



F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 0

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

February 2020

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Dear Ones,

It's midwinter and the days are short and the nights are cold and we're in the long stretch without holiday breaks so it's put your head down and plow through the routine time. Conventional wisdom says this is the most productive season for students and the work force. In their heads, staff at St. Mark's hears the satisfying hum of a combine churning out initiatives for Jesus. We've been busy making lists of inspiring ideas and checking off the details that will make

them so. But then we pause and notice the unsaid and the unnoticed. As a community, we are undergoing several transitions and transitions mean change and disruption. In an era of rapid change and ongoing disruptions, humans need places of stability and sameness. It can be unnerving when the place of tradition and order and calmness starts to look like the prevalent frenetic culture. In those instances, humans crave explanation, reassurance, and connection. So we take time and focus to respond to the reasonable need.

The transitions coming are these. Sometime in February, bulldozers will arrive on the hill and begin the foundation work on the new building. A construction hut will arrive as well. We will have a groundbreaking ceremony the Sunday after their arrival. Work will continue through the spring and summer. In the summer, work will also begin on a renovation of Founders Hall. In June, God willing and the people consenting, Matt Addington will be ordained as a transitional deacon which leads to his ordination as a priest about six months later.

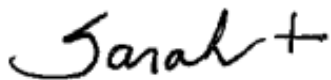
Other transitions include the arrival of an intern for the Vocational Diaconate. Valerie Colbert is here until October but perhaps Bishop Rodman will allow her to stay following that period of discernment. In November, it is expected our bold and ambitious new ministry, Flyin' Lion transition to employment will begin its work in earnest. Classes are imagined to begin in January. Grants for additional support are being written as I type. Our preschool housed down the road continues to thrive but will recruit a new director for the 2020-2021 school year as Eileen Moreno ends her steadfast tenure.

Our support of Ranson IB Middle School is also undergoing a transition. We've been partners for 17 years and have grown into a deeper more comprehensive relationship. The most visible initiative we have with Ranson, the week-end backpack program has been taken on by a larger organization, *Bags of Hope*. Jon Rochester, the Ranson social worker can feed more scholars with this program but he is in urgent need of volunteers in the building to help him help both teachers and youngsters. As an engaged community, we can provide specific help on specific days and hours. We can turn our monetary donations to other pressing needs at that site. Shoes, coats, hygiene supplies, uniforms, short term shelter for vetted families when disaster strikes as examples.

With so many transitions, it is easy for members to feel out of the loop and perhaps even a bit disconnected so for 2020, the vestry, staff and clergy commit to being available for questions and longer conversations. We are open, we are eager, to hear concerns, to clarify plans, to consider wide ranging options. And in this exciting but disruptive time, we want to draw close. We want to provide multiple opportunities to gather for fellowship and fun. Our normal programming will continue but our focus will be on fostering our connections with one another. Our ground breaking ceremony, our Lenten Dinners, our St. Mark's Day celebration when the bishop comes will be multi-generational and laden with member participation. The chili cook off returns, the parish retreat held nearby with a come and go format, our graduation picnic, and summer meet ups demonstrate this intention.

As we continue the slog through midwinter, I invite you to remember that transitions, even good ones, even ones blessed by God's Holy Spirit are always accompanied by disruption and dis-ease. To help navigate those wearisome realities, we do well to reach out to one another, to be extra kind and extra patient and extra welcoming. Now especially is the time to call a church friend and say, I miss you. Please come with me to this St. Mark's fun thing!

With affection and confidence for you, I offer prayers for the journey,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah" followed by a plus sign "+".

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Images from Epiphany



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES



February 26th
Noon and 7pm

Ashes to go will also be available at
the **Huntersville Park and Ride** on
Compass Street
7am to 9am

Acolyte Training **Sunday, February 16th** **After the 11am service**



If you are 12 or older and
would like to become an acolyte or
would just like a refresher course
Please join us on
February 12th after the 11am service.



St. Mark's & The Episcopal Church

**Beginning
Feb. 16th @ 9:30**

Are you New to St. Mark's
or the Episcopal Church?
Are you someone
interested in learning about
the history of St. Mark's
and the Episcopal Church?

This class is for you. Join
us Sunday mornings for
conversation about who we
are.

