# WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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# **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.



**CHRISTMAS DAY** 

December 25, 2023

10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST

#### Rector

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

#### Associate Rector

The Reverend Christopher Phillips

#### Pastoral Associate

The Reverend Patricia Catalano

#### Deacon

The Reverend Thom Sinclair

## **Director of Youth & Family Ministries**

Caleb Nelson Amaker

**Director of Music** 

Jeff Kempskie

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To view the **parish calendar online**, please visit our homepage www.stmarks.net, and click "Calendar" at the top.

**Hearing** – Infrared headsets providing amplified sound are in the tract racks by the doors, or ask an usher.

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Land Acknowledgement We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the peoples on whose traditional territory we are located, specifically the Piscataway and Nacotchtank (Anacostan) peoples. We make this acknowledgment mindful of the traumatic events and the ongoing forces of systemic racism and oppression that forced native peoples from their lands. We continue our commitment to learning, growing, and finding a new way forward for meaningful, mutual healing.

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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### **PRELUDE**

Chorale Prelude on *Den die Hirten lobten sehre* (Whom the shepherds praised greatly)

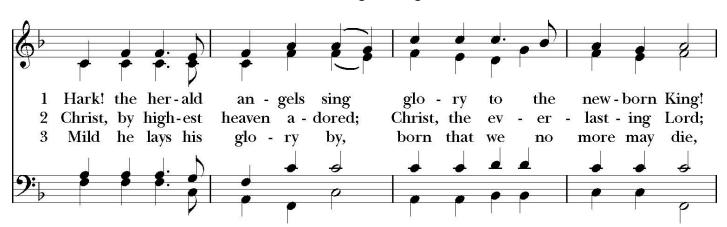
Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)

Cantilena on Mendelssohn

arr. James Biery (b. 1956)

## **OPENING HYMN** 87 Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn





### **OPENING SENTENCES**

I bring you good news of great joy!

A Savior has been born to you! Alleluia!

Unto us a child is born!

The child is a gift! Alleluia!

### THE COLLECT

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Savior and our eternal God. Amen.

### THE FIRST READING Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

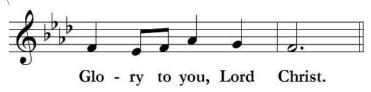
Thanks be to God.





THE GOSPEL Luke 2: 1-20

The Gospel of Jesus according to Luke.



In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of

Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of Jesus.



#### **SERMON**

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

#### **AFFIRMATION**

We believe that God has created us.

We believe that God is born among us.

We believe that God will always sustain us.

We believe that God calls us to bring peace, justice, and compassion into this world. We believe that in the end of all things, God's love shall win.

Amen.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray:

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless: Jesus, Savior,

## Hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep: Jesus, Savior,

## Hear our prayer.

Christ, worshiped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed: Jesus, Savior,

## Hear our prayer.

Jesus, becoming a healer, grant healing to a world in warfare.

Jesus, Savior,

## Hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern: Jesus, Savior,

## Hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you: Jesus, Savior,

## Hear our prayer.

The people are invited to offer prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud, at this time.

## Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit, hear our prayer, receive our praises, and fill our lives. Amen.

#### THE PEACE

May the peace of God, born among us, be with you! And also with you.

#### **VESTRY GREETING**

#### **CLERGY GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ELECTRONIC OFFERING**



Please consider supporting the work of the church. You may make an <u>online</u> <u>gift</u>, or learn about the <u>other ways to give</u>, by visiting the St. Mark's website, <u>stmarks.net</u>, and choosing "Donate or Pledge" at the top.

Gifts to St. Marks can also be made by texting "stmarks20003" to 73256, or by visiting the QR code. Thank you for your generous support of our collective work.

#### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us put into action the generosity that comes from faith.

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

**OFFERTORY SOLO** Wexford Carol

Traditional Irish Carol, arr. Richard Walters

Marika Klein, soloist

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind, What our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved son. With Mary holy we should pray, to God with love this Christmas Day; In Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.

