



M A 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

May 2021

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The Lost Beatitude

When St. Matthew was writing down the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), the story goes that he missed a beatitude which Jesus surely said, but somehow was not recorded for posterity. The Lost Beatitude is: "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape."

This year has been full of "changes and chances" requiring extreme flexibility, especially for St. Mark's. One of my favorite prayers in the Book of Common Prayer is for God's protection:

"Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of thy servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, [we] may ever be defended by thy gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Our mortal life has been full of changes and chances this year. The Covid 19 Pandemic has forced us into new life-patterns. Worship has gone largely from physical to virtual. Who would have ever thought of "drive-by communions" and "self-administered ashes" on Ash Wednesday? Who could have imagined that the annual Foot Washing on Maundy Thursday could not take place because of precautions against spreading the Covid 19 virus? Who could have dreamed a Public Service of Healing without laying on of hands and anointing?

Who expected that the 205th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina would take place safely tucked inside our cars in a parking lot in Chapel Hill, with delegates voting by honking our car horns? Who guessed that “outside clergy” would be prohibited from visiting our parishioners when they are patients in hospitals?

At Easter, because of dropping Covid infection rates, we were able to expand our Sunday physical worship capacity from ten to thirty-five people. And then, because of increases in covid infection percentages (above 6.5% positive rates on a rolling 14 day average), we just as quickly had to go back to ten people worshipping together on Sundays. Two steps forward and one step back.

Changes and chances. People (especially Episcopalians) don’t like change. Change is always experienced as loss. Remember how much we argued over the “new” Prayer Book in 1979? We even made jokes about it. “Question: How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: Ten, one to climb a ladder and nine to talk about how the new light bulb will never be as good as the old one was.”

The Harvard Business Review has an article “Ten Reasons People Resist Change.”¹ Those reasons include

- Loss of control. Change can make us feel like we have lost control over our lives.
- Excess uncertainty. Change beyond our control takes away our sense of certainty.
- Surprise! Surprise! Sudden change means that we don’t have time to adjust.
- Everything seems different. It doesn’t fit with our habitual behavior patterns.
- Loss of face. We have to abandon the positions that we have previously taken.
- Concerns about competence. Can I handle the changes coming my way?
- More work. Change always causes more work.
- Ripple effects. Change causes even more change as the consequences ripple out.
- Past resentments. The ghosts of the past always come to the surface with change.
- Change can hurt. Sometimes changes have painful repercussions.

So, if you have felt “off balance” for the past year, do not be surprised. We can control our reaction to change that is beyond our control. Just remember: “Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.”

St. Mark’s has been called to a remarkable level of flexibility by an amazing number of simultaneous transitions:

- The departure of the previous rector.
- The construction and completion of the new Rafters (parish hall and ministry center).
- The departure of the previous youth minister (and jack of all trades).
- The arrival of an Interim who has done things a little differently, even when he was trying not to.
- The painful realization that we have gone from two full-time ordained ministers to one half-time ordained minister, with the resultant reduction in ministries.
- The additional work of the search process for a new Rector.
- The launch of the Flying Lion transitional ministry to employment.
- Having to do existing ministries differently because of Covid (La Esquelita San Marcos, Ranson Middle School, Twelve step ministries, Tutoring programs... everything has changed because of the pandemic).

The point is to be patient with ourselves. If life feels particularly off-balance, that is because everything is off-balance right now. And given all the “changes and chances” life is probably going to feel off-balance for a while to come.

Sometimes when my world gets wobbly, I realize that I should probably set the wobbly things down and let God carry them. I find the bedtime practice of using a God-jar helpful. Any old jar with a lid will do. You simply write down all the things that are weighing you down on little pieces of paper, make a conscious decision to hand them over to the care and keeping of God, put the little pieces of paper in the jar, and screw the lid on tight. Then relax and go to bed, trusting God to take care of things.

The service of Night Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer book is also helpful. One of the prayers says:

“Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God.
It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done
has not been done; let it be.
The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in
you.
The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who
have no peace.
The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new
possibilities.
In your name we pray. Amen.

So in this time where change and not being in control seem to be the norm, please be patient with both yourself and all those who are around you. Realize the virtue of flexibility, and try to be as flexible as you can.

Father Ed.

1 Rosabeth Moss Kanter, “Ten Reasons People Resist Change” Harvard Business Review, September 25, 2012. Accessed at <https://hbr.org/2012/09/ten-reasons-people-resist-chang>. Accessed on April 21, 2021.

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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**

We can have 35 people in attendance on Sunday
mornings

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



PENTECOST

Sunday May 23rd

Assuming our covid numbers are in line

We hope to offer overflow in the Rafters

With Festive Pentecostal

Offerings.

More information to follow in the coming weeks.

OUTREACH UPDATES



Ranson Middle School

Outreach continues to work with Jon Rochester on any RMS needs.

We are currently helping with:

Teacher Appreciation Notes and Gift Cards
Support for the Beginning Teachers Program
Campership Registrations are underway.



