

October 1, 2017 Announcements

Announcements, **not to exceed 150 words**, are to be submitted to bulletin@stmarks.net by **5:00 pm on the Tuesday** proceeding the Sunday you wish the announcement to run.

Official Parish Calendar online at: <http://www.stmarks.net/connect/calendar/>

Parish Life

1. St. Mark's Reading Group meets on the **second Wednesday** of every month in the Dozier Library at **12:30 p.m.** Feel free to bring your lunch. On **October 11th**, we will discuss *Paradise* by Toni Morrison. On **November 8th**, we will discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles Contact: Linda Ewald, llerbe@yahoo.com or 301-541-5133

Worship

2. Help Welcome Worshipers on Sunday! Ushers are the first contact people have when coming to worship at St. Mark's. This is your opportunity to provide a warm and inclusive atmosphere to ALL worshipers, whether new or familiar to our community. Welcomers are responsible for greeting parishioners when they arrive for the 9 am, 10 am (when there is one service) and 11:15 services. You may serve as often or as little as your schedule permits. The **Ushers do not have monthly meetings, sign-up is handled via email and time commitment per Sunday is approximately 35 minutes** (25 minutes to "welcome" and distribute hymnals, 5 minutes for offertory, 5 minutes to "clean up" hymnals, etc. left in chairs immediately following service). **If you would like to join our team of welcomers, please contact Mary Ellison**, mary.c.ellison@gmail.com (952-657-4615).

Christian Education

3. Third Ager Potluck Fall Potluck October 14th: HANDS ON JUDAISM – Come, hear one of St. Mark's Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program founders, Senior Warden, Nora Howell. Nora has been on the Board of Directors of the Center for Children and Theology <https://cctheo.org/>, where she has been working with Catherine Maresca on a project called "Hands on Faith," which give participants a sensory experience of other faiths. When: **Saturday, Oct 14th at 11:00am**. Where: **Baxter Hall**. Bring your favorite "**Fall**" dish to serve 8; dessert, tea and coffee setups will be provided. All are invited—not just those over sixty. Questions? Contact Don Gangloff d_gangloff@outlook.com

4. Introduction to Catechesis and Sunday School Substitute Training: Have you ever wondered what happens in Sunday School for our youngest children? Have you ever wanted to sit with them and listen with fresh ears to the fundamental lessons of our faith and hear/see our children's response? If so, you're in luck! Senior Warden Nora Howell will provide an **orientation on October 21st from 9am – 12 noon**. During this short class, we'll give you an overview of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program that is used in our classes for children age 3 - 12. This will also train you to be a substitute in our Sunday School atrium. **To register or for more information, please contact Kris Humphrey** at kristenjhumphrey@gmail.com.

5. Wednesday Morning Bible Study: St. Mark's will be celebrating the 100th birthday of our own Verna Dozier in October. In honor of that occasion, the Wednesday Bible Class will be reading her book, The Dream of God. "God has a dream, Verna Dozier believes, and we are the realization of that dream. The dream of God is that all creation will live together in peace and harmony." Verna was a nationally known theologian and author. The book and Kindle edition are available online.

Date & Time: **September 6, 2017 – May 25, 2017, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm**
(brown bag lunch follows until 1:00 pm.)

Leader: Peter Mosley Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney, rgaffneydc@gmail.com

Location: **St. Mark's (Elders Room)** Fee: \$25

6. Marching Through the Bible: "Letter of James" (New Testament) & "Amos" (Old Testament):

In honor of the 100th birthday of St. Mark's theologian Verna Dozier, we will be reading two of Verna's favorite books of the Bible, "James" and "Amos." Perhaps we, too, can discover the insights of these two authors that are relevant for our times. The course consists of class discussion of the text assigned for that day. Regular attendance is encouraged. Additional outside readings are not expected. ("Marching Through the Bible" is named in memory of our long-term convener, Francis "Buzz" March.)

Dates & Time: **September 17, 2017- May 20, 2018, 10-11 am**

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

Location: **Penniman Room (Undercroft)** Fee: \$25 per semester

7. Ongoing Christian Education. These groups meet weekly and are open to newcomers:

Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:15 pm, Elders Room

Sunday Morning Bible Class, Sundays, 10-11 am, Penniman Room

SMCC Meditation, Mondays Starting Sept 11th 7:30-9pm, the Nave. Contact Collie Agle chagle@washpathfind.com

Music & Arts

8. St. Mark's Players Present Sister Act! Performances begin at **8 pm in the Nave on Thursdays, October 19 and 26, Fridays, October 13, 20, and 27, and Saturdays, October 14, 21, and 28.** There will also be a **matinee on Saturday, October 28, at 2 pm.** You can order tickets on their website <http://stmarksplayers.org/>. This will be a lively production!

