



The Evangelist

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
A Parish Magazine + December 2022**



The Evangelist

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A parish church in the Diocese of

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www.diocesewnc.org

Our theme this month is vision—where is God leading us as we move toward the future?

The cover picture shows two people looking out across an inlet to the other shore.

The picture above shows part of the El Camino Real toward San Santiago, Spain.

The contents page picture opposite shows how a vision can be focused through many different lens.

All of these can be part of visioning. Be thinking about the future of St. Mark's as you read this issue.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Called to be Christ Centered

Touching Lives + Transforming Hearts + Teaching God's Word

St. Mark's is a traditional parish in liturgy and architecture, but a progressive parish in organization and community involvement. Each month dozens of our members work tirelessly and creatively with others in our community to combat hunger, homelessness, racism, and other significant issues. By the power and grace of God, we are seeing the Kingdom of God unfold in our community.

We are excited about what the Holy Spirit is doing in our parish and in our community and we would love to share that excitement with you.

We invite you to come visit. Peace be with you!

Send any Subscriptions/Change of Address

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Submissions

All submissions and ideas are welcome and considered for publication. Email submission ideas to

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feature stories

- 4 Vision for St. Mark's
Archdeacon Brenda Gilbert
- 5 CAM , Blessing Bag List
Caring Cupboard
- 6 God's Vision for St. Mark's
The Rev. Shawn Griffith
- 8 God's Work, Our Hands
Debbie Brake

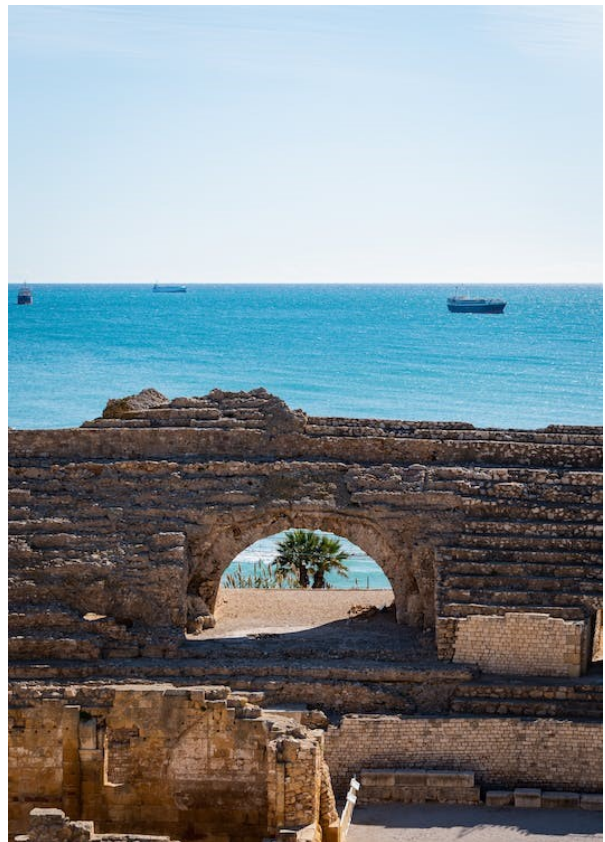
Take Your Time
Dan Gilbert, Safety Team
- 9 Finding My Ministry
through EfM
Dionne Browning, Parish
Administrator
- 10 The Founding Families
Ed Hoerning, Historian
- 11 Good, Better, Best
David Wilcox, Organist/
Choir Director
- 12 Hidden Among Us
The Rev. John Simpson
- 13 A Doctorial Study Tidbit

departments & more

- 8 Live Streaming Info
- 13 Giving On-Line with Realm
- 14 Parish Transitions
and Graduates
- 15 Calendar (as we know it)

table of contents

December 2022 Issue # 8



Vision for St. Mark's

Archdeacon Brenda Gilbert

Several years ago when people would talk about soup kitchens and feeding programs and housing those in need, my face would light up and everyone around me would know that I wanted that to happen in my church. As a deacon I am called to focus all of us on bringing God's Kingdom to fruition,

My vision for St. Mark's is that we are a hub of services and resources to the community, particularly the community that surrounds our campus. When I hear those words, I have to ask myself, 'What does that mean'? Sometimes it is easy to make vision statements but the rubber hits the road when you have to articulate it and put an action plan in place.

