



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 2018

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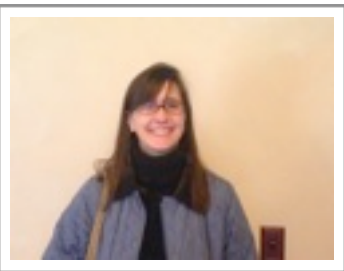
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Reflections from the Senior Warden



A few weeks ago, Reverend Sarah asked if I would write a reflection about my time on Vestry as the cover letter of this month's Call. I cheerfully said, "Yes!" I've written for this space before and am grateful to do so once again. Serving on St. Mark's Vestry has been a true honor, and I welcome this opportunity to share a few thoughts on life at St. Mark's

over the past three years.

Each vestry member's journey begins with the question, "Are you willing to be a vestry candidate?" followed by the response, "Yes." Soon thereafter, the candidate receives an email from Sarah Millholland asking for a picture and a candidate bio to be published in that December's Call. I look forward to reading the vestry candidates' bios every December. I relish the insights they offer into who we are as a body -- past, present and future. In my 2014 candidate bio I had this to say about our parish:

One thing I love about St. Mark's is its openness. we are open and welcoming to every person who comes up the hill and are open to addressing the needs of others. We are open in matters of faith--willing to ask questions, to listen to others, to learn, to grow as Christians. We are open to change and are willing to try new things. Rather than simply doing things as they have always been done. We respond to challenges and needs that arise by making changes--to our physical space, to our worship practices, and to our programming. I attribute our parish's dynamic open nature to our members' deep commitment to live into our mission statement: "Building Community: Living the Way of Christ"

St. Mark's dynamic, open nature and its willingness to take risks and try new things has been evident throughout my time on Vestry. In the past three years we have:

- Rejuvenated the interior and exterior of our worship space.
- Completed substantial maintenance and repair to our buildings and grounds.
- Realized a new vision of Outreach that is built on deep, on-going, life-transforming relationships with our partners, Ranson Middle School and La Escuelita San Marcos.
- Sent our youth and adult members on spiritual pilgrimages and life-changing mission trips.
- Responded to Bishop Curry's call to begin the long, difficult work of racial reconciliation, first through Mike Thompson's class examining the legacy of slavery, and then through the Race in America series at Ranson.
- Embarked on an exciting new project that will bring a new building to our campus, creating spaces that will enrich and enhance our current ministries and enable us to provide additional services to our community.
- Responded to God's command to give the Tithe by increasing our average pledge.
- Engaged in meaningful care of each other through a variety of Pastoral Care activities.
- Participated in Christian formation in ever-growing numbers, deepening our faith through study, conversation, and reflection.

All of these endeavors & accomplishments have been animated by a shared commitment to our mission as Christ's people: To Know Christ and to Make Him Known. As a member of the Vestry, it has been my great privilege to help articulate this mission and to offer support, encouragement, prayers, and resources to our Rector, our staff, and our members as they strive to walk the path God has laid out for us.

Over the past several weeks, multiple parishioners have thanked me for my service on the vestry and as Senior Warden. I'd like to conclude this reflection by expressing my own gratitude. I am grateful that I belong to a faith community that willingly engages in thoughtful, respectful conversations about what it means to be a Christian in today's world. I am grateful I was asked to serve this community through the Vestry. I am grateful for the prayerful service of every member who served on the Vestry before I joined. When Jordana, Eileen and I became members in 2014, we joined a body with long-established norms of openness, civility, and graciousness. I am grateful for the 2018 vestry, who will carry on that tradition. I am grateful for the time spent working closely with Reverend Sarah and the rest of our staff--they are a true blessing who do amazing work on our behalf, making it possible for us to be Christ's hands and feet in the world in the many ways we are called to fulfill that mission. And, above all, I am grateful to God, who is with us in all things.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Kendrick



Feast of Epiphany Saturday January 6th at 6pm

We invite you to join us for a service at 6pm
Followed by burning of the Greens
& a Chili Supper

**Bring your wise men from home to decorate the church
and your favorite pot of chili to share after the burning of the greens**



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 \$3,148.00 for 2018 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.



On **February 18th** all **young people** between the ages of 15 and eighteen are invited to create their Confirmation Class of 2018. Our curriculum is an award winning 5 -session course developed by the Reverend Andrew Parker. The course opens when teens, their parents and a mentor for each youth gather for an **introductory meeting on 1/7/2018**. Following the initial remarks, the teen and their mentor bring out their calendars and coordinate a schedule for meeting together. For 5 weeks they meet with one another and discuss the material. The morning before confirmation, the teens, parents, mentors, and the priest share a celebratory brunch.

