



# 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

August 2021

### Worship

Sunday Services  
Morning Prayer  
Father Ed  
Bishop's Visit

### Formation

Children's  
Chapel Sunday  
School Teachers

### Outreach

Flyin' Lion Updates

### Parish

WINE  
Coffee Hour  
Hot Dog Sunday  
Thirstday Thursday

### Stewardship

Financial Page

Page 2-3

Page 4

Pages 5

Pages 6-7

Page 8

When we first learned it was time to find a new rector for St. Marks, Peter Macon pulled me aside and said, "I know it doesn't feel this way now, but this process will be one of the most spiritual endeavors you and the Vestry will ever undertake." I thought he was nuts.

Like all of us, we were stunned at the unexpected departure of Rev. Sarah, our long-time spiritual leader, and shortly thereafter Rev. Matt, the spiritual guide of our children. We weren't able to gather because of a terrifying virus we still didn't know much about. And hugs? Out of the question. So, to hear that the process of finding Sarah's replacement would be anything but a terrifying chore seemed a ridiculous pipe dream.

Things started out rough. Losing a strong rector leaves a leadership vacuum that needs to be filled with intention. We flailed a bit, but we prayed. It wasn't long before we found our footing and began to make wise decisions that allowed us to hear the Holy Spirit loud and clear.

We knew it was important to talk to you first, before we did anything else. Through the parish survey and eight Congregational Conversations, you gave us a clear picture of who you want to lead us forward. We listened carefully for themes and traits, skills and characteristics. You were superb in guiding our process and plans.

As our work progressed, the North Star you set for us burned clear and bright. The Holy Spirit took hold of our hearts and helped us walk forward together into a process that was both challenging and spirit-filled.

In May, we received a slate of candidates from Bishop Sam, a handful of spiritual leaders as different from each other as seemed possible. The Holy Spirit's message was clear: If you have trouble choosing from among these candidates, you haven't done enough work discerning what St. Marks is looking for, go back and pray some more.

We conducted candidate visits in a decidedly St. Marks fashion, eschewing the diocesan suggestions of how to structure them in favor of ways that would help us learn who our candidates are and help them learn who St. Marks is. We took them hiking and kayaking and pottery painting. Flyin' Lion

prepared lovely, simple dinners for us to serve over lengthy and candid conversation. We met with the candidates collectively and in small groups. Some of us were fortunate enough to have one-on-one time.

The Vestry gathered for our first conversation just hours after the last candidate left us, talking well into the night. It was a lively, spirited conversation filled with laughter and love. We took time again to review your guidance and we looked deep into our own hearts. We experienced none of the contention we were told to expect. There was dissent, of course, but it was thoughtful and kind and respectful. And we listened closely to every voice.

After that first discernment conversation, we scattered to the winds on vacations we had postponed because of the candidate search. While we were apart, we prayed. And prayed. And prayed some more.

When we gathered once again, the Holy Spirit's imprint on the process had become crystal clear. It was, at least for me and I suspect for others, among the most spiritual endeavors I've ever undertaken. If you're reading this before Aug. 1, I hope you'll come to services that day, or tune in, to hear the rest of the story. If you're reading this after Aug. 1, the big news is out.

Either way, I pray your hearts and minds are prepared for a burst of spiritual energy and growth, a recommitment to outreach and to making Christ known in the world, and a whole bunch of fellowship and fun.

Peace be with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I can't wait to be with you all again soon.

Beth Hunt  
Senior Warden



**Father Ed's last day with us will be**

**Sunday August 8th**

**Please join us at coffee hour following the 9:30 service to help us thank him for his time and wish him well before he embarks on a fabulous vacation.**

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 as well as  
communion in both  
kinds

Join us at 9:30am on Sunday Mornings

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>



Bishop's Visit  
and  
Confirmation

Mark your calendars for  
Sunday September 19th



Bishop Sam will be with us on this day. Our youth that were to be confirmed in 2020 will be able to officially make their confirmation. A Reception will be hosted by Hospitality in the Rafters Following the Service.

Please pray for our 2021 confirmands

John "Riley" Milholland  
Savannah Self  
Bella Grace Rhinehardt  
Shannon Hunt

## REGATHERING AND REBUILDING FOR THE PROGRAMMING YEAR

As we approach the beginning of the church programming year we are working on getting our kids and youth programs 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 to help us reengage our younger population.

What a wonderful time to try something new

### 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](mailto:sarahmilholland@stmarksnc.org)

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

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### Kids and Youth



As we approach the end 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](mailto:sarahmilholland@stmarksnc.org)

A U G U S T 2 0 2 1



Flyin' Lion lunches will run through Friday August 6th  
when our 2nd class ends.

We will take a two week break from lunches and baked goods  
resuming on Tuesday August 24th.

