



A P R I L 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

April 2021

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Beloved friends,

If you ever forget how special a place St. Mark's is, we can show you in writing. After months of conversations, preparation and prayer, we have finally begun the active part of our search for our next Rector.

From the diocesan perspective, the process starts with three letters: OTM. The Office of Transition Ministry portfolio, a document that churches and candidates each prepare as we seek to call or be called. The OTM starts with a bunch of numbers – financial, attendance and such. It ends with 13 questions to be answered in narrative form.

I was not excited about putting this document together, because it's something of a box. And St. Mark's rarely fits into a box. But it's a required box, so we followed the rules and did our best to capture the essence of St. Mark's in our 13 answers. To ensure we included many voices, each Vestry member answered every question from his or her own perspective. We figured we'd weave them together in the 1,200 words we had for each answer.

It was a great plan, until we read the fine print. The answer boxes fit 1,200 **characters**, not 1,200 words. That realization sent us into an editing frenzy much like a chef prepares a demi-glace. We boiled, simmered and reduced the ingredients until we were left with a most flavorful and concentrated look at the faithful, loving, giving and engaged parish that is St. Mark's Huntersville.

I will forever be grateful for the OTM process. It was a glorious reminder of our life-giving church and its efforts to know Christ and to make Him known. I think you'll agree that it's a beautiful snapshot of all that we are, all that we have and all that we do. You can read it here https://www.episdionc.org/uploads/images/st-marks-huntersville-otm_480.pdf

The search process is now in the hands of Bishop Sam and Catherine Massey, the diocesan canon for transition ministry. They will field applications, conduct interviews, spend time in discernment and prayer for 6-8 weeks, before sending us 3-5 candidates to interview. We expect to invite each candidate to visit St. Mark's in June and, God willing, to call a new Rector soon thereafter.

Thank you for all of your support as we've navigated this process. We encourage you to keep sharing your thoughts as you have throughout this year. Most of all, we ask for your continued prayers as we do the hard work of discerning the right call. We are comforted by the presence of the Holy Spirit, whom we have felt keenly throughout this transition. We know we will find our way, if we listen close enough.

Faithfully yours,
Beth Hunt, senior warden
on behalf of the Vestry of St. Mark's

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 2

Join us
at 9:30am on Sunday Mornings.

Signup to attend in person

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

or

Join us via live stream through
Facebook Live

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

HOLY WEEK OFFERINGS

Maundy Thursday Service April 1st at 7pm
(in person or via facebook live)

Good Friday Solemn Collects April 2nd at Noon.
(in person or via facebook live)

Easter Sunday April 4th at 9:30 am
(in person or via facebook live)

Communion to Go if you are not attending in person will be offered as a drive through from 11am to Noon.

You can sign up for any of these services at the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054ca4a7238-worship>

or join us via Facebook Live

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

Update on in-person services for Easter

On March 7, the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina returned to Stage 2 of the Plan for Churches during a Pandemic. This enables us to have limited indoor gatherings for worship, formation and church business. This determination is based upon the 14-day rolling average for percentage of positive tests for Mecklenburg county being both below 6.5% and declining.

As your Interim Rector under COVID-19, I have participated in weekly diocesan zoom meetings since October, which review and examine the latest data and scientific findings in excruciating detail. The Episcopal Church analyzes safety and best practices with the assistance of virologists and epidemiologists who consult with the House of Bishops, including my friend Joe Graves, who is a professor and author in the field of genomic adaptation and a parishioner at St. Andrew's in Greensboro.

Through February and early March, we took up the subject of Easter church attendance. The formula given to St. Mark's by the diocese is 30% of the fire capacity of the room where people are meeting. We believe that the fire capacity of the chapel is greater than 120, although I don't have anything official from the fire department. This set the Easter Church occupancy at 35 and the Rafters occupancy at 75. The 30% formula also takes into account that 14% of the population is fully immunized (including me) and that studies that have shown that fully vaccinated people are 95% safe from being transmitters (Israeli studies using the Pfizer vaccine) as well as safe from getting Covid.

These numbers assume that people will remain masked and sit in "clusters" if they are part of the same household. Given several clusters as well as individuals, 35 is perceived to be the maximum number of people who can maintain social distancing. It is critical to sign up ahead of time, as the seating in the church will be organized ahead of time and pew locations labelled. This expanded number has been approved for the Easter service only. All other indoor services are still limited to 25 people under Stage 2.

The Episcopal Church is, compared to all other denominations, taking a most cautious approach. I believe that we have been making the long-term wellbeing of our congregants and community a priority at each stage of the pandemic.

Of course, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and the absolute safest course of action would be to watch the service virtually and stop by for drive through communion. This would be recommended for people with co-morbidities or whose immune systems are compromised. The communion wafers have been consecrated and sealed for weeks now to assure non-transmission.

Faithfully,
Reverend Ed



A huge thank you for the response to the March kitchen shower! Almost all of the large items were donated and most of the smaller hand tools as well. Sue will be adding a few things she realized later she had forgotten on the first list and it will remain on Amazon through April.

Pastoral Care and Flyin' Lion will be working together to ensure meals are available to parishioners as needed and to provide cooking experience for the students.

JOIN US FOR LUNCH During the Week

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.

