

November 17, 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.

From the Vestry and Parish Leadership

1. Message From the Rector: Watch Out for Phishing Emails. Please watch out for scam emails which look like they're coming from me. Scammers have been pulling parishioner email addresses from our website or announcements. They send emails from fake g-mail accounts using variants of my name. Memo lines often read something like "God Bless U" or "I Need Your Help." Usually, they send a series of emails asking you to "buy a gift card in \$100 denominations and supposedly I will pay you back." If you send them a photo of a gift card number, your money has been stolen.

If you get an email like this, please notify me and I will tell you how to report it to get the account shut down. I may contact you about pledging, I may ask you to fund projects, **but I will never ask you to send me a photo of a gift card.** You can call me if you are ever in doubt, at the office or on my cell from the directory. One of our members lost over \$2000 to this. I am furious that they got taken advantage of and that the perpetrator used St. Mark's and my name to do it. The problem will likely continue so please be aware; for more info, search for an FBI article entitled "Cyber-Enabled Financial Fraud on the Rise Globally." I am so sorry that this happened and please let me know if it happens to you. - Michele

Christian Education

2. SMMC Meditation and Friendsgiving, Monday, November 18, 7:15-8:45 pm, in the Nave and Baxter Hall. Join us for lightly guided meditation, then a plant-based potluck meal - our second annual Thanksgiving gathering. All are welcome. Contact: Michele Rivard, mmrivard@hotmail.com.

3. Advent Half-Day Retreat: During this year's advent season, we will be offering a half-day retreat where we shall **learn about and practice various forms of prayer and meditation** in order to deepen our spiritual lives. We will have at least two periods of centering prayer, as well as a discussion on different forms of contemplation. We will do some walking meditation and a little bit of chanting. The companion book to the retreat is *The Wisdom Jesus* by Cynthia Bourgeault, a modern-day mystic and Episcopal priest. Here is a quote to pique your interest, "When the field of vision has been unified, the inner being comes to rest, and that inner peaceableness flows into the outer world as harmony and compassion." **When: December 14, from 9am to 1pm; where: In the Nave** Contact: Patricia Catalano, adjunct@stmarks.net

4. Christian Education Weekend -- January 10-12, 2020: Come one, come all to the 2020 Christian Education Weekend at the **Claggett Retreat Center**. You don't need to be a teacher to attend! Some call this our winter St. Mark's retreat. Schmooze with new and old members of St. Mark's in the rural countryside of Maryland, learn and make new connections while enjoying the rooms at the Christiane Inn (on site hotel-like rooms). Current Catechesis, Middle School and High School Teachers go free, thanks to the Penniman Fund! First come, first serve. Single rooms are \$274 for the weekend; double rooms are \$244 per person. Contact Susan Thompson susanlynnthompson@gmail.com for more information.

5. "The Stories We Tell." St. Mark's Christian Ed program is pleased to host this exciting **Spring retreat** in conjunction with The Guild for Transformational Studies, **April 4-9 at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond, Virginia**. The retreat will offer the opportunity to listen to each others' stories. What has formed our sense of self? Who authors our history? We will invite Knowing to unfold itself through reflection, imaging, art, body awareness, and sharing. This retreat is open to all. A registration

form is required. A deposit of \$500 is due no later than the end of December 2019, and the remainder is due no later than February 1, 2020. Additional scholarships – full or partial are available. *Space is limited.* Please contact Susan Thompson susanlynnthompson@gmail.com for further information and the **sign-up in Baxter Hall**.

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

Location: **Elders Room (in the undercroft)**. Class Leader: Peter Mosley; Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney (rgaffneydc@gmail.com or 202-460-5415).

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.

* **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.

* **Sunday Morning Bible Class, 10-11 am until May 17, 2020, Penniman Room**

Second Samuel (Hebrew Scriptures) Convener: Bob Ewald (llerbe@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.

Outreach

7. TODAY Sunday Suppers Sandwich Making! Help us prepare 120 sandwiches in support of the Sunday Suppers organization, whose volunteers today are St. Mark’s parishioners. Join us in **Baxter Hall at 4:00 P.M.** We usually complete sandwich making in about 40 minutes. Questions? Please contact Co-Managers Jack Richards ktjr89@verizon.net or Alix Pereira alix.pereira@gmail.com

8. Blessing of the Holy Land Pilgrims: TODAY, we will be offering a Blessing for those who are preparing for the Pilgrimage. These individuals from St. Mark’s and other communities in the Washington, DC area will join with others from Ames, Iowa, Denver, Hudson, Wi, Belgrade, MT, Yorkshire, England, They will meet first in Amman, Jordan and travel together from November 20 -25. From Jordan, they will cross over into Israel and the W. Bank (Palestine) from November 25 – December 6. If you participated in a former Pilgrimage, you are welcome to join us around the altar and pray for these travellers and the others who are also preparing for the journey. Contact: Karen Getman karen.getman@gmail.com

9. TODAY Green Lion Film Showing - Paris to Pittsburgh - November 17th at 6:00-8:30 pm in the Parish Hall; dinner provided. From coastal cities to America’s heartland, the film *Paris to Pittsburgh* celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. As the weather grows more deadly and destructive, they aren’t waiting on Washington to act. Join the Green Lions to view this 90-minute documentary on what people are doing to address the Climate Crisis. After the film, there will be small group discussion among parishioners - both adult and youth - to explore ways we can all take action. Doors open at 6:00pm; 6:30 showing. Contact: Betsy Agle betsy@agle.net

10. Grate Patrol Sunday – November 24th – Join us in **Baxter Hall after the Sermon Seminar** next week to make 200 lunches for those living on the streets. All ages welcome! Contact: Edna Boone ednaboone@gmail.com

