



J U L Y 2 0 2 1

The Call



May the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight o Lord our strength and our redeemer.

A Monthly Newsletter

July 2021

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The Moving Sidewalk

Dear Friends,

July is my last month with you as your part-time Interim Rector. By the end of the month, we hope that you will have a new full-time permanent rector on their way, eager to turn the page and start a new chapter in the continuing story that is St. Mark's. So this fare-thee-well letter is written at the 30,000 foot level, looking at the big picture of our limited time together.

Interims are unlike most other times in life because they begin with an ending – the departure of your previous rector; and conversely, interims end with a beginning– the arrival of your new rector.

In “normal” times, I liken an interim to a moving sidewalk at the airport. When the new rector arrives, they should be able to step onboard with a congregation that is already-in-motion, whose ministry is steadily progressing toward becoming a more and more Christlike community of faith. And it is the interim's job to keep that sidewalk in motion between the time the previous rector steps off, and the new rector steps on.

If you haven't noticed over the past year, these are not normal times. In fact, things have been abnormal for so long now, that “normal” seems to be merely a setting on the clothes dryer.

The Covid-19 Pandemic slowed down the momentum that is usual for St. Mark's. So, when I arrived in November, the sidewalk was moving a bit slowly around here. Mecklenburg County Daily Covid daily infection percentages were steadily increasing (up to 18.2% on January 5, 2021), and daily cases peaked at 1,426 new cases on December 26, 2020. Here at church, services were online, with a maximum of ten participants, the nursery was closed, the Rafters was under construction, and the nursery, Christian formation, adult social groups and youth groups were not meeting in person. On Christmas Eve, we distributed almost seven times as many communion wafers in little sealed packets to people in their cars than we did at the communion rail. All of that abnormality was necessitated by a pandemic, the likes of which we hadn't seen in over a hundred years.

Six months later, Mecklenburg County daily positive tests are down to under 2%, (54 new cases on June 9, 2020– a 96% reduction). Our services are fully open again, with no limit on the number of people who can attend, the nursery

has reopened, adult social groups are meeting, fully vaccinated people don't have to wear masks in church, thanks to your Junior Warden the Rafters is complete and open, the Wedding Venue ministry is up and running and making great strides, and the Flying Lion Transitional Ministry is cooking up a storm. I attended a wonderful graduation for La Escuelita San Marcos on May 23, 2021. Recently, we were able to accommodate two hundred and five people here safely for a funeral service and reception. By every measure, St. Mark's is working our way toward normalcy again, and the moving sidewalk is going much faster than it was just a few short months ago.

Although gaining momentum, the moving sidewalk is not back to full speed. Youth and Children's formation will not be at full speed until there is once again a professional minister devoted to their nurture and care. We have yet to return to the common cup, and we still do not know what the hybrid nature of church services will look like in the future.

It should come as no surprise that during the pandemic, we learned that some folks enjoy worshiping in their pajamas in bed with a cup of coffee on Sunday mornings. For those folks, it is safe to say that online services are here to stay. Nonetheless, we need for folks to return physically to church in order to offer their ministries and to share fellowship with one another. But to state the obvious, there are still people who are afraid of coming to church in person, and people who are afraid of vaccinations. For some, that fear is valid. Children under the age of twelve still are not able to be vaccinated against Covid. A very few people have precarious medical conditions which may make it inadvisable to be vaccinated. Most people, even with very serious conditions, are safe to take the vaccines. There is still a high risk of infection for folks who have not yet been vaccinated. For others, the fear is based on misinformation spread through social media. Before we believe something we have read from an unauthenticated source on Facebook, please be sure to check it out with reliable scientific sources.

As the first Letter of John says: "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love." So, if you are still feeling fearful about coming to church, work instead on feeling loved. And when you feel fully loved, you will no longer feel afraid.

It is clear that as my nine months here is ending, the moving sidewalk is picking up speed with each passing week, and at some point in the not-too-distant future, all of the ministries that you are accustomed to at St. Marks will be back in non-business. (The church never was a business; businesses don't give away their services like the church does.)

There is still much ministry to be done at St. Mark's. There is still occasional anxiety over things like budgets, affording the ministries we want to offer, the future of the church after Covid, and various other worries. Remember that we are only promised "daily bread." We are never promised permanent financial security, but rather that God will provide what we need right now. Also, remember that this congregation has been together since 1886. It was here long before any of us arrived, and it will be here long after we are gone. It wasn't perfect in 1886, and it's not perfect 135 years later. If it got through the flu pandemic of 1918, it will get through the pandemic of Covid-19. If it got through the Great Depression, it will get through any financial hardship we might experience today or in the future. While not perfect, this congregation is resilient. If the church were perfect, then God wouldn't have anything new for us to do. (Just imagine the boredom of that!)