You can find us at the Huntersville Farmers Market on  
July 31st, August 7th and 28th

If you would like to help at the farmers market on Saturdays please  
contact [flyinlions@stmarksnc.org](mailto:flyinlions@stmarksnc.org)

Our next Tuesday Table will take place on Tuesday August 24th.

Look for more information in the coming weeks

<http://www.flyinlionministries.com>

Linda Amidei -Administrative Coordinator

Sue Bartlett - Lead Culinary Instructor



Congratulations to Allison  
as she completes  
her Culinary Training  
on Friday August 6th





**August W.I.N.E.  
(Women in Need of Entertainment)**

**Mark your calendars for Monday,  
August 16th 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.*

**Contact Allison Rhinehardt with questions  
[allibrett@gmail.com](mailto:allibrett@gmail.com)**



**Coffee Hour  
will resume  
in  
August**

**Join us Sundays after the  
9:30 service in the Rafters**

**If you would like to help with coffee hour  
please let Marsha Phillips know  
[mbp1936@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mbp1936@carolina.rr.com)**

**Hot Dog Sunday**



**Sunday August 15th  
Following the 9:30 Service**

**If you missed hot dogs and fellowship in  
July please plan to join us in August.**

**We will gather for food, fun and  
fellowship.**

**If you would like to help with this event  
(cooking, kids activities, clean up)**

**please contact Libby James  
[libby.James@offitkurman.com](mailto:libby.James@offitkurman.com)**



**Thirstday Thursday  
is Scheduled to take  
place on  
Thursday August  
12th  
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](mailto:david.fahey@carolina.rr.com)  
or text to  
704-562-7587**



### **Birthdays**

Lacy Hamilton - 8/3  
Jackie Mooney - 8/3  
Kari Swogger – 8/4  
Dawn Middleton - 8/9  
Forrest Wooten - 8/11  
Brooke Michael - 8/12  
Sarah Milholland - 8/13  
Martha Ann Springer - 8/13  
Bill O'Connor – 8/14  
Beth Hunt – 8/16  
Kelly Pope - 8/17  
Greg Siegel - 8/17  
Rick Stein – 8/17  
Kate Lloyd - 8/23  
Malinda Bivens – 8/24  
Melanie Blythe - 8/26  
Barbara Osburn - 8/27  
Joe Brown - 8/28  
Blair Swogger – 8/28

### **Anniversaries**

Michael & Suzanne Ferguson - 8/7  
Willard & Barbara Osburn - 8/8  
Andrew & Libby James - 8/10  
Forrest & Marilyn Wooten - 8/19  
John & Wendy Kelly – 8/21  
Joe & Fiona Brown - 8/23  
Blair & Connie Swogger – 8/25  
Robbie & Delia Roberts – 8/26  
Jacob & Mandy Self-Sparrow – 8/29

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

Saunders Black  
Martha Ann Springer  
Richard & Mary Beth Masline  
Bob Chandler  
Jim & Patricia Woolley  
Marion Johannsson & Betsy  
Tom Watson  
Elaine Reilly  
Mary Lou Blevins & her mom

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

**Ian & Liesel Doolittle – 8/6**  
**Brent & Amy Sparks – 8/13**  
**Andrew & Libby James – 8/20**  
**Alan & Lesli Kathman – 8/27**



8600 Mt. Holly Huntersville Rd.  
 Huntersville, NC 28078  
 704-399-5193  
[Life@stmarksnc.org](mailto:Life@stmarksnc.org)

	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>June YTD Actual</b>
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Current Pledged Income	\$296,642.00	\$191,130.00
All other anticipated income		
Non- Pledge Offerings	\$13,168.00	\$4,965.00
Other income (use of space by outside groups)	\$73,120.00	\$35,605.00
Sales Tax Refunds	\$1,600.00	\$ 4,449.00
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	\$33,360	\$15,850.00
<b>Total Budgeted Operating Income</b>	<b>\$417,890.00</b>	<b>\$251,999.00</b>

2020 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry

Staff	\$294,731.00	\$79,540.00
Diocesan Support	\$42,900	\$21,415.00
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$43,688	\$23,536.00
Office Admin & Other	\$36,328	\$12,709.00
Youth & Christian Formation	\$4,500	\$188.00
Outreach \$ Escuelita Support	\$10,200	\$2,000.00
Hospitality, Pastoral Care, Stewardship, & Retreat	\$3,235.00	\$656.00
Worship & Music	\$2,765.00	\$1,122.00
4% pledges unfulfilled based historic average	\$11,865.68	
<b>Total 2021 Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$450,212.68</b>	<b>\$141,166.00</b>
Current Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over disbursements	(\$32,322.68)	\$110,833.00