



A U G U S T 2 0 2 0

The Call

May the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts be accept-



A Monthly Newsletter

August 2020

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And also with you...

For 15 years, every Sunday, every baptism, every wedding, funeral, church meeting, sometime in the proceedings I would say, "The Lord be with you," and the body gathered would respond, "And also with you." It's a familiar call and response and in the church we recognize it as a sign that prayer will soon follow and it's time to focus and fall silent. But the words themselves have real meaning. They are incredibly powerful and touching. Inviting, evoking, and believing that God Almighty would deem to be present to a people for their benefit is a loving courageous thing. Wishing that same presence back to speaker is a gift of respect and mutuality.

For 15 years I have felt this bond with you. I have prayed for your wellbeing and the health of our community. I have carried you in my heart. I have hoped we were mindful of God's call to us and the obedient to the movement of the Holy Spirit. I have believed you are deserving of both abundant and eternal life. I fell in love with the place but more so the people. I am so grateful to have been called to serve with you.

I believe we raised one another up. I am not the priest I was the day I arrived. You are not that congregation either. Through and with and by and in the grace of God, we grew in faith, in Christian clarity, in mission, in strength, in stewardship, in advocacy, in welcome. We loved on and formed each other. We tried new things and experienced false starts. We took risks for the sake of the Gospel and some were successful.

Not everyone gets the experience of replete-ness. I have and I know I've been blessed. Thank you for your trust, your faithfulness and your companionship. I am confident, truly confident that God has mighty things in mind for you. So with gratitude and a sense of timely completeness, I say "And also with you."

Your sister in Christ,

Sarah+



Peter's Goodbye.

As Sarah prepares for her final weeks as Rector of St Mark's I have taken some time to reflect on my time with the beloved people of our parish. You have heard me say in parish meetings how your spiritual maturity, practice and commitment to follow Jesus is infused within St Mark's and the people. I believe this, I have seen and experienced this in conversations, Go Speak meals, formation classes I taught, Eucharist I delivered to some very dear friends.

I want to thank you for this privilege, this "walking in Love along the way" with you. St Mark's is my church home and I will miss it all; the coffee (Marsha), lady bugs in the sanctuary, our Escuelita ministry, formation classes and the 'anecdotes' I offered, and my journey of faith with you, and coming to grips with privilege and racial injustice.

The Bishop is allowing me to serve as Project Manager for our Fellowship Hall to completion. I will be on campus overseeing the project and will report to the Wardens. Please address any concerns, or questions you might have regarding construction to them. We hope to have the

building up and under roof in October, and ready for occupancy February, 2021. Be well beloved people of St. Mark's, you are bold, determined, and welcoming to each other and those you minister and will find to minister to!

God Bless.
Peter



Rapping with the Rev. For just a little bit longer

In this time of social distancing and church building closures, the rector invites you to outdoor office hours.

Sign up. Come for a chat about anything or nothing.

Two lawn chairs set up 6+ feet apart on beautiful St. Mark's grounds. BYOM, bring your own mask or one will be provided. BYOBeverage too as Founders Hall is still closed to visitors.

**Click Signup Genius Link below for available times.
Others will be added and still others available upon request.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054ca4a7238-rapping>



A Rector's Farewell

Please join us on
Saturday August 15th from 6pm-8pm
on the hill.

We will practice social distancing guidelines while we say goodbye to
Reverend Sarah Hollar and Peter Macon.

Areas six feet apart will be designated throughout the grounds for you and your household.
Pack a picnic and cooler for yourselves and come and enjoy the evening.

Rev. Hollar and Peter will make the rounds so that you will have a chance to wish them well.
Please sign up on the link below so we know you will be coming.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e49a4af28a7f58-ahollar>

Please note that all buildings will be off limits. This includes the restrooms and kitchen.
A port-a-john will be on site for use.

Summer Formation has Started!



Join us Each Week Following
the 9:30 Service on Zoom
For all ages!



Church in Transition

Twenty weeks into the pandemic that is Covid19 and with groundbreaking of The Rafter's, St. Mark's new fellowship hall, venue, home of Flying Lion Ministries, and with the news of Rev. Sarah's leaving, there is plenty of change on the hill and in

our communal life. Checking in with the body to see what was working well, what was needed and what transition questions needed to be addressed, we asked!

Over several weeks we posted a three question survey and below are your responses. Responses to questions appear below in blue.

How is St. Mark's meeting your current needs?

