



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 - February 2018

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Got Lent?

From the invitation to observe a Holy Lent in the Ash Wednesday service come these words, "Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have -to renew their repentance and faith." A few Sundays ago, the concept of repentance showed up in the Gospel lesson and we were reminded that the word comes from the Greek word *metnoia* which means to understand something differently after thinking it over. In the Greek world of the time, the mind was connected to the body, so to change one's mind would necessarily lead to change in one's action. Jesus began his ministry calling people to change their minds so that they could enter the wonderful, welcoming dream God cast for all creation. Jesus suggested the world values things God does not. If we put on God's values, our lives improve. Look to God's values and think about accepting them as your own, he proclaimed. Act on your change of mind. See what happens.

I've been wondering if how we observe a Holy Lent needs a *metnoia*. For some, a period of fasting, of giving up things that bring us pleasure puts us in mind of Christ's gift of love for us, of his tremendous sacrifice on our behalf. But for others, maybe rethinking how we relate to Jesus, how we interact with Christ might be more helpful. If for a period of forty days, we took up a practice of praying with our Lord in an intentional way, a new way, would we come to Easter morning as something new?

We have three opportunities for Lenten study and worship detailed inside but a completely different tack might be to buy a journal or notepad and draw a picture for Jesus every day of Lent or to eat a piece of chocolate every single day of Lent and as you eat each morsel say, thank you Lord for the redemption of my soul and for the eternal on-going gift of life with my Father in heaven.

Is it ironic? Is it coincidental that this year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day and Easter on April's Fool? In this year of achingly distressing news, do we need a unique way of honoring the singularly most transformational event in human history? Fasting, giving up pleasures, taking on disciplines is

the traditional and commended way to observe the season but any way that draws us into deeper communion with our Savior at this time of year is to be encouraged.

Beloved, find a way, some way to understand something about Jesus Christ in a new way. Meet him in an activity, a practice that moves your soul. Think creatively. Light on some idea that will inspire you to stay the course through the entire Lenten season.

Blessings on your time with the one who came to bring us Good News and Life Everlasting.

Keeping faith with you,

Sarah +



Bishop's Visitation

February 18th 9:30

Please welcome **The Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple**, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of North Carolina when she makes the bishop's annual visit to St. Mark's.

During Bishop Hodges-Copple's time with us, she will use our **9:30 adult formation time** to speak to the Episcopal Church's place in the Jesus Movement now unfolding globally. She will articulate more clearly our call to be co-creators of "The Beloved Community." Come hear how this church-wide initiative supports our recent parish work in understanding racism in our community and our role in becoming a bridge to reconciliation. At **11:00**, she will **preach, preside** over the Holy Eucharist and **confirm, receive, and reaffirm members** who through study, discussion, personal examination, prayer and discernment now reassert the promises made at their Baptism.

Following that service, we will fete the bishop and honor those presented for the various forms of Confirmation in **Osborne Hall**. As the reception ends, Bishop Hodges-Copple will meet our vestry to hear St. Mark's plans and add her thoughts as to the direction of The Episcopal Church, the Diocese of North Carolina and our particular place in God's kingdom.

Sunday the 18th will be a special opportunity to see ourselves in the broader context of the Anglican Communion and 21st century Christendom. It will also be an occasion to welcome new members into our parish family.



An Invitation to a Holy Lent: February 14th

Begins with these Words from the Ash Wednesday Liturgy:

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have - to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Ash
Wednesday +

Service Times February 14th

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 7:00-8:45 AM | Ashes to Go | Park & Ride |
| 12:00 | Imposition of Ashes & HE I | Church |
| 7:00PM | Imposition of Ashes & HE I | Church |

Ways to Observe Lent with your Parish Family

In Worship and Conversation Thursdays at 7:00



For 5 **Thursdays beginning February 22** we will meet in Osborne Hall to pray the scriptures and color together the Stations of the Cross we will use for our Good Friday service. Stations of the Cross or the Way of the Cross, also known as Way of Sorrows or Via Crucis, refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. The stations grew out of imitations of Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem which is believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. The object of the stations is to help the Christians faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. It has become one of the most popular devotions and the stations can be found in many Western Christian churches, including Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, and Roman Catholic ones.

Commonly, a series of 14 images will be arranged in numbered order along a path and the faithful travel from image to image, in order, stopping at each station to say the selected prayers and reflections. This will be done individually or in a procession most commonly during Lent, especially on Good Friday.

As we color, we'll read the scripture we're drawing, pray and discuss, finding deeper meaning in our time together.

