



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

The Missive

531 West College Avenue, Jonesboro, AR 72401

August 2016

A Message from Father Jesse....

Almost two weeks ago, I called the vestry together for a special meeting in which I announced that I had accepted a call to another parish (<http://bit.ly/2aqlnaa>). It has certainly been an emotional, bitter-sweet time since then. I must tell you all again just how blessed I am to have had St. Mark's as my first parish out of seminary, and how grateful I am for our time together, and the lessons I have learned from you. Truly, I am leaving a fantastic parish, and joining another.

I suppose there is only one thing I want to leave with you in this last Missive article of my tenure here at St. Mark's. Here it is: I brought no special skills, or recipes for success, or even any experience when I joined you seven years ago. The good work that we have done together was here all along- we simply uncovered it together. A rector, while certainly participating in the life of the church, can only do so much. You all did the rest: you volunteered your time, you gave your pledge, you handled conflict in healthy ways, you chose to be welcoming to the visitor, you chose to feed the hungry, you chose to invest in the life of St. Mark's by your Sunday worship participation. Without your willingness to give of yourselves and to work alongside of me, the church would not have grown, or touched lives. This is so important to remember, especially as you search for a new rector. Yes, you want to find a capable leader, but most importantly you want to find someone who can continue to uncover the potential in this place.

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been impressed with how well you have handled the announcement that I was leaving. Sure, there has been a lot of surprise and sadness, and maybe some some anger and concern for the future, but I have been very proud at how healthy St. Mark's is, and how well this transition is already going. I have faith that while God is preparing you for a search process, God is also preparing a priest to join you when the time is right. Use this time to reconnect if you need to: if you have found yourself distant from St. Mark's, now is the time to resume your participation. You have a strong, clear-headed vestry, a great bishop, and a capable curate- all who will lead you over the next interim period.

We have 21 days remaining, so let us not waste them. Come by the office, let's go to lunch or have some coffee. I look forward to saying the good goodbyes over the next few weeks. I will definitely miss you, but I know the future of St. Mark's is brighter than even its past and present.

God bless,
Jesse+

If I had a nickel for every time someone has approached me in the last week and asked “You didn’t see this coming, did you??” I could probably buy everyone in the parish a half-priced Slushie from Sonic. It’s true, I did not expect for my first job after seminary to be so busy and exciting so quickly! It did not take long, however, to realize the incredible caliber of priest and mentor I will soon say goodbye to. I am certainly sad to see such an amazing teacher go. But the truth is, Jesse is certainly not the only person that I have something to learn from here at St. Mark’s. You are all my teachers as I begin to navigate ordained parish leadership for the first time. I am so excited to learn about all of your time-honored liturgical traditions, your holiday customs, your stories. I am excited to try out some of my own new ideas in liturgy and formation. I am excited to share in the ups and downs of life with this incredible faith community. I have so much confidence in St. Mark’s to navigate our upcoming transition and discernment process. I have confidence in the vestry, the lay leaders, the youth, and every curious worshipper who walks through the door. I also have confidence in my own ability to walk steadily with this congregation for the next couple of years. Having seen Episcopal churches in all stages of the life, I can definitely say that this is an incredible time for St. Mark’s. We know where we have been, where we are, and where we want to go in the future, and the power is in our hands. I am grateful to finally be here with you all and I’m ready to explore, so be sure and stop by my office to say hello and tell me your favorite things about Jonesboro!

Hannah+

Volunteers needed for Children’s Ministries

We are in need of volunteers to help with two of St. Mark’s ministries for children. Adults or responsible teens are needed to help with our children’s Liturgy of the Word program, which is celebrated during Sunday services or Wednesday evening children’s Christian Education program. Both these programs offer opportunities for spiritual growth and a way to serve St. Mark’s parish. Please contact Rose Mary (935-0236 or rosemarylatanich@gmail.com) for more information.

Vacation Bible School

We are getting ready for our fantastic four-day Vacation Bible School Program here at St. Mark's. Children will have a great time at SonTreasure Island where kids will discover the treasures of God's Love. Vacation Bible School offers all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for kids. Lively songs, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and snacks!

We hope you will support St. Mark's by having your children or grandchildren participate in St. Mark's VBS program. Children entering kindergarten (or five years of age by September 30) through 6th are encouraged to participate in this vital ministry for children. VBS begins August first through the fourth and we will gather in the parish hall from 9:00 to 12 noon. A special program closing will take place at 6pm on Thursday.



First Day of Vacation Bible School

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry

A big thanks to all who contributed food items, money, or volunteer hours to the Food Pantry. In May we collected 228 pounds of food, we donated \$295.30, and volunteered 61 hours. In June almost doubled our efforts, contributing 467 pounds of food, donating \$574, and volunteering 41 hours. As we head into the middle of summer, vacations are taking a toll on volunteers at the Pantry. As you can see our volunteers hours dropped by a third in June, which is typical in the summer. But the need is still there. In May the Pantry served 1,693 individuals and in June it was 1,819 individuals. If you would like to volunteer help distribute food, we would welcome your help. St. Mark's day is Tuesdays, from 10 to 2:00. If you're interested there are volunteer sheets in the Narthex or you can contact me at garylatan-ich@gmail.com, or call me at 870-935-0236.

Two Saints' Kitchen

As summer is in full swing we are quickly coming up on the start of our 5th year! A lot has changed in the past 5 years, we have grown from 6 to 10 teams, we have become a 501c3, and we have gone from serving 16 on a busy week to 60 on a normal one.

