



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 - January 2019

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"Look at the world today.

Is there anything more pitiful?

But when has the world known any other time?

What madness there is. What blindness.

What unintelligible leadership.

A furiously racing mass of bewildered

humanity, strengthening,

not in wisdom, but in vulgar passions,

crashing headlong into each other,

motivated by greed and propelled into cruelty.

The time must come when evil will destroy itself.

I will not live to see that day.

But you might, my child and that is why you have

been brought to Shangri-La.

For when the day comes that the world begins
to look for new life,

It is our belief that they will find their reservoir
of hope here.

So here we shall stay,

With our books and our music and our
meditation.

Here we shall be to guide the footsteps of a
weary people.

Here we shall be with our way of life based on
one simple rule---be kind!

And it is our hope that Shangri-La's communal
love will then spread throughout the world.

And when the strong have devoured each other,
then, at last,

The meek shall inherit the earth!"

These words come from a musical version of the movie *Lost Horizon* made in 1937. It speaks of a community that made the decision to be something contrary to the prevailing culture. Shangri-La is a mythical place but in the late 4th century, when the world was in chaos, when barbarians seemed to be at every gate, when violence was more common than civility, when the church ineffective and corrupt, a simple monk began an order that changed the landscape of the western world, elevated human relationships and created an ethos that made life bearable. This monk's name was Benedict and he achieved notoriety, esteem and eventually sainthood because he sought none of those things but instead created a simple rule which was meant to be used by small groups of people as guiding principles.

Benedict understood human behavior and knew we are not likely to keep our best intentions for very long. In the communities he started, he told the members, each day we begin again. We will do well, we will fail, we start afresh. Together we will make each other better. The Rule of St. Benedict are guidelines for happiness and holiness, it is meant to help us create a balanced life of prayer and work where we become the version God created us to be. Within the Rule are practices for creating community where we accept people as they are, where we learn to see Christ in each person. There are also practices for hospitality and stability, stewardship of the things we bring into our lives, moderation and flexibility.

In 2019, members of the vestry, staff and congregation will be invited into a study of Benedictine Spirituality with an eye to becoming that small group effectively living the way of Christ, serving as a place, a model where others may find their reservoir of hope.

With optimism and curiosity for you all in the new year,

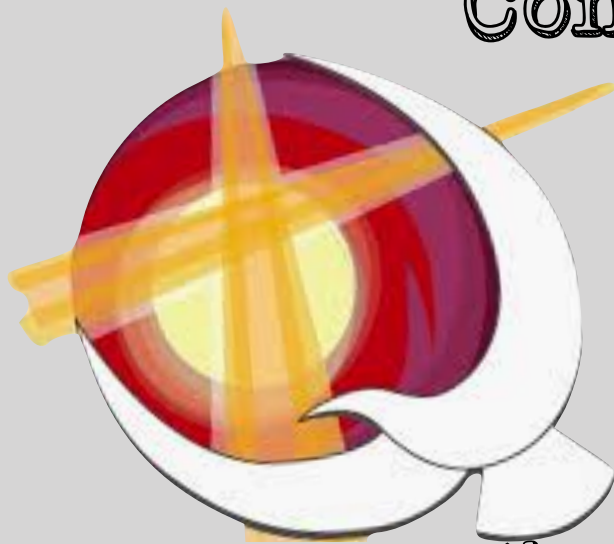
Sarah +



epiphany (an illuminating discovery, realization or disclosure)

This year **January 6th** falls on a Sunday so we will celebrate the **Feast of Epiphany** at both services rather than with a midweek service. This is the Sunday and the season we collect the **wise men from our personal nativity sets** to place around the church as a reminder that at his birth, Christ had a message for the world beyond his own. At the 9:30 hour, we will do the traditional **burning of our Christmas greens** in the courtyard in front of the church and then enjoy a festive coffee hour with **Three Kings Cookies**.

Confirmation



Claiming our Faith

On February 17th, **young people** who have shown readiness in their journey through participating in conversations will be confirmed as the Confirmation Class of 2019. If your youth did not receive an invitation, and they may be interested in being confirmed, please speak with Matt Addington immediately. Confirmation conversations with mentors will begin no later than Jan. 8th.

