

The Evangelist

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

A Quarterly Parish Magazine + September 2020



The Evangelist



A screenshot taken from a recent Puppet Shows with Grandma and Jane skyping on their cell phones about how everything has changed because of COVID and the never-changing Love of God.

Our cover picture for this issue is our now “in-famous” puppets seated in the pews. We began using puppets in April to tell the story at the taped Family Service and they have taken on a ministry of their own. Interpreting scripture for children can be difficult but the puppets seem to have a way of getting at the nugget of truth quickly and with humor. Plus we are having fun doing it. Enjoy.



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!

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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Outdoor Worship on August 23rd



Stories from the Cupboard

Archdeacon Brenda Gilbert

Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have I give you; In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

~ Acts 3:6

Just before getting on a plane to attend a conference for Archdeacons in Jacksonville, Florida, I received a phone call from Polly letting me know that a Girl Scout had called wanting to speak to someone about a Gold Award project she'd like to gift the church.

That was way back in March before the world as we know it changed. That young lady is Kathryn Cupp, a Senior Girl Scout who attends First Presbyterian Church in Belmont. Although Kathryn is only 17 years old, she has the heart and generous spirit of someone much older and she wants to make a positive impact on the world. Now I have to admit when I heard about a young person wanting to do a service project, I thought it would turn into a project that ***I*** would have to be the driving force behind or it would not get done. I could not have been more mistaken! Although she had to put some things on hold because of COVID 19 and two weeks mandatory stay at home order that we all went through, Kathryn was always on top of her project here at St. Mark's, as well as in one other location in Gastonia and one in Cramerton where she has also built Caring Cupboards.

Kathryn has a network of family members here and in Virginia that are helping her keep the cupboards stocked for six months. They supply feminine hygiene kits, washcloths, soap, and dental kits, along with water and snacks and we have included copies of the Forward Day By Day devotional. Of the three locations, St. Mark's is the only one that needs to be restocked ***daily***. Kathryn's mother Leah recently admitted to me that she was surprised by the need in downtown Gastonia. In the first few days after the cupboard was installed, they would drive by and always see a pretty full cupboard, thinking no one was using it. What they didn't realize was because of the generosity of the members of St. Mark's, Shawn and I were restocking it, sometimes twice a day.

The Caring Cupboards have also caught the attention of local media. A story featuring Kathryn was on the front page of the Belmont Banner and WBTV came out to interview her and me in front of St. Mark's cupboard. The segment was preempted by coverage of the DNC convention but that did not stop word getting out on the streets. Gastonia Police Officer Zach Williams, who distributes our Blessing Bags and has helped assemble them, recently asked me if it was okay to let people know that they could take items out of the cupboard with no restrictions. He was amazed that a young person was willing to make such an offering to our community.

While replenishing the cupboard one morning, a woman stopped at the traffic light and told me that our church gave her hope and she prays that God will bless us!

On a different morning, Shawn came outside to help me and we were met by a small group of people waiting to see if it were true, could they really come to St. Mark's and get something to eat and drink without having to beg? We introduced ourselves and asked their names.

Linda and Michael were new to the streets of Gastonia and were passing through on their way to Charlotte. Mary and Torrez were told by others on the streets about us. Harley is a young woman that told me quietly that she was living in the Mid-Town Hotel across the street from the Church and





Stocking the Cupboard

“doing things right this time” by staying sober so she could get her children back. She was hungry and needed to get something to eat before she could catch the bus to go get paid for giving blood. She needed that money to pay her rent. These are just a few of the people of God living in our neighborhood and using our cupboard.

