



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

February 2021

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If you follow the St. Mark's Facebook page, you know that The Rafters, our new fellowship hall and wedding venue, is nearing completion.

I had a chance to sneak inside the other day and found myself overcome with emotion. It is such a beautiful, welcoming space, even with the chandeliers still covered, cardboard pathways taped to the floor and heaters drying the floor stain. You can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as you wander in, first gazing through the leaded windows in front of you, then as you take in the exposed beams and trusses above you, then as you walk into the kitchen, soon to be home to Flyin' Lion ministries. God is there, even in the bathrooms, which are hilariously unfinished. They're

missing the stall walls between toilets, which has made for some very funny pictures.

The closer we get to opening this building, the more I'm convinced this project and all of its reasons for being is exactly God's plan for St. Mark's. He led us to the idea, helped us think it through, and gave us the courage to take it on, even though He knew we would lose our beloved Rector and struggle through a pandemic before it was completed. American naturalist and nature essayist John Burroughs once said, "Leap and the net will appear." That's what we did, beloved people of St. Mark's. We leapt knowing that God was there -- that He had us, that He has us, and He will hold us and our beloved church in his warm embrace forever.

Before I close, I want to share two pieces of good news. The first is that Flyin' Lion Ministries, which expects to launch its first class in early April -- as long as Covid doesn't prevent it -- secured a second grant late last year. The diocesan Mission Endowment Fund granted the ministry \$50,000 for general expenses -- \$25,000 to be used this year, \$25,000 for next year. Once again, we can feel God's presence in this endeavor. Linda Amidei, Sue Bartlett, Candy Sullivan and Malinda Bivens have done an amazing job getting this program up and running. Please keep them in your prayers.



Second, I'm pleased to announce that we have hired a venue coordinator for The Rafters, to manage the building as a wedding and meeting space. Allison Rhinehardt, one of our own, stepped forward early in the search to share that she feels led to this role. After a full search that included nine candidates, it became clear that Allison is exactly who we need to lead our efforts to fill this building with joyous gatherings. There are many reasons she is right for the job. Here's the one I think is most important: Allison will never forget that this building is, first and foremost, a fellowship hall for our congregation and the home of Flyin' Lion Ministries. I believe that her love for St. Mark's and its commitment to know Christ and make Him known will never be clouded by the business potential of the space. We promised ourselves early on that we would not lose sight of what matters most about this building. I believe Allison will help us keep that

promise. (You'll hear directly from her below.)

Special thanks to the Haymakers, the St. Mark's committee charged with getting the Rafters venue operation off the ground. We are fortunate to have Kelly Pope, Brett Rhinehardt and Jackie McWhorter at the helm. Their work will continue even when Allison takes over Feb. 1.

In closing, I want you to know that I miss you, my St. Mark's family. All of you, a whole, whole bunch.

With love and in peace,

Beth Hunt

Senior Warden

Welcome to our new Venue Coordinator for The Rafters



Allison is honored to take on the role of venue coordinator for The Rafters. She brings a number of gifts and a wealth of experience that will serve St. Mark's and The Rafters well. Her decades in the theatre have included roles on and off stage as well as backstage, including directing, stage managing, set design and construction, choreography, musical directing, and more. Each of these roles have prepared her to help brides and grooms produce what will be the greatest productions of their lives. Her years as a teacher have equipped her to tackle each event with patience, professionalism, and organization. More importantly, her two decades as a member, serving on the vestry, choir, worship, parish life, and so many more committees ensures that the heart of the church will remain in everything she does. At the center of it all, Allison understands the mission of St. Mark's, and is ready to dedicate her time to growing The Rafters of Historic St. Mark's, the bright beacon on the hill.

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>



Due to our increasing
Covid cases

We are back to Stage 1B

Join us

at 9:30am on Sunday Mornings

Live stream via

Facebook Live

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

ASH WEDNESDAY



Join us on Wednesday February 17th

We will offer a live streamed Ash Wednesday Service at noon
through Facebook live.