So, if we are going to become more of a hub of services and resources to the community, what do we need to change? How do we know that we are doing the right thing, with the right focus on the right subsets of the community, the subsets that most need our help?

One way to validate our approach is to ask: Are we critical to what happens here and are we necessary to the community improving? How can we tell? Do we have a reputation, and if so, a reputation for what?

When I ask myself these questions I get a very clear message. If God works through people, then the people are clearly telling me that our food, blessing bags, and other ministries are not only appreciated, but necessary to the community we serve. I think of an elderly gentleman that comes to the church several times a week. In the evening, he parks his car in front of the parish hall, takes a Walmart grocery bag and slowly walks over to the caring cupboard. He never takes more than he needs, usually one or two things. And sometimes he walks back to his car with an empty Walmart

'Vision without action is only dreaming, action without vision is merely wasting time, but vision with action can change the world.'

- Nelson Mandela

bag. In my heart I know that on those evenings when he walks back to the car with an empty Walmart bag that he is probably going hungry that night. To that man, we are necessary.

Many ministry programs can easily turn into self gratification exercises. This happens when we celebrate how 'good' we are, rather than listening to the needs being articulated by those we serve and adjusting to meet those needs. Again, God talks to us through others. Are we simply shipping 'stuff' out to a bureaucratic organization that passes our things on and at some point gets them into the hands of those in need? Not that there is anything wrong with that, but being so far removed from the conversation with God through people, how do we know that our ministry is necessary?

To me, a direct conversation is much more fulfilling, though, it may put our egos at risk. We may think we are doing something great, and then find out that not only is it not needed, it may not even be wanted. Are we willing to deal with that reality?

My vision requires more and more direct contact, and more and more direct conversations about what is necessary. I just know that there are a lot more unfulfilled needs out there than we could ever take care of. But we have to ask, and we have to be willing to listen, and we have to be willing to try.

When we do that, we will be the hub of the community that I envision, delivering necessary services to those in need around us and beyond. We will be listening to God and ministering as we are directed. And for all of that, we can say, "Thanks be to God."

CAM Needs through Winter



SHOPPING LIST for CAM

Dry Cereal
Grits / Oatmeal
Pancake Mix / Syrup
Soup / Crackers
Canned Beans (Kidney, Navy, etc.)
Canned Vegetables (no green beans)
Canned Fruit
Canned Meat
Macaroni & Cheese
Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta
Rice / Mashed Potatoes
Peanut Butter / Jelly
Powdered Milk
Personal Care Items



Would You Make a Blessing Bag at Home?

All you need is:

- **A large gallon size Zip Lock bag to hold it**
- **A bottle of water**
- **A pair of socks**
- **Some protein (chicken or tuna packets)**
- **Lance crackers**
- **Trail mix**
- **Hard candies (chocolate melts)**
- **A Chapstick or small lotion**
- **Toothbrush/toothpaste**
- **Small pack of hand wipes**
- **A small trash bag**
- **Anything else that you can think of that has no alcohol and won't melt or "rot".**

Caring Cupboard Needs

Our Caring Cupboard continues to be used on a regular basis and often people stop by during the week to say they have seen what is happening and to contribute towards it. We even have one of our users who regularly puts a few coins through our red door mail slot to encourage us and to help. Blessings truly abound.



- Protein Sources
 - Mac & Cheese cups
 - Beef Stew
 - Hearty Soups
 - Ramen Noodles
 - Vienna sausages
 - Beanie Weenies
 - Peanut Butter cups
 - Tuna or Chicken packets
- Fruit and Pudding Cups
- Small cookie or cracker packages
- Lance Crackers
- Small bags of chips
- Oatmeal and Grits packages
- Granola or other snack bars
- Individual cereal boxes
- Water or Gator Aid
- Feminine hygiene products that we re-bag
- Travel soaps, shampoos, etc (as you travel)
- Utensil packets you get in take-out food

Plus blankets, hats, gloves, scarves for the cold weather. Just bring to the parish hall. Thank you for your continued support.

