



WELCOME TO
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
+
CAPITOL HILL

ST. MARK'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mark's is an open community, welcoming people wherever they are on their faith journey. We celebrate the gifts of God that empower us to engage boldly in the struggles of life and to care for others with love, justice, and compassion.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2014

SEASONAL THEME: CATCHING THE LIGHT

9:00AM FAMILY EUCHARIST

10:00AM SERMON SEMINAR

11:15AM HOLY EUCHARIST

Presider & Preacher

The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector

Co-Presider

The Reverend Justi Schunior, Associate Rector

Director of Music

Mr. Jeff Kempskie

Cell Phones – Please turn off your cell phone or other electronic devices at any time you are in the Nave.
Hearing – Infrared headsets providing amplified sound are in the tract racks by the doors, or ask an usher.

WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S!

Wherever you are on your faith journey, please know you are welcome to celebrate life with us.

Please sit anywhere in the Nave—if you use a hearing aid with a T-setting, you need to sit within the front three rows to access our tele-loop system. You may also ask an usher to borrow one of our infrared headsets.

We offer open communion, which is our way of inviting any and all to partake in the Eucharistic supper: this is God's meal. We gather around the altar and you are most welcome regardless of your religion, beliefs, or practices.

Childcare: the Nursery is open! Children up to age 3 are welcome. Take the stairs to the lower level; turn right to go down the hall to the Nursery, which will be the last room on your right.

Announcements are at the back of this bulletin; you will also hear oral announcements during the service. To become more informed and engaged with the community, you are invited to subscribe to our weekly electronic newsletter at www.stmarks.net/gospelnewsletter.

Restrooms and water fountains are available in the foyer and on the lower level.

Lost & Found is managed by our Sexton, maintenance contractor Ed Green. Please contact him or his staff (David Durant & Keith Green) to see if your item has been found or to turn in an item you've found. (240-447-0027).

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 9:00 am **Holy Eucharist**
- 9:00 am **Children's Chapel**, a 20-minute worship experience for young children & their parents
- 10:00 am **Sermon Seminar**, Sunday school classes for children and adults
- 11:15 am **Holy Eucharist** *with sermon*
- 5:00 pm **Contemplative Eucharist**

WORSHIP IN THE ROUND

has been part of our community since 1965. The center altar allows a changing hanging...the Advent Wreath was given to St. Mark's by Scilla Adams in loving memory of her father, Colonel Neil Ramsay. Hand-forged by Richard A. Martin, a metal sculpture in Alexandria, Virginia, this work is made of steel with solid-link chains and hammered drip pans, painted black and measuring three feet in diameter, with a cross hanging beneath the central candle.

THE ADVENT VESTMENTS AND HANGINGS, made by Tracy Council and Doris Burton, were a gift of the St. Mark's Arts Council in 2002. The design themes are from Isaiah. One chasuble, taken from the prophecies about a new Jerusalem, is intended to suggest anyone/everyone's journey as lit by the Star of Bethlehem. The other chasuble represents the Jesse Tree: a dead stump putting forth living branches that become a home for the spirit of God. The chalice veil repeats the Jesse Tree image and incorporates the star/cross from the chasuble. The presider's stole introduces the theme of swords made into plowshares, here represented by a disused sword overtaken by morning glory vines, which symbolize love. The pulpit falls illustrate four images of the Peaceable Kingdom: a child playing around the adder's den; the lion and lamb together; swords turning into plowshares; and justice for all people. The woven stoles and the bread cover are reminiscent of the homespun fabrics commonplace in the Holy Land. In addition to the blues, each bears a few threads of pink, the color for Gaudete Sunday (Third Advent).

Traditionally, this third Sunday of Advent is called **Rose Sunday or Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday**, and thus the pink candle in the Advent Wreath is lit. The rose colored candle symbolizes our joy that Advent is half over and Christmas is soon to follow. This custom is not required by the Episcopal Church; it is observed by choice of the parish.

An abstract Resurrected Cross stands in front of the lectern. Created by Lynda Smith-Bugge from local burlled maples and black walnut, its closed vertical has opened as rays and circles lift the outstretched arms of the cross symbolizing the opening of arms to Lynda's family and others in our community.

We formally begin the worship service with the Prelude, a musical offering designed to bring us together for worship that allows for quiet reflection before the service begins. Please respect this time by refraining from conversations in the Nave as much as possible. While greeting each other is important, we ask that you do so outside the Nave or near the doors so that others can have quiet time.

WE GATHER

✦ *Portions of the liturgy omitted at the 9:00 AM service*

Please observe silence when the lights are dimmed.

Prelude Andante from Voluntary in D major, No. 10

John Bennett (c.1725-1784)

Opening Hymn 59 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

Opening Sentences

Presider As we wait and watch

People for the One to come,

Presider let us, like John, with our lips and our lives

People bear witness to the truth of love and justice.

Trisagion S 100

From *New Plainsong*, David Hurd

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect

based on the words of Daniel Iverson (1890-1977)

Presider Sisters and brothers, let us pray together, saying

All O Spirit of God, fall fresh on us, this day. Melt our stubborn hearts, so wedded to our ways. Mold our restive wills that we may find true peace with you. Fill our souls, as cups overflowing, with your very Self. Then use us, as fountains of your goodness, to fulfill our purpose. O Spirit of God, fall fresh on us. Amen.

WE READ AND REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

The First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, *revised*

Read by Duncan Andrews, 9:00; Susan Witek, 11:15

The spirit of God is upon me, anointing and sending me to bring good news to the oppressed. To bind up the brokenhearted. To proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. To proclaim the year of God's favor. To comfort all who mourn. To provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, God's planting, revealing God's glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins. They shall raise up the former devastations. They shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Reader Let us hear what the Spirit says to us.

People **Thanks be to God.**

♠(11:15) **Sequence Hymn** LEVAS 6 Christ is coming: Prepare the way Words & Music by Edward V. Bonnemere

The Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-23, *revised*

Omitted at 9:00

♠Gospeller The Gospel of Jesus.

