



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.

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Recently I was invited to give a Master Class on Preaching. I chose as my subject, WONDER. Since the class, the notion of wonder has crept in more and more of my conversations which suggests it has merits for all of us trying to live the way of Christ. My thesis is that it is the nature of God to inspire wonder. It is the nature of God to incite amazement and evoke curiosity. When I say the word amazement, what reaction does that elicit within you? Do you think ahhhhh, ohhhh? Do images of the Grand Canyon or the moment you executed the perfect dive come to mind? When I say the word curiosity, what reaction does that elicit within you? Do you think, hmmmm, how, why, I need more, I want more details, more information, more time with this idea? My curiosity was peaked in my 7th grade fire flies report when I learned fire flies tap on snail shells and when snails stick their heads out, fire flies stab them in the neck repeatedly turning their soft flesh into gruel to slurp it up. Nasty and gross and something I remembered for a long time.

God is ever and always about those activities, stimulating amazement and arousing curiosity, in creation, in communities, in systems, in individuals. God uses the experience of Wonder, the generating of amazement and curiosity to connect with humankind. God does so with all humans. Some of us are aware and attuned to this particular invitation, some of us are less inclined to notice and respond, nevertheless the call to Wonder is persistent and eternal.

There are studies by behavioral scientists that show our brains are broadly activated when we engage in activities that interest us. We undergo physiological changes when we're about our hobbies, our preferred

leisure time pursuits, when we are involved in something we've selected for ourselves as opposed to an activity imposed on us by others, like job or relationship responsibilities. So, what we choose to do for ourselves is not accidental.

In that activity is God inspired Wonder. This wonder is part of what is referred to in scripture as being known from the foundation of the world, as being known as your bones were being knit together in your mother's womb. What we love to do is inspired by God and therefore is holy and therefore is to be honored.

So ... think for a moment... apart from spending time with your family, what is something you love to do? I invite you to actually pause here and visualize an answer and maybe even write it down. I invite you to think of another thing you like to do apart from spending time with your family. Something that comes to you easily. Something that when the activity concludes you feel lighter, yet stimulated, you feel ahhh, this has been a really good use of my time, these have been pleasant, peace filled moments. Nudging you, I invite you to think of one more thing you like to do for yourself, apart from other obligations. Looking at your list of three things, how does it resonant to think ***What we love to do is inspired by God and therefore is holy and therefore is to be honored.*** Sit with that one sentence for a moment.

These things you love to do are not casual or accidental. They are inextricably woven into your essence. They are ways God intends for you to engage the world, ways to interact with God's own self and ways to engage with God's beloved, your brothers and sisters.

That means dear ones, cooking is more than just cooking, tromping through the woods is more than trail hiking, playing the guitar is more than random strumming. ***What you love is who you are and who you are is how you see God and how you see God is what God wants expressed.***

Wonder! Wonder! Wonder is your friend. Wonder is a specialty tool in your disciple toolbox. It is handy, it is persuasive, and it is already within grasp. You have it in you. It does not require you to become something you are not. Your wonder is one of your most essential qualities.

What I'm suggesting is cultivating your wonder is a really effective spiritual practice. Your wonder gets at the essence God wants you to proclaim week by week. God wants your wonder to inform your interpretation of his revelation week by week.

That means time out of the office and time away from family obligations engaged in the God inspired activities you hear calling you is not goofing off or neglecting your "adult responsibilities." It is prayer. It is study. It is prep for becoming your full self.

If you wrote cooking as one of your favorite things, then you are called to cook up your discipleship. Cooking has two parts, creating and hospitality, is that not an excellent way to express the love of God? If you wrote knitting as one of your favorite things, then you are called to stitch your witness together one perfectly woven God inspired thought interlinked to the next. If you wrote watching baseball, grass and sky and manicured fields and sinew and muscle and hand and eye coordination and sprinting and sliding and the physicality and the sound of smack and thwack, then maybe you are called to commentate the action of the bible lessons and infuse them with the many interconnected parts.

Cultivating Wonder is a spiritual practice that bears good fruit. I invite you to ponder ... WONDER.

Sarah +



The Feast of All Saints

All Saints' Day commemorates all saints, known and unknown, on Nov. 1st. All Saints' Day is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year, and one of the four days recommended for the administration of baptism. All

Saints' Day may also be celebrated on the Sunday following Nov. 1. Names of family and friends who have departed this life and now reside with the Holy Trinity and all company of heaven will be read at the 8:30 and 11:00 services on **Sunday, November 4th** as we begin the Eucharist. You may call the church office to have loved ones included. This year the service will include additional time for remembrance of the saints in our lives.



You and yours are warmly invited to join your parish friends, family members, guests in town and from far off places for a service of blessing and gratitude. This simple service of prayers, readings and music offered **Thanksgiving Day** is a favorite family tradition at St. Mark's. To accommodate meal preparation and traveling, the 2018 service is planned for **9:30, Thursday morning, November 22nd**.