The course is not designed for the teen and the mentor to arrive at "correct" answers.

Instead they journey together asking questions and listening to one another and to God. The idea is to see how God works in your lives and now that you both are older and more mature, how God calls you to serve his purpose in the world. Extensive knowledge of the Episcopal Church is not required. The curriculum helps with that.

Adult Confirmation which will also happen on **February 18th**. Classes will begin **1/7 at 12:15** in the gallery for 5 Sundays for an hour each. The meetings are for all adults who wish to become full members with vote and voice in the Episcopal church who have not yet been confirmed or received. It is an opportunity to learn more about the history, theology and worship practices of the Episcopal Church.

We host the Confirmation Brunch on Saturday, February 17th and **Bishop Anne Hodges Copple confirms candidates at the 11:00 service Sunday, February 18, 2018** with our youth candidates, she also confirms or receives several adults at that service.

If you would like to join the youth class as a member or mentor or if you wish to participate in the adult class, please call or e-mail the church office

at 704-399-5193 or life@stmarksnc.org immediately.

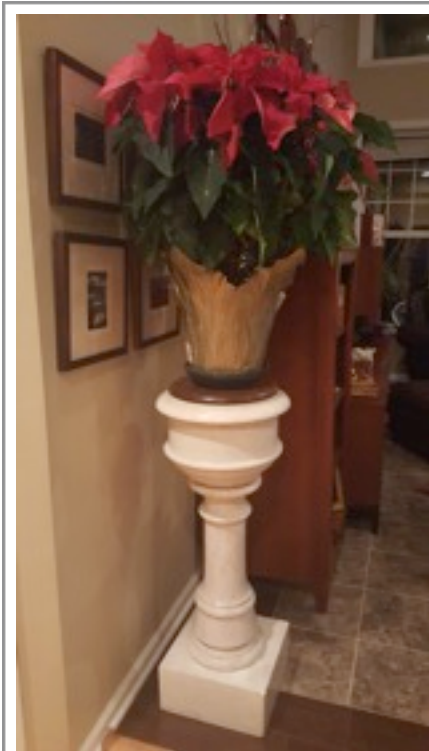
St. Mark's Memoriabilia

Lives on in the hearts and homes of our members

St. Mark's old lectern now in the home of Stephanie and John Herrin. Notice the framed St. Mark's Christmas card of 2015.



St. Mark's Hymn board proudly displayed at the home of Brett and Allison Rhinehardt



St. Mark's old baptismal font also at the home of Brett and Allison Rhinehardt

FORMATION INFO.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

The Nativity of the Lord has come, and we have begin a new year. Continuing in the apostles' teaching and fellowship and breaking bread together is a wonderful way to start the new year. What did the apostles teach? How did they teach it? To whom did they share their "good news" with?

The apostles often gathered in homes of trusted friends and associates. They often shared a meal with those gathered and told stories of who they knew Jesus to be and how their experiences gain insight into who they thought God was calling them to be and the direction of the church.

Each baptism, we answer this question with I will, with God's help. Our promise is very different from what the apostles were doing. Today, sharing the good news may happen in homes, over lunch, in a bar, or on the golf course. Its simply sharing something about how we see God, the person God is calling us to be, or what the church has done, is doing, or where it might be headed with some close friends.

This is what evangelism looks like. This month as we enter into a new year may it be a year where good news flows out of our conversations, actions, and thoughts. May we have conversation with friends about God, the church, and our faith. May we grow ever deeper into the people we are called to be. May we begin this new year by saying I will, with Gods help.

Upcoming Events

Jan • Jan 21 • 4:30 Cooking Up something with Sue

Bishop's Ball (Feb. 23-25) registration opens! Register [Here](#)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: For ALL Ages

Join us Sundays at 9:30

3rd Session 1/7- 2/18



Continue to walk in the footsteps of faithful men and women who have done their best to follow God's call. *The Path* is the story of the Bible, excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version so that it is clear and easy to read. Follow the path of God's love all the way from the beginning to the end, from Adam's creation to John's revelation. With informative trail signs to help you see how each piece of the narrative fits together, *The Path* is an experience unlike any other: an amazing 360-degree overview of the vast, sweeping story of God's extraordinary love for ordinary people. Join us on this epic adventure, a journey through the Bible to grow closer to God.

