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Dear Saint Mark's Lions:

1.2 MILLION DOLLARS? 31 EMPLOYEES? 4 MINISTRY CAMPUSES?
220 PEOPLE IN WORSHIP?

It's hard to believe that it's only been a year since we began looking for our next parish administrator. We still miss Beverly but have been so honored by the work being done by Patrice Havens and Shirley Redanz. Their efforts since joining us last fall have taken us to the "next level".



They, along with the rest of our amazing staff, work tirelessly to support a ministry that today is on track to see \$1,197,406.29 flow through its 501c3 umbrella.

Of this 1.12 million dollars of income, approximately \$658,198.00 will directly benefit people and ministries who are NOT St. Mark's.

THAT BEARS REPEATING: Of the million dollars entrusted to your care, \$658,198.00 is directly benefiting others!

Your Day School and Thrift Store, combined (with a parish mission trip to Mexico Beach this summer, crossing the Atlantic Ocean to fight Cancer and Cystic Fibrosis, a 10 block radius team, a thriving Backpack ministry, a healthy Wheel Chair Ramp ministry, a Morningstar worship commitment, a Manna House team, and the finest organic garden in Glynn County, and too many others to name) to strike a blow for the Kingdom of God in Glynn County that is truly exceptional.

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This is only possible because of the 31 holy people who call St. Mark's their employer.

BUT ALL OF US DEPEND ON YOU AND THE GRACE YOU EXTEND EVERY WEEK TO THIS COMMUNITY.

On any given week, more than 220 of you gather to give thanks to God and celebrate the miracle above.



As we enter into our Stewardship Season this fall, never underestimate the power of 220 people + God to change the whole world.

YOU are an essential part of the Kingdom math that proclaims 220 of us +1 God = "Thy Kingdom Come"

In Christ, I am,

Sincerely,

Fr. Alan+



BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Prayer, Study & Service

6TH ANNUAL SMOKED BOSTON BUTT SALES BEGINS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

40% of the tickets have already been purchased:

Buy Yours Soon!!!



The 6th Annual Smoked Boston Butt Sales begins Sunday, September 1st after the 10:15am service in the Parish Hall. This fundraiser helps fund the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's community outreach projects during the year.

The price is as always \$30 each and the pickup day is Saturday, October 12th between 11:30am to 1:30pm at St. Mark's.

Word got out early and **40% of the tickets have been sold already!**. There is limited supply and this event always sells out, so purchase yours very soon!!!

You can also purchase a smoked Boston Butt and donate it to the ladies at Grace House. We will handle the details for you!!!

If you have questions please call or text Bill Turner at 813-503-9027.

The next Brotherhood of St. Andrew General Meeting is

Thursday, September 19th at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.

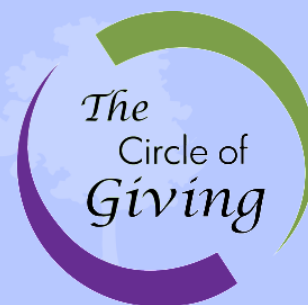
We will have a quick dinner, a very brief business meeting, a short worship service and conclude with our continued study of the Holy Spirit in our lives facilitated by Gareth Allcott!!!

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew looks forward to hosting the Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 22nd.



hello, Goodbuy - The Monthly Scoop

Hello, Goodbuy is more than 'just a thrift store.' Here, you can contribute to a 'cycle of giving' that fuels our Outreach Ministry's Mission to support our Community. Whether you are generously Donating items you no longer need or use, dedicating your time as one of our Volunteers, or doing some 'guilt free shopping' as one of our loyal Customers you are contributing to that cycle.



As an Outreach Ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, it is our Mission to take your donated items and turn them into funding opportunities for local charities in Glynn Co. **Since hello, Goodbuy's inception we have distributed +\$900,000 to +100 local charities and community organizations, including putting over +\$200,000 back into St. Mark's Episcopal Church. By Shopping, Donating, and VOLUNTEERING you help us support all of these organizations. Did you know that St. Mark's receives a 10% tithing from the store's proceeds EVERY MONTH? The more you can do to support and help the store, the more we can do to support the Church and our Community!**

While on the one hand we live in a Community that is overwhelmed by need, on the other hand we are blessed with an outpouring of open hearts dedicated to improving the lives and conditions for those in Glynn Co who need it the most. Alone these groups can make a Difference, but together we can help support and connect these groups to make a real Change.

When considering what to do with the stuff you no longer use or need, think of hello, Goodbuy first. Then, take it a step further and do what so many others already do: drop it off in the back then walk around to shop in the front - what we call a 'beautiful cycle'.



Recruiting Volunteers:

- Whether it be 1-3 hours a week or 1-3 hours a month, we appreciate and need all and any help we can get with volunteers at the store.
- By helping us at the store level, you are helping us generate the funds to continue supporting charities and community projects in our Community. Help us help you!
- You can help with sorting, cleaning, pricing, merchandising, going with our driver to pick up furniture.
- The store stays busy, so we can always use an extra hand.

