



# 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 - June 2019

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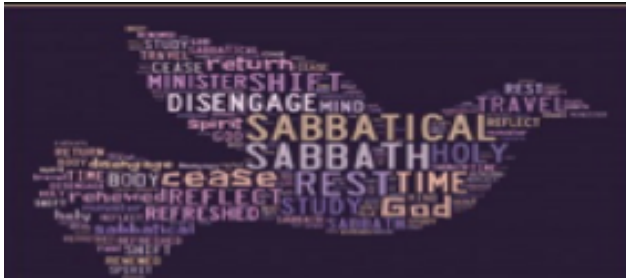
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## A time apart

Researchers at the Alban Institute, a go-to resource offering research-based consulting on conflict, transitions, mission in congregations and ministerial life found with the church in a period of rapid change, with pastoral responsibilities regularly requiring attention over and above normal business hours, with the growing expectation that parish ministry will be staff centered rather than volunteer based, the likelihood of burnout increases.

Burnout makes both ministry and the minister dull, hollow, and uninteresting. Time apart provides opportunity for both clergy and congregations to refresh, reengage, and reimagine. Three months of sabbatical rest and renewal every five to seven years has proven mutually beneficial for thriving churches.

The Diocese of North Carolina agrees. Its policy on Sabbatical Leaves states, "Every priest who works in the church in the Diocese of North Carolina is eligible for periodic 'Sabbath leaves.' The benefits of such a time for *the clergy* are refreshment of mind and spirit, growth in personal commitment and spiritual awareness, a renewed vision, and rededication to the work setting. For *the congregation*, sabbaticals provide the experience of different leadership and an opportunity to rethink ministry, the mission of the parish and the meaning of Sabbath rest itself.

The goals of this time apart include expanding one's perception of mission and ministry, understanding current developments in church and/or society, and providing for personal or spiritual renewal. Activities to meet these goals include directed study, participation in continuing education events, pilgrimages, retreats, writing, and taking time for rest and recreation."

Following the advice of congregational experts, observing diocesan policy, and appreciating the direction of St. Mark's vestry, I'm paying attention to an internal call to pause. I begin a sabbatical leave following the 11:00 service on the Feast of Pentecost, June 9<sup>th</sup> and will return to my priestly and administrative duties the Tuesday following Labor Day, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In that time apart, Bishop William O. Gregg will preach and preside over the Eucharist all but two Sundays and will be available for pastoral emergencies during the week. Our parish staff, Sarah Milholland, Cindy Thrower, Bob Clark, Alex Ancona, with our two stalwart wardens, Beth Hunt and David Fahey and our highly competent vestry members will ensure our congregational wellbeing continues uninterrupted.

As summer is resident seminary and youth mission season, Matt Addington will be on and off site through the season. September 8<sup>th</sup>, my first Sunday back, a 9:30 service, parish picnic and Rally Day activities are already planned!

For the curious, some of my time off the hill will be used for travel, some for time with family, some for writing spiritual retreats for Christian believers, some for studying new ways to engage the unchurched and some for undesignated fun. For the July and August Calls, I'll send updates from the road.

While away, I'll be praying for you hoping you are doing the same for me. Here's to a restorative summer for us all.

Sabbath blessings,

*Sarah +*



**June 9th**  
**Join us in celebrating this day: Wear Red!**

The Christian holy day of **Pentecost**, is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter. It is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks.

The disciples were together in Jerusalem after Jesus' Resurrection and return to heaven, fearful because he had left them. On that morning, however, "there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Because of the festival, crowds of visitors were in Jerusalem, speaking many languages, but the disciples of Jesus moved among them and spoke to them all, and "every man heard them speak in his own language" about "the wonderful works of God." Peter then made a powerful speech to the crowds in the city, and many were baptized as new followers of Jesus.



All,

I'm pleased to share that the process for adding a new fellowship hall to our beautiful campus on the hill continues to move forward.

As you know, we have secured a \$1.4 million loan, engaged an architect and general contractor, and developed plans for construction. We are now working on the final pre-construction step — approval from the Standing Committee of the Diocese of North Carolina, a requirement before we can break ground.

The committee asked us to do a bit more research into the tax implications of using the barn as a wedding venue, and to seek the guidance of a business consulting firm to help ensure we've asked all the right questions before proceeding to construction. We are doing these steps now.

Along the way, we learned another Episcopal congregation — St. Peter's in the Great Valley, just outside of Philadelphia has had a barn/worship space/wedding venue on its campus for 20 years. In talking with folks there, we confirmed that St. Mark's need for more space, the sacrament of marriage, and the demand for our beautiful church and grounds as a wedding venue, are a powerful combination for our church, its ministries, and our desire to know God and make him known.

You may remember we were hoping construction would be under way by now. It turns out our initial timeline was a bit optimistic, as so often happens. We now expect to present our final plans to the Standing Committee in the next several weeks, and to have a decision from them by mid- to late June.

