

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE LION'S TALE

VOLUME 2017, ISSUE 3 SEPTEMBER/DECEMBER 2017



St Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Unnamed and Unclaimed

For the last few days we have witnessed via social media or television the ravages of Hurricane Harvey on the Gulf Coast of Texas and other areas along the western end of the Gulf of Mexico. Rain and flooding have brought death and destruction to many. Having lived for a few years in south Florida I can understand their feelings of helplessness and fear when storms rage so uncontrollably. Prior to Katrina Hurricane Andrew had been the biggest natural disaster in American history. When Arielle and I returned to what had once been our neighborhood in south Miami the area was unrecognizable. And that seemed bad enough. In this season of these massively destructive storms we also recall the tragedy that Katrina brought, especially to the New Orleans region. Hurricane Katrina brought a whole new level of destruction to property and loss of life. When we went home shortly after Katrina and drove to the Gulf Coast where I had served as a parish priest, all of the familiar landmarks were gone. Once again, like Miami post-Andrew, it appeared as a wasteland.

The dead were racially diverse: 56 percent black; 40 percent white; 4 percent Asian; 4 percent Native American and 2 percent Hispanic. 64% were over 65 years of age. Officially a death count is 1,836, but hundreds still remain missing and unaccounted for. New Orleans Coroner Frank Minyard felt overwhelmed by the task of identifying and respectfully dealing with the dead. He set up a fund, supported by city and private donations to build six granite faced mausoleums on the grounds of the cemetery at the abandoned Charity Hospital. Thirty one unnamed dead and 54 other unclaimed bodies rest there. Yet these “unnamed” and “unclaimed” were real people. They were somebody to someone—a son or daughter, a mother or father, a husband or wife— yet now lost to the storm.

As Harvey continues on its destructive path, and others die at the hands of violence of some human form, I am reminded that however “unnamed” or “unclaimed” they or we may ever be, our Father knows us by name and rejoices to claim us as his sons and daughters. As Jesus says in Matthew 6:30: “If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?” I am convinced and believe that the Father who created each of us never stops loving us in life or in death.

St. Augustine, an early Christian theologian and philosopher whose writings influenced the development of Western Christianity and philosophy, explains what only God can do: “God loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love.” When we pray for the dead during the Prayers of the People at Sunday worship, we ask God to “remember” them. God’s remembering has a different effect than ours. When we remember the dead, they live on in our minds and hearts. When God remembers the dead, they live on in God’s eternal love. Billions who have lived before us in human history are remembered by no one on earth, yet God never fails to remember all of them and us.



Blessings, David

SHARED MINISTRY: SEMINARIAN EMILY KRUDYS

Emily Krudys has been a part of the Episcopal Church all her life, beginning at St. John's in McAllen, Texas. With this foundation, she has had an ecumenical approach to education. She received a BA in history from Baylor University and a JD from Baylor Law School, studied at Georgetown Law, and most recently, completed a Master of Divinity degree at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

Emily is currently pursuing an Anglican Studies Diploma at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. Before discerning a call to ordained ministry, Emily worked as a lawyer in Washington, D.C. Her family has lived in Richmond for the last twenty-one years where she and her husband, Mark, raised their two daughters, Katherine (24) and Hannah (22). They also worked together in a private law firm, in which they focused on representing injured individuals and on civil rights litigation. While in seminary, Emily interned as a hospital chaplain and at Embrace Richmond, a non-profit focused on asset-based community development. She is passionate about justice issues, the future of the Church, and swimming.

Having completed her summer internship, Emily will be with us for her seminary field work sharing in Sunday worship and other ministry team work during the program year.



SHARED MINISTRY: FINANCE



Operations Update as of July 2017

Budgeted Pledge Income:
 \$157,324 Actual
 \$134,750 Pledged

Average Sunday Attendance: YTD - 119 (July)

2017 Pledge Campaign: 96 pledge units, total \$273,931! Well on our way to a goal of 100 pledges. Your generous pledging reduces our reliance on the investment account to fund operations, allowing the principal to grow and earn more interest to fund capital projects and improvements.