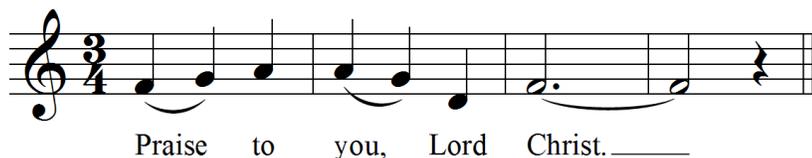
People



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when priests and Levites from Jerusalem came to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they asked, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

♠Gospeller The Gospel of Jesus.

People



(9:00) **Children's Reflection**

The Rector

Sequence Hymn LEVAS 6 Christ is coming: Prepare the way

Words & Music by Edward V. Bonnemere

Prayers of the People

Led by Will Monahan, 9:00; Martha Connor Donnelly, 11:15

Leader Let us pray.

You came near us, bringing light to our darkness in the vulnerable life of a child. Help us draw near to others – family, friends, and strangers – bringing light and love through our own vulnerability.

People Amen.

Leader Be with us as we strive to keep awake to the woes and wishes of a world in pain. Strengthen us so that we may never tire of bearing witness to truth.

People Amen.

Leader Because your light is sometimes a flame, kindle within us a passion for your justice and the courage to pursue it.

People Amen.

Leader In your rebuke to our blindness to the pain we cause and the hurt we ignore, help us to hear your love for all of creation; help us to make that love our own.

People Amen.

Leader We thank you, as the days grow darker, for opening our eyes to new life where the world sees failure. May we be like starlight in the darkness of this world, bright lights offering hope to others.

People Amen.

Leader We invite all to offer individual prayers silently or, if aloud, ending by saying, “This is my prayer” to which we all will say, “**Amen.**”

A time is allotted for individual prayers.

People Hear our prayers, Holy One, you who brought heaven and earth so very close. Lighten our darkness, enflame our hearts, inspire our vision so that we might once again bring heaven and earth together giving birth to a new creation. Amen.

Mission Moment

(Ms.) Hani AlMadhoun
Director of Donor Development, American Near East Refugee Aid

The Peace

Prsider God’s reconciling peace be with us and through us shared with all.

People Amen!

All, one with another, exchange a sign of peace.

Welcome

Rector’s Greeting

WE GATHER 'ROUND GOD'S TABLE

Offertory Anthem

O come, divine Messiah!

16th-cent. French carol, arr. Howard Helvey

Chancel Choir

*O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.*

*Refrain: Dear Savior haste; Come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.*

*You come in peace and meekness, And lowly will your cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness Shall we your Godhead see. Refrain.*

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for, Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Come break the captive fetters; Redeem the long-lost fold. Refrain.*

Please stand as able.

The Presentation Hymn 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel, v. 7

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

**O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider God is with us.

People Always with us.

Presider Let us open our hearts.

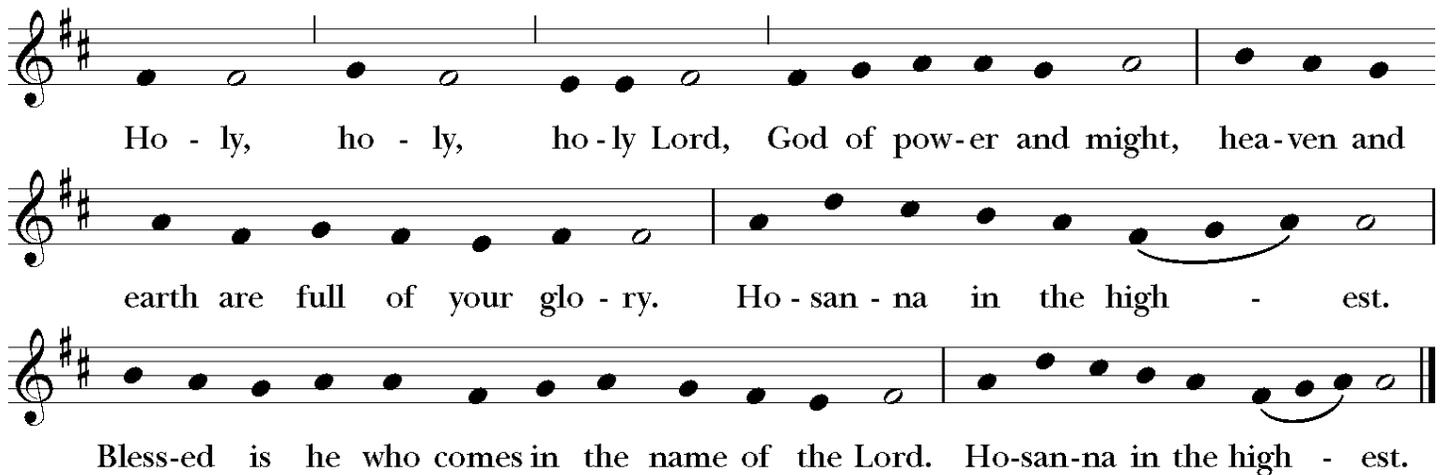
People Open them to God and to one another.

Presider For we seek God, our Light and our Lover.

People It is good to love God, now and always.

Presider O God, in love, you create all things. With Spirit-breath, you bestow the beauty of your divine image in every person; a loveliness that, when shared, illumines all of life around and about us.

Thankful for your gracious gifts of life and love, we lift our voices in this song of praise:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Co-President O gracious God, we long to honor you with our lives, sharing your light born in us, letting it shine as the bright beacon of our common humanity. Yet we, in our brokenness, often failing to recognize the beauty of your image in us and in others, with our words and deeds, break our covenant of loving harmony with you, our Creator, and with all creation.

To remind us of our beauty created in your image that we reflect anew the light of our true life, you sent Jesus, our friend and brother, the anticipation of whose birth we proclaim in this season of Advent. Through his story of life and ministry, we see again your love for all and your justice with all. In him, we behold anew your dream that all creation dwell at one and in peace.

President Jesus, yearning to reconcile all to you, remained true to his cause, giving up his life on the cross. On the night before he died, Jesus gathered with his friends. He took, blessed, broke, and gave bread to them, saying, "This, my body, I give to you. Eat and remember me."