Not everyone who stops by the cupboard is looking for assistance. I had the pleasure last week of meeting Rocky. Rocky’s

daughter lives in Gastonia and he was here from Ohio to visit. Being the good dad that he is, Rocky was taking care of his daughter’s cracked windshield at a local garage and to kill time, he decided to walk around town. He noticed me and my boxes of goodies and stopped to ask a BUNCH of questions. It turns out that there are several churches in the area where he lives that could and need to be doing the same kind of ministry. It also turned out that Rocky has connections in the community that could help build and maintain Caring Cupboards there. I also gave him a Blessing Bag and told him about partnering with Bombas just in case he needs to slowly introduce the idea to everyone. As we said our good-

byes, Rocky jokingly looked up at the sky and said, “Not fair, God. I wasn’t expecting any of this but I can’t un-see it. I guess I have to do something about it”. He promised that I would be seeing him again in the future.

So many lives are being touched by the selfless act of a young lady with a passion for making a difference in the lives of ordinary people. Their lives are being transformed and we ALL are experiencing God’s love. Thank you, Kathryn!

For His Sake,
Deacon Brenda



Watch Our Services Online via either the Live Streaming on the web page or on Facebook Live.

Services in the Sanctuary will begin September 20.

Holy Communion Rite I I 8:00 am

Holy Communion Rite I I 9:30 am

Holy Communion Rite I I 11:00 am

Family Service with Puppets is taped and available online.



CAM - Crisis Assistance Ministry of Christians and Jews



In 1976 St. Mark's, along with members of 1st United Methodist, 1st Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Lutheran, and Covenant United Methodist churches, formed the Cooperative Christian Ministry group to help people in crisis in our county with food and money for rent and utilities. By the end of the first year over 20 churches had joined the effort and in 1982 the name was changed to Crisis Assistance Ministry of Christians and Jews or CAM. In 1983, after several years in small "storefronts", the group found and eventually purchased the building that now houses their work at 805 West Airline Avenue.

Last year with the help of over 6700 volunteers from 44 faith organizations, CAM helped 3,928 families with food and offered over \$154,000 for medication, utility, and housing assistance. From April through July St. Mark's has donated 204 bags of food to the pantry.



This is Faith in Action and what can be offered to help people get back on their feet. CAM is not intended for continuous help but to alleviate an emergency problem in a

crisis. Now with so many people out of work they are helping more and more people each and every week.

For many years Hal and Liz Domenico were our liaisons to CAM and volunteered there on a regular basis. Chuck and Edna Forbes took over when Hal retired. Karen Schaeffer is our current contact liaison. She volunteers every week along with several others from the parish and has been asked to serve on their Board for



the coming year. She helps to keep the work of CAM in front of us regularly.

October is CAM Month for St. Mark's when we make an extra effort to "fill the pantry" for the coming

winter and this year the need is so much greater with the COVID pandemic. We need every member of St. Mark's to commit to bring food to the parish hall for CAM in October as we "stock the pantry". Posted below is a list of all the items that they can use this winter as well as some pictures from the past as our members have worked at the pantry. CAM can use food items, donations of money, and your volunteer time each week to help bag food and interview clients.

The work of CAM is so very important to our community and the people they serve and we encourage you to get involved in some way. Speak to Karen if you have any questions.

SHOPPING LIST for CAM

Dry Cereal

Grits / Oatmeal

Pancake Mix / Syrup

Soup / Crackers

Canned Beans (Kidney, Navy, etc.)