SHARED MINISTRY: PLANNING PROJECT

Discerning Our Call in Community: Planning Process 2017-2018

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is on the cusp of something big. Having successfully marked our 150th birthday we are actively looking toward what years 151 + calls. We have come a long way in five years and have all the signs of many good years ahead. St. Mark's is a strong and healthy community.

Building on our long history of looking outside our walls: integration in the 1960/70's, AIDS Ministry in the 1980/90's, full inclusion in the 1990/2000's, race and racial healing in 2010's - we know need remains high in our neighborhood and metropolitan region. St. Mark's is ready for an active and engaged future. This community is ready to serve *the* community.

To do this well, we engaged the services of an experienced and highly regarded local planning consultant, Kathryn Whitney of Warren Whitney. We see the planning process as critical to sustaining our growth and securing our future. We cannot risk our future as a cornerstone in the community to anyone less than the best in planning facilitation and direction.

The St. Mark's Planning Team created for the planning process communicate with the Vestry and parish at large. Ms. Whitney will work with the planning team and groups from the parish in a three-part process to include:

- **Engagement Planning** to collect relevant background information and identify who should be involved and at what level (Parish focus groups will be held in October and November).
- **Environmental Scan** to analyze the current position of St. Mark's and review mission and core values .
- A two-part **Planning Session Process**:
 - First step - to review collected data and evaluate it asking ourselves, "Is what we have found at this step consistent with the previous processes?" If so we proceed, if not we pause and reevaluate to determine any needed updates and restatement of mission and values. After this first step is successfully completed we move to
 - Second step – an outgrowth of the healthy completion of all steps - to create the plan and goals.

The plan we develop is not going to end up like so many other planning projects, as "just another binder on the shelf." The plan we create is a living document designed to help keep us on course through regular review and evaluation to both center ministry in mission and values, and to measure progress. St. Mark's leadership will continue to engage with this plan on a regular basis to both measure our progress and help us discern new goals.

More information on the planning process and Focus Group sign-ups will be available during our Welcome Back Sunday Coffee Hour on September 10.

Newcomer Welcome Event
Sunday, September 10, 5pm at Father David's house.

SENT MINISTRY: FEEDING PROGRAM UPDATE

The Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen will reopen in September

After an incident that occurred in June, as an interim step, the Vestry has approved the hiring of an off-duty Richmond City police officer to monitor the feeding program for a period of three months. In the longer term we will be advertising for and interviewing candidates with experience in homeless/working poor populations to hire a Feeding Program Coordinator. This will be an hourly position.

We will also continue to work with other area churches involved in feeding ministries to create a best practices and protocols for volunteers and leaders in ministry with homeless and working poor populations.

Feeding Ministry Best Practices & Protocols:

- Goal – to provide a safe environment for our Feeding Ministry guests and volunteers
- Need – training to support best practices and protocols, trained supervision for this program
- Community survey – as best we can tell there is not much available in terms of guidelines, best practices, training and protocols for feeding and/or other on-site ministries. This suggests that the work done here in Richmond could be an offering to the broader church and provide needed support for what are often entirely volunteer-led ministries in our communities.
- Many Richmond feeding programs (comparable in size to ours and larger) regularly employ off-duty Richmond police officers and integrate them into their programs. Most also have a paid staff person present along with the volunteers and this person is trained in mental health and de-escalation techniques.



Christmas Boxes - It's A St. Mark's Tradition

Once again our Christmas gift project will serve low income elders in Richmond City District 8. As the city council staff who pick up the boxes tell us, for many of these folks our gifts will be the only Christmas gift they receive. And what a joy to have a name and a list to shop for. Feels just like Santa!

Our Christmas lists will be available late in November. You can sign up on Sunday mornings or via email, and you can pick up your box and gift tag at your leisure. Sign ups will continue until all the elders have a shopper.

Boxes need to be back, stuffed and wrapped, by mid- December so they can be delivered in a timely manner for Christmas.