Co-President Then he took the cup, blessed, and likewise gave it to them, saying, "This, my blood, I pour out for you. Drink and remember me."

O God, we pray your Spirit be poured out upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may become spiritual food and drink for our refreshment. Through this memorial meal, may our spirits be strengthened that we may journey anew with Jesus – living lives of faithfulness, dying to our selfishness, and rising into a renewed light of life.

All this we ask, trusting that in your light, we see light and in the beauty of your image, we find our true reflection.

All **AMEN!**

A Prayer

Presider

Let us pray,

All

O God, our eternal Mother and Father who inhabits the heavens, we, your children, here on earth, honor your Name as holy; laboring for your kingdom of just love, and praying for fulfillment of your will.

Sustain us with the bread of strength for each day, and, as we fall short of your will, pardon our sins as we pardon all who sin against us.

Spare us from all trial and tribulation; yet, as they befall, save us from all haunt of evil.

For in your reigning kingdom, power, and glory we rejoice, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S 154

From *New Plainsong*, David Hurd

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Invitation to Communion

Presider

We, St. Mark's, recognize this as God's table set before us and for all and this bread and wine as God's food for us and for all.

Co-Presider

Therefore whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe,

All

All are welcome and invited to receive. Amen!

The Communion

Everyone is invited to God's Table. Gather, one group at a time, a round the altar platform. Remain until everyone has received the bread and wine and is dismissed by the Presider, who will say, "Go in peace." You may consume the bread then receive the wine by taking a sip from the chalice or goblet OR you may hold the bread, which will signal that you wish to intinct (dip the bread) into the chalice or the goblet. A non-alcoholic alternative to wine is offered in the plain goblet, and gluten-free crackers are available upon request. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion, simply cross your arms across your chest.

Music During Communion

(9:00) Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus Janét Sullivan Whitaker
Boys & Girls Choir; Nadine Hathaway, director

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia!
O come Wisdom from on high, who orders all things with might.
O Root of Jesse come as a sign for all the people
O King of Nations, Desired One, O Come to make us one.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel! Come, O King, and save us!

(11:15) LEVAS 11 Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord James E. Moore, Jr.

What Child Is This *Greensleeves*, arr. Lloyd Larson
Handbell Choir

Hymn 67 Comfort, comfort ye my people *Psalm 42*

Post-Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

All **O gracious God of Light, we thank you for feeding us with your Self in broken bread and poured wine; this sacrament of spiritual nourishment. May we in this strength faithfully follow Jesus, letting your light shine in our service to all in the name of your love and your justice. Amen.**

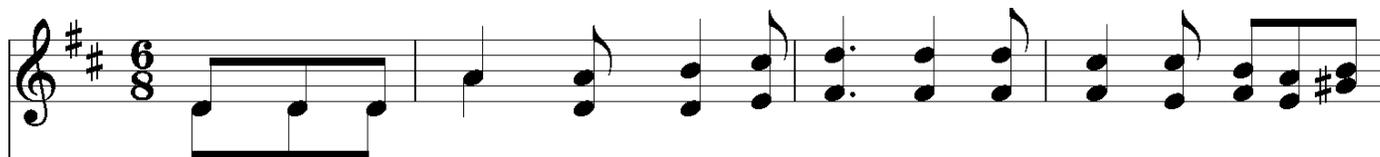
✦ Announcements

Please limit announcements to one minute or less.

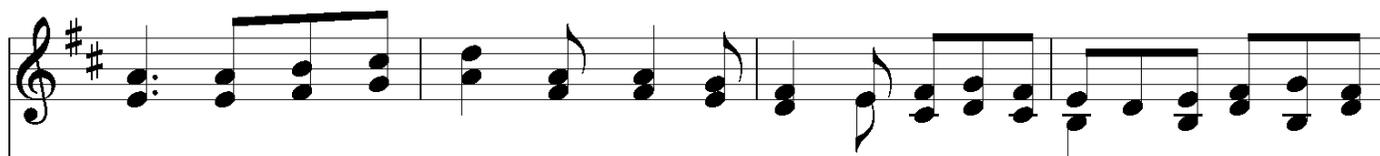
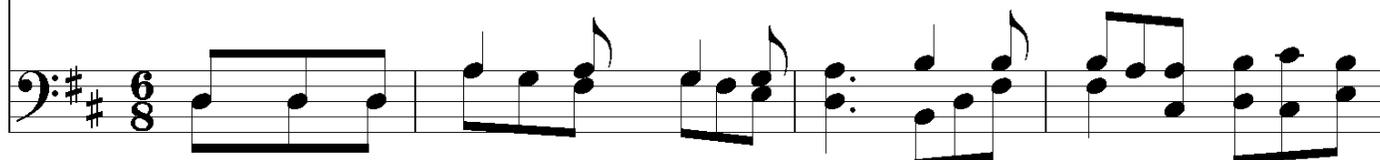
WE DEPART IN PEACE

Closing Hymn WLP 724 People, look East

Besançon Carol



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.



Blessing

Presider O God, you to whom the brightness of all your heaven's stars cannot compare, you who through your radiant being the glory of all life appears, bless us this day and always to be as you are, lights of your Light in your world.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Co-Presider From the Giver of Light and Life, let us go forth and in our living illumine the world! Alleluia!

All Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Postlude Allegro *from* Voluntary in D major, No. 10

John Bennett



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Opening Sentences, Collect, Eucharistic Prayer, A Prayer, Invitation to Communion, Blessing, and Dismissal were written by the Rector. Prayers of the People were written by the Associate Rector.

PERMISSIONS The Holy Eucharist, Holy God: *Trisagion*. Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950) © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-718991. *O come, divine Messiah!* Music: 16th-cent. French carol, arr. Howard Helvey, © 2010 Oxford University Press, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-718991. The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus*. Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950) © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-718991. The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: *Christ our Passover*. Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950) © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-718991. *Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus*. Words & Music: Janét Sullivan Whitaker, © Janét Sullivan Whitaker. Published by Oregon Catholic Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-718991.

SERMON SEMINAR *at 10:00 a.m.*

Announcements

Please limit announcements to one minute or less.

