

St. Mark's Lion



CHRISTMAS SERVICE

SCHEDULE:



Christmas Eve Family Service at 4:00PM
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 8:00PM
 Christmas Day Eucharist at 10:00AM

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Dear Lions:

Sometimes, when I'm preparing to write to you, I look back at old issues of the Lion to see what was going on at this same time in the past. With Thanksgiving approaching, here's what was going on at the end of 2009 after three months on the job:

- Average Sunday attendance was about 227 persons
- Stewardship response was about \$380,000.00
- We had an ancient HVAC, no elevator, and an old parish hall
- We had a substantial Day School Deficit
- Thrift Store Income @ \$14,000.00
- Planning to ordain 1 person to the priesthood



Here's what was going on at the end of 2014 after 5 years on the job:



- Average Sunday attendance was about 189 persons
- Stewardship response was about \$364,000.00
- We had an ancient HVAC, a new elevator, and an old parish hall
- We had a new day school director and had our first year of a balanced budget in a while
- Thrift Store Income @ \$104,000.00
- Planning to ordain 2 persons to the priesthood and diaconate

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Here's what is going on at the end of 2019 after 10 years on the job:

- Average Sunday attendance is about 230 persons
- Stewardship response was about \$460,000.00
- We have a brand-new HVAC, new elevator, and a brand-new parish hall
- We have a full day school and are considering adding additional space and programs in 2020
- Thrift Store Income @ \$600,000.00
- Planning to ordain or will have ordained 5 persons to the priesthood and diaconate.

And this is amazing in so many ways but, after being together for 10 years, I can now say with conviction that they are FAR from the MOST amazing things.

Because on Saturday we started the day with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew work party at Honey Creek with St. Andrews and St. Cyprians. Then we met with the family of a saint of the church who's likely going to be admitted to Hospice care. Then we went back to Honey Creek to finish up and have fried chicken. And then we went to worship at 5:00 and came back again on Sunday celebrating Christ the King Sunday. The kids at Sunday school made custom crowns for more than 200 of you, our Morningstar family was in attendance, and we rounded out the day with a celebration in honor of this year's fall 2019 St. Mark's 101 Class.



The three areas above are worth noting with swelling and appropriate thankfulness for the amazing growth across all areas of ministry which the National Church can count.

But the areas immediately above are MUCH MORE IMPORTANT because they represent the amazing DEPTH across all areas of ministry which simply cannot be measured.

As we finish nominating the class of future vestry for 2020, it occurs to me how thankful I am to be your rector.

Thankful to God. Thankful to Kathleen, Harrison, and Evie. Thankful to you.

Just plain thankful. As usual, God's timing is perfect.

In Christ,
I am,
Sincerely,
Fr.Alan+

The following slate of vestry nominees will be presented at the annual meeting:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Nancy Breland | Mona Irwin |
| Ross Cotton | Johnny Moore |
| Ralph Dembowczyk | Audrey Postal |



BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Prayer, Study & Service

Workday at Honey Creek

15 brothers from St. Mark's participated in a workday at Honey Creek Conference Center facilitated by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew on Saturday, November 23rd. With chainsaws buzzing, the Brotherhood cut up multiple downed trees and hauled the pieces to the burn piles and the wood splitting area at Honey Creek. Multiple limb and brush piles were also moved to those areas. We were joined by members of the Ramp Ministry at St. Andrew and the Honey



Creek staff.



We "worked for food" and the great Kitchen Staff at Honey Creek prepared a fantastic fried chicken lunch for us after we completed our tasks.

Thank you to brother Dade Brantley and the staff for developing the work plan for the day and preparing the great lunch!

Tentative plans are developing for another workday at Honey Creek this winter.

\$1,523.00 to Morningstar for Christmas

Due to the support by the Parish of the Brotherhood Smoked Boston Butt Fundraiser, we are able to donate \$1,523.00 to Morningstar to purchase the following items from their Christmas list:

- 1 Commercial Clothes Washer
- 1 Commercial Clothes Dryer

and a 20-foot inflatable movie screen and projector for movie night on the lawn or in the cafeteria during inclement weather!



