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. Annual Meeting— TODAY Sunday, March 24! There will be one morning service at 10:00 am followed by a lunch provided by the Vestry. The meeting itself will start at noon. All members are encouraged to attend and vote! The meeting covers the following:

- Reports to the parish from the Rector, Wardens, and Treasurer
- Election of Junior and Senior Wardens, three Vestry members, and one diocesan delegate.
- Farewells to retiring wardens and officers

If you have any questions, please contact Senior Warden Nora Howell at seniorwarden@stmarks.net.

There is **no Sunday School** but **childcare and activities will be offered** during the annual meeting. **Nursery care** is available for children 3 and under until the meeting ends. Older kids can join us in the **Adams room** after the service. We'll have a pizza lunch, build meal packages for Grate Patrol and work on our Lenten Butterfly Project!

Christian Education

2. Ongoing Christian Education. These groups 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; (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
- * **The Wednesday Bible Class** is studying the Hebrew prophets using the classic work "The Prophets" by Rabbi Abraham Heschel. Class continues on **Wednesdays, 11:30 am - 12:45 pm**. Brown bag lunch follows. Location: **Elders Room in the undercroft**. Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney, 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.

3. Wrestling with the Angel is a theology and ethics discussion group that meets each **second Sunday of the month** at **1:15** downstairs in the **Dozier Library**. We ponder a few passages of Scripture as a jumping-off point to ask questions about our most deeply-held values and beliefs. Our next meeting is **April 14**; we will be asking whether and how **forgiveness can overcome hatred**. For more information, email our Assistant Rector, Scott Lipscomb, at scott@stmarks.net.

Youth & Family Ministries

4. Walking After Jesus: Join us for this St. Mark's tradition on **Saturday April 20th at 10AM!**

"Walking after Jesus" is a telling of the last week of Jesus' life that uses creative storytelling to bring the events to life. **Beginning in the Nave**, 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 for kids, families and adults to experience the story of Holy Week while we prepare for Easter.

5. Needed - Adult Chaperones for Summer Service Trips! Looking for ways to get involved at St. Mark's, give back to your community, and be inspired by some pretty cool youth? Consider signing up to be a service trip chaperone! We are looking for **3+ adults for the High School trip to Philadelphia June 16-22** and **2+ adults for the Middle School trip in D.C. July 14-17**. Email Caleb for more information.

Questions regarding these activities? Contact our new Interim Director of Youth and Family Ministries, **Caleb Nelson Amaker**, at caleb@stmarks.net.

Outreach

6. TONIGHT at 6:00! Book Discussion: Strangers, Neighbors, Friends. Join us for a very timely discussion: Aziz Abu Sarah of MEJDI tours returns to St. Mark's with his co-authors for a discussion of their new book - Strangers, Neighbors, Friends. Kelly James Clark, Rabbi Nancy Kreimer, and Abu Sarah have written an informed and robust Abrahamic defense of compassion toward neighbors, strangers and even enemies. The book aims to show that Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have the resources to motivate respect and love for those of very different faith traditions. For those who don't know him, Aziz is the co-founder of MEJDI with which we organize our pilgrimages to the Holy Land. The evening will begin at **6:00 in Baxter Hall with a light mezze** followed by **discussion with the authors at 6:30**. This is a program of the Mid East Working Group. Contact: Maureen Shea mtshea@aol.com

7. A Sunday Suppers Support Team Thank You! Special thanks to sandwich making volunteers **Kathryn Tatko, and Jennifer Rondeau**, who helped Sunday Support Team Co-manager **Jack Richards** prepare 80 sandwiches last Sunday, for Sunday Suppers! The sandwiches, 6.5 dozen hard-boiled eggs (prepared by **Caleb Nelson Amaker**, our new Interim Youth and Family Ministries Director) were delivered to Sunday Suppers at Franklin Square, 14th St. NW., who in turn provided sustenance to needy souls on the street. Contacts: Alix Pereira alix.pereira@gmail.com and Jack Richards ktjr89@verizon.net

8. Volunteer Opportunity to Help Another Refugee Family, this time from El Salvador! If you have Spanish skills, assistance is especially valuable in three general areas: (1) Job development: preparing adults to obtain and retain employment (2) Self-sufficiency skills: 1-2 hours per week assisting in English training, etc. (3) Transportation: helping the family get to medical appointments & interviews. For more information contact: kathryntobias@hotmail.com or 301 467-2652. Kathy represents Lutheran Church of the Reformation as a team leader with Good Neighbors Capitol Hill and is Co-Coordinator, Salvadoran Family Project

9. Still Pondering the Possibility of Joining the November 2019 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land? There are still a few spaces available to walk with us into the land of our faith and meet some of the people who work to bring peace and justice on earth. **Sign up on the Pilgrimage Sheet** in the entrance hall to get more information and come to the next Holy Land Pilgrimage **Meeting on Sunday, April 7 in the Adam's Room from 2:00 – 4:00 pm**. Contact: Karen Getman karen.getman@gmail.com