The Sermon Waiting, Watching, Witnessing

The Rector

✘ ✘ ✘

Liturgical Leaders and Worship Participants

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Verger | Jan Lipscomb, 9:00; Loretta Veney, 11:15 |
| Acolyte | Alice Billings, <i>Crucifer</i> ; Kate Billings and Macray Murray, <i>Torchbearers</i> , 9:00 Michael Knipe, 11:15 |
| Altar Guild | Marcia Knutson, Susan Sedgewick, 9:00 Bert & Mary Cooper, Ruth Ann Hess, Dianne Hoover, 11:15 |
| Bread & Wine | Joseph Tarantolo, 9:00 Beryl Maloney-Lillaston, in memory of my Father, John Dennis Maloney, 11:15 |
| Greeters | Rita Ossolinski, Matt Ossolinski, Maureen Shea, 9:00 Doris Burton, Linda Ewald, Rosemary Harold, 11:15 |
| Lay Servers | Teddy Ammon, Hannah Andrews, Henry Burneson, Emily Shaw, 9:00; Elizabeth Becker, Chuck Divine, Bill Doolittle, Karlyn Stanley, 11:15 |

✘ ✘ ✘



PARISH PRAYER LIST

Lolita Abernathy (*Paul's mother*) • Frederica Barrow • Paul Bugge •
Sylvie Kalas Braddock (*Barbara Nelson's granddaughter*) • Joya Cox •
Taylor Emerson (*Randy Marks' niece*) • Dave Haglund • Celia Hahn •
Patricia Harold (*Rosemary Harold's mother*) • Rick Hayes •
Alice Kistler (*Kathryn Powers' sister*) • Roy Lara • Dennis Lewis •
Elizabeth Long • Nat Marks • Lila Marks •
Ankie Moore (*family of Ruth Ann Hess*) •
Sister Mary Davida Morgan (*Mary Welker's sister*) •
Randell Prothro • Bruce Ritter •
Arnold Taylor • Geneva Watkins (*Pontheolla's mother*)

MILITARY DEATHS:

Staff Sgt. Matthew R. Ammerman, 29, of Noblesville, Indiana
Capt. William H. DuBois, 30, of New Castle, Colorado

THOSE OF OUR PARISH SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Vincent Alcazar (*Parishioner*)
Clint Billings (*son of Kevin Billings and Mary Louise Wagner*)
P. J. Boehm (*brother of Rachel Boehm*)
Stephen Dannenmaier (*brother and brother-in-law of Bill and Molly Dannenmaier*)
Jason Earnest (*son of Erika Bugge, grandson of Paul Bugge and Lynda Smith-Bugge*)
David Fuller (*son of Brock and Penny Hansen*)
Joshua Russo (*nephew of Stephanie and David Deutsch*)
Dani Stearman (*niece of Bill and Molly Dannenmaier*)
Thomas Winkler (*nephew of Stephanie and David Deutsch*)



CYCLE OF PRAYER

IN THE DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON:

Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation - *Frank G. Dunn*, Senior Priest
St. Thomas' Church, Washington - *Nancy Lee Jose*, Rector
St. Thomas' Church, Croom, and the Chapel of the Incarnation - *Debra M. Brewin-Wilson*, Rector

IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION:

Kitgum - (Uganda) **The Right Reverend Benjamin Ojwang**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements, not to exceed 125 words, are to be submitted to angela.nedd@stmarks.net by 5:00 pm on the Tuesday preceding the Sunday you wish the announcement to run.

Stewardship

1. LAST CALL FOR 2015 CANVASS -- Thanks to all of those who have made a 2015 Canvass pledge. More than 200 of you have pledged nearly \$650,000 to date! Collectively, those who have made a pledge have increased their pledge by nearly 9 percent over last year, a wonderful expression of the confidence and excitement people feel about the future of St. Mark's. But we still need to hear from about 100 of you who have not made a pledge yet. With increased expenses from our new space and a looming Rector search, it is critically important that everyone get their pledge in as soon as possible, so we can show a financially strong and healthy parish to prospective Rector candidates next year. Please use our incredibly easy online pledge form, available at <http://www.stmarks.net/get-involved/supportst-marks-form>. The Stewardship Committee will be turning over names of those who have not yet made a pledge to the Vestry for follow-up contact soon, so please make your pledge today and avoid the nagging calls. If you need more time, or if you have any questions about pledging, please contact

From the Office

2. CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS have been mailed to all those who made a pledge for the year 2014. If you have not received a statement by mid-December and believe you made a pledge for 2014, please contact Susan Block, Parish Administrator for Finance and Membership (202-543-0053 x305, susan.block@stmarks.net). The church office may not have received your pledge – or may not have your correct mailing address.

3. LOOKING FOR UNIDENTIFIED DONORS OF STOCK! In the past year, St. Mark's has received several donations of stock for which we have not been able to identify a donor. If you donated stock in the last year and have not received confirmation from Susan Block, Parish Administrator for Finance and Membership, please contact her immediately (202-543-0053 x305, susan.block@stmarks.net).

4. PARISH GROUP/EVENT TREASURERS: All income collected during the calendar year 2014 must be turned into the church office before the end of the year! **Questions?** Contact Susan Block, Parish Administrator for Finance and Membership (202-543-0053 x305, susan.block@stmarks.net).

5. THINKING OF MAKING A DONATION AT THE END OF THE YEAR? If you wish to make a year-end donation, note that only those donations received or postmarked by December 31, 2014 will be included on 2014 contribution statements. **Questions?** Contact Susan Block, Parish Administrator for Finance and Membership (202-543-0053 x305, susan.block@stmarks.net).

6. CHRISTMAS/JANUARY BULLETIN DEADLINES. The deadline to submit participants' names for the Christmas Pageant, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day services is 9:00 am, Wednesday, December 17. There will be no announcements in the Christmas Eve and Day bulletins. The deadline for announcements and participants' names for the December 28 bulletin is 5:00 pm, Thursday, December 18. Because of the holidays, we have tight turnaround times and will be unable to make exceptions. The deadline for **January 4** announcements and participant names is Noon, Wednesday, December 17. We resume the normal deadline for the January 11 bulletin.

