

## DO YOU WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE ST MARK'S COMMUNITY? TRY THESE!

### TAKE A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASS

More than traditional church classes, our Christian Education courses provide opportunities to those new to the church, as well as long-term members, to form bonds with a small group, tell their life stories and hear those of others, while moving ahead on their spiritual journey, whatever that may be. If you are new to St. Mark's, look for "Gateway Classes," such as "Introduction to Life at St. Mark's" and the "Life, Community, and Faith" class, which can provide you with a starter group of friends -- a small community for you -- as you launch into your St. Mark's experience and which can be supports for you throughout your years at St. Mark's. In addition to Gateway Classes, every semester, seven to ten carefully chosen courses are available on life topics. Some offerings include "Temptation: Speak of the Devil," "Couplehood as a Spiritual Path," "Necessary Losses, Love and Death," "Turning Down the Chatter," a Men's Class, a Women's Class, as well as programs that continue throughout the year such as "Beyond the Frame" workshops and "Christian Ed Forum." There are also weekly Bible study classes and often courses on the arts and outreach. For more information see the Christian Education Catalog, or speak to one of the Pillar Leads. See [http://www.stmarks.net/christian ed/courses.htm](http://www.stmarks.net/christian_ed/courses.htm) on the St. Mark's website: [www.stmarks.net](http://www.stmarks.net).

### LEAD OR JOIN ONE OF THE PILLAR COMMITTEES

St. Mark's is a church where the parishioners play a prominent role in guiding the core activities of the church. "Pillars" include:

**Arts Pillar:** This pillar supports and encourages the arts for worship as well as for individual growth through a variety of programs. Contact Co-Chair Christine Farrell ([christine.farrell@verizon.net](mailto:christine.farrell@verizon.net)).

- **St. Mark's Dance Studio:** Founded more than 20 years ago by a member of our parish, the late Mary Craighill, the St. Mark's Dance Studio has been training dancers primarily in ballet and jazz. Classes for both children and adults, beginners through advanced, are available to both parish members and the community. Private ballroom lessons are also available for wedding parties. Students occasionally present liturgical dance during services. To learn more, contact Rosie Brooks at 202-543-0054.
- **St. Mark's Players:** Originally established in the 1980's to create "chancel drama," parishioners soon broadened their scope and included more popular types of theatrical productions. The Players present three productions each year including a musical. To learn more go to [www.stmarksplayers.org](http://www.stmarksplayers.org).
- **The Write For Your Life Writer's Group:** Founded to provide an outlet for parishioners who want to express themselves in writing and grow in their writing talents. The Natalie Goldberg approach is used. To learn more contact Brock Hansen at [brockhansn@aol.com](mailto:brockhansn@aol.com).

- **Photographers Group:** Led by a parishioner, individuals photograph St. Mark's events and exhibit their work. To learn more contact [charles.j.divine@gmail.com](mailto:charles.j.divine@gmail.com).
- **Music at St. Mark's** —Our concert series presents outside groups as well as an annual concert by our Chancel Choir and is coordinated by our Director of Music. Other special musical events are always on tap.
- **St. Mark's Yoga Center:** For more than 20 years, the St. Marks Yoga Center has offered classes in meditation and body awareness. All are welcome. For recorded information, call 202-546-4964.
- **Worship Pillar:** This pillar oversees and organizes all of our worship services. Contact Co-chairs: Loretta Veney ([lwveney@aol.com](mailto:lwveney@aol.com)) and Jan Lipscomb ([deljan26@cox.net](mailto:deljan26@cox.net)).
  - **Worship Planning Team:** Through monthly meetings open to all, parishioners help plan worship services at St. Mark's. Look in the church bulletin for contact information.
  - **The Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, and the Children's Choir:** Adult and children's choirs are led by choirmasters, with practice once a week in the church. Both groups welcome anyone who enjoys singing and they perform at St. Mark's services and other venues.
  - **Altar Guild:** Members care for all the liturgical equipment as well as setting the altar for each Eucharist.
  - **Lay Assistants:** Opportunities include assisting at the altar in serving communion (layserving), acolytes (both children and adults), reading the lessons, ushering ("beadles"), and verging (coordinating each service). All of these require some degree of training which is readily available.
  - **Greening Chairs:** Two groups, one for Christmas and one for Easter decorate the nave for celebrations. This is an opportunity to be creative with greenery and flowers.
  - **Maundy Thursday Dinner:** Each year, the parish gathers in the Nave for a pot-luck dinner followed by a special service during Holy Week. Parishioners are invited to join hands and help for this event.
- **Christian Education Pillar:** This pillar provides courses for children, youth and adults from September through June. Contact Co-Chairs Bobbi Smith at [bsmith@thyroid.org](mailto:bsmith@thyroid.org), Penny Farley at [p3farley@verizon.net](mailto:p3farley@verizon.net), Katherine Loevinger at [k.loevinger@yahoo.com](mailto:k.loevinger@yahoo.com), and Will Long at [William.LongJr@Intelsat.com](mailto:William.LongJr@Intelsat.com).
  - **Classes for children, youth, and adults throughout the year:** See the Christian Education Catalog for a listing of current classes.
  - **Christian Education Weekend:** Generally in January, all teachers, supervisors, and any parishioner who wishes to attend, join together to plan for the upcoming year.
  - **Rector's Receptions for Newcomers:** The Rector and Associate Rector welcome newcomers through receptions scheduled throughout the year.

