

St. Mark's Lion



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Dear Parish Family:

The time is now.

I was born with a heart defect in 1967. My pulmonary valve was "fused" partially shut meaning that my resting heart rate was too high and the likelihood of my survival past 15 years old was doubtful. I remember this simple fact explained why I was the "runt of the litter."

At 7 years old, I underwent open heart surgery which was a pretty big deal in 1974 but the awareness of my mortality was instilled in me at a very young age.

Even though the surgery was a resounding success (I'm still here 46 years later) I lived a very tentative life. **I lived afraid I might die at any moment.** *Life was fragile.*

That is until I beat the 15-year mark. After my 15th birthday I began to live in EXACTLY the opposite way. **I began to live ambivalent that I might die at any moment.** I pushed boundaries, broke rules, and should have died on multiple occasions directly related to my own care-less-ness. *Life was tenuous.*

But then, sometime between 17 and 25 years old, I became aware of a force beyond time and yet within it. I discovered unconditional love. I met and felt the presence of God in a Happening event much like the one our children attended last week.

I also met Kathleen and discovered an entirely new way to experience life. This new way was very much in line with the season in which we find ourselves. Before my 25th birthday, I treated Lent the same way I treated death. I was either afraid or ambivalent. But in Christ, in Paul, in Kathleen, Harrison, and Evie, I have discovered something infinitely bigger.

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Certainly, we are called to recognize the fragility of life. Certainly, we are called to, "...remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return". **But we are NOT called to respond with fear or ambivalence.**

Simply, our response is all that we can truly control.

With a mountain of help from the Holy Spirit, in the example of Paul and Christ Himself (given us in scripture), and in love and caring for Kathleen, Harrison, and Evie, an entirely new understanding of life was born into my world. That understanding has been growing more and more deeply because of YOU since 2009.

Together with Paul, we have openly acknowledged mortality and suffering," through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger". How else to describe the funerals of the last month?

But your response, Paul's response, and to a growing extent my response, is so much bigger than my own early life and much of what I see in the world today.

You don't live in fear of suffering and you don't live in ambivalence toward death. YOU have found joy IN THE MIDST of it.

Joy is not the same as Happiness. Joy is a disposition of the heart enabled solely by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and an awareness of the Kingdom of God among us. This awareness is not as an inoculation against suffering. **Instead joy is attached to something infinitely bigger.**

How else could Paul have said this in the very next verse of the same letter: "We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything." *How else could a young grieving mother write, "Those were all simple moments of joy, gifted to us by God in the midst of our heartbreak; they were also spiritual blessings wrapped in the toughest of trials."*

What I have encountered in Christ, in Kathleen (and the two beautiful children we have together), and in Paul is an awareness of life rooted in a transformed understanding of time. What I have encountered in you is the incarnation of this Joy.

Observing a holy Lent isn't about giving up our guilty pleasures. Observing a holy Lent is about holding on tightly to God and each other through all of life and letting go of any and everything which distracts or anesthetizes us from living fully into this awareness.

The awareness that life is fragile and tenuous but all the more reason to treasure every moment with God and those we love.

The best time to start living is yesterday. The second best....

Dear friends, the second-best time is now.

Fr. Alan+

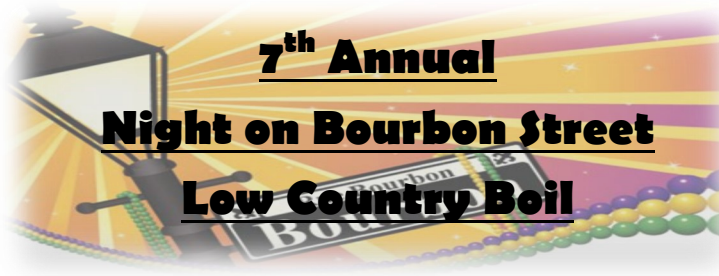




BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Prayer, Study & Service



The Parish Hall was packed, and the revelers enjoyed a joyous night of food and fellowship on Saturday, February 22nd. It was a fitting occasion prior to start of the Lenten season!

Thank you to the following brothers and sisters in Christ who helped facilitate the Night on Bourbon Street: Will Whatley, Terry Carroll, Gareth Allcott, Steve Crowder, Mike Vanbrunt, Will Roberson, Pat Nolan, Greg Wellstead, Larry Youngner, Gary Johnson, Larry Bryd, Scott Pyle, Ed Hatcher, Johnny Patelidas, Andy Tipaldos, Michelle Whatley, Windy

Carroll, Debbie Youngner, Rosalind Crowder, Linda Mahoney, Jean Patiledas, Jan Tipaldos, Melanie Hatcher and Kay Curry.

Thank you to our sisters in Christ in St. Mary's Guild who provided the delicious brownies for dessert: Debby Stubbs, Nancy MacKenzie, Charlotte Mullikin, Carol Pyle, Carolyn Morgan, Beverly Dembowczyk, Linda Mahoney, Rhonda Lawson and Mary Morris.