7. ANGELA'S CHRISTMAS LEAVE. Parish Administrator for Programs and Facilities Angela Nedd will be on leave from Wednesday, December 24 through Friday, January 2. She will return to the office Monday, January 5. This means deadlines for the 12/28 and 1/4 bulletins will be early.

Discernment & Search Committee

8. THIS FEBRUARY, INVITE PARISHIONERS INTO YOUR HOME TO DISCUSS HOPES, DREAMS, AND CONCERNS. Thank you! The Discernment and Search Committee has received a great response to our request for hosts for potluck "Home Gatherings" for fellowship and facilitated sharing of our visions for St. Mark's. There is still time to volunteer to be a host. If you can provide space for 6-12, a table, and serving supplies during the day or evening **between January 30th and February 22nd**, we'd be grateful. Choose the format: dinner, cocktail/wine and cheese, brunch, or coffee/tea with dessert. We'll provide the facilitator. Guests will bring food and beverages. **Interested? Questions?** By Monday, December 15, please contact Cecilia Monahan (cdcmonahan@gmail.com), indicating format and two dates/times that work for you. We will announce dates and locations soon. The DSC is planning an all-parish town hall meeting and pub lunch on January 4 to provide an update on our current and future work. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Vision 2020 and Transition

9. VISION 2020 PLEDGE PAYMENTS -- MAKE YOURS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR! The "punch list" for our new space is 99 percent complete! The kitchen is operational and has passed inspection! The library didn't leak during last week's rain (keep your fingers crossed, though)! As we get down to the last few items from our long construction project, we are now receiving the final bills from our contractors and consultants. That means cash flow is at a premium. As you plan end-of-the-year charitable contributions, please remember to make your Vision 2020 pledge payments a priority. Every dollar that comes in from *this point forward is a dollar that we won't have to borrow in order to pay our final bills.* Thank you very much! -- Mike Townsend, Vision 2020 Co-Chair

10. NEW SPACES! The foyer now sports an 'Information Board' for pillar events. Please contact your pillar chair for access. The 'Art-Hanging' system (gray walls) in the foyer and Baxter Hall are not bulletin boards. We ask that you refrain from trying to tack or tape anything to the cloth backing as both will damage it. Please use the tack boards in the lounge or contact your pillar for Info Board space. Thanks!

Worship

11. WEEK-DAY SERVICE AND MEDITATION OPPORTUNITIES

Insight Meditation, *Nave*: Mondays, 7:30pm to 9:00pm

Thursday Noon Eucharist, *Chapel*; Thursdays 12:00-12:30pm

12. HELP US DECORATE THE NAVE: Please be a part of "greening" the sanctuary for Christmas services! Many hands will make light work! **When:** Sunday, December 21, 6:00 to 8:00 pm (immediately following the 5:00 pm service). We will hang lights and greenery while we drink wine, eat tasty treats, and listen to Christmas music. **RSVP:** Lisa Ramish (lisa.ramish@gmail.com).

Christian Ed

Sunday School. New class members welcome throughout the year.

14. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND HOLIDAYS. Sunday School will be held December 14, and 21. After a holiday break, Sunday School resumes January 18. There will be no Sunday School from December 28 through January 11.

15. THE 2014-2015 REGISTRATION/RELEASE FORMS FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH. Families, have you turned in registration/release forms for each child and youth? The forms ensure the safety of our children by giving contact and medical information to teachers and adults running youth programs. They also let you indicate if photos of your child may be taken and used. The forms are required to participate in the nursery, Sunday School and parish youth activities in the coming year. Give completed forms to Kitty Donnelly, Peter Sherer or a Sunday School teacher. Please initial any section you intend to leave blank. Print a form for each child at www.stmarks.net/assets/pdf/Permission_Release_Form_2014-15.pdf

16. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2014-2015 CATALOGS. Christian Education catalogs are in tract racks and posted on the St Mark's website (www.stmarks.net/ministry-and-programs/course-catalog-2014-2015/). Get your catalog of classes, workshops and retreats for the coming year, illustrated with artwork from Sunday School banners and Beyond the Frame, and beautifully designed by Karen Falk.

Ongoing Adult Bible Studies: new members welcomed

17. WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW. We use discussion notes from Bishop John Spong (retired) and other sources. This ongoing Bible discussion group is open to all. **When:** Wednesdays through May, 11:00 am to 12:15 pm, brown bag lunch follows to 1 pm **Where:** Elders Room. **Leaders:** Paul Abernathy and lay leaders. **Coordinator:** Raiford Gaffney. **Fee:** \$25 contribution.

18. THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: THE Gnostic GOSPELS. We discuss how the text has meaning in our contemporary context. We start with *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels and some readings from *The Nag Hammadi Scriptures* edited by Marvin Meyer and select other topics as we go. **When:** Thursdays, October through May, 7:30-9:00 pm **Where:** Rectors' room, Undercroft. **Leaders:** Andrew Stafford, Kathleen Grant, Bill Jones. **Fee:** \$25 contribution per semester, plus cost of chosen books.

19. MARCHING THROUGH THE BIBLE: LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS. Paul's letters to the Corinthians, in the major city of Corinth, address a polarized community 25 years after Jesus' death. Issues raised by the Corinthians still resonate today. We discuss a Corinthians text each Sunday, no additional readings are expected; we focus on reading and discussing the text itself. Marching through the Bible is named for long-time convener, "Buzz" March. **When:** Sundays, October through March, 10:00-11:00 am **Where:** Penniman Room, Undercroft. **Convener:** Bob Ewald. **Fee:** \$25 per semester.

Adult classes

20. ARE WE CRAZY ABOUT OUR KIDS? "The Raising of America." This monthly series of talks, videos and discussions looks at education, health, safety, income and other environmental influences to see how they enhance or

diminish the chances of children's success in life. Presentations by experts in the field, videos, discussions and field trips will help us better understand how we raise children in our society. We hope to enhance awareness and identify people and organizations that both need our support and offer opportunities to become actively engaged ...in ways that best match your interests and best use your talents. **Questions?** Contact Peter Eveleth (peter.eveleth@gmail.com) or Jackie Boddie (jlb3135@gmail.com). **When:** second Thursday of each month, 7:30 – 9:30 pm. **Where:** Baxter Hall. **Leaders:** Pete Eveleth, Jackie Boddie, others. **Fee:** \$25.

