



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - May 24, 2026

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. Strategic Planning Update from Vestry Member Randy Marks [5/10]

The Vestry moved the planning process forward with discussions at the end of April. As a reminder, we are seeking to create a plan to which all us can connect (not a pretty paperweight). Our model is our Diocese's plan <https://tinyurl.com/edowplan>, which has broad goals and objectives for its seven years and annual priorities, the discernment of which will connect us with the plan each year.

We now have a first draft of the goals (centered around faith, community, and service) and some tentative objectives to support our progress towards each one. We will update you all at our next gathering.

Service and Social Justice

Step into SSJ. View our volunteer opportunities page at www.stmarks.net/socialjustice

2. Washington School for Girls Events [5/24*]

Graduation - June 13, 9:30-12:30

The Washington School for Girls' most powerful testament to impact. Watching their 8th graders cross the stage is an emotional celebration of perseverance, academic excellence, and community support. This ceremony honors not just individual achievement but the village that surrounds each scholar. Guest seating is available for supporters who want to witness the culmination of our middle school journey. Email Naomi Slusser ([naomimreynolds\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:naomimreynolds@gmail.com)) if interested.

3. Community Gathering: Supporting Our Unhoused Neighbors [5/3] May 31 from 1-3, Baxter Hall

Come learn from Everyone Home DC about the history and causes of homelessness in DC and hear from the pros from various Hill-based programs about how to support our unhoused neighbors. Register using the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/May31everyonehome>. Want more information? Email Susan Sedgewick [May31event\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:May31event[at]gmail.com)



4. St. Mark's Justice in Palestine (SMJP) - Thank you!

[5/17]

Thanks again to everyone who helped us raise money during our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday offertory collection. We have an update to share from We Feed Gaza!



A few days ago, our beloved team led by 'Mama' Ahlam successfully distributed fresh chicken for hungry people in Basma Amal Camp, South Gaza. Among the served were 98 children missing one parent, 21 orphans, 30 elderly, and 15 special needs people. Beneficiaries also included people with chronic diseases and hepatitis. All of them had not tasted any chicken in 4 months.

WFG volunteers delivered 60 kg (or 132 lbs) of top-quality, healthy meat for these precious souls. May God reward those who helped us bring joy, hope, relief, and goodness "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

If you would like to learn more and follow We Feed Gaza, please visit their page here (<https://www.facebook.com/wefeedgaza>) or scan the QR code.

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

5. Welcome to Navajoland Youth visiting DC July 6-13

[5/24]

Six youth ages 13-15 from the Episcopal Church of Navajoland are excited to be visiting DC **July 6th-13th**. For some this will be their first big trip away from home. Trip planning with youth from St. Mark's includes visiting the Capitol, the Cathedral, museums and the beach. Can you help in one of two ways? **Support our "Activities Fundraiser"- AND - we're seeking 2 hosts to each host 2 youth and a chaperone during their visit!** (Hosts: you won't need to provide meals - and they will be at the beach for 2 days.) This visit offers a wonderful opportunity of relationship building. Please join us at morning services Sunday, July 12th to meet our guests! Contact Kit Arrington with questions: [kit\[at\]tulsablue.com](mailto:kit[at]tulsablue.com).

6. St Marks Women to Women Garden Tea

[5/24]

Women of ALL ages please put on your best dress and hat and **join us in the garden on Sunday, June 7th. 12:30-2pm** for tea. (Baxter Hall if rain or extreme heat.) Signup: <https://tinyurl.com/STMgardentea> Contact Rita Ossolinski [rossolinski\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:rossolinski[at]yahoo.com) or Edna Boone [ednaboone\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ednaboone[at]gmail.com)



7. Dozier Library Book Giveaway – June 7 [5/24]

Come to **Baxter Hall** after both morning services on **June 7** and find a free book (or two or more!) to read over the summer. The annual giveaway features donated books that we already have in the collection or cannot use due to space constraints or other considerations. The range of topics is as wide as the ages and interests of our diverse congregation. Bags will be available for bibliophiles. Questions? Contact Peter Hawley at [phawleydc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:phawleydc[at]gmail.com)

8. Connecting: for Newcomers and Those Who Want to Reconnect or Make a Deeper Connection - on June 17 [5/10*]

Are you a relative newcomer and interested in learning more about St. Mark's? Or perhaps you have been a member for a while and are looking for a way to reconnect or make a deeper connection with the St. Mark's community? St. Mark's has a wide variety of ministries and community groups, but it can be a bit overwhelming to figure out where you fit in. Join Associate Rector Caitlin Frazier and a representative of the Membership Committee on **Wednesday, June 17, from 4:30-5:30 PM in the Abernathy Conference Room** for a small-group discussion to help you figure out the best way to get more connected with the St. Mark's community. Light snacks will be provided. So we have an approximate headcount, please email Mary Tarnowka ([m.tarnowka\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:m.tarnowka[at]gmail.com)) if you plan to join.

9. St. Mark's Dance Studio Summer Dance Program [5/10]

St. Mark's Dance Studio is hosting three sessions this summer.