-Not sure where you might fit in? Stop by the store, talk with Managers Barbara or Louisa, take a tour of the floor and processing areas and hear about the different departments (clothing, primary donations i.e. boxes and bags of misc. items that need to be sorted and cleaned, books, shoes, electronics, etc.), then finally pick a time to come in and try it out at your convenience.

**Stop by the store @ 1523 Glynn Ave on the Corner of Gloucester & Hwy 17 OR Call us at (912) 264-8181
ANSWER YOUR CALL TO SERVE TODAY**

****Remember to Like, Follow, and Share our posts on Facebook & Instagram****



ON THE LAMPSTAND

Reconciling Realities: Making sense and finding hope in the new normal

by Margaret H Crighton

For some it's the death of a loved one, or divorce, or the birth of a child with disabilities. For me it was a brain injury, that thing that shatters your world into the before and after.

It was June 2008, five days after Baxter and I announced our engagement, that my car was rear-ended. In that moment my life – and our life together – was forever changed. Brain injury had come and it was planning to stay.

At the time of my accident I was working as a professor of nursing. I loved my work, which was unexpected. God called me very clearly into an academic career, but I went into my nursing PhD program kicking and screaming. Generous as He is, I quickly realized that what people had been telling me for years was true: combining patient research with teaching tapped all my interests and talents. I enjoyed every aspect of the role, and thrived.

I don't recall when I realized that life had forever changed. I do remember that as the weeks passed and I did not improve, I thought, "this is taking forever." When I walked down the aisle in December, 2008, I had been walking independently for only about 10 days. I would not drive again for 4 years, and I would not return to the work I loved. The life we thought we'd have with a house full of kids and both of us in professions we loved: GONE.

It has been 11 years, and still I find this new reality very spiritually confusing. Why would God take away that to which He had so clearly called me? I don't know, but I believe unequivocally in God's promises that "He works all things for the good of those who love him..." (Romans 8:28), that He "...has plans to prosper me and not to harm me, to give me a hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). Interestingly, the earlier verses of chapter 29 discuss how the Israelites were to settle down and thrive in exile in Babylon.

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I can relate to those Israelites. Although I don't like it, I am trying to live well in this new land of brain injury. Life is very different. It is challenging. I don't feel well most of the time, and I miss my work and my students dreadfully, every day. Some days I absolutely hate this exile. And yet in the midst of heartache and suffering there is blessing. God is using this season to heal other areas of my life; I now have great appreciation for the invisibility of illness; I have been forced into a much slower pace, and notice joy filled details such as children laughing and the exquisite beauty of a single flower blossom and its reflection of God's faithfulness.

I can't see the fruit of my labors like I did when I was working, but I trust that He is still using me, even if the fruit is concealed. In the "now" I believe God is calling me to simply do the next thing, trusting Him with the outcome. I Peter 4:19 says "...let those who suffer...entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good." For me, doing good is on a much smaller scale. It might be as mundane as completing a load of laundry, or reaching out to a friend who is hurting.

What do we do with a life that appears derailed? I don't know the full answer, but while I continue seeking it, I stand secure in these truths: God loves me. He is trustworthy. He is faithful. He does have a plan.

Today, I strive to simply do the next thing he has called me to, and rest in the hope of another promise:

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace [who imparts His blessing and favor], who called you to His own eternal glory in Christ, will Himself complete, confirm, strengthen, and establish you [making you what you ought to be]. 1 Peter 5:10 (AMP)

I leave you with this promise and pray that you too will keep journeying toward peace as we reconcile our new reality with the old - and even thrive in what might still feel like exile.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN . . .

September 2019



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild has been steadily busy all summer. As we prepare for Rally Sunday, we will also start with Advent and Christmas preparations. These seasons will soon be here and now is the time to get ready. I would like to invite ALL members of St. Mark's to join the Altar Guild and enjoy one of the greatest pleasures of serving at St. Marks. Come talk to any and all the Altar Guild as there is a vast amount of knowledge and information within this group. Hope to see you soon.

With God's Blessing
Steve Crowder

Kitchen

We are happy to report the kitchen is moving on smoothly currently.

Rosalind Crowder

St. Agnes Guild

We gathered at Magnolia Manor on July 29th and celebrated Kit Mann's birthday. St. Agnes Guild did not have formal meetings in July or August, but we did the fellowship hour on August 18th. The turnout was excellent. Our meeting in September will be on the 19th, Thursday afternoon at 3pm in the Mixon Hall. Visitors who want more info about our guild are welcome. Our Guild is growing. Jesus - thank you.

Ruth Kent

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St. Margaret's Guild

Our guild hosted the birthday dinner at St. Mark's Towers in July, and we oversaw the funeral reception for Cindy Cowles's mother. Several members participated in the workday at Hello Goodbuy and served at Manna House on July 31st.

