



J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 0

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

January 2020

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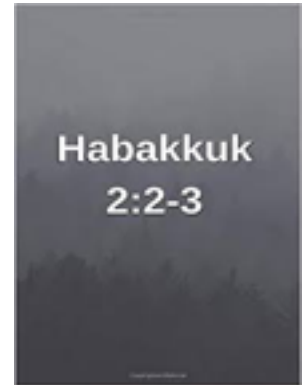
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A Gift for the New Year

Dear Ones,

2020 begins. I suspect all of us are hoping for a kinder, less anxious year. I suspect we'd appreciate the opening of a more ethical, civil and less violent decade. We'd welcome a dramatic shift in political rhetoric and a return to common courtesy and general neighborliness. We would be so grateful and very relieved to see signs of movement in that direction. That desire is not accidental nor is it isolated. Peace, peace and connectedness is woven into the human experience and is an articulation of one of our most central values.

A few days ago on my drive to work, I heard a TED talk that moved me, rocked me, made me cry and touched my heart with its pure truth. It spoke to the deepest of human yearnings and the nature of God. Father Greg Boyle gave this talk and I offer it to you. Follow the link and for 20 minutes and 39 seconds watch something tragic, beautiful, hope filled and true. There is humor and pathos, raw language and redemption. It has a line or two of scripture. It gives us reason to believe that God prospers good for us and through us. It is a good thought to begin a new year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpRokWt1Fkc>

Peace in 2020 for those we know and those with whom we are bound in kinship,

Sarah +

Epiphany

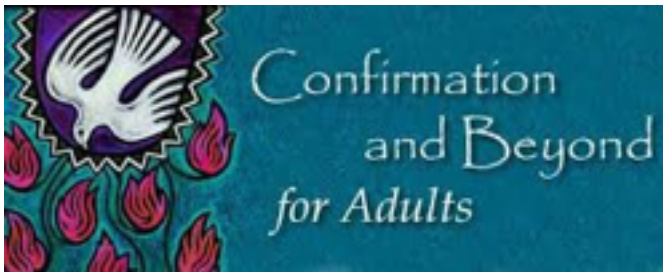


In the West, Christians began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century, associating it with the visit of the Magi (the three kings) to Bethlehem. According to the Gospel of Matthew, the three wise men, named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, followed the star of Bethlehem across the desert to meet the baby Jesus. There they offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Later tradition suggests that the three Kings represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively. The gifts they brought symbolized the importance of Jesus' birth, the gold referencing his royal standing; frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality.

The word 'Epiphany' comes from Greek and means 'manifestation'. It celebrates 'the revelation of God -in his Son- as human -in the person of Jesus Christ'. The Feast of Epiphany observed on January 6th, the day following the 12th and final day of the Christmas season reminds us that Christ came to model right relationship with God, with one another and to redeem what human brokenness lays waste to in this world. The Epiphany event and the weeks following to Ash Wednesday remind us Jesus Christ is a gift for the whole world, all people, through all ages. It is a feast with specifically unifying powers.

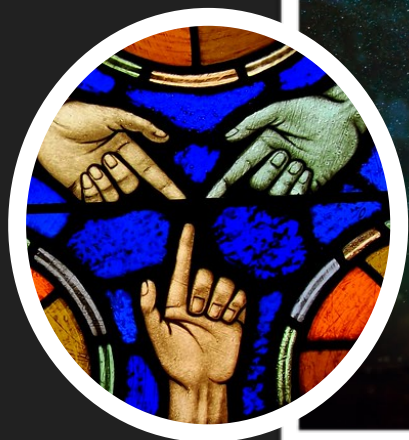
We invite you and friends to our 2019 Epiphany Feast, **Monday, January 6th at 7:00**. Like the Kings' visit, the service will be a short time of prayers and reflection. We will bless the **wise men brought from our families' personal nativity sets**. These figures will remain in the church through the season reminding us that at his birth, Christ had a message for the world beyond geography and time.