10. Building an Eco Teen Action Network connecting and empowering teens locally and globally to be change makers - Join Global Co Lab Network and teen environmental clubs from across the DC area at **National Landing in Crystal City (above metro) - Saturday evening, April 6th from 5:30-8:30** Heavy appetizers and drinks at a special event celebrating teens working to address global and local sustainability and work with Smithsonian in preparation for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020! Watch the documentary "StyrofoamMom" highlighting passion of local Arlingtonian Mom Miriam Ginnari who will be present to speak after the film. Hear from teens working on fighting climate change, plastics, hunger and other issues. Global Co Lab and its project Teens Dream was founded by St. Mark's Linda Staheli with her daughter Jackie Abramowitz with Teddy Ammon supported by Julie Murphy, Don Gangloff and countless others at St. Mark's and across the DMV. Register here soon:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teen-eco-action-celebration-at-national-landing-tickets-56661847110> \$25 general admission -- teens and youth free. Contributions to support Global Co Lab Network's work building a teen environmental network. Contact: Don Gangloff d_gangloff@outlook.com

11. Consider applying for the Episcopal Service Corps! If you are (or know) a young person deciding what to do after college, this program organized by the church is an excellent option. Move to a new city, live in an intentional community, work in a job helping others. There are more than 20 programs across the country, from Denver to New York City, Chapel Hill to Seattle. Applications are being considered now. Visit episcopalservicecorps.org to apply.

Music & Arts

12. Looking for Friends of Music! We are looking for a group of volunteers to support the continued activities of the St. Mark's Music Program. We need assistance with half a dozen or so events throughout the program year including special concerts, Advent Lessons & Carols, Carols & Cheer, Choral Evensong services, and Hymns & Hoopla. Some of the ways you can help include 1) providing food, drinks, or setup/cleanup help for receptions, 2) greeting and ushering at events, and 3) helping with advertise. **Please e-mail Penny Farley at p3farley@me.com if you can help.**

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. St. Mark's Dance Studio Seeking Board Members. The Dance Studio has been an integral part of the St. Mark's community since 1963. The Studio's Advisory Board provides oversight and assistance to the Dance Company. The Board is seeking new volunteer members for a two-year commitment and is particularly interested in individuals with financial and marketing skills. If you are interested, please provide a brief statement that includes the types of activities you can support. Contact Fynnette Eaton (202) 203 8098 or flejem@gmail.com

Parish Life

16. Nave Decorating for Easter: The parish needs a volunteer coordinator to plan decorations for the nave at Easter. The plan need not be elaborate. A modest budget is available, but low cost and ingenuity will be appreciated. If interested please speak to either Scott Lipscomb scott@stmarks.net or Jim Steed steedj66@gmail.com, worship co-chairs.

17. The Way of Love Journal Group will be meeting on Wednesday evenings during Lent, for those who plan to journal their experience of practicing the Way of Love during this season. We will share our experiences of trying to live the Way of Love, talk about what spiritual practices are working and which aren't, and how our commitment to journaling is forming us. We will gather at **7pm on Wednesdays in the Dozier Library**. For more information, contact our Assistant Rector, Scott Lipscomb at scott@stmarks.net

18. The 20's & 30's Faith Fellowship meets on the **last Sunday** of each month to discuss a short reading, talk about our month, and build friendships. We gather around **6pm**, just after the 5pm service, down in the **Dozier Library**. Our next meeting is **March 31st**. For more information: contact Emily McDuff at emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com.

19. Lenten Intentions Basket Weaving Project. On Lenten Sunday's, come to **Baxter Hall after each worship** service to help create a St. Mark's Lenten basket of intentions. Everybody is welcome to prayerfully contribute their intention - either physically with a written statement or silently with your thoughts as you weave together one community basket of intentions for Lent. There will be hands-on instruction, guiding us in our goal to create a woven basket/bowl made of material, yarn, and paper together, representing our Lenten intentions. Questions: contact Cindy Dopp (cindy@stmarks.net) or Tracy Council (tracy@tracyskids.org).

20. The Butterflies are coming! Wondering what is happening with the growing number of toilet paper rolls (chrysalis) around the church? Like us they are preparing for Easter. The Butterfly is a universal symbol of change, resurrection, transformation, celebration, love, joy, and the soul. As a symbol of transformation, the butterfly represents everlasting life, stemming from its various stages of life:

1. Birth - the caterpillar emerges from an egg. A caterpillar which eats constantly symbolizes earthly life where people are preoccupied with their physical needs
2. Death - the caterpillar transforms into a chrysalis which resembles a tomb
3. Resurrection - the caterpillar's body is broken down and transformed into a butterfly symbolizing new life free of material restrictions. Thanks to the K-12 children are working on this craft project! Contact Edna Temaner ednaboon@gmail.com

21. Be a Hospitality Hero! Join the fun of bringing food for 10:45 AM coffee hour and for Sunday lunch (or, if you prefer, a "coffee hour" instead). All you need to do is to **sign up on the poster boards next to the coffee**. Or, if you want more information or prefer an online sign up, please email Maureen Shea mtshea@aol.com. Maureen and Kenn are now co-chairs of Sunday Hospitality under the auspices of the Parish Life pillar.

22. Our next Community Liturgy Planning session will meet **next Sunday, March 31** at 1:15 in the Rector's Room. We will be discussing the season of Easter and will begin planning our Easter season liturgy. All—regardless of experience, or lack thereof, with liturgy planning—are invited to join! Please contact Scott with any questions: scott@stmarks.net.