The night before that happy tide, the noble Virgin and her guide Were long time seeking up and down to find a lodging in the town. But mark how all things came to pass; from ev'ry door repelled, alas! As long foretold, their refuge all was but a humble oxen stall.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; To whom God's angel did appear which put the shepherds in great fear. "Prepare and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem, be not afraid; For there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind the shepherds went the babe to find And as God's angel had foretold they did our Saviour Christ behold. Within a manger he was laid and by his side a virgin maid, Attending on the Lord of Life, who came on earth to end all strife.



#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

God is always with us.

God has been born among us!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Incarnate One

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right and joyful to give our thankful praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. Glory to you for ever and ever. At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

# By your will they were created and have their being.

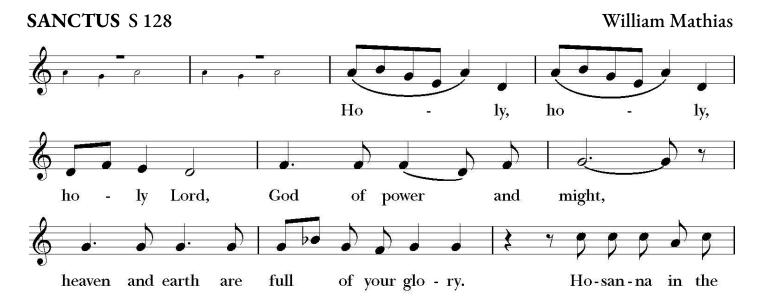
From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

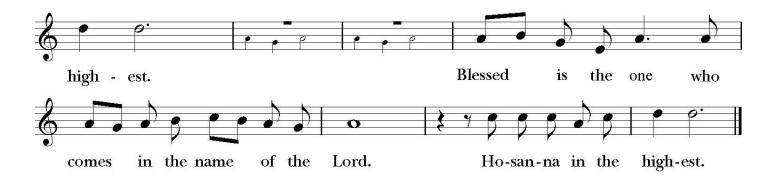
## Have mercy, God, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

## By his love, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:





And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

## We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

God of our Ancestors: Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God who was born of Mary and who is present in our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

## Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen!** 

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

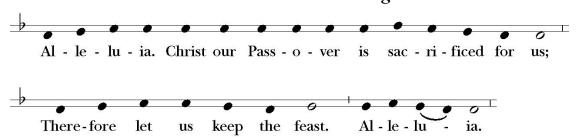
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All Sing.



#### THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We recognize this as God's table and this bread and wine as God's food for us all. Therefore, whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe or do not believe, All are welcome and invited to receive. Amen!

### THE COMMUNION

St. Mark's receives communion "in the round" as a symbol of our strong belief in the power of community.

You will be offered bread by a celebrant, and invited to drink from the common cup. Please refrain from intincting (dipping) the host (the bread) into the wine.

#### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

## O little town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

## Marika Klein, soloist

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Hymn 112 In the bleak midwinter

Cranham



### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, and renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.





#### THE BLESSING

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost,

to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,

to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations,

to bring Peace/שלמ/ שלום among the people, to make music in the heart.

And the Blessing of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with us now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit! Christ is born in us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Pastorale on 'Gesu Bambino'

Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

# # #

## Schedule of New Year's Services

Sunday, December 31, 10 AM Christmas Lessons & Carols + Holy Eucharist
5 PM Holy Eucharist and community dinner

## Worship Participants

Presider & Preacher The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

**Director of Music** Jeff Kempskie

Verger Raiford Gaffney

Soloist Marika Klein

Readers Jim Kreger, Scripture Reader

Randy Marks, Prayers of the People

Altar Guild Susan Sedgewick

Bread and Wine Terri Poxon-Pearson & Michael Swift

Video Director David Deutsch

Technical Director Charlie Rupp

\* \* \*

## Acknowledgements & Permissions

The Collect, Church of England, Blessing, The work of Christmas by Howard Thurman, adapted. The Creed: Scott Lipscomb. Eucharistic Prayer & Dismissal, *The Book of Common Prayer*. Post-communion prayer, *Enriching Our Worship*, volume 1, adapted. Prayers of the People: *Common Worship* of the Church of England. | *Hark! the herald angels sing*. Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn, adapt. William H. Cummings. *Angels we have heard on high*. Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958). Wexford Carol. Words & Music: Traditional Irish Carol, arr. Richard Walters, © 1992 Hal Leonard. *Sanctus*. Music: William Mathias (1934-1992), © 1976 Oxford University Press. Fraction Anthem: *Christ our Passover*. Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991), © 1971 Mason Martens. *Joy to the World*. Words: Isaac Watts. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel, arr. Paul Halley, © 2011 Back Alley Music, admin. Pelagos Incorporated. All selections: Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-718991. All rights reserved.