- Station 1: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-41)
- Station 2: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested (Mark 14:43-46)
- Station 3: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin (Luke 22:66-71)
- Station 4: Jesus is Denied by Peter (Matthew 26:69-75)
- Station 5: Jesus is Judged by Pilate (Mark 15:1-5, 15)
- Station 6: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns (John 19:1-3)
- Station 7: Jesus Bears the Cross (John 19:6, 15-17)
- Station 8: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross (Mark 15:21)
- Station 9: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem (Luke 23:27-31)
- Station 10: Jesus is Crucified (Luke 23:33-34)
- Station 11: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief (Luke 23:39-43)
- Station 12: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciples (John 19:25-27)
- Station 13: Jesus Dies on the Cross (Luke 23:44-46)
- Station 14: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb (Matthew 27:57-60)

Ways to Observe Lent with your Parish

In Personal Prayer, Study and Reflection



Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John is a six-week journey into deeper intimacy with God through praying with the words of John the Evangelist. You can download a beautiful 60-page journal which inspires meditation on a daily verse from John, encouraging participants to respond through words, images, or however the Spirit leads. Subscribe online to also receive a [daily short video](https://www.ssje.org/meetingjesusinjohn/) in which a monastic brother from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist shares comments on the daily Gospel verse, having a relationship with Jesus, and possibilities for further reflection. Ideal for small groups or individual use. Go to <https://www.ssje.org/meetingjesusinjohn/>

In Adult Formation Sundays at the 9:30 hour



In Sundays of Lent, we will continue our journey through Holy Scripture observing the arc of God's love, mercy, justice, forgiveness and continuous redemption of creation including Humankind and our often head strong response. The chapters we read in **The Path** over those weeks cover Jesus' ministry from the calling of the Disciples through the Crucifixion.



**Welcome the Newly Baptised
Madeleine Fisher**

**with parents
Michael and Christina Fisher**

FORMATION INFO.

The Theology Of Bread

On January 20th, the youth had an SNL cooking class with our very own Sue Bartlett. The theme of the meal was bread. We had homemade bread, a bread salad, breakfast casserole, Tuscan White Bean & Bread Soup, Tomato Gratin, & Bread Pudding.

Bread/grains is the most consumed bread in the world. They are truly the core of our diets. The bread of life is a valid statement both physically and spiritually. Every Sunday we consume bread at the altar and go out into the world as the hands and feet of Christ.

What if we look at this bread as a symbol of all humanity? There thousands of uses for bread. They have different purposes, are prepared differently, and have different textures. The same can be said about humanity. We look different. We think different. We encounter God different. But we are still "bread." We are still Children of God.

What would the world look like if we came to live each day where we saw Beloved Children of God instead of gay or straight, legal or illegal, Muslim or Christian, democrat or republican? This month, as we begin lent, maybe instead of giving something up, we consume more of the the Bread of Life and engage humanity with the understanding that we are all Beloved Children of God and use that message as a recipe for our daily journeys.



Upcoming Events

Arh Wed. Feb 14th

Lenten Series Begins Feb. 22nd

Bishop's Ball - Feb 23-25 (Register Online)

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



CHRISTIAN FORMATION BRUNCH

**Join us Sunday February 25th
at the 9:30 hour**

Take a break from our regularly scheduled Sunday School classes.
Come enjoy fellowship, brunch and various discussions
including a legacy update.

Our next rotation will begin on Sunday March 4th



Race In America

Discussions Continue on Monday February 12th and Monday February 26th

At Ranson Middle School

5850 Statesville Rd, Charlotte, NC 28269

Feb. 12 @5:30 (simple dinner) Program @6pm



Dr. Amy Hawn Nelson will offer a presentation on the segregation/desegregation/re-segregation of CMS, where we are and how we got here. This will be at Ranson IB Middle School.

Amy Hawn Nelson is a member of the Research Faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, and serves as the Director of Training and Technical Assistance for Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy, an initiative out of UPenn that focuses on the development, use, and innovation of integrated data systems (IDS) for policy analysis and program reform. Prior to joining AISP in 2017, Dr. Hawn Nelson was the Director of Social Research for the UNC Charlotte

Urban Institute and Director of the Institute for Social Capital, an IDS charged with supporting university research and enhancing data-informed decision-making in the Charlotte region. Prior to entering the world of IDS' in 2012, Hawn Nelson served as a teacher and school leader for 11 years. She is a community engaged researcher generally focusing on intersectional topics related to education policy, and was selected as a Charlottean of the Year in 2015 largely due to her research and community engagement around issues of educational equity. She is a co-editor of *Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: School Desegregation and Resegregation in Charlotte* (Feb. 2015, Harvard Education Press).

