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Dear St. Mark's Family:

I was going to write a stewardship letter to remind myself and our parish of how important next year will be for the future of St. Mark's. How important October 6th and Blessing Sunday will be.

Knowing we've come so far in our last 10 years and that God has accomplished miraculous things that continue to be vital, I wanted to encourage us to "keep our feet on the gas pedal".

But there's something that we need to say that is more important.

"We love you." Kathleen, Harrison, Evie, and I, love you.

Since "We love you" is the most important thing we all ever truly need to hear, we thought we'd tell you, our parish family. We love you.

This simple but profound statement is wrapped up in the "be-cause-es" and "so-s"

Be-because you belong to us

Be-because of all that we've been through together

Be-because you were there when we struggled

Be-cause of the amazing and unique ways you make our family and the world a better place

Be-cause Jesus

We've put a dash in the middle to remind us of the simple truth that real love stems from BEING and not doing. We love you Be-cause.

But the mystery is also wrapped up in the "So-s".

Be-cause of "so-s", when love is present between families and friends, communities and pews, it is the fuel for a billion billion good things and not (it seems) a single solitary bad thing. (After all, when 'love' is blamed for a bad thing don't we discover that it wasn't really love after all?) And this is not to declare that no hard things ever happen when we love each other or that we won't get hurt.

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To love is to be vulnerable. CS Lewis said, ““To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken.” But it seems to us that the reward is very much worth the risk. We love you So-s

So- we will walk through this world holding on for dear life.

So-we will help raise each other when fall.

So-we will not give up.

So-we will laugh with, cheer for, fight besides, and sing to, you.

We've put a dash in this short word because, well, we love you so.... MUCH and it reminds us that “So” is not a question, it's an adjective that propels us into action.

St. Mark's, we Akridges LOVE you. We might not be able to measure it with a tape but somehow, it's stretched across 10 years and still stretching. We might not be able to cash it at the bank but somehow, we've all never gone hungry. Somehow, we've managed to restore our church sanctuary, HVAC, roof systems, and still give away close to 1 million dollars. We might not able to pour it into a measuring cup but somehow it overflows our hearts in tears of humble thanks that stream down our cheeks Sunday after blessed Sunday.

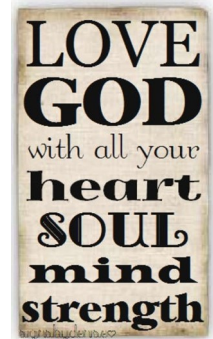
Never was this important sentence more clearly felt than Sunday before last, at the end of worship, when Jonathan and Dan came out of the hallway and Kathleen and I heard it as clear as a bell. We love you so- just be-cause. Walt Whitman said, “We were together. I forget the rest.” And Jesus said, “Love God with all your heart, mind, and soul and love your neighbor as yourself.”

St. Marks Lions. You are good at this. We are proof.

We can't wait to see what the next 10 years has in store.

In Christ, we love you!

Alan+, Kathleen, Harrison, and Evie (Plus Sam, Tucker, and Milly)



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN . . .

October 2019

Garden Report

The garden is currently fallow, and the beds are resting. Our garden has received a grant from the Episcopal Foreign and Domestic Missionary Society. This will support the distribution of food to the homeless and allow us to produce a website with videos about gardening basics. The videos will be produced with help from the College of Coastal Georgia.

Linda Dorsey & Edith Gross

St. Agnes Guild

St. Agnes met in the Mixon Hall for their monthly meeting on September 19th. Their regular scheduled meeting time is the third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. After refreshments, we discussed the ECW luncheon scheduled for September 28th; providing boxes of cereal for needy children and elderly, as well as a bereavement box of needs when there has been a death in a church family. After a program, we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Ruth Kent

St. Margaret's Guild

Our guild helped set up and decorate for the ECW&M Luncheon, and we continue to help with backpacks every Wednesday afternoon. Our next Mixon Hall reception date is in November.

Trisha Perry

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St. Mary's Guild

Guild members welcomed one new member, Jenny London, and two guests to our September meeting. We voted to donate \$200 to Episcopal Relief and Development to go toward Hurricane Dorian Relief for the Bahamas. We also decided on the date the guild will host the October birthday supper at St. Mark's Towers. We will donate Christmas bags for the International Seafarers' Center. Our St. Athanasius food donations so far this year total 592 items. For information about our guild, just talk to any member!

Debby Stubbs

Pastoral Care – Flower Ministry

Volunteers will arrange the flowers after the service, and the flowers will be available for delivery to the sick, grieving families, others in need.

Judy Lyons & Marilyn Lear



BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Prayer, Study & Service

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SOLD OUT!!!!

Ticket sales for our Smoked Boston Butt fundraiser began

Sunday, September 1st. On Sunday, September 15th

the last ticket was purchased!!!!



Thank you St. Mark's for supporting our community outreach projects through your purchase of a smoked Boston Butt. Also, through your generosity, 4 Boston Butts will be donated to Grace House and 5 Boston Butts to Morningstar!!!