Following the service, Christmas greens from the church and our homes will blaze and **Three King Cookies** will be enjoyed.



The Bishop's Annual visit is scheduled. One of the duties of the office is to welcome members into the Episcopal Church and sacramentally acknowledge their decision to confirm the vows made at their baptism. Adults new to the church are invited to their own Confirmation preparation process. This will take place on **Sunday mornings at 9:30**. At St. Mark's, we tailor the process to the number and makeup of the participants. If you'd like to explore The Episcopal Church 101 or Introduction to Christianity, or Discovering Owned Faith please call the Church office at 704-399-5193 to register or speak to Rev. Sarah or Matt Addington. We will get you the necessary details.

Formation Info.



IN THE NEW YEAR..

As you well know, we have been asking our youth to think about the question “Who am I?” In the coming year we will begin to explore the question, “Who Are We?” Epiphany is possibly the best time of year to begin this conversation. As we the church recognizes the community of the Magi coming to recognize the Christ child and this new awakening that would follow, we are asked to take this new awakening out into the world as light and love.

Light and love will serve as our lens to begin our question, “Who are We?” This year, how will you be light and love in the word? Where will you seek to find your light and love? How does St. Mark’s offer light and love to you and the surrounding community?

Adult Formation Series #2: *Becoming...Older*



January 5th, we move from our in depth study of Benedictine Spirituality and writing our own Rule of Life to our next Adult Formation Series, Becoming... pause...pause *Older*. What was God's plan in the human aging process? What is lost and what is gained? What is natural, inevitable, true of most humans, and what is particular and specific? How do we cope with the lessening of vitality and coordination, mental agility? How do we make peace with the trajectory? What does this new stage of life afford that is worth savoring? How do we help ourselves make the transition gracefully? How do we travel with loved ones through this stage into the next? How do we say the hard true things? How do we make smart plans? How do we discover our purpose in this time of life?

Over five Sundays we'll ask and answer these questions with the help of curated resources, guest speakers and the wisdom of the body gathered. We are all becoming. We are all becoming older. Let's examine God's intent and our reluctance together.

ANGEL TREE



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Angel Tree
To date we have collected \$5,085 for camperships

Donations can still be made through January



***Checks can be made to St. Mark's**
(note campership in the memo line)

All funds appreciated. To fund a full week of camp is
\$170

December 11, 2019

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Sarah D. Hollar
8600 Mount Holly Hntrsvle Road
Huntersville, NC 28078-8475

Dear St. Mark's Episcopal Church,

YOU are the reason this is the most wonderful time of the year! We are humbled and grateful for your thoughtful gift and **blessed** to have you in our giving family.

During the holidays, the children and families we serve at Thompson feel the joy and love they deserve because of the gracious support from people like you.

They have a safe place to heal because of you. Thank you for your dedication to making them feel whole again. Your gift is already on its way to making their holidays bright!

This time of year, our hearts swell as we witness the sincere and heartfelt kindness of our supporters. You offer hope for tomorrow and the years to come. Thank you for your compassion!

Thank you!

With Joy and Peace,

Megan Mitcham

Megan Mitcham
Annual Fund Manager

P. S. – Sincere appreciation for your Thanksgiving Offering to support our children.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Gift: \$205.75

Received: 12/4/2019



THOMPSON
Strengthening Children, Families & Communities

Have you made your New Year's Resolution Yet?

Here is an idea that doesn't involve diet or exercise.

How about making a regular commitment to help others in need?

If you volunteer your time to help others, you know how wonderful you feel when you have made a difference in someone's life. As we move into the new year, we are creating new ways in which the members of St. Mark's can focus on our mission at Ranson Middle School.

Because Jon, the social worker, is pulled in to so many different situations at a moments' notice, he is in desperate need of help. We are creating **Volunteer Assistant** positions to help Jon on a regular basis. Volunteers would come on **Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am - 1pm**. These volunteers would help in the school supply closet to inventory, organize and distribute supplies and uniforms to teachers and students as well as help collect back-packs from students who are in the weekend back pack program.