- **Parish Life Pillar:** This pillar incorporates our social activities and each event is led by a different team of volunteers. Contact Kristi Kubista-Hovis (kristi\_kubista@hotmail.com).
  - **ShrineMont Annual Church Retreat:** Once a year, in early June, 150-200 of us travel to ShrineMont, the conference center for the Diocese of Virginia located in Orkney Springs, VA. Not only is it a chance for the community to get away and renew old acquaintances, but to make new friends, and most importantly, to wrestle with timely themes in a series of large and small group settings. It is a gathering intended to renew the spiritual and social fabric of the parish.
  - **Mardi Gras Celebration:** Mardi Gras is celebrated in the church with a church-wide party of masquerading adults and children, dancing to a live band.
  - **Answering Angels:** Volunteers who answer the telephones at the church during the weekdays, and provide assistance to our church office.
  - **Third-Agers:** Parishioners 60 years and older meet three times a year to share pot-luck lunch and participate in a program that can include speakers, discussants, and occasionally the music of the Jammer's, a band playing music from earlier eras.
  - **Young Professionals:** A social group of parishioners in their 20s, 30's and 40's who meet for activities of interest.
  - **Woman to Woman:** Female parishioners of all ages gather several times each year for activities of interest. W2W has sponsored lectures by nationally known women, such as Eleanor Clift, and held large formal dinners celebrating women, skating parties, wine and cocktail parties. For more information, contact Marilu Sherer (marilu20002@yahoo.com).
  - **St. Mark's Reading Group:** Our parish book group meets monthly to discuss popular and classic literature. For more information contact Linda Ewald (lherbe@aol.com).
  - **St. Mark's Film Club:** Parishioners who are film aficionados meet in each others' homes to present, view, and discuss favorite films. Look in the Announcements section of the Sunday Bulletin for events information or contact Alicia Ruble (blurbologist@hotmail.com).
  - **The Pub of the Winged Lion, Pub Lunch, and Coffee Hour:** The Pub is our weekly social gathering following each Sunday morning service. After the 9:00 a.m. service, coffee and tea are provided free in the Parish Hall. After the 11:15 a.m. service, the Pub opens up in the Parish Hall, offering beer made by our own beer meister, wine, ice tea, lemonade, and other drinks and Pub Lunch, served up by parishioners, is available at a reasonable price. Tickets are available for lunch and drinks. Newcomers may dine for free.
  - **The Kitchen Committee:** A group of parishioners who oversee the operation and supply of our kitchen.
  - **Library:** Located in the undercroft of the church, the library has a wide selection of religious and spiritual texts, many of which are available for lending to parishioners. For more information, contact Peter Hawley at phawleywash@verizon.net.