Feb. 26 @5:30 (simple dinner) Program @6pm



Janeen Bryant will facilitate a community organizing 101 class. At the end, Ranson parents, students, teachers and St. Mark's people will determine the issue that resonates, the question that provokes and set about getting answers. Answers to those questions will lead us to our strategy for effective action.

Ms. Bryant earned her master's degree in management and leadership from Montreat College and her bachelor's degree from Davidson College. Today, she serves on the board of a local non-profit called Leadership for Educational Equity. The organization encourages Teach for America corps members and alumni to grow as leaders in their communities and help build the broader movement for educational

equity. She also continues to teach students in classrooms, museums, and according to Bryant, wherever she can act as a mechanism for change. Ms. Bryant is also a parent of a RMS student.

Ranson Middle School Mid Year School Supply Drive



Please help us replenish school supplies for the scholars at RMS. The year is half way over and supplies are running low. We will collect supplies through Sunday February 4th. Suggested supplies can be found on the list below. Monetary donations are also welcome if you don't have time to shop. Please contact Liz Gail with any questions. lgail16@outlook.com or 704-597-8252

pencils
mechanical pencils
composition notebooks
binders
earbuds
copy paper
kleenex
markers
colored pencils
pencil sharpeners
liquid glue
3 subject notebooks
chapstick
post it notes
colored construction paper
scissors
posterboard



La Escuelita San Marcos is growing!

We have added a 2 year old program in response to parent requests and our projected 4 – 6 children quickly became 7.

Ms. Anabel joined our staff to lead the class which meets Tuesday – Thursday each week.

Children are learning to socialize, and become part of a group of friends.

They take part in fine and gross motor activities and enjoy play time, story time and independent “reading” time.

The 4 year old class is teaching them their songs and routines and the 3 year old class joins them at art and story times. All the children enjoy the playground together, as often as weather permits.

In addition

La Escuelita has moved to a Collaborative model, in which parents are active participants in the daily learning in the classroom. Twice a month, our Teacher Moms (Mamas Maestras) or Grandmas co-teach in their child’s class. We reinforce positive discipline and age/ development – appropriate expectations. This way, Kindergarten readiness can be reinforced at home as well as in La Escuelita. This model helps build community and helps parents break the isolation often found when starting over in a new country.





Birthdays

Marsha Phillips - 2/1
 Philip Blythe - 2/2
 Karen Cardenas – 2/2
 Cheryl Jones - 2/2
 James Anding – 2/4
 Marion Johannsson – 2/6
 John Middleton - 2/6
 Rachel Sparks - 2/6
 Thomas Blythe - 2/8
 Sarah Fahey - 2/10
 Jeremy Michael - 2/11
 Rich Zinno - 2/12
 Doreen Anding – 2/13
 Will Blythe - 2/13
 Linda Holst – 2/16
 Matthew Kathman - 2/17
 Martin Osborne - 2/18
 Ben Weeks – 2/18
 Carrick Gambill - 2/19
 John Pouliot - 2/19
 Allison Rhinehardt - 2/19
 Lynnda Jordan – 2/20
 Ty McDowell - 2/20
 Alice Bayne - 2/21
 Ian Kendrick - 2/21
 Jan Daubener - 2/22
 Hattie DuBois – 2/25
 Ed Reade – 2/25
 Marty Fulton – 2/27
 Amy Sparks - 2/27
 Joe Layman – 2/28

Anniversaries

Thomas & Doris Blythe - 2/2
 David & Tricia Stephens - 2/8
 Sid & Heather Linker – 2/19
 Brett & Allison Rhinehardt - 2/25

Prayers for continued healing:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Richard & Mary Beth Masline | Martha Ann Springer |
| Saunders & Billy Black | Larry Reilly |
| Jackie Blythe | George Ann Beam |
| The Mason Family | Bette Barber |
| Vivien Edgerton | Christopher Heinshon |
| Marcia Nelson | Michele Fulton |
| Johnny Redman | |
| Bob Egan | |

Panera Bread Pick-Up

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

A Time for Love...Happy Valentines Day!



