

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE LION'S TALE

VOLUME 2019, ISSUE 2

MAY/AUGUST 2019



St Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

love is our tradition

This Holy Season

From Ash Wednesday through Pentecost we focus on the very center of our faith—the Pascal Mystery. These words are Church shorthand for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that transforms our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. This season of Lent-Easter, almost one hundred days—is the biggest block of time in our Church calendar because it celebrates the core of our redemption in Christ. The season ends with Pentecost; that means it ends with us.

The Holy Spirit coming down in flames of fire on the apostles signals the promise of the same Spirit coming down on us. The reason Jesus died and rose is for us. The reason he came into the world—all for us. God in Christ did this all for our sake so that we could live new and fulfilled lives in this world and live forever in the fullness of God's kingdom. He died and rose so that he could continue to live with us and empower us with the new life through the Holy Spirit.

Ash Wednesday began with ashes reminding us of our sinfulness and mortality. We will end this sacred season celebrating the anointing we have in the Holy Spirit. Ashes represent our human need; Easter is about death not having the last word; the Spirit's anointing represents God's power transforming us into disciples. Scripture speaks of the gifts and the fruits of the Spirit - what we have and can do because of the Spirit's presence in our lives. Jesus not only calls us to a new life and models it for us but also empowers us to live this new life through the Holy Spirit. Through our worship and ministries at St. Mark's, may we continue through the Holy Spirit to be transformed as the Body of Christ in our church, neighborhood, city, and beyond.

Have a Blessed Easter Season! *David*



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 January 2020. The roof will be taken off, repaired and replaced in sections.

After the roof work is completed we'll give the building several months to "dry out." After that period work can begin on the interior of the church. Plaster will be repaired and the interior repainted.

Much of the needed funding will come in the form of a low-interest loan from the Diocese Mission Fund.



SHARED MINISTRY: FINANCE



Operations Update as of March 2019

March Budgeted Pledge Income:
 \$119,719.00 Actual
 \$65,125.03 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 - 190 (includes Easter)

We have reached our goal of 100 pledges totaling \$309,567!

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 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:



Discerning Our Call in Community: Planning Implementation Process 2019

In late fall 2018 we completed the Long Range Planning Process and the Vestry affirmed the adoption of the plan as submitted.

We now are in the implementation phase—working in ministry team areas with the goals and strategies to make sure they clearly state our vision for ministry growth and health, and provide an understandable road map.

At the request of both the Vestry and Ministry Council we are having Long Range Plan theme area meetings. This means Vestry liaisons and Ministry Team chairs are gathering in small groups to review, edit as needed, and hone the language and time-line of the strategies. The small groups are Outreach, Inreach, Business of Running the Church, and Membership & Visibility.

Small group work has been very fruitful. Outreach met in March and clarified some language around the strategies and team members tasked with the work. The combined wisdom of the Vestry and Team chairs was instrumental in making this document a real working outline. As the other

small groups convene we expect similar synergy and outcomes.

We've also noted that some Ministry Teams need to be involved in more than one group. As example: while Worship is an Inreach ministry the worship service is the point at which most newcomers physically engage with St. Mark's and as such it plays a major role in Membership & Visibility. Outreach and Property also have this dual role.

At the same time many of the Ministry Teams are writing their By-Laws. This statement of purpose and practice is a healthy and helpful exercise as we grow both the ministries of the church and the membership of the teams. By-Laws help us be mindful of leadership rotation (so no one gets "burned out"), and is an easily understandable explanation of what each team does.

All of this work represents the health and growth of the church community. We are building the ministry structures that will support our continued contribution to our community.

**Long- Range Planning Team co-chairs, *Suzanne Long & Shannon Heady*
Director of Lay Ministry & Formation, *Malinda Collier***

SENT MINISTRY: OUTREACH

CARITAS INTAKE: July 6—August 2

St. Mark's is hosting CARITAS Intake **NIGHTLY** between 5 and 7:30 p.m. from Saturday, July 6th through Friday, August 2nd.



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.

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 of CARITAS, visit www.caritasva.org.



Yard Sale May 4, 8:00am—1:00pm

Bring your stuff to the church starting on Tuesday, April 30. If you need pick-up contact Ed Street; pick-ups for the sale begin on Wednesday, May 1 (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

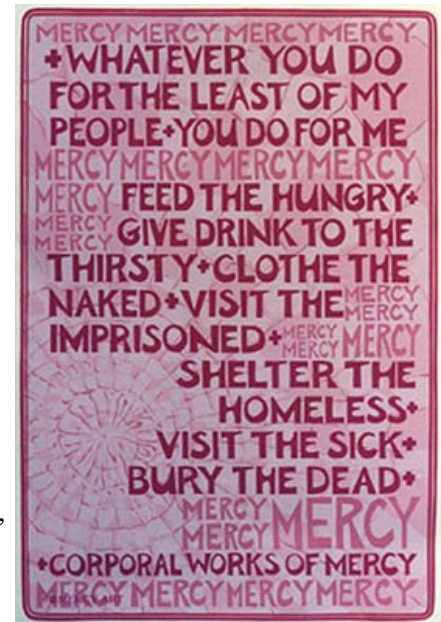
SENT MINISTRY: OUTREACH

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 Franklin, forpop247@gmail.com.

