



ST MARK'S

Episcopal Church

The Missive

531 West College Avenue, Jonesboro, AR 72401

September 2016

A Message from Rev. Hannah....

Can you believe it is already September? Even though the hot months seem to drag on longer the older I get, I am never quite prepared for the busyness of the fall. This year, the beginning of the new school year brings a more acute sense of anticipation and perhaps even apprehension about what is to come, as we start to articulate who we are as a parish without Fr. Jesse, and what we are looking for in a new rector. The vestry and I recently met with the Rev. Jason Alexander, our Canon to the Ordinary, and I would like to share with you all a few of the things that Jason shared with us. He was adamant that St. Mark's is in a fantastic position to have a successful search process. We parted with Jesse on loving, though sad, terms, we are financially healthy, our lay leadership is nearly unparalleled, and my presence here means that the pastoral and sacramental needs of the parish can be met during the interim period. What all of these circumstances mean is that St. Mark's is poised to do some good self-study in the coming weeks, in order to best articulate what we are looking for in a rector, and we are also poised to offer a competitive package to whomever we call.

In the next few weeks, Jason will be guiding us through self-study as we put together a search committee. This being said, the responsibility for most of us, myself included, is to continue in the worship and ministries that make St. Mark's so wonderful. Rally Day is coming up, as well as the kick-off of a new year of children and youth formation. We have already begun work on this fall's stewardship campaign, which looks very promising. As we draw closer to the end of one liturgical year and the start of another, I am excited for us all to start fresh together, and I look forward to offering some adult formation opportunities. This is an exciting time in the life of St. Mark's. We are an incredible faith community with still untapped potential, which we are always realizing as we move forward together. I cannot imagine living and working anywhere else. My blessings abound as your curate.

Faithfully,
Hannah

Shrimp Boil 2016



The Shrimp Boil is approaching. It's on Saturday, October 22. While many positions have been filled, we will need a large number of workers to help at various places. At this time our needs include people to collect tickets, serve food, work the kitchen, and two clean up crews, one for the hall and one for the kitchen. Even more important at this time is the need for someone to take charge and head up each of these five areas. If you interested in considering any of these possibilities, contact me after one of the upcoming church services or at rally day. Remember. We're better together.

Gary

Vacation Bible School

A lot of time, effort and love went into St. Mark's VBS program. Thank you to all the wonderful folks who helped to make Vacation Bible School a reality for our parish. Susie Grommet lead Bible stories, Donald Mankin and Kaydan Gillis lead games, Stephanie Matthews helped with VBS songs, Jill Davis, Terry Rogers and Rhinda Kesselring volunteered in the craft room. Pat Foster and Kathryn Davis provided child care for workers. Holli Davis and Cindy Grommet helped serve refreshments and did a great job of serving the meal during the program closing.

Thanks to Jill Davis, Janice Kroeter, Lydia Howard, Jessica Maddox, Kaydan Gillis, Kathryn Davis, Nathan Lowe and Michelle Murphy helped work on murals and helped decorate. Thanks also to Al Poston who was gracious enough to volunteer to grill our hotdogs for our program closing.

We are also grateful to the awesome parishioner who make it possible for all the children to receive VBS T-shirts and to Becky Carr for providing VBS T-shirts for our staff, and to Gerald McGough for our sailor caps. We appreciate Christopher Russell and Sue for providing our VBS supplies. Thanks also the parishioners who donated Pringle cans for crafts. Because of the generosity and support of so many people, we made a difference in the lives of our parish children. May you all be blessed richly for the good you do for others.

Christian Education

St. Mark's Christian Education may be small, but it is a very active and enthusiastic group of children. This year, we have decided to use a lectionary-based curriculum for faith formation. One reason we will be using lectionary-based materials is that it integrates worship and education. Our new curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*, follows the Revised Common Lectionary.

Christian Education sessions meet on most Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30pm. From 6:00 to 6:30pm is Community Time where kids share a meal. A meal is served because many of our students come to Christian Education sessions directly from after school activities and kids sometimes do not have the opportunity to eat before they come to St. Mark's for religious education classes.

We would like to encourage parents and parishioners to sign up to provide a meal on Wednesday evening for the kids. A sign up sheet for meals can be found in the narthex. If you are unable to teach or sub in a class room we could use help from someone to help coordinate our Wednesday evening meals. Please contact Rose Mary (rosemarylatanich@gmail.com or call 935-0236) if you would like more information about volunteering on Wednesday evening.

St. Mark's Christian Education program runs on volunteer efforts. We are in need of individuals to volunteer to help team teach for this upcoming school year. The curriculum is user friendly.

Christian Education sessions will resume with an Open House on Wednesday, September 14. This will be a time to welcome new and returning families to St. Mark's Christian Education program. This will also be an opportunity for parents and students to meet with the teaching staff and to learn about activities planned for the upcoming year. Parents and their children will gather in St. Mark's hall at 6:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. Please note that there will be an early dismissal on the 14th.

