

THE LION'S TALE

VOLUME 2018, ISSUE 2

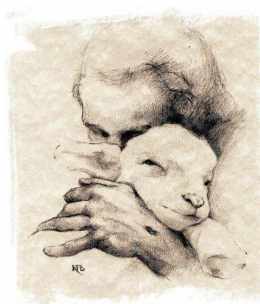
MAY/AUGUST 2018

The Shepherding of the Risen Lord

Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Every year the Fourth Sunday of Easter our gospel is about Jesus and his shepherding. Here we gain insight into how he still relates to us as our "Good Shepherd" and challenges Christians to also be good shepherds for others as well.

What does the word "good" mean? Commenting on an athlete, we might say she is a "good swimmer." This is not about the athlete's moral goodness but rather her skill. Similarly, the adjective "good" in Jesus' sayings does not refer to the moral goodness of the Shepherd but rather states that he is good at being a shepherd. This is compared to "bad" shepherds. Jesus describes the attitude of a bad shepherd in John 10:13: "When a wolf threatens the flock, the bad shepherd runs away "because he works for pay and has no concern of the sheep." The bad shepherd is selfish and self-serving. Bad shepherds represented a threat in their day and they threaten life today. Many who are in positions of leadership, in government and in business, in religions and in education have the responsibility of shepherding others. 1 Peter 5: 2-4 cautions the religious leaders of the first century to serve and not be served: "Tend the flock of God in your midst, not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. Do no lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." Every day we can read news articles about the bad shepherds in religious and secular circles: leaders who think first of themselves and then of the ones they should serve. How many times have we seen a "public servant" serve only him/herself! But we all have the role of shepherds in our responsibility for others on the most intimate levels: spouses shepherd each other, parents shepherd children, friends shepherd each other. The Good Shepherd challenges us all to follow his example of shepherding others, sometimes caring, sometimes correcting, always loving and supporting. The risen Lord asked Peter three times if Peter loved him, perhaps to make up for the three denials. Three times Peter answered with a yes. And Jesus responded to each answer with a command: "Feed my lambs...Tend my sheep...Feed my sheep" (John 21:15 -17) Jesus shepherded Peter with love and forgiveness, so that he could shepherd others. So also if we let the Good Shepherd love, forgive and guide us, we too can be good shepherds ourselves for others.

Blessings, *David*



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Long Range Planning update*
- *Building update*
- *CARITAS Intake*
- *VBS*
- *Youth Mission*
- *Reading Stars*
- *Worship & Music*



St Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

love is our tradition

SHARED MINISTRY: BUILDING

Building Repair and Renovation—2019

Our Property Team has been hard at work gathering information and estimates for the roof replacement and interior repair and renovation. More details to come as they are settled but as of now we expect to begin roof work in early 2019. The roof will be taken off, repaired and replaced in sections. Once we are confident of the roof work can begin on the interior of the church. Plaster will be repaired and the interior repainted.

We will also be sealing the exterior walls and replacing the damaged and aged storm windows. The lexan replacement material is clearer and less likely to discolor with age providing a much improved exterior appearance



SHARED MINISTRY: FINANCE



Operations Update as of March 2018

November Budgeted Pledge Income:
 \$96,799.00 Actual
 \$40,583.30 Pledge

Our operations budget continues to be managed such that we have not had to go into the principal of our investment account. Pledge income is high for the first three months because a number of members pre-pay their annual pledge in one lump sum. Please keep your pledge current as it helps us better manage cash flow.

Average Sunday Attendance: YTD - 131 (April)

We have reached our goal of 98 pledges totaling \$260,775!

It's not too late to make your financial commitment to St. Mark's.

Grab a pledge card today or pledge on-line, go to the green GIVE button and follow the links to the on-line pledge card. **Many thanks to all who pledged!**

Your generous pledge reduces our reliance on the investment account for operations, allowing the principal to grow and earn interest to fund capital projects and improvements.

LONG RANGE PLANNING UPDATE:

Discerning Our Call in Community: Planning Process 2017-2018 Update

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.

We have completed the first and second part of the planning process. Our Planning Team reconvened in late January and reviewed the focus group notes and organized the observations and opinions offered into themes and shared visions. This work resulted in four focus areas: Outreach, Inreach, the Business of the Church, and Visibility. Small groups met and discussed each area. Their findings and suggestions were worked into goals, strategies and implementation steps and after a second review by planning team and focus group members will constitute a draft plan. This plan will be presented to the Vestry in late May.

Our planning process has been well led by Katherine Whitney of Warren Whitney and she has kept us on task and focused by returning to our planning process steps.

- First step - 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.

Our hope is to present a working draft of the final plan to the congregation in the fall.