Adult Confirmation, Reaffirmation, or Reception will also happen on February 17th. Classes will begin on 1/13 and will meet for 5 sessions at 9:30 on Sundays. These meetings are for all adults who wish to become full members with the Episcopal Church or for those adults who were confirmed and would like to be refreshed on what it means to be a full member of the Episcopal Church. It is an opportunity to learn more about the history, theology, and worship practices of the Episcopal Church. If you would like to join the adult class please call speak with Matt Addington or email the church office immediately @ 704-399-5193 or life@stmarksnc.org

Welcome the Newly Baptized



Warren James
Wilson

with
Parents

Jonathan & Krysta
Wilson

Grandparents
Jim and Beth Wilson

Formation Info.

CONFIRMATION

con-fir-ma-tion - /känfər' māSH(ə)n/

noun - the rite at which a baptized person, especially one baptized as an infant, affirms Christian belief and is admitted as a full member of the church. This is the Merriam-Webster definition of confirmation. Our prayer book words it this way: "Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." Three distinct things are expressed here. There is mature commitment, reception of power by the Holy Spirit, and the laying on of hands by a bishop. These three expressions for the Episcopal Church are what make confirmation special. At St. Mark's our main duty in this rite is preparation. We are designated to figure out a time when our people have been duly prepared to take ownership of their faith. In previous generations this time was dictated by a certain age. Today, this is a much harder thing to distinguish. Children deal with deep issues at a much earlier age than ever before, but pre-teens and

teenagers are actually maturing slower than in previous generations. This makes setting an age for confirmation difficult. The one thing however we can be assured of is where preparation for confirmation begins. It starts in the home and in the church. Beginning at age 4 we offer Christian Education. The purpose of this is not to babysit our youngest members. It is the preparation for the day of their confirmation. When our children are not here, they are not being prepared. In recent weeks our older children were given the chance to get hands on with baptism. When asked to create what baptism meant to them, these were some of the things this class created. Bishop Sam will be at St. Mark's on Feb. 17. From now until then see if you can remember your confirmation. What stands out in your mind? How have your ideas of confirmation changed over the years? What about baptism? What does baptism mean to you today? What do you like most when you participate in a baptismal service? What do you think the church is celebrating in baptism? All of these are important questions to consider as Bishop Sam makes his first visit to St. Mark's.



Upcoming Events

JAN. 11-13 - YOUTH WINTER RETREAT
 JAN. 19 - CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM IN GREENSBORO
 JAN. 20 - SNL COOKING SUE



Join us for Brunch
on January 20th
at the 9:30 hour
Hosted by Hospitality



Come catch up with old friends and meet some of our newer members at the same time.

Take a break and enjoy some fellowship

3rd Rotation of Christian Formation begins January 27th



Thank you for all the Summer Camp Giving

Summer camp creates a safe environment where teens can be themselves, explore exciting new things, make new friends and create life-transforming lasting memories.

So far we have collected \$6,502.00 for 2019 Summer Camp. There is still time for anyone who would like to give if you did not get around to it. Make donations payable to St. Mark's and note camperships in the memo line.

At the Y, campers receive breakfast, lunch and snacks during the day. Along with daily swimming, games and team building activities, teen campers experience college visits, participate in service projects and practice leadership skills.

La Escuelita San Marcos Christmas Party 2018

Feliz Navidad





**Mid Year
School Supply Drive
for Ranson Middle School
January 20th - February 3rd**

Half way through the year supplies run low and teachers end up spending their own money to get the students through the end of the year.

Help us restock the items below to keep teacher's money in their pockets and give the kids the tools they need.

Pencils #1 item
Binders
Notebooks
Pencils
Folders
Pencil sharpeners
Notebook paper
Dividers
Scissors kids version
Some pens

Please contact Liz Gail with any questions
704-597-8252

Weekend Food Backpacks

Help us restock our pantry so we are ready to go when the kids come back from Christmas Break.



Food items or monetary donations are appreciated. Thank you for all the support so far this year.