The steps the Standing Committee asked us to take have solidified our belief that our plan to continue doing God's work using the resources He's provided us on this hill is strong and will strengthen St. Mark's for a long time to come.

Please let me or another Vestry member know if you'd like to know more about the project and/or process.

Blessings to you and yours,

Beth Hunt

Senior Warden

# SUMMER HYMNS

Summer Worship will continue with 2 services at 8:30 am & 11am



Pick your favorite hymn for Summer. Do you have an old favorite, a childhood classic or a tune you heard as a visitor?

Thumb through the hymnal, pick a number, write down the title, jot down the theme. Give us any idea to go on and we will try to incorporate your favorites on a Sunday before Labor day. You can fill out the form in the Sunday bulletin and place

it in the offering plate or you can email your selection to Alex Ancona @ [awancona@gmail.com](mailto:awancona@gmail.com) by June 23rd.



**JUNE 2nd**

**Our youth will lead in  
worship  
at both services  
and we will recognize  
our graduating seniors.**

**Join us at 8:30 or  
11am**

## Get to Know our Graduating Seniors



### Nathan Kendrick

I have been a member at St. Mark's for 15 years. I love rugby, working out, watching movies, and Dungeons & Dragons. After graduation I will be attending UNCW to study film. One of my favorite experiences with the youth was my first EOC. I enjoyed the entire camp and felt really accomplished plowing and clearing out all the trash.

### Matthew Kathman

I've been a member at St. Mark's all my life. Though I have a lot of things I like to do with my time, my absolute favorite has to be eating Marsha's cookies. Now that I've graduated, I'm going to study computer science at UNCC. A fun fact about me is that I have a long haired Peruvian guinea pig named Swiffer. I remember the thrill of tubing on the lake at the summer youth meet-up, and the incredibly intense moment where Nathan, who was tubing alongside me, said the following - and I'll never forget it - "I- I'm slipping!" before shooting off into the horizon like an arrow, landing in the lake with a splash.



# Formation Info.



## Summer Is Almost Here!

As summer arrives, often we think of a slower pace, a relaxing evening, swimming pools, vacations, catching fireflies, ice cream, and no school. While some of this may be true, the life of our youth and children here at St. Mark's is far from relaxing. As you may know, summer is really the time where all of our theology, all of our prayer, all of our conversations from the year come alive. Below you see the scheduled events for the Youth & Children of St. Mark's.

### **Wilmington Past & Present Mission Experience July 21-25**

### **Episcopal Outreach Camp - July 28-31**

These experiences will both include elements of manual labor and age appropriate conversations around inclusion and reconciliation for all of God's creation. If your youth are interested in any of these events please see Matt for more information.

### **HUGS Camp - July 6-13**

This year, St. Mark's has several youth who will be helper campers at HUGS Camp. This is a nationally recognized camp for all age children with disabilities. As helper campers, high school aged youth are partnered with a camper and they spend the week with them helping this camper enjoy a true camp experience to the best of their ability. This is a week that most never forget, and everyone who helps always comes back with a new perspective on life.



St. Mark's has done it again! Thanks goes out to all members who supported the Teacher Appreciation Gift Baskets during Teacher Appreciation Week. With donations of gift items and monetary donations we doubled the number of baskets we were able to provide for the drawings. Also a special thank you to Debbie Heggan for leading us in decorating cookies for teachers.



**Support La Escuelita San Marcos** - As we see this year's children graduate to public schools please consider making a donation to support La Escuelita San Marcos. 75% of the cost of the program comes from donations and grants. Because of religious affiliations, we are more dependent on personal donations than grants from businesses. Checks can be written to La Escuelita San Marcos. If your employer provides matching funds you can donate amounts of \$250 or more to La Escuelita San Marcos through Children and Family services.

Go to: <http://www.childrenfamily.org/>. Find the La Escuelita San Marcos logo at the bottom of the screen and "click to donate". Note in the personal message if there will be matching funds and the source of those funds. Complete and submit the donation form. You will receive an email receipt for the donation. Remember to complete your matching fund request through your company. Where possible indicate the purpose is La Escuelita San Marcos.

## Preschool Sunday and Graduation





### **Birthdays**

Jennifer Addington - 6/5  
 Flo Flores – 6/5  
 Lorraine Lenardson – 6/5  
 Rustin McWhorter - 6/5  
 Jonathan Hines - 6/6  
 Tom Watson - 6/9  
 Teresa Pouliot – 6/11  
 Marilyn Wooten - 6/11  
 Whitney Hollar - 6/14  
 TJ Tatlow – 6/14  
 Amy Weeks – 6/14  
 Jeff Serra – 6/18  
 Patricia Woolley - 6/18  
 Mark Hamilton - 6/20  
 Drake Vanevenhoven – 6/25  
 Scott Hundertmark - 6/27  
 Tom Mooney – 6/27  
 Garrett Zinno – 6/27

