



D E C E M B E R 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

December 2020

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Advent—Waiting for the Coming

Advent is about the three Comings of Christ. The first Coming was in Bethlehem about two thousand years ago. The second Coming is what the Bible calls the “Parousia” (Greek for “being present”) at the close of the age when Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead. And the third Coming is how Jesus in the form of the Holy Spirit comes to faithful believers in the meanwhile.

We await these “Comings.” The word Advent was often reserved for the arrival of an important dignitary or a king, or the arrival of a really important thing, or the arrival of a pivotal event. So Advent indicates that whatever is coming is really important.

I have never been particularly good at waiting. Whether it is waiting for a stoplight to turn green, or for an important package to arrive, or for biopsies or medical test results, I’m not a very patient person. And the very existence of ATMs, 24 Hour Walmarts and pharmacies, drive-up windows, overnight shipping options, and online-shopping all tell me that I am not alone. We twenty-first century folks are just not good at waiting.

I get sour while waiting. There is an old saying that some people age like fine wine, and others age like expired milk. I’m afraid I age like expired milk while I wait. But using horrible traffic jams, slow drivers driving down the road with their turn signals flashing for miles, delayed and lost packages, late airplanes and cancelled flights, and innumerable other methods, God continually tries to teach me how to wait.

It dawns on me that God is teaching us all how to wait right now. Advent is usually the four weeks before Christmas, starting around Thanksgiving; but this year, we began Advent approximately in the middle of February. We are all waiting for the Covid pandemic to be over. We are waiting for the availability of an effective and safe vaccine. We are waiting to be able to go back to doing things normally – in person schools and colleges, shopping in person instead of online, doctors’ offices that don’t treat us like lepers, being able to gather together to ask the

Lord's blessings, begin able to have a covered dish supper with friends, take a trip or vacation, or even for the entire family to gather for the holidays.

We have been going through Advent now for about 9 months and we will go through it for another several months before the vaccines become available, we receive two doses and develop immunity to the Covid 19 virus.

As we wait for the Comings, it is important to not grow weary. It is important to continue wearing masks, washing our hands, sanitizing everything in sight, and doing whatever we can to make sure that we are still here when the Coming comes.

So, please be patient with us as we do the best we can with virtual services, drive by outdoor communions, online Sunday Schools, zoom meetings. Just know that we will be stuck in Advent for a bit longer, and that we will eventually get back to "normal" as soon as we possibly can. Keep the faith, be patient with all, stay safe, and know that God's time is the best time.

Love and patience,

Ed

Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent!

Twenty-eight days to grow in following Jesus



Welcome to Advent

Each household should have received an
Advent Calendar.

We encourage everyone to slow down,
reflect, ponder and prepare during this season of
Advent

If you did not receive a calendar please let the
church office know.

There are a few extra copies in the Parish Hall.

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 0

Worship offerings are listed below.

Please make sure to sign up if you plan to attend in person.



Due to our increasing Covid cases

We are back to Stage 1B

At 9:30am on Sunday Mornings

Live stream via

Facebook Live

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

Morning Prayer

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30am

**Join via zoom link below
(passcode 654321)**

**[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7047478893?
pwd=UUpYb3QrK01oTzU4MSsyZ0NXajl0QT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7047478893?pwd=UUpYb3QrK01oTzU4MSsyZ0NXajl0QT09)**

**You can access the service order with the
link below**

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

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

EVENING PRAYER

Wednesday Nights

6:30pm

Via Zoom

Please use zoom ID 350 277 2130

Password 654321

**Join us on Wednesday Evenings
as we bring back
Evening Prayer**

**PLEASE contact David Fahey with any
questions**

david.fahey@carolina.rr.com

FACEBOOK FRIDAYS with JORDANA

Look for Jordana's Friday Reflections during the day.

FIRST ADVENT to CHRISTMAS EVE

Please plan to join us for

9:30am Live Streamed

* Advent Services on Sunday Mornings

* 4pm Live Streamed Christmas Eve Services

* Drive Through Eucharist from 5:15pm-6:00pm

on

Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve

December 24th from 5:15 to 6pm

We invite you to drive up the hill after the 4pm live streamed Christmas Eve Service to receive Holy Eucharist.