11. St. Mark's will host the 7th Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence, on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 pm. Organized by the Newtown Foundation to mark the anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy, the event allows survivors from across the country to gather together in remembrance. To attend and to volunteer your time or donate food and drink, please follow links on the St. Mark's website. Questions? Please Contact Cecilia Monahan: cdcmonahan@gmail.com

12. Thanksgiving Basket Collection Sunday Nov. 24th for those in need: This year we will collect Thanksgiving Baskets at church Nov. 24th for Everyone Home DC (formerly Capitol Hill Group Ministry) to distribute to low-income families. In 2018, we provided 53 baskets. Bring the items on the list below in a reusable shopping bag. Please place the \$25 gift card for the meat in an envelope and place in the bag. Bags will be collected in the **baptistry area at the back of the Nave** and Susan and John Sedgewick will deliver them to Shirley's Place Sunday afternoon. Any questions? Ask Susan at jssedgewick@gmail.com.

Shopping List:

- ❖ 2 14.5 oz cans green beans
- ❖ 2 15 oz cans yams or fresh equivalent
- ❖ 2 14 oz cans cranberry sauce
- ❖ 3 boxes mac & cheese
- ❖ 2 boxes stuffing
- ❖ 1 bag rice or mashed potatoes
- ❖ 2 onions
- ❖ 1 box muffin/biscuit mix
- ❖ 1 box cake mix and can of frosting
- ❖ 1 \$25 gift card for meat (Safeway, HT, Giant)–placed in an envelope

13. A Reminder and Opportunity: The Annual MEWG Advent Sale of Olivewood and Olive Oil Sundays from December 1-22. Once again you can purchase high-quality Fair Trade olive oil from Canaan and Al'Ard from the West Bank, produced by Palestinian farmers who carefully maintain an exceptional quality of olives to produce their signature oils. If this description has you wishing you could get the olive oil sooner, you're in luck! You can purchase a case of 6 bottles (\$140.00 per case) before Thanksgiving. Please contact karen.getman@gmail.com to arrange delivery before our departure for the Pilgrimage. We will visit the Canaan cooperative and meet participating families to tell them how much they are appreciated in Washington, DC.

14. Big Sunday Suppers Goal: In order to ensure the longevity of its work, Sunday Suppers is trying to fill all its volunteer slots for 2020 before the new year. St. Mark's youth group covers the 3rd Sunday of every month but there are many other areas of need. Please consider looking at the Sunday Suppers calendar and making a commitment for just one Sunday in the new year. Check out <http://sundaysuppers.org/sscalendar> and email Lisa.ramish@gmail.com.

15. 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. 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.

Music & Arts

16. Cantate Chamber Singers Concert Titled "How Can I Keep from Singing," this program explores joy, whimsy, and humor in music. In addition to two motets by J.S. Bach, the concert includes works by Gwyneth Walker, John Muehleisen, Jake Runestad, and Ralph Vaughan Williams' well-loved In Windsor Forest. Featuring guest artist David Jones, clarinet. Tickets at the door or through cantate.org.
When: **Saturday Dec 7 at 8 pm.**

17. Advent Lessons & Carols Service: Please join us for this beloved annual tradition - a service of readings, seasonal hymns, and special music sung by the Chancel Choir. A reception will follow the service. **Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5:00 pm.**

18. Chiarina Chamber Players present "Movement Reflected," a solo piano recital featuring works by J.S. Bach, Chopin, Bartok, and Ravel. 60% discount off advance tickets at chiarina.org using promo code STMARKS10. When: **Sunday, Dec 8 at 7:30 pm.**

19. Carols & Cheer: Come join us for a fun evening singing your favorite Christmas carols while enjoying some snacks and drinks. **Social time starts at 6:30 and singing goes from about 7:00 to 9:30 pm.** Drop in any time! Please bring a snack or beverage to share or \$5. **Wednesday, Dec. 11.**

Parish Life

20. Nov. 22 Film Club - "Friendly Persuasion" (1956) - Join us for William Wyler's excellent drama, starring Gary Cooper, Dorothy McGuire and Anthony Perkins. "Friendly Persuasion" tells the story of an Indiana Quaker family whose pacifist beliefs are severely tested by the onset of the Civil War.
Friday, Nov 22, 7:30 PM at 1321 Geranium Street, NW. Bring snacks/potent potables to share. For further info., contact Alicia Ruble, 202-420-9256, blurbologist@hotmail.com (or) amruble@outlook.com.

21. 20s/30s Faith Fellowship - The 20's & 30's group meets on the last Sunday of the month. 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, **Nov. 24th at 6pm downstairs in the Dozier Library.** For more information, contact Emily McDuff at emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com.

22. Thanksgiving Service and Dinner: Christ Church (620 G St SE) will host a **service of gratitude at 11 am on Thanksgiving** followed by a wonderful **community dinner at noon.** We provide the turkeys and the drinks – everyone else brings the sides and desserts. Please contact Raiford Gaffney (rgaffneydc@gmail.com) to sign up with the number of attendees and what you are bringing. We typically have about 50 people, so think large servings. We especially need volunteers for clean-up duty.

23. Christmas Greening is only 5 weeks away! **Worship Committee is looking for 2 people to coordinate:** one person to be the lead on greening, the other to be the lead on de-greening. We have a very simple plan and need the greening lead to place the order and oversee decorating. If you are willing to do either of these jobs, please contact the office at office@stmarks.net. Thank you!

24. Save the Date from the Lambda Lions - December 7th Joint Thanksgiving/Christmas 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. 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 or Brandon Knight at BrandonLKnight@yahoo.com with any questions.