

Saint Mark Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for Feb. 5!

Bring a dish to share. Come to hear Saint Mark is doing in our church and community. (more info below)

**THEOLOGY, RACISM, AND CHRISTIAN PRACTICE:
How Shall We Respond?**

sponsors: Saint Mark Presbyterian Church • The Presbyterian Outlook and National Capital Presbytery • Institute of Radical Reconciliation

More information below on this meaningful series of events happening at Saint Mark

SAINT MARK

*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتكم، و لكننا
سعداء انكم جيراننا.

Saying Grace from Pastor Shelby

As we turn toward Lent, our focus moves from the manger to the cross. In his incredibly powerful book, “The Cross and the Lynching Tree,” theologian James H. Cone writes that, “the cross was God’s critique of power—white power—with powerless love, snatching victory out of defeat.” It has not been an easy book to read, but it has been an important one. Sometimes the things that are most important are the most difficult to do.

Talking about racism can be one of those things. It has become more and more clear over the last eight years that racism is alive and well in our nation. As Christians we must be willing to have these difficult conversations in order to live faithfully in to our call to do justice and love mercy. Lectionary Year A, which we are in right now, is the year of Matthew. In Matthew’s Gospel, one of the most

powerful sayings of Jesus is this: “whatever you did to the least of these, so also you have done it to me.” In his book, Cone lifts up this passage, juxtaposed with images of black suffering across America. This is an image that I find impossible to ignore.

Over the next several months, Saint Mark is hosting a series of conversations called “Theology, Racism and Christian Practice: How shall we respond?” Dr. James H. Cone is one of our featured speakers, as well as Dr. Willie Jennings, a professor at Yale Divinity School. These conversations will be focused on reconciliation and future steps.

Reconciliation is part of this important work, and we must come to grips with the ways that the church has been complicit in racial division and inequity in our history. The goal of this series is to put our faith into action, to discern together, and to integrate a theological vision with Christian practices to counter the sin of racism.

The first event is in February, Feb. 10-11, with Dr. Jennings and leaders of the P.C. (U.S.A.). Dr. Jennings will make a presentation on Friday evening and on Saturday, Rev. Denise Anderson (co-moderator of the PCUSA) and Rev. Paul Timothy Roberts of Johnson C. Smith Seminary in Atlanta will lead us in conversation. There are tickets to the National Museum of African American History and Culture available to attendees of this event on Feb. 13 & 15. The second event is with Dr. Cone on March 30. He will give a presentation on his book “The Cross and the Lynching Tree” and we will have conversation following.

Please go to the Saint Mark website or click [here](#) to register, space is limited. We hope that you will join us in this effort. More information about prices and times is below.

What’s Happening: February & March

Feb. 5- One service at 9:30, Annual Meeting and lunch to follow. Food first Sunday, bring your food to donate to Manna Food Center!

Feb. 12, 19, 26- Two services, Christian Formation for all ages at 9:30

March 1- Ash Wednesday, worship @ 7:00 pm

March 5- First Sunday of Lent: one service at 9:30, Youth group pancake breakfast to follow.

March 12, 19, 26- Two services, Christian Formation for all ages at 9:30

The Bible as the Living Word

As the year goes on, the passages the lectionary offers to us are wonderful, and the ways that they so strongly relate to what is going on in the world never ceases to amaze. Soon we begin the Beatitudes, and

*Youth group members
and their leaders
volunteered at A Wider
Circle in Silver Spring:
Jan. 22*



then the rest of February takes us through the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' teaching to his disciples about how to live in the world. It also keeps with 1 Corinthians, Paul's letter to a community in crisis, more focused on what divides them than what unites them. As it has throughout the ages, the Bible speaks loudly and prophetically to our times.

