

April 8, 2018 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: stmarks.net/connect/calendar

From the Vestry and Parish Leadership

1. Extended Vision 2020 Campaign: We are imagining our spiritual home's tomorrow in more creative and exciting ways. Vision 2020 raised over \$4 million in gifts and in the sale of Baxter House. However, since we reached and stretched on our improvements during the Vision 2020 campaign, we still now service a debt of approximately one million, which costs us \$70,000 a year.

We have some fundamental maintenance and structural issues that need to be addressed soon in order to keep us safe and comfortable in our communal space. Erasing or significantly reducing the 2020 debt and making other capital improvements are the primary drivers of this campaign along with our desire to make a significant gift to our broader community. Because we are sustained by the power of community and strong pastoral support, the Extended Vision 2020 presents an opportunity to support and ensure that St. Mark's will continue to be a force that continues to sustain us, and allows us to contribute to the broader community. We invite 100% participation; the glass is half-full.

Pledges are a three-year commitment and will be accepted until May 31, 2018, with payment due in full by March 31, 2021. Pledge forms are in the Church Office, online and will be in the track racks in the nave at each entrance. Co-Chairs Rob Hall and Jackie Boddie can be reached at ExtendedVision@stmarks.net, to address any questions or concerns you may have. Please contact us if you would like to meet and discuss the Extended Vision.

Music & Arts

2. 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 hand bells (rehearses approximately **every other Wednesday 6:45-8pm**). No prior experience is required. Questions? Contact Jeff Kempskie, Director of Music: jeff@stmarks.net

3. Music Lessons. At the St. Mark's Music Studio, Julia Morris (juliamorris23@gmail.com) teaches flute lessons; Diane Atherton (dianesvoicestudio@gmail.com) and Adam Caughey (adamcaughey@gmail.com) offer voice lessons; and Stephanie Ng (stephanien217@gmail.com) and Jeff Kempskie (jeff@stmarks.net) teach piano lessons. Students of all ages and experience are welcome. Learn more about our teachers at stmarks.net/music.

Outreach

4. Planning Ahead for Sandwich Making! Help us make sandwiches for hungry souls, **next Sunday, April 15**, from **4:00 to 4:45 P.M.** in Baxter Hall. We always need 3-4 volunteers to create and bag 90 sandwiches (in about 30 minutes!). **Caroline McReynolds-Adams**, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, and **our St. Mark's teens and their parents**, will deliver the sandwiches and hard-boiled eggs the same evening to Sunday Suppers, who feeds souls on the street at Franklin Park, 14th Street NW. Questions about sandwich making?- Please contact Jack Richards (ktjr89@verizon.net) or Alix Pereira (alix.pereira@gmail.com), your Sunday Suppers Support Team.

5. 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 (ktjr89@verizon.net).

6. Israel/Palestine Film Festival: Film is a wonderful way to explore the complex, difficult, and emotional issues that have prevented peace in Israel/Palestine for over three generations. **A free series with discussion** following each showing – Voices from the Holy Land – is being offered **this month** at multiple locations in DC, MD., and VA. All but one, April 14, will be on **Sundays at 2:30**. Titles include: Disturbing the Peace; Roadmap to Apartheid; Censored Voices; Jews Step Forward; Thank God It's Friday; The Field; Gaza – A Gaping Wound; Gaza in Context; The Danger of Neutrality; Bethlehem: Hidden from View; and Palestine Pre-1948. For more information go to www.voicesfromtheHolyland.org Co-sponsored by the St. Mark's Mid-East Working Group.

7. Sexual Harassment Bystander Intervention Training on Saturday, April 28: from 1-3pm in the **Elders Room**. The #MeToo movement has finally given the seriousness and pervasiveness of sexual harassment the attention it deserves. What is your role in preventing and ending sexual harassment in your workplace and community? Come to this two-hour training led by trainers from the awesome local non-profit organization, Collective Action for Safe Spaces (CASS). You'll learn tangible ways to intervene if you witness harassment, discrimination, or even microaggressions. The training cost \$25 per person and reservations are required. To reserve your spot or ask questions, email Lindsey Jones-Renaud at LJonesRenaud@gmail.com.