From time to time, out of their kindness, some folks have said to me "We wish we could keep you and you didn't have to go." Already in the mind of God, there is a wonderful new rector waiting to come here and be with you. You need to focus on welcoming her/him into this community of faith, and helping her/him step onto the moving sidewalk without stumbling or falling. I wish you health, happiness, and every good grace of God's blessing as you attempt to be Christ's blessing for the world.

Ed

Worship offerings are listed below.

FACEBOOK FRIDAYS with JORDANA
Look for Jordana's Friday Reflections during the day.

Morning Prayer

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30am

Join via zoom link below
(passcode 654321)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5214797294?
pwd=WHNacnBUR3R4Z0xkZHIjakhwbStuQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5214797294?pwd=WHNacnBUR3R4Z0xkZHIjakhwbStuQT09)

You can access the service order with the
link below

<https://conta.cc/2vRUtpl>



**We are back to
Stage 3**

We can have unlimited
attendance on
Sunday mornings

Join us at 9:30am

Sign up to attend so we have a head count.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054-
ca4a7238-worship](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054-ca4a7238-worship)

or

Via live stream through
Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalnc>

Pick a hymn, any Hymn

It's time for our Summertime Hymn Pick

Do you have a favorite Hymn? One that you haven't heard for a while and makes you smile?

**Please send your Summer hymn recommendations to Alex Ancona and he will fit them in
where appropriate
awancona@gmail.com**



J U L Y 2 0 2 1

THE TUESDAY TABLE



Flyin' Lion and The Rafters will begin hosting
small dinner parties
on the 4th Tuesday of each month
with elegant meals prepared by
Chef Sue.

Come join us for excellent food and fine fellowship!
Limited to 10 people per month, \$25/person.
Watch for the signup genius and more information in
the coming weeks.

Our First Dinner will be July 27th at 6:30



FRESH BAKED GOODS

AVAILABLE WEEKLY

FROM THE

FLYIN' LIONS

Orders for baked goods are available for pick up each week on
Wednesdays and Fridays

Offerings change on a weekly basis so be sure to check back often to see what is available.

Orders can be placed through Breeze at the link below

<https://stmarksepiscopal.breezechms.com/form/43a794>

You can also find us at the Huntersville Farmer's Market on various Saturdays throughout the Summer.

J U L Y 2 0 2 1

JOIN US FOR LUNCH



We are inviting our parishioners to join the instructors and students for lunch
Tuesday through Friday from noon to 1pm.

Flyin' Lion will post the menu each week in the e-blast.
Reservations will need to be made no later than Sunday
following the Thursday e-blast.

We can accommodate 6 lunch guests per day.
A free will offering will be accepted.

You can find the weekly sign up links on the e-blast
or

If you do not have computer access you can call the church office to make your reservation.

Our website has now been made public.

<http://www.flyinlionministries.com>

Flyin' Lion Ministries

Linda Amidei -Administrative Coordinator

Sue Bartlett - Lead Culinary Instructor





Birthdays

Laura Fahey - 7/1
Dawn Lyons - 7/4
Richard Wisner - 7/4
Elly Thompson - 7/8
Thomas Hines - 7/11
Willard Osburn - 7/11
Richard Masline - 7/12
Jackie Jones - 7/13
Angelo Michel - 7/14
Emma Johnson - 7/19
Saunders Black - 7/20
Jayden Michel - 7/23
Anna Gambill - 7/24
Michael Ferguson - 7/25
Sara Tinsley - 7/27

Anniversaries

Greg & Amy Weeks - 7/15
Rick & Bridget Stein - 7/29

Prayers for continued healing:

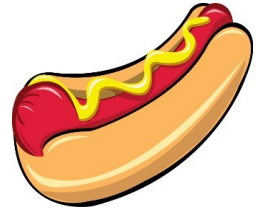
Saunders Black
Martha Ann Springer
Richard & Mary Beth Masline
Bob Chandler
Jim & Patricia Woolley
Marion Johannsson & Betsy
Tom Watson

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Brent & Amy Sparks - 7/2
Andrew & Libby James - 7/9
Alan & Lesli Kathman - 7/16
Scott Hundertmark - 7/23
Lacy Hamilton - 7/30

J U L Y 2 0 2 1

St. Mark's Family Reunion



Join your St. Mark's family for an
afternoon of fun, fellowship, &
HOTDOGS!

We have missed you and want to
celebrate together!

Mark your calendars for
Sunday, July 11th after services
We will have games & activities
for all ages.

Hotdogs will be ready by 11:00.
Bring your own chairs.



J U L Y 2 0 2 1



JULY W.I.N.E.

(Women in Need of Entertainment)

Mark your calendars for Monday, July 19th at 6:30pm

We will have WINE in

The Rafters

Bring a bottle of wine and a dish to share

If you don't have time for either just bring yourself.



DIAPER DRIVE

At July Wine please consider bringing diapers to help the families at Caterpillar Ministries

They are in need of diapers size 3 through 6.

Donations can also be dropped off at the church anytime.