Canned Vegetables (but no green beans

Canned Fruit

Canned Meat

Macaroni & Cheese

Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta

Rice / Mashed Potatoes

Peanut Butter / Jelly

Powdered Milk

Personal Care Items

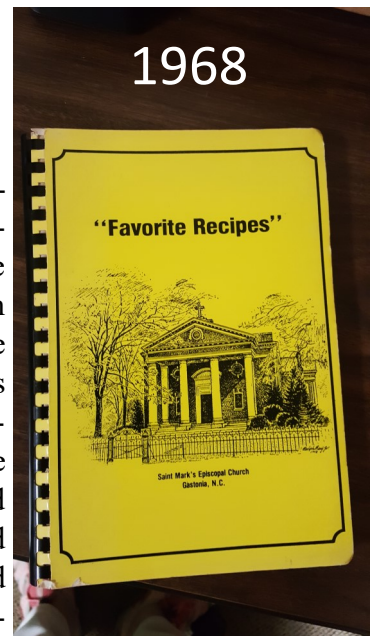
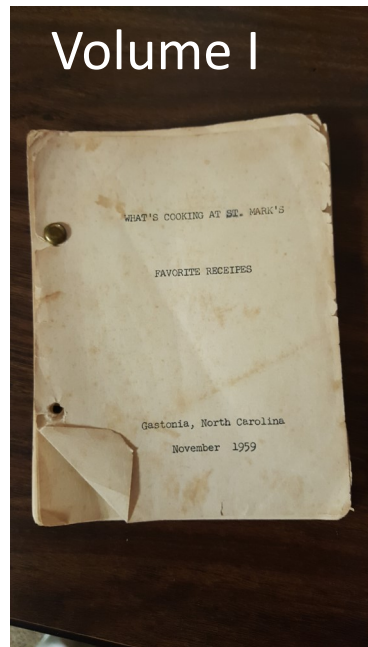


Volume I

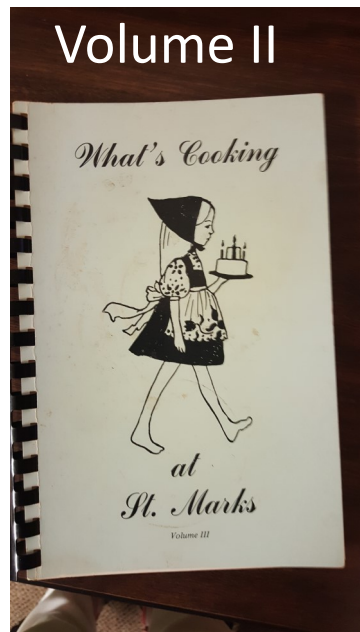
“Cooking with Spirit”

St. Mark's Cookbooks through the Ages

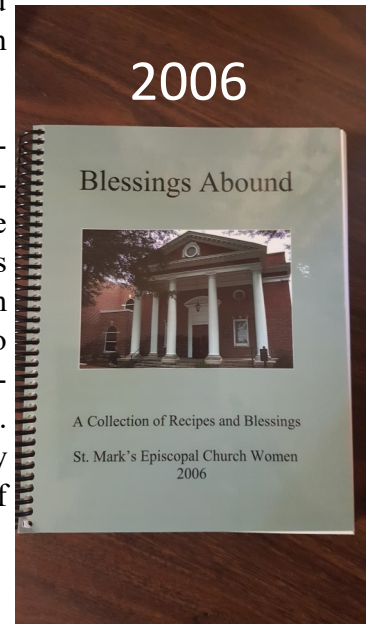
Church groups have been publishing cookbooks for years - sharing the recipes that parishioners bring to parties, pot-lucks, and picnics. St. Mark's is no exception and we in the office have copies from 1959 forward. As you can see from the pictures, our first cookbook was “published” in house with copied pages and a hole punch. It was called “What's Cooking at St. Mark's: Favorite Recipes” and it is a treasured and well used volume. Two later editions with no date were printed locally with a spiral type binding and labeled Volume II and Volume III. The 1968 edition was just called “Favorite Recipes” and appears to also have been published locally. In 2006 the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) collected recipes again and had “Blessings Abound” published by a cookbook company. It was lovely and was complete with a picture of the church on the cover.



Volume II



A group of women began to talk about creating a new cookbook for St. Mark's this year and using the funds to help renovate the kitchen. A committee was formed and they have worked through the pandemic collecting and typing recipes and making decisions for this year's edition. “Cooking with Spirit” is now heading to the printer and ready for people to order for their Christmas giving. The cost is \$20.00 per cookbook and they can be pre-ordered through the Church Office. The committee is very excited about the over 500 recipes they have gathered. We hope everyone will order several copies of the 2020 St. Mark's Cookbook “Cooking with Spirit”.