God's Vision for St. Mark's

**The Rev. Shawn Griffith,
Rector**

In 2002, St. Mark's conducted a survey around the idea of creating a vision for the parish. St. Mark's had a new priest, Frank King, and there was much hope and excitement for the future. Several members of our congregation worked hard in gathering information about the church's strengths and growing areas. They did an excellent job of dividing their results into different areas such as Worship, Christian Formation, and Youth. The results of the program were organized and published with the title of Vision 2007 St. Mark's.

I came across a copy of that vision in 2010, five years after I arrived to serve as the rector and wondered why the vision had been placed in a drawer and forgotten. I have referred to the thoughts and prayers, the hopes and dreams expressed on those pages often. I also have been amazed that many of those initiatives have become reality despite many people being completely unaware of what Vision 2007 said.

Where do you see St. Mark's in five years or in ten years? Will we be doing the same things that we are doing now?

My guess is that some of us will continue our lives as is, because we are happy, and content knowing that things will remain constant. Surprises are not always a good thing for those who like the status quo. On the other hand, others will find themselves on a journey to a place that they believe will fulfill most of their spiritual needs and desires.

As individuals, we all have a vision of the future we hope to enjoy, albeit changing or unchanging. However, as part of a community, we have a need to share that vision with others and to seek common ground that we all work toward the vision happening. Our individual hopes and dreams are brought together and of-



fered to the community where collectively we discern the vision of the church. But what does visioning look like beyond 2007, beyond the present?

Many people often recite Proverbs 29:18 which states, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* This quote is certainly true and provides an important lesson for us to hear and consider. People and organizations alike live and operate from this rule of life using their vision as a ruler to guide them into the future. But if we read all of verse 29:18 we will see that the quote, as we have heard it, is incomplete. The complete verse states, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish, but he that keeps the law, happy is he."* Another translation from The New Living Bible says, *"Where there is no message from God, people don't control themselves. But blessed is the one who obeys wisdom's instruction."* I think that verse would be a great cross stitch to put on a pillow.

Our vision must first be God's vision. The psalmist reminds us in Psalm 127:1 that *"Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."* We have a tendency in what we do as the church to be like that old joke, if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. So how do we understand God's vision for our parish?

As mentioned in the quote below from Bill Hybels, he describes vision as a picture of the fu-

***"Vision is a picture of the future
that produces passion."***

- Bill Hybels

ture that produces passion. I have seen churches that spend years creating a vision statement to put on their website and in their bulletins, but that is as far as the vision goes. People don't see it, or they don't understand it, or they just don't care. The vision fails to inspire people's passions. The vision is never realized because the vision was not God's vision.

The New Testament provides a picture of God's vision by describing the world as it should be, not as it is. We are commanded to love our neighbor, even our enemies. We are asked to care for the widows and the orphans. Paul says that we are to humbly see others as better than ourselves. We are called to look like, talk like, and act like Christ in this world because we are the Body of Christ to those that Christ died to save.

Our Mission Statement which was devised by a vestry several years ago, to some degree, puts a frame around the picture of God's vision for St. Mark's. It says, St. Mark's is called to be Christ centered, touching lives, transforming hearts, and teaching God's word. This statement defines the scope of our work, the vision becomes the embodiment of that work.

Vision 2007 is a document of over one hundred pages organized into eight chapters and for the information that Vision 2007 embodied, the document is an incredible resource for planning, a concise reflection of the parish profile twenty years ago. The people involved in that work should be well pleased and given grateful thanks. Having worked in project planning and development for more than forty years, there are two comments I would make that are important for us to keep in mind as we discern God's vision for our parish.