Please contact Eileen Moreno with any questions eileenstackmoreno@gmail.com

St Mark's Book Club

Will be taking a break for the
Summer months.

We hope to resume when the programming
year begins.

Please contact Mandy Self Sparrow with
any questions.

mandyselfsparrow@gmail.com



Thirstday Thursday
is Scheduled to take
place on
Thursday July 8th
at 6:30pm

We plan to meet IN PERSON

Eastfield Bar and Grill

8709 Arbor Creek Drive

Charlotte

No RSVP necessary but texts welcome
to David Fahey

david.fahey@carolina.rr.com

or text to

704-562-7587

REGATHERING AND REBUILDING

As we regather on the hill without limits

our ministries are also regathering and rebuilding.

While we have had to take a break from many of the offerings we were accustomed to

We are now ready to get back up and running.

We are only able to offer what we have members to help facilitate.

Please consider the opportunities on the following pages as we get closer to the programming year.

Prayerfully consider where you might like to reengage.

ALTAR GUILD



The Altar Guild prepares the church before and after every service and occasion: laundry, polishing silver, candles, flowers, decor and cleaning.

Training is provided. New members shadow seasoned members until comfortable.

Time commitment is 1-2 times per month for regular services and extra time for seasonal occasions.

Contact Fiona Brown with questions or for additional information
febb1960@gmail.com

FLOWER GUILD



If you enjoy arranging flowers we would love to have a few more people on our rotations.

Members would purchase and arrange flowers roughly once a month through the church account for Sunday Services.

Please contact Stephanie Herrin for more information
tnsringoes@hotmail.com

REGATHERING AND REBUILDING OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

We are looking for a few chaplains to help get us back up and running Please consider this



ministry for our younger people. We cannot resume until we have a minimum of 4 Chaplains.

Time commitment is 1 hour a month or less depending on how many chaplains we have.

Training is provided

Please contact Sarah Milholland with questions or additional information
sarahmilholland@stmarksnc.org

You do not need to have kids in this age group to help with this ministry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



As we approach the middle of summer we need to start thinking about our programming year.

We would love to have a line up of teachers for all ages so that when September rolls around we are prepared to get back in the game.

If you have a love of teaching for any age or would like to try a rotation please let us know.

Please contact Sarah Milholland with any questions or for additional information
sarahmilholland@stmarksnc.org

WELCOME

This is one of our most important ministries. Think about the first time you came up the hill.

Who spoke to you? What made you come back?

We have had many new faces join us since we have reopened.

If you have a sunny disposition and like getting to know new faces this might be your calling.

There are many ways to engage from greeting new faces, to planning newcomers socials.

We would love to have you join us.

Contact Sarah Milholland for more information sarahmilholland@stmarksnc.org



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Rebuilding and Regathering Continued

Huntersville Farmers Market

The Flyin' Lions are looking for volunteers to help package goods on Friday afternoons for the Farmers Market as well as volunteers to help work the Farmer's market

Packaging help on Fridays

(July 9th, 16th, 30th & August 6th, 27th)

Farmers Market Set Up, Clean Up and Sales

Saturdays: July 10th, 17th, 31st & August 7th, 28th)

Please contact flyinlion@stmarksnc.org
to help or to receive more information



The Tuesday Table



This is a new offering from the
Flyin' Lions
and the Rafters on the 4th Tuesday of
each month.

Assistance is needed with plating food, serving, and or
clean up afterwards.

Contact flyinlion@stmarksnc.org to help or receive more
information

Weddings



Flyin' Lions is catering a few large wedding in
October and November

We are looking for volunteers to help with prep, plating
food, serving, clearing plates and or help with clean up after
the events.

Contact flyinlion@stmarksnc.org to help or to
receive more information



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

2021 Budget

May
YTD Actual

Current Pledged Income	\$296,642.00	\$175,593.00
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All other anticipated income		
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Non- Pledge Offerings	\$13,168.00	\$4,658.00
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Other income (use of space by outside groups)	\$73,120.00	\$28,180.00
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Sales Tax Refunds	\$1,600.00	\$ -
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Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	\$33,360	\$12,851.00
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Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$417,890.00	\$221,282.00
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2020 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry

Staff	\$191,525.00	\$76,401.00
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Diocesan Support	\$42,900	\$17,845.00
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Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$43,688	\$20,000.00
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Office Admin & Other	\$36,328	\$10,138.00
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Youth & Christian Formation	\$4,500	\$188.00
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Outreach \$ Escuelita Support	\$10,200	\$2,000.00
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Hospitality, Pastoral Care, Stewardship, & Retreat	\$3,235	\$640.00
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Worship & Music	\$8,485	\$1,122.00
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4% pledges unfulfilled based historic average	\$11,865.68	
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Total 2021 Budgeted Expenses	\$437,138.68	\$128,334.00
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Current Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over disbursements	(\$31,114.68)	\$92,948.00
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