- Surprisingly well.
- By providing regular opportunities for prayer, reflection and worship via FB live. By providing regular opportunities for fellowship via Zoom and drive-by events.
- I would like small group gatherings in person- but besides that, YES! there are many ways that I am getting filled!
- It has been a source of comfort, particularly evening prayer.
- Satisfactory, so far; understanding how difficult this is for all concerned....vestry, worship, & of course parishioners.
- I think St. Mark's is doing a good job of reaching out to the family in many creative ways during this difficult time.
- I am honestly really haven't tuned in for any of the online services. But I continue to get the call and the email with messages which I appreciate
- I appreciate Rapping with the Rev, daily prayers and reflection. I appreciate the hard work that goes into weekly liturgy. I appreciate knowing that prayers are being offered on our behalf.
- St. Mark's has provided many opportunities for connection to faith and to each other. I have not felt disconnected from my church home. I miss touching people and seeing them in person, but so glad that we are keeping each other safe.
- Great. Online Sunday morning services are perfect, drive-bys are fun, weekly offerings are more than adequate, good ZOOM opportunities for smaller fellowships! and good communications, thanks.
- Yes
- I'm so grateful for all the opportunities to " meet " online. It's wonderful to see familiar faces and makes me feel more connected.
- Evening/ Morning prayers and livestream service are all beneficial to me. I also enjoy open communication about where we are as a church via the call/email.

- I love the nightly prayer and Sunday Services.
- As well as can be expected, to say that i have very high expectations of this group, and it continues to meet or exceed those
- I find comfort in the Sunday morning services. I appreciate that the staff has made the full service available not just the sermon.
- Morning and evening prayers offered.
- Evening prayer, steady communication, extending grace.
- Very well. Morning prayer and evening prayer and reflection provides great worship opportunities. Morning prayer on Zoom allows you to talk to and see others in congregation. Rapping with the Rev is also helpful. Zoom WINE gives opportunity to socialize.
- It's not really. I really don't have unmet needs.
- I still feel connected through the Sunday Live service, Zoom morning prayer,

How could St. Mark's better meet your church needs?

- I'm okay with the current situation.
- I cannot think of anything at this time.
- Facilitating small group ideas
- I cannot think of anything!
- Have Committee chairpersons relate to committee members anything that has transpired since March, relative to their participation as if we were operating normally; i.e. pastoral care, outreach, hospitality. As a member of these committees, I have not heard of anything that has been done, or not. Not sure of other how info is disseminated, if at all. I feel totally "left out of the loop" . I do not know if other committees are meeting "virtually" or at all.
- Especially with Rev. Sarah leaving us soon, I think it will be extra important to keep everyone in the loop of what is going on. I like frequent e-blasts. Maybe as family members have special milestones or needs that could be communicated to all. I know we all miss being together and it was such a treat to see familiar faces and shout hellos at the drive thru the other night. It was a reminder of how important that connection is. With August looming, I'd hate to think that things just faded away, but I also know that many are working hard to make sure that does not happen.
- I think everything's great
- I don't know. I feel sad and cut off and within the guidelines we have been given, I'm not sure what could help, except perhaps, continued prayer.
- I feel that St. Mark's is doing as well as it can. The only thing missing, and it can't be helped, is in-person communion. If it were allowed, I would be willing to take communion to others, but I do understand that this is not possible.
- Continue to identify any ways in which we can help with any needs in the community.
- I can't think of anything
- Good to know they are there.
- Continue to stay strong, as a foundation providing stable footing as all else around us continues to shake and falter

- I think that St. Mark's is going above and beyond to be helpful during this time. I can't think of anything else to suggest.
- Continuing to offer the above.
- The daily reflections are very deep. It would be interesting to try a short format (5-6 minute) for some days, and a longer format (~20 minute). We could get feedback and adapt. Photos of past times we've shared and people we've helped are always soothing.
- I think church is doing fantastic job under circumstances. Maybe small group zoom opportunities to encourage those not using these other opportunities??
- Not applicable
- Nothing else needed

What questions do you have regarding the transitions we are in?

More of a comment: I am hoping we do not rush to get back to in-person only services. [Online Sunday services will continue after onsite worship resumes. No one will have to choose between worship and health safety.](#)

The worship leader roles have been filled by the same people throughout this time to limit the number of people who potentially could be exposed, etc. This was an excellent strategy as we waited to possibly re-open on July 1st. Now that we will be doing online worship for an indefinite period, is it possible that other members of the congregation could serve to lector, say the POP and bring up the offering plate? We are grateful for those six worship leaders who have served throughout, but perhaps we could offer opportunities to others to read, etc.