La Escuelita San Marcos Graduation

will be

Sunday May 23rd

At 2pm

Lake Haven Church

11925 Lakehaven Dr,

Huntersville, NC 28078

Lake Haven Church is in the Huntington Green /Caterpillar Ministries neighborhood. We will have graduation there this year to remember where San Marcos began its mission. During the pandemic, we've spent a lot of time in outdoor classes there. The majority of our students this year are from the neighborhood. Also, this way, our families without transportation can walk over.

Please join us as we celebrate this year's graduates.



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.

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

Father Ed attends these lunches on Wednesdays and Fridays.

If you would like to have time to chat with Father Ed these would be great days to come.
(with the exception of Wednesday April 28th)

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>



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





As we continue to reopen, enjoy some freedoms and lesser restrictions we find ourselves with opportunities to engage with one another.

Reopening also creates opportunities to serve and be involved.

If you have been missing involvement over the course of this pandemic and interaction with others you might find your opportunity below.

Opportunities for Involvement

A/V Assistance - for the church and the Rafters. (one or the other training provided)

Contact Sarah Milholland sarahmilholland@stmarksnc.org

Welcome Ministry- Looking for members to be part of the welcome team. Especially important as we move to in-person worship.

Contact Sarah Milholland sarahmilholland@stmarksnc.org

Wedding Belles- members to help clean up after weddings.

Contact Allison Rhinehardt allibrett@gmail.com

Finance Committee- 3 people needed for

Sales tax help, Committee Scribe & Payroll Quarterly Review. Training provided.

(time commitment 3-4 hours a month)

Contact Brian Pouliot brian.pouliot1558@gmail.com

Acolytes: Youth or Adults. One hour on a Sunday morning once a month. Training provided

Contact Tracy Tinsley twinsley@gmail.com

LEMS: To make in person visits to our parishioners in their homes

Contact Jan Daubener at jan_concord@yahoo.com



Birthdays

Brett Rhinehardt - 5/1
Mike Tinsley - 5/2
Blake Michael – 5/3
Brian Pouliot - 5/4
Savannah Self - 5/4
Betty Gluyas - 5/5
Nate Heggen – 5/7
Bella Rhinehardt - 5/11
Bob Weeks – 5/16
Lauren Siegel - 5/22
Tom Lenardson - 5/23
Michael Havens – 5/25
Werth Roberts – 5/25
Rae Deicke - 5/26
Debbie Heggen – 5/28
Leo Brett - 5/30
Maura Melear – 5/30
Debbie Plummer – 5/30
Emma Middleton - 5/31

Anniversaries

Jeremy & Dawn Michael - 5/3
Tom & Lorraine Lenardson - 5/21
Michael & Molly Thompson - 5/28

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
Melanie Blythe

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Ian & Liesel Doolittle – 5/7
Mark & Lacy Hamilton – 5/14
Brent & Amy Sparks – 5/21
Andrew & Libby James – 5/28

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THE RAFTERS

AT HISTORIC ST. MARK'S



*First
Wedding*

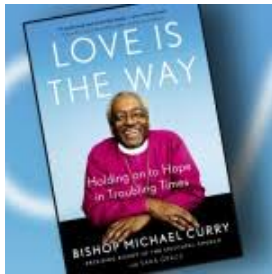




**May
W.I.N.E.
(Women in Need of Entertainment)**



It's been a long time since WINE has gathered.
Mark your calendars for Monday, May 17th.
We are looking at having WINE in
The Rafters
or possibly outside if needed.
More details will follow in the coming weeks.



**St Mark's Book Club
Wednesday
May 5th
Please join us as we
wrap up our
discussion on**

Bishop Curry's new book.

**Love is the Way: Holding on the 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 May 13th
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**

	2021 Budget	March YTD Actual
Current Pledged Income	\$297,092.00	\$140,432.00
All other anticipated income		
Non- Pledge Offerings	\$13,168.00	\$3,409.00
Other income (use of space by outside groups)	\$73,120.00	\$15,805.00
Sales Tax Refunds	\$1,600.00	\$ -
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	\$33,360	\$7,711.00
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$418,340.00	\$167,357.00
2020 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff	\$201,525.02	\$38,527.00
Diocesan Support	\$42,900	\$10,707.00
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$43,688	\$10,868.00
Office Admin & Other	\$26,328	\$6,319.00
Youth & Christian Formation	\$4,500	\$108.00
Outreach \$ Escuelita Support	\$10,200	\$900.00
Hospitality, Pastoral Care, Stewardship,& Retreat	\$3,235	\$189.00
Worship & Music	\$2,765	\$76.00
4% pledges unfulfilled based historic average	\$11,885.68	
Total 2021 Budgeted Expenses	\$347,024.70	\$67,694.00
Current Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over disbursements	\$71,315.30	\$99,663.00

**2021 Pledge update-families 132 cards mailed. 83 cards returned.
Average pledge \$3,580.00. \$73,990.50 pledged.**

YTD Pledge fulfillment 47%

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