Clean Up Day at Honey Creek

The Brotherhood facilitated a cleanup day Honey Creek Conference Center on February 8th. Ten brothers gathered to help move brush piles and tree limbs to a burn pile.



Cookout Lunch @ Church

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will be grilling hamburgers on our mobile grill for the church lunch on Sunday, March 22nd.

Our next General Meeting is Thursday, 3/19/20 @ 6:00pm.

All men of the Parish are invited.



Saint Mark's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 2020

Thank you to this years Shrove Tuesday Pancake (&the works) Supper sponsors and patrons!

Herndon Landscaping Group
 Whatley Pediatric Dentistry & Family
 Dawne Hudson & TOP Producers
 Freemans Repairs & General Inc
 Quintanar Running
 Cathy McEnerney
 Faithful Love
 Julia Gerrett & Edward Martin
 Cherry Chambers
 Gwen Hill
 Kaki Thurber
 The Cheesbro Family



The Brotherhood of St. Andrews
 Mitze Ripke
 Carolyn Morgan
 Virginia Holmes
 Steve & Kathy Long
 Steve & Rosalind Crowder
 The Dembowczyk Family
 The Reverend and his lovely wife
 Mike VanBrunt
 Debbie Banks
 Betty Hewitt
 Baxter Pepper & Margaret Crighton

We served up over 150 plates this year – and with your sponsorships and our ticket sales we were able to gift over 30 plates to MorningStar Youth Home and to your friends at St. Mark's Towers.

Thank you to BJ Sellars, Reed Sellars, Evie Akridge & Edith who helped set up the hall to look as amazing as it did - and a huge THANK YOU to our cooks in the kitchen and on the griddles. Thank you to all the office staff for promoting the event and helping with all the preparation and ticket sales. It really does take an enormous amount of time and talent to put this event on and we are so grateful for the all time, effort and donations you make to not *just* a 'Youth Fund' but to a great group of fun youth that we love along with you at St. Mark's! Hats off to another great pancake supper!



St. Mark's Episcopal Day School NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are hosting a TRIKE-A-THON

On FRIDAY, MARCH 27, from 9:00 – 11:00
To raise funds for our NEW STEAM Program
and Playground upgrades



WHAT IS A TRIKE-A-THON?

- A Trike-a-thon is an event where the children ride their trikes or riding toys on our school track while friends and family cheer them on.
- Donations are taken online through the link below. Please help us by sharing the link. Checks (made out to SMEDS) and cash are also accepted.

WHAT ARE WE RAISING FUNDS FOR? We will use the funds raised for items on our WISH LIST that we may not otherwise be able to purchase

during for our school expansion. We need to replace some broken playground equipment, as well as purchase STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Program materials such as iPads, a museum quality magnetic board, and building toys.

For more information, or to make a donation, call (912)265-1090 or go to

<https://app.99pledges.com/fund/stmarksepi2>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Service of Lights

Each year the Daughters of the King look forward to assisting the Lay ministers in conducting the Service of Lights during Lent. The Church opens at 5:00pm each Wednesday for a time of quiet meditation, reflection, prayers, or simply enjoying this beautiful church. The service begins promptly at 5:30 and ends at 6:00. The service is followed by a light supper of soup and sandwiches and a program led by Gareth on the Holy Spirit.





EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN . . .

March 2020

ECW News.....

Our ECW is currently without a Chairperson, until someone is appointed, the duties of the Chairperson will be divided among Trisha Perry, Debby Stubbs, Pat Jordan and Kaki Thurber. During our February meeting we adopted our Budget for 2020 that includes funds allocated for Outreach, Receptions, Support of Seminarians and SMEDS summer camp scholarships.

St. Agnes Guild hosted the February 2 coffee hour, has one member who volunteers at Hello GoodBuy and one other who works at Manna House. The group brought 21 food items for the veterans and 43 for St. Athanasius food pantry.

St. Margaret's members worked in the Giving Garden, packed Backpacks of food for Burroughs Mollette, worked at Manna House and helped to host the coffee hour.

The Altar Guild has been very busy in the past few weeks, as you all know. With Lent upon us, Festival of Lights and Easter we will be even busier. Hopefully, we plan to have April 4 as Altar Guild cleaning day before Easter.

February was a busy month for all the ladies of St. Mary's. Twelve St. Mary's members were honored to host the Lane funeral reception on February 15th. Twenty-two members and guests met for our February meeting, where we turned in 557 items of food for the Homeless Veterans. The next weekend we made ten dozen brownies for the Brotherhood's Low Country Boil.

The Daughters of the King are planning for the Lenten Service of Lights. During the Lenten season members of the Guilds and other groups will be serving a simple supper after the Wednesday Service of Lights.