First, I would suggest that Vision 2007 was more of an operational plan than a vision statement. Visions are short statements that capture people's hearts and minds right away. Some vision statements of well-known companies are:

- ✦ **Disney:** "To make people happy."
- ✦ **Nike:** "To bring inspiration and innovation to every athlete in the world"
- ✦ **TED:** "To spread ideas"
- ✦ **Whole Foods:** "To nourish people and the planet."

"The past is a place of reference, not a place of residence; the past is a place of learning, not a place of living."

- Roy Leslie Bennett

***from The Light in the Heart**
***Inspirational Thoughts for**
Living Your Best Life**

✦ **Ben & Jerry's:** "To make the best ice cream in the nicest possible way"

If you worked for one of these companies their vision inspires you to live into their vision. If you work for Disney, you want to do something to make people happy. On the other hand, if you do not work for Disney but wanted something or someplace to make you happy, where would you go?

Now look at three non-profit vision statements.

- ✦ **Alzheimer's Association:** "A world without Alzheimer's disease."
- ✦ **Feed the Children:** "Create a world where no child goes to bed hungry."
- ✦ **Oxfam:** "A just world without poverty"

A mission statement describes the work we are currently doing, while a vision statement provides a glimpse into the future showing what that work will accomplished.

The mission of St. Mark's is to be a Christ centered church, called to touch lives, transform hearts, and teach God's Word. Our vision statement is yet to be discerned. I liked what I saw at one Episcopal church where their vision was "Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Changing the World."

Whatever God's vision for St. Mark's may be, the words themselves are not what matter, what matters is our response to those words, the inspiration and desire to be a faithful community that occurs as we live into God's vision for our parish.

God's Work, Our Hands

Debbie Brake, primary CC supply

Since I began helping with our Caring Cupboard a couple of years ago, I've been asked many times why I choose to be a part of this ministry. My answer to that question is simple: "I feel incredibly blessed every time I fill my cart and go outside to stock the cupboard. "

Most of the time when I stock it, I do it in solitude. Sometimes I have the honor of chatting with one of our neighbors without walls. These neighbors usually just want a snack or a meal to tide them over. Depending on the weather, he or she may want a clean pair of socks, a jacket or blanket to help keep them warm. I don't remember ever not getting a thank you and sometimes a smile. Yes, sometimes, someone may come by and clean out the cupboard, leaving nothing for others, but most of the time, that's the exception to the rule. To see a fellow human being get excited to get a bar of soap, a toothbrush and toothpaste, or a simple bag of hygiene products is a humbling experience indeed.

Lately, I have spoken to several of these neighbors and have had them share good news. One couple came up to me not to ask for anything, but to thank me for the food that we helped them out with while they were hungry. They proudly told me they both had jobs now and were about to be able to get their car running so they won't have to walk to work anymore. Another man told me that he had gotten work and wouldn't have to sleep outside much longer. We've also had people stop their cars while driving by and hand me gifts of money to help buy food for the cupboard. We have even seen people bring groceries to put in the cupboard. We have one lady who drops her coins through the mail slot on Franklin Street. We caught up with her and she said it was a thank you for the cupboard. Talk about feeling blessed!

I truly hope all of you that contribute to this ministry feel blessed as well. Many of you bring your offerings for the cupboard regularly and ask for nothing in return. I do want to thank Mary Stamey, Cathy Wesson and the people of St. Peter's, Denver, Yolanda and Pete Laine and of course our Deacon Brenda for making the cupboard possible. Be Blessed!

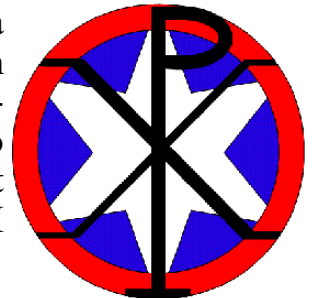
Tithe Your Time

by Dan Gilbert, Church Safety Team

You know that old joke that starts out 'I have good news and bad news?' In this case I will start with the bad news. The bad news is that we seriously need to consider increasing our tithes. The good news is that what we need more than anything is your time.