[If you would like to be one of the six worship leaders permitted in the church for worship, please contact Rev. Matt and he will create a rota, church word for schedule.](#)

After Sarah and potentially Matt leave, will the online daily offerings continue?
[See accompanying article.](#)

I have so many questions - as we all probably do! - but none that even the most dedicated church could answer. But I have faith that all will be well. <3

With Rev. Sarah and Peter leaving who will be overseeing the building project as he did?
[Bishop Rodman has given special dispensation for Peter to continue as project manager for the new building for 1 year reporting only to the Wardens. He may only be involved with St. Mark's in that capacity.](#)

Will Rev. Matt be able to stay?

[Yes/and. Rev. Matt is in discernment with God as to where he is being called to serve. Your prayers are asked for that holy work. It may be St. Mark's, it may be another community.](#)

What process will be used to search for a new Rector? How long does it typically take? Will there be a search committee or will just the Vestry be involved? What happens on Sunday, August 23 and immediately following?

[See the response to the final question below.](#)

Is the church doing OK Financially?

[Yes! We continue to be good stewards and supporters of the parish and God's work. See the Financial update page of The Call for particulars.](#)

Is there a way to spotlight some people/family updates weekly/monthly? We have the prayer list, but no idea what things folks are doing - would be interesting to have some standard questions that parishioners could respond with answers to - then include in the weekly e-blast (ie, what is the one new food that you have tried/enjoyed most during quarantine, where was the first place you ventured out, what is the history of the mask you wear most frequently, etc).

[An intriguing idea. The Communication Staff will take this under advisement.](#)

How are we helping our AA and NA groups? [This is a hard spot. We continue to hold them in prayer, we rescinded monthly Love Offerings. We continue to work with the Diocese of ways to allow meetings on our campus. Your prayers would be most appreciated.](#)

When will we be able to return to church in the building? [See accompanying article.](#)

Fastest land animal? Cheetah. Smallest mammal? bumblebee bat... i think i am good for now. :) [We suggest a Google Search for better informed answers.](#)

Will Rev. Sarah and Peter continue their membership with St. Mark's?

[They will not as that is not Episcopal Church protocol during a transition period.](#)

I'm not sure if I missed an announcement, but I have not seen Deacon Lynn in the services. Has he retired? [Deacon Lynn is an essential worker and is working extended hours and has at-risk family members and so is exercising necessary caution. He is available for pastoral conversations and prayer via phone and email.](#)

Don't have anything. Will be glad when it's over.

Largely answered - well done!

No questions. Just hate it is all happening at once. COVID is stressful enough for our church leadership without transition and new building. I'd like to know where the vestry is on a search for a new priest.

[Look for an update on the Search Process very soon after Rev. Sarah's last Sunday, August 16th. The vestry is in ongoing conversations and planning with the Diocesan Transition Team.](#)



**KEEP THE FAITH
SERVICES STILL ONLINE**

St. Mark's Services
will remain *online only* until further notice.

While we are all missing each other and wanting to connect in person again please know that we are on hold until we have approval to gather in person from the Bishops of NC.

As soon as the church office knows when it is ok for us to meet for worship we will announce plans through ALL of our means of communication.

Although the Governor of NC may have one set of guidelines for the state the Bishops of NC have a different set of reopening guidelines for the church.

We do know that when the time comes gatherings of 25 people inside and 35 people outside will be permitted.

A protocol for gathering and how to sign up to attend worship has been created and will be communicated when the time comes.

To be "in the know"

please make every effort to read The Call, check your weekly e-blast and check into Facebook. These means of communication are where you will find updated information in a timely manner.

Worship offerings are listed below.

Daily reflections can be accessed on our St. Mark's Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalnc>

See how you can participate in daily reflections after August 16th. Details on following page.

Morning Prayer

Monday - Friday

8:30am

with The Rev. Matt Addington

[Join via zoom link below](#)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7047478893?pwd=UUpYb3QrK01oTzU4MSsyZ0NXajl0QT09>

You can access the service order with the link below

<https://conta.cc/2vRUtpl>

Night Prayers

Monday - Saturday

7pm

End your day with

Compline at 7pm

Monday through Saturdays

via

Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalnc>

or watch later by accessing the video on our Facebook page.

See how you can participate in compline after August 16th



Sunday Worship Services

Continue at 9:30 am

via Facebook Life

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalnc>

or watch at a later time by accessing the video on our facebook page.