Planning Team members: Co-chairs Suzanne Long & Shannon Heady, Jo Tyler, Joe Kelly, Phoebe Davis, Wes Kaufman, Dan Hartman, Andrea Lofton, Linda Strickland, Mickie Jones, Karen Franklin, Isabel Wescoat, Tamara Orr, Denis Riva, and Dustin Landers.



SENT MINISTRY: OUTREACH

CARITAS INTAKE: June 30—July 27

St. Mark's is hosting CARITAS Intake **NIGHTLY** between 5 and 7:30 p.m. from Saturday, June 30th through Friday, July 27th.



This Intake Ministry provides the CARITAS staff and the shelter women with a valuable in-town check-in space, close to neighborhood resources and the Broad Street bus line.

Additionally, we offer the ladies a congregation from whom to receive fellowship, snacks and cold beverages while awaiting the arrival of the CARITAS bus for transportation to their overnight shelter site.

The Intake Ministry provides congregants with three weeks' worth of opportunity to contribute light snacks, bottled water or other beverages and/or provide service time in set-up and distribution of snacks to the ladies.

"Keep it Simple" works best for this ministry with fruits, chips, cookies, cupcakes, veggie trays, or cheese and crackers as suggested donations. Get to know the ladies. Get to know your fellow congregants. Get to use the new refrigerator/freezer!

Sign up for this fun, rewarding and EASY ministry by contacting suzanne_long@hotmail.com or by using the on-line sign-up form on the St. Mark's website (<https://www.stmarksrva.org/community/outreach-ministries/>) or by following the link that will be provided in the e-Ministry News & Updates.

For more information about the work and goals of CARITAS, visit www.caritasva.org.

Yard Sale September 29, 8:00am—1:00pm

Bring your stuff to the church starting on Tuesday, September 25. If you need pick-up contact Ed Street; pick-ups for the sale begin on Wednesday, September 26 (NO PICK-UP ON FRIDAY).

This year we are not accepting clothing or accessories—NO CLOTHES!

Drop-off ends at noon on Friday.

We need LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS to help us prepare and carry out this event. The Yard Sale is lots of fun, so come and help sort, price, display, sell and clean-up.

**Please contact Frosty Owen or Ed Street to help,
ed.streetva@gmail.com**



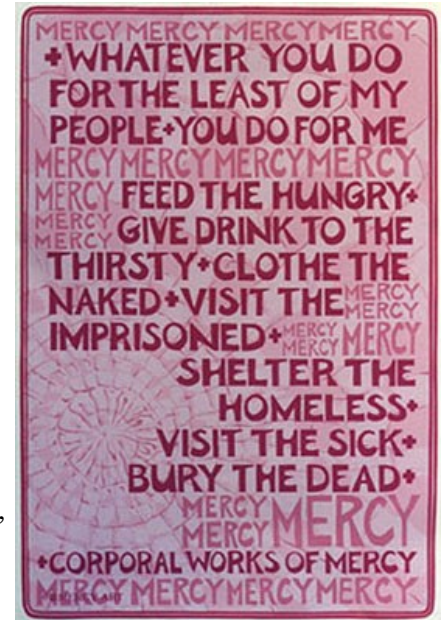
SENT MINISTRY: OUTREACH

Outreach Hospitality Ministry: Food Pantry & Soup Kitchen: 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 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.

Pastries, donuts, and muffins are also welcome



Reminder...the Food Pantry Ministry can provide hospitality only through your generosity. Please remember to pick up some easy open proteins, canned pasta, veggies, nutrition bars, fruits, soups or hearty stews.

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 who are grateful to receive them.

Soup Kitchen is both 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 9:00—10:30am

Come and help serve and share fellowship with our Food Pantry guests. Donations of fresh fruit (especially oranges and bananas) are welcome. Contact Karen Kincaid, 233-4215.


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. Sign-up on-line or on paper in the basement hallway.


**To share in this ministry of presence and giving please contact Ed Street,
ed.streetva@gmail.com. Thank you!**

SENT MINISTRY: READING STARS

A St. Mark's Call to Action!!



Reading is a cornerstone of every child's future.
The children of our community are the future of the
community. We want to help them be the best they can be.



Here are some things we know:

- Children who don't read during summer vacation will begin the next school year one-third of a year behind their fellow students.
- Children who can't read at the appropriate level by the fourth grade stand a much higher chance of dropping out of school—this affects 25% of high school students.
- In Virginia, the third grade reading/literary census is used to calculate the number of prisons that will be needed as those children reach adulthood.
- One in five Americans cannot read well enough to understand a want-ad or a road sign, much less simple instructions or a newspaper.
- A recent study shows that while in middle-income homes the ratio of books-per-child is 13 to 1, in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is 1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children.