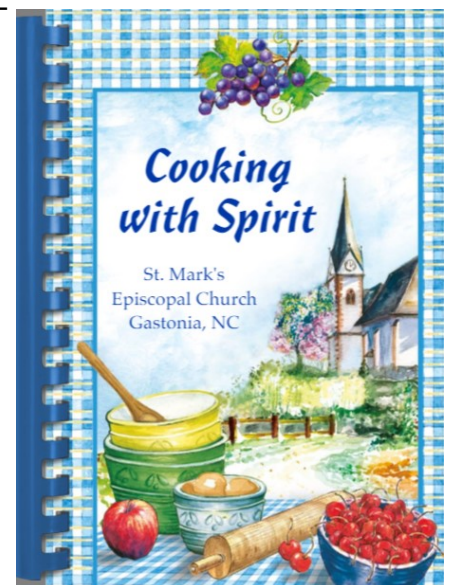
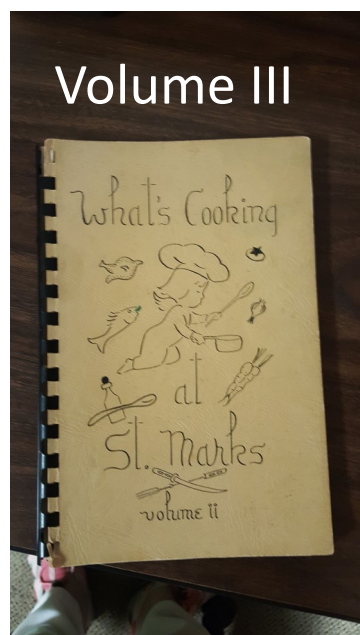
Bon Appetit!

Many thanks to the members of the Cookbook Committee who have worked so hard on this project:

Nancy Brewbaker
Barbara Hartsell
Fran Henderson (Chair)
Fe McLaughlin
Louise Ridgeway
Patti Tamberella
Price Thrower
Susie Whatley
Liz Willett



Volume III



Ministry in the Age of COVID

The Rev. Shawn L. Griffith, Rector

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. (Romans 8:28) 3:16-17

I had a professor at seminary who said, “Every 500 hundred years the church has a giant rummage sale.” What he meant was that in the last 2,000 years, something major has changed every 500 years within the church. Five hundred years ago, in the fifteen hundred, we had the Great Reformation, 1517. Martin Luther, a Roman Catholic Priest, shook up the church with his 95 Theses to the point that several groups broke away forming new denominations. Five hundred years before that, in 1054, was the Great Schism. The Western Church, located in Rome, and the Eastern Church in Constantinople disagreed over theological issues. Each declared independence from the other and appointed their own Pope. A half century prior to the Schism, the church witnessed the collapse of the Roman Empire and the beginning of the Dark Ages. During this period, the church entered an era of the desert fathers and mothers with monks and nuns practicing the monastic tradition in abbeys, convents, and priories around the known world. And of course 500 years before that, during the time of Jesus, a young carpenter came along and changed the way Jews understood the one true God.

Many theologians today have been studying the decline of church attendance around the world and have wondered, “When will the next rummage sale happen and what will it mean to the church that we now know?” Several books have been written that tell us people are seeking a spiritual connection with God independent from institutional religion and that the future church would meet in café houses and other public places. Personally I believe we were moving towards a hybrid of an institutional church supporting off-campus small groups.

While this time of the COVID virus has been difficult for all of us and the stress we are experiencing at work and at home is sometimes unbearable, we all have heard of some benefits. I believe we are also witnessing the next rummage sale for the church. Several im-

portant things are happening in the church that will carry us forward in a positive way.