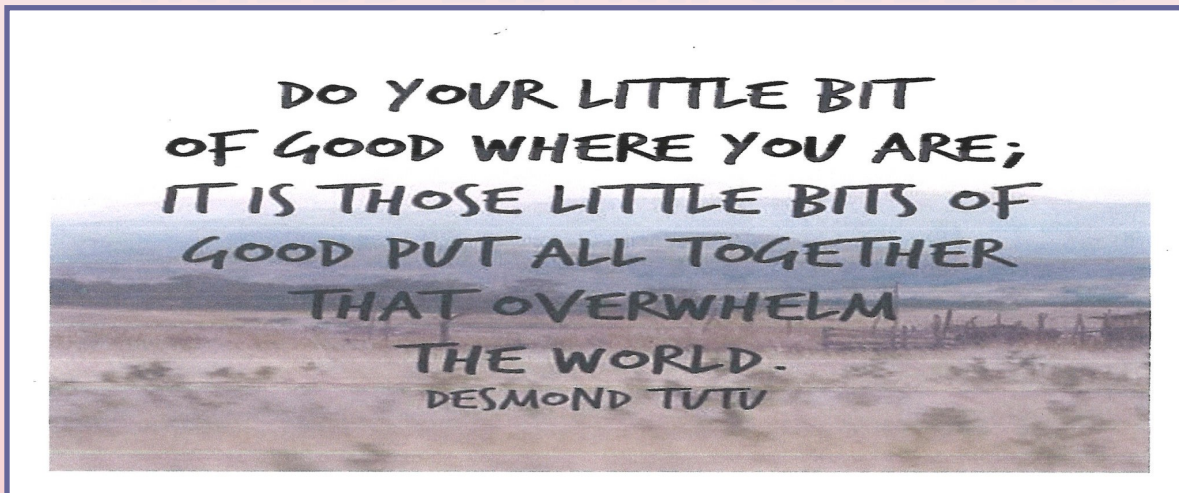
Trisha Perry

St. Mary's Guild

St. Mary's Guild members were happy to host the 10:15 reception on the first Sunday of August. We voted to donate a scholarship to the St. Mark's Music Camp. We also donated to a Vestry project. Twenty-two members and four guests had a marvelous time together at our August Get-Together at Sanctuary Cove Clubhouse. We presented an apron to our newest member and are hoping that two of the guests from lunch will become join our group! For information about joining our guild, just talk to any member.

Debby Stubbs

UNITED THANK OFFERING



St. Mark's supported the United Thank Offering with a gift of \$1,094.89 collected at the Spring In-gathering. Pick up your Blue Box from the Narthex and be ready to share your love at the Fall In-gathering. Remember it is through this outward and visible sign of your thankfulness to God for his abundant blessing, *others may be blessed.*

Judy Lyons

2019 Vestry

Sr. Warden – Dan Burr	435-559-0222	burr@d@mountainwest.net
Jr. Warden – Mike Parrish	404-805-3450	mikeparrish@comcast.net
Ava Bokker	479-903-4984	Avabokker1@gmail.com
Rosalind Crowder	980-721-4113	rcwbds@yahoo.com
Owen Dorsey	404-668-4880	oed@oedorsey.com
Clerk - Julia Gerrett	912-242-2044	juliagerrett46@gmail.com
Edith Gross	704-466-6633	millstonecabin@gmail.com
Jonathan Havens	912-230-7346	jonathan@h2ocreativegroup.com
Tonya Miller	912-580-2802	Tonyaduncanmiller@gmail.com
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Brooks Thompson	912-223-9124	Brooksthompson86@outlook.com
Rev. Alan Akridge	912-222-8746	aakridge@saintmarksepisopal.com
Wallace Harrell		Chancellor of the Vestry
Joel Arline		Parish Treasurer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY!

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Savannah Lyons	2	Will Ricks	9	April Baker	18
Debbie Dougherty	3	Elysse Cox	9	Ron Chappell	21
Ed Hatcher	4	Tim Meredith	10	Kelli Perry Bacon	21
Dawne Hudson	5	Steve Banks	10	Dale Williams	24
Linda Dorsey	5	Amber Redanz	10	Grace Postal	24
John Gross	5	Tabbie Yesupriya	12	Harriett Cathey	25
Will Roberson	6	Eleanor Gregory	13	George Lincoln	26
Chance Buerstatte	6	Joy Youngner	13	Don McWaters	29
Ross Cotton	8	Faye Boddiford	15		
Ruth Kent	9	Walker Butin	15		
Stella Gregory	9	Muri Nations	15		
Maurice & Audrey Postal	2	Cameron & Kristin West	22		
Luis & Kelsie Olivares	3	Mark & Susan Conway	24		
Mike & Cathy Swaney	6	Alan & Kathleen Akridge	26		
Johnny & Jean Patelidas	12	Wrix & Molly McIlvaine	30		