

August 4, 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.***

To view the parish calendar online, go to our homepage <stmarks.net> and click "Calendar" at the top of the page.

Parish Life

- 1. Annual August Birthday Luncheon On August 25.** Help celebrate the August birthdays of at least 20 St. Mark's parishioners on August 25 following the 11:15 service. Raiford is coordinating the lunch and will bring her favorite Honey Baked Ham, and we could use salads, sandwich makings, and desserts (birthday cake will be provided). You will be eligible for reimbursement with receipt. Stick around afterward to join St. Mark's youth in celebrating their Summer Service Trips. For information or to sign up, contact Raiford Gaffney at rgaffneydc@gmail.com or 2024605415.
- 2. 20s/30s Faith Fellowship** - The 20's & 30's group meets on the last Sunday of the month for fellowship and deep conversation over tea. We have a discussion guided by our 20 Questions series, share our highs and lows from the last month, and drink tea! For more information, contact Emily McDuff at emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com.
- 3. The Membership Committee** is looking for people to serve as **Newcomer Greeters** for the 9:00 and 11:15 services in the months that have five Sundays, which occur four times a year. For the rest of this year, fifth-Sunday greeters are needed in September and December. The task involves greeting newcomers before or after the service, answering questions, providing information about the church, and inviting them to coffee hour or lunch in Baxter Hall. If you would like to provide this ministry of hospitality, please contact Mary Cooper (macooper3313@aol.com).
- 4. Coffee Clean-up Volunteers Needed:** The 11:15 crowd is not coming through with volunteers to clean up coffee. The majority of current Grounds Crew have been on the job for 5 years and they need a break. Become a team player! Learn the joy of washing pots and serving your fellow Lions...contact Doris Burton dmburton21@gmail.com if you, too, wish to be a part of this group!
- 5. Green Lions Solar Installation Deadline Information:** Installation of solar panels in your home in DC comes with a 30% federal and state tax rebate for the cost of roof and panels until Dec 31, 2019. The percentage decreases in 2020. DC SUN can be helpful. This is a consumer-run coop organizing venue for solar panel installation. You can also look at CONSUMER CHECKBOOKS for commercial installation companies and their ratings. DC SUN sets up coops where pricing is based on bulk purchase to save money. DC SUN also vets and previews warranties and reliability of companies chosen by joining a coop of DC SUN to get discount.
Email: info@solarunitedneighbors.org or DCteaminfo@solarunitedneighbors.org. 202.888-3601.

Christian Education

- 6. Wrestling with the Angel** is a theology and ethics discussion group that meets each **second Sunday of the month at 1:15 pm** 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. Please note: We will **not** be meeting in August; our next meeting will be on September 8.

7. Wednesday Morning Drop-In Proverbs Bible Study: If you have a free moment, the Wednesday Bible Class invites you to drop in for an hour of Bible study, a brown bag lunch, and fellowship. We plan to read and discuss small portions of Proverbs or whatever comes up. No reservations or advance reading required. **Date & Time: Wednesdays through August 28 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Coordinator:** Raiford Gaffney at rgaffneydc@gmail.com or 2024605415 **Location:** St. Mark's (Penniman Room)

8. The Challenge of Forgiveness: As Christians, seekers, and skeptics seeking to live well, we know that forgiveness is essential to living healthy and healing lives. Yet forgiveness does not always come easily. Join Michele and Scott as they explore the reasons to—and the challenges and promise of—forgiving. We will read Desmond & Mpho Tutu's *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* as a guide in our journey together. The class will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7pm, Sep. 11 through Oct. 16 in the Dozier Library. (We will also hold repeat sessions on Thursdays at 10am starting Sep. 12 for those who prefer mornings to nights.) For more information, contact Scott at scott@stmarks.net

9. New Class on Aging. There is a new Christian Education class coming this Fall; **Aging: Claiming my Changing Life.** We will explore those changes that come as we grow older, the losses, the gains, the new realizations. There will be 4 class sessions and a weekend at Claggett. The classes are on **October 23 & 30, November 6 & 13 (Wednesdays). The weekend is November 1 - 3,** and the cost is \$230. The leaders are Martha Connor-Donnelly (macd46@hotmail.com), Pete Eveleth (peter.eveleth@gmail.com), Betty Foster (bettywesfoster@earthlink.net), and Don Lipscomb (4zdel-arc@cox.net). Please talk to one of us if you have questions or are interested.

10. Ongoing Christian Education. These groups are open to newcomers:

- * **SMMC Meditation, Mondays 7:30-9:00pm, in the Adams Room.**
Contact: Collie Agle, (202) 255-2687 or charles.agle@gmail.com
- * **The Wednesday Morning Drop-In Bible Study, 12:00-1:00pm, Penniman Room.**
- * **Centering Prayer, Thursdays 7:30-8:30am, in the Nave.** Centring 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.

