

May 19, 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. Connecting St. Mark's through *Realm*: We recently sent out email invitations to St. Mark's parishioners to join *Realm*, an online tool that helps us in many ways. All staff and some members of our community have been using it for the last year for:

- online directory (with photos!) that's always up to date--there's even an app for your phone
- easy registration for events (like the upcoming Parish Retreat!)
- pledge information and easy online payment

In the e-mail, you received an invitation to set up your password. Once you have created your password, you will be able to log in and access the above features. If you have any questions—or if you did *not* receive an invitation but would like to—please feel free to be in touch with either Scott (scott@stmarks.net) or Patricia Braley (patricia@stmarks.net). While there is a bit of a learning curve, we believe that this software will make our lives easier and better connected.

2. All Parish Retreat: Registration is open! Saturday **June 8th** and Sunday **June 9th** we will be on retreat at Claggett Center. It will be fun for all ages and time to enjoy each other, rest, work and play. Our theme for this year is “**Gifts in Community**” and we will be focused on discovering new ways to connect deeply with one another.

You can register online through *Realm*—once you are logged in, just click “Community” and then “Events” on the left-hand side of your screen. You will see the retreat in the center as the only event listed. If you'd like to learn more, you can talk with volunteers in the lobby after each service today.

Outreach

3. Sunday Suppers Sandwich Making Today! Please join us in **The Elders Room** today, at **2:30 P.M.**, as we prepare 120 sandwiches, in support of Sunday Suppers, managed and supported by St. Mark's parishioners. We usually complete sandwich making in about 40 minutes. Please help us with this very important program. Questions? Please contact Co-Manager Alix Pereira @ alix.pereira@gmail.com (Co-manager Jack Richards is away this month).

Music & Arts

4. 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.

5. Music Lessons are available through the St. Mark's Music Studio: 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.

6. 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 to advertise. **Please email Penny Farley at p3farley@me.com if you can help.**

Parish Life

7. Baptism Class Forming: Calling all candidates for baptism! If you are interested in your child (or yourself!) being baptized at St. Mark's, you are invited to join our upcoming baptism class. You will learn all about the history and meaning of this beautiful rite, and meet others going through the process. This series of three classes will be held **10 to 11:30 on May 19, May 26, and June 2**. If you can't make one of the dates, alternative dates can be arranged. Please contact Kris Humphrey at kristenjhumphrey@gmail.com with questions or to sign up!

8. May Birthdays Lunch on 05/26: Join at least ten known May birth people to celebrate their birthday on 05/26 **following the 11:15 service**. We will have fun and food. The menu will include honey baked ham and a birthday cake. If you would like to bring something - like salad, sandwich makings, fruit, or cookies - please contact Raiford Gaffney at rgaffneydc@gmail.com or 2024605415.

9. Third Agers' Spring Potluck – June 1st – "What is Theology?" "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?" That's the kind of question that some folks think theologians busy themselves with. But theology is really about much, much more. Join Assistant Rector Scott Lipscomb as we ask: "what is theology?" We just might discover that we've been doing theology all along--often without even realizing it! Please join us for what promises to be a rich conversation. **Saturday, June 1st at 11:00am Baxter Hall.** *Special Invite to 40's-60's Group* Questions/Info? Contact Don Gangloff at d_gangloff@outlook.com

10. 40's-60's Group: We continue to grow opportunities to be more involved at St. Mark's. A new group has solidified around some core themes. Called variously "Middle Timers," "Middle Agers," "Gracelanders," and most recently "Middlescence" (the period of self-doubt at mid-life) this group includes folks extending from early to mid 40's up through early to mid 60's. This period is often accompanied by aging parents or the loss of parents and grown (or soon to be independent) children. It is a time when we still have dreams unfulfilled and/or unexplored. It's a time when a state of grace is often sought or desired.

If you have not been part of the early formation of this group, now is the time to find your place. Below are the activities planned for the balance of 2019 along with contact people. This group will only thrive if folks show up at events and if many hands dive in to make the events happen. These are the people who understand your hopes, dreams, and challenges -- they are living similar ones! So pitch in and be part.