We have also lost a few team members over the past year or so. Right now if you'd like to serve on a team there is no better time. Teams serve on a 10 week rotation, and I have a few slots if anyone is interested. If interested either contact me at [870-926-6938](tel:870-926-6938) or email at BJohnson.EMS@gmail.com.

We have applied for a few grants, but also have a few expenses coming up, so also keep Two Saints' in mind should any Nigerian princes send you an email needing to have you hold money, or if you want to donate yourself, either way.



What a Way to End the Day!!

It's been a long, tiring week - too many demands, too many bills. . . . well, you get the picture! Then the weekend, yea!!! First there's the lawn to mow, the groceries to buy, then at last it's play time! So goes the week for most of us: work, family, joy, responsibilities - Then the day that is the foundation for the other six days arrives -Sunday! We gather at 8:00 or 10:00 AM to "recharge " our body & soul through worship & fellowship. What a way to begin the day!

This day of rest & worship gently moves through the hours until the time we look toward the pink, silver & red hues of the evening sunset. The time of day when the quiet evening sounds calm our souls, and we turn once again to our Lord in a spirit of thanksgiving. A small congregation gathers in St Mark's Chapel to enjoy the reverence & beauty of the sacred office of Compline. We are there to experience the psalms and prayers chanted by the Compline choir. We once again refresh our spirits as scripture is read & songs are sung. The service lasts only about 20 minutes, but the lingering effects of the chanting, songs & scripture follow us quietly as we settle in for the night, and we hear the words replayed in our mind: " mine eyes have now seen the Savior".

What a way to end the day!!

Note: Compline is experienced each Sunday evening at 6:30 in the Chapel.

August Birthdays

8/01 Cameron Poston	8/19 Hans Gilbert
8/02 Michele Murphy	8/21 Ross Smith
8/02 Robert Steed	8/22 Daisy Hudson
8/03 Reilee Jones	8/22 Nathaniel Hudson
8/03 Jackson Thompson	8/24 Jane Bradbury
8/06 Abby Thompson	8/24 Rachel Gilliam
8/06 Alex Looney	8/25 Bonnie Fagan
8/06 Jackson Davis	8/27 Marya Langford
8/07 Lida Guinn	8/27 Alice Lynch
8/07 Alexis Zamora	8/28 Suzanne Blackburn
8/11 Tracy Parker	8/28 Michael Langford
8/13 Tolly Fagan	8/28 Adrienne Duke
8/13 Tracy Neves	8/30 Scott Darwin
8/13 Brandon May	8/30 Amelia Guinn
8/16 Melissa Murphy	8/31 Gerald McGough
8/17 Quiara Hazelwood	8/31 Andrea Gilliam
8/17 Rhinda Kesselring	8/31 Laura Thompson
8/17 Murray Pringle	8/31 Kitty Thompson
	8/31 Amber Johnson

August Anniversaries

8/02 Michael and Marya Langford
8/04 Edward and Jane Gary
8/05 Terry and Debbie Gairhan
8/07 Perry and Dana Moses
8/08 Robert and Tiffany Troutt
8/18 Mark and Jo Ann Steed
8/22 Kim and Heather Epps
8/24 Troy and Ann Lynn Henry
8/25 David and Mindy Worlow
8/30 Charles and Sandra Yauger

If your birthday is in August but not included in this list, please email me your birth month and day so I can enter it into our computer program.

secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org

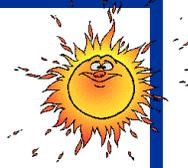


St. Mark's Day School

We closed the doors on the summer session July 29th. The teachers were wonderful and went out of their way to make learning fun for the children. The teachers will be able to get back into their classrooms to prepare for the 2016-2017 school year. Carpets will be cleaned and inspections will be done by the time school opens August 15th. Open house is Monday, August 8th from 5:30 to 7:00. Parents and children will be able to pick up packets, meet teachers, and register for our independent programs. Compuchild, Kindermusik, Tumbling for Tots, and our newest Pint Size Science will be offered to children this year. We are excited about this year and being able to include the Baby House in our enrollment. This school is very blessed to have a wonderful and loving staff, amazing parents, and the support and care from the church. Our school would not be where it is today without these people! St. Mark's is looking forward to a very exciting future!

Peggy

**UPCOMING
EVENTS...
AUGUST**



- Aug 2 Dream Group**
- Aug 1-4 Vacation Bible School**
- Aug 7 Daughters of the King**
- Aug 14 Blessing of Backpacks**
- Aug 15 Vestry Meeting**
- Aug 16 Dream Group**
- Aug 18 Men's Club**
- Aug 21 Father Jesse's Final Sunday
Instructional Eucharist**
- Aug 24 Day School Board Meeting**

Two Saints' Kitchen



AUGUST SCHEDULE

- Aug 6 Team 10**
- Aug 13 Team 1**
- Aug 20 Team 2**
- Aug 27 Team 3**

Financial Update

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Pledges and Offerings Received	\$ 24,477	\$ 175,730
Needed to meet budget	<u>25,069</u>	<u>175,481</u>
Budget Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ (592)	\$ 249
Actual Expenses Paid	\$ 22,600	\$ 172,005
Actual (Shortfall)	\$ 1,877	\$ 3,725
Loan Balance	\$163,129	