- **Historians:** St. Mark's is a historic church, so a small number of historians over the years continue to document the past and present of our church. For more information, contact Bert Cooper (macooper3313@aol.com).
- **Web Site Development:** St. Mark's has a website at [www.stmarks.net](http://www.stmarks.net) that is maintained by parishioners and provides a listing of church events, information on the administration.
- **The St. Mark's e-group:** St. Mark's e-group allows parishioners to discuss issues of interest to the St. Mark's community. This lively e-group offers a glimpse into the energy, commitment, and interests of the parishioners at St. Mark's.
- **The Ad Hoc Committee to Have More Fun:** If you yearn to belong to a committee that is not organized and meets irregularly, this is your place. This committee organizes trips to the Nationals baseball games, bowling, a German beer garden, or whatever you create. Listen to the spoken announcements to join in on these activities.
- **Litchfield Link:** Since 1989, parishioners at St. Mark's have visited Litchfield Cathedral in England, with home-stay opportunities to learn more about our church's origins in England.
- **Lambda Lions:** Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members of our church gather for social activities with this group.
- **Outreach Pillar** – This pillar oversees St. Mark's outreach to those in need of assistance in the great community, nationally and internationally. Contact Co-Chairs David Johnson (njdevilman@gmail.com) and Amanda Folsom (amanda\_folsom@yahoo.com).
  - **Capitol Hill Group Ministry:** Capitol Hill Group Ministry (CHGM) is an interfaith, interracial coalition of congregations and concerned individuals united to serve the spiritual and social needs of the Capitol Hill Community, Ward 6, and beyond. CHGM provides emergency assistance and long-term support to low-income households and homeless and at-risk families and individuals. Once again this year, St. Marks will help collect goods for the Thanksgiving food baskets.
  - **Church of the Brethren Soup Kitchen:** The St. Mark's Soup Kitchen project supports the nearby Church of the Brethren by providing monthly casseroles and volunteer vegetable-chopping services, on a year-round basis.
  - **Congregational-Based Shelter Project:** Our Shelter Project provides overnight accommodations and meals for one or two homeless families during July and August. New shower facilities have been installed in the church undercroft for this facility.
  - **Honduras Committee:** The Honduras Committee plans and sponsors a bi-annual service trip for our youth. The committee's fundraiser, Wake Up the Earth (WUTE), collects funds for physical and financial support of programs in Honduras. WUTE is generally scheduled in early spring.
  - **Partner Arms II Apartment Project:** Traditional Housing Corporation assists homeless families who wish to have their own housing. Residents are given a low cost, fully furnished

apartment for up to two years. During that time each family member receives support in counseling, therapy and life skills.

- **RagDolls2Love:** Rag Dolls 2 Love is a non-profit organization that creates and distributes soft cloth dolls to children who are at risk for becoming emotionally damaged due to war, natural disaster, or serious illness.
- **Salvation Army Grate Patrol:** St. Mark's provides 150 bagged lunches once a month to the Salvation Army Grate Patrol. The assembly work is done by the youth of our parish right after Sunday School, providing an excellent teaching extension and service opportunity.
- **Outreach on Your Own:** Parishioners take on many, many other outreach efforts, some initiated by St. Mark's recommendations and others responding to community needs in parishioners' home neighborhoods. These quiet everyday efforts are a core part of St. Mark's outreach efforts. Thanks to every one of you that reaches out -- walking in the Homeless walkathon, tutoring at the SEED School, mentoring a young person, coaching a neighborhood team, and investing your time and money in other community efforts. Let us know if you need suggestions for finding a way to help your community!

## LEAD OR JOIN A STANDING OR TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

St. Mark's Vestry has two **Standing Committees:**

- **The Membership Development Committee:** This committee plans and implements activities to encourage new membership and the sustenance of current members, as well as advises the Vestry on critical membership initiatives.
- **The Finance Committee:** This committee, led by the Treasurer of St. Mark's, develops financial plans for the church and monitors the finances.

There are numerous **Task Force Committees**, among them:

- **The Fabric Committee:** This committee is chaired by the Manciple and provides support and assistance to the Junior Warden whose job includes caring for our buildings.
- **Caregivers:** This committee provides care to parishioners who are sick or infirm. Home caregiving visits can include delivery of food. Caregiving classes are provided for those interested in joining this group.
- **Race and Reconciliation Committee:** This committee provides a forum for extended conversations on race and reconciliation. National experts often lead the discussions. All are welcome. To learn more contact Peter Sherer at [peter@expmatters.com](mailto:peter@expmatters.com).
- **The Garden Committee:** This committee cares for the gardens surrounding the church.
- **The Stewardship Team:** This committee organizes and leads our annual pledge drive in support of all our parish work.
- **Governance Task Force:** This committee reviews and make recommendations for the improvement of our parish governance policies and practices.

## **START A NEW GROUP**

Over the years, parishioners have started new groups. Some remain active after decades, while some fulfill their purpose and fade away. This is an open community where the talents of the parishioners lead to possibility. As groups form, they are typically migrated into the work of one of the church pillars. Below are some established activities that started as groups formed by parishioners:

- **Ad Hoc Committee to Have More Fun**
- **St. Mark's Book Club**
- **Buddhist Meditation Group**
- **Yoga Classes**
- **Sailing Group**
- **Baseball Games Group**
- **Guild for Psychological Studies Group**
- **Men's Groups**
- **Women's Groups**
- **Writing Groups**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**St. Mark's Church**  
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**The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy**  
**Associate Rector Susan Pinkerton**