

March 8, 2020 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 & Parish Leadership

1. Parish Meeting - Save the Date: In accordance with the parish bylaws, St. Mark's will conduct the annual parish meeting next **Sunday, March 15, 2020**. On this day there will be **one worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a lunch and moving to the meeting at 12:30 p.m.** Child care will be available. The parish will elect three members of the Vestry and a Diocesan Delegate. If you are a potential candidate, please notify the outgoing members of the Vestry who constitute the core of the Nominating Committee. Those parish members are Tracy Councill tracy@tracyskids.org, Alex Pereira alix.pereira@gmail.com, and Jim Brooks jabrooksjr@gmail.com. Look for regular updates about the parish meeting in the bulletin and the E-Gospel.

Youth & Family Ministries

2. Photos for Nursery Registration: When you drop off your child at the Nursery, please give us a photo of them to post on our bulletin board. Questions? Contact Deborah Cunningham, Nursery Manager dcwaterlover@yahoo.com.

3. March 20 - Parents Night Out. Drop off your kids to a night of fun at St. Mark's and enjoy a well deserved night off! From 5pm to 8 pm Friday, March 20 We will have art, games, activities and food. Kids up to 12 are welcome to join.

4. Summer Service Trips are coming soon! Did you miss the service trip interest meeting about our high school summer trip to Crown Point, NM with Next Step Ministries? Never fear! Check out the information packet, and sign up online! **Registration deadline is now TODAY March 8th.** Our Middle School trip is heading to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia! Registration opening soon!

5. Safeguarding God's Children On Saturday March 21 from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM Christ Church on G St. SE will host Safeguarding God's Children training. Safeguarding God's Children provides participants with the information they need to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and the ministries in which they serve. Training is required is strongly encouraged for anyone who wishes to learn more about how their parish can protect children and youth. Please email Caleb for more information.

6. Calling all High School Students! Every 3 years the Episcopal church has a huge gathering of **youth from around the world** and it's THIS SUMMER! This year's event is in College Park MARYLAND and Michele Morgan is chaplain! Email Caleb for more information.

Outreach

7. Our next Incarceration Ministry meeting will be **Tuesday, March 31st, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm** at St. Mark's in the **Verna Dozier Library**. Please join us to hear about recent activities, including our letters to and from incarcerated individuals and advocacy efforts on behalf of returning citizens. Please contact juanita.lipscomb@gmail.com -or- Jason Horrell - jrhorrell86@gmail.com for further information.

8. Seeking Laptops: Do you have an extra usable laptop in good condition? Good Neighbors Capitol Hill may be able to use it to help refugee families learn English as well as apply for jobs, etc. If the laptop needs to be scrubbed and loaded with new basic software for use by our Afghan families, we can arrange for that. If you have a laptop to donate, please contact karen.getman@gmail.com

Also seeking nice women's coats/jackets for refugee wives and older girls (size small or medium). . Please contact ednaboon@gmail.com or karen.getman@gmail.com to arrange for pick up. Thank you.

9. Thank You from the Vassar Haiti Project: The sale February 21-23 was a huge success. Their Executive Director wrote: "**The sale sold over 70 pieces of art** (think of the trickle down effect of that in and of itself - that 70 more pieces will be purchased from probably 50 artists) and hundreds of handcrafts...the art sales have a dramatic effect in Haiti: for the artists and artisans, the education and health of the people in the villages we support and the environment. **We are looking at taking some of our proceeds to buy 10,000 tree plants...that in five years will reap fruit and vegetables to feed and support our families...** Our priest in Haiti sees the reforestation initiative as the most important thing we can do." <https://thehaitiproject.org>

10. Lenten Creation Care Calendars available: To inspire our Lenten practice, the Green Lions suggest Lenten Creation Care Calendars - for DC, MD or Northern VA - created by Interfaith Power & Light and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. The calendars **can be downloaded from the Green Lions page on the St. Mark's website** at [Www.stmarks.net/service-and-justice/st-marks-green-lions](http://www.stmarks.net/service-and-justice/st-marks-green-lions). They provide readings and practices that could spark deeper conversations about what it means to faithfully respond to climate change as a church community and at home.

Music & Arts

11. Chiarina Chamber Players Concert: "Beethoven at 250, Part II" **Sunday, March 15th at 7:30 pm.** Visit www.chiarina.org for tickets. Use promo code STMARKS10 for a substantial discount.

12. Washington Bach Consort: Come hear Johann Sebastian Bach's masterpiece "St. John Passion" for choir and orchestra on **Saturday, March 21st at 7:00 pm.** Visit bachconsort.org for tickets.

13. Boys & Girls' Choir: Rehearsals have begun and our new director, Kerry Court, is looking for more children to join the group. Email her at bgcdirector@stmarks.net for more information. The choir **rehearses most Sundays from 11:00 am to noon downstairs in the Elders Room.** Children must be able to read in order to be in the choir, though we're hoping to have some opportunities for younger children to sing soon!