21. TODAY! SELF-CARE IN A TIME OF JOY AND DEMAND. *The coming to consciousness is not a discovery of some new thing; it is a long and painful return to that which has always been.* Take time to find calm in the midst of all your activities – the fun, the obligations, the rush and fatigue. When there's no time, take time to center yourself in the depth of your heart, with a clear mind and relaxed body. In silence, meditation, chants, centering prayer and lectio divina, you may find a way to connect with soul and a renewed sense of God's presence. Bring a journal. **When:** Sunday December 14, 3:00-4:30 pm. **Where:** Penniman Room. **Leader:** Nadine Hathaway completed work at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. **Fee:** none.

Meditation

22. MONDAY EVENING MEDITATION. Come meditate with others in a quiet place. **When:** Mondays, 7:30-9:00 pm. **Where:** Nave. **Leaders:** **Fee:** \$10 donation/class, shared by leaders, Insight Meditation Community of Washington, St. Mark's.

Music

Contact the Director of Music, for further information: jeff.kempskie@stmarks.net

23. DO YOU SING OR PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? If so, we want to know! Singers of all voice parts are needed in the Chancel Choir (rehearses Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm in the Nave). Children are invited to sing with the Boys & Girls Choir (rehearses Sundays, 11-11:45am). More ringers are needed in the Handbell Choir (rehearses Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm). No prior experience necessary. There are also opportunities to play solo instrumental pieces year-round.

Outreach

24. ALTAR OFFERTORY BASKETS ARE FOR MORE THAN JUST FOOD – The foodstuffs placed in the baskets during the offertory go to Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington which distributes them to needy individuals. Samaritan Ministries gratefully accepts **other items including toiletries**. Consider contributing small travel-size bottles of hand lotion, shampoo, or toothpaste. Bars of soap, toothbrushes and razors are welcome too. Most pharmacies and grocery stores have sections where you can purchase travel-size toiletries.

25. TODAY: ANNUAL ADVENT SALE: CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM BETHLEHEM AND THE W. BANK (Baxter Hall – Dec 14, 21st after 9:00 am, 11:15 and 5:00 pm services). Olivewood crèches, small nativity ornaments, and Canaan Fair Trade olive oil. A 20% donation from the sale will be contributed to ANERA for assistance to refugee families in Gaza. The Middle East Working Group manages the sale (with the assistance of the Pilgrimage Group). Look carefully at the true extra virgin olive oil and tapenades from the Canaan Farm Co-operative. St. Mark's Pilgrimage - 2013 visited the Co-op and many were hosted by farm families who benefit in so many ways from the Co-op sales and the community action initiatives of this co-operative. When you buy Canaan products as gifts for others or to enjoy yourself, your act will strengthen the bonds of goodwill between St. Mark's and the families.

26. LAST DAY OF THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR 2014! You can visit the Gift Fair in Baxter Hall after each Sunday Service, including the 5PM service or go on-line to www.stmarksoutreach.org/agf to find terrific "in honor" gifts. Come check out Heifer International's catalog, Capitol Hill Group Ministry's gift list serving needy families here on Capitol Hill, Samaritan Ministry's gift list serving homeless men throughout the city, Episcopal Relief and Development's international Giving Catalog, and St Paul's Foundation serving local grass roots LGBT organizations in Cameroon, Uganda and Jamaica. Bring check book as checks will be made out directly to the charity you choose.

27. HYPOTHERMIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (HERT). Did you know that by DC law EVERYONE has a right to shelter on nights when the temperature is below freezing? Capitol Hill Group Ministries (CHGM) has established a new initiative this year to check on our homeless neighbors during hypothermia alerts. HERT volunteers walk around Eastern Market and Union station offering blankets, cold weather gear, snacks, and hot beverages to those in need. HERT volunteers will also assess unsheltered individuals for signs of hypothermia, encourage them to move indoors, and call for assistance for anyone at risk. Additionally, HERT volunteers provide relief to overstretched CHGM staff. To join the team, contact Whitney Parnell (parnell@chgm.net, 202-544-0631). **Questions?** Contact the Outreach Board (stmarksoutreachboard@gmail.com)

28. HOLIDAY PARTY FOR SHELTER FAMILIES MONDAY, DECEMBER 15. Volunteer for our annual party for Capitol Hill Group Ministry shelter families. Santa will come; carols will be sung; cookies will be decorated. Volunteers, including kids, are needed to provide dishes for the dinner and to act as hosts to our guest families. Signup sheet is on

the bulletin board outside the Nave door. **Contact:** Diane Hoover (roadbikedc@gmail.com), Susan Sedgewick (jssedgewick@gmail.com), or Stephanie Deutsch (scd@his.com).

29. LAST DAY OF THE YOUNG IMMIGRANT REFUGEES WINTER COAT DRIVE: The Washington DC area is now home to over 6,000 unaccompanied Central American youth. They came to this country with very little and are in particular need of winter clothing. Catholic Charities and the Episcopal Diocese of Washington are collecting winter coats, hats and gloves for these teenagers. You can help by bringing your contribution to St. Mark's on Sunday, December 14. Look for Julie Murphy in Baxter Parish Hall or look for the large box labeled "Coats For Young Refugees."

Parish Life

30. DECEMBER 19 FILM CLUB - "MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS" (1944) - Join us for one of MGM's most perfect musicals, directed by Vincente Minnelli and starring Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, and Mary Astor, featuring "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The Trolley Song," and "The Boy Next Door," based on New Yorker stories and a book by Sally Benson. Little Margaret O'Brien, as Tootie, won a special Oscar, and nearly steals the picture (except when Judy is singing). **Friday, December 19 7:30 p.m., 1321 Geranium Street, NW, Washington, D.C.** Bring snacks/desserts/potent potables to share. For further info, contact Alicia Ruble, (202-420-9256, blurbologist@hotmail.com).