SENT MINISTRY: MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

Outreach Hospitality Ministry: Feeding Ministry is 2nd and 4th Saturdays,

9:00—10:30am

How you can help:

Pack bags before each distribution on the
2nd and 4th Saturdays, and
Serve on 2nd & 4th Saturday mornings, 9-10:30am
Donate pastries, donuts, muffins, cookies,
fresh fruit (especially oranges and bananas)



Donate food for the bags: Tuna, Vienna sausages, canned chicken or Spam, Hearty soups, stews, or chili, Pork and beans, Canned ravioli or spaghetti O's, Mac & cheese mix, Fruit or applesauce cups, Vegetables, Granola bars, Pop tarts, Single serving instant oatmeal or grits, Peanut butter, Packaged crackers, Single serving water or juice, Pudding cups, Cookies.

Toiletry Items for Food Pantry: As you travel and stay in hotels/motels, please pick up the small toiletry items offered to you. Our Food Pantry Guests are grateful to receive them.

Clothing Donations: Sturdy clothing and rain wear are needed for guests of our food pantry. **All men's basics:** coats, hoodies, jeans, khakis, rain suits, underwear, socks, scarves, belts, socks, gloves, sneakers, boots, ponchos, and collapsible umbrellas. Also, we get requests for sleeping bags, backpacks, and rolling suitcases.

Wednesday Night 12 Step Group Hosts:

Provide a St. Mark's presence in the building during this important support ministry to those in recovery. Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm.

**To share in this ministry of presence and giving please contact Ed Street,
ed.street@gmail.com, or sign up on-line thru the website. Thank you!**



PRIDE is Saturday, September 23,

Noon—6pm, Brown's Island

Please consider volunteering for a few hours

Contact Dolores Ramiza to help

SENT MINISTRY: SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

During the last ten years church shopping and visiting churches has changed. No longer are folks just ambling in to see what St. Mark's is about. No longer is a first visit a first visit. No, they've already visited St. Mark's—done their website shopping and based on that decided St. Mark's was worth two hours of their Sunday.

Visitors have visited us on-line, done their shopping on the web. Not at Amazon, but by googling Episcopal churches and seeing what pops up. Then like any good shopper they take a look at what is offered—is the community welcoming, are we open to diversity, do we offer interesting and relevant programs, is there a youth group, are their programs for children? And it is critically important that the information is up-to-date, the photographs are crisp and the verbage engaging.

They've also shopped via social media. Do we pop up on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram—can they see what is happening during our special events and outreach efforts—are we part of current conversations and issues of relevance to their lives?

Ten years ago this was not true; ten years ago you needed a website, but it didn't need to change much. Ten years ago Facebook was relatively new—today it is one of the worlds ten largest nations (by numbers of users). Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Tumblr—all new ways to connect with the world, all new ways to tell our story. And we have to use these tools well. This is not an option anymore. This is the world we live in. And we have to use the tools to create the space that is St. Mark's.

And it takes time. And it takes talent. And it takes commitment.

If you are a person who takes pictures of our events, if you are a person who writes, if you are a person who keeps up on social justice events, if you are a person who regularly tweets—we need you to be part of the Social Media Team. You won't be doing it alone—that's why it is a team. But you will be helping build and maintain the on-line space that is St. Mark's .

Want to know more?

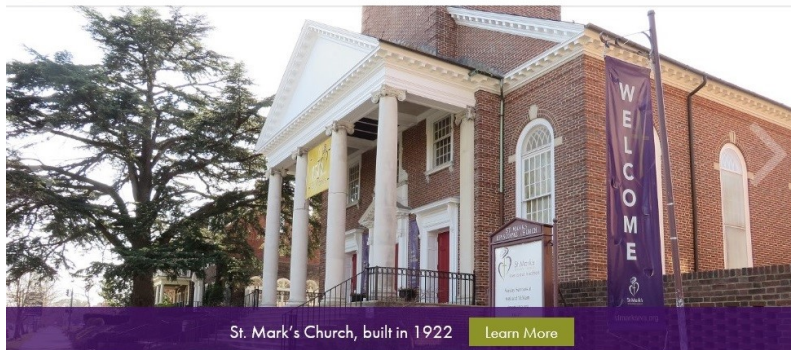
Contact Malinda Collier, dre@stmarksrva.org or Suzanne Long, suzanne_long@hotmail.com



love is our tradition

GIVE >

About Worship Ministry Community News Events



GATHERED MINISTRY: FELLOWSHIP

Come On Now—Everyone Wants to have Fun!