Everyone should wear masks and remain in their cars as they proceed through a designated route where Father Ed will be waiting to administer Communion bread

A special thank you to worship for finding a way to engage us in person on this special day.

* Although Christmas Eve Services will be live streamed at 4pm please know the service can be watched at your convenience on Facebook Live. If you normally attend the 10:30pm service or the Christmas Day Service you can choose to watch the live streamed service at those time or any time that suits your schedule.

* You will be able to find it on The St. Mark's Facebook page under videos.

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

First Sunday of Advent

November 29th

9:30am

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6th

9:30am

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13th

9:30 am

Forth Sunday of Advent

December 20th

9:30am

Christmas Eve

December 24th

4:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Drive through Eucharist

5:15 pm



*Join us for
St. Mark's Luminaries
Preparing the Way
10am December 24th*



If you would like to order Poinsettias for Christmas
in honor or memory of someone please let the
church office know.

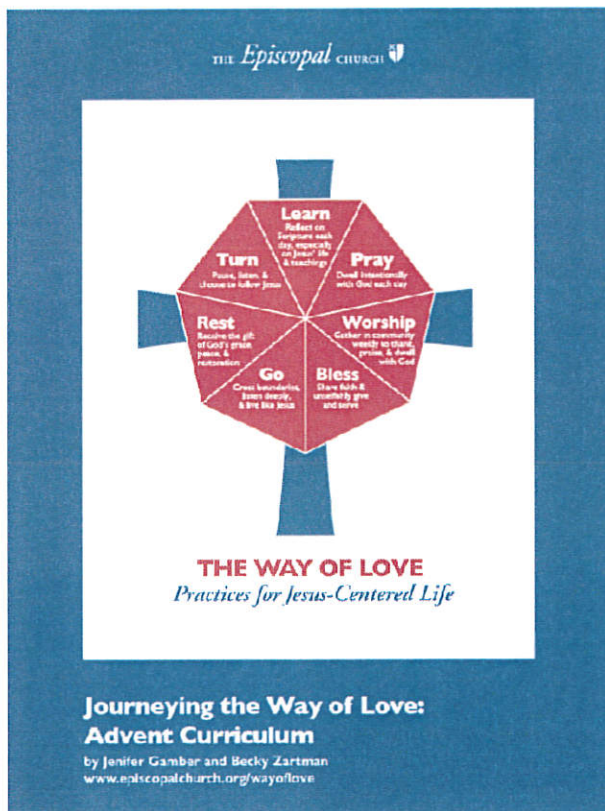
You can make your request through the link below

<https://stmarksepiscopal.breezechms.com/form/09c99d>

Poinsettias are \$20 each and must be requested by Friday
December 18th

You may also contact the church office to place your order
and drop a check off or mail it in.

Please let Cindy know who the poinsettia is given for
(in honor or memory of) and by whom it is given.
Please be sure to note poinsettias on the memo line.



Christian Formation in Advent

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:45 via zoom (link below)
as we explore Journeying the Way of Love.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7047478893?pwd=UUpYb3QrK01oTz-U4MSsyZ0NXajI0QT09>

The curriculum can be downloaded at the link below:

<https://episcopalchurch.org/journeying-way-love>

If you are able to read the lesson prior to Sunday morning it will be helpful for discussion; however, not mandatory.

Advent 1:

The Annunciation: Saying "Yes" to the Journey

Advent 2:

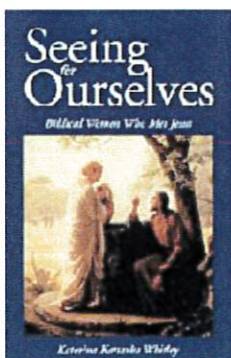
Mary and Elizabeth: Journeying with Family & Friends

Advent 3:

The Birth of John the Baptist: Journeying with Community

Advent 4:

The Birth of Jesus: Journeying with the World



St. Mark's

Book Study is discussing

Seeing for Ourselves:

Biblical Women Who Met Jesus

We will meet the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month at 7pm
via the zoom link below.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7047478893?pwd=UUpYb3QrK01oTzU4MSsyZ0NXajI0QT09>

Come discuss the perspectives of these biblical characters.

