

Announcements - September 6, 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.**

Music & Arts

2. **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

3. [Check out this week’s Youth E-News](#) for activities to do this week.
4. **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!](#)
5. **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

6. **Sunday School Registration Now Active!**

If you’d like your child/youth registered in Sunday School this year, please fill out the registration form below (use either the Google Docs or the Word Doc form links below – only one). Only children/youth who are formally registered will be able to participate in Sunday School. We will be using Zoom for all classes, except Catechesis I for ages three to Kindergarten. Contact Christy Rumpf at Christy.rumpf@gmail.com for further information on Catechesis I.

[Online Sunday School Registration Form](#)
[Word doc Sunday School Registration Form](#)

7. 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 adult courses available, with the **first classes starting on September 16**. Registration is required for all adult classes. See the link to the CE Catalog below for all courses, then if you are interested in any of the classes in the Catalog, click on the link to the leader's email and send a message indicating your interest. In this way, you will be registered for the class.

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](#)

8. Episcopalians 101 (2020)

As Episcopalians, we are coming to understand ourselves as not only members of a church but as people gathered to make meaning out of a broken world. We are called people to serve the dream of God and form beloved communities that live not for themselves but for the world's love. Today, we are part of the ongoing movement of people who center their lives on a loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with God, with each other, and with creation. If it is your desire to understand what it means to be an Episcopalian, consider joining us! We convene this class several times a year, in two sessions held on Sundays.

Dates: **Wednesday September 16 & 23**
 Sunday September 20 & 27
 Sunday November 22 & 29

Time: **1:30-3:00 p.m.**

Leader: **Rev. Michele Morgan**

Location: **Zoom**

(If you are interested in taking this course, please send an email to Rev. Michele Morgan at Michele@stmarks.net with "Subscribe to Episcopalians 101-2020" in the subject line.)

9. Sacred Ground Dialogue Series

This class will be a continuation of the deep work of learning about race and white privilege that began in June 2020 when students gathered to study the book *Waking Up White*. Many of those who participated in that group felt they needed to continue discussing this very important and timely topic. We will organize a dialogue circle in St. Mark's to continue our transformational conversation about racism.

The Sacred Ground Dialogue Series is part of the Becoming Beloved Community initiative of The Episcopal Church, a long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. It is built around powerful documentary films and readings, which will serve as the jumping-off point for dialogue. The curriculum covers various key chapters in U.S. history of race and racism, as well some of the latest thinking by scholars and practitioners of racial healing, racial equity, and whiteness, focusing on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Dates: 10 sessions starting on Wednesday, September 16.
Meetings will be every other week (9/16, 9/30, 10/14, 10/28, 11/11, 11/25,
12/9, 12/23, 1/6, 1/20)

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Leader: Rev. Patricia Catalano
Location: Zoom

(If you are interested in taking this course, please send an email to Patricia at adjunct@stmarks.net with "Subscribe to The Sacred Ground Dialogue Series" in the subject line.)

10. Hear the Poets Speak: The Language of Diversity

America has been gifted with great cultural diversity. This two-night class will focus on the voices of Black, Hispanic, Asians, Indigenous and immigrant citizens of the U.S. who, through their words, bring us a vision of their dreams and desires and hopes. Please join us as we look inside the minds and souls of these American poets using the Great Books method of inquiry. Poets include Richard Blanco, Langston Hughes, Elizabeth Alexander, Yusef Komuyakaa, Lisa Parker, Margaret Walker, Joy Harjo, Victoria Chang, and others. Poems will be sent to you in advance if you register by September 15, 2020.

Dates: September 22 & 29
Time: 6:30-8:00 pm.
Leader: Susan Thompson
Location: Zoom

(If you are interested in taking this course, please send an email to Susan at susanlynnthompson@gmail.com with "Subscribe to Diversity Poets" in the subject line.)

11. On-Line Sunday Morning Bible Class

The Sunday Morning Bible Class will begin on September 20 by examining Chapters 18-24 of Second Samuel, which focus on the story of the final years in King David's life. On December 16, the class will begin the journey through the complex Book of Genesis, from the creation to the world to the death of Joseph the Patriarch. The class consists of class discussion of the assigned reading for that day. Regular attendance is encouraged. Additional outside readings are not expected.

Date & Time: Sundays, 9a.m.-10a.m., Sept 20, 2020-May 16, 2021 (except holidays)

Leaders: Bob Ewald (Leader); Andrew Stafford (Zoom Administrator)

Location: Zoom (if you are interested in taking this class, please send an email to Bob Ewald at lherbe@yahoo.com with "Subscribe to Sunday Morning Bible Class" in the subject line.)

12. [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

13. [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. Our focus is to continue to grow an understanding of our Bible, the context of these writings, the teachings of Pre-Easter Jesus, the evolution of the post-Easter Jesus and the ways our ancestors understood and connected with God. 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.

14. [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

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.

- [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

Parish Life

17. 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.

18. [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 juliaabbotmurphy@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.

19. [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.

20. [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.**