*****Remember to pick up your Boston butt at St. Mark's on Saturday, October 12th from 11:30am to 1:30pm in the garden area.*****



Brotherhood Coffee Hour

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew enjoyed sponsoring the Coffee Hour following the 10:15am service on September 22nd.

Thank you to **Baxter Pepper, Ed Hatcher, Will Whatley, Gareth Allcott, Steve Crowder, Scott Pyle, Carol Pyle and Melanie Hatcher** for supplying food, serving skills or both!!!!

Next Brotherhood of St. Andrew Meeting: Thursday: Oct. 17th:6:00pm: in the Parish Hall:

All men of the Parish are invited to attend the next Brotherhood of St. Andrew meeting on **Thursday, October 17th.**

We will have a quick supper; a brief business meeting; a short worship service and conclude with our continuing, great study of the Holy Spirit facilitated by Gareth Allcott.



ON THE LAMPSTAND

Simple, Beautiful Faith, by Linda Dorsey

Though I often go to the St. Mark's Brubaker Giving Garden on Sundays, I never go in the rain. But this rainy Sunday afternoon, after coming home from church, I was determined to head out there. Curiously I felt a calling to go, even though my husband voiced his concerns over the weather and what could be accomplished out there.

When I arrived, the rain was slowing. I looked around at the glorious produce and began to prioritize my soggy chores for the afternoon, when I suddenly began to hear singing. It was certainly not a great afternoon for a stroll, but out of the misty rain, came a woman, very small in stature, dressed in black, with long, curly, wet hair. She was swaying and singing while she walked. She looked at me with deep brown, penetrating eyes.

Her first gentle words to me were, "Oh isn't this a beautiful place! Is this your garden?" I immediately asked her to come in. I began to share with her our mission for the Giving Garden and how we give organic vegetables to those less fortunate. She instantly wanted to help! How could she be a part of this work? What did I need for her to do? She had a garden at one time in her life so she knew a little about how to make things grow. Then it was my turn. "Where are you from?" I asked. She told me her name was Diana. She did not currently have a home, but was staying with a woman several miles away, on a temporary basis. Her life's story then began to flow out of her soul like a waterfall. She had lived everywhere, had been married but her spouse had passed on. She had been poor as a child, had an abusive father, and worst of all, had been beaten so severely by a man during a robbery that it left her with broken bones, scars from multiple lacerations on her face and in a coma for several weeks. At this point in her life, she considered giving up. She thought there was no point in living one more day. But as she lay semi-conscious and seriously injured she said she saw God and He whispered these words to her:

"Diana, I am with you. I will give you strength. I want You to promise to live a life of love and to help others find love in their hearts. Always lay your trials and tribulations before Me. Pray unceasingly. I am your rock and your salvation and only through Me can you see the kingdom of Heaven. If you will do this I will make you strong to live another day!"

Amen was all I could say. I had a million questions. Many people have spoken of seeing angels, bright lights, visions, the Virgin Mary, etc. but I wanted to ask Diana, What did God look like? Was He in human form or was He a light? Was she afraid? Had she seen Him before? But I asked no questions. There was also **no doubt** in my mind. Diana had seen the Almighty, and He had spoken to her.

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The simple faith of Diana; a woman who has no home, no material possessions, no family support, no money, no job, no daily food source, no one to count on, nothing. Yet, she has it ALL. She is fulfilled, happy and content, with faith as big as a mountain. Diana's simple faith led her on that rainy, Sunday afternoon to walk almost five miles and with God's guidance, make a left turn onto Monck Street. She had no idea there was a garden there, which could furnish her with some nutritious food. I asked her why she had come this way and she said with a huge grin, "I was just walking and praying!" Simple, beautiful faith!

I drove Diana, arms loaded with fresh vegetables, back to where she was staying though she hadn't asked for anything. I encouraged her to come back but she has not yet returned to the garden.

I know now why God called me to the garden on that Sunday afternoon. It was not for Diana, but for me. It was so I could share this story of unending hope, love and faith; the story a woman who touched my life in a most profound way; a woman who showed me how to trust and obey, and how to not worry, but pray.

My husband asked me when I arrived back home if I was able to accomplish much in the rain at the garden and I quietly told him, "yes...I believe I saw God today."

Amen and Amen.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

EYCROX

Youth News



MARK YOUR 2019-20 CALENDAR!!!