Our church is now on-line, reaching hundreds of people in our community and around the world. We have had several people call and want to join our parish after watching our worship virtually and hearing about our ministry within the community. Churches of all sizes and all denominations have been content to maintain a country club attitude, but now, to reach parishioners at home, churches have an internet presence. Most churches will need to change their goals from promoting size and numbers to one of the spiritual growth of believers.

Through our mission work of serving others, we stay connected to the community of St. Mark’s. Our people are responding to the call to serve. People have gathered to make blessing bags and turned out on Thursdays to help provide food to families in need. Our backpack mission will begin shortly, and people are already signing up to help feed hungry children at school. More and more people who live on the streets are knocking at our door and the people of St. Mark’s are donating food and clothing so that we can care for those who have nothing. This pandemic has pushed many churches out of their



Most churches will need to change their goals from promoting size and numbers to one of the spiritual growth of believers.



Now more than ever, people in our community need that church, not the building, YOU the church. To say that our calling is too hard, too much, or too soon is to let the virus win. As the Body of Christ, we are people of hope sharing.

building. Being out of the church building and visible in the neighborhood, we are taking Christ out into the world.

We are finding new ways of being church. As we moved to our on-line worship in March, we began to look for ways to stay connected when we weren't seeing each other. We wanted to offer something for our children and thus the puppet ministry came to life. Surprisingly, the puppet skits have also captured the attention of many adults. It has also expanded to forming a praise team with the youth group. Most importantly, our family service has kept our children involved through their ministry of being readers and acolytes.

We have been forced to move from a Sunday-only worshipping parish into a community that worships together on weekday mornings and evenings. Our Morning Prayer and Compline services have created an opportunity for our parishioners to practice a prayerful daily rule of life. Our Sunday formation time has also changed into weekly book studies that not only help us explore our spiritual life but have kept us connected to other members through Zoom. New ways for our children's formation are being explored for this fall with an online program for families to discuss and learn together.

St. Mark's has embraced technology - welcome to the twenty-first century. Live Streaming is reconnecting many of our own parishioners to our worship services as well as being a door for guests to visit our church. Someone recently said, "Online is probably going to be the new front door of the church. Before, the front door was literally the front door. Now it is the web." Adding live streaming to our Facebook page has increased traffic and therefore we are reaching more people than ever before. Our Zoom account offered our people a chance to gather for happy hour, coffee hour, and our vestry to continue their leadership of the parish.

The role of the church has not changed, only the way we worship and serve. We are still called to be Christ to the world. Our mission statement is still the same. St. Mark's is still called to be Christ-centered, touching lives, transforming hearts, teaching God's Word. Now more than ever, people in our community need that church, not the building, YOU the church. To say that our calling is too hard, too much, or too soon is to let the virus win. As the Body of Christ, we are people of hope sharing

There has been a strong interest in returning to worship from most of our people. That will be starting soon. It will take a long time to learn how our attendance will evolve to a post-pandemic Sunday average. For a while we will be limited to smaller numbers of people and higher numbers of services. Some of our older people may not be back for a while. We will see some new people and lose some people who have just gotten into the habit of not coming on Sunday mornings. A transitional option for those not wanting to come back into a church with 50 or so people might be that two or three families gather together at someone's home and watch the live streaming worship with those they feel the safest with. An important point for the membership to know is that all these changes that must take place will require more work from the staff and most likely an additional staff member.

Is this the giant new rummage sale everyone is looking for? Maybe, maybe not. But perhaps this is precisely what God is having us consider. God did not bring about this pandemic, but as the apostle Paul wrote, "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.*" (Romans 8:28.) The Holy Spirit is helping us to see all things new. I believe that all the things we are doing now will continue and be a part of our new normal.