St. Mark's needs people that are willing to help. We need help in the kitchen with coffee hour and breakfast and with Wednesday's soup and sandwiches. We need help packing and delivering meals to kids over the weekends. We need help with safety topics and minor maintenance. The list goes on and on. There is a lot that has to be done to maintain and use our 150 year old building. We have a lot going on at the church, and we offer a lot of benefits over and above the services. Those things take time to organize and provide. Otherwise, they will go away. Please consider volunteering for just one thing. Ask any of the clergy or staff and I promise that they have a need that you can help fill.

Personally, I like having a safe church and a clean kitchen. So if you are interested in either of those two topics and can help out let me know personally and I can put you to work.



St. Mark's Safety Team Logo



If you still do not feel you can be with us in person, please continue to watch our 8:00 and 10:30 services online via either Live Streaming on the web page or on Facebook. Communion kits can be made available for special circumstances by contacting the Deacon. If you have questions, contact the clergy.



Finding My Ministry with EfM

Dionne Browning, Parish Admin

Not long after I began working at St. Mark's I heard of an in-depth study of the Bible called Education for Ministry (or EfM for short) and how much others had enjoyed it. I saw the graduating certificates that came from Sewanee, and these were the real deal, not simply a printed on a home printer type of certificate. These were the sign of a real education.

I love to study the Bible. I think it is fascinating. To me the Bible is both matter of fact and thought-provoking, prose and poetic. There is always something new to learn, no matter how long or how many times I've studied it. From one year to the next, just one passage from the Bible can evoke a variety of emotions and reactions from me, depending on my situation and frame of mind.

I was intrigued.

It was the third word in the course name that tripped me up; Education for *MINISTRY*. It had not even entered my mind to become a minister of any kind, someone who is ordained. So, while it might be fascinating, I didn't want to waste anyone's time by pursuing this sort of education. However, my inner voice kept nudging me to think about it.

One day, Rick Hargis, one of the EfM mentors, was standing in my office asking if we, the staff, knew of anyone else who might like to sign up for EfM. I don't know what possessed me to raise my hand, and ask, "what about me?" What a leap of faith for me! I just did it, without hesitating, jumping into EfM with both feet. What had I done?

This journey began with learning that this is not a "Bible Study." There is no verse-by-verse analysis

of the Bible, which, I don't know why but is what I expected. It is, as the website of the University of the South says, "...a unique four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice." Theological education...perfect! When I was growing up, we were largely discouraged from studying theology, so this was a novel and unfamiliar, but deeply appealing, concept for me. And so I stayed.

The website continues, "The program invites participants into small, mentored groups that provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened" "...understanding life and shaping actions..." sounds like it could only improve my life

Thus began my new adventure!

EfM was not what I expected whether I am practicing my faith or not.

Theological reflection is the biggest part of each gathering of our EfM group. Someone in the group presents a situation or dilemma and we work through it step-by-step to see how we might all "understand it in our own way" theologically. Seeing everyday life reflected through the lens of theology puts God more prominently into what is happening each week. Once you get into the habit of seeing life through this lens, you can hopefully help someone else. An example for us now is the War in Ukraine and how it makes us all feel and then turn that feeling into something everyday so that we can adjust and think about dark things in a new way. You can do this with anything that is good or bad, light or dark, sweet or sour.

Consider EfM as a way for you to step up your view of all things encountered. Talk to any of us or to Shawn for information. I highly recommend it.

The Founding Families of St. Mark's

Ed Hoerning, Historian

When entering St. Mark's for worship services, have you ever taken a moment to pause and noticed the plaques on the narthex wall? One in particular was drawn to my attention recently as a result of an email message received at the church office. The bronze lettering of the plaque has darkened over the years, but it still reveals some important information on the founding of St. Mark's. It commemorates the five families that founded St. Mark's in 1877.

Those 5 founding families are: the families of E.E. Yarborough, J.R. Fayssoux, T.M. Fayssoux, Mrs. A.G. Walton (whose daughter became Mrs. A.G. Mangum), and Mr. Jim Stroup.