Next Brotherhood of St. Andrew Meeting is Thursday, December 19th in the Parish Hall@ 6:00pm. All men of the Parish are invited!!!

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

'making Christmas a little brighter for others' *



FOOD · FUN · FELLOWSHIP · CHILDREN'S CRAFT TABLE · SANTA
Saturday, December 7th from 9am until 4pm

Don't miss the *White 'Elfant' Sale* or the *Scrumptious Christmas Sweet Shoppe*. Get a jump on your holiday Baking as we offer an impressive variety of Homemade Cakes, Cookies, Sweet Breads, Candies and other sweet treats. We will offer a *'Best Christmas Making Wreath Contest'*. Create a wreath to win a \$50 cash prize!!

Vendor Fee: \$25 per table; please contact the church office for a table reservation form or e-mail georgeanne@honeycreek.org. . **Any donations received towards this event will be used to make this Season 'the Best Time of the Year' for our local families in need.*



SUPPORT THE ST. MARK'S CHILDRENS MINISTRY

The children will be selling advent calendars before the 10:15 service each Sunday before Advent. These sales benefit the children's ministry! Yay kids! Thank you for your support!

Sounds of the Season

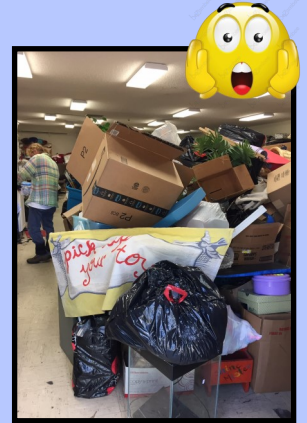
Sunday, December 15th the Chancel Choir will present a Service of Lessons and Carols for Sunday morning worship at 10:15.



hello, Goodbuy – The Monthly Scoop

If you haven't been by the store recently, then you might not realize how dangerous the working conditions have been for staff & volunteers in the back room as of late. The pile had grown so large, as we were not turning down ANY donations from our generous public, that you could barely walk around let alone work in the processing room.

AS A REMINDER: When cleaning out and planning on what donations to make to the store, please keep our workers in mind and only bring us things that you would expect to see on our sales floor.



As a collective work effort between a group of 8 employees and volunteers we TACKLED that pile on Sunday November 24th with a 20' Dumpster at our disposal. A BIG SHOUT OUT to everyone involved with that effort as we managed to get through the ENTIRE PILE with a simple keep/go system.

As you can see, we FILLED the entire 20' Dumpster within a 5-hour period in addition to putting 20+ boxes/totes of stuff out at the back of the building. We hope you take to heart this representation of how much 'trash' ends up being donated and thrust upon our hardworking staff/volunteers to the point of near literally drowning in them.

We Appreciate All of our GENEROUS donors, because without them we would not be on the verge of having distributed nearly ONE MILLION DOLLARS back into our Community. We also wouldn't be at that point without our DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS. So, please consider the work and effort they put into this endeavor as you decide what you are donating to your local GoodBuy store!

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****





EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN . . .

December 2019

Altar Guild for December 2019

As to be expected, the Altar Guild is and will be busy all during Advent and Christmas. We will start November 30 with a cleaning and polishing day. Preparations have begun for Advent with the greening of the church on December 22. Plants and poinsettias will be placed in the church at this time. We look forward to great fellowship and joy during this time of the year. We ask ALL church members, young and old, men and women to join us, as this a great opportunity to enjoy working for our great St. Mark's church.

With God's Blessing
Steve Crowder

Giving Garden News

It has been a glorious month in the Giving Garden. God has provided just enough rain, just enough sunshine and the temperatures have been ones only He could possibly provide!

It's taken us two years of intentionality but officially we have a garden "high in organic matter" according to a recent comprehensive soil analysis. We continue to learn how to improve our growing conditions.

Currently our fall crop is responding and relieved to have cool temperatures in which to produce. Collards are already being harvested. As fall crops come up the kiwi vines, blueberries, blackberries and asparagus lose leaves or go dormant.