(Adult Discussion for the Path will meet in Osborne Hall)

Youth: Will continue discussion about *The Path* as listed above for the adults; however, content is created for their age group.

(Youth from 6th grade to 12th grade will meet in the downstairs of Founders Hall)

Children: Will continue *Exploring Scripture*. They will learn the stories, color pictures, create scenes and look for bits and pieces of our baptismal covenant in the stories and ideas of scripture. Our baptismal covenant answers what we believe and who we say we are. The teachings of scripture tell us why we are all beloved children of God.

Children meet in the upstairs of the parish house

Nursery is available for ages birth to 4 years old in the Parish House.



K(NO)W Justice K(NO)W Peace

Race In America

Please Join Us

Saturday January 27th at 2pm

Levine Museum of the New South

200 E. 7th St. Charlotte

Tickets are \$6 for Adults and \$4 for youth

We are creating opportunities to continue our Race in America Series.
Mark your Calendars for our tour of the **K(NO)W Justice K(NO)W Peace** Exhibit
at the

Levine Museum of the New South

We will gather with members of Ranson Middle School for a tour and talk back

There are 28 spaces on a YMCA bus for anyone who would like transportation to the exhibit.
If you would like to ride the bus please let Sarah Milholland know asap. Spaces are limited.

sarahmilholland@stmarksnc.org or 704-807-5790

**Meet us at the museum at 2pm for the tour
or arrive at St. Mark's at 1:30pm on Saturday January 27th
to ride the bus or carpool downtown.**



On December 19th La Escuelita San Marcos celebrated at their Christmas party. The Escuelita received a generous grant from the Ronald McDonald House Charities to help us expand our program.

In addition to receiving this gift the children sang, parents provided delicious food from thier native countries and a special visit was made by Santa.

It was a fun and fesitve event for all.



NOTES OF GRATITUDE

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Voluntary Service

Salisbury - W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA
Health Care System
1601 Brenner Ave.
Salisbury, NC 28144-2515

December 07, 2017

In Reply Refer To: 659/001V

St. Marks Episcopal Church
8600 Mt. Holly-Hunterville Road
Hunterville, NC 28078
Rector- Rev. Sarah Hollar

Dear Rev. Sarah Hollar,

On behalf of the Salisbury - W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Health Care System, we thank you and your organization for the generosity of your donation of veteran cards. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and compassion you display to our Veterans, and the reverence you have for their service to our country.

The connection between our community, Veterans' organizations and our Veterans is a bond that continues to grow stronger. Thanks to donors like you, we are able to provide our Veterans with the services they so rightfully deserve.

I cannot express enough how important your support means to our staff and patients. Please accept my heartfelt thank you!

Sincerely,

Leslie Eason
Chief Voluntary Service



Every Child. Every Day. For a Better Tomorrow.

**Ranson Middle,
an International Baccalaureate World School**

5850 Statesville Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28269

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
8600 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road
Charlotte, NC 28078

December 8, 2017

Ranson Middle School, A Charlotte-Mecklenburg School, would like to thank you for your donation in the amount of \$109.50. Your donation will be used as requested towards supporting the Adelante' Group. Thank you for your help in inspiring young minds, and we look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Erica Jordan Thomas
Principal
Ranson Middle School

*No goods or services were provided by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education to the donor in exchange for the contribution.

This receipt is provided to the Donor to satisfy the requirements of §170(f)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

CMS Tax ID: 56-6001074

Phone: 980-343-6800 ■ Fax: 980-343-6796 ■ www.cms.k12.nc.us ■ CMS-TV

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From the Knitting Corner...

Prayer Shawls: An outward, visible sign of the inner, invisible grace of God's love.

In the last four months, we have given out eight prayer shawls and four baby blankets.

Our prayer shawls are given to support those who are ill, suffering or in stress, to comfort and acknowledge our connection to one another.

Our baby blankets are generally given to celebrate and to welcome new babies to our church family, but in one instance, one was given to a friend of one of our parishioners, a one year old child, who is suffering from leukemia.

We have heard stirring testimony from one of our parishioners of what receiving a prayer shawl did for him and how much it meant to him. We have thank you notes from recipients telling us of the blessing they felt as they wrapped themselves in the love and prayers manifested in the shawls. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a blessing not only to those who receive the shawls but to those who diligently and prayerfully knit and crochet them and to those who distribute them.

