



The Call



May the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight oh Lord our strength and our redeemer.

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue - September 2019

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Beloveds,

Here's hoping this letter finds you well, having enjoyed a restorative summer and ready to begin the cooler scheduled days of fall. I am happy to say that my time away has been glorious! It was restful and productive and fun. When I Googled images for Refreshment, the three above appeared. While on Sabbatical, I did drink a good amount of fizzy water and I spent considerable time locating ways and places for spiritual regeneration. I did not have experience with Cat Cupcakes but maybe that awaits in my future.

While away, I read a lot about Benedictine Spirituality and how it is relevant to our lives in the chaotic stressful twenty teens and beyond. I read some about the seduction of tribalism that so easily takes root in the human heart. I read some thoughtful work on how we advocate in civil ways for values and policies we hold dear, how we participate in courageous conversations listening well, listening to hear truth below the spoken words and how we can share our own truth with gentleness and without apology. In this time away, for the first time in a long time I also read some really good fiction. Are you like me, have you been missing spending time in good story telling?

Besides reading, I also traveled. I went to a high school reunion in New Hampshire and listened to stories about people I didn't know that happened a loooooong time ago. Surprisingly, it was kind of fun. From there, I spent time in a camp on Moose Pond Lake in Maine. The loons were lovely and the water cold! I was forewarned that late June doesn't guarantee warm swimming. North Carolina sundresses also turned out to be a questionable choice. I had the best time at Trinity Episcopal Conference Center in Salter Path, NC. For a few days, I had a room overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and a short underground walk to the marsh.

At meal times there was lots of noise and joy of special needs campers and their teen companions but most times there was lovely quiet. I made mind maps in various colors on various topics ready to implement for self (and others, if you'd like some spiritual life redirection). In those weeks, I spent time with far flung family and had the gift of gathering with four generations at the beach. For a long time, I've wanted to travel to the canyons of the southwest and this summer I did. I became a National Park nerd. Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Red Rocks National Forest, North Rim Grand Canyon, Toadstool Pull Off, Petrified Forest, Painted Desert, Walnut Canyon, Wupatki National Monument, Rio Grande National Gorge - for Christmas, Peter's buying me a fishing vest and sewing on all my park patches. I'm getting one of those hats with the chin strap too. I took a dive in Arizona's Sunset Crater Lava Lake. I slept in a dive along iconic Route 66.

As my soul rejoiced each time I encountered the scope and grandeur of our imaginative generative God, as my soul cried when sad news broke this summer, I thought of you and prayed that you too were seeing the magnificence and never diminishing compassion of our loving God. I am so very grateful for this time of sabbatical, for this time to study, to plan and pray and play. Even as I relished my time in Sabbatical, I missed communing with the beloved of St. Mark's. Thank you for extending time and grace for this experience. I am enthused and impatient to be with you again. I look forward to my first Sunday back, Rally Day, the 8th.

Until then, September blessings, dear hearts,

Sarah +



SAVE THE DATE
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SUNDAY OCTOBER 6th
LATTA PLANTATION
5225 Sample Rd
Charlotte, NC

Please plan to bring your furry, fuzzy, feathered and scaly friends
 for a special service and blessing just for them.

Come for a Blessing
 Stay for Food and Fellowship

4pm service
4:30 - 5:30 Blessing Stations

Food Truck (Cash Only)
Compliments of one of our Escuelita families



Rally Day
Sunday September 8th
One Service at 9:30
Outdoor Chapel
Stay for Lunch & More

Main course will be provided by Hospitality

Members please bring

A-H - Hot Sides

I-M- Cold Sides

N-Z - Desserts

Stay for Lunch, Information, Games, Hay Rides & More

Corn Hole

Giant Jenga

Guessing Jars

Tug of War

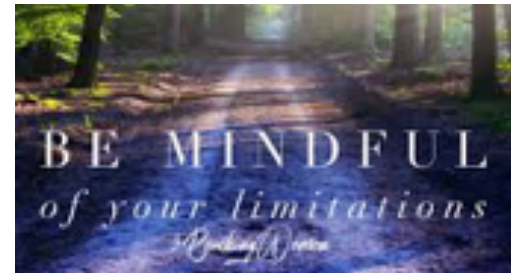
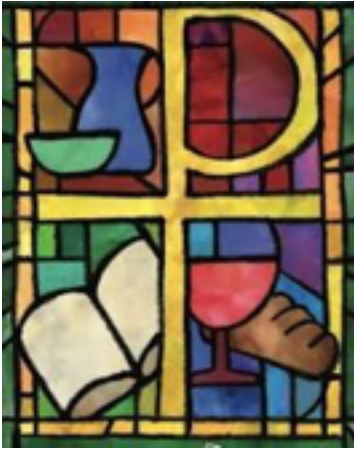
Books of the Bible Challenge