The representatives of the organizations represented by ECW meet on the 2nd Monday of every month at 11:00 on the parish hall. The next meeting will be on March 9. All are welcome to attend.

The Giving Garden

The Giving Garden is almost ready to launch our new website! It will be a teaching/training website afforded us by the Roanridge Trust Grant we received. Please take a look at stmarksgiving-garden.com in the very near future! We are harvesting more broccoli, cabbages, mustard and collards for those needful people in our community. Praise God from whom all blessings flow and GROW!





hello, Goodbuy – The Monthly Scoop March

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 opening in 2012, we have distributed +\$1 Million to +100 organizations in 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.

Start donating today! We accept donations from 10am to 4pm Monday – Saturday. We accept everything from clothes, linens, furniture, décor, seasonal items, games, media, electronics, etc. We just ask that you only drop off items that are in sellable condition – not ripped, stained, broken, or damaged. Do you have large furniture items that you can't transport yourself? The store has a truck and staff available to arrange pick-ups of those items. Call the store or visit the website to make your request.

When making your donations you also have the opportunity to name one of the following organizations to build credit for our Voucher program through which these groups are able to send individuals and families to the store to shop for the things they really need: **Faithworks, Amity House, Gateway, House of Hope, Faithful Love, Star Foundation, Morningstar, Saved by Grace, 1312 Collective, BHS Key Club, Grace More.**

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'.

Why not consider becoming a Volunteer? Whether it be 1-3 hours/week or 1-3 hours/month, we appreciate and need all and any help we can get. By helping us at the store level, you are working to generate the funds to continue our efforts to support local Charities & Community Efforts. You can help with sorting, cleaning, pricing, and merchandising. 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 sales floor and processing areas, hear about the different departments (clothing, primary donations i.e. boxes/bags of misc. items that need to be sorted and cleaned, books, shoes, electronics, etc.), then pick a day and time to volunteer at your convenience.

At hello, Goodbuy we are making a difference, one donation at a time. With your help and support, we can continue our work towards building a better and brighter Community. **HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!!**

2020 Vestry

Dan Burr 2020 Senior Warden/ <i>Grow Ministry</i>	435-559-0222	burr@d@mountainwest.net
Ralph Dembowczyk 2022 Junior Warden/ <i>Communication</i>	912-580-0926	rdembow@gmail.com
Julia Gerrett - 2020 <i>10 Block Radius</i>	912-242-2044	juliagerrett46@gmail.com
Rosalind Crowder - 2021 <i>Communication/Hospitality</i>	980-721-4113	rcwbds@yahoo.com
Owen Dorsey—2021 <i>Communication/Hospitality</i>	404-668-4880	oed@oedorsey.com
Mona Irwin—2022 <i>Oldest & Youngest</i>	912-230-3151	monairwin@bellsouth.net
Edith Gross—2020 <i>Formation</i>	704-466-6633	millstonecabin@gmail.com
Nancy Breland—2022 <i>Formation</i>	912-264-2041	nancybreland@comcast.net
Rogelio Quintinar—2020 <i>Oldest & Youngest</i>	912-223-5391	Rogelioq@gmail.com
Baxter Peffer –2021 <i>10 Block Radius</i>	904-316-2970	baxterpeffer@gmail.com
Audrey Postal—2022 <i>Communication/Hospitality</i>	412-491-5989	arpostal@outlook.com
Mike Parrish 2021	404-805-3450	mikeparrish@comcast.net
Rev. Alan Akridge <i>Rector</i>	912-222-8746	aaakridge@saintmarksepisopal.com
Wallace Harrell		Chancellor of the Vestry
Joel Arline		Parish Treasurer



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY!

M
A
R
C
H

Carol Goad	1	Ruth Williams	12	Jack Lindsay	21
Mike Parrish	2	Ralph Dembowczyk	13	Lexi Snyder	23
Ethan Redanz	3	Larry Sellars	13	Leighton Emery	23
David Lawson	4	Marsha McGaughey	14	Margaret Butler	24
Barbara Johnston	4	Julia Gerrett	16	Sharon Cacase	24
Kathy Friedman	6	Keturah Cranz	16	B J Sellars	25
Sandra Fowler	8	Jill Smith	16	Shirley Redanz	25
Graham Olivieri	9	Madysson Patron	17	Denzil Sellers	26
Anne Cranz	9	Kel Quarterman	17	Melanie Hatcher	27
Gene Wilson	10	Carter Jones	17	Bob Thompson	28
Alice Johnson	10	Jessica Snyder	17	Kaki Thurber	28
Bill Turner	10	Phil Flournoy	17	Daniel Burr	28
Kenneth Bernatz	11	James Freeman	20	Bea Newnam	30
David Berg	11	Michelle Whatley	20	William Banks	30

Jim & Louise Atwood	2	David & Rhonda Lawson	22
Roger & Ann Baker	14	Stephen & Marcember Lyons	31
Mike & Ellen Byrd	21		