# Festival Giving 2023

Parishioner contributions toward this year's special Christmas greening and music are given to the Glory of God in loving memory, in honor, and in thanksgiving of those whose names appear below. The remainder will be distributed to our justice ministries.

# In Loving Memory of ...

Frank Lloyd by Betsy Athey

Fred, Emma & Lawana Boddie by Jackie Boddie

Beryl Lillaston & Fairfield Butt by Jane Byrne

Warren, Lillian, & William Price; Ollinger & Majorie Crenshaw by Margaret Crenshaw

Bette Hudgins by Lea Crusey & Jeb Ory

Charles & Laura Perry by Bill & Linda Dickinson

William & Agnes Dickinson by their Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

Margaret Mary Wood by David & Stephanie Deutsch

Patricia Huizenga, Mildred & Dirk Huizenga & Mary Elizabeth Cronk by Martha Huizenga Marnie Frost by Ellen Frost & Bill Pedersen

All who have suffered from Israel/Hamas conflict by Tom & Karen Getman

Bertha Martin by Barbara Harvey

David E. & Janet E. Shaw by David Shaw, Julie Shroyer, Claire & Emily Shaw

Emma Shafer, my friend by Izzie Hirschy

Judith M. Shroyer, 1938-2023 by Julie Shroyer, David, Claire & Emily Shaw

Jim Steed by his family

Arnold Taylor by Lilian B. Taylor

Mary Lou White & Nat White by Nat White

Hunter M. Woodall III by Karen Woodall

# In Honor of...

Shared ministry at St. Mark's by Betsy Athey

Maggie, Wally, Peter, Lila & Edwin Sedgwick by Susan & John Sedgewick

Sara Sinclair Lujan, Stephen Duncan Sinclair, Jean Rambo Sinclair & The Rev. Duncan Sinclair by Thom Sinclair

# In Thanksgiving for ...

Lay-led worship planning teams creating services for nine Sundays in 2023 by Betsy Athey Jan Lipscomb by Jane Byrne

Edward Albert Cole by Margaret Crenshaw

Our children, grandchildren & siblings by David & Stephanie Deutsch

The St. Mark's Community by Lea Crusey & Jeb Ory

All who work for peace by Tom & Karen Getman

Leslie, Lucy & Jackie by Rosemary Harold & Michael Knipe The Clergy, the Staff and the parishioners of St. Marks by Michele Morgan

H H H

Chrismons The ornaments on the trees beside the chancel steps are called Chrismons and symbolize Jesus's life and ministry. They were a gift to St. Mark's over 50 years ago from Jeanie Anderson, Mary Cooper's mother, who made all of them herself, and they have been used in the church every year since. The word Chrismon is an abbreviation of "Christ's Monogram". The ornaments are used in many denominations, especially in Lutheran churches. They are supposed to be white and gold and are traditionally made from donated household items, although there are some available commercially that utilize colors and synthetic ingredients.

The Epiphany Star above the altar is a gift from Joya Cox, its creator. It is an icosahedron, a figure with 20 plane surfaces, each of which also serves as the base of a pyramid. As its name indicates, the star was originally commissioned to mark the Epiphany, the Christian feast day commemorating the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child and Jesus Christ's physical manifestation to the world. The imagery of a star, with its light distant but still visible, is also appropriate for Advent, and as a result is now displayed during the season of Advent as well as during Epiphanytide.

The Advent/Christmas Wreath, given to St. Mark's by Scilla Adams in loving memory of her father, Colonel Neil Ramsay, was 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.