8. The Green Lions' (St. Mark's Environmental Action Group) Earth Day is Everyday. Ready to make an impact? Learn more or join the Draw Down Challenge today. The 100 most substantive solutions to 'draw down' global warming. See how your daily choices matter: <https://drawdown.ecochallenge.org/> Questions? Contact Victoria Doyon 202-286-3112

Parish Life

9. St. Mark's Reading Group meets on the **third Wednesday** of every month in the Dozier Library at **12:30 p.m.** On March 21 we were snowed out. So on **April 18**, we will discuss *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward and on **May 16**, we will discuss *Stay With Me* by Ayobami Adebayo. Contact: Linda Ewald, lherbe@yahoo.com, 301-541-5133.

Christian Education

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

- * **Sunday Morning Bible Class**, Sundays, **10-11 am, January 28-April 15, 2018 Penniman Room**
Studying the Book of Esther.
Convener: Bob Ewald (lherbe@yahoo.com) (301) 541-5133 One-time Bible Class fee: \$25
- * **SMCC Meditation**, Mondays 7:30-9pm, the Nave. Contact: Collie Agle chagle@washpathfind.com
- * **Tuesday Evening Bible Study, 7:30-9pm, Dozier Library.**
Discussing mysticism in relation to the Gnostic Gospels
Co-Coordinator: Bill Jones (billclough@icloud.com) Kathleen Grant (xqueenmommy17@gmail.com)
- * **Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 11:00am-12:15pm, Elders Room** (Brown bag lunch until 1pm)
Studying The Dream of God by Verna Dozier.
Leader: Peter Mosley Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney, rgaffneydc@gmail.com

11. Crisis, Immigration, and Imagination – Loss and Reclaiming of Peoplehood in the Ancient and Post-Modern Worlds (Jesus Seminar) April 13, 14: Hal Taussig of Union Theological Seminary and Chebon Kernell, Executive Secretary of Native American and Indigenous Ministries/United Methodist Church and enrolled member of the Seminole Nation ask: what if the New Testament and related texts were not written to start a new religion but to address dislocations of populations, violence, and loss within the Roman Empire? **Second Century Mediterranean Christ-communities and 21st-century Native American communities share common challenges.** Each experienced forms of violence, migration, and forced refugee status, but also expressed spiritual resistance and renewal. How can this help us address similar conditions and renewal in Native American settings? **Baxter Hall, Friday, April 13, 7:30–9:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 14, 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.** Contact christoph.berendes@netalyst.com. Register: <https://is.gd/jsordc2018>

Youth & Family Ministries

12. April Parenting Class: For children, "growing up" can mean periods of building deep bonds. Yet, childhood and adolescence must also necessarily include periods of separation and experiences of loss. Over the course of four consecutive Sunday mornings, we will explore how we build strong connections in our families and how we embrace the pain inherent in letting go. We hope you will join teachers Bill Jordan, Kit Arrington, Jim Ashley and Julie Murphy on **Sunday mornings, April 8 - 29, from 9 am to 11 in the Adams Room** to explore how we build strong connections in our families and how we embrace the pain inherent in letting go. To sign up or for more information, email Julie Murphy at juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com.

13. April 15: Youth at Sunday Suppers: Youth and families are taking on outreach for Sunday Suppers in April and May! Sign up to bring a casserole, serve the meal, help drive the youth, and more. This is a great way to give back to our neighborhood and spend time together, and we need everyone's help to make it work. **Sign up to volunteer** at <https://bit.ly/2GYFE7I> or email Caroline.

14. April 21-22: Middle School Lock In: 6th-8th grade youth- come celebrate the end of another school year with your St. Mark's fam! We will play tons of silly games, eat a lot of junk food, watch movies, and have free reign of the church that night. Register today at <https://tinyurl.com/lock-in-MS>.

15. April 22: Earth Day Garden Cleanup and Celebration: The Green Lions Committee working with Youth and Family Ministries is sponsoring an event for families with young children (**age 5 to 10**) on **Sunday, April 22nd right after Sunday school (11am-12pm)**. Parents are asked to come to help supervise and siblings are invited. There will be some activity games, simple tasks in the gardens, and "green treats." In case of rain, the event will be held indoors. To help us plan and get details, please let email Betsy Agle for more information: betsy@agle.net.

16. April 28-29: High School Retreat: 9th-12th grade youth- come join us for a relaxing weekend away at a beautiful country home **in Blue Ridge Summit Maryland!** We will cook our meals together, watch movies, play board games, and enjoy some time away. Register today at <https://tinyurl.com/retreat-HS>.

Questions regarding these activities? **Contact Director of Youth and Family Ministries Caroline McReynolds-Adams** caroline@stmarks.net