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: LUNCH & SUPPER

Lunch and Supper—CARITAS style

There is a popular restaurant in Scott's Addition called Lunch. SUPPER! Recently, they added a new venue to the mix, BRUNCH. It seems to be quite popular with folks pouring out onto the sidewalk waiting for a table. That's the Richmond scene and St. Mark's is located smack in the middle of it.

In keeping with the times, St. Mark's has been doing lunch and supper! We ARE on-trend (yet liturgically traditional). Our recent "lunch and supper" ministry is in response to changes that have been occurring at CARITAS since 2016. Two years ago, CARITAS made the decision to centralize housing and services for the homeless or recovering populations that are served by CARITAS Shelter and CARITAS Healing Place. Embarking on a fund-raising mission, CARITAS hit the streets to raise the necessary money to purchase and renovate the old Philip Morris Complex on Stockton Street in the city's Southside. The renovated building will be home to the CARITAS offices, classrooms, a 160-bed healing place for women, 47 sober living apartments, and recovery and workforce development programs. With the renovated building coming online, The Healing Place (traditionally for recovering men) will be extending services to women and relocating the sober living apartments around town into a single location. This move will broaden the service footprint for CARITAS while helping to cut costs through consolidation. The renovation is underway and is planned for completion in early 2020.



What's that got to do with lunch and supper? EVERYTHING.

As part of the consolidation, CARITAS is planning to take on "temporary shelter" for the men and women who have been sheltered in area congregations for many years, St. Mark's included. That means that CARITAS will *still need our help* with meal preparation/delivery and service. Folks will be staying at CARITAS rather than in area congregations, but CARITAS will be depending on area ministries for support and caring. Additionally, CARITAS has been seeking help with meals for The Healing Place After-works Program and Mock Interview days for Healing Place residents. St. Mark's has been signing up to prepare bagged lunches, hot lunches and hot dinners for The CARITAS Healing Place since last summer! So, even if folks are not sheltered with us, they *STILL* need lunch and supper! Keep watch on the St. Mark's e-News & Ministry for opportunities to participate in procurement, preparation, delivery and service across the scope of CARITAS feeding programs. We are on the move, supporting our community and spreading our tradition of LOVE.

GATHERED MINISTRY: FELLOWSHIP

Come On Now—Everyone Wants to have Fun!

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

Knitters and Others Fridays at 12:30pm



If you knit or crochet or want to learn, join for an informal session each Friday. Bring your current project, learn to knit a knocker!

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

Palm Sunday Buffet - A Treat for the Eyes & Taste buds!



Join our Parish Life team! Have fun, cook, laugh & eat!

GATHERED MINISTRY: WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Friends of Music Concert

Sunday, June 9

THE ROMANTICS

On Sunday afternoon, June 9, at 4:00, our choir will present a concert of music by composers of the high romantic and late romantic periods. Representing the height of the romantic period will be Caesar Franck and Johannes Brahms. Composers of the late romantic period will include John Ireland and Leo Sowerby. Although the concert is for the benefit of the Friends of Music, it is also offered as an opportunity for those who do not attend St. Mark's to hear some of our music and enjoy our beautiful space. Often our audience includes people who attend their own churches on Sunday mornings, and neighbors who want to support us. Whatever the reason, we hope you will come to hear what we are preparing, and bring others with you.

David Wheeler, Organist/Choirmaster



Come, Holy Spirit

**Pentecost Sunday
is June 9—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 second 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 the Gospels &
The Last Week

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00AM

Meetings held in the Library.
Currently reading
Surprised by Hope
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!



Sabbath as Resistance, Walter Brueggemann, 2014

We live in world that never stops moving. There are more options than ever for activities to spend our time. We have access to seemingly unlimited activities, many of which are harmless or even in some way good. Our jobs seem to claim more and more of our lives each week. The special effort for a big project begins to be the every week demand because we, and our employer, has realized if we can make the sacrifice sometimes we can make it all the time. The endless stream of entertainments and opportunities has led many cultural critics to describe Westerners as exhausted, bored, and overworked.

Andrew Spencer

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 6-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 David and Goliath and More!

**June 26, 27, 28
6:00 – 7:30pm**

Come join in the fun and learning as we learn about a little boy who becomes king! David is the youngest son, overlooked and ignored until God changes his life. He becomes a great warrior and a king. 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 - meets first Sundays in May, June & July!

Help with CARITAS in July—see below

Youth In Town Mission 2019 CARITAS!

Once again this summer our youth will have the opportunity to serve right here in RVA. We will be hosting CARITAS Intake on Thursdays in July, 5– 7 pm (July 11, 18, 25). On Friday, July 12th we will be preparing and delivering lunch for the CARITAS Works program. On Friday 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.





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EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Dates to Remember:

Yard Sale: May 4

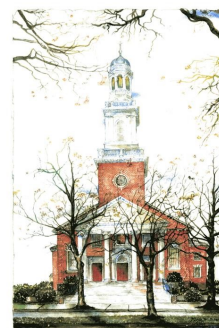
Pentecost Sunday: June 9

Friends of Music Concert at 4pm

VBS: June 26, 27 & 28

CARITAS Intake: July 6—August 2

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

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:

Mickie Jones

Junior Warden:

Denis Riva

Suzanne Long, Treasurer

Karen Franklin, Register

Ivy Burnes

Sanford Eberly

Patrick McDuff

Nancy Munson

Tamara Orr

Amy Strite

Paul Williams

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