Bountiful Blessings for You

Cathy Cauthen Young



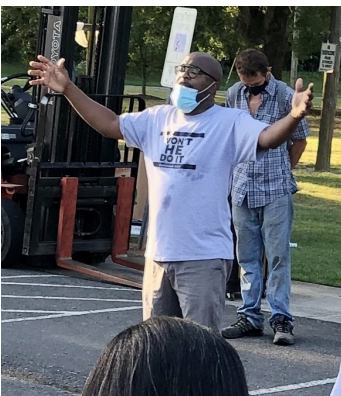
You probably think Bountiful Blessings is a food bank. You probably think it's called Bountiful Blessings because of the bounty of food given to those in need. Well, I am going to let you in on a secret...the real bountiful blessings are given to the volunteers that show

up each and every week to help serve those that can do nothing in return.

It's funny how one little decision can change your world. Deacon Brenda said to me, "Jackie Quinley told us about a church that needs volunteers. We need people to help on Thursdays at Mt Zion's Food Pantry". I thought, "I can do that!" I had no idea what was about to happen, I thought it was about loading food in cars for people in need. It is so, so much more! This is about coming together during a time when the world wants to divide us. We won't have any of that on Thursday mornings.

Cars start lining up at 4am and volunteers start working at 7am setting up tents, driving the forklifts, assembling boxes, and setting up the food. We all stand together after the food is under the tents but before the gate is opened at

8am to all who have been waiting in line for Pastor Rodney Freeman to pray over our work and to say something like this, "This is what heaven is going to look like. Not black or white, not rich or poor, not Republican or Democrat,



not Episcopalians or Baptists. We are one; we are together. We are a team; we are a family. We are here to serve and be His hands and feet. We pray for every person in the line. We pray the food will meet their needs and nourish them like no other food has. We pray they will feel served and loved." His words help inspire us all. We



also pray that by the time they get to the end of the food line they will have been blessed and felt God's love in the actions and words of the volunteers.

After 22 weeks a total of 72,820 families have been fed through Bountiful Blessings.

People are hungry for food, but I have learned most people are even more hungry for hope. Some people want to share what they are going through...so you walk along as they drive through the line listening to them Maybe they just need a kind word or some encouragement. God gives you the words you need to say to them. The line is full of tears and laughter. Sometimes there is a great need and all the work is stopped at Pastor Rodney's request; some of us gather around plac-



Every Thursday morning a group of volunteers gathers at Mt. Zion Restoration Church near the Westside Walmart to distribute food to all who come by with needs.

ing hands on the person's car and we pray for them together. This has happened a few times in the last couple of months and it is a powerful gift to be part of that communal "laying on of hands". Today it was a woman named Martha who was diagnosed with cancer and is



scared. Last month there was a woman named Jessica who wanted to take her own life because she had nothing to live for. It is amazing what people will share with a stranger.

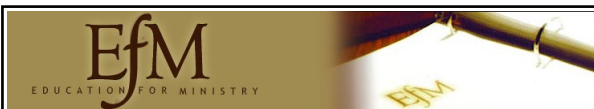
But we aren't really strangers are we? We are one. We are the body of Christ. They are my brothers and sisters. "Mrs Rita" is the woman in charge of the Food Pantry. She is a force, an encourager, and simply an amazing light. Rita told me we are sisters, different mothers but the same heavenly Father. She is already one of my dearest



Food insecurity is one of the biggest problems we are seeing for families with limited or no income due to the pandemic. St. Mark's heard about Mt. Zion's work from Jackie Quinley and have been helping for several months. Cathy Young (with friends and family), the John Andersons, John & Mary Fitzgerald, Christi Jolley, Sarah Sprague, Fr. Shawn, Deacon Brenda, and many others are helping there on a regular basis.

friends.

I want to encourage you to step outside your comfort zone and give yourself the "Bountiful Blessing" God has waiting for you on Thursday mornings at Mt. Zion! I will see you there!



