



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 - March 2018

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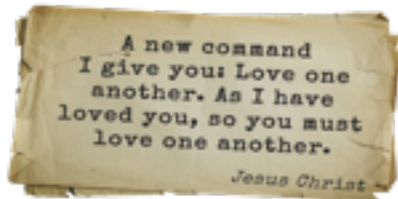
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A few weeks ago, I preached a sermon about characteristics of a loving community, about how loving the members of that community should sometimes trump loving one's personal preferences. I used the example in a family where a brother loves meatloaf, sometimes you serve meatloaf even though everyone else loves barbeque chicken. Sometimes you do something you don't love for the love of someone else. It's a tricky thing to balance especially when the sacrifice is more important than what's served for dinner. When is it appropriate to give up one's own desires in service to another? When does making a loving sacrifice turn into being a doormat? When is the compromise a question of principle rather than preference? There is the "we'll go to the mountains this year instead of the beach" kind of sacrifices and then there's the "we'll send 15,000.00 to your over-spending sister" kind.

Those are intriguing questions to be worked out and they are easier to manage in families than in churches because there are less desires and fewer needs to be met and because communication between all members can be more easily engaged. Even so, it is important to create the expectation that members of the church will be heard. Their opinions will be received graciously. Counter views will not be used as an indictment against the view holder. Church leaders need to remember that silence isn't consent. All members should know that it is the natural order in all human communities that there will be differences in priorities and passions.

This last point has been resonating with me lately. In a church community, some members will be inspired by the liturgy and others the formation opportunities. Some will find their faith deepen in the welcome and fellowship of others at church brunches or on parish retreats. Some members will find their time with God encouraged in working side by side other members taking care of God's house and grounds. Some will find God strongly present while on mission trips serving meals to the poor. Some will know Christ and make him

known in the knitting and giving of prayer shawls. Some will have that experience in engaging race and reconciliation work.

The point is that a loving community, especially one built around the mission of following Jesus Christ, one whose sole purpose is to encourage faith, has a great responsibility to invite its people to find their encouragement where they are called and to provide opportunities for engagement as fully as they can resource. They must also allow disinterest in other members' impassioned ministries. This is a long way of saying, as your rector, I do not want St. Mark's members to ever feel they have to align with any cause or endeavor, to be on the same page as their rector or vestry in order to be loved, heard or encouraged in this community.

In the past three years we've put energy in some race and reconciliation work and it is meaningful Christian work, but it is not the only good Christian work. It satisfies some in body but no doubt not all in the body. Returning to the metaphor, if you're craving meatloaf, and it's been too long since we've served it, let us know. Sure, we should know without being told but sometimes a reminder gets the menu fixed better, faster. Loving you as you grow in love with God helps define us.

Sarah +

Bishop's Visit

Confirmation and Reception

Congratulations Tara Olds, Suzanne Egan, Ben Weeks and Brett Rhinehardt



Lenten Series

Christian Formation 4th Rotation



Praying in Color
Thursday Nights
in Lent
Join us on
**March 1st, 8th,
15th & 22nd**

As we pray the scriptures and color the Stations of the Cross which will be used for our

Good Friday Service.

All are Welcome

Sunday March 4th at the 9:30 hour.

Adults and Youth will continue their discussion on
The Path.

Children ages 4 through 5th grade continue to
learn the stories of The Bible.

Nursery is always provided for children under the
age of 4.

***No Sunday School on Palm Sunday or Easter**



Holy Week Services March 25 - April 1st



Sun.	8:30 Palm Sunday Service 11:00 Palm Sunday Service	St. Mark's Mama Mia's
Mon.	7:00 pm Family Seder Service	St. Mark's
Tues.	7:00 pm Healing Service	St. Mark's
Wed.	7:00 pm Dramatization	St. Mark's
Thurs.	7:00 pm Foot washing & Altar Stripping	St. Mark's
Fri.	7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	St. Mark's
Sun.	8:30 & 11:00 Easter Eucharist	St. Mark's

FORMATION INFO.

Why Seder (סדר) Service

Have you ever wondered why St. Mark's, a Christian Church, celebrates a Jewish tradition?

The Seder Service is one of the largest celebrations in the Jewish faith. It remembers the ancient story of Israel's redemption from bondage in Egypt. It came to be known as the Passover Feast. The service includes the ten plagues of Moses, the lamb's blood, and many other Jewish traditions.



This feast also played a major role in the life of Jesus and his many followers. Jesus, being Jewish would have celebrated Passover many times over. During his final days, it was the meal he ate with his disciples in the upper room.

The purpose of the Seder is to afford us the opportunity to recall the dramatic miraculous events which led to the exodus from an ancient land of slavery. We encounter this service in a manner similar to Jesus. We eat as Jesus ate. We pray the same prayers Jesus prayed. Holy week begins with a memorial that Jesus took part in year after year.

Come, be a part of our Seder Service this year on March 26th at 7pm. Let our youth lead you back in time to worship, eat, fellowship, and pray just as Jesus did. Come just as you are to a tradition many Jewish people in our community have called "A wonderful remembrance of their faith, tradition, and heritage." A few other Jewish community members who have shared with us have said, "It was just like being at the Seder in my house in Jerusalem with my grandparents."