**This year we are partnering with 5th Baptist Church, 1415 W. Cary Street.
The program will be held in their church facility.**

Every Saturday morning for six weeks, beginning June 23 – July 28, 2018, 9am-12:30 we will come together to experience the fun of reading. One-on-one coaching, reading to the children, time for crafts and creativity, music and or games will all play a part in helping these children strengthen their reading skills.

We need your support, and there are many ways to help. Whether you can volunteer for just a Saturday or two, or if you can be with us for the entire six week program, we can use you! Opportunities include working directly with the children, as well as those behind-the-scenes jobs that will keep the program running. Please consider joining our Reading Stars Program.

Contact Karen Franklin, forpop247@gmail.com

GATHERED MINISTRY: FELLOWSHIP

Come On Now—Everyone Wants to have Fun!

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

Neighborhood Dinner Tuesday May 1 at 6pm,



**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



Slave Trail Walk, May 20

Richmond Slave Trail is a walking trail that chronicles the history of the trade of enslaved Africans from Africa to Virginia until 1775, and away from Virginia, especially Richmond, to other locations in the Americas until 1865.

It begins at Manchester Docks, a major port in the massive downriver Slave Trade that made Richmond the largest source of enslaved Africans on the east coast of America from 1830 to 1860. The trail then follows a route through the slave markets of Richmond, beside the Reconciliation Statue commemorating the international triangular slave trade, past Lumpkin's Slave Jail and the Negro Burial Ground to First African Baptist Church, a center of African-American life in pre-Civil War Richmond.

We'll gather at 2pm at the church to carpool to the trail head.

GATHERED MINISTRY: WORSHIP AND MUSIC

ALL THE COMPANY OF HEAVEN

A choir member recently overheard a fellow congregant expressing curiosity about why the choir sometimes sings in Latin. This issue was discussed a few months ago in these pages, but perhaps some of the reasoning bears repeating.

Most of the texts which we sing in Latin are hymns from the First Millennium, or at the latest prior to the Reformation (e.g., *Ave Verum Corpus* or *O Salutaris Hostia*). They embody essential truths and teachings of our faith. Their ongoing use in the Church today is not justified alone by their age, but rather by the fact that, over the centuries, they have been reviewed, reconsidered and re-evaluated, and found to be still highly valuable and relevant to our faith. Sometimes they are bits of scripture in Latin (*Tenebrae facta sunt*) because that was the language of the church in the days the composition was made.

Why not sing a translation? If one wants to remain faithful to the meaning of the text, the translation most likely will not fit the musical setting – by number of syllables or by poetic stresses. If one wants to make the translation fit the music, he must sacrifice some of the meaning of the original text. Even relatively successful translations evidence this: “*O Salutaris Hostia*” does not really mean “O Saving Victim...” This problem is easily solved by providing to the listener a rather literal translation of the Latin without concern for the poetic shape or scanning of the translation.

Some composers even today choose to write in Latin because it connects us (The Church Militant) to the Church Triumphant. The language of the Church, and of worship, was for centuries, Latin: from the earliest Centuries of the Church to the Reformation, when the vernacular began to be used increasingly. So in singing Latin we are reminded of our place and participation in the entire Church throughout the ages. We hear in the Preface to the Sanctus: “... joining our voices with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn...”

Finally, regarding purely artistic considerations, Latin is a particularly beautiful language to sing. The vowels are pure and predictable, and the consonants present minimal interruption to the flow and sonority. Providing a translation (as we do in the bulletin) seems to afford us an opportunity to choose the best of all the options.

David Wheeler, Organist/Choirmaster



**Pentecost Sunday
is May 20—Wear **RED**!**

GATHERED MINISTRY: EDUCATION AND 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.

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 Exodus

Come find out what it feels like to wander 40 years in the wilderness

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00AM

Meetings held in the Library.

Currently reading

The Day the Revolution Began
by NT Wright

GATHERED MINISTRY: EDUCATION AND FORMATION

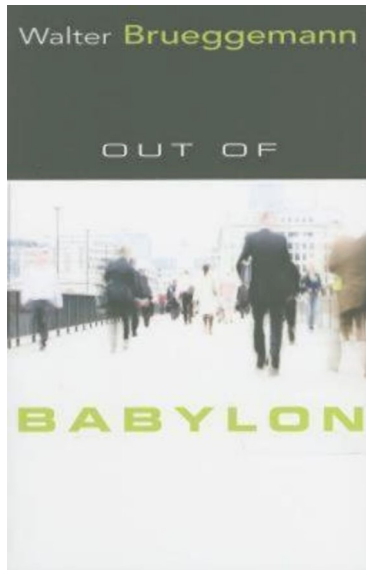
Small Group Opportunities *On Being, and Out of Babylon*

On Being is a Peabody Award-winning public radio conversation and podcast. *On Being* opens up the animating questions at the center of human life: What does it mean to be human, and how do we want to live? *On Being* explore these questions in their richness and complexity in 21st-century lives and endeavors.