Education for Ministry (EfM) - Rick Hargis

EfM is a program of adult formation that allows the laity to learn the "richness of the church's faith in our complex world." This weekly gathering and study group "supports a person's faith and teaches them to express that faith in their day-to-day activities." EfM allows "the lay person to play an important role in programming by being informed and knowledgeable."

Begun many years ago by Betty White and continued through the efforts of Pete Brake, our Education for Ministry group is currently being led by Rick and Nancy Lynn Hargis and meets each week from September through May.

The weekly sessions are the core of EfM as these are our time to share space with each other while covering our lessons and participating in group worship.

It is time to form this year's group. If you are at all interested in being part of this learning experience, we encourage you to consider the EfM class at St. Mark's. You can talk to Rick or Nancy Lynn or to Cathy Young or Dionne Browning who are members of this past year's group.

For more information you can go to the EfM link at <http://efm.sewanee.edu/about-efm/about-efm> or call any of those who have been part of the group over the years. Rick and Nancy Lynn Hargis can be contacted at rick.hargis@carolina.rr.com/931-265-8653 or hargisnl@gmail.com/931-265-6194. Come join the fun.

Faith Formation at Home

Polly G. Redd

Director of Formation

We all think of Sunday School as the place where our children learn about God and Jesus and Church, and of course that is true, but most children learn their faith from the adults around them and by watching them in action. I regularly remind the members of the Parish that the children are watching them and they see how they treat each other and everyone else.

Most of us are currently struggling with finding the balance of virtual school, working from home, living with restrictions because of the virus, and so much time spent together as a family that the very thought of adding faith formation to our “duties” seems totally daunting. And yet our children generally spend more time with the members of their family than with anyone else during regular times.

In a given 168 hour week a child spends between 60-70 hours sleeping, about 50 hours with school, over 50 hours hopefully playing, some time studying, and eating, and just over 2 hours at church per week. When we look at those numbers it becomes fairly obvious that parents and grandparents must be helping their children learn about faith. It cannot be left to the Sunday School teacher in a 45 minute block once a week.

Everyone says to me, “Oh, I’m not a teacher. My children have to learn their faith in Sunday School.” So how do we do help families share faith and not feel totally overwhelmed? We become “real”. We as adults must allow children to see us practicing our faith. If we say “O God” as an exclamation when something happens, I hope we also say the prayer to God that in in our head and attached to the event that happened

that caused the exclamation. When we interact with people in stores and other places, children need to see us acting with care and loving toward all persons, particularly those who do not look like we do. When we gather for meals at the family table or even in the car heading to soccer practice, we need to thank God for our food and for the blessings we are able to have. We need to take time at the end of the day to thank God for all that we have seen and done. When possible, we need to keep blessing bags in our cars to share with those we encounter throughout our day who are less fortunate, thereby teaching our children to share from their abundance. And when things are not going as we planned or desired, we need children to see that we can wish for things that aren’t happening and yet rely on God for all that we need.



All of these are easy ways to help children see our faith in action. But what do we do if children ask us questions about faith and about God that we don’t have the answers for—or at least an answer that we think is “right”. I often hear a parent tell a child to ask me or Fr. Shawn their question. Yet he and I don’t always have the answers either. Sometimes the best answer to a child’s faith question is “What do you think it might be?” That type of answer can help the adult see where the child is in their thinking and adjust their answer to the child's current level of understanding. It is also okay to say, “I don’t know for sure. Why don’t we think about it together?” That can start a conversation in which the adult can share what they think and how they got to that point and the child can ask more questions that can help form their “theology” about an issue. Another form of question that can help us learn together is called “wondering questions.” With wondering questions, we allow a child to think about what they think something might be or how it might have happened. Wondering together



can be very rewarding. “I wonder what it would have been like to see the Christmas star shining over the manger?”