Where better than at St. Mark's with friends new and old

Neighborhood Dinners
Tuesdays at 6pm,
September 12, October 3,
and November 7.



**A delicious dinner with
beverage and dessert all for
\$5.00**

Lunch Bunch
Meets Second Sundays after the
10:30 service



Contact Phoebe Davis,
pdavis@ahmdirect.com or
Karen Franklin, forpop247@gmail.com to
join the Bunch—All are welcome!

Christmas Dinner 2017—December 10 at 6pm

Please join us for a fun and festive Christmas dinner, bring an appetizer and special beverage (the church will have coffee, iced tea, soft drinks & milk).

Have a seat, enjoy a few Christmas carols with your appetizers and salads, relax and get in the holiday spirit. Dinner will be served buffet style with dessert to follow.

**Please rsvp to dre@stmarksra.org by November 25
so the elves can shop.**

GATHERED MINISTRY: WORSHIP AND MUSIC

THE PSALMS

The Psalter (Book of Psalms) is essentially the Hymnbook that Jesus would have used growing up in the Synagogue. He would have chanted them in Hebrew using the specific indications of the day. During the first five centuries of the Church formulas were constructed from the Greek modes of the day by which the Psalms could be chanted in Latin.

These formulas, or Psalm Tones, have been used continuously through the centuries and are in use still today. Made to accommodate the wide variance in the number of syllables

in the many verses of the Psalms (as few as two or as many as twenty five), there is a "reciting" note, on which most of the verse is sung, and then a few specific pitches on which the few syllables at the mid-point or the end of each verse are placed. These are the "tones" or formulas we use at St. Mark's.



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The "pointing" of the verses, in our case, is done by *italicizing* the syllable on which the singers move off the reciting note into the mediation (mid-point) of the verse or the ending. In recent years the practice arose in some places of creating a "refrain" for the congregation to sing, before and after the Psalm, and sometimes inserted into the body of the narrative. Sometimes it is assumed that the verses will be chanted only by a cantor or the choir. In our case, the musical formula for the verses and the pointing of the verses is presented in addition to the "refrain" in the hope that, as in years past, some of the congregation will join in the chanting of the verses.

Finally, a note about the "cessura", or mid-point of each verse. By custom there is a two beat silence at the mid-point of each verse, and sometimes there is a change in the forces doing the chanting. This practice is observed to highlight the relationship between the first half of the verse and the second. The second half may be an idea parallel to the first, or it may amplify the first, or it may present a contrast to the first. Besides this advantage, the pause helps to calm the mind and slow our internal tempo.

David Wheeler

Thanksgiving & Christmas Services

November 19 Thanksgiving Evensong

Shared service with Holy Comforter, 5:30pm at Holy Comforter

December 24

10:30am Pageant & Holy Eucharist

10:30pm Choral Prelude and Holy Eucharist

December 25

10:30am Holy Eucharist

Shared service with Holy Comforter, at St. Mark's



GATHERED MINISTRY: WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

As you search and prayerfully consider opportunities of service, our worship assistant ministry always needs new members. The blessings are countless; ask those who presently serve and you will be amazed at the joy they receive and give.