Session One - June 22nd - June 26 (One week) 9:45 am - 3:15 pm. Ages 7-9 yrs

Session Two - June 29th - July 10th (Two weeks) 9:45 am - 3:15 pm. Ages 9 1/2 - 13 yrs

Session Three - July 13th - July 17th (One week) 9:45 am - 3:15 pm. Ages 14 yrs & older

Visit <https://www.stmarksdance.org/summer-dance-program> to learn more and register

10. Lost & Found [5/24]

Missing your favorite Pyrex baking dish? Wondering where your beloved sweater went to? Come to the great St. Mark's lost and found and see if it's there. **May 31 and June 7** we'll be **displaying in Baxter Hall** the many items left in the kitchen and around the church over recent months. Please have a happy reunion with anything that's yours and take it home. Items remaining after June 7th will go to Good Neighbors Capitol Hill or Goodwill. Questions? Contact Samantha White - [parishadmin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:parishadmin[at]stmarks.net) or Maureen Shea - [mtshea\[at\]aol.com](mailto:mtshea[at]aol.com)



11. St. Mark's All Parish Retreat This Summer, June 26th - June 28th [4/26*]

You're invited to St. Mark's annual parish retreat, June 26–28 at Claggett Episcopal Center, just outside DC. Join us for shared meals, music, and meaningful conversations, plus time to connect with the St. Mark's community. Enjoy Claggett's offerings, including swimming, labyrinth walks, campfires, outdoor worship, and hikes with scenic views.

There are about 100 spots available, so save yours today at this link. Reach out to Amber Macdonald ([amacdojo\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:amacdojo[at]gmail.com)) with any questions. Short URL: <https://forms.gle/koQoWgSXUvTFfYMV8>

Music and the Arts

12. Sandbox Concerts

Sandbox Concerts, with specially-designed professional classical music performances for children ages 0-5 years old, will be offered on **Saturday, May 30th at 10:00 and 11:30 am**. Advance registration required. singoncapitolhill.com |

13. Choral Evensong Service

Please plan to join us for a Choral Evensong service on **May 31st at 5:00 pm**. This beautiful, music-focused, and meditative service is deeply rooted in the Anglican musical tradition and will feature special music prepared by the Chancel Choir. A reception will take place in Baxter Hall following the service.

14. Friends of Music

The music program is in need of volunteers to help put together receptions after special services and concerts a few times each year. There are several ways you can help out, including grocery shopping (expenses are reimbursable), setting up for receptions, helping serve food, and helping clean up afterwards. All are great ways to express your appreciation for the music program. Please contact Jeff if you are willing and able to help: [jeff\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:jeff[at]stmarks.net)

15. 18th Street Singers Concerts

A nation is not a single voice or a single story, but instead layered with contradiction, shaped by struggle, and sustained by hope. In the US, we carry both shadow and light: a history marked by injustice and a continuing promise of democracy. This spring's 18th Street Singers concert—Out of Many, One—we lean into that tension and ask what it means to belong to one another in a country still becoming itself. **Friday, June 12 at 7:30pm and Saturday, June 13 at 4:30pm**. Tickets and more info at www.18thstreetsingers.com

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Learn more about all our different programs at <https://bit.ly/CYFMHandbook>

16. Liturgy of the Light

[5/24]

On **Sunday, June 7 at 10 am in the Adams Room**, the three Catechesis classes will celebrate the Liturgy of the Light. This is a lovely service where each child receives a candle, “the light of Christ,” to hold and be part of. Parents are invited to come and be part of it. Email Stephanie at [scd\[at\]his.com](mailto:scd@his.com) with questions.

17. You Are 4 – 7 Years Old, Love Music But Don’t Know If Choir Is for You?

[5/24]

Our Treble Singers of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church are 4 – 7 years old and already a successful choir with performances and retreats. On the coming Sundays **May 31st, June 7th and June 14th**, we would like to invite you to join us for two open rehearsals and a performance. Come and find out if choir singing is your way of making music. Let’s start singing together!



For more information scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/STMtreblesingers>
Contact [judith\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:judith@stmarks.net).

18. Save the date: Banner Sunday is June 14th

[5/17]

Banner Sunday is a celebration of the end of the Sunday School year that takes place during a 10AM worship service. Each Sunday School class participates in a procession with a banner that they made to represent what they learned. High school seniors are given the chance to speak to the congregation. And we take a moment to thank our Sunday School teachers.

Following the service, children are provided lunch and fun activities (Bingo!) in the undercroft while adults (with and without children) are invited to lunch and a Rector’s Forum for the annual update from the CYFM board. So please mark your calendars for 10am to 12:30pm on Sunday, June 14th. Reach out to [Youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:Youthdirector@stmarks.net) with questions.

19. Summer Sunday School is Coming!

[5/17]

The last day of regular Sunday School will be June 7th. Then St. Mark’s will have Summer Sunday School on the following dates: June 21 and 28, July 12, 19 and 26, and Aug 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. There will be no Sunday School on July 5 (Independence Day weekend) or Sept 6 (Labor Day weekend).

The theme of Summer Sunday School will be Care for Creation. We have an amazing curriculum with super engaging activities and games. Summer Sunday School will be divided into three groups:

- Rising PreK-3, PreK-4, K and 1st graders (in Catechesis I classroom)
- Rising 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders (in the Adams room)
- Rising 6th graders and up (in the Lions' Den)



We need YOU to support this program by signing up to be a classroom assistant for one Sunday this summer. Not only does this allow our Summer Sunday School program to run, it is also a wonderful way to get to know the children of our congregation. This role requires Safe Church training, which we strongly encourage all parishioners to complete regardless.

Please sign up with the QR code or at <https://bit.ly/summeratstmarks> and we will get in touch about Safe Church if necessary. Email [YouthDirector\[at\]StMarks.net](mailto:YouthDirector[at]StMarks.net) with questions.

(* next to the date denotes that this announcement has been updated)

Do you have an announcement for St. Mark's?

Submit announcements of 150 words or less to [bulletin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:bulletin[at]stmarks.net) by 5 pm Tuesday for inclusion that Friday. They run for three weeks unless we hear from you. Each must include a parishioner's name and email. If using a QR code, also provide the underlying link.

To include your event: email [parishadmin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:parishadmin[at]stmarks.net) for the calendar, [website\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:website[at]stmarks.net) for the website, or complete the form (shorturl.at/vaXg7) by Tuesday night for a spoken announcement.