

## **September 8, 2019 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.*

To view the parish calendar online, go to our homepage <[stmarks.net](http://stmarks.net)> and click "Calendar" at the top of the page.

### **Parish Life**

**1. TODAY The 15th Annual Parish Cook-Out & Ministry Fair** is today **Sunday, September 8**. It all starts **right after the combined 10 AM service**. There is also a picnic **after the 5 PM service**.

**2. St. Mark's Women to Women** – Join us for a garden party on **Thursday, September 12th from 5:45-7:45pm in St Mark's main and side gardens**. Come meet some fabulous St. Mark's women, listen to music, and wear a hat! Looking for folks to contribute: sparkling water, soda, wine, salty snacks, veggies/dip. Please RSVP Karen Falk, [kfalkdc@gmail.com](mailto:kfalkdc@gmail.com)

**3. 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! Our next meeting will be Sunday, **Sept. 29 at 6pm downstairs in the Dozier Library**. For more information, contact Emily McDuff at [emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com](mailto:emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com).

**4. Announcing the Fall Line-up for the Lambda Lions:**

**September 23 at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's -- Start of a two-part film series and discussion**  
**October 28 at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's -- Continuation of the film series and discussion**  
**December 7, TBD -- Joint Thanksgiving/Xmas Celebration: "Gays-giving"**

The Lambda Lions is an affinity group of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) members of St. Mark's parish. St. Mark's has a history of inclusion of LGBTQ members including being the first church in the Diocese of Washington to bless same sex unions in July 2001. LGBTQ members serve in a variety of staff and lay leadership positions, including our Rector, the Rev. Michele Morgan. The Lambda Lions hopes to provide a supportive space for LGBTQ members and visitors to socialize, discuss issues of identity and faith, engage in positive change, and support one another wherever we may find ourselves in the faith journey.

Please contact Mary Ellison at [Mary.c.ellison@gmail.com](mailto:Mary.c.ellison@gmail.com) or Brandon Knight at [BrandonLKnight@yahoo.com](mailto:BrandonLKnight@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**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](mailto:info@solarunitedneighbors.org) or [DCteaminfo@solarunitedneighbors.org](mailto:DCteaminfo@solarunitedneighbors.org). 202.888-3601.

## Christian Education

**6. Sunday School Registration is open.** Sunday School will start for ages 3 through Grade 12 on **Sunday, September 15**. All children and young people will need to have a registration form completed which includes various permissions as well as liability releases. That form is on the St. Mark's website if you wish to download it and fill it out. **We will also be registering children and young people for Sunday School at the Parish picnic TODAY September 8 and also during the first day of Sunday School (September 15)**. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Thompson or Greg Niblett, the Co-Directors of Christian Education at [susanlynnthompson@gmail.com](mailto:susanlynnthompson@gmail.com) or [greg.niblett@mtctrains.com](mailto:greg.niblett@mtctrains.com). You may also contact Stephanie Deutsch who is organizing the Catechesis Sunday School program for ages 3 to Grade 5. Mary Thuell will be the lead teacher for Middle School ([mwthuell@gmail.com](mailto:mwthuell@gmail.com)) and Caleb Nelson Amaker will be the lead teacher for Senior High ([youthdirector@stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector@stmarks.net)). Also, all contact information is in the directory.

**7. Come. Grow. Belong.** The Christian Education Year is Launching. The Christian Education catalogue for the 2019-2020 year has been posted on the St. Mark's website. Please check it out and see if there is a class or course that would interest you. For the fall, in addition to Episcopalians 101, Centering Prayer, Bible Studies, meditation, youth programs & activities and other offerings, please check out the Forgiveness Course and the Aging Class. Take a course and grow and learn but also meet new people and reconnect with old friends as we build community together. You can sign up in the lobby.

Contact: Susan Thompson or Greg Niblett, the Co-Directors of Christian Education at [susanlynnthompson@gmail.com](mailto:susanlynnthompson@gmail.com) or [greg.niblett@mtctrains.com](mailto:greg.niblett@mtctrains.com).

**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. Guided by Desmond & Mpho Tutu's *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World*, we will seek to learn the power of forgiveness. 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](mailto: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 at St. Mark's 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](mailto:macd46@hotmail.com)), Pete Eveleth ([peter.eveleth@gmail.com](mailto:peter.eveleth@gmail.com)), Betty Foster ([bettywesfoster@earthlink.net](mailto:bettywesfoster@earthlink.net)), and Don Lipscomb ([4zdel-arc@cox.net](mailto: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:

\* **TODAY Wrestling with the Angel, Second Sunday of the Month 1:15 pm**, downstairs in the **Dozier Library**. Wrestling with the Angel is a theology and ethics discussion group. 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 will be **today, September 8**. Contact: The Reverend Scott Lipscomb [scott@stmarks.net](mailto:scott@stmarks.net)

\* **Sunday Morning Bible Class, 10-11 am, September 15, 2019-May 17, 2020, Penniman Room**

Second Samuel (Hebrew Scriptures)

Convener: Bob Ewald (lherbe@yahoo.com; 301-541-5133)

Second Samuel focuses on the complicated life of David: claiming his kingship; centralizing the religious and political traditions of the Israelites; waging war against The Other; dealing with messy family relationships. The class consists of class discussion of the assigned reading for that day. Regular attendance is encouraged. Additional outside readings are not expected.