Each week, members of the congregation will lead an open discussion and exercise on one of the lectionary scriptures. These are the passages that are read during worship and that many children's Sunday school classes study as well. This class will offer a chance for adults to delve deeper into the texts for worship and grow together as a community of faith. *We will gather weekly at 9:30, downstairs in the Education Building in Room 105/106.*

Annual meeting- February 5, following worship.

The Saint Mark Annual Meeting is an opportunity to hear from members of the session, the church and wider community about how Saint Mark is an important part of their life and work. It is also the time when the church approves the terms of call for the pastors. Please plan to attend. A potluck lunch will be shared before the meeting. Please plan to bring a dish to share. If you can help with lunch set up or afterwards, please contact Amie Gribbins: gribbinsaoo@gmail.com.

February Youth Group Schedule

5- Ice Skating after church *Announce Wall of Envelopes at church

*12- Bible Study (MS and HS separate, dinner)

19- Family Sabbath Weekend, President's weekend

24- (Friday)- Lock-in, MS & HS together for fellowship event, HS stay overnight at church

Theology, Racism, and Christian Practice: How Shall We Respond?

See [flyer](#) on our website for more information & pricing.

Februaury 10-11 - The Origin of Race

Friday 7pm -Presentation by Dr. Willie Jennings followed by Q&A

Saturday 9am -Panel with Dr. Willie Jennings, Dr. Paul Roberts and The Reverend Denise Anderson (co-moderator of the P.C.(U.S.A))

-Conversation groups: How shall we respond?

-Future steps

March 30 - The Cross and the Lynching Tree

Thursday 7pm- Presentation by Dr. Cone with response and discussion

Registration is required. Register [here](#).

Booklovers- The Saint Mark book club

The book for February is *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks. Pastor Shelby will lead the conversation. The next meetings will be Monday, February 13, 12:30 to 2:00 and 7:00 to 8:30. The 12:30 meeting will be held in Room 109. The evening group meets in The Parlor. This is a great way to meet and catch up with other Saint Markers.

In March we will be reading **Behind Every Great Man: The Forgotten Women Behind the World's Famous and Infamous** by Marlene Wagman-Geller. The author will be skyping with us

during our discussion. We have rescheduled the meeting for Sunday, March 12, at 12:30 after worship. "This witty, illuminating book reveals the remarkable stories of 40 captivating females, from Mrs. Oscar Wilde to Mrs. Jerry Garcia, who have stood behind their legendary partners, and helped to humanize them, often at the expense of their own careers, reputations and happiness." A fun read if you are a history buff or not!

Holy Communion; Eucharist; The Lord's Supper

Do you ever wonder how the elements magically appear on Communion Sundays? How does our church get fed? If you have any desire to contribute "behind the scenes" to help feed the congregation, we are ready to train new folks. This is also a great family serving opportunity! This is a commitment that does not require a lot of time, but nonetheless is a gift given to our congregation. Please contact Sharon Tarr, bankstarr1@yahoo.com, or Jane Karakashian, jkrash36@gmail.com for more information, even if you are not sure you are able to help right now.

Global Mission Ministry Update

GMM welcomes Colette Ramm as the new Acting Elder of the Ministry team!

GMM recently distributed the following:

- \$1000 to Doctors Without Borders for their work in Syria
- \$636 to Hearts with Haiti for Hurricane Matthew Relief
- \$1000 to Lutheran Social Services for assistance in resettling Syrian refugees

Saint Mark supported Mission Co-Workers, Eric & Becky Hinderliter, will be retiring after 16 years of service in Lithuania this year. They faithfully served the LCC International University, the prison community and the people of Klaipe'da, Lithuania. Please keep them in your prayers as they transition back to the U.S. starting next month. You can see a letter from them on the church website.



Saint Mark Prayers

- For our new President, members of Congress and new government leaders, that they might embody Christ's call to care for the least among us.
- For Becky Johnson and her family, on the loss of her father.
- For Lisa Delity, a friend of Saint Mark and leader of Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence. Lisa's husband passed away suddenly in January.