11. Are you interested in teaching Sunday School? Christian Ed is recruiting additional teachers for the Sunday School teaching teams for middle school and senior high for the 2019-20 school year. Please let us know if you are interested or if you would like to know more about this opportunity. You will not need to teach alone since each class will have 3 teachers at least. And we already have teachers from last year that will provide continuity for both classes. **Also, middle school and high school youth are invited to nominate teachers, as are parents.**

If you are interested, please contact any of the following: Mary Thuell at 202-744-9720 or mwthuell@gmail.com; Susan Thompson at 703-329-9797 or susanlynnthompson@gmail.com; Greg Niblett at 202-297-8859.

Outreach

12. The Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) is launching a multiyear campaign, From Witness to Action, aiming to organize communities throughout DC on a range of interrelated social justice issues. Areas of action include the development of Reservation 13 (the 67 acres near RFK Stadium), public housing, living-wage jobs, and community safety/gun violence. St. Mark's has been approached about joining this effort, and several individuals attended preliminary meetings to learn more about it.

The next step in exploring our possible activities will be a "town hall" discussion **TODAY Sunday, August 4th**, during the time normally used for Sermon Seminar. We will be joined by the Rev. Alison Dunn-Almaguer, a full-time WIN organizer. The focus of this meeting will be exploring the costs and opportunities for St. Mark's participation, and giving our clergy and lay leadership the congregation's input on the way ahead.

For more information about WIN's campaign, see <https://www.windc-iaf.org/witnesstoaction>. For more information about how St. Mark's is exploring its options, contact Steve Dalzell, Outreach co-chair, at dalzellsr@gmail.com or 202-679-3184.

13. St. Mark's Pilgrimage Prep Speaker Series: Lara Friedman. TODAY, Aug. 4 at 2pm in the Adams Room. Lara is a former American diplomat including to Israel/Palestine, and she is the president of The Foundation for Middle East Peace. As a self – proclaimed Zionist, Lara comes to us with thoughtful and experienced perspectives on the political and social issues of Israel and Palestine. All are welcome whether or not you will participate in the 2019 Pilgrimage.

14. Summer Movie Night in the Parish Hall. Next Saturday, August 10 at 6:30pm: The Middle East Working Group and 2019 Pilgrimage Group invite you to join us for a light supper and viewing of two short documentary films created by Israelis and Palestinians. These films and our conversations provide another means of participation in the dual narrative experience of our Pilgrimage. All are welcome! To plan for the caterer, please RSVP karen.getman@gmail.com A basket for donations will help defray costs for the meal and non-alcoholic beverage. Feel free to BYOB for sharing with tablemates.

15. BACKPACK PICNIC: Our St Mark's teens and the Outreach Board have teamed together to provide 30 backpacks for Middle Schoolers served by EveryoneHomeDC (formerly Capitol Hill Group Ministry). The teens will stuff the backpacks with school supplies on Sunday, August 11. A cookout will follow the stuffing party. Volunteers needed to provide the side dishes, dessert and beverages.

Sign up here to bring food: tinyurl.com/Aug11Backpack-picnic. Questions? Contact Susan Sedgewick at jssedgewick@gmail.com,

Youth & Family Ministries

16. Summer Sunday School Continues. During the summer, children ages 3-10 are encouraged to join us the **2nd and 4th Sunday** of each month for a special summer edition of Sunday School! We will gather in the Dance studio at **10 am**.

17. Join us on Sunday, August 11th at 1pm in Baxter Hall for our Backpack Cookout. We will hang out, eat and put together backpacks and school supplies for our friends at Everyone Home DC (formerly Capitol Hill Group Ministry). Sign up at <https://bit.ly/2OnDDXY>.

18. Our 2019 Service Trip Celebration is August 25. Come celebrate the amazing work our youth did this summer! Join us in Baxter Hall following the August Birthday Luncheon, and share pictures and stories from both the High School trip to Philadelphia and the Middle School trip to Washington, DC. You won't want to miss it!

19. Youth and Family Ministries has a family pass to the National Building Museum! Our pass allows a party of up to six to enjoy the Lawn exhibit free of charge, along with any other NBM exhibits on a given day. Lawn is a sloping indoor green space that includes chairs, hammocks, yard games, and storytelling. For information on the exhibits, visit <http://www.nbm.org>. **Sign up for a day to use the pass at <https://bit.ly/2SviYPO>.**

Contact **Caleb Nelson Amaker** at youthdirector@stmarks.net with any questions.

Music & Arts

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.**