

Meet the Saint Mark new members

In this newsletter you will find more information about the new members that have joined Saint Mark in 2017!

Summer time at Saint Mark!

On Sunday, May 28 we will have one service at 10:00. There will be no Sunday school. The summer schedule will run through September 3.

SAINT MARK

Saying Grace from Pastor Roy

A colleague of mine, who is a pastor, described the anguish she and her husband felt as their teenage daughter, who is black, was stopped by police and forced into a police car for no apparent reason other

than the color of her skin. After 15 minutes she was released and told to go home. No charges, nothing but intense fear. The parents are feeling that terrible pain-in-the soul of being unable to protect their daughter. It's a feeling that I honestly can't imagine because it's so far out of my experience. I try and will continue to try. Since I believe one analogy that helps us understand God is that of a parent, I believe God is crying with those parents and with everyone else who experiencing the terrible assault of racism. These things cause God's heart to break and ought to cause my heart to break, too. Jim Wallis, the Editor of Sojourners magazine, calls racism America's Original Sin. I think what he means is that white people dominating black folks has been with us from the beginning and remains with us. And that this is sin. Christians are freed from sin by the power of the resurrection are to be the ones combatting racism in every form. Saint Mark has focused on this with our forums on Theology, Racism and Christian Practice. *On May 21 we will gather to watch and discuss the Academy Award nominated film - I Am Not Your Negro based on James Baldwin's writings. This is an extraordinary film and will help us, as Christians, understand our history and face what we must do in the present. I keep thinking of the experience of that innocent teenage girl in the back of a police car, crying in fear simply because she is black. The parents are crying. God is crying. We can rise up in the power of Christ to say no to such things. (Photo is of theologian Dr. James Cone, speaking at Saint Mark.)*



What's Happening: May & June

May 7 Youth Sunday- one service at 9:30, ministry team meetings follow

*Alternate transportation Sunday! Walk, bike or share a ride to church!

**The youth group will be planning and leading the service!

May 14 & May 21- Two services, Christian Formation for all ages at 9:30

May 21- We will be installing the Memorial to the Lost following the 11:00 worship service. This is a Memorial to local victims of gun violence.

May 28- Summer schedule begins. One service at 10:00 am, no Sunday school.

June 4- Pentecost Sunday, one service at 10:00 am with baptism

Picnic after worship, wear red!

June 11, 18, 25- One service at 10:00 am, no Sunday school

*On June 25 the youth will lead the service and offer their reflections on their experiences with the Appalachia Service Project

Saint Mark Parents of little ones

Would you like to expand your parent-to-parent village at Saint Mark? We're trying a new way of building community for people "in the trenches" of the early years of parenthood. Instead of a formal small group, interested parents will be paired with another parent partner at Saint Mark. Meet on your own terms, whenever and wherever makes sense for your schedule. Set up a playdate or plan an adults-only meeting, discuss last week's sermon or the most recent ways your little one is testing your patience. Pray for each other! The only firm rule is you promise to meet up with your partner, in person, once a month. Contact Jessica Sillers (jessicasillers@gmail.com) or Jenn Carr (jennifer.evansc@gmail.com) if you'd like to get involved.

Earth Care Ministry Announcements

- May 7 - 7th Annual Alternate Transportation Sunday. Leave the car at home and BIKE or WALK or CARPOOL or METRO/BUS TO CHURCH DAY! *Bring a Friend!* Mark your calendars for this fun Spirit and Service Sunday. Dress will be casual. Help with carpools and biking teams upon request to Alison.Bennett72@gmail.com.
- Also on May 7 after church, we will welcome representatives of the Residential Energy Program of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, who will be offering 3 **FREE LED bulbs** in exchange for your incandescent or CFL bulbs. Pepco is also a sponsor of this event. Please take advantage of this great opportunity.
- Saturday May 13 9:00-1:00 Potomac Conservancy River House, 7906 Riverside Drive, Cabin John, Maryland 20818. The Spirituality of Water: Faith and Action Along the Potomac River.

Rediscover the rich and loving interrelationship between the Earth, humans, and the Divine. **FREE** for Maryland congregations. Register [here](#).

- We were just re-certified as an Earth Care Congregation for the 6th year in a row!