A person in Ohio said he was the great grandson of James Rufus Fayssoux and his wife Ida Jane Fayssoux and wondered if he was a descendent of one of the families that founded St. Mark's. I wrote back to him and confirmed that yes, he was a descendent of the founders. He was most grateful for the information in assisting in his own family history search. This conclusion was based on several documents reviewed from the church archives. The commemorative plaque also confirmed my conclusion. Take a few minutes some time to thank these people in your prayers.





Good, Better, Best
David Wilcox
Organist & Choirmaster

Recently, stuck behind a framed photograph, I found the David Wilcox Motto. I'm not sure why it was there, but it was attributed to St. Jerome with no other mention of why or where it came from. I'm not sure and it really doesn't matter. The quote has served as my mantra for most of my ministry.

Good, better, best. Never let it rest.
'Til your good is better and your better is best.

This mantra is a challenge to raise the bar to offer the best of myself and those I am privileged to lead. A friend remarked to me after our recent Evensong – “you don't do anything halfway do you?” The primary reason is that we serve an excellent God. The Church too often readily settles for mediocrity. That does not honor God. Only excellence in all things and all things to God's glory can truly honor the Most High! We should strive for nothing less.

The legendary cellist Pablo Casals was asked why he continued to practice at age 90. “Because I think I'm making progress.” he replied

Our music ministry at St. Mark's is making significant progress. Chancel Choir rehearsals are fun as we learn to become better musicians with strong spiritual underpinnings. There are plans to restart a Handbells choir soon. Maggie Griffin is enthusiastic to offer music for children and youth. I am grateful for the support of Father Shawn, the Vestry, and the St. Mark's family to provide the resources to enable all this music to occur.

I'm extremely proud of the Chancel Choir who sang so beautifully for our All Saints' Choral Evensong. They marked the solemnity and joy of this feast of the church with great energy and meticulous care with every note and word.

We shared Evensong with the 26 worshippers who came and were blessed. The greater blessing is understanding that God is present as we the people meet to offer prayer and praise. My prayer and hope is for our St. Mark's family to be more fully present for future music ministry offerings and to share what we do with their friends and neighbors. Our service of Advent Lessons and Carols will be presented by the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists on Sunday, December 18, 2022, at 4:00 PM. Please mark your calendar and use these music services at St. Mark's as an opportunity for outreach, inviting friends and family to join you. A reception will follow the service in the Parish Hall.

Martin Luther may have said it best: “Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to us that we should proclaim the Word of God through music.”

Hidden Among Us

The Rev. John Simpson

Associate Rector

"Advent begins in the dark. The first Sunday of Advent is not about the first coming of Jesus, it is about the second coming. It is about the final breaking in of God upon our darkness. It is about the promise that against all the evidence, there is a God who cares. Where is God? Until he comes again, he is hidden among us."

- Fleming Rutledge

*Advent: The Once and Future
Coming of Jesus Christ*

I used to be normal... Really.

Maybe I was reassuring only myself. But this was the third time I'd snatched the TV remote from someone and the game was only in the second quarter. It used to be I could sit and enjoy commercials like a champ. I used to enjoy the jingles. I used to let the excitement of the narrator's voice carry me away. "It's the Toyota Sales Event!" Hey, I'd think, it sure was nice of them to put on that sale. Maybe this'll be the year I avail myself of their hospitality and buy a car from them. Or, I'd marvel at all the creative people in the medication ad – playing chess in the park, taking pottery classes, or opening their own art studio – and wonder if one day I could be afflicted with their illness so I too could take the medication and do the fun things.

But now I know. I know where the mute but-

ton is and I know where to point it.

And sometimes this draws the ire of my family who sometimes really *want* to see the ads (like my children) or who are unnerved by the sudden silence. But to my ears it is bliss. Now, lest anyone sense that I claim any high ground here, I fail miserably in reserving the same peace for myself in other arenas of my life. If only there was a remote for those other arenas.

