



# St. Mark's News

DECEMBER 2018

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Dear People of God,

Happy Advent!

Looking forward to another Advent and Christmastide at St. Mark's! Advent literally means "coming" and throughout the season we join with the prophets looking forward to the coming of our Redeemer.

The season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and extends until Christmas Eve. The first Sunday of Advent may be determined as the nearest the Feast of St. Andrew, which is November 30, whether before or after.

Advent is a time of expectation, anticipation, preparation, and longing. It is a time to reflect on where we are in our own lives and the life of our Christian community, as well as a time to consider how we might need to make some changes in preparation for the coming of Christ. It is also a time of great excitement for the upcoming birth of Jesus and the magnificent journey that he is going to take us through in the coming year.

As we prepare ourselves to remember the birth of Jesus, I encourage you to make a commitment to be here every Sunday to worship God together and "share the inheritance of the saints of light." (Col 1:12)

May your Advent and Christmas be a blessed event, with peace, hope, joy, and love.

See you in church (if not before)!

*Fr. Bert*



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CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND CAROLS:

- 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Christmas Carols
- 10:00 pm The Carols
- 10:30 pm The Christ-Mass  
followed by a Christmas Reception



**The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard**  
**Bishop of Florida**



**The Rev. Canon Aaron Smith**  
**Canon for Evangelism and Growth**

Please join us on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> when Rev. Cannon Aaron Smith will be our guest speaker.

He will also be attending our vestry meeting.



#### FROM YOUR ALTAR GUILD

The major liturgical color for December and Advent is purple to symbolize preparation. Greenery is used to decorate the Altar in place of flowers. The four Sundays in Advent this year are December 2, 9, 16, and 23. The third Sunday in Advent is Gaudete or Rose Sunday and you will see rose or pink-colored flowers on the Altar. According to AN EPISCOPAL DICTIONARY OF THE CHURCH, use of the color rose represents a "lightening of the tone of the traditional Advent observance." You will also notice the Advent Wreath near the front of the church which holds the Advent Wreath and candles.

The liturgical color for Christmas is white. It is the tradition at St. Mark's to decorate with poinsettias at Christmas and we encourage all parishioners to contribute to buy these flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones.

The Altar Guild of St. Mark's hopes that our Altar hangings and décor can aid in this important season first of anticipation and then in celebration for the birth of Christ our Lord and Savior.

St. Mark's Altar Guild – Virginia Johns and Judy Perkin, Co-Chairs and Members: Bobbie Faye Blackshear, Mary Agnes Goldwire, and Marianne O'Neill

## ***CHOIR NEWS***

Just a little



So proud of my choir members. It's a commitment and we have a great group.

If you are a person that likes to sing we invite you to join us. Keep a song in your heart.

**Choir Practice is now at 9:30 on Sunday Mornings.**  
Come join our choir and have some fun!

Graciously,  
Cindy Canova





The Daughters of the King meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. Every lady of the church is invited to attend.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>.

NEW TIME: 12:00 Noon

If you know of anyone who has an interest in becoming a Daughter, please contact Jennifer Luke at 904-263-2541. All are welcome and invited to join.



## EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

There is still time to donate to ERD in 2018. You can donate through the ERD website Episcopal Relief and Development <https://www.episcopalrelief> , give money through St. Mark's, or send a check to the address below.

Episcopal Relief & Development  
P.O. Box 7058  
Merrifield, VA 22116-7058

ERD has once again been responding to disasters at home and abroad. ERD is partnering with the Dioceses of Los Angeles and Northern California to help the victims of the California wildfires. They are also aiding the peoples of Yemen by providing needed medical supplies and equipment. Of course, the ongoing work continues in terms of agriculture, economic development, and health.

### Prayer for ERD

As we approach the celebration of Christ's birth on December 25<sup>th</sup>, we remember those less fortunate who are in need of our help. We pray for Episcopal Relief and Development and the positive actions it takes to aid those in need both here in the United States and around the world. We pray that we can be a part of this effort to bring the light of Christ to others. Amen.

Judy Perkin, ERD Representative



## Episcopal Church Women - ECW



Many thanks to those who donated items and/or help pack Zip Loc bags for the homeless in Bradford County. A total of 18 bags for men and 18 bags for women were delivered to the Bradford County Sheriff's Office for distribution.

We do have some donated items left over and will be doing another collection of items and packing of bags early in 2019. Again, thanks to everyone for your help with this important Community Outreach effort.

Judy Perkin, Co-Chair, Zip Loc Bag Project for the Homeless Project

## ***FOOD PANTRY***



The Food Pantry remains in need of our continued support. Please remember to bring your donations on Sunday.