Make sure to sign up in Osborne Hall if you would like to be a part of this great tradition. Also, if you feel so inclined we need a few items brought on Sunday the 25th. Sign up for those in Osborne Hall as well.

Upcoming Events

Lenten Series Each Thursday at 7pm during Lent

Parents Night out Fundraiser March 10th (Youth Fundraiser For Summer Missions)

Seder Meal Prep March 25th · 3:30-6:30pm

Seder Meal March 26th 7pm (Youth arrive no later than 5:15pm)



JOIN US

Saturday March 17th

10:30am -2pm

At the McCrorey YMCA

Games, Sports, Swimming, Hot Dog Bar
and more!

The Staff Families of Ranson Middle School with the people of St. Marks are getting together for fellowship, food and fun. **Come for the day or just a few hours.**

If you would like to help on the day to facilitate games, serve food, greet people, set up or clean up please contact Sarah Milholland sarahmilholland@stmarksnc.org

*Bring your gym shoes, bathing suits, game faces and awesome attitudes.

** Pool opens from 12pm -2pm. All other facilities available from 10:30am-2pm

Save the Date



for

St. Mark's Annual Baseball Outting

to

The Charlotte Knights at BB&T Ballpark in Charlotte

On Friday April 27th

at 7pm

Tickets are \$17 each and will go on sale
mid March

See Marsha Phillips for additional information

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS

Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour
on

Sunday March 11th





Birthdays

Steph Ryan Herrin - 3/2
 Riley Milholland - 3/3
 David Stephens - 3/5
 Vincent Boyle - 3/6
 Alan Kathman - 3/7
 Jessica DuBois - 3/9
 Mallory Savage - 3/11
 Greg Weeks - 3/15
 Robert James - 3/17
 Jordana Gheraibeh - 3/21
 Nolan McKernan - 3/22
 Elizabeth Wilson - 3/25
 James Woolley - 3/25
 Aiden Hollar - 3/27
 Chris Kendrick - 3/27
 Hannah Savage - 3/27
 Don Siegel - 3/28
 Jerry Schroeder - 3/29
 Jim Wilson - 3/30

Anniversaries

Philip & Melanie Blythe - 3/5
 Michael & Elizabeth Havens - 3/5
 Rev. Ty & Debra Smithdeal - 3/18
 Richard & Mary Beth Masline - 3/19

Prayers for continued healing:

Richard & Mary Beth Masline	Martha Ann Springer
Saunders & Billy Black	The Mason Family
Jackie Blythe	Bob Egan
George Ann Beam	Vivien Edgerton
Annemarie Lafreniere	Marcia Nelson
Bette Barber	Johnny Redman
Christopher Heinshon	Justin Wilson
Michele Fulton	Doris Webb
Glenn Gleason	
Kathy Merchandetti	

New Members:

Phyllis Barnwell
Bob & Suzanne Egan
James Matthies & Natalie Engel
Dale & Theresa Smith

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Ian & Liesel Doolittle - 3/2
Mark & Lacy Hamilton - 3/9
Scott & Penny Brett - 3/16
Willard & Barbara Osburn - 3/23
Don & Debbie Siegel - 3/30

W.I.N.E.



Women in Need of Entertainment

March 19th

at the home of

**Dawn Middleton
9435 Brighthaven Lane
Charlotte**

704-237-4057

Please bring a bottle of wine or a dish to share. If you don't have time for either just bring yourself.

We are also collecting clorox wipes, Kleenex & Purell as the flu season has wiped out Ranson's supply.

Monetary donations are also welcome.

Sign up Below

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044faaa828ab9-stmarks>

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



**St. Mark's Muses Book Club
will meet on**

Thursday March 8th at 10am

at the home of

Lynnda Jordan

4600 Dellfield Way

980 237 6176

Our discussion will be on

Garden Spells

by Sarah Addison Allen

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

704-595-7957



"As of January 2nd, 2018, 96 cards have been turned in, for a total pledge of \$340,775.00 (\$3,549 avg. per unit)

The necessary pledge total, according to the proposed budget is \$390,000.

We are 87% 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."



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

2018 Stewardship Update

	2018 Budgeted	January YTD Actual
Current Pledge Total	\$340,775	\$56,655
All other anticipated income		
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$20,000	\$2,314
Other Income (use of space by outside groups)	\$17,000	\$1,600
Sales Tax Refunds	\$2,000	\$557
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	<u>\$32,750</u>	<u>\$2,729</u>
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$412,525	\$63,855
2018 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$264,004	\$21,564
Diocesan Support	\$43,545	\$3,621
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$59,821	\$1,130
Office Administration & Other	\$26,215	\$2,989
Youth & Christian Formation	\$13,705	\$ 170
Outreach & Escuelita Support	\$14,300	\$2,800
Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Parish Retreat	\$13,350	\$
Worship & Music	\$ 3,500	\$
%7 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average	<u>\$23,854</u>	
Total 2017 Budgeted Expenses	\$462,203	\$32,274
Current Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over disbursements	\$(49,678)	31,581
2018 pledge notes	96 pledge cards of 143 have been received	
	Average Pledge \$3,550	

***Year to Date Pledge Fulfillment 17%**