H H H

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill

## 301 A Street, SE + Washington, DC 20003

202-543-0053 www.stmarks.net

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan, Rector
The Reverend Christopher Phillips, Associate Rector
The Reverend Patricia Catalano, Liturgy & Pastoral Associate
The Reverend Thom Sinclair, Deacon
Annemarie Quigley, Deacon Intern
Jeff Kempskie, Director of Music
Caleb Nelson Amaker, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Michael Gravlee, Parish Administrator for Building and Facilities
Annick Milde, Parish Administrator for Finance
Judith Rautenberg, Children's Choir Director
Katherine Philipson, Bulletin Coordinator

michele@stmarks.net christopher@stmarks.net adjunct@stmarks.net deacon@stmarks.net annemarie@stmarks.net jeff@stmarks.net youthdirector@stmarks.net parishadmin@stmarks.net judith@stmarks.net bulletin@stmarks.net seminarian@stmarks.net

### The Vestry

Lydia Arnts, Seminarian

Senior Warden Jim Brooks srwarden@stmarks.net Junior Warden Dave Wellman juniorwarden@stmarks.net

Class of '24 Christoph Berendes, Katherine Buchanan, & Jeb Ory
Class of '25 Harrison Donnelly, Jan Lipscomb, & Nick Rogers
Class of '26 Travis Beaty, Meg Platt, & Todd Thorpe

#### Officers

Randy Marks, *Treasurer*Bill Jordan, *Asst. Treasurer*Shay Waye, *Clerk*Martha Huizenga, *Manciple*Rosemary Harold, *Vestry Counsel*Diocesan Delegates Tom Getman & Mary Nezne

# Cycle of Prayer

## In the Diocese of Washington

Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation /San
Estaban y La Encarnación, DC
St. Thomas' Church, DC
St. Thomas' Church, P.G. County, and the
Chapel of the Incarnation
Christmas Day (December 25)

## Anglican Communion

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the
People of Bethlehem
Pray for the people of Gaza
The Diocese of Birmingham – The Church
of England

# Parish Prayer List

Louise Abbot •Baby Ansel • Ben Alquiros •
Nora Alquiros • Eileen Blumenthal •Pamela Blumgart
Joseph Boone • Greg Burton •Alexander Casadonte
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry • Shadi Khoury
Martin De Nys • Mary De Nys • Charley Donnelly
Pete Eveleth • Candance Golladay • Gale Johnson
Pat Latin • Nat Marks • Taylor

Emerson Marks • Kate McFadden • Mac McLaughlin Rector Michele Morgan • Pam Burton Moore David Peterson • Sylvia Peterson • James and Wanda Pittman • Deb Sullivan • Olga, Tony & Anthony Sullivan • Eleanor Whitman • Joel Wilson Rita Wolfinger • Geoffrey Wood May Yazawa • Tom Zarek

## Parishioners and Family Members Serving in the Military

Chase Allen Ammon • Clint Billings • Jason Earnest • Noah Landen

### Welcome Guests!



## We'd like to get to know you better!

We invite you to fill out this page, tear it off, and drop it into the offering plate or hand it to one of the greeters as you leave. Please take the rest of this service bulletin with you so that you can refer to the service schedule and office directory.

We hope you feel at home with us. If you have questions, please speak with the clergy or one of the greeters after the service. You can also call the office at any time, and we will be happy to help you in any way we can.

Thank you for visiting St. Mark's today. Go in peace and return often!

After completing, please remove this page and place it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter.

I attended:	10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Sermon Seminar	
	4 p.m Pageant and Family Service Holy Eucharist 5 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist Special (wedding, funeral, etc.)	On December 24, 2023
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i am miteresteu m iez	BECOMING A MEMBER Volunteering during Worship (Usher, Lay Server, Altar Gu Baptism (child, adult) Getting married at St. Mark's Music (choir, lessons) Children/youth classes & programs Adult classes Senior programs/activities Outreach/community service Environmental issues	ild, etc.)

You can stay up to date on St. Mark's news by signing up online for the weekly eGospel newsletter at <a href="www.stmarks.net/contact-us/">www.stmarks.net/contact-us/</a>. If you'd like to join the St. Mark's egroup to interact with other parishioners, please contact Raiford Gaffney (rgaffneydc@gmail.com)