Contact Mandy Self-Sparrow
with any questions.

mandyselfsparrow@gmail.com

mi casa es su casa



Thank you to all of the table hosts and participants of this year's La Escuelita San Marcos Fundraiser Dinner.

We ended up selling 30 tables for the event, including five that were donated to provide meals for La Escuelita Families & Teachers.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise over \$4000 for La Escuelita San Marcos.

Please know that your contributions and support will make a huge difference in our ability to continue this ministry.

THE ANGEL TREE HAS GONE ONLINE



Since we are not able to meet in person our Angel Tree this year will be online.

This past Summer we sent 19 Ranson Middle School scholars to summer camp. It was an amazing opportunity for these youth especially during Covid.

Please consider sponsoring our campership program again this year. Now more than ever these kids need outlets, experiences and fun.

Donations can be made through the following link.

<https://stmarksepiscopal.breezechms.com/form/90577d>

Checks can also be dropped off or mailed to the church office.

Please note camperships in the memo line.

No amount is too small.

Please contact Malinda Bivens @ malindabivens@bellsouth.net if you have any questions.



TREE AND WREATH PICK UP
SUNDAY 11/29

Trees and Wreaths will be on lawn in front of the Parish House
and tagged with your name

Thanks to ALL who placed orders to help support our Escuelita.



Cookies for Christmas

Flyin' Lion Ministries will be offering a cookie sale for Christmas.

Our Transition to work program is more than pies.

Our students will learn how to make cookies
in addition to many other culinary skills.

Order small sampler boxes for \$11 each or large sampler boxes for \$13 each.

Gluten Free options also available

\$15 small/ \$17 large

**Samplers include a selection of
iced sugar, white chocolate cranberry, molasses and chocolate peppermint.**

Merry Christmas to a neighbor, teacher, mailman, friend or yourself.

Orders can be picked up on December 13th or December 20th.

Orders for 12/13 must be placed by 12/8

Orders for 12/20 must be placed by 12/15.

Please order through the link below

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

Contact Debbie Heggen with any questions @ cuteandcabulous@gmail.com

If you do not have computer access you may contact the church office to place an order.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray this message finds you safe and well as we continue to be Church in Covidtime. As you know, a surge in the number of cases in North Carolina and Mecklenburg County have forced us back into diocesan Phase 1B, which allows only people essential to the service to be in the building during worship. It also reduces the number of congregants who may gather indoors to 10, and outdoors to 25.

Covid has forced another significant change in how St. Mark's and many other parishes end the year.

Diocesan rules will not allow us to conduct official parish business virtually, which means we cannot hold an annual meeting or Vestry election.

Here's how we plan to handle annual meeting business:

1. Treasurer Brian Pouliot and the finance committee are preparing the annual budget for 2021. Once it is complete, we will share it with all St. Mark's members and allow for two weeks of congregational reaction and comment before the Vestry votes to amend and/or approve it.

If you have not sent in your pledge, please do as soon as possible so the finance committee can budget appropriately for the coming year.

2. We will take extra time during the announcements after services on Dec. 6 -- which would have been the date of our Annual Meeting -- to provide important updates on:

- The search for our next Rector
- Construction of our new fellowship hall
- Flyin' Lion Transition-to-Work Ministry
- La Escuelita San Marcos
- Ranson Middle School
- The Rafters at Historic St. Mark's wedding ministry

If there are other updates you would like to see included, please email vestry@stmarksnc.org by Dec. 1.

3. The diocese gives us two alternatives to an in-person Vestry election, which it will not allow:

- We can leave the positions open until we are able to hold an in-person election.
- The current Vestry can vote to elect three new members to serve full terms.

Because St. Mark's needs a full Vestry in these times, the current Vestry will name three new members, plus an alternate, in December. A handful of parishioners have agreed to be considered for these positions. If there are others, please email vestry@stmarksnc.org by Dec. 11.