14. 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**, 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 find ways to get you involved. Contact Music Director Jeff Kempskie jeff@stmarks.net for more info.

15. 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.

Parish Life

16. Lambda Lions: Save the Date for 2020 Spring/Summer Activities, which will generally take place on the **4th Monday of the month (except in May) from 7-9 pm at St. Mark's in the Elders Room.** We are planning an engaging series of discussions to be announced before the March 23 meeting.

March 23: Discussion Series Pt 1 **April 27:** Discussion Series P2 **May 18:** Discussion Series Pt 3

DC Pride 2020 -- June 5-7, 2020 -- Please mark your calendars for this weekend when we plan to have some special activities!

The Lambda Lions hopes to provide a **supportive space for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (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. If you are interested in learning more about the Lambda Lions, please contact Co-Facilitators are Brandon Knight (brandonlknight@yahoo.com) and Mary Ellison (mary.c.ellison@gmail.com).

17. Spring at St. Mark's brings the return of music and dancing. Save The Date "Spring Fling Dance" -- Friday, April 17, 2020 for a festive parish-wide celebration complete with food, music, dancing, and the warm company of the St. Mark's community. Child care and kids activities will be arranged. Further details soon.

18. Spring Dance Volunteers Needed! This year, instead of a Mardi Gras dance, the Middle Agers group is putting on a **Spring Fling Dance on Friday, April 17**. In order to do so, we need **10-12 folks of all ages who are willing to plan** and execute it. Specifically, we need small committees to handle the food, drinks, decorations, ticket sales, children's activities and the music. Plus we need help the day of the dance with decorations, food, etc. All of the planning is done by conference call. Please consider pitching in, it is a great party! If you can, email Julie Murphy at juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com.

19. 20s/30s Faith Fellowship - Calling all young in age or at heart who are looking for an opportunity for fellowship. Come join us in the **Dozier Library on the last Sunday of the month following the 5:00 pm service (around 6:00 pm)** for a faith tea time of discussion and reflection. For more information, email Emily McDuff at emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com.

Christian Education

20. Personal Finances & Faith: Saturday, March 14th, Join us for a comprehensive one-day workshop focused on personal finance topics including budgeting, saving and goal setting, and a look at how they connect with our faith. Participants will leave with a personalized budget as well as money management insights to help them achieve and maintain a healthy, peaceful relationship with their finances. Our day is hosted at **Calvary Episcopal Church in DC 10am - 5pm**, and costs \$15 to cover lunch and snack expenses. Please RSVP at the response form <https://tinyurl.com/faith-finance>.

21. We need Your Input and Help: We are beginning the planning process for the next Christian Education calendar year (September 2020 to June 2021) and seek your input or help for the following:

- Do you have ideas for Christian Ed classes you would like to see offered? Please let us know!
- Are you interested in teaching Sunday School or an adult class?

Please contact your Christian Ed co-directors (Susan Thompson or Greg Niblett) at susanlynnthompson@gmail.com or greg.niblett@mtctrains.com or at 703-329-9797 (Susan) or 202-297-8859 (Greg).

22. A Huge thanks! To Collie Agle and Patrice Catalano for leading the **"Care for Creation" class** on Wednesday evenings during the Epiphany season. Approximately 25 parishioners and other interested community members participated in the class.

About 22 women members of the Parish are participating in a **women's class on Sunday mornings** in March. The class is being led by Elizabeth McCain; Julie Murphy; and Nancy Yannish. A big thanks to all!

23. Belonging: Class is cancelled; please look for it to be taught in the Fall.

24. “Lessons from Mr. Rogers” On Tuesday March 3, 10, 17, and 24 at the church, Rector Michele Morgan will be leading a discussion on empathy and how to treat each other. She is using the podcast “Finding Fred” as source material for the class. Class meets in the Rectors Room at 6:30 for food and discussion from 7pm to 8pm.

25. Looking Ahead – “What Do I Believe” Bruce Sherman and Betsy Athey will lead this issues-based, experiential class **in May**. Over 30 people have signed up so this class is currently closed. If you would like to be on a waiting list, contact Betsy at 202-251-0482 or Bruce at 202-213-9066 or Betsy at atheylloyd@comcast.net.

26. “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 other’s 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. Scholarships - full or partial - are available. Limited space is still open. *Please contact Susan Thompson susanlynnthompson@gmail.com for further information and see the **sign-up in Baxter Hall**.

27. Ongoing Christian Education. These groups are open to all parishioners and newcomers:

St. Mark’s Mediation Center (SMCC): 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, 11:30am – 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). Focus is on the study of **Paul’s letter to the Romans** using The Authentic Letters of Paul written by Westar Institute scholars Dewey/Hoover/McGauthy/Schmidt. The book or Kindle edition is available on Amazon.

Centering Prayer, Thursdays 7:30-8:30am, in the Nave. Center 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.