

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE LION'S TALE

VOLUME 2019, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER/DECEMBER 2019



St Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
love is our tradition

Investment Counseling From Jesus

Over the last two Sundays Jesus has given us advice about investment planning - how to invest our time and energies in what really matters. He cautioned two weeks ago in the gospel (Luke 12:15): "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." At the end of the story the man, though rich, died none the less, and so Jesus comments: "Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God" (Luke 12:21). We heard the same investment counseling this past Sunday from Jesus: "Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Luke 12:23-24).

We have all known people whom the world might have regarded as poor and insignificant, yet we remember them as rich in love and kindness. We might even feel ourselves poor when compared to them. Last Sunday's second reading from Hebrews 11:8 talks about faith, not just as a noun but as a verb. Real faith must be lived: "By faith Abraham obeyed." Abraham put his faith into practice, as we must do as disciples. We invest ourselves in goodness, love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness. We are called to be generous as well with the material gifts we have been given which are to be used for the spread of the Good News (gospel) of our loving God. This living out of faith as a verb, actions, makes us rich in an enduring way. In doing so, we share in the optimism of the kingdom and partner with our loving Creator in building God's undying kingdom.

As of September 1, we welcome The Rev. Dr. Dorothy White and The Rev. Sarah Kye Price to St. Mark's as part time Priest Associates on staff. By now, most of us are familiar with them through their guest preaching. Each has offered words of hope and encouragement to us as we continue to discern how to make "faith" a verb in our lives as a community. I am grateful that they have accepted the call of the Spirit to serve here at St. Mark's with us. Buck and I believe in the shared ministry of our priesthood and this is one of the ways it can be exercised. While each serves part time in ministry for St. Mark's and will have offices in the building, they also serve in other places in ministry.

One of the purposes of this beautiful building is being a center for the ministries that are an important part of this church. Those ministries are some of the ways that faith becomes a verb in our lives. We continue to move forward in the planning for the renovation of the building. While it has taken longer to begin the renovation of the first phase than anticipated, it will begin soon. More information will follow as soon as timelines are in place.

So many good things are happening in this place as we make every effort to live out of faith as a verb! I pray that your summer was relaxing. Now, we move into a new program year ready to live into the call to be disciples as a community of faith investing our time and energies in what really matters.

Blessings, *David*

SHARED MINISTRY: VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The Responsibilities of the Vestry:

Leadership through envisioning, engaging, empowering, energizing and exemplifying.

Management through planning, (budgeting, allocating resources, setting objectives), organizing (policies and procedures), staffing (hiring, coaching performance, evaluation, compensation), controlling (monitoring results, corrective action, re-planning). *The Vestry Resource Guide*, ECF pp. 7-10

All vestry members should strive to the best of their abilities to:

- have a love of God and demonstrate a commitment to following the way of Christ;
- be active in and knowledgeable about the congregation, its programs and governance;
- be fair, interact well with people and strive to earn the respect of all the members of the congregation;
- purposefully strive to “check one’s ego at the door” in order to work for the benefit of the whole congregation
- have enthusiasm and vitality for this ministry; offer talents to support the church’s ministry;
- pray for the leaders and members of the congregation.
- commit time to vestry meetings, committee work; vestry retreat, regular worship; congregational events, annual meeting; (our Vestry meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 6pm, the annual retreat is in early February, the Annual Meeting in late January)
- pledge annual financial support;

In January 2020 we will elect three new Vestry members. Vestry members serve for three years. Amy Strite, Paul Williams, and Mickie Jones are this year’s nominating team. If you are interested in learning more about Vestry service, please chat with one of them.

SHARED MINISTRY: FINANCE



Operations Update as of June 2019

Budgeted Pledge Income:

\$173,4777.00 Actual

\$130,250.02 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 continues to be strong. Please keep your pledge current as it helps us better manage cash flow.

Average Sunday Attendance: YTD - 113 (June)

We reached our 2019 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.

SHARED MINISTRY: BUILDING UPDATE & NEW STAFF

Roof Repair 2020

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 2020. The roof will be taken off, repaired and replaced in sections. Once the roof work is complete, the building will need a period of several months to “dry-out.” After that time we can begin on the interior of the church. Plaster will be repaired, the interior repainted and other repairs made as needed.

Repairs are being funded through a long-term, low interest loan from the Diocese of Virginia Mission Society.