Individuals from the parish can actively participate and greatly assist our worship as worship assistants by becoming a:

- **Lector & Intercessor** - reads the Old or New Testament Lesson, Psalm, or the Prayers of the People.
- **Chalicer** - assists with the serving of Communion.
- **Usher** - collects the alms, distributes bulletins and assists visitors during worship. Ushers are organized in teams and serve on pre-scheduled Sundays.—usually once per month and as available for special services.
- **Altar Guild Member** - prepares the Holy Table for the celebration of the Eucharist. The altar guild is organized in teams and serve on pre-scheduled Saturdays & Sundays.
- **Flower Decorator** – arranges the flowers & greenery that adorn the chancel and chapel altars.
- **Flower Deliverer** – takes altar flowers to a home communicant, someone sick or recovering, or someone who might just enjoy some flowers.
- **Crucifer, Torch Bearer & Acolyte** - are older children, youth or adults, who carry the processional cross or torches, light the candles, carry a banner or streamer, or ring the Sanctus bells.
- **Choir Member** – sings the offertory anthem and other special music as well as assisting with all congregational singing.
- **Greeter**—greeters are organized in pairs and serve on pre-scheduled Sundays about once every 6-8 weeks.

Our sincere thanks for your prayerful consideration of assisting with this ministry.

If you are interested, please call or speak with Father David.

Training sessions will be scheduled in the fall and spring—usually on a Saturday morning.

Fall 2017 Training and refresher is Saturday, September 30

Lectors & Intercessors: 10-10:30am, Crucifer, Torch Bearer, Acolyte: 10:30-11:15, Chalicer: 11:15—11:45. Please contact Father David @ rector@stmarksrva.org.

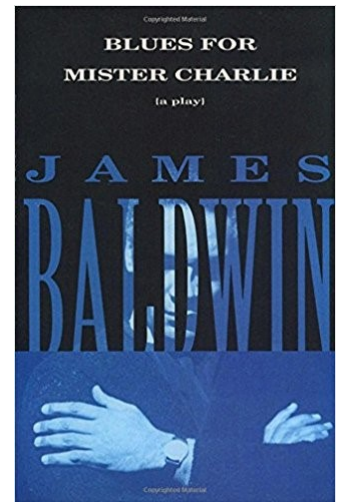


GATHERED MINISTRY: RVA TALKS

RVA TALKS Book & Group Discussion

Blues for Mister Charlie by James Baldwin

A facilitated discussion, Sunday October 29 at 4pm



James Baldwin's *BLUES FOR MISTER CHARLIE* is an epic drama that confronts us all with the truth of just *how widely we are still divided* by race in America, and the distinctly dichotomous realities in which we live. Baldwin writes a story that actively engages the audience examining the question "What is Truth" when we are all subject to our own perspective; framed by our history, cultural norms and personal experience. The stories we *know*, the ones we have been told, and our *LIVED* experiences inform our beliefs and opinions about race in America no matter what the circumstance.

"In a small Southern town, a white man murders a black man, then throws his body in the weeds. With this act of violence--which is loosely based on the notorious 1955 killing of Emmett Till--James Baldwin launches an unsparing and at times agonizing probe of the wounds of race. For where once a white storekeeper could have shot a (black) "boy" like Richard Henry with impunity, times have changed. And centuries of brutality and fear, patronage and contempt, are about to erupt in a moment of truth as devastating as a shotgun blast."

In his award-winning play, Baldwin turns a murder and its aftermath into an inquest in which even the most well-intentioned whites are implicated, complacent blacks are challenged --and in which even a killer receives his share of compassion. All of which shines a bright light on the community in which we live, and impels us to take on the responsibility, **to bear witness, to acknowledge and to recognize the work that MUST be done**, if we are going to have a future together.

"Call to the Table of Dialogue." In the spirit of community organizing and engagement the organizers intend to activate the Greater Richmond community around partnering with various and diverse communities, groups and individuals to launch what will be a larger week long event in the coming academic year shared between the campuses of VCU and the University of Richmond as collaborators and producers of ***BLUES FOR MISTER CHARLIE***. The play is an *Artistic Intervention*, creating a space for open and honest dialogue around Race, Racial Healing, and Historic Trauma & Our Community in RVA. Can we create *healing space* and employ restorative practices as we endeavor to work together and move forward towards change and conciliation?