\* **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 Bible Study, 11:30 am-12:45pm, Brown bag lunch follows**

Location: **Elders Room (in the undercroft)**

Class Leaders: Peter Mosley; Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney, rgaffneydc@gmail.com or 2024605415.

The So-Called "Minor Prophets" were not diviners of the future but loud critics of the inequalities, corruption, and injustices in their society. Jesus knew them well. As a resource and guide we will continue to use the classic work *The Prophets* by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. We will read Bible text from different translations and Heschel's commentary of a particular passage. Each of these elements of our "study" launches our questions and discussion, and deepens our ongoing conversation.

\* **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.

### Outreach

**11. TODAY Pilgrimage Forum: September 8 2:00-4:00 PM in the Adam's Room.** All are welcome to participate. The September speakers are two exceptional individuals whose relationship is a lesson in peace building. Yousef Bashir is a prize winning Gazan author of *The Words of My Father*. His memoir tells of being shot in the spine by an Israeli soldier and the determination to heal his body and spirit. The injury and the care he received (both from Israelis) are juxtaposed in his inspiring story. Amos Gil is the former CEO of the Jerusalem International YMCA, and now working for J Street, These two met here in DC only a few months ago and have grown to deeply respect the other's perspective on Israel-Palestine. We have the unique opportunity to listen and learn from their conversation. Contact: Karen Getman karen.getman@gmail.com

**12. This Thursday Sept 12th DC Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America** will host policy analyst, Harvard Senior Research Fellow, and author, **Thomas Abt** for a **book talk** at St. Mark's. His new book, "Bleeding Out: The Devastating Consequences of Urban Violence -- and a Bold New Plan for Peace in the Streets," speaks directly to prevention of city gun violence like that in DC, and spells out exactly the types of solutions needed. In the **Elders Room at 7:00 PM**. Linell Grundman contact: grundsmann@comcast.net

**13. Iran: Exhibition on the Massacre of 30,000 Political Prisoners in 1988** Location: East Lawn of U.S. Capitol (Near the intersection of First St. SE and Independence Ave SE) Thursday, September 12 11:00 am - 7:00 pm. Contact: Reza Akbari reza.akbari1960@gmail.com

**14. 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.

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](mailto:dalzellsr@gmail.com) or 202-679-3184.

### **Youth & Family Ministries**

**15. TODAY Parish Picnic Kids Activities and Youth Table:** After the single 10am morning service on Sept. 8, 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 tables in the Nave** during the parish programs fair to learn more about our 2019-20 programming and register for Sunday School.

**16. Sunday School Begins September 15!** The 2019-20 Sunday School year will begin Sept. 15 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!

**17. Middle School Lock In September 21-22** Youth grades 6-8 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. Guests are welcome. Register today!

**18. High School Retreat September 28-29** Grades 9-12 are invited to spend a relaxing weekend away at **YMCA Camp Tockwogh in Worton, MD**. Start off the school year right with climbing walls, archery, canoeing, bonfire and more. Register today and bring a friend!

Contact **Caleb Nelson Amaker** at [youthdirector@stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector@stmarks.net) with any questions.

### **Music & Arts**

**19. 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 Kempskie at [jeff@stmarks.net](mailto:jeff@stmarks.net) for more info.

**20. Music Lessons are available through the St. Mark's Music Studio:** Diane Atherton ([dianesvoicestudio@gmail.com](mailto:dianesvoicestudio@gmail.com)) offers voice lessons, and Stephanie Ng ([stephanien217@gmail.com](mailto:stephanien217@gmail.com)) teaches piano lessons. Students of all ages and experience are welcome. Learn more about our teachers at [stmarks.net/music](http://stmarks.net/music).

**21. Friends of Music:** Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help out the music program at St. Mark's. We need to grow our faithful FOM core supporters to cover events for the 2019-20 season (the schedule of which will be finalized and advertised shortly). Volunteers to greet and usher at special services and concerts, provide food and beverages, set up and clean up, and help advertise events will be most welcome. If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks, **please email Penny Farley at [p3farley@me.com](mailto:p3farley@me.com) or call or text 617-710-1004.**