Let's Celebrate our Blessings Together on Thanksgiving Day

Several of our St. Mark's families joined together to celebrate Thanksgiving last year.

St. Mark's Outreach Ministry wishes to once again connect those of us who would like to host on Thanksgiving Day with those of us who would like to join others on Thanksgiving Day.

If you would enjoy being a host or a guest for Thanksgiving please complete the online form here <https://stmarksepiscopeal.breezechms.com/form/441439> You can also contact Marilyn Wooten at mandfwooten@carolina.rr.com or 704-921-2196

The Gospel of Mark tells the story of people bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples were trying to turn them away. Jesus becomes frustrated, indignant as he says, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

What does this story have to do with St. Mark's? Did you know week in and week out, St. Mark's offers some of the best Christian Formation for all ages in the diocese? None of our Christian Formation comes from a box. It is all custom designed exactly for our children, youth, and adults to meet you where you or your family may be.

Did you know that other youth ministers and children's ministers in our diocese often replicate our programs in their churches? Matt has been asked several times to publish his lessons for youth and children for churches to purchase. Youth and children find their faith intersecting with what they learn in school, in their culture, and in the issues they face today and will face in the future.

Did you know our adult Christian formation is also considered to be some of the best in the diocese? We are extremely fortunate to have our clergy teaching adult ed.

Many hours are spent each week praying, planning, and creating Christian Formation for all ages here at St. Mark's. The conversations, lessons, and growth that happen in Christian Formation are not offered anywhere else in today's society. If you or your family have not experienced Christian Formation at St. Mark's or you have not been able to attend in a few weeks, you have been missed. Our sharing is incomplete without your experiences and ideas. Join us on any given Sunday at 9:30 for formation specifically designed for you and your family. If you have noticed someone missing, invite them! Chances are if they have children, their children are missing too! If you have any questions about formation classes for any ages please contact Matt Addington. matt.Addington1@gmail.com or 704-747-8893. We hope you can join us on Sundays at 9:30.

FORMATION INFO.



Upcoming Events:

Nov. 18 – Cookies & Creme SNL 5:30–7:30

Nov. 25 – Advent Wreath making @ 9:30am in Osborne Hall



ST. MARK'S SUN CATCHER ON SALE NOW!
\$20

THE YOUTH ARE SELLING THESE BEAUTIFUL SUN CATCHERS TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES. THEY ARE MADE OUT OF 100% RECYCLED GLASS AND LOOK AMAZING HANGING IN A WINDOW OR ON YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE. GET YOURS BEFORE THEY ARE GONE!

ANGEL TREE



**Look for our Angel Tree
in Founders Hall on
November 11th**

**Pick an Angel from the Tree
and provide the \$ amount listed
Help send our Ranson Scholars to
Summer Camp at the YMCA.**

The Camperships we have provided in years past have created life changing opportunities to many middle schoolers who would not have had this experience without our help.

**Checks can be made to St. Mark's*
Note Camperships in the memo line



Come and Make an Advent Wreath for your Home

Enjoy coffee, refreshments, fellowship & Christmas music provided by our youth as we prepare for the season of Advent.

Join us with Christian Formation on
**Sunday November 25th at the 9:30
hour as we kick off the season of
ADVENT**



***St. Mark's will be having it's 12th annual
Christmas Wreath and Tree Sale!***

***A 32" Frasier Fir
Wreath for \$20
(Makes a great
gift)***



Trees
4-5' \$30
6-7' \$48
7-8' \$60
8-9' \$80

***We will be taking orders after each
8:30 & 11:00 service***

November 4th -18th

Proceeds go to La Escuelita San Marcos

Please make checks out to La Escuelita

& note "trees/wreaths" in the memo

***Trees will be available for pick up on Sunday
December 2nd.***

Pick yours up after the annual meeting.



DINNER and SILENT AUCTION

Saturday November 17th

6:00pm @

Hopewell Presbyterian

10500 Beatties Ford Rd, Huntersville

**Tickets will be available for purchase Sunday's
in between services.**

\$20 in advance

\$25 at the door

\$140 to sponsor a table of 8 \$250 for two tables

If you can't make the dinner - direct donations are welcome - simply mark the check with donation in the comment field.

All checks to La Escuelita San Marcos!

Donations of Auction Items are still being accepted.

If you don't have that artistic flair but would be willing to solicit items from businesses for the auction, please contact Lacy Hamilton (lacy.hamilton57@gmail.com or 980-722-6203).

Picture Day at Ranson IB Middle School



Volunteers Welcome

Ranson Middle School
is looking for volunteers
to help with school pictures.