31. PUB LUNCH IS BACK but only if *you* sign up to prepare it! The sign up is on the clipboard in the foyer. **NO MATTER** what you are using the kitchen for--please clean up *completely* after yourself. We do not have anyone to keep it brand-spanking new-looking **except you!**

32. THANKYOUTHANKYOU to Jim Steed for our first pub lunch...and to all who contributed to the shower: equipping the new kitchen. Gifts and givers are posted in the Events Box on the info board. If you haven't had a tour yet, please do walk thru. There's still another crew locker and a security gate in the pantry to come...AND the new coffee maker! Please consider preparing a pub lunch in this luxurious space!

33. THE SPACE USE COMMITTEE IS EXPLORING HOW THE ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY USES SPACE for meetings, receptions, dinners, plays, etc, and how those needs can be best addressed in our newly remodeled building. A questionnaire that elicits such information is currently being prepared. The committee is also reaching out to the nonprofit community to determine interest in renting our meeting rooms. It's important that we all be heard. **Questions? Comments?** Contact Michael Summey (stmarksjuniorwarden@gmail.com) or Sally Garr Brodhead (sgarrbrodhead@yahoo.com).

34. SHOWER THE KITCHEN. Did you miss our first Pub Lunch? Did you want to contribute a gift to our updated kitchen, but missed the shower? It is not too late! We are registered at Bed Bath and Beyond (www.bedbathandbeyond.com) under Edna Boone or St Marks. Please have gifts shipped to your home and hand deliver to the kitchen with a tag with your name on them. Let's share and enjoy this new wonderful space.

35. CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP for those caring for seriously ill or otherwise incapacitated loved ones meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month. **Contact:** Mary Welker (marymwelker@aol.com, 202-387-4083). **When:** December 22, 7:30pm. **Where:** Dozier Library.

36. READING GROUP meets First Mondays. The January 5 book is *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd . February 2 - *Death in Holy Orders* by P.D. James **When:** January 5, 7:30 pm. **Where:** Verna Dozier Library.

37. 20S/30s GIFT WRAPPING FOR KIDS: Calling all the 20s/30s! Join us TONIGHT (6:00 pm, Baxter Hall) as we wrap gifts for kids supported by The Transitional Housing Corporation (THC) and enjoy scrumptious holiday treats. Bring your favorite holiday treat, a X-mas gift for a child, and questions for Kate Stritzinger, THC's Volunteer Manager. **RSVP & sign-up for a gift:** ashley_davis8@comcast.net.

Youth and Family Ministry

38. CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PLANNING. Calling all parents and kids! It's time to plan for the annual Christmas Eve Pageant. We are looking for our stars – Mary, Joseph and the Angel Gabriel, so please step forward if your child has expressed an interest in one of these leading roles. Please contact Pam Lacey (placey@aga.org) if you want to help with the Christmas Pageant this year.

39. ST. MARK'S FAMILY/PARISH SKI TRIP – MLK Weekend. Mark your calendars and dust off your ski gear! We are once again going to Canaan Valley, WV for fun and fellowship! We will ski at Timberline and stay nearby at – Windwood Resort, where you will have the option of sleeping in a bunk room with the group -- or if you like, reserve a regular hotel room with 2 Queen Beds. There is a modest games arcade and a party room where we can share card and board games, arts and crafts and conversation apres ski. Timberline has great lessons and half day kid's mountain camp, downhill/cross country skiing, skating, and sledding. **When:** Sat-Mon, January 17-19, 2015. **Contact:** David Wolfel (03allen55@gmail.com), Frank Lloyd (frank.w.lloyd@gmail.com), or Pam Lacey (placey@aga.org).

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S: DECEMBER 14 – 21

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

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| <p>9:00 am — 10:00 am</p> <p>10:00 am — 11:00 am</p> <p>10:00 am — 1:00 pm</p> <p>11:00 am — 11:45 am</p> <p>11:15 am — 12:30 pm</p> <p>12:30 am — 2:30 pm</p> <p>12:30 pm — 2:30 pm</p> <p>1:00 pm — 4:00 pm</p> <p>3:00 pm — 5:00 pm</p> <p>4:30 pm — 6:30 pm</p> <p>5:00 pm — 6:00 pm</p> <p>6:00 pm — 9:00 pm</p> | <p>Family Eucharist <i>Nave</i></p> <p>Sermon Seminar <i>Nave</i></p> <p>Adult Bible Study <i>Penniman Room</i></p> <p>High School Sunday School <i>Lions' Den (Teen Room)</i></p> <p>Middle School Sunday School <i>Rectors' Room</i></p> <p>Elementary & Under Sunday School <i>Classrooms 1, 3, 4, 6</i></p> <p>Choir Warm-up <i>Elders' Room</i></p> <p>Teen Christmas Party <i>Adams Room</i></p> <p>MEWG Advent Sale <i>Baxter Hall</i></p> <p>Boys & Girls Choir Rehearsal <i>Elders' Room</i></p> <p>Holy Eucharist <i>Nave</i></p> <p>Pub Lunch <i>Baxter Hall, Kitchen</i></p> <p>Green Lions <i>Rectors' Room</i></p> <p>Advent Greening <i>Nave</i></p> <p>Spiritual Practices Class <i>Penniman Room</i></p> <p>Yoga Class <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i></p> <p>Contemplative Eucharist <i>Nave</i></p> <p>Chewing on Faith <i>Baxter Hall</i></p> |
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MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

CLERGY & MUSIC DIRECTOR DAY OFF

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| <p>9:00 am — 5:00 pm</p> <p>10:00 am — 1:15 pm</p> <p>6:00 pm — 7:15 pm</p> <p>7:30 pm — 9:00 pm</p> <p>7:30 pm — 9:30 pm</p> | <p>Organ Tuning <i>Nave</i></p> <p>Dance Classes <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i></p> <p>Yoga Class <i>Adams Room</i></p> <p>SMMC Monday Meditation <i>Nave</i></p> <p>Fabric Committee <i>Rectors' Room</i></p> |
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

