

Announcements - August 30, 2020

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 choose "Calendar" at the top of the page.

From the Rector

1. **Rector's Town Hall will start meeting again in September.**

Parish Life

2. **We will continue to open the Nave** for personal prayer and visits to loved ones in the Columbarium. You can **make a 25-minute appointment** between 2 PM and 4 PM every Saturday in September using Sign Up Genius.

Use this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e44a8ab22a5fe3-visit>

Please follow these safety measures during your visit: If you have signs of COVID-19 or are living with anyone who has symptoms of the virus, do not sign up. Come by appointment only, wear a mask, call the number on the Courtyard Door to be let in, socially distance during your visit, and use only the foyer bathroom marked "open." Hand sanitizer and extra masks will be available. Printed prayers to use and take with you will be available; if you prefer favorite prayers from the Book of Common Prayer, please bring your own. Specific areas of the Nave, Chapel, and bathroom will be wiped down with disinfectant after each visit.

Please review the available slots on Sign Up Genius. If you prefer to have someone else sign you up, call Josie Jordan at 202-486-8037.

3. **[Online] Caregivers Support Group** A monthly Caregivers' Support Group met for the first time last week and will continue to meet on the last Tuesday of every month, from 7:30 – 8:30 PM. If you are interested, curious, concerned, please contact Julie Murphy at juliaabbottmurphy@gmail.com or Cindy Dopp at Cindy@StMarks.net or 240 893-2693. We welcome particular areas of interest that you may have. Thank you.

4. **[Online] 20s/30s Faith Fellowship:** Calling all young in age or at heart who are looking for an opportunity for fellowship and reflection! Come join 20s/30s Faith Fellowship **virtually (Zoom or Google Hangouts) at 6:00 pm on the last Sunday of**

each month for a faith tea time. We took summer (June, July, and August) off apart from a virtual book club last week, and will **pick back up on September 27th.**

We will get to know each other; dwell on selected passages from scripture, poetry, and other texts; and share community insights. In addition to Faith Fellowship, our group of twenty-/thirty-somethings holds regular community service and social events (including virtual book club, hikes, Sunday Suppers, and more). For more information, email Leader Emily McDuff at emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com.

5. [Online] Free Yoga Classes from St. Mark's Yoga Center. Our experienced teachers are guiding free classes via Zoom in service to our congregation and community. Schedule is at stmarks.net/yoga. **Special Chair Yoga class on Thursdays. Yoga Nidra (Deep Relaxation) on Sunday evenings.**

Music & Arts

6. Virtual 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.

Youth and Family Ministries

7. [Check out this week's Youth E-News](#) for activities to do this week.

8. Bible Storytime Podcast. Join Caleb and the St. Mark's Sunday School team for a 5 minute daily podcast! We'll have some music, read a bible story, and say a prayer. - [Sign up to receive the next episode!](#)

9. Growing with God. Calling the young and young at heart! Join Michele and Caleb in [this new video series](#). Each week we will read the Sunday gospel lesson, talk about it and pray together.

Christian Education

10. Christian Education Catalog Now Available! The new Christian Education Catalog is now available, with a full slate of excellent offerings. In addition to the ongoing adult classes that will continue, there are a number of new, limited-time courses available, with the first classes starting on September 16, less than three weeks away! The catalog also describes the youth program that begins on September 20. Follow the links below for more information. If you have any questions, you can contact [Susan Thompson](#) or [Greg Niblett](#),

who have done a fabulous job putting all this together, or the individual course leaders listed in the catalog.

[Christian Education page](#) on the St. Mark's website

[Christian Education Catalog 2020-21](#)

[Online Sunday School Registration Form](#)

[Word doc Sunday School Registration Form](#)

11. [Online] Wednesday Bible Class

Date & Time: Wednesdays from noon to 1:15 pm, September 2, 2020-May 29, 2021

Leaders: Peter Mosley (Leader); Raiford Gaffney (Administrator)

Location: Zoom <http://stmarks.net/bibleclass/>

Please send an email to Raiford at rgaffneydc@gmail.com if you would like to participate in this class.

We will continue to study Paul's Letter to the Romans and try to get this juicy Pauline perspective on Jesus more clearly understood. Our recent study of "Resurrection" will serve us well as we can compare some of our own thinking with Paul's on the subject. We will use the Scholar's Translation and some of their commentary as our class texts. Of course, we'll always have other translations at the ready to aid our discussion.

Our focus is to continue to grow an understanding of our Bible, the context of these writings, the evolution of the post-Easter Jesus, the teachings of Pre-Easter Jesus, and the ways our ancestors understood and connected with God. How we do our study is also important. We aim to do our Bible study collaboratively and lovingly.

As we grow our understanding, we return again and again to ask: How has our study affected what is meaningful to us about our tradition? In this class we hope to deepen our beliefs and grow ever more trusting of our connection with God.

New members are welcome and appreciated.

12. Education for Ministry – New Group Forming! Co-mentors Sandy Padgett and Beth Cavey are forming an Education for Ministry (EfM) Group which will begin meeting **Tuesday mornings in September 2020 at St Michael's Church in Arlington.** Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM helps participants move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom as they better appreciate the connections between their faith and their lives. We welcome all who are interested in the journey of self-discovery, no matter the denomination or set of beliefs that encourage their path.

EfM is offered through the Beecken Center of the School of Theology at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. Classes are small, ranging from 6 – 12 students who are led by co-mentors.

The curriculum follows a four-year cycle that participants commit to a year at a time covering the Old Testament, the New Testament, the history of Christianity, and the practice of theology. Participants receive 18 Continuing Education Credits for each year of study.

Annual Cost is \$375 per year and includes all texts (Scholarships are available). For more information, email the Administrative Mentor at caveyelizabeth@gmail.com

13. [Online] Centering Prayer. Every day on Zoom at 8:00am. Centering Prayer is an early Christian contemplative practice that places a strong emphasis on interior silence. For more information or to join the group, contact The Rev. Patricia Catalano at adjunct@stmarks.net

14. [Online] St. Mark's Meditation Center: Meditation, Mondays 7:30-9:00pm
Contact: Michele Rivard Mmrivard@hotmail.com.
[Sign up for the weekly program email](#) to receive info on weekly online meetings

Outreach

15. Washington Interfaith Network (WIN): Check into an online "ReImagine DC" session with WIN to listen, learn and add your voice building advocacy energy for where public money goes on issues of: policing/safety, jobs, public lands, and housing - and to learn about ways to engage.

- [Wednesday, September 2, 5:30-7:00 p.m.](#): Reservation 13 / Public Lands and Action Watch Party
- [Thursday, September 17, 6:45-8:00 p.m.](#): Utilities and Pepco Campaign Learning and Action

Other ways to continue learning about these issues include:

- [Urban Institute Events](#)- Topics Including: [Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis: Providing Direct Cash Assistance to DC Residents](#)

16. Good Neighbors Capitol Hill: Our St. Mark's community has been an integral part of GNCH helping Afghan refugees in Maryland. Most of the 40 refugee families GNCH has connected with as tutors and employment mentors have been under employed, but

now 89% are unemployed and joining the millions seeking government benefits. GNCH has purchased \$4000 worth of gift cards for the families needs.

You can help to increase our ongoing “relief fund” by sending a check to Lutheran Church of the Reformation with GNCH refugees on the notation line (LCOR manages our designated giving account). You can also visit the online donation portal at www.reformationdc.org and designate gifts for “Refugee resettlement.” All funds so designated will go directly to support for refugees Please indicate you are a St. Marks parishioner as we want to thank you personally. Questions can be directed to karen.getman@gmail.com