Vacation Bible School- June 26-30

You're invited to discover your strength in God with Saint Mark Presbyterian Church for Hero Central VBS! For more information about our Vacation Bible School, or to register, call Shelby Etheridge at (301) 530-0600, email Heather at hkara@comcast.net or go to 2017.cokesburyvbs.com/SaintMark2017

The Bible as the Living Word- Sunday morning Bible study continues

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 on Sundays at 9:30, downstairs in the Education Building in Room 105/106.*

Property Ministry Update

Lighting replacement project: We are in the process of replacing the fluorescent lighting in the Education building, as well as essentially all our exterior lighting, with new LED lighting, as part of our "Green Church" program. For this purpose, we just had word that our application for a small grant to the National Capital Presbytery, and specifically to the Earth Care "Power to Change" program, was recently approved for funding, which should help defray the costs. However, to qualify for the maximum rebate form Pepco, we need to qualify as a "small business"; we are very close to qualifying –it is based of course on our overall energy usage – but we come in just above the limit in 2 months over the past year, which disqualifies us right now. We are planning to revisit our qualification for a small business again in the Fall. Therefore, we are now reviewing our energy use, and the automatic thermostat settings in particular, to see where we can potentially make some changes over the next months to hopefully qualify later this year.

Landscape upgrade upcoming! We have now signed a new proposal to replace the 9 Yews in the walkway next to the Education building that have been dying away for several years now! Look to see in the next few weeks those old Yews replaced by 5 pink ("PJM") rhododendron, a particular variety that is recommended as being both resistant to root rot and the deer! We will plant several boxwoods ("Green Velvet" variety) as well, that should work in the area to complement the rhododendrons, all for a reasonable price!

Office equipment- copier update: Since our lease for the Xerox copier was up this Spring, rather than renew with COS, the Xerox supplier, we have signed a 5-year lease with DCA for a Sharp copier; as

The youth group has been enjoying some time for fellowship and growing closer to God by growing closer to each other.



Pastor Shelby visited Saint Mark students at the University of

Maryland



you may have noticed, the new copier is in the church office now for all our church-related copying tasks! For members who need to make committee-related copies, just use the member code posted on the wall. Please do not use color option unless required for your project, as these copies of course are more expensive! Standard copying tasks are menu-driven and are quite easy to follow.

Internet service upgrade! In order to obtain a more reliable, permanent, and church-wide internet service than could be provided by our current phone and internet provider, Verizon, a contact for cable high speed internet, with changeover of the phone service as well, was recently signed with Comcast. This will require Comcast to lay an underground cable to the church from feeder lines on Tuckerman Lane, work that is scheduled to begin very shortly. Stay tuned for when this project will be completed – hopefully within the next month!

Any concerns and questions related to the church property, see me at church, or just give me a call!

Bill Merritt

Elder, Property Ministry

Pastor Roy on the Camino

Pastor Roy Howard will return to Spain on May 29 to walk a pilgrimage along the Camino Primitivo which starts in Oviedo and goes to Santiago. The intent of this pilgrimage is to walk alongside and listen to other pilgrims many of whom describe themselves as religiously non-affiliated (NONE) which is the fastest growing number of people around the world. This pilgrimage route is often called The Original Way because it was the original pilgrimage route beginning in the 9th century when Oviedo was the capital of Spain. He will return for worship at Saint Mark on June 18. A commissioning service for Roy will be held during worship on May 28. Let us join with him in prayer along the pilgrimage.

Per Capita

The per capita for 2017 is \$38.75 For more information click [here](#).

Legacy Continues Campaign

Thank you generous congregation! We have completely paid the mortgage for our construction loan. We are now using your pledge payments to repay the church accounts from which funds were borrowed at the outset to reduce the amount needed from the bank. \$579,726.50 was pledged. We have received \$534,178.76, which is just over 92%. I believe that approximately \$19,000 of the outstanding balance is collectable. Please continue your payments until the end of the campaign.

Pledge Secretary, Alison Bennett

Saint Mark Prayers

- Jeff Kreihbel, and his family. Jeff is the former pastor of Church of the Pilgrims (DC) facing pancreatic cancer.
- Mary Fleisher and her family, as Mary undergoes surgery and treatment for cancer of the mouth. She will be at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, AZ for treatment, accompanied by her husband Tom.

New Member information - Meet the 2017 Saint Mark new members!