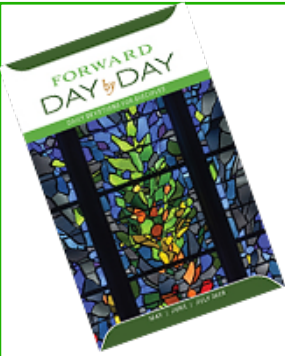
Service orders are being sent via E-blast each Thursday afternoon

FAITH 5 VIA ZOOM AFTER THE LIVE SERVICE (USE THE LINK BELOW)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7047478893?pwd=UUpYb3QrK01oTzU4MSsyZ0NXajl0QT09>

If you are prompted for a password please use 654321

Daily Reflections



In Covid times, Rev. Sarah began the practice of offering a daily reflection recorded on a smart phone or ipad device and then posted to the St. Mark's Facebook page midafternoon Monday through Saturday. The reflections were generally between 8 and 12 minutes long and ended with a list of 10 St. Mark's households being prayed for by name. The reflections came from books of Christian meditations. She would read the passage and a posed reflection question and provide a response she was lead to form.

These posted reflections may continue after her departure if there is a desire. There are a variety of meditations available. The recording and posting process is easy and consistent. We invite you to sign on as a reflection facilitator. You could pick a meditation guide and record and post the time of day that suits you best. You could designate the number of days or weeks a month you'd be responsible.

Rev. Matt will provide recording and posting training. We can also order a variety of guides to use if you'd prefer. A Rota (church word for schedule) will be created based on the responses we receive. If you want to establish an ongoing spiritual practice that reminds you of your connection to God and calls you deeper into your faith life, if you want to stay connected to members of your church, if you want to offer a gift to your church in these times of transition, here is a helpful, loving way to engage. Please pray, consider your schedule and contact Rev. Matt at 704-747-8893 or matt.addington1@gmail.com.



In Covidtide, Rev. Sarah began reading Compline also known as Night Prayers of the Church at 7:00 PM Monday through Saturday live on St. Mark's FACEBOOK page. She alternated a few forms through the months and drafted a cheerful family member to respond as the *people*. The forms of Compline

used were posted on the page and on our weekly E-Blasts so members and worldwide viewers could follow the service. Members of St. Mark's choir recorded some hymns and taize music to be used. Some people watched live, others watch in the minutes before they fell asleep.

After her departure, Night Prayers can continue if desired. Members are invited to sign up to lead the prayers. Forms will be provided, you may pick your favorite. Instructions on posting are easy and will also be provided. Rev. Matt will construct a rota and Compline will be read at the hour and days of the week that suit most.

If interested in leading these prayers, please contact Rev. Matt at 704-747-8893 or matt.addington1@gmail.com.

Pick a hymn, any hymn!
It's time for our Summertime Hymn requests
Do you have a favorite hymn? One that you haven't heard in a while and makes you smile?
Please send your Summer hymn recommendations to Alex Ancona:

Email: awancona@gmail.com



Calling all musicians! "Sing to the Lord a New Song!"

All are invited to record a musical offering at home to be featured during upcoming services!

Pieces can feature vocals, instrumentals, both solo and ensemble!
(Please practice safe social distancing if recording with others- it is not recommended to record in person with those outside your own household)

We would love to hear your music! We recommend that pieces be kept to no longer than 5 minutes, as they will be featured during the prelude, offertory, communion, and/or postlude.

Any questions regarding musical selections and audio files of finished recordings may be sent to Alex Ancona.

Please also include the musician's name(s), and the name and composer/writer of the piece if you would like it to be shared in the bulletin.

Thank you!

Email: awancona@gmail.com



**Even though we are not gathering at the church
operating expenses still need to be paid.**

Please remember that:

**Regular pledges/giving can continue to be made
by sending checks in the mail to**

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
8600 Mt. Holly Huntersville Rd.**

Huntersville, NC 28078

or online through the link below

<https://stmarksepiscopal.breezechms.com/give>

A U G U S T 2 0 2 0

St Mark's Ground Breaking Ceremony and Drive By





RMS School Supply Drive

Even though this school year will look a little bit different the scholars at RMS still need supplies.



Ranson Middle School Teachers will return on August 6th to prepare for the year.

**The Scholars will be able to participate in a
“DRIVE THROUGH” on August 10th
to pick up their schedules and school supplies.**

Let's help them stock up their “home school” spaces

**Please drop supplies in bins on the Parish Hall Porch
By August 4th**

Suggested Items:

Pencils

Backpacks to keep items in

Notebook Paper

Composition Books

Three ring binders

Pens

Erasers

Markers

Folders

Hand sanitizer

Colored Pencils

Glue Sticks

Pencil Sharpeners

Scissors

Earbuds

Disinfecting Wipes

Cleaning Supplies



La Escuelita
SAN MARCOS

La Escuelita San Marcos 20/21 School Year

La Escuelita San Marcos Is looking for people to read stories or share a lesson virtually with our ninas and ninos.