This a collaborative program of The Conciliation Project, VCU, UR, and the African American Repertory Theatre Company.

Please read Blues for Mister Charlie prior to the program

The play will be staged at UR April 18-22, 2018

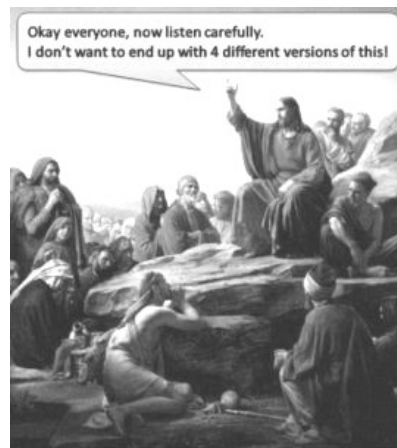
GATHERED MINISTRY: FORMATION

Episcopal 101

November 11

10am—2pm (includes lunch)

Interested in learning more about the Episcopal church, considering confirmation or reception, publicly affirming your faith, or just wondering why we do the things we do? Well then this short course is for you. We will cover the Episcopal approach to scripture, Anglican history and tradition, and what differentiates us as a community in practice and in ministry. And we'll even show you around the building—do you know what is on the third floor? Contact Father David to register, rector@stmarksrva.org.



Women's Spirituality Group

A small committed group of women who meet monthly with a facilitator. Members make the commitment to attend all the meetings for the year, thereby maintaining support and continuity for one another. This group meets first Tuesdays at 7pm - so if you come to the Neighborhood Dinner at 6pm you can be fed both nutritionally and spiritually all in one evening!

Penny Adams, who is a certified Spiritual Director, and who has experience in such a group, acts as facilitator, but the exact nature of the quest, and the areas to be explored, are designed by the members of the group. Please contact the office (804-358-4771), or Penny nbginc@aol.com, if you would like to learn more. In September we will meet on the second Tuesday, September 12 after the dinner.



Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training

October 7,

10am—1pm

A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. Qualifications include: Confirmed communicant in good standing; Faithful in worship and in stewardship; Mature in faith; Of good repute in the congregation.

Training includes various theological understandings of the Holy Eucharist in the Anglican tradition, methods and practice of the administration of the elements, use of the Book of Common Prayer and approved rites for visitation, the basics of pastoral visiting, as well as training in the Prevention of Elder Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training.

Worship Assistants Training is Saturday, September 30, 10am—Noon

GATHERED MINISTRY: PILGRIM

Pilgrim retains an unapologetic focus on Christian fundamentals and fellowship, while acknowledging a need for individualization and cultural sensitivity among contemporary inquirers.

Building a Solid Foundation for Christian Life

There seems to be a fresh movement in the Episcopal Church and other mainline churches, one the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry calls “The Jesus Movement.” In congregations across the country we are talking more about joining God’s mission and following the Way of Jesus. What do we really believe? Why does it matter? How do we follow Jesus when we are not in church? The need and desire for basic instruction in the Christian faith is palpable.

Pilgrim, from Church Publishing, is an attractive, accessible, and affordable resource for adults to build a solid foundation for contemporary Christian life. The aim of Pilgrim is clear: to help people become disciples of Jesus Christ. The small group format blends Christian practices of hospitality, prayer, study, and reflection to provide a rich learning environment that welcomes questions and introduces foundational texts and themes of Christianity.

Pilgrim draws from strengths of earlier discipleship programs such as Alpha, Disciples of Christ in Community, and even Cursillo, by retaining an unapologetic focus on Christian fundamentals and fellowship, while acknowledging a need for individualization and cultural sensitivity among contemporary inquirers.