9/22—EYCroX meeting

10/12—bring your furry friends for a Blessing...11am@SMEC

10/27—All Saint's Day

11/2&3—GA/FL Game Weekend, Advent Wreath Pre-sales*

11/9-11—Veteran's Day Weekend (no school on Mon), Advent Wreath Pre-sales*

11/14-16th—Diocesan Convention—EYC overnight 14th&15th

11/17—Advent Wreath Pre-Sales*

11/24—Feast of Christ the King@morning service & EYCroX Friendsgiving@6pm

11/30—Family Advent Wreath-2pm-5pm, dinner@5 & EYCroX Bonfire 6-8pm

12/1—Advent 1 begins

12/7—Bazaar *8 Christmas Parade

12/20—EYC Advent Adventure

1/10-12—Diocesan Youth Winter Retreat@HoneyCreek 6th-12th

Jan 24-26th / 31st-Feb 2 /Feb 7-9th—EYCroX Ski Trip (dates TBD)

2/21-23—Happening #103 Grades 10-12

2/25—Pancake Supper*

3/27-29—New Beginnings #56 Grades 7-9

4/24-26—Toil 'N Sweat:Caring for HoneyCreek Grades 6-12

See Diocesan Schedule on the Bulletin Board for more events

*funds raised support the EYCroX events (Ski & Mission Trips)



St. Mark's Day School NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Did you know that St. Mark's Episcopal Day School offers partial tuition scholarships for students who are members of St. Marks; as well as families who have multiple children attending, or are in financial need? For the 2019-20 school year we have 11 children of our 40 students participating in our scholarship program which is funded ONLY by day school fundraisers.

We are asking that you please consider contributing to our SMEDS Scholarship Program when making your charitable contributions. St. Marks Day School is an important ministry bringing Jesus into the lives of God's Children! Thank you so much for your support for our amazing little school!

5th Annual CAMP ST. MARK

You may have heard of MineCraft – the video game that let's player's build and create a world from mined minerals to be exactly how they want it – but have you heard of MindCraft?!? Vacation Bible Camp is an all-day experience (8.30am – 3.30pm), and this year we focused on building our minds to be strong in the Lord so that we can build the Kingdom. This year we were able to host 25 campers, ages 5-11; 12 CIT's (counselors in training) ages 12-14; and 14 counselors ages 15-18, not only from our St. Mark's parish, but from our local community and as far away as Williamsville, NY! Beginning on Monday, July 29th through Thursday, Aug. 2nd, we transported, (via the services and generous donation of a Boys & Girls Club bus), all the campers and counselors down to Honey Creek for 4 fun-filled days, and then on Friday we transported the kids to Jekyll Island for a bonus day of games at The Great Dunes Park and fun on the beach. It was an incredible year and it is always an amazing time for everyone involved. This year we were also able to add a 'youth-event' inside of the camp (this was a first!) and the youth have decided it needs to be added as an annual event! On Monday & Tuesday, after camp ended for the day, all the teens who could (15 total), stayed overnight at Honey Creek. After the campers left... we relaxed, swam, laughed, ate & had a great time as we prepared for the next day of camp! This year, we hosted a total of 51 and we offered scholarships to 12 and we hope we can top that next year!



This was such a good event that we already have Camp St. Mark's and our youth event on the calendar from July 27th – July 31st! Don't forget to mark your calendars! In 2020, we are working on making Camp St. Mark's even better – and we would love to open up this venue to many more families because while Vacation Bible School is good... Vacation Bible **Camp** is BETTER! Keep your eye out for more information in 2020 so that you can help spread the word - we will be looking for parish and community sponsors - so that we can increase not only the number of campers and staff, but the value of the program.

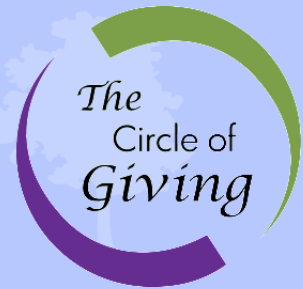
Working together we can accomplish so much more!



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 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****

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
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Brooks Thompson	912-223-9124	Brooksthompson86@outlook.com
Rev. Alan Akridge	912-222-8746	aakridge@saintmarksepisopal.com Rector
Wallace Harrell		Chancellor of the Vestry
Joel Arline		Parish Treasurer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY!

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Carol Howell	1	Love Merryman	15	John Caldwell	21
Jan Tipaldos	1	Pat Nolan	15	Mike Whitley	22
Michael Van Brunt	1	Mary Catherine Lyons	16	Lettie Jones	22
Brenda Brown	2	Heather Cotton	16	Chris Smith	25
Sheila Farmer	3	Alex banks	17	Owen Dorsey	25
Wrix McIlvaine	4	Evie Akridge	17	Betty McBurnett	26
Ben Swaney	5	Patrice Havens	18	Jean Yesupriya-Bernatz	26
Johnny Patelidas	9	Betty McConnell	19	Cheri Taylor	27
Jonathan Havens	12	Lolly Jackson	19	Lynn Wilson	27
Katie Breslin	13	Van Cathey	19	Michael Martin	27
Roger Owens	14	Joshua Postal	19	Lyndia Brantley	28
Olin Fraser	15	Marla Moore	19	Jane Lafferty	30
Gene & Lynn Wilson	15	Hugh & Jennifer Breslin	23		
Jack & Dottie Brodhag	15	Wallace & Mary Harrell	28		
Scott & Elizabeth Toney	18	Danny & Daryl Moore	28		
Joey & Rebecca Neal	20				