- We will host our own **potluck on Saturday, June 15 from 6 - 8 pm in Baxter Hall** to discuss the book [Love's Way: Living Peacefully with Your Family As Your Parents Age](#). The authors, Carolyn Miller Parr and Sig Cohen, will be present to talk about the necessary legal hurdles and emotional difficulties that arise with aging parents and will have copies available that evening. For more information about the potluck and the book, email Martha Huizenga at marthahuizenga@gmail.com.
- Linda Staheli would love to hear from others who might be interested in organizing a **cabin-style camping trip in July** at Camp Misty Mount near Thurmont, Maryland. This lovely park is a short drive away and offers a loop of open air structures with firepits, etc., perfect for an overnight camping experience. Email Linda at lstaheli@gmail.com if you are interested in helping put this together.

- We will likely have **another informal potluck in the Fall**. Both Rosemary Harold/Michael Knipe and Steve Sleigh/Ann Greiner have offered to host!
- We have been organizing a very popular Saints and Sinners **Halloween dance** at St. Mark's for 4 - 5 years. It has proven to be the best event with folks of all ages, outrageous costumes and dancing. This year, it will be held on Saturday, October 26. **We need a solid crew of 10 - 12 to pull this off so please consider emailing Julie** at juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com if you are willing to help with the planning.

If you have not been invited to one of the prior group events, **contact Jim Brooks** (jabrooksjr@gmail.com) and/or **Jennifer Dalzell** (jennifer.coyne.dalzell@gmail.com)

11. 20s/30s events in June! (note that, due to Memorial Day, we will *not* be meeting in May)

- **20s/30s Rock Creek Hike & Pizza Paradiso Lunch - Saturday, June 15th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm** In lieu of our May Faith Fellowship, we will meet on the corner of P St. NW and 23rd St. NW at 11:00 am to hike on Rock Creek Trail, and then walk to Pizza Paradiso near Dupont Circle for lunch at 1:00 pm. Feel free to come to either the hike or the lunch if you cannot make both. Please RSVP to Emily McDuff at emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com.
- **Anacostia River Cleanup - Saturday, June 29th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm** Organized by the Anacostia Watershed Society specifically for our St. Mark's, we will be volunteering for their trash sorting challenge to keep trash from entering the river. Data from this challenge has been used to help pass the grocery bag fee law in D.C. Meet at the historic Bostwick House at 3901 48th St. in Bladensburg, MD 20710, which is at 20-minute drive or 30-minute bike ride from St. Mark's. Carpooling will be organized once we know who is going. Please RSVP to Emily McDuff at emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com.
- **20s/30s Faith Fellowship - Sunday, June 30th at 6:00 pm in the Dozier Library** We will resume our monthly Faith Fellowship meetings on Sunday, June 30th at 6:00 pm in the Dozier Library. We'll continue our 20 Questions series, share high and lows, and have tea. For more information, contact Emily McDuff at emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com.

Christian Education

12. June Barbara Brown Taylor Book Discussion: In June, a "pop-up" Christina Ed class will discuss Holy Envy together. This book recounts Taylor's "moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching world religions to undergraduates in Baptist-saturated rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations." Our adjunct Patricia Catalano and our Deacon Cindy Dopp will lead us through the book and we will meet on the **four Wednesdays in June (June 5, 12, 19, and 26)** in the **Penniman Room from 7 - 8 pm**. Light refreshments will be included. To sign up, email Julie Murphy at juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com.

13. Wrestling with the Angel is a theology and ethics discussion group that meets each **second Sunday of the month at 1:15pm** 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 **June 8th (at the retreat)** and then again on **June 9th** at our normal time and place. For more information, talk to our Assistant Rector, Scott Lipscomb, or email him at scott@stmarks.net.

14. 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 (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.
- * **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.

Youth & Family Ministries

15. Support the High School Summer Service Trip! This summer our high school youth are traveling to **Philadelphia** to serve with Episcopal Mission Center and we would love your support! Youth will be selling **shares of stock in our trip for \$20 each before and after services each Sunday in May**. Bring some extra cash and your checkbook to support our youth! You can also donate digitally. Text stmarks20003 groupstock\$20 to 73256, or use our QR code. Thanks for your help!



16. TODAY May 19 - Sunday Suppers: Please join us at 2:30 P.M. in the Elders Room.

17. May 19th is the last day of Sunday School for the 2018-2019 School year. Join us on **June 2 at 10am for Banner Sunday**, our end of year celebration! If you are interested in Sunday School during the summer let us know the ages of your kids and which weeks they may be present. <https://bit.ly/30f0uqu>

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