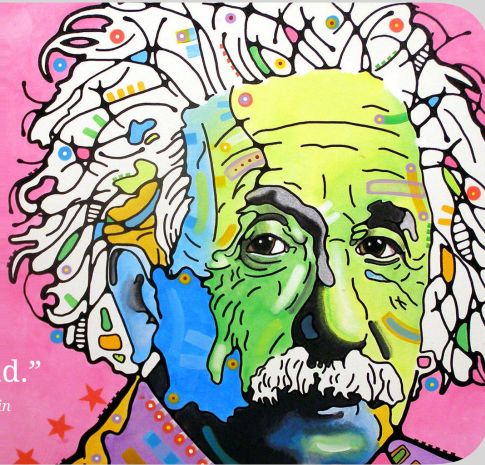
There will be an option to
be confirmed or received at
the conclusion of our time
together.



Formation Info.

“Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.”

- Albert Einstein



Imagination

[i,majə'nāSH(ə)n]

NOUN

the faculty or action of forming new ideas, or images or concepts of external objects not present to the senses.

Eucharistic Prayer C reads, “From the primal elements God brought forth the human race and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. . . When these things are used together, our imaginations become resources to our faith. A large part of being Anglican is using our minds to understanding scripture, theology, and the world. Without imagination, Anglicanism would be very different. Our little ones have been using their imaginations to recreate the stories of the Old Testament (the walls of Jericho, pictured right). These same children have also used their imaginations to create cards for many listed on our prayer list (pictured left).

As we grow older, our imagination can sometimes give way to science, technology, and fact. This is not bad. This shows that we are learning and becoming wiser, but it also means that we are embracing something that at some point, was in the imagination of another.



God blessed us with imaginations. God's dream for us all includes the use of our imagination to solve problems, create better living circumstances, and live a life of love directed towards God, humanity, & creation. What do you dream? What possibilities can you imagine? What hopes do you have for yourself, your church, your world? May we use our imaginations to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God and each other.





Outreach and Ranson Middle School are Looking for a few good

Men and Women

St. Mark's and RMS have created new opportunities for

Volunteer Assistant positions to help Jon Rochester on a regular basis.

Volunteers would come on

Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am - 1pm.

- Organize and distribute supplies and uniforms
- Take inventory
- Help collect backpacks from students who are in the weekend back pack program.

Volunteers can be weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.

Outreach would like to ensure there are 1-2 volunteers every Monday and Wednesday that Jon can count on.

For additional information please contact Malinda Bivens at malindabivens@bellsouth.net.

Malinda will make herself available on Sunday's in February during coffee hour to answer any questions and to accept volunteers

Ranson Middle School Mid- Year School Supply Drive February 2-16



The school year is half way over and school supplies are running low.

Please consider picking up a few items to help the Ranson Scholars and Teachers finish the school year strong.

We will collect items **now through February 16th.** Please bring donations to the bins in Founders Hall.

Please contact Liz Gail with any questions.
lgail16@outlook.com

The items that are most needed are:

Book bags (they start to wear thin as the year goes on)

Three Ring Binders (1 inch)

Two pocket folders

Mechanical Pencils

Notebook Paper

Composition Notebooks



Birthdays

Marsha Phillips - 2/1
 Philip Blythe - 2/2
 Karen Cardenas - 2/2
 Marion Johannsson - 2/6
 John Middleton - 2/6
 Rachel Sparks - 2/6
 Thomas Blythe - 2/8
 Sarah Fahey - 2/10
 Jeremy Michael - 2/11
 Rich Zinno - 2/12
 Will Blythe - 2/13
 Sydney Bayne - 2/14
 Linda Holst - 2/16
 Miles Bayne - 2/17
 Matthew Kathman - 2/17
 Martin Osborne - 2/18
 Vincent Perrotta - 2/18
 Ben Weeks - 2/18
 Carrick Gambill - 2/19
 John Pouliot - 2/19
 Allison Rhinehardt - 2/19
 Lynnda Jordan - 2/20
 Alice Bayne - 2/21
 Ian Kendrick - 2/21
 Jan Daubener - 2/22
 Wendy Kelly - 2/22
 Ed Reade - 2/25
 Marty Fulton - 2/27
 Ebenezer Griffiths - 2/27
 Amy Sparks - 2/27
 Joe Layman - 2/28