New Staff!

The Rev. Dr. Dorothy A. White

Dorothy received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She went on to earn a Master of Arts in Theology from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She has also earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond.

Most recently Dorothy served as School Chaplain at St. Catherine's School in Richmond. Currently she serves as a Priest Associate at St. John's Episcopal, Church Hill and St. Mark's on the Arthur Ashe Boulevard in Richmond.



The Rev. Sarah Kye Price, PhD

Sarah is a blended vocational priest and professor who thoroughly loves all the work she is called to do. She was ordained in May 2019 after completing seminary through the low-residency program at Church Divinity School of the Pacific. She currently serves as Associate Dean for Faculty Development in the School of Social Work at VCU where she has been on faculty since 2006.

Sarah has also been named as the Local Formation Director of the newly formed St. Phoebe School for Deacons in partnership with the Dioceses of Virginia and Southwestern Virginia. She will house her work with St. Phoebe's here at St. Mark's.



SENT MINISTRY: OUTREACH

A Summer of Service 2019: St. Mark's Outreach in Action

The summer months were traditionally considered the “off months” in churches. As the program year came to a close in June, folks took time to travel and rejuvenate ahead of the September gear-up. We still take time to relax and be with family and friends, but the summers at SMEC have become some of the **most God-filled ministry months** on the calendar!

Kicking of the summer with Partners on the Porch...

On Saturday, June 22, as RVA honored Richmond native, tennis great and AIDS activist, Arthur Ashe, we were on the St. Mark's front steps for the opening of our 2019 Porch Ministry! Together with Health Brigade, our long-time partner for raising awareness regarding AIDS, we handed out red ribbon stickers and provided information about the work that still needs to be done to prevent AIDS. We were excited to be a part the city's historical celebration day as we welcomed neighbors to our church home on Arthur Ashe Boulevard!



Staying cool in the heat with CARITAS Intake...

Starting on July 6 and running through August 2 as a nightly hospitality ministry, we hosted 32 CARITAS shelter women for delicious snacks and cold beverages as they gathered to meet the bus that would take them to their overnight shelter site. While with us during the month, the ladies enjoyed an evening with local magician, Jonathan Austin. His hands are quick and his wit is even quicker! On Wednesday nights in the Nave, the ladies were invited to sing along with our St. Mark's choir, offer a solo (if so inspired) while accompanied by local piano students or sway to the sounds of Samantha Ridley as she kept the music flowing. A night of bingo found the ladies as “winners all around” with game prizes including Walmart and Kroger gift cards and tons of bus passes. Everybody won! During the month, there were visits from our “ministry dogs” (Baxter, Clara, Lily, Princess and Leonard), an evening of dance numbers performed on-stage in the Parish Hall and even a night of Readers Delight as the ladies shopped a supply of donated reading glasses paired with a stroll through our book closet. The month-long ministry was topped off with a Mad Hatter Tea party on Friday, August 2 as the ladies were served in style by our St. Mark's Youth. Gift goodie-bags filled with cute socks and cosmetics helped send the ladies down the road to their next great adventure.

What's ahead for St. Mark's Outreach in Action...

While our Outreach initiatives (Food Pantry & Soup Kitchen) have deep roots on Arthur Ashe Boulevard with offerings to our neighbors on 2nd and 4th Saturdays, we've **taken to the streets** with lunches and dinners (CARITAS EATS) to strengthen our relationship with the community and support the growth and exciting changes that are happening for CARITAS and the clients it serves. As CARITAS completes its new facility on RVA's southside in 2020, sheltering women and men, recovering women and men and folks achieving workforce readiness will be moving into the new facility. CARITAS will be **counting on us** for food and fellowship at their new location! Our ministries outside of our building will align well with renovations to our own building. Outreach in Action is a win/win for us and for the community.

To learn about or sign up for an Outreach initiative, visit <https://www.stmarksrva.org/community/outreach-ministries/>.