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| <p>8:00 am — 12:00 pm</p> <p>12:15 pm — 1:15 pm</p> <p>3:30 pm — 4:30 pm</p> <p>4:00 pm — 8:45 pm</p> <p>6:00 pm — 7:05 pm</p> <p>6:30 pm — 9:30 pm</p> | <p>Training <i>Abernathy Conference Room</i></p> <p>Afternoon Yoga Class <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i></p> <p>Staff Meeting <i>Abernathy Conference Room</i></p> <p>Dance Classes <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i></p> <p>Evening Yoga Class <i>Adams Room</i></p> <p>Discernment & Search Committee <i>Penniman Room</i></p> |
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

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| <p>11:00 am — 1:00 pm</p> <p>11:30 am — 12:30 pm</p> <p>4:00 pm — 7:30 pm</p> <p>5:30 pm — 7:05 pm</p> <p>6:30 pm — 9:30 pm</p> <p>7:00 pm — 8:30 pm</p> <p>7:00 pm — 9:00 pm</p> <p>7:00 pm — 9:00 pm</p> <p>7:00 pm — 10:00 pm</p> <p>7:30 pm — 10:30 pm</p> | <p>Wednesday Bible Study <i>Elders' Room</i></p> <p>Dance Classes <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i></p> <p>Dance Classes <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i></p> <p>Yoga Class <i>Adams Room</i></p> <p>Carols & Cocktails <i>Nave</i></p> <p>Handbell Choir Rehearsal <i>Elders' Room</i></p> <p>Rector's Advisory Committee <i>Abernathy Conference Room</i></p> <p>Outreach Board <i>Rectors' Room</i></p> <p>Women's Investment Network (WIN) <i>Baxter Hall</i></p> <p>Players Rehearsal <i>Adams Room</i></p> |
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

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| 12:00 pm — 12:30 pm | Holy Eucharist Chapel (in Nave) |
| 4:00 pm — 7:30 pm | Dance Classes <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i> |
| 6:30 pm — 8:00 pm | Yoga Class <i>Adams Room</i> |
| 6:30 pm — 8:30 pm | LPT: Rector's Final Service <i>Penniman Room</i> |
| 7:00 pm — 9:00 pm | Thursday Bible Study <i>Rectors' Room</i> |
| 7:00 pm — 9:30 pm | Choir Rehearsal <i>Nave</i> |
| 7:30 pm — 10:30 pm | Players Rehearsal <i>Baxter Hall</i> |

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

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| 6:45 am — 7:45 am | Yoga Class <i>Adams Room</i> |
| 11:45 am — 12:30 pm | Dance Classes <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i> |
| 4:00 pm — 8:00 pm | Dance Classes <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i> |
| 6:00 pm — 8:00 pm | Women's AA Meeting <i>Adams Room</i> |
| 7:30 pm — 10:00 pm | Film Club <i>Off-campus</i> |

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

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| 8:00 am — 12:00 pm | Greening Prep <i>Nave, Baxter Hall</i> |
| 9:00 am — 1:45 pm | Dance Classes <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i> |
| 9:30 am — 11:30 am | Brass Rehearsal <i>Nave</i> |
| 10:00 am — 12:00 pm | Saturday Yoga Class <i>Adams Room</i> |
| 10:00 am — 12:00 pm | Coordinating Committee <i>Penniman Room</i> |
| 12:00 am — 9:00 pm | Myers-Covington Wedding Party <i>Baxter Hall, Kitchen</i> |
| 7:00 pm — 8:00 pm | AA Meeting <i>Adams Room</i> |

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

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| 9:00 am — 10:00 am | Holy Eucharist + Laying on of Hands Nave |
| 10:00 am — 11:00 am | Sermon Seminar Nave |
| 10:00 am — 11:00 am | Adult Bible Study/Sunday School <i>Undercroft</i> |
| 10:00 am — 11:00 am | Choir Warm-up <i>Elders' Room</i> |
| 10:00 am — 1:00 pm | MEWG Advent Sale <i>Baxter Hall</i> |
| 11:00 am — 11:45 am | Boys & Girls Choir Rehearsal <i>Elders' Room</i> |
| 11:00 am — 1:00 pm | Pageant Rehearsal <i>Adams Room</i> |
| 11:15 am — 12:30 pm | Holy Eucharist + Laying on of Hands Nave |
| 12:30 am — 2:30 pm | Pub Lunch <i>Baxter Hall, Kitchen</i> |
| 12:30 pm — 2:30 pm | Vestry Meeting <i>Elders' Room</i> |
| 1:00 pm — 4:00 pm | Advent Greening <i>Nave</i> |
| 4:00 pm — 6:00 pm | Sandwich Crew <i>Baxter Hall</i> |
| 4:30 pm — 6:30 pm | Yoga Class <i>Craighill Dance Studio</i> |
| 4:30 pm — 9:30 pm | Myers-Covington Wedding Dinner <i>Baxter Hall, Kitchen</i> |
| 5:00 pm — 6:00 pm | Contemplative Eucharist Nave |
| 6:00 pm — 8:00 pm | Advent Greening <i>Nave</i> |

Calendar online at: <http://www.stmarks.net/calendar/>

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH + CAPITOL HILL

+

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The Rev. Justi Schunior, Associate Rector

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Emily Williams Guffey, Seminarian

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Lost & Found: please contact Ed Green (240-447-0027)

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Adjunct Clergy: The Reverends Susan Flanders, William Flanders

The Vestry

Senior Warden

Grady B. Hedgespeth

seniorwarden.saintmarks@gmail.com

Junior Warden

Michael D. Summey

stmarksjuniorwarden@gmail.com

Class of '15

Jim Steed, Amy Kovac-Ashley, Pamela Lacey

Class of '16

Gwen Dillard, Nora Howell, Mary Thuell

Class of '17

Fritz Henn, Martha Huizenga, Stephen Dalzell

Officers

Penny Hansen, *Treasurer*

Andrew Stafford *Assistant Treasurer*

Randy Marks, *Register*

Jack Burton, *Manciple*

Michael Knipe, *Counsel*

Diocesan Delegates

Suella Henn

Raiford Gaffney

Joseph Tarantolo