(Please know the service can be watched at a later time)

Following the noon day service from 1:15 -1:45

members are invited to drive up the hill for ashes and communion

We will offer drive through ashes and communion again from 7pm-7:30pm

Because of the new, more contagious, variants of the Covid-19 virus currently circulating in our community, new diocesan guidance, informed by epidemiologists, directs that we not speak to one another within six feet of each other.

This is true, even if we are wearing masks. For that reason, both ashes and communion will be self administered from small sealed packages within nuclear family groups.

Instructions will be handed out with ashes and communion.

We hope to see you Ash Wednesday as we enter into Lent



SEDER MEAL CALLING ALL YOUTH

March 29th

The Worship Committee would like to offer the Seder Meal as a way to kick off Holy Week.

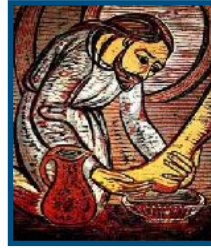
This would be a virtual meal over zoom like we did last year.

Recipes and Service Orders would be provided to each household.

We need the youth to help facilitate the service. This would require our youth taking a reading part in the service just as in years past.

We invite you to sign up at the link below to help us pull this off.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054-ca4a7238-seder1>



Maundy Thursday Opportunities for Youth

The worship committee would love for the youth to help with the Maundy Thursday Service on April 1st at 7pm.

We are looking for musicians, acolytes and readers for various roles in the service.

Musicians would work with Alex days or weeks before the service.

(recordings are done in advance)

Others would serve during the service by helping with foot washing, altar stripping, reading, acolyting and more.

If you have never helped with a Maundy Thursday service before there is no need to be concerned, instruction and rehearsal will be provided prior to the service.

Please sign up below to let us know you are interested and we will be in touch.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054-ca4a7238-maundy>



Christian Formation Civil Discourse is Back. (by popular demand)



If you were not able to join us when we launched our Civil Discourse Class at the end of 2019 beginning of 2020

We will offer this course again beginning

January 17th at 10:45 am

on Sunday mornings via zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5214797294?pwd=WHNacnBUR3R4Z0xkZHIjakhwbStuQT09>

Mary Kendrick will lead us in Part I of this course for six weeks.

We hope you will join us.

If you have any questions please contact Mary Kendrick

marykendrick@yahoo.com

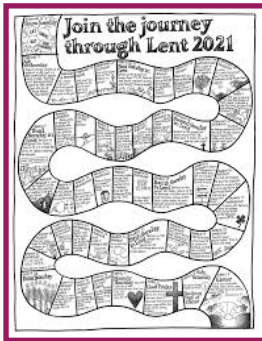
Lenten Offerings

Since we are not able to meet in person for our usual Lenten suppers or Lenten programs. We hope you will take advantage of these offerings

LENTEN CALENDARS

Did you enjoy the Advent Calendar each household received last year?

We hope so.



Be on the lookout for your
Lenten Calendar

Coming to your mailbox soon.

Join the Journey through Lent, illustrated by award-winning cartoonist Jay Sidebotham, invites spiritual reflection and is a wonderful companion for the Lenten season. Color your own calendar, perfect for all ages.

LENT MADNESS



Lent Madness is an online Lenten devotion that's fun and engaging. 32 saints face off in a basketball-style bracket, and people vote for which saint deserves the Golden Halo.

It's a bit silly, but through the season we learn about the way Christ's love shines in the lives of ordinary people.

You can register to participate in Lent Madness through this link.
<https://www.lentmadness.org>

Download your bracket
Receive your saints by email
Read up on your saints and cast your vote for who you think is the most saintly.

See how you progress through the bracket.
Maybe you will make it to the
GOLDEN HALO



ANGEL TREE UPDATE

Many thanks to all who contributed to our angel tree this past year.

We will have \$4176.25 available
for 2021 Summer Camp.

Tired of the same old box of chocolates?

Try giving your valentine some cookies instead.



Our Flyin' Lion Ministry is offering a cookie fundraiser in time for Valentine's Day. Treat your kids, teachers, neighbors, significant other or friends to a sweet treat.