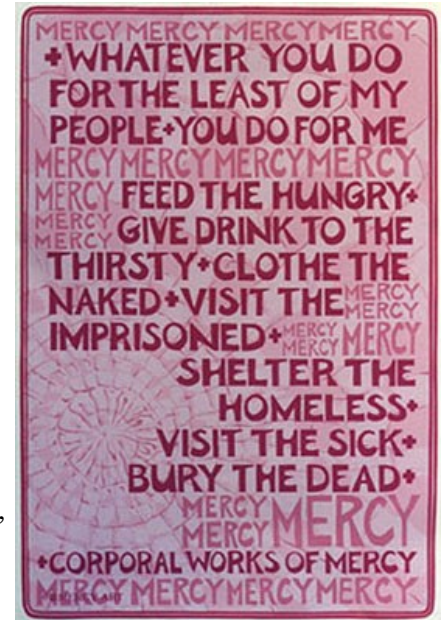
SENT MINISTRY: OUTREACH

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. We do see many folks now who are “working poor,” and have access to a kitchen so boxes of mac & cheese, cereals, peanut butter, all canned meats are welcome.

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.

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, Feeding Ministry Coordinator, 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!**

GATHERED MINISTRY: FELLOWSHIP, FUN AND LEARNING



Porch Events Fall 2019:

Join us for fun and fellowship as we meet and greet our neighbors.
These events are lots of fun, low stress, and high rewards!

Pops & Pups

Saturday, September 21, 4-6pm
with the King of Pops!

Blessing of the Animals,

Sunday, October 6, 4pm

BOO!

Thursday, October 31, 5:30-7:00pm

Marathon Cheers,

Saturday, November 16



PRIDE is Saturday, September 28, noon—6pm

Come on out to Brown's Island and spread the good word of God's unconditional love and welcome. Sign up with Paul Shane or Bill Martin.
Don't know Paul or Bill, we will introduce you!



Ministry Retreat at Roslyn (River Road)

Saturday, October 19, 9:30am—2pm (includes lunch)

This is not a working retreat!

This is a relaxing retreat, a time for worship, reflection, fellowship, spiritual nurture, and rest. We begin at 9:30 in the chapel for worship, share some guided reflections, and have plenty of time to enjoy the natural beauty of Roslyn, its fireplace, and quiet.

Sign up with Malinda, dre@stmarksrva.org by October 1.

GATHERED MINISTRY: FELLOWSHIP

Come On Now—Everyone Wants to have Fun!

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

Parish Picnic Sunday, September 29, noon



Bryan Park, Shelter #1

Join us after church at noon for a barbecue lunch and fun. Parking, restrooms, playground and duck pond are adjacent to the picnic shelter

**Please rsvp to dre@stmarksrva.org
by September 15**

Lunch Bunch Meets Second Sunday after the 10:30 service



Contact Phoebe Davis,
pdavis@ahmdirect.com or
Karen Franklin, forpop247@gmail.com to
join the Lunch Bunch

BOO! FUN—Halloween 2019

Come join your fellow ghouls and goblins on the church steps, Wednesday, October 31 for our BOO-fest. We'll hand out treats and foil tricks from 5– 7pm. Share Halloween decorations (will be returned!) or join in the fun making them.

Come in costume or your St. Mark's t-shirt, we'll supply the candy.



GATHERED MINISTRY: WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Choir Recital - Friends of Music

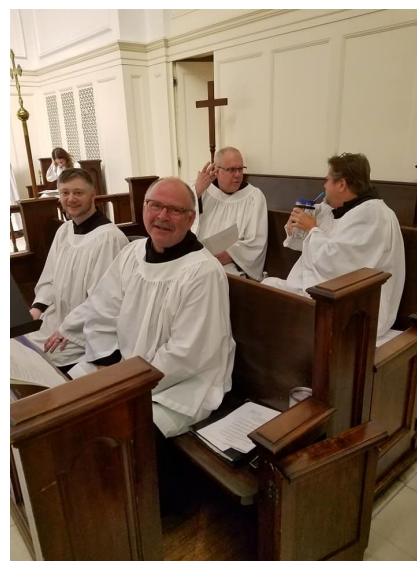
Sunday, October 20

4pm

The choir will present a fall concert on Sunday, October 20 at 4:00 in the afternoon. The choral music will touch a few of the high-points in the evolution of music from a single strand, to two part, three part, and four part texture.

Robert Ford, the pianist who joined us for the last concert, will be with us again. He and Bernard Riley will play a set of pieces for piano-four hands by Rachmaninoff.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite some of your friends or neighbors to visit St. Mark's and enjoy a few minutes of fine music in our beautiful sanctuary.



**All Saints Sunday
is November 3
Bring your 2020 Giving
Card**

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 is 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 close study of the books of the Bible.
Open to everyone.