If you can help usher scholars through their sittings
anytime on

November 14th
from 8:30am-2pm
contact Jon Rochester

jon1.rochester@cms.K12.nc.us



R.I.S.E

(Raiders in Support of Equity)
Mark your Calendars

The next RISE meeting will take place on
November 13th at 6:00pm
Ranson IB Middle School

Rise is surveying the teachers to see what they
need for their classrooms.
We hope to have a Fall and Spring drive to get
community sponsors/partnerships to provide
learning experiences for students, field trips,
headphones, books, and calculators.

Corporate sponsorship is also being researched.

If you have any questions or would like further
information please contact Candice Sullivan
sullivan.candice@gmail.com



**Don't forget to turn your
clocks back!**

**Day Light Savings ends on
Sunday November 4th at 2am**



Birthdays

Liesel Doolittle – 11/2
 Alan Vanevenhoven – 11/2
 Phyllis Barnwell – 11/4
 Jonathan Wilson - 11/4
 Jim Wilson - 11/5
 Suzanne Ferguson - 11/9
 Julia Williams - 11/9
 Sawyer Gambill - 11/10
 Avery Lyons – 11/14
 Ash Hollar – 11/15
 Robin Mason - 11/15
 Sue Bartlett - 11/17
 Mary Beth Masline - 11/17
 Sid Linker – 11/18
 Kevin DuBois - 11/19
 Christopher Milholland - 11/20
 Debra Smithdeal – 11/22
 George Ann Beam – 11/23
 Jacob Sparrow – 11/23
 Eileen Moreno – 11/27
 Rebecca Leisey – 11/28
 Rowan Stein – 11/30

Anniversaries

Brent & Amy Sparks - 11/5
 Jim & Beth Wilson - 11/6
 Mike & Tracy Tinsley - 11/21
 Jeff Haas & Rev. Cathie Caimano – 11/29

Prayers for continued healing:

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

New Members:

Mary Lou Blevins

Scott & Jill Weaver, child Tucker

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Scott Hundertmark – 11/2
Tonia Shelton – 11/9
Tom Lenardson – 11/16
Mark & Lacy Hamilton -11/23
Andrew & Libby James – 11/30



Join the men of the church for

"Thirstday", Thursday

(A testosterone friendly answer to WINE.)

November 8th at 6:30pm

We will gather at

Party Pizza, Northlake

(outside the mall near Dick's)

**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

November 26th 6:30pm
at the home of

Sarah Hollar
19107 Southport Dr.
Cornelius, NC 28031

704-995-9191

**"Slumber Party"
Wear your Pajamas and Bring
Breakfast themed food.**

We are asking that you please bring a new pair of children's sleepwear as part of our November outreach project. We will collect your donations and give them to needy children in the metro area. Your donation may be any size up to size 14 and you may donate boys or girls sleepwear.

**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

November 15th

@ 10am

We will meet in the parish
hall at St. Marks

We will be discussing

Suite Francaise

by

Irene Nemirovsky

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.

gnyhinkle@yahoo.com or 704-595-7957



State of the Church Financial Update (Part I of our Annual Meeting)

On **Sunday November 18th at the 9:30 hour**
as the first rotation of Christian Formation comes to a close
we will gather in Founders Hall to have discussions around
the state of the church.

Come hear about the state of our financial operations, where we are and where we are likely
to finish the year.

Brunch will **NOT** be served at this gathering.

The 2nd Session of our Annual Meeting will be held on
Sunday December 2nd at the 9:30 hour

where we vote for new vestry members and discuss how we are living into our mission.

We will enjoy brunch and fellowship at Part II of our annual meeting.

COME BE A PART OF THE DISCUSSION!



*All things come of Thee,
oh Lord*

"As of November 1st, 2018,

136 pledge cards were sent out. 51 cards have
been turned in, for a total pledge of **\$172,840.00**
(\$3,389.00 avg. per unit)

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

2018 Stewardship Update

	2018 Budgeted	September YTD Actual
Current Pledge Total	\$344,175	\$261,201
All other anticipated income		
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$20,000	\$13,738
Other Income (use of space by outside groups)	\$17,000	\$10,985
Sales Tax Refunds	\$2,000	\$ 2,911
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	<u>\$32,750</u>	<u>\$ 24,664</u>
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$415,925	\$313,499
2018 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$263,804	\$196,059
Diocesan Support	\$43,454	\$32,591
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$53,012	\$40,282
Office Administration & Other	\$26,515	\$ 17,942
Youth & Christian Formation	\$12,380	\$ 6,797
Outreach & Escuelita Support	\$12,300	\$ 9,252
Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Parish Retreat	\$ 7,100	\$ 3,172
Worship & Music	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,350
%7 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average	<u>\$24,092</u>	
Total 2018 Budgeted Expenses	\$446,157	\$307,444
Current Excess/ Deficit of receipts over disbursements	\$30,232	\$6,055
2018 pledge notes	100 pledge cards of 143 have been received	
	Average Pledge \$3,477	
*Year to Date Pledge Fulfillment 76%		



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