Stages of Discipleship

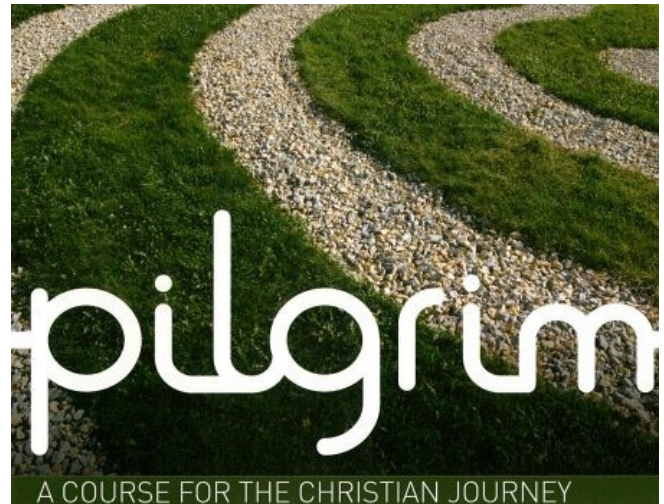
Pilgrim has two stages, Follow and Grow. Each responds to the same four core questions: What do Christians believe? How do Christians know and worship God? How do Christians live? What is the Christian vision for the world?

Follow, for inquirers and those who are new to the faith, is structured around four central texts: The Baptismal Covenant, the Lord’s Prayer, the Commandments, and the Beatitudes.

Grow provides a deeper response by inviting participants to engage major themes of Christian life: the Creeds, the Eucharist, the Bible, and the Church in the World.

As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry describes in the forward, “Jesus did not establish an institution, found a religion, or create an organization. Jesus began a movement!” Pilgrim offers training – one 6-week course at a time – to prepare individuals for a lifelong commitment to the Jesus Movement.

*If you are interested in learning more about the Pilgrim Program
contact Father David, rector@stmarksrva.org*



GATHERED MINISTRY: FORMATION



Coffee & Conversation

Sunday Mornings
9:30am in the Library

Join us for a discussion of the Sunday readings – how they apply to life when written—and today. It will enrich your worship experience and deepen your understanding of the Bible. We do not meet in August.

LECTIO: GUIDED BIBLE READING

Lectio Study Group—On-line Bible Study

As Christians, we are called to read and learn about our faith so that our life together as a community, our ministries, and our spirituality can grow stronger. Here we integrate how God is present in the daily experiences of our lives and the dynamic relationship we have with God. The study of Scripture offers us such an opportunity. If you have an interest, a small group has begun using an online Bible Study called *Lectio*. They gather on first Fridays at 8am, Carytown Panera, with Fr. David for coffee or breakfast to discuss the material. If you have an interest in this method of study please contact Fr. David at rector@stmarksrva.org to join the group.

The study materials are available on-line through Seattle Pacific University
<http://blog.spu.edu/lectio/>.

BUCK'S BIBLE BONANZA

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7:00 - 8:00 PM
THE LIBRARY

A study of the books of the bible.
Open to everyone.
Currently reading Paul's letters

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00AM

Meetings held in the Library.
Currently reading:
Canonical Gospel in context of
community, purpose and point of view
Resumes September 20

GATHERED MINISTRY: FORMATION



Children's Worship Resumes on Sunday, September 10 at 10:30am

Please invite friends to join us in our Godly Play story, songs and prayers. The children are honored in the processional and then join together downstairs to hear and tell the lessons of the season and the day.

During the early Fall we will hear the stories of creation, the great flood, St. Francis, All Saints, and Advent Saints.

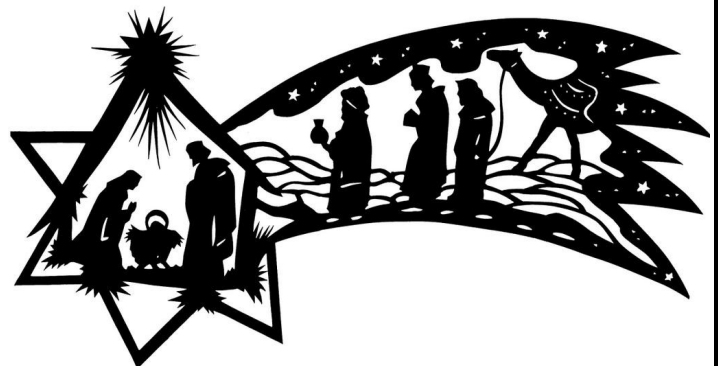
Children's Worship is best suited for children ages 4-11, but we welcome younger children with a parent to be with them and older youth to serve as readers and helpers. Children return at the Peace to share the Eucharist with their family.