[Sign up Here](#)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4BADAA2CAAFFC34-flyin>

Stock Up on Baked Goods

Flyin' Lion will also post the baking schedule in the e-blast for the upcoming week. Interested buyers can place orders for that week's baked goods.

Orders would need to be in no later than Sunday.

Our website has now been made public.

<http://www.flyinlionministries.com>

Thanks to Sarah Fahey for doing such a good job building the site. Thank you also to Maggie Kingman for designing our logo. It represents the hope of Flyin' Lion Ministries that the women we serve will be inspired to spread their wings and fly into a brighter future.

Flyin' Lion Ministries
Linda Amidei -Administrative Coordinator
Sue Bartlett - Lead Culinary Instructor

A P R I L 2 0 2 1

THE RAFTERS OPEN HOUSE





Birthdays

Ian Milholland - 4/5
Corinne Zinno - 4/5
Rev Ty Smithdeal – 4/7
Debbie Siegel - 4/8
Sadie Perrotta – 4/9
Annie Marie Pope – 4/10
Justin Zinno - 4/10
Lynn Lyons – 4/11
Lynn Cavanaugh – 4/12
Bob Chandler - 4/12
Tony Herrin - 4/13
Kay Knosby – 4/16
Jeff Haas – 4/17
Brandon Kathman - 4/17
Marlene Bandis – 4/19
Elaine Reilly – 4/20
Doris S. Blythe - 4/21
Elizabeth Havens – 4/21
Eileen Lampro - 4/22
Elliott James - 4/24
Betsy Lloyd - 4/25
Elizabeth Weeks – 4/27
Jack Lloyd - 4/29
Vin Perrotta - 4/30
Connie Swogger – 4/30

Anniversaries

Ed & Kathy Reade – 4/5
Alan & Bridget Vanevenhoven – 4/5
James & Patricia Woolley - 4/19
Larry & Debbie Leisey - 4/21
Milton & Candice Sullivan -4/21
Sean & Kelly Pope – 4/23
Chaytor & Bob Chandler - 4/24
Jonathan & Emily Hines – 4/30
Philip & Betsy Lloyd - 4/30

Prayers for continued healing:

Saunders Black
Martha Ann Springer
Elena Michel and her family
Richard & Mary Beth Masline
Bob Chandler
Jim & Patricia Woolley
Marlene Bandis
Joe Brown

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Easter Holiday – 4/2
Ian & Liesel Doolittle – 4/9
Andrew & Libby James – 4/16
Alan & Lesli Kathman – 4/23
Scott Hundertmark – 4/30



The Wedding Belles of St. Mark's:

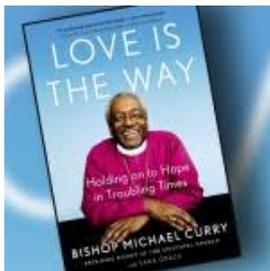
Wedding bells will be ringing soon at St. Mark's and we need volunteers to help make the days successful.

If you are interested in being part of the Wedding Belles of St. Mark's, reach out to

Allison at theraftersevents@gmail.com or 704-609-2308.

Help will be needed occasionally with setting up tables, chairs, and linens before the big day, and breaking down and cleaning up afterward.

Any amount of time you can volunteer will be much appreciated!



**St Mark's Book Club
Wednesday April 7th
and 21st**

**Please join us as we
discuss**

**Bishop Curry's new
book.**

**[Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in
Troubling Times](#)**

**We will meet in person at 7pm in the
church gallery.**

**A zoom option will also be available
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5214797294?
pwd=WHNacnBUR3R4Z0xkZHIjakhwb-
StuQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5214797294?pwd=WHNacnBUR3R4Z0xkZHIjakhwb-StuQT09)**

**Please contact Mandy Self Sparrow with
any questions.**

mandyselfsparrow@gmail.com



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

**We plan to meet IN PERSON
at Parry's Pizza, Northlake
No RSVP necessary but texts welcome**

to David Fahey

david.fahey@carolina.rr.com

or text to

704-562-7587



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

2021 Budget

February
YTD Actual

Current Pledged Income	\$296,642.00	\$49,125.00
All other anticipated income		
Non- Pledge Offerings	\$13,168.00	\$1,222.00
Other income (use of space by outside groups)	\$73,120.00	\$4,875.00
Sales Tax Refunds	\$1,600.00	\$ -
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	\$33,360	\$5,141.00
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$417,890.00	\$60,363.00
2020 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$201,525.02	\$25,350.00
Diocesan Support	\$42,900	\$7,138.00
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$43,688	\$7,540.65
Office Admin & Other	\$26,328	\$5,751.00
Youth & Christian Formation	\$4,500	\$108.00
Outreach \$ Escuelita Support	\$10,200	\$600.00
Hospitality, Pastoral Care, Stewardship, & Retreat	\$3,235	\$118.00
Worship & Music	\$2,765	\$76.00
4% pledges unfulfilled based historic average	\$11,865.68	
Total 2021 Budgeted Expenses	\$347,006.70	\$46,681.65
Current Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over disbursements	\$70,883.30	\$13,681.35

2021 Pledge update-families for a total of \$23,234 received

YTD Pledge fulfillment 17%