Water Balloons

Bubbles

Bounce House


History tour of the McCoy Slave Cemetery



What do we need to protect ourselves in the chaos and despair of our tumultuous culture? What is “the full armor of God” described in Holy Scripture? Where do we find **Peace** for ourselves, within ourselves? Is there a way to be some kind of peace in the world? Discover how ancient practices quiet and tamp down feelings of helplessness and anxiety. Discover how these images connect and why they impart ease.

Join **Adult Formation 9:30 Sunday Mornings**
for the first rotation on **Benedictine Spirituality** facilitated by Rev. Sarah.
Begins September 15th.

Youth Formation



WHO
AM I?

When you meet someone for the first time what do you usually ask? “What’s your name (if not introduced) and/or where are you from?”

Sometimes we might hear my name is _____.

Rarely does anyone ever say, “I am Matt, or I am Sarah.”

This year our youth will explore what is really going on here. In a world that is always moving faster and faster; where the latest clothing, shoes, iPhone, or earbuds matter most, we find ourselves always becoming.

Somewhere along the way our names lost importance. When we hear someone introduced as Matt from Charlotte, it doesn’t mean much anymore. Sarah from Huntersville doesn’t carry weight like it used to. In scripture, a person’s name matters. None of the great people of scripture ever said my name is Moses or My name is Ruth. They responded with I am Jacob or I am Tamar. Their names told us something about themselves, their family, and who they were.

The question, “Who am I?” Includes the verb form “to be.” This means when we ask this, we are really asking who am I to be or who am I becoming? When answering the question Who am I?, we feel differently than if we were asked what our name is.

This year our youth will explore who they are becoming throughout the year in a variety of ways. Some will be very adventurous. Other ways will include art projects, personality surveys, media clips, and being in uncomfortable situations. We will explore these experiences and learn how we are created so that we can be informed about the decisions we make and how we might best respond to the world around us when we see injustice. We will often come back to the lessons of Jesus and our Baptismal Covenant digging deep into what it means to love God, Love our Neighbors, Love ourself while respecting the dignity of every human being and continuing in the apostles teaching and prayers.

We will discover our strengths and explore our weaknesses, knowing no matter what we learn about ourselves and our friends, we are all fearfully and wonderfully made perfect in the image of God.

Kids' Formation



This year our kids will be exploring the Bible through Legos! Each week the kids will hear a prominent bible story and recreate what they hear with legos. While building, the class will have a conversation around the story and what it means to them. When the class finishes their Lego creation, the builders will then retell the story they created emphasizing the most important aspects they heard.

Look for images of their creations in the call and the E-blast and see if you can guess what story they talked that week!

WEEKEND FOOD BACKPACKS IT'S TIME TO STOCK THE PANTRY

As Ranson Middle School scholars prepare to return to school please consider picking up a few items on your next shopping trip. We would love to have a fully stocked pantry before we start packing our backpacks again.



Suggested Items include:

Individual Cereal Boxes

Juice Boxes

Individual Milk Cartons (Hershey preferred brand)

Snack Crackers

Fruit Cups/Applesauce

Fruit Snacks

Individual Cookies Packs

Canned Chef Boy R Dee (with pop top)

Individual Tuna Lunch Packs

Pudding Cups

Beanie Weenies

Granola Bars

To our St. Mark's family

Your very generous donations to Ranson Middle school were wonderful.

The scholars at Ranson will have a better start to their school year because of you all.

Thank you for stepping up and giving your support.

Liz Gail



Notes of Thanks from Billy
Black
(and Saunders)



To the Pastoral Care of St. Mark's:

Thank you for continued prayers. Sunday, the 21st was the first service I have attended in a long time. It surely did feel comforting to roll in and see my loving church family.

Hopefully, my health issues will diminish and painless days are ahead.