### **Anniversaries**

James & Doreen Anding – 6/5  
 Scott & Penny Brett - 6/8  
 Chris & Mary Kendrick - 6/13  
 Alan & Lesli Kathman - 6/26  
 Douglas & Angela McDowell - 6/27  
 Jerry & Mary Schroeder - 6/29

### **Prayers for continued healing:**

Willard Osburn      Richard & Mary Beth Masline  
 Saunders & Billy Black      Martha Ann Springer  
 Bob Egan      Phyllis Barnwell  
 Mike Wilson  
 Elena Michel and her family

### **New Members:**

**Josh Witt & Bethany Cinq-Mars**

### **Panera Bread Pick-Up**

**Don & Debbie Siegel – 6/7  
 Scott Hundertmark – 6/14  
 Mark & Lacy Hamilton – 6/21  
 Jeff & Janine Marek – 6/28**



Join the men of the church for

**“Thirstday”, Thursday**

(A testosterone friendly answer to WINE.)

**June 13th at 6:30pm**

We will gather at

**Twenty-Six Acres Brewing Company  
7285 W. Winds Blvd NW  
Concord, NC 28027**

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**

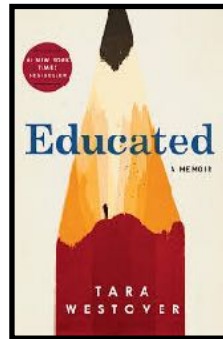
**June 17th @ 6:30pm**

at the home of

Jordana Gheraibeh  
11314 Heritage Green Drive  
Cornelius, NC 28031

**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](mailto:allibrett@gmail.com) or  
Dawn Middleton [dawnmiddleton@bellsouth.net](mailto:dawnmiddleton@bellsouth.net)  
with any questions



St Mark's Muses Book Club

Join us on Thursday

**June 13th**

**@ 10am**

at the home of

**Jennifer Klebaur  
3612 Armitage Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28269**

We will be discussing

**Educated**

by

**Tara Westover**

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](mailto:gnvhinkle@yahoo.com) or 704-595-7957

# Fellowship

Sunday June 9th 6pm-8pm

Concerts on the Green Davidson



Join us **Sunday June 9th from 6-8pm** in Davidson on the town green. The Band of Oz will be performing beach variety music. The event is free of charge. Bring a lawn chair, picnic, snacks, a cooler and join fellow St. Markers for a fun evening. We will have a designated spot. Contact Amy Sparks with any questions @ [aetsparks@gmail.com](mailto:aetsparks@gmail.com) or 704-942-1129. (adult beverage permitted)

Here is the link for more information.

[http://www.concertsonthegreen.com/index\\_05-19\\_june9\\_bandofoz.htm](http://www.concertsonthegreen.com/index_05-19_june9_bandofoz.htm)

*\* This is a popular event and band so come early.*

Look for additional fellowship opportunities during the summer.

July 12th White water center

August 18th Hot dog Sunday



Annual Audit

Volunteers Needed

July 27th

8:30am - 2pm

Please consider giving your time and help us with the Annual Audit which is an annual requirement. No experience is necessary. Lunch will be provided. Contact Eileen Lampro with questions, for additional information or to volunteer. [eorpmal@gmail.com](mailto:eorpmal@gmail.com)

## 2019 Stewardship Update

	2019 Budget	April 2019 YTD Actual
Current Pledged Income	\$342,390	\$138,404
All other anticipated income		
<b>Non-Pledge Offerings</b>	\$20,000	\$9,426
<b>Other Income (use of space by outside groups)</b>	\$17,000	\$3,580
<b>Sales Tax Refunds</b>	\$ 5,000	\$4,145
<b>Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income</b>	<u>\$33,360</u>	<u>\$11,120</u>
<b>Total Budgeted Operating Income</b>	<b>\$417,750</b>	<b>\$166,675</b>
2018 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
<b>Staff</b>	\$264,950	\$86,012
<b>Diocesan Support</b>	\$40,512	\$13,504
<b>Campus Maintenance &amp; Utilities</b>	\$55,447	\$14,176
<b>Office Administration &amp; Other</b>	\$27,450	\$ 8,701
<b>Youth &amp; Christian Formation</b>	\$12,190	\$ 1,592
<b>Outreach &amp; Escuelita Support</b>	\$14,400	\$ 5,447
<b>Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship &amp; Parish Retreat</b>	\$ 7,100	\$ 1,273
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	\$ 2,765	\$ 717
<b>%4 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average</b>	<b><u>\$13,596</u></b>	
<b>Total 2018 Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$438,466</b>	<b>\$131,422</b>
Current Excess/ <b>Deficit</b> of receipts over disbursements	<b>\$20,760</b>	<b>\$35,253</b>

**\*Year to Date Pledge Fulfillment 40%**

**Legacy Update: 44 pledges have been made totaling \$175,140.00**