The need for more shawls has greatly increased since we began this ministry in 2009 but our budget has not kept pace with the need. There has been resurgence in the popularity of the age-old craft of knitting and crocheting which has caused the cost of yarn to also increase.

The purpose of this report is two-fold: to encourage those who would like to join in the ministry by making prayer shawls and to encourage donations for the purchase of materials.

We have decided to package the yarn we purchase into kits with patterns provided that will produce the most pleasing shawl for both men and women at the most favorable cost which at the present time is \$20.00.

Should you wish to make a monetary donation to the prayer shawl or baby blanket ministry, please make your check out to St. Mark's and note Prayer Shawls in the memo line. Donations will be used to purchase yarn for the shawls and blankets.

If you know of someone who would be blessed by the gift of a prayer shawl or would like to join the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact Annemarie Lafreniere, call or text 704 661-4228, or email alafreniere@carolina.rr.com or

Sarah Milholland 704- 807-5790 or sarahmilholland@stmarksnc.org





Birthdays

Sean Pope – 1/2
 Caroline Huber – 1/4
 Glen Hunt – 1/4
 Molly Marshall - 1/4
 Larry Leisey – 1/6
 Bailey Ferguson - 1/9
 Molly Thompson - 1/11
 John Braun - 1/12
 Kaelyn Sparks - 1/12
 Genny Hinkle – 1/14
 Larissa Huber - 1/15
 Liz Gail - 1/16
 David Fahey - 1/19
 Traci Braun – 1/21
 Sarah Benes – 1/22
 Robbie Roberts – 1/22
 Pierce Roberts – 1/24
 Milton Sullivan – 1/25
 Tony Bouldin - 1/26
 Brent Sparks - 1/27
 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
Jackie Blythe	Larry Reilly
John Herrin	The Mason Family
George Ann Beam	Vivien Edgerton
Jackie Kalbas	Bette Barber

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Willard & Barbara Osburn – 1/5
Don & Debbie Siegel – 1/12
Tonia Shelton – 1/19
Cheryl Jones – 1/26

W.I.N.E.



Women in Need of Entertainment

January 15th at 6:30pm
at the home of
Amy Sparks
12823 Winding Ridge Rd.
Huntersville

Please join us for a festive evening of fellowship, food and fun. If you are able to, please bring an appetizer, entree, dessert, side dish or bottle of wine to share. If your day is hectic and you don't have time to prepare or shop, come anyway, we always have plenty.

Sign up Below

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044fa8a729a75-january>

Please contact Debbie Siegel
debbiesiegel@bellsouth.net
704-641-5845
with any questions



St. Mark's Muses Book Club will meet on
Thursday January 11th
at 10am
at the home of Amy Weeks
9906 Avon Farm Lane,
Charlotte
Our discussion will be on
H is for Hawk
by Helen MacDonald

If you would like a copy of the book please contact Genny Hinkle.

Join us even if you have not read the book. The next month's selection will be handed out at this time.

Sign up at the link provided

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054ca4a7238-stmarks>

Please contact Genny Hinkle for a copy of the book



"As of December 12th, 2017, **93** cards have been turned in, for a total pledge of **\$322,135.00**
(**\$3,463 avg. per unit**)

The necessary pledge total, according to the proposed budget is **\$390,000**.
We are **83%** towards our goal.

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



2017 Stewardship Update

	2017 Budgeted	November YTD Actual
Current Pledge Total	\$359,655	\$300,082
All other anticipated income		
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$28,720	\$21,795
Other Income (use of space by outside groups)	\$11,400	\$ 11,515
Sales Tax Refunds	\$2,500	\$ -
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	<u>\$35,000</u>	<u>\$ 30,021</u>
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$437,275	\$363,413
2016 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$263,255	\$233,437
Diocesan Support	\$38,908	\$35,666
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$57,480	\$ 50,327
Office Administration & Other	\$28,865	\$ 23,413
Youth & Christian Formation	\$13,705	\$ 19,768
Outreach & Escuelita Support	\$14,300	\$ 10,744
Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Parish Retreat	\$13,100	\$ 8,781
Worship & Music	\$ 8,370	\$ 7,048
%7 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average	<u>\$14,386</u>	
Total 2017 Budgeted Expenses	\$452,369	\$389,184
Current Excess/((Deficit) of receipts over disbursements	\$(15,094)	(25,771)
2017 pledge notes	112 pledge cards of 150 have been received	
	Average Pledge \$3,211	

***Year to Date Pledge Fulfillment 83%**



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