This could be reading a story, an art lesson, music lesson or any other interest you might have.

Our director, Jama Fleming will record participants via zoom and then plug the link into the curriculum for the year.

We would like to have 20 or more sessions recorded so that the children can have at least one video a week to use. If you have an interest or an idea please contact Jama Fleming at jama.fleming@hopewellpresby.org



"Thirstday" Thursday

Join the men of the church for
A **virtual** testosterone friendly
answer to WINE

Thursday August 13th at 8:00 pm

Via Zoom

Please follow the link above to connect to the
meeting at
6:30

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7047478893?pwd=UUpYb3Qr-K01oTzU4MSsyZ0NXajl0QT09>

Grab a beverage and a snack. Use the zoom link to connect
virtually with the men of the church.

Give it a try.

David Fahey 704-562-7587 for questions

WINE

Women in Need of Entertainment



Monday August 17th @ 6:30pm

at your own home
via Zoom
Link below.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7047478893?pwd=UUpYb3Qr-K01oTzU4MSsyZ0NXajl0QT09>

If you are prompted for a password please use
654321

Please contact Allison Rhinehardt
allibrett@gmail.com with any questions



Birthdays

Lacy Hamilton - 8/3
 Jackie Mooney - 8/3
 Kari Swogger - 8/4
 Richard Reale - 8/6
 Dawn Middleton - 8/9
 Maxine Phillips - 8/10
 Forrest Wooten - 8/11
 Brooke Michael - 8/12
 Sarah Milholland - 8/13
 Martha Ann Springer - 8/13
 Bill O'Connor - 8/14
 Scott Weaver - 8/15
 Tucker Weaver - 8/15
 Beth Hunt - 8/16
 Suzanne Egan - 8/17
 Kelly Pope - 8/17
 Greg Siegel - 8/17
 Rick Stein - 8/17
 Maggie Haas - 8/22
 Kate Lloyd - 8/23
 Malinda Bivens - 8/24
 Melanie Blythe - 8/26
 Barbara Osburn - 8/27
 Joe Brown - 8/28
 Blair Swogger - 8/28

Anniversaries

Richard & Teresa Reale - 8/2
 Michael & Suzanne Ferguson - 8/7
 Willard & Barbara Osburn - 8/8
 Andrew & Libby James - 8/10
 Billy & Saunders Black - 8/16
 Lynn & Debbie Plummer - 8/19
 Forrest & Marilyn Wooten - 8/19
 John & Wendy Kelly - 8/21
 Joe & Fiona Brown - 8/23
 Bob & Suzanne Egan - 8/25
 Mark & Lacy Hamilton - 8/25
 Blair & Connie Swogger - 8/25
 Robbie & Delia Roberts - 8/26
 Jacob & Mandy Self-Sparrow - 8/29

Prayers for continued healing:

Willard & Barb Osburn
 Saunders & Billy Black
 Martha Ann Springer
 Elena Michel and her family
 Richard & Mary Beth Masline
 Bob Chandler

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Mark & Lacy Hamilton - 8/7
Brent & Amy Sparks - 8/14
Andrew & Libby James - 8/21
Alan & Lesli Kathman - 8/28

2020 Stewardship Update

	2020 Budget	June YTD Actual
Current Pledged Income	\$340,520	\$204,351
All other anticipated income		
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$22,000	\$8,649
Other Income (use of space by outside groups)	\$13,000	\$8,455
Sales Tax Refunds	\$2,100	
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	\$34,320	\$16,580
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$411,940	\$238,035
2020 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$272,235	\$129,918
Diocesan Support	\$42,605	\$21,303
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$49,780	\$20,289
Office Administration & Other	\$28,698	\$14,326
Youth & Christian Formation	\$10,190	\$3,591
Outreach & Escuelita Support	\$14,000	\$2,684
Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Parish Retreat	\$7,100	\$886
Worship & Music	2,765	\$1,789
%4 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average	\$13,621	
Total 2020 Budgeted Expenses	\$440,994	\$194,786
Current Excess/ Deficit of receipts over disbursements	(29,054)	\$43,249

2020 Pledge update 94 families for a total of \$340,520.00

YTD Pledge fulfillment 60%