When my Dad, Jack Stuart passed away on 11-7-2017, my world and my family's world became much different. For me, the worry that had lived in my heart for the past couple of years due to my dad's health was moving out and that feeling of freedom from worry was moving in. This was a good thing. But, the next emotion that showed up was totally unexpected. I, like many of you of my age, now have no father or mother. Betsy Lloyd made the comment, "it's kind of like being an orphan". She was so right. This orphan felt like that never failing,

unconditional, I would give my life for you love was now gone forever. I once again found myself wrapped up in a different kind of "worry". That's where you all come in. Since my Dad's death, we have received forty-two cards from you, with messages that truly touched my soul in ways you will never know. Some of the cards were very personal, all were sincere and all came from love. I reread these cards, I look at the numerous text messages and e-mails that have been sent to me during the last couple of months. I treasure the phone calls, hugs, smiles and winks during church and my prayer shawl is within close reach. How do people deal with a loss of a love one when they don't have the love of their church family? I have pondered this question with a few of you. We all had the same response, "I just don't know". I do know this as fact. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all you soul and He will place your husband closely by your side to lean on and then He will create a sacred circle to enclose you with love that heals. You all are my circle. I have been blessed with the biggest, best circle a girl could ever imagine. I truly feel loved and I want you to know that I love you, more than you will ever know.

Jackie McWhorter



Camp Gladiator has recently started using our outdoor space in the mornings for their workouts. They currently meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00am at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. If any members are interested in joining them you can contact Vanessa Parker at 252-204-1981 for additional information or sign up on their website at www.campgladiator.com. There may be an initial discount for being a St. Mark's member.

W.I.N.E.**Women in Need of Entertainment****February 19th at 6:30pm**

at the home of

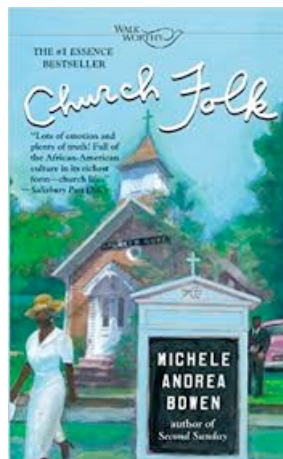
Alice Bayne**117 Creekside Dr****Mount Holly****704-747-8896**

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

Sign up Below

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054ca4a7238-wine1>

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



St. Mark's Muses Book Club will meet on

Thursday February 8th at 10am

at the home of Malinda Bivens

466 Flat Rock Drive

Denver

704-966-4716

Our discussion will be on

Church Folk by

Michele Bowen.

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 January 2nd, 2018, 95 cards have been turned in, for a total pledge of \$325,775.00 (\$3,429 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."



Your Legacy Committee

is meeting regularly to determine the best location for our new Fellowship Hall.
We will be choosing an Architect for the site and build out (we are currently evaluating two firms).

We are also reviewing code, county and state ordinances,
with Sand Creek (our builder of choice)

We are reviewing all the details prior to beginning
any Fellowship Hall engineering drawings.

We are initiating planning conversations for our Fellowship Hall and kitchen as well.

All activity is designed to understand any potential red flags as well as due diligence to develop
an operating budget.

We are blessed with creative talent well suited for the project; our members are:

Linda Amidei
Mike Tinsley
Robbie Roberts
John Lavery
Fred Vesci
David Fahey
Peter Macon

We are also rendering 3D views of the two Fellowship Hall constructions being evaluated placed in locations
determined by survey.

We intend to make these available to our parish after our vestry reviews them.
These renderings will help in the understanding of our intentions and aesthetic.

Both architects agree on the feasibility, look on the property, and our planned execution.



2017 Stewardship Update

| | 2017 Budgeted | December YTD Actual |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Current Pledge Total | \$361,355 | \$326,798 |
| All other anticipated income | | |
| Non-Pledge Offerings | \$28,720 | \$24,805 |
| Other Income (use of space by outside groups) | \$11,400 | \$ 12,970 |
| Sales Tax Refunds | \$2,500 | \$ - |
| Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income | <u>\$35,000</u> | <u>\$ 32,750</u> |
| Total Budgeted Operating Income | \$438,975 | \$397,324 |
| 2016 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry | | |
| Staff | \$263,255 | \$255,670 |
| Diocesan Support | \$38,908 | \$38,908 |
| Campus Maintenance & Utilities | \$57,480 | \$ 53,012 |
| Office Administration & Other | \$28,865 | \$ 25,480 |
| Youth & Christian Formation | \$13,705 | \$ 18,289 |
| Outreach & Escuelita Support | \$14,300 | \$ 11,044 |
| Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Parish Retreat | \$13,100 | \$ 9,297 |
| Worship & Music | \$ 8,370 | \$ 8,452 |
| %7 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average | <u>\$14,454</u> | |
| D | | |
| Total 2017 Budgeted Expenses | \$452,437 | \$420,153 |
| Current Excess/((Deficit) of receipts over disbursements | \$(13,462) | (22,829) |
| 2017 pledge notes | 112 pledge cards of 150 have been received | |
| | Average Pledge \$3,211 | |

***Year to Date Pledge Fulfillment 90%**



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