*God Bless,
Bill Black*



If you have any questions or need additional information please reach out to Jeremy Michael jmichael6@yahoo.com or David Fahey david.fahey@carolina.rr.com

Buildings and Grounds
will host our Fall Workday on
Sunday September 29th beginning at 8:30
Come and worship then work or
work and then worship

Grab a bite to go in the gallery
Come dressed for spreading pine straw and
other related tasks to sprucing up our
grounds

All Sunday activities will be held as usual



Birthdays

Fiona Brown - 9/1
 Scott Brett - 9/2
 Judy Finn – 9/5
 Sarah Thompson - 9/6
 Jennifer Klebaur – 9/7
 Kayla Michel – 9/7
 Mandy Self-Sparrow - 9/7
 Lianne Scholz – 9/8
 Lucy Young - 9/9
 Camdyn Addington - 9/11
 Andrew Blythe - 9/12
 Kevin Haas - 9/12
 Mary Kendrick - 9/12
 Ian Doolittle – 9/13
 Owen Mach – 9/13
 Avery Gambill - 9/14
 Angela McDowell - 9/14
 John Milholland - 9/15
 Willie Scholz – 9/15
 Lynn Plummer – 9/16
 Donna Osborne - 9/19
 Delia Roberts - 9/19
 Eric Savage – 9/21
 Taylor Swogger – 9/21
 Billy Black - 9/24
 Libby James - 9/24
 Rachel Touchstone – 9/26
 Maggie Fahey - 9/27
 Kennedie Hewalt – 9/27

Anniversaries

Don & Debbie Siegel - 9/1
 Martin & Donna Osborne - 9/6
 Homer & Jan Sanford – 9/13

Prayers for continued healing:

Willard & Barb Osburn
 Richard & Mary Beth Masline
 Saunders & Billy Black Martha Ann Springer
 Bob Egan Phyllis Barnwell
 Mike Wilson
 Elena Michel and her family
 Teresa Reale Judy Finn
 Ty Smithdeal

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Scott & Penny Brett – 9/6
Don & Debbie Siegel – 9/13
Scott Hundertmark – 9/20
Mark & Lacy Hamilton – 9/27



Join the men of the church for

“Thirstday”, Thursday

(A testosterone friendly answer to WINE.)

September 12th at 6:30pm

We will gather at

Perry's Pizza

Northlake Commons

Huntersville

For additional information please contact David Fahey 704-562-7587.

No RSVP required but texts are welcome.

W.I.N.E.



Women in Need of Entertainment

September 16th @ 6:30pm

at the home of

Alice Bayne

**117 Creekside Drive
Mt. Holly, NC**

**Bring a a bottle of WINE or a dish to share.
If you don't have time for either, just bring yourself.**

Please contact Allison Rhinehardt allibrett@gmail.com or
Dawn Middleton dawnmiddleton@bellsouth.net
with any questions

St. Mark's Muses Book Club

Resumes in September

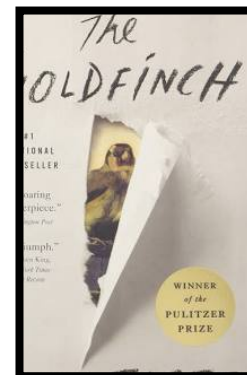
We will meet on

Thursday September 26th

at 10am at St. Mark's

We will be reading

The Goldfinch



If you would like a copy of the book or need additional information please contact

Genny Hinkle at gnvvhinkle@yahoo.com

2019 Stewardship Update

	2019 Budget	JULY 2019 YTD Actual
Current Pledged Income	\$343,410	\$216,589
All other anticipated income		
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$20,000	\$14,013
Other Income (use of space by outside groups)	\$17,000	\$ 7,385
Sales Tax Refunds	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,145
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	\$33,360	\$19,700
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$418,770	\$261,832
2018 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$264,950	\$154,692
Diocesan Support	\$40,512	\$ 23,632
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$55,447	\$ 25,115
Office Administration & Other	\$27,450	\$ 17,443
Youth & Christian Formation	\$12,190	\$ 4,107
Outreach & Escuelita Support	\$14,400	\$ 7,605
Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Parish Retreat	\$ 7,100	\$ 2,466
Worship & Music	\$ 2,765	\$ 1,699
%4 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average	\$13,736	
Total 2018 Budgeted Expenses	\$438,550	\$236,760
Current Excess/ Deficit of receipts over disbursements	\$19,780	\$25,073

***Year to Date Pledge Fulfillment 63%**

Legacy Update: 44 pledges have been made totaling \$175,140.00



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
8600 Mt. Holly Huntersville Rd.
Huntersville, NC 28078