The items needed most are cereal and peanut butter. If you are not able to bring in items, the Food Pantry will also accept checks made out to the Bradford Ecumenical Ministry or you can give cash/checks to the church in their name.

Also, if you have a couple hours a week free time, contact Brenda Farnsworth at 904-263-0333. Help is always needed and much appreciated.



### **Kairos Prison Ministry**

*"I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:36*

Kairos is the Greek word for *God's Special Time*. Kairos volunteers represent the Christian faith and come from many denominations, but present only those principles that all share in common. Kairos leadership is drawn from lay persons, although clergy play a vital role.

**Men Team Members**, both lay and clergy, are needed to help serve at Florida State Prison – West (FSPW). Our group draws members from Starke, Keystone Heights, Gainesville, and Jacksonville. We sponsor two 3 ½ day introductory weekends each year in FSPW, plus monthly reunions on the third Saturday each month. Team members, old and new, are trained before each Kairos Weekend at a series of team meetings.

**Be a Prayer Partner:** Kairos is totally dependent on prayer. Many who cannot serve on Kairos teams serve as active prayer partners. Kairos is entirely dependent on financial support from volunteers, churches, organizations and business groups.

**If you would like more information about Kairos Prison Ministry, please contact Mike Goldwire in our Parish at 352.275.8531, or talk to him or Joe Lukas at church on Sunday.**

Each Kairos weekend costs about \$3,500 to \$7,000 at no cost to the prison or individuals who attend. Your donation will allow us to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ with even more incarcerated men and women.

Please mail your donation to Kairos Prison Ministry International at 100 Debarry Plantation Blvd., Debarry, Fl. 32713, [www.kairosprisonministry.org](http://www.kairosprisonministry.org), or make checks out to St. Mark's with the designation "Kairos".



MEN'S BREAKFAST  
AND GRILL-N-CHILL

We will be taking a break in December.

Join us on January 12 for the Breakfast and on January 28 for the Grill-N-Chill.







## ***THANKSGIVING ALTAR***



So grateful to our Altar Guild for providing us with this beautiful altar.

## ***SPECIAL EVENT***

### **Reverse Advent Celebration**

#### **CREATE YOUR OWN ADVENT WREATH**

**Date: December 2, 2018**

**Time: TBD**

**Location: St. Mark's Episcopal Church**



**Join in the intergenerational experience of creating your own Advent Wreath. You will experience the beginning of Advent in reverse.**

**Please RSVP so the appropriate supplies can be ordered.**

**Volunteers will be needed.**

**Jennifer J. Luke**

**904-699-9498**





# FOOTNOTES



**Ultreya** is a monthly gathering for Eucharist and fellowship after Cursillo. One does not have to have attended a Cursillo to go to an Ultreya. **NO ULTREYA IN DECEMBER.**

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**CURSILLO:**

Cursillo is a renewal weekend sponsored by the Episcopal Church. Please see Fr. Bert if you would like to attend.

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**DOK Corporate Communion:**

December 17<sup>th</sup> at NOON.

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**BLESSING OF PLEDGE CARDS:**

December 16<sup>th</sup>.

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**BAKE SALE FOR GOD'S KIDS:**

December 30. Bring lots of goodies and please purchase plenty for the children.

**ALTAR GUILD - DECEMBER:**

- 1/2 Judy Perkin
- 8/9 Marianne O'Neill
- 15/16 Judy Perkin
- 24/25 Mary Agnes Goldwire  
Bobbie Faye Blackshear  
and anyone who can help
- 29/30 Judy Perkin

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**VESTRY MEETING:**

December 9 after church

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**VESTRY MEMBER FOR DECEMBER:**

Mike Goldwire

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**Paint the Parish House:**

We are almost there. You can still donate. With your help we can make it happen.



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**COFFEE HOUR TREATS:**

Please sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall for your turn to bring something to share after church.



**For the month of October, income exceeded expenses by \$3,831. We are only at 85% of our budgeted amount for the year.**



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**SANCTUARY CANDLE:**

Sign up for the sanctuary candle by calling Barbara. The cost is \$4.00.



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**FLOWER CHART:**

The 2018 Flower Chart is posted in the Narthex. Be sure to sign up for your memorials and thanksgivings! **The cost is now \$50.00.** You may share the flowers with another if you wish.

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in **Advent**, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy.

While the Advent wreath with its four candles did bring light to churches, it was not to illuminate the interior as much as to symbolize the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath began in the time of the Protestant reformer Martin Luther.

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus.



## St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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<http://stmarksstarke.diocesewebsite.org/Home.aspx>