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Children's Chapel format of service is now modeled after the Liturgy of the Word in the *Book of Common Prayer*, adopting the prayers to the needs of the children. Children listen to the same Gospel reading that adults hear during Sunday worship but in a way that is understandable for them. Our hope and goal are to teach the Word of God in an age-appropriate way which will help nurture a child's spiritual journey at a child's own pace and time.

Liturgy of the Word with Children is a very important offering for children three years of age up to fifth grade. The older child's role is one of modeling appropriate behavior and serving as a helper to the adult liturgy leader and younger children. This is celebrated during our Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist services. Afterward, children return to the nave to celebrate Holy Communion with their families.

Although, we do have some leaders in place, we still are in need of additional leaders. If you would like to serve as an adult leader or a mature teens who would like to serve as support person, contact Rose Mary (rosemarylatanich@gmail.com or 935-0236) for more information. As with all our ministries for children, we rely on volunteers to help keep programs safe and growing. Please keep St. Mark's ministries for children in your prayers.



September Meetings

- Sept 4 Daughters of the King,
11:15 am
- Sept 10 ECW, 9:30am
- Sept 13 Dream Group, 3pm
- Sept 15 Men's Club, 6:30pm
- Sept 19 Vestry, 7:00pm
- Sept 21 Day School Board, 12pm
- Sept 27 Dream Group, 3pm

Kroger Community Rewards for Two Saints'



Two Saints is now a member of the Kroger Community Rewards program! To sign up go to krogercommunityrewards.com, and either enter the ID number (47799) or search for "Two Saints' Inc", from there you'll just enter your information. The best part is, it helps by just shopping, and you get to keep your fuel points.

Teams are now back up to normal levels thanks to a great response by you. We also have received a \$500 grant from Sam's Club which will go a long way in feeding people for a few more weeks.

Two Saints' Schedule September

Sept 3-	Team 4
Sept 10-	Team 5
Sept 17-	Team 6
Sept 24-	Team 7

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/01 Gary Griffin
9/04 Laura Reynolds
9/04 Alyssa Moses
9/06 Doyle Gilliam
9/06 Jeffrey Koontz
9/07 Clara Troutt
9/09 Bill Keisker
9/09 Mary Catherine Walker
9/09 Win Robinson
9/10 John Kirkley
9/11 Kim Epps
9/15 Isabel Welch
9/16 Heather McNamee
9/17 David Kroeter
9/17 Martye Blaylock
9/17 Jack Fowler
9/22 Ruth Keisker
9/22 Sara Ellis
9/22 Allie Kirk

9/24 Bill Brown
9/27 Mady Hurst
9/28 Patricia McCaughan
9/28 Michael Engleken
9/28 Kassie Haynes
9/30 Lise Cater

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/03 Jim and Deb McInturff
9/09 Gary and Rose Mary Latanich
9/11 Tony and Tammy Fowler
9/17 Wes and Sue Westerieder
9/19 Phillip and Kerry Tew
9/28 David and Janice Kroeter



St. Mark's Day School

School has finally begun and the teachers and children are getting to know each other and make new friends. We are thrilled to meet many new faces and welcome back our babies that grew so much over the summer. Every year we seem to grow and this year is no exception. St. Mark's hosts an enrollment of 143 children and 36 teachers on staff! We have a few new teachers on board this year and a welcome addition is Rhonda Dauer as our music teacher. It's going to be a great year.

We always need substitute workers especially with a staff this size. If you or anyone you know is interested please contact the school office for details. I promise you will not be bored, the day will fly by, and you get paid! Chapel will be held on Wednesday at 10:00 and everyone is welcome to attend. The school will be closed September 5th for Labor Day.

Peggy

Upcoming Events...

September 2016

- Sept 4 Daughters of the King
- Sept 5 Labor Day (office closed)
- Sept 10 ECW Meeting
- Sept 11 Rally Day
- Sept 13 Dream Group
- Sept 14 Christian Education Resumes
- Sept 15 Men's Club Meeting
- Sept 19 Vestry Meeting
- Sept 27 Dream Group

Join us for a morning of fun
for Everyone!

Rally Day September 11

.....Potluck lunch

.....Bagpipes

.....Bouncy Castle



Financial Update

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Pledges and Offerings Received	\$ 19,890	\$ 109, 461
Needed to meet budget	<u>25,069</u>	<u>200,552</u>
Budget Surplus (Shortfall)	(\$ 5,179)	(\$ 4,091)
Actual Expenses Paid	\$ 25,624	\$ 197,969
Actual (Shortfall)	(\$ 5,734)	(\$ 1,508)
Loan Balance	\$ 162,486	