Sleeves of 4 valentine themed cookies tied with a ribbon and attached card will be available for purchase from now until February 9th.

Orders will be available for pick up on Sunday February 14th at the church from 10:30am to 11:30am.

Delivery Available upon Request

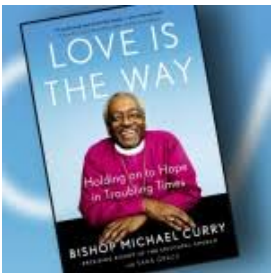
Sleeves of Cookies are \$6.50 each.

\$7.00 for Gluten Free

Orders can be placed online

Order at <https://stmarksepiscopal.breezechms.com/form/014015>

Or contact the church office at 704-399-5193



St Mark's Book Club
Will start a new book
beginning
Wednesday February
3rd.

Please join us as we
discuss

Bishop Curry's new book.

Love is the Way: Holding on the Hope in
Troubling Times

We will meet via zoom for the time being.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5214797294?pwd=WH-NacnBUR3R4Z0xkZHIjakhwbStuQT09>

Please contact Mandy Self Sparrow with
any questions.

mandyselfsparrow@gmail.com



Thirsty Thursday
is Scheduled to take
place on
Thursday February
11th at 6:30pm

Our attendance has declined since we have
not been able to meet in person.

We plan to meet via zoom

However, please RSVP to David Fahey to
let him know if you would like to attend.

Our gathering will be dependent on the
responses we receive.

david.fahey@carolina.rr.com

or text to

704-562-7587



Birthdays

Marsha Phillips - 2/1
Philip Blythe - 2/2
Karen Cardenas – 2/2
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
Will Blythe - 2/13
Sydney Bayne – 2/14
Linda Holst – 2/16
Miles Bayne – 2/17
Matthew Kathman - 2/17
Martin Osborne - 2/18
Vincent Perrotta – 2/18
Ben Weeks – 2/18
John Pouliot - 2/19
Allison Rhinehardt - 2/19
Lynnda Jordan – 2/20
Alice Bayne - 2/21
Ian Kendrick - 2/21
Jan Daubener - 2/22
Wendy Kelly – 2/22
Rusian Mooney – 2/22
Ed Reade – 2/25
Marty Fulton – 2/27
Amy Sparks - 2/27
Joe Layman – 2/28

Anniversaries

Thomas & Doris Blythe - 2/2
Brett & Allison Rhinehardt - 2/25

Prayers for continued healing:

Saunders Black
Martha Ann Springer
Elena Michel and her family
Richard & Mary Beth Masline
Bob Chandler
Jim & Patricia Woolley
Ruth Blackwelder
Robert Allen

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Mark & Lacy Hamilton – 2/5
Ian & Liesel Doolittle – 2/12
Brent & Amy Sparks – 2/19
Andrew & Libby James – 2/26

2020 Stewardship Update

	2020 Budget	December YTD Actual
Current Pledged Income	\$338,820	\$332,227
All other anticipated income		
Non- Pledge Offerings	\$20,167	\$16,627
Other income (use of space by outside groups)	\$17,326	\$21,930
Sales Tax Refunds	\$1,050	\$32,003
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	\$31,460	
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$408,823	\$402,787
2020 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$249,362	\$222,655
Diocesan Support	\$39,055	\$42,605
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$43,974	\$40,008
Office Admin & Other	\$26,204	\$27,384
Youth & Christian Formation	\$7,815	\$6,571
Outreach \$ Escuelita Support	\$13,270	\$5,700
Hospitality, Pastoral Care, Stewardship, & Retreat	\$6,390	\$1,536
Worship & Music	\$2,190	\$4,473
4% pledges unfulfilled based historic average	\$13,553	
Total 2020 Budgeted Expenses	\$401,813	\$350,932
Current Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over disbursements	\$7,010	\$51,855

2020 Pledge update-94 families for a total of \$340,520 received

YTD Pledge fulfillment 98%