4. We want to hear from you, so in place of the annual meeting, the Vestry will host a series of Zoom calls with 8-10 participants each to share the results of the survey conducted in September and October, and to talk further about what we're looking for in our new Rector. We are on schedule and will begin the search in earnest after the first of the year. These meetings will help ensure we represent the whole of St. Mark's in our work.

We will send details and sign-up instructions for these Zoom calls later this week.

If you are interested in having a one-on-one conversation with a Vestry member rather than joining us on Zoom, please email vestry@stmarksnc.org or let the church office know.

These continue to be times filled with uncertainty and opportunity for a congregation willing to take risks in our service to God and our community. We pray for all who are working to sustain our church and her ministries as we follow the Holy Spirit. We pray, too, that our community will continue its vigilance toward vanquishing the virus so we can return to the hill and worship together.

Yours in Christ,

Beth Hunt, Senior Warden

on behalf of the Vestry of St. Mark's



Congregational Conversations

The Vestry invites you to join them as we share survey results and seek input on the needs and wants for our next rector.

Conversations will be held by zoom and members can sign up for a conversation time

through sign up genius at the link below for one of the following times

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e49a4af28a7f58-congregational>

Sunday December 6th	4pm - 5:30pm
Tuesday December 8th	10:30am - 12:00pm or 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Thursday December 10th	6:30pm - 8:00pm
Sunday December 13th	1:00pm - 2:30pm
Tuesday December 15th	10:30am - 12:00pm or 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Wednesday December 16th	6:30pm - 8:00pm

Spaces will be limited per meeting to allow for a more intimate conversation.

We are looking forward to sharing visions for the future of St. Mark's.

If you do not have computer access and would like to have a conversation with the vestry regarding the rector search or survey results please contact the church office at 704-399-5193 or

Amy Sparks at 704-942-1129



Transitions



Birthdays

Linda Amidei - 12/5
 Cora Stein – 12/5
 Ruth Blackwelder - 12/6
 Jackson Rhinehardt - 12/6
 Jackie McWhorter - 12/9
 Pryor Rhinehardt - 12/9
 Debbie Leisey – 12/10
 Nancy Harding - 12/13
 Robert Gambill - 12/14
 Patrick Wiley – 12/14
 Audrey Boyle - 12/15
 Bridget Vanevenhoven – 12/16
 Nancy Whitehead - 12/18
 Nancy Tatom – 12/23
 Lesli Kathman - 12/24
 Homer Sanford – 12/24
 Jan Sanford - 12/24
 Andrew James - 12/26
 Trulyn Rhinehardt - 12/26
 John Southwell – 12/27
 Sandi Sumas - 12/28
 Eric Brown - 12/29
 Vivian Mach – 12/30

Anniversaries

David & Laura Fahey - 12/17
 TJ & Johanna Tatlow – 12/29

Prayers for continued healing:

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

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Scott Hundertmark – 12/4
Brent & Amy Sparks – 12/11
Mark & Lacy Hamilton – 12/18
Holiday – 12/25



Ordination to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood

During the month of December
The Reverend Matthew Addington and
The Reverend Andrew Ancona
will be ordained into the Sacred Order of the Priesthood,

Andrew will be ordained on December 5th at 3pm in NY
Live stream link is through the church. Link for Andrew below
<https://stlukeinthefields.org>

Matt will be ordained on December 12th at 11:00am
at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Highpoint, NC
We will post livestream for Matt as soon as it is available

As the sponsoring church,
St. Mark's would like to present Matt and Andrew with stoles of their choosing in celebration of their ordinations.

If you would like to contribute to this gift please make a contribution at the link below and choose ordination gift
in the drop down box

<https://stmarksepiscopal.breezechms.com/give>

Checks can also be dropped off or mailed to the church office.

Please note: Ordination gift in the memo line.