Digging up our May planting of sweet potatoes was like Christmas morning as we didn't know what the rampant sweet potato vines were hiding below the ground. We dug about 40 pounds - some little we call "sweet petites" and some huge named "Mama Mia"! They are curing now and soon will be given away. Check out this amazing video see the harvesting in action: <https://share.icloud.com/photos/0BiAwKe-n6oeeHzcL9-93baXQ#Brunswick>



We enjoy the many lessons we learn about God as we labor in His garden. Please let us know if you are aware of a family, elderly shut-in or individual who needs a basket of organic vegetables, please let us know so we can deliver to them. God is good.

The Garden Ladies

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Kitchen

Kitchen is moving along smoothly, nothing from report currently. Please do not leave food in the refrigerator unless specified and marked for particular purpose.

Rosalind Crowder

St. Agnes Guild

St. Agnes Guild is a group that unites women in a program of worship, study, service, and fellowship. Our aim is to deepen and strengthen our own spiritual lives and build opportunities for service to the church, the diocese, and the community. Meetings are held at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month and hosted by a member of the Guild. One of our ministries is to fill shoebox containers with gifts of toiletries, Bibles, knit/crochet watch caps, and other items for the International Seafarers' Christmas by the Sea Program. Because cereal is enjoyed by the senior members as well as youth, we have increased the boxes of cereal for St. Athanasius Food Pantry.

Officers are Ruth Kent, President; Vera Gallo, Vice President and Judy Lyons, Secretary. Additional members are very much welcome to join the oldest guild of St Mark's Church.

Ruth Kent

St. Margaret's Guild

Our members are working on the Christmas bazaar, and will help with the greening of the church and polishing. We are also serving as Secret Santa for a special teenager at Safe Harbor. St. Margaret's will assist with the Christmas luncheon for the guilds on December 20.

Trisha Perry

St. Mary's Guild

Twenty-seven of our members had a great time at our monthly meeting on November 20. We met at the lovely home of Sharon Cacase and enjoyed a delicious lunch and wonderful fellowship. We collected our donations of twenty Christmas boxes and bags for the International Seafarers and our donations of food for St. Athanasius Food Pantry and then presented aprons to our two newest members. We voted to collect toys for the kids helped by "Saved by Grace" and toiletries for the women in Grace House and will take these gifts to our annual Christmas party on December 15th. We also discussed plans for our table at the St. Mark's Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 7th. For more information about our guild, just ask any member.

Deb Stubbs

Please mark your calendars for **Friday, December 20 at 11:30** for a special ECW Christmas luncheon at Mixon Hall. There will be more information to come after Thanksgiving, but we don't want you to fill up your calendar and miss this event!



2019 Vestry

Sr. Warden – Dan Burr	435-559-0222	burr@dmountainwest.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
Rogelio Quintinar	912-223-5391	Rogelioq@gmail.com
Baxter Peffer	412-491-5989	baxterpeffer@gmail.com
Jessica Snyder	404-457-6609	Jessica@coastalmellow.com
Brooks Thompson	912-223-9124	Brooksthompson86@outlook.com
Rev. Alan Akridge	912-222-8746	aakridge@saintmarksepiscope.com Rector
Wallace Harrell		Chancellor of the Vestry
Joel Arline		Parish Treasurer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY!

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Ann Baker	1	Bobbi Williams	14	Gene Caldwell	24
Jim Atwood	1	Trish Perry	14	Vicki Green	25
Paul DiGianfrancesco	2	Tim Braswell	15	Gary Jackson	27
Nancy Breland	3	Debbie Banks	18	Henry Roper	28
Jeff DeBacker	3	Will Whatley	19	Taylor Schoettle	28
Frazier Green	3	Pat Jordan	20	Judy Lyons	29
Judith Allcott	5	Linda Rooney	21	Joey Neal	29
Jug MacKenzie	8	Tracy Quintinar	22	Ella Tipaldos	29
Jack Jones	8	Edgar Urcuhuaranga	23	Barbara Caples	30
Fe Brumit	11	Pope Arline	24	Mona Irwin	31
Cameron West	11	John Kalp	25	Nancy Urcuhuaranga	31
Jeff Buerstatte & Rita Spalding	12	Bill & Bea Newnam	16	John & Mary Butin	28
Michael & Susan Van Brunt	13	Steve & Rosalind Crowder	31		
Baxter Peffer & Margaret Crighton	13				