9. Sing in a Choir! Singers of all voice parts are needed in the **Chancel Choir (rehearses Thursdays 7:30-9:30)** and the **Boys & Girls Choir (rehearses approximately every other Sunday 11:00am-12:30pm).** The **Handbell Choir** is also looking for people to ring handbells (rehearses approximately **every other Wednesday 6:45-8pm**). No prior experience is required. Questions? Contact Jeff Kempeskie, Director of Music: jeff@stmarks.net

10. Music Lessons. The St. Mark's Music Studio has two new teachers! Annie Simon (simon.annie@gmail.com) now offers voice lessons in addition to Adam Caughey (adamcaughey@gmail.com). Stephanie Ng (stephanien217@gmail.com) now offers piano lessons in addition to Jeff Kempeskie (jeff@stmarks.net). Students of all ages and experience are welcome. Learn more about our new teachers at stmarks.net/music

Outreach

11. 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 23 others from Boston, Chicago, Denver, Milwaukee, Nashville, New York, New Jersey, England, and South Africa. We will meet in Jerusalem and travel together from October 17-November 1 in Israel, W. Bank (Palestine) and Jordan. If you participated in a former Pilgrimage, you are welcome to join us around the altar and pray for these travelers and the others who are also preparing for the journey. All are invited to a **"Happy Hour" Mezze after the 5:00 pm Service to meet the travelers.** Questions? Contact: Karen Getman Karen.getman@gmail.com

12. Outreach Support of CHUMC Meals Program. TODAY, please **pick up a casserole pan** (which contains an easy recipe, a date label, and detailed delivery suggestions) **on the table near the High Altar.** The pans are provided to the congregation on the first and second Sundays of every month. Parishioners are encouraged to prepare one or more casseroles and **deliver them in person to the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church**

(CHUMC) located three blocks from St. Mark's Church. CHUMC, in turn, feeds our needy and hungry neighbors on the hill throughout the week. Need more information? Please contact Jack Richards (703) 751-1456.

13. Mother's Dream Quilting Bee: Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and the Black Women for Positive Change are hosting a Mother's Dream Quilting Bee on **Sunday, October 15th 1:30pm-4:00pm in Baxter Hall**. The Mother's Dream Quilt Project symbolizes the human toll of gun violence, as well as a mother's determination to create a safer environment for our children. Come create a quilt square with your own meaningful fabric or use provided fabric. Quilt squares will be sewn into a Mother's Dream Quilt for DC, and will be put on display across the country and online. Visit www.mothersdreamquilt.org for examples. RSVP to Sara Kerai at sarakerdc@gmail.com. No sewing experience is necessary!

14. Donate or Serve - Please support **St. Mark's Sunday Suppers ministry** to provide food to the homeless and provide fellowship for people in need. You can **drop off** a frozen party size frozen mac and cheese or a bag of frozen meatballs **in the freezer in Baxter Hall**. Or you can help **serve food at Franklin Square**, on **14th between I and K St NW at 6pm on Oct 15th**. Please email Lisa Ramish Lisa.ramish@gmail.com if you plan to donate or serve.

15. St Mark's W2W Bra Drive – October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Women to Women are collecting new and gently used bras for donation to a local women's shelter. **Donations will be collected in a box on the table by the altar**. Contact: Edna Temaner ednaboon@gmail.com

16. Panel: Challenges and Opportunities Facing Women in the Middle East and North Africa
St. Mark's Middle East Working Group and Women to Women together with Hands Along the Nile invite you to come learn about the challenges and opportunities facing women in the Middle East and North Africa. A group of six women's rights activists from Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco will be joining us on **Wednesday, November 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Baxter Hall** to explore women's political participation, public health issues facing women, and women's entrepreneurship in their region. We hope to see you there! Contact Jennifer Cate jcate@handsalongthenile.org.

17. CHGM Parenting Class Lunches: Many thanks to those who signed up to provide lunch for the client participants in Capitol Hill Group Ministry's Monday Parenting Class. **The sign up through Christmas is complete!!** Watch in November for a chance to sign up for the Winter Semester starting in January. CHGM social workers report how much the lunches are appreciated and, in fact, important to the success of the class. Contact Susan Sedgewick (jssedgewick@gmail.com) to learn more.

18. October Refugee Update: Thanks to your generous support, the Good Neighbor Refugee program continues. The Capitol Hill coalition has created welcoming apartments for ten Afghan families. Your monetary donations and the new or gently used household goods provided a home for the new arrivals. As school begins, the families need extra support with language, culture, clothing, school supplies, etc. Essential to the parent's acclimation is coaching in language skill, employment, driving tests and self-sufficiency. Deferred medical or dental examinations often reveal needs for costly treatments. Our GNCH family (the Rasoolys) have made excellent progress with assistance from many volunteers. Yet the journey continues for them and the other families who are still in early days of their arrival. **Volunteers and donations are very welcome. For more specifics please contact: Karen Getman Karen.getman@gmail.com**