Anniversaries

Thomas & Doris Blythe - 2/2
 Brett & Allison Rhinehardt - 2/25

Prayers for continued healing:

Willard & Barb Osburn
 Saunders & Billy Black Martha Ann Springer
 Phyllis Barnwell Mike Wilson
 Marlene Bandis
 Elena Michel and her family
 Richard & Mary Beth Masline
 Bob Chandler
 Sue Bartlett

New Members:

Wendy Kelly

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Mark & Lacy Hamilton - 2/7
Ian & Liesel Doolittle - 2/14
Andrew & Libby James - 2/21
Alan & Lesli Kathman - 2/28

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PARISH RETREAT @ CAMP CANAAN

MAY 8-10, 2020

**100 acre Island on the Catawba River in
Rock Hill, South Carolina**

Reserve Your Spot

February 2nd and February 16th

Come for the weekend

Come for 1 night

or Come for the day

Reservations will be taken by

Sarah Milholland after both services

Sunday February 2nd and 16th

Additional Opportunities will also be available
in March



"Thirstday", Thursday

Join the men of the church for

A testosterone friendly answer to WINE

February 13th at 6:30 pm

We will gather at Killingtons 10010 Rose Commons Dr.

For additional information please contact

David Fahey 704-562-7587.
No RSVP required by texts welcome



WINE

Women in Need of Entertainment

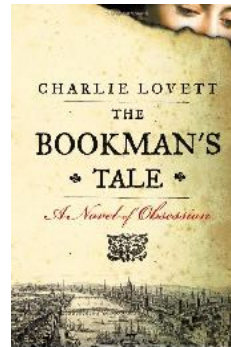
February 17th @ 6:30pm
at the home of

Suzanne Ferguson
236 Hawthorne Park Avenue
Belmont, NC

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

**In addition please consider bringing a school
supply item to help restock for the scholars
and teachers at RMS.**

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



St. Mark's Muses Book Club

We will meet on

Thursday February 20th
at 10am at St. Mark's

We will discuss
The Bookman's Tale
by Charlie Lovett

**Please join us even if you haven't
read the book.**
**New book club selections will be given out at
this time.**

**For additional information please contact
Genny Hinkle at gnvvhinkle@yahoo.com**

**or
call 704 595 7957**



Join us on Saturday
February 22nd at 6pm
for a Chili Cook Off

It's chili time!

Join friends and family of St. Mark's for a night of
chili tasting and fun.
We will sample and vote for the categories of:

Best Overall

Most Creative

Tongue Burner

Help us kick off our 2020 fellowship gatherings by attending and participating in the
chili cook off.

If you have a great recipe that you think will earn you bragging rights, bring it.

If you just want to see what St. Mark's folks can do with a crockpot and some ingredients
then come on!

Adult beverages will be available for purchase.

If you would like to enter a pot of chili into the competition,
please complete the following form:

<https://forms.gle/FyJRfJScSobL4JxG6>
or contact Amy Sparks at aetsparks@gmail.com

2019 Stewardship Update

	2019 Budget	December YTD Actual
Current Pledged Income	\$343,410	\$330,340
All other anticipated income		
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$20,000	\$23,308
Other Income (use of space by outside groups)	\$17,000	\$ 23,308
Sales Tax Refunds	\$ 5,000	\$13,765
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	<u>\$33,360</u>	<u>\$34,000</u>
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$418,770	\$405,559
2018 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$264,950	\$265,085
Diocesan Support	\$40,512	\$ 40,512
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$55,447	\$ 46,573
Office Administration & Other	\$30,550	\$ 29,824
Youth & Christian Formation	\$ 9,090	\$ 8,653
Outreach & Escuelita Support	\$14,400	\$ 13,224
Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Parish Retreat	\$ 7,100	\$ 4,810
Worship & Music	\$ 2,765	\$ 2,953
%4 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average	<u>\$13,736</u>	
Total 2018 Budgeted Expenses	\$438,550	\$411,635
Current Excess/ Deficit of receipts over disbursements	\$19,780	\$6,076

***Year to Date Pledge Fulfillment 91%**

2020 Pledge update 92 families for a total of \$338,820.00

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