Volunteers can come weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Outreach would like to ensure there are 1-2 volunteers every Monday and Wednesday that Jon can count on.

If you are trying to decide on a New Year's resolution please consider resolving to give your time.

For additional information please contact Malinda Bivens at malindabivens@bellsouth.net.



J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 0

La Escuelita San Marcos Christmas Party





Birthdays

Sean Pope – 1/2
Glen Hunt – 1/4
Molly Marshall - 1/4
Larry Leisey – 1/6
Ginger Stensby – 1/11
Molly Thompson - 1/11
Emma Hines - 1/12
Kaelyn Sparks - 1/12
Samantha Walseman – 1/13
Genny Hinkle – 1/14
Liz Gail - 1/16
David Fahey - 1/19
Sarah Benes – 1/22
Robbie Roberts – 1/22
Pierce Roberts – 1/24
Milton Sullivan – 1/25
Tony Bouldin - 1/26
Brent Sparks - 1/27
Mary Lou Blevins – 1/30
Beth Wilson - 1/30
Bridget Stein – 1/31

Anniversaries

Bill & Linda O'Connor – 1/28

Prayers for continued healing:

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

New Members:

Norveline Thomas

Michelle Cravetz

Panera Bread Pick-Up

**Mark & Lacy Hamilton -1/3
Ian & Liesel Doolittle – 1/10
Andrew & Libby James – 1/17
Alan & Lesli Kathman – 1/24
Scott & Penny Brett -1/31**



"Thirstday", Thursday

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

January 9th at 6:30 pm

We will gather at Boardwalk Billy's in the University Area

For additional information please contact
David Fahey 704-562-7587.

No RSVP required by texts welcome



WINE

Women in Need of Entertainment

January 20th @ 6:30pm
at the home of

Amy Sparks
12823 Winding Ridge Rd.
Huntersville

**Bring a a bottle of WINE or a dish to share.
If you don't have time for either, just bring
yourself.**

**If you have never been to WINE we would
love to have you. It's a great way to connect
and meet other women in the church**

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

St. Mark's Muses Book Club

We will meet on
Thursday January 16th
at 10am at St. Mark's

We will read.
Before We Were Yours
by: Lisa Wingate



**If you would like a copy of the book or need
additional information please contact**

Genny Hinkle at gnvvhinkle@yahoo.com

or

call 704 595 7957

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SAVE THE DATE
PARISH RETREAT @ CAMP CANAAN
MAY 8-10, 2020
100 acre Island on the Catawba River in
Rock Hill, South Carolina



More information coming in late
January

Come for the day or stay for the
weekend.

Join us for fun fellowship and
more.

2019 Stewardship Update

	2019 Budget	November YTD Actual
Current Pledged Income	\$343,410	\$313,012
All other anticipated income		
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$20,000	\$22,638
Other Income (use of space by outside groups)	\$17,000	\$ 12,060
Sales Tax Refunds	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,145
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	<u>\$33,360</u>	<u>\$31,140</u>
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$418,770	\$382,996
2018 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$264,950	\$242,801
Diocesan Support	\$40,512	\$ 37,136
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$55,447	\$ 40,119
Office Administration & Other	\$27,450	\$ 25,985
Youth & Christian Formation	\$12,190	\$ 8,386
Outreach & Escuelita Support	\$14,400	\$ 11,403
Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Stewardship & Parish Retreat	\$ 7,100	\$ 4,312
Worship & Music	\$ 2,765	\$ 2,331
%4 pledges unfulfilled based on historical average	<u>\$13,736</u>	
Total 2018 Budgeted Expenses	\$438,550	\$372,473
Current Excess/ Deficit of receipts over disbursements	\$19,780	\$10,523

***Year to Date Pledge Fulfillment 91%**

2020 Pledge update 92 families for a total of \$338,820.00

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