On Being takes up the big questions of meaning with scientists and theologians, artists and teachers — some you know and others you'll love to meet. Each week a new discovery about the immensity of our lives — updated every Thursday. Hosted by Krista Tippett. Discover more at onbeing.org.

O
B E I N G

On Being airs on more than 400 public radio stations across the U.S., and is distributed by Public Radio Exchange (PRX). The podcast is free and reaches a global audience via SoundCloud. The OnBeing group meets Third Fridays at 12:15pm. Bring lunch!



Out of Babylon, Walter Brueggemann, 2010

It was the center of learning, commerce, wealth, and religion. Devoted to materialism, extravagance, luxury, and the pursuit of sensual pleasure, it was a privileged society. But, there was also injustice, poverty, and oppression. It was the great and ancient Babylon—the center of the universe.

And now we find Babylon redux today in Western society. Consumer capitalism, a never-ending cycle of working and buying, a sea of choices produced with little regard to life or resources, societal violence, marginalized and excluded people, a world headed toward climactic calamity. Where are the prophets—the Jeremiahs—to lead the way out of the gated communities of overindulgence, the high rises of environmental disaster, and the darkness at the core of an apostate consumer society?

Walter Brueggemann—a scholar, a preacher, a prophetic voice in our own time—challenges us again to examine our culture, turn from the idols of abundance and abuse, and turn to lives of meaning and substance. **Join in a 4-week summer series** on this very timely study of faith and mammon. **Time and format TBD—based on interest!**

For more information on these two small group offerings contact Malinda, dre@stmarksrva.org

GATHERED MINISTRY: EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Vacation Bible School The Promised Land June 26, 27, 28 6:00 – 7:30pm



Spies, Conquest, Hope!

Come join in the fun and learning as we reach the Promised Land! The land of milk & honey and Canaanites! The people have a new leader, Joshua. Joshua was chose by Moses to lead the people into their new land. Joshua listens to God and finds the best way for the people to live and worship in the Promised Land. We'll play games, share stories, and as always spend some time in our garden.

Vacation Bible School is best suited for children ages 4-10/11. \$30 covers all materials and a child-friendly supper.

Teen Learning Class - new cohort begins Sunday,
October 7. Best for 5th grade and up.
Talk with Malinda about joining!

Youth In Town Mission 2018 CARITAS!

Once again this summer our youth will have the opportunity to serve right here in RVA. We will be hosting CARITAS Intake on Wednesday, July 25 from 5– 7 pm. On Friday, July 27 we will be packing and delivering 60 lunches to the CARITAS host site. On Thursday the 26th we'll do some service/learning activities about homelessness and programs that help ending this tragedy in people's lives.

St. Mark's needs additional youth leaders, if you are interested in knowing more about this ministry speak with Malinda Collier, or Father David.





St Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

love is our tradition

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

520 N. Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23220
Office: 804-358-4771
Fax: 804-358-2397

Dates to Remember:

Neighborhood Dinner: May 1

Pentecost Sunday: May 27

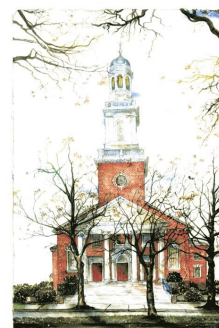
Bishop's Visit: June 17

Reading Stars begins: June 23

VBS: June 26, 27 & 28

Youth Mission: July 25, 26 & 27

2nd & 4th Saturdays: Food Pantry



Sunday Worship Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am

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

ST. MARK'S STAFF

The Rev. J. David Niemeyer, Rector rector@stmarksrva.org or therev.jdavidniemeyer@gmail.com

The Rev. Charles D. (Buck) Aiken, Jr., Associate Rector buckman356@comcast.net

Emily Krudys, Seminarian intern@stmarksrva.org

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

David L. Wheeler, Organist & Choirmaster wheeler.david10@gmail.com

Steve Barnes, Church Administrator office@stmarksrva.org

Meredith Franklin, Nursery

Noah Cozart, Sexton

Pastoral Emergency: 804-690-6807

ST. MARK'S VESTRY

Senior Warden:

Mike Gephart

Junior Warden:

Mickie Jones

Suzanne Long, Treasurer

Karen Franklin, Register

Patrick McDuff

Nancy Munson

Dolores Ramiza

Denis Riva

Sam Shute

Amy Strite

Paul Williams

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER-
DECEMBER ISSUE OF *THE LION'S TALE* IS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 17