Brigitte Vincent

I am a recent transplant from the Pacific Northwest having lived most of my life in Portland, Oregon. Unfortunately, it was a series of unfortunate events that precipitated my move to the DC area. But, as we all know, God moves in mysterious ways, and the move opened a new and wonderful chapter for me.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE WEBSITE: SAINTMARKPRESBY.ORG

I had the good luck of moving to Takoma Park, a place that feels like a little slice of Portland in DC; met my soulmate in Tom Peterson; found a wonderful church home at St. Mark, and recently had my oldest daughter move to DC upon graduating from Smith College. I actually am blessed with two wonderful daughters who are both in their young twenties and just starting their adult lives. I currently work for a consulting firm in Bethesda and have the pleasure of working on a contract, training providers in post-acute care settings on new quality measures being rolled out by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Life couldn't be better right now, and I look forward to getting to know the members of St. Mark over the coming months and years.

Tom Peterson

My hometown is Oak Park Illinois, which you may know as the home of Ernest Hemingway and Frank Lloyd Wright. I work at NIH, and am the Chief of Bioengineering at the institute that handles Peer Review, CSR. I am the proud father of a daughter who is a doctoral student in electrical engineering and computer science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a son who is a musician. I'm am getting married May 27, the Saturday before Memorial Day, and praise God daily for meeting my soon-to-be wife, Brigitte.

Maryse Pierre-Louis

I was born and grew up in Haiti. My mother was a schoolteacher and my father was a lawyer. I am the youngest of a family of six. I am married and have two sons. I went to catholic schools (run by French nuns) from pre-K to pre medical school.

I obtained my MD degree in 1977 (State University School of Medicine in Haiti), completed my residency-training program in internal/tropical medicine. I subsequently developed a strong interest in public health and traveled to Boston for my post graduate training (Harvard School of Public Health: Master of Public Health (1980); Master of Sciences in Health Services Administration and Management (1981). I returned to Haiti to work on maternal and child health issues in rural areas with Columbia University and subsequently managed one of the biggest maternal and child health hospitals in the country. In 1985, I was recruited by USAID as a technical advisor to lead their maternal and child health/family planning in Rwanda (1985-87) and Mali (1987-89).

In 1989, I was offered a permanent appointment at the World Bank in Washington DC where I served for 25 years, as a Senior/Lead Public Health Specialist, working primarily in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa. For the last ten years of my career at the Bank, I designed and led the largest World Bank global effort on malaria to date, coordinated public health activities across the six operational regions of the World Bank. Also I led the preparation of the Policy document which articulates the role of the World Bank in addressing the major public health challenges of the 21st century. I retired from the Bank in May 2014 and still serve as a Senior Consultant for public health matters.

I like to do floral arrangements; to watch history movies, and discuss political issues as well as issues related to globalization. I am very much interested in teaching (served for 5 years as assistant-adjunct professor for maternal and child health at Georgetown University). I like and appreciate the Saint Mark Community because of its sense of solidarity around core values, its courage to stand for what it is right, living the faith in Christ rather than just talk about it. Last but not least: the Sunday sermon which is always focused and catalyzes our spiritual thinking throughout the week.

John Ashley

I moved to North Bethesda in May of 2016 from Athens, GA. As a Georgia native, I attended the University of Georgia and in 2015 earned a Master of International Policy degree, focusing on nuclear nonproliferation. Currently I work as a Staff Assistant with the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. I enjoy reading history and playing strategy games, and am a fan of Game of Thrones. Additionally I hike on the weekends with my significant other, Jessi Austin, who I met on a bus at the University of Georgia. Go Dawgs!

Jessi Austin

I moved to North Bethesda from Athens, GA, in May 2016. I am a proud Texan who graduated from the University of Georgia in 2016 with a degree in Mass Media Arts. As part of my degree program I wrote and directed the short film Just Two Minutes. I am a Marketing Associate at JLL, Inc. One of my goals is to become a black belt in Krav Maga, a martial art created by the Israeli Defense Force. Both John and I are avid Georgia football fans, and are eagerly awaiting the start of SEC football in the fall. Go Dawgs!