Note RMS food backpacks on memo line of check

Suggested items:
Boxed milk
fruit cups
Individual cereal boxes
Individual snack cracker and cookies
Chef Boy R Dee meals with pop tops
Fruit Snacks
Individual Tuna Lunch Packs
Juice boxes



Birthdays

Sean Pope – 1/2
 Caroline Huber – 1/4
 Glen Hunt – 1/4
 Molly Marshall - 1/4
 Larry Leisey – 1/6
 Molly Thompson - 1/11
 Kaelyn Sparks - 1/12
 Genny Hinkle – 1/14
 Larissa Huber - 1/15
 Liz Gail - 1/16
 David Fahey - 1/19
 Sarah Benes – 1/22
 Robbie Roberts – 1/22
 Pierce Roberts – 1/24
 Milton Sullivan – 1/25
 Tony Bouldin - 1/26
 Brent Sparks - 1/27
 Mary Lou Blevins – 1/30
 Beth Wilson - 1/30
 Mai Johnson – 1/31
 Bridget Stein – 1/31

Prayers for continued healing:

Richard & Mary Beth Masline	
Saunders & Billy Black	Martha Ann Springer
Bob Egan	Pat Pagola
Joe Brown	Phyllis Barnwell
Bob Weeks	Vivian Edgerton
Mike Wilson	

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Don & Debbie Siegel – 1/4
Scott Hundertmark – 1/11
Tonia Shelton – 1/18
Tom Lenardson – 1/25

Christmas WINE 2018



St Mark's
Youth

Progressive
Dinner

December
2018



Join the men of the church for
"Thirstday", Thursday
 (A testosterone friendly answer to WINE.)

January 10th at 6:30pm

We will gather at
Carolina Ale House by Concord Mills.
8695 Concord Mills Boulevard

We will have a brief biblical reflection, food, beverages and some prayer.
Look for us in the outdoor seating area.

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

January 21st 6:30pm

at the home of

Amy Sparks
12823 Winding Ridge Road
Huntersville

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
 Join us on Thursday
January 10th
@ 10am

We will meet at the home of
 Phyllis Barnwell
 7115 Rodden Mill Court
 Apt 216
 Charlotte, NC

We will be discussing
Baking Cakes in Kigali
by
Gail Parkin

Please note the change in location.

Join us even if you haven't read the book.
 New bookclub selections will be given out at this time.

For more information please contact
 Genny Hinkle for more information.
gnvhinkle@yahoo.com or 704-595-7957

2018 Stewardship Update

	2018 Budgeted	NOVEMBER YTD Actual
Current Pledge Total	\$344,175	\$316,149
All other anticipated income		
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$20,000	\$16,083
Other Income (use of space by outside groups)	\$17,000	\$15,915
Sales Tax Refunds	\$2,000	\$ 2,911
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	<u>\$32,750</u>	<u>\$ 30,224</u>
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$415,925	\$381,282
2018 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$263,804	\$239,736
Diocesan Support	\$43,454	\$39,833
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$53,012	\$51,473
Office Administration & Other	\$26,515	\$ 23,827
Youth & Christian Formation	\$12,380	\$ 7,063
Outreach & Escuelita Support	\$12,300	\$ 10,408
Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Parish Retreat	\$ 7,100	\$ 4,136
Worship & Music	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,386
%7 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average	<u>\$24,092</u>	
Total 2018 Budgeted Expenses	\$446,157	\$377,861
Current Excess/ Deficit of receipts over disbursements	\$30,232	\$3,421
2018 pledge notes	100 pledge cards of 143 have been received	
	Average Pledge \$3,477	

***Year to Date Pledge Fulfillment 92%**



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
8600 Mt. Holly-Huntersville, Rd.
Huntersville, NC 28078
www.stmarksnc.com
704-399-5193



"As of December 27th, 2018,

136 pledge cards were sent out. 88 cards have been turned in, for a total pledge of
\$332,010 (\$3,773.00 avg. per unit)

The Legacy Campaign has received 19 pledges totaling \$65,190

Please mail in, drop off, hand in, complete the online form or take a picture and email, your
pledge card to the church office as soon as possible."