The rush to Christmas - which began, I believe, the day after Halloween – will consume us if we let it. It will consume our peace. And that wouldn't be such a tragedy if there wasn't something of infinite value for us to behold, for us to show the world, if we would but listen. If we would but see. As the nights grow longer and colder, as the trees shed their leaves and nature rests in beautiful death, it's as if creation hushes so that we may behold Christ at his coming, in a manger perhaps, but more importantly coming in us and in our hearts. Christ hidden among us, in our intercessions, our grief, our care for our neighbor. Christ hidden among us, if we would but put pause to behold Him.

P.S. – I invite you to look up adventconspiracy.org. Their short video illustrates this "Christmas rush" vividly, but offers some concrete ways to transcend it. "Worship fully, spend less, give more, love all." Forgo the debt, consumerism, and anxiety; grow in relationships and give gifts that sustain one another. Do give it a look.

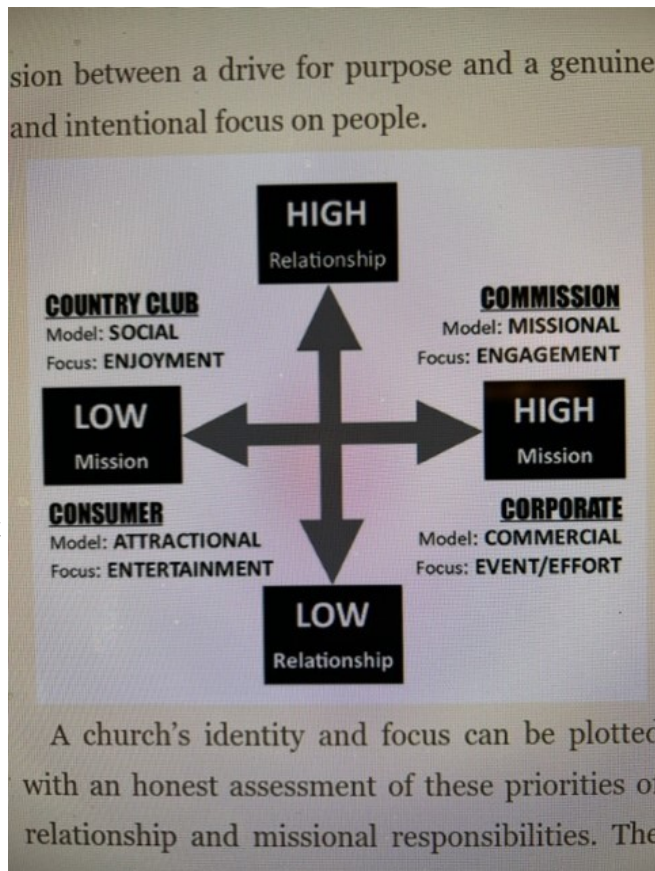
And as St. Mark's begins to vision where we go in the future, think about being sure that the Christ who is coming to us is part of that vision.

One Possible Way to Vision a Church (from the rector's doctoral studies)

Several years ago, while prayerfully investigating the various church models in existence, a simple diagram came to mind that helps to determine a church's focus. The premise of this quadrant model is that ministry is built upon two crucial priorities – relationships and missional responsibility. That is on a church's focus on people and a God-ordained purpose. Each of these priorities has a sliding scale from high to low. Thus, every church finds its identity and strategy in the tension between a drive for purpose and a genuine and intentional focus on people.

For example, a church with a high relational value and a low missional expectation will look very different from a church with a low relational value and a high missional expectation, even though they both would say they are Great Commission churches. Likewise, of the different models, each church has its strengths and weaknesses; and no one style is necessarily better than the next – just different. There is an exception though. It is my personal conviction that only one style of church actually has the ability to accomplish Jesus' mandate of making disciples – the Commission (Missional) Church, that is focused on a high relationship and high missional responsibility ideology. Organizationally, each of the others can only hope to make converts.