8600 Mt. Holly Huntersville Rd.
Huntersville, NC 28078

Please Have Any Donations in to the Church Office by December 12th



December WINE
(It's ornament time-Covid style)
Women in Need of Entertainment
Monday December 21st@ 6:30pm
at your own home via Zoom

Link below.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7047478893?pwd=UUpYb3QrK01oTzU4MSsyZ0NXajIOQT09>

- Drop a wrapped ornament off at the church anytime between **12/1-12/14**.
- Ornaments will be placed on the long counter in the Parish Hall hallway.
- You can then take a different wrapped ornament for yourself.
- You may either drop off and pick up in the same trip, or drop off and come back to choose an ornament later when there may be a wider selection.
- All ornaments should be **picked up/chosen by 12/21 to be opened live on Zoom during WINE** that evening.
- Sadly, there will be NO STEALING this year, as we are trying to limit the number of hands and amount of contact. Also, remember what we've all told our children, "look with your eyes and not your hands," as you choose your ornament.

Please refrain from touching, shaking, handling ornaments other than the one you choose. I know this is not what we wanted, but unfortunately it seems this is what we've got, so let's make the best of it!

Wear a festive sweater, grab your glass, and bring your chosen ornament
to our Zoom WINE celebration!

Please contact Allison Rhinehardt
allibrett@gmail.com with any questions



"Thirstday" Thursday
Join the men of the church
for a testosterone friendly answer to WINE
Thursday December 10th at 6:30 pm
via zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7047478893?pwd=UUpYb3QrK01oTzU4MSsyZ0NXajIOQT09>

For questions call David Fahey 704-562-7587.
Give it a try.



**Thanks to ALL who have stepped up to
serve on Finance
We have 2 roles left**

Beginning January 2021

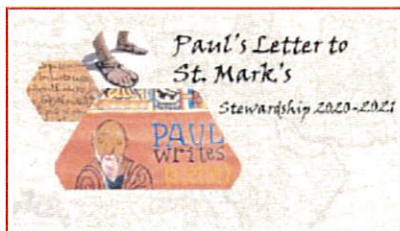
Volunteer Roles Needed:

- **Accounts Payable** - Review coding on invoices and approve
- **Clerk** - Take the minutes of the meetings, send to treasurer for review and then sent to Parish Secretary with the monthly financials for Vestry Meeting

Time commitment each month is maximum of 4-5 hours consisting of 1 monthly Finance Committee Meeting (1 hour) and 2-4 hours each month handling tasks associated with roles.

We will train all volunteers. Questions can be directed to
Brian J Pouliot 704-604-7480 Mobile 704-596-7104 Home

**132 Pledge cards were mailed out during
our stewardship campaign.**



**As of today we have received 63 pledge
cards that have pledged a total of
\$229,034.00 making the
average pledge \$3,635.50**

**Please make every effort to return your
pledge card to the church office as it helps
us know how to
budget for the year.**



While you are making
your regular pledges
please also remember
your New Building
Pledges.

Please remember that:

You can give online at

<https://stmarksepiscopal.breezechms.com/give>

or

by check in the mail or dropped off at the
church office.

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

2020 Stewardship Update

	2020 Budget	October YTD Actual
Current Pledged Income	\$340,520	\$292,308
All other anticipated income		
Non- Pledge Offerings	\$22,000	\$14,657
Other income (use of space by outside groups)	\$13,000	\$12,530
Sales Tax Refunds	\$2,100	
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	\$34,320	\$26,860
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$411,940	\$346,355
2020 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$272,235	\$195,785
Diocesan Support	\$42,605	\$35,504
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$49,780	\$35,835
Office Admin & Other	\$28,698	\$22,213
Youth & Christian Formation	\$10,190	\$6,170
Outreach \$ Escuelita Support	\$14,000	\$4,184
Hospitality, Pastoral Care, Stewardship,& Retreat	\$7,100	\$705
Worship & Music	\$2,765	\$4,366
4% pledges unfulfilled based historic average	\$13,621	
Total 2020 Budgeted Expenses	\$440,994	\$304,762
Current Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over disbursements	(\$29,054)	\$41,593

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

YTD Pledge fulfillment 86%

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 0