Christmas Pageant 2017 *It will be a little bit different*

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Our Christmas Pageant, instead of occurring at 4pm, will be featured during the 10:30am service! Please invite your friends and families to join us.

Advent Fun & Learning Days **December 20 & 21** **9am—Noon**

Come and share in the learning and fun as we explore the road to Bethlehem.
Best for ages 4-10.
Snacks and supplies included.
\$15 per child



GATHERED MINISTRY: FORMATION



Family Foyer Groups

Our Family Foyer Groups gather for seasonal fun and outings. These include a fall visit to a pumpkin patch or State Fair, Christmas Party, Spring fun at the ball park or bowling alley and a summer pool party.

A new group for families with younger children is forming!

To find out more, contact Shannon Heady, sheady@verizen.net, Blair McDuff, blairmcduff04@gmail.com, Denis Riva, denisriva@gmail.com, or Malinda, dre@stmarksrva.org

Youth Group Works (grade 6 and up)

Teen learning class continues in October & November. We will wrap up our time of study and fellowship with a look at the book of Acts and the letters of Paul. Sunday October 1 & Sunday November 5 at noon.



A new Teen Learning Class cohort will form in 2018. The teen learners and the family commit to an 18-month period of learning and service (we take the summer off). This class provides a safe space for our youth to ask questions about our faith and practice, to get to know one another better, and if they desire to be confirmed after completing the class.

Ministry Opportunities:

Our teens participate in all aspects of church life, serving as acolytes, lectors, intercessors, parish life servants, feeding ministry service, assist with children's worship, and tellers. If your young person is looking for their place in the church please talk with Malinda or Father David.

Fun & Fellowship:

Let's go to the State Fair! Saturday, September 30. Families welcome! 2-6pm.
Apple Picking at Carter's Mountain, October 21
Halloween Fun on October 22, 2-4pm

Contact Malinda Collier, dre@stmarksrva.org with questions and if you want to share in this joyous ministry.



St Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

love is our tradition

ST. MARK'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

520 N. Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23220
Office: 804-358-4771

Dates to Remember:

First Tuesdays: Neighborhood Dinner (except September & December)

September 10: Welcome Back & Newcomer Welcome

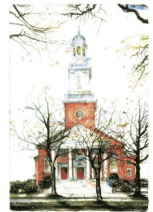
October 29: RVA Talks, 4pm

November 5: All Saints/Stewardship (Pledge) Sunday

December 10: Christmas Dinner

2nd & 4th Saturdays: Food Pantry

Worship Times: Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 am, Tuesdays 12:15pm



www.stmarksrva.org—check it out, check it often!

ST. MARK'S CLERGY & STAFF

The Very Reverend David Niemeyer, Rector: rector@stmarksrva.org

Rev. Buck Aiken, Associate Rector: buckman356@comcast.net

Dr. David Wheeler, Organist, Choirmaster: wheeler.david10@gmail.com

Malinda Collier, Director of Lay Ministry: dre@stmarksrva.org

Steve Barnes, Church Administrator: office@stmarksrva.org

Emily Krudys, Seminarian: intern@stmarksrva.org

Pastoral Emergency:

804-690-6807 or therev.jdavidniemeyer@gmail.com

ST. MARK'S VESTRY

Senior Warden:

Suzanne Long

Junior Warden:

Mike Gephart

Suzanne Long,

Treasurer

Karen Franklin,

Register

Charlie Boisky

Jim Contner

Mike Gephart

Mickie Jones

Dolores Ramiza

Sam Shute

Amy Strite

Paul Williams

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY - APRIL
ISSUE OF *THE LION'S TALE* IS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16