Scott and Margaret Clark

Scott and Margaret Clark came from the SF Bay Area last August to pursue work opportunities and to be closer to Scott's mother and step-father. Margaret is now the Artistic Director of the Children's Chorus of Washington (DC), and Scott is a math teacher at the Potomac School in McLean, VA. Their son Matthew is finishing his art degree at MICA in Baltimore, and their daughter Marika is transitioning to making new friends at school, on the sports fields, and at Saint Mark. The Clarks were long-time members of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. Scott was an elder, chairing the Mission Outreach committee, and both Margaret and Scott were active in the musical life of the church. They are excited to be joining Saint Mark with its strong commitment to an inclusive community, service, justice, and spiritual growth.

Matt Harasty

I have been a long time visitor to Saint Mark, since moving to the area when my wife Shelby accepted the position of Associate Pastor. I relocated to Maryland from Richmond, Virginia where Shelby and I first met. Originally from southwest Pennsylvania, I am an avid fan of Pittsburgh sports, especially of the 6 time champion Steelers. I am a certified public accountant and have made a career in the financial services industry. In addition to the Steelers, I also enjoy the outdoors, cooking, and travel.

Stacy-ann, Sunerine and Victoria Ramdial

Sunerine Ramdial was born in Jamaica, WI but grew up in Philadelphia, PA. He completed his undergraduate degree in Computer Engineering from the University of Central Florida and completed his MBA from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Dr. Stacy-ann Ramdial was also born and raised in Jamaica. She moved to the US at 13 for high school. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Boston College and her Doctoral Degree in Virology from Brown University. Sunerine and Stacy-ann moved to Maryland from New England late 2013. They live in Rockville with their beautiful and fiercely independent toddler Victoria. The Ramdials love the outdoors, and are foodies at heart.

Linda and Marlise Asher

Linda and Marlise Asher are recent transplants from the Jersey shore and currently reside in Potomac. Both were raised in Vienna, Virginia and attended George Mason University as undergraduates. Linda

currently works for Booz, Allen, and Hamilton where she runs their contracts department. Marlise is a librarian by training and is currently a stay at home mom. The couple have three children, Richard who is grown and living in California, and six-year-old twins Nicholas and Alexandra. The entire Asher family is delighted to join the Saint Mark community and is looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Mason Hawk

My parents were charter members of Saint Mark 57 years ago. I grew up in the church, was baptized and confirmed and then, during college, strayed away. Before my handicaps took over, I taught tennis and worked on construction. After a few bumps in the road and two knee replacements, I have rejoined Saint Mark and enjoy sitting with my mother every Sunday. Now I live in Rockville.

I Am Not Your Negro film screening

Register [here](#).

Film Screening

SAINT MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A screening of the Academy Award-nominated film, based on James Baldwin's writing.

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO
Directed by Raoul Peck

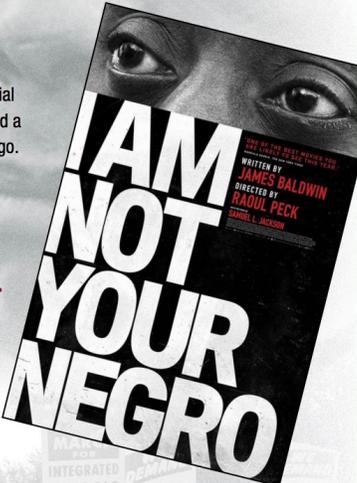
Film critics say *I Am Not Your Negro* offers an incendiary snapshot of James Baldwin's crucial observations on American race relations—and a sobering reminder of how far we have yet to go.

Discussion will follow the film.

This is Part III of the Racism, Theology and Christian Practice Forum addressing ways to counter the sin of racism and white supremacy.

MAY 21, 7:00 PM
Saint Mark Presbyterian Church
10701 Old Georgetown Road
North Bethesda, MD 20852
301.530.8142

Registration is free and strongly recommended: <https://v.gd/ni5x1B>
(<https://i-am-not-your-negro-film-and-discussion-saint-mark-presbyterian.echurchevents.com/step1>)




For more information contact Pastor Roy Howard • pastor@saintmarkpresby.org

NIH Community Chorus Concert

The NIH Community Chorus
with
The East Avenue Ensemble
presents
Mozart
Coronation Mass
plus
A Spring Choral Sampler
7:30 pm
Saturday, May 20, 2017
Saint Mark Presbyterian Church
10701 Old Georgetown Road
Rockville

Free Admission (Donations accepted at the door for NIH charities)
Ample free parking