In this time of mostly virtual worship, it can also be important to watch church together at home and talk about what you are seeing and why we say what we say during services. Notice the color of the hangings and vestments and connect that to the season of the church year. (BTW: we are currently in the Season of Pentecost and the hangings are green, in case you wondered.) Use your home Bible and Prayer Book and follow along with the readings and the service. Discuss the sermon and what you learned from Fr. Shawn’s or Deacon Brenda’s words. Be sure to keep a Communion Kit handy so you can share Eu-

charist with our whole community at that time in the service.









Families need to share the Love of God with each other on a regular basis. Tell your children that you love them each and every day. Remind them that God loves them as they head off to school or go to bed at night. Use prayers at meals and at the beginning or end of each day to remember those who are less fortunate and those who are sick or need prayers from us. Blessings at meals and night prayers can be a good way for the youngest children to see God working in their lives.

And never be afraid to tell a child that you don’t know. Learning together can help us all improve our relationships with God. And for that we say, “Thanks be to God.”

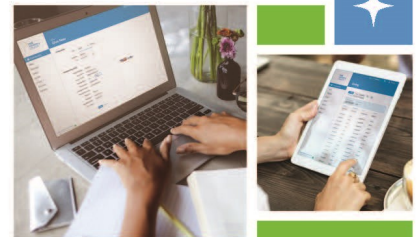


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This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

or

Go to <https://onrealm.org/stmarksgastonia/give/now> to go directly to St. Mark’s giving page on Realm.

Parish Transitions

Births:

Hadley Gray Stallard, to
Graydon and Emily,
Gastonia, 6/30

Brynn Claire Gilbert,
daughter of Brendan and
Addison, granddaughter
of Brenda and Dan, Italy,
7/29

William Henry Ipock, son of
Ben & Mary Devon, grandson
of Bob & Bev, Raleigh, 8/3
(and his sister Eliza Bennett)

Married:

**Tommy Tompkins and
Mary Flynn**, Gastonia, 8/1

Recently Transferred In:

Debby Fitzpatrick, from St.
James, Broadman, Ohio,
6/19

Jo-An Lattanzi, from Queen
of Apostles, Belmont, 6/29

John McIntosh, from St.
Ann's, Charlotte, July 13

Kathy Machacon, from 1st
Baptist, Simpsonville, SC,
8/20

Kendall Bramblet of Mount
Holly, from All Saints
Episcopal, Concord, 9/8

Deaths:

Betty Jacobsen, Penny
Barker's mother, Gastonia,
5/12

Annabelle Royster,
Houston Matthews' mother,
Gastonia, 5/27

Frank Jamison, Joan Seller's
son-in-law, Gastonia, 6/3

Kathy Fite, parishioner,
Gastonia, 6/11

Barbara Holland Rose, Shay
Matthews' mother, Gastonia,
6/19

James Smith, Toni Behlu's
uncle, in Graceville, FL, 6/21

Joseph Machnik, former
parishioner, in Hickory in
July

James Raymond Haygood,
supporter and former
parishioner, Raleigh, 7/19



Calendar 2020

As we look forward to regathering in our spaces and watch the repairs on our roof and kitchen that are happening while we are closed, we are also planning to hold several of the events which had to be cancelled this year because of the virus. We are looking toward a true celebration with food and lots of fellowship to reunite us when we are back together, whenever that happens.

Until that time we continue with the work that is to be done in and around our city and to worship virtually with Live Stream, Facebook, and our Outdoor gathering each week.

September

- 7 - Labor Day
- 20 - Services at 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 scheduled to reopen in sanctuary with masks and 25 people
- 20 - September Vestry
- 27 - Daughters of the King Installation

October

- 1 - Restart of Backpack Food Program
- 4 - Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Pet Blessing
- 11 - Bishop's Visitation to St. Mark's
- 18 - October Vestry

November

- 13-14 - Virtual Diocesan Convention, Piedmont Deanery Hosts
- 22 - November Vestry
- 26 - Thanksgiving Day
- 29 - First Sunday of Advent and arrival of new Music Director



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



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Is 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, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.
John 13:34