- from The Five Marks of a Disciple: Be One - Make One
by Joey Rodgers

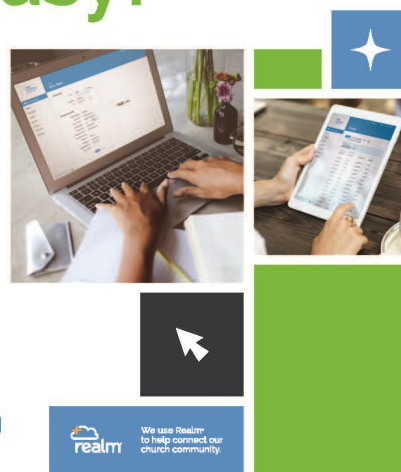


Our
On-line
Giving
Program

Giving made easy!

- Give online
- Quick one time gifts
- Recurring gifts
- 24/7/365
- Manage your giving
- Pledges
- View giving history
- Print giving statements

Sign up or sign in at onrealm.org



Go to <https://onrealm.org/stmarksgastonia/give/now> to go directly to St. Mark's giving page on Realm or speak to the Church Office for help.

Parish Transitions

Birth:

Harrison Rhoses Greninger,
grandson of John and Tricia
Anderson, 5/6, in Charlotte

Confirmations and Receptions with Bishop Mary Gray-Reeve, El Camino Real, Resigned, (California) 11/13/22

Ella Carsner
Kenya Pond
Maggie Griffin
Cava Blackwell
Matthew Jackson
Catherine Jackson
Austin Major
Connor Smith
Izabel Kelly
Sierra Kelly
Spencer Kelly
Jennifer & Filemon Escalera
John & Melanie Beall
David Wilcox
Jonathan Fioritto
Andrea Baltan
Yolanda & Pete Laine
Benjamin & Haeun Blackwell
Elliott & Danelle Blackwell
Mary Grace Shockley
Grayson Myers
Patricia & Bill Spezialetti

Marriage:

**Matthew Knight & Colby Anne
Jacobson**, son of Kevin & Peggy,
9/17, Kennebunkport, ME
Melanie Smith and John Beall,
members, Purcellville, VA, 10/15

Transferred In:

Omar Decastro, from St. John the
Divine Anglican, Antiqua, 8/18
Heanzlene Decastro, from All
Saints Anglican, Antiqua, 8/18
Carolyn Moree, from St. John's
Charlotte, 9/6

Transferred Out:

Lance Brenner, to First
Presbyterian, Gastonia, 9/1
Christopher & Sadie Kerr, to
Christ Church, Charlotte, 10/20

Deaths:

James L. Bramblet II, parishioner,
Mt. Holly, 6/23
Suzanne Grissom, Julie Christy's
mother, Gastonia, 8/8
Nancy Dawson, parishioner,
Covenant Village, 8/27

And Congratulations to a missed Col- lege Graduate

Dr. Jennifer Eaton, from Medical
School in Tenn, currently in
residency in SC



Calendar 2022-23

As we regather in our space, we are also hoping to catch up on activities which have been halted for the past 2 years of the pandemic. We are beginning to have fuller celebrations with food and lots of fellowship to reunite us as we get back together in smaller ways.

Until that time we continue with the work to be done in and around our city and to worship virtually and physically as we are able. with Live Stream, Facebook, and other gatherings as allowed.

December

- 4 - Advent 2**
- 11 - Advent 3, Vestry**
- 18 - Advent 4, Greening the Church Lessons & Carols**
- 22 - Blue Christmas Service**
- 24 - 5 pm Family Eucharist Service**
- 11pm Festival Eucharist**
- 25 - Regular services of 8 & 10:30**

January

- 1 - Holy Name, regular 8 & 10:30**
- 6 - Feast of the Epiphany**
- 22 - Annual Meeting, 9:30 gathered into 1 service, meeting after than lunch**

February

- 21 - Shrove Tuesday, Pancakes et al**
- 22 - Ash Wednesday with services all day**
- 26 - Lent I**

April

- 2 - Palm Sunday and Holy Week**
- 9 - Easter Day**



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
258 Franklin Blvd
Gastonia, NC 28053
704.864.4531



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Called to be Christ Centered

Touching Lives, Transforming Hearts, Teaching God's Word

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as
I have loved you. John 13:34*