
SAINT MARK



Saying Grace from Pastor Roy

A few years ago, after some difficult time in America, the late columnist William Raspberry said, “in the end we are all looking for community.” I remembering thinking how true that was then, and I certainly believe it is true today. We face difficulties that threaten to rip us apart but truly at some deeper, more spiritual level I believe we all are looking for community, for relationships, for joy in our friendships and our families. The country experienced something like this during the hours of the solar eclipse. Gathered as one by the wonders of God’s creation, we were caught up in joy, awe and gratitude. For me, it was a holy moment - a gracious space in time when a slice of humanity rejoiced in the beautiful things that lift our hearts. We are all looking for community. It’s the truth that we seek to be what Martin Luther King, Jr. described as ‘the beloved community.’

The desire for community is also one reason to participate in the life of the Church. Here is the possibilities to experience deeper friendship with others who are seeking to grow closer to Christ and learn how to be his disciple in a difficult, threatening world. We worship together, study together, serve together, pray together and hold one another when we are in sorrow.

As the summer ends and a new rhythm of life begins, I hope you will renew your participation in the community of Christ at Saint Mark. It’s a joy to God when God’s people gather together.

What’s Happening: September & October

September 3- One service, 10:00 am, food first Sunday

September 10, 17, 24- Two services 9:30 and 11:00, Christian Formation for all ages at 9:30

October 1- World Communion Sunday! One service at 9:30 am, followed by a church potluck. Bring a dish to share from your native culture.

October 8, 15, 22- Two services 9:30 and 11:00, Christian Formation for all ages at 9:30

October 29- Fifth Sunday conversation at 9:30, one service with communion at 11:00

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE WEBSITE: SAINTMARKPRESBY.ORG

Saint Mark Family Ministry

Did you know we have 30 kids aged 6 and under at Saint Mark? This “contingent” of our congregation is growing fast! We have some exciting opportunities for fellowship and service coming up for this part of our congregation. If you are interested in helping to plan these things or be a part of the family ministry team, please write to Pastor Shelby: associate@saintmarkpresby.org.

Monday night Bible study returns, September 11 at 7:00 pm.

The Monday study returns with a video series: The Ridiculous Journey - Following Jesus. **A 7 part series** with a video and discussion each week. The video features well known Christian theologians, writers and pastors, discussing scripture. Here is a link to preview the series- <http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/bundle/the-ridiculous-journey>. This study is led by Pastor Roy.

Local Mission Ministry

Spirit and Service! The Saint Mark Mission Statement makes explicit that we not only worship together, but we also are committed to doing God’s work in the community. In observance of that Mission, the Local Mission Ministry is refocusing our efforts on engaging the congregation on volunteering in our community. We have selected seven local agencies with whom we have been working over the years. We also have designated “Champions” for those agencies who will be coordinating volunteer efforts. The agencies and their champions are:

Interfaith Works – Ray Mountain

Action in Montgomery – Greg Carr

Bethesda Help – Dick Pavlin

Family Services – Bill Reinch

Rebuilding Together Montgomery County – John Casper

Habitat for Humanity – Carl Shea

A Wider Circle – Dorothy Alexander

Our first volunteer opportunity is coming up in September! We will be serving meals at the Interfaith Works Women’s Center September 17-23. The Center cares for homeless women in Montgomery County. Ray Mountain is the Champion for Interfaith Works and is coordinating the volunteer efforts. You can sign up using this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e4baaae22a46-saint2> Or you can contact Ray.

We’re looking forward to a lot of volunteering this coming year!

Earth Care Ministry Announcements

A SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM EVENT

CHASING CORAL – September 24 – 7PM in the Sanctuary

Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world. Link to the movie trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6fHA9R2cKI>

COME AND MEET: Mark Eakin, Chief Scientific Advisor on “Chasing Coral”

Mark is an Elder and member of Warner Memorial Presbyterian in Kensington. He is chair of National Capital Presbytery Mission Coordinating Committee and a leader in NCP’s Earth Care Congregations Network. A coral reef specialist, with a Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from the University of Miami, Dr. Eakin is Coordinator of NOAA’s Coral Reef Watch, an effort focused on coral reef ecosystems to monitor environmental conditions that lead to coral bleaching. NOAA’s Coral Reef Watch provides the only source of satellite-based monitoring, alerts, and warnings of upcoming coral mass bleaching

events. Dr. Eakin has worked for NOAA since 1991. More : https://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/star/Eakin_M.ph

If you are unable to attend at Saint Mark on September 24, the film will also be shown at Warner Memorial in Kensington with Dr. Eakin on September 23, 7:30 in their Fellowship Hall.