Currently reading Hebrews

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00AM

Resumes on September 25
Meetings held in the Library.

Currently reading
Intertestamental Literature:
the Judaism of Jesus

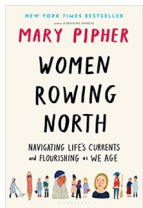
GATHERED MINISTRY: EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Small Group Opportunities: *On Being*, Women Rowing North and more

On Being is an award-winning public radio conversation and podcast. It opens up the animating questions at the center of life: What does it mean to be human, and how do we want to live? *On Being* explores these questions in their richness and complexity in 21st-century lives. The podcast is free, and transcripts are available @onbeing.org.

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The *OnBeing* group meets Third Fridays at 12:15pm. Bring lunch!



Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing As We Age —a new women's book/spirituality group in the planning. Referred to as the “bible” of the female Baby Boomers, Women Rowing North is wisdom filled and empathetic guide to healthy and joyful aging. Time and schedule TBD by those interested in participating.

For more information contact Malinda, dre@stmarksrva.org

Sacred Ground

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

To learn more speak with Rev. Dr. Dorothy White or Malinda Collier.

Advent Series, Tuesdays December 3 & 10, 6-7:45pm

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

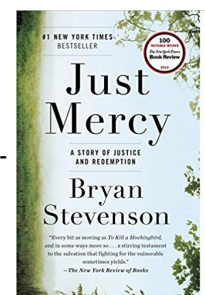
An Invitation to a personal growth experience

Join us for study and reflection on the book *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. As we journey through this text we will consider:

1. John 8: 1-11—a woman “caught in the act of adultery” considering that the right or wrong was not the question but the fact that the accused was alone though the act in which she was caught cannot be done in isolation
2. The dwelling place of God is with humans.
3. Are you a stone thrower or a stone catcher?

This workshop will allow for dialogue as well as provide tools to assist us in learning to balance accountability with empathy.

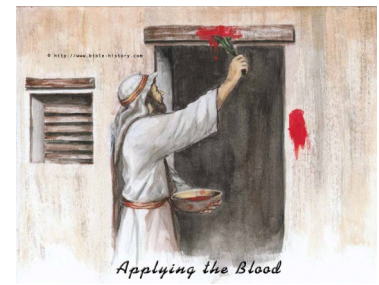
Led by the Rev. Dr. Dorothy White. We begin with Evening prayer, a light supper and the program.



GATHERED MINISTRY: EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Children's Worship resumes Sunday, September 8 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 Fall we will hear the stories of The Exodus: the freeing of the Hebrew slaves, St. Francis, All Saints, and our 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.

St. Francis Fun and Learning Day is Saturday, October 5 from 2-4pm

Advent Fun and Learning Day is Saturday, December 21 from 2-4pm

Youth Works

The Teen Learning Class continues in 2019, meeting the first Sunday of the month October - June. 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.

Young Leaders in the Church: Post-confirmation Teens

Our post-confirmation teens will be participating in a program year study of the Civil Rights struggle based on the stories of the children, teens, and young adults that experienced these historic events. Their study will culminate in a journey along portions of the Civil Rights Trail in late summer 2020.

Our children and youth 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.

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



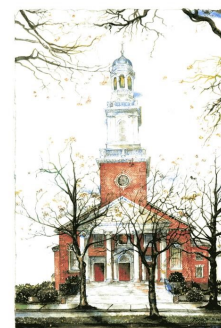


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love is our tradition

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



Dates to Remember:

Welcome Home Sunday: September 8

PRIDE, September 28, noon til 6pm

Picnic at Bryan Park: September 29, noon

Blessing of the Animals: October 6, 4pm

All Saints Sunday: November 3

BOO! Fest: Thursday October 31, 5-7pm

Christmas Pageant Family Service: Tuesday, December 24, 4pm

2nd & 4th Saturdays: Food Pantry 9-10:30am

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

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

The Rev. Sarah Kye Price, Phd Priest Associate PriestSP@stmarksrva.org

The Rev. Dr. Dorothy White, Priest Associate priestassociate@stmarksrva.org

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

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

Steve Barnes, Church Administrator office@stmarksrva.org

Karen Franklin, Feeding Ministry Coordinator forpop247@gmail.com

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 JANUARY—MAY
ISSUE OF *THE LION'S TALE* IS FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 13