Library renovation update

Work has continued on our library renovation project throughout the summer months. The library group is nearly done cataloging our current books and will start the exciting process of collection development shortly. We are also working on developing a special children's collection. The library is still on track to for a grand re-opening early fall.

Chancel Choir returns

Chancel Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 7, and all are welcome. We meet each Thursday evening for rehearsal from 7:30 to 9:00 PM, and each Sunday morning at 10:30 AM in the choir room for the 11:00 AM service, except on Spirit & Service Sundays, when we sing at the 9:30a.m. The group currently consists of 15 members, and is lead by a few professional section leaders. Please contact Jeff Doenges if you have any questions.

Property Ministry Update

Lighting replacement with LED: Look for replacement of those ugly inefficient fluorescent lights in the Education/Office Building in September or early October with LED! After finally obtaining approval from Pepco for Small Business designation earlier this summer, we have now proceeded with an agreement with Clear Insight to replace essentially all of the fluorescent lights in the Education/Office building, as well as the exterior lighting with LED bulbs, including replacement of the actual fixtures in many cases. The result of obtaining a waiver for qualification from PEPCO for the maximum rebate of 80%, as well as using the \$2,000 grant we received this past Spring from the National Capital Presbytery Earth Care "Power to Change" program, the cost of the project is reduced from approximately \$29,000 to \$4400, payable to Pepco on our monthly bill at 0% interest over 24 months. The expected energy savings will be approximately \$4500 a year, so we will have the project costs equaled out after only about one year; after that, we will reap great savings in our energy use at the church!

Exterior projects: We have repaired the deteriorating concrete on several of the steps leading down to the lower grassy area next to the Butterfly Garden, as well as fixing the broken concrete sections in the sidewalk along the parking lot at the back of the Education building for a reasonable price. We have also removed several dead or fallen trees, large branches and smaller evergreens in the wooded areas near our long driveway leading to the church buildings, as well as cutting back tree branches that were contacting the Education Building roof.

Saint Mark youth enjoyed a summer of Spirit and Service. With ASP, Montreat and Broad Street Ministry



Internet service upgrade! We will now finally very soon have high speed internet service in the church! Comcast is proceeding in short order to lay the underground cable, provide wiring to the church offices and hook up our computers, so that we will have more reliable, permanent, and church-wide internet service than can be provided by our current phone and internet provider, Verizon.

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

Bill Merritt

Elder, Property Ministry

Saint Mark Booklovers returns

The book for our first Booklovers on September 11, 2017 is *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J. D. Vance. From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. You may have heard about this book in the news. *Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. It is a deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, a story of how upward mobility really feels. We invite everyone to read this book and join us on September 11th at either group: 12:30PM or at 7:00PM. Check out our entire list for the year [on the website!](#)

Finance Ministry update

The Financial Ministry Team produces a quarterly snapshot of the Church's income and expenses in the effort to keep the congregation properly informed. The end of June marked the end of our second quarter. Reports have been posted on the Saint Mark website on the Finance Ministry page. If you have any question, email Elder Alison Dewey Alison.dewey@gmail.com

Legacy Continues Campaign

The campaign has come to its official end. We will be sending thank you letters soon to everyone who pledged with special recognition for those who exceeded their pledges and for those who completed their pledges. Sixty have fulfilled their pledges, 14 have given more, and 28 of you have some amount left on your pledges. We welcome you to complete your pledge now if you have not. Some of you are so close! If you would like a personal update, email Alison.bennett72@gmail.com or call 301-980-3726.

Saint Mark Prayers

- Mike Welsh and family on the death of Mike's father. Funeral services will be held on Friday, August 25th in Philadelphia
- Jane Tebbutt in Walter Reed Hospital
- Rachel Kaufmann and her father, who is suffering a life-threatening illness
- Mary and Tom Fleisher, and their family
- Paul Tarr, husband of Elder Sharon Tarr, recovering from surgery
- Please keep our General Presbyter, Wilson Gunn, Pam Gunn (Wilson's wife) and the Gunn Family in your prayers. Wilson's mother died Sunday, Aug.13th