



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church
The Missive

531 West College Avenue, Jonesboro, AR 72401

May 2017

A Message from Rev. Hannah...

Although wearing a jacket to work on the first day of May is a little strange, there is no denying that warmer weather and all the changes that come with it are upon us. School is winding down, summer sports are picking up, vacations are drawing nearer, and we have moved quickly into our 50 day Easter celebration. This is my first spring in Jonesboro and so far it has been lovely. The colors are fantastic, the atmosphere around town is joyful, walking Abel in the park even smells better these days! Springtime combined with a beautiful Holy Week and Easter in the books leaves little room for complaints. But of course, the Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways. After the storms last weekend, the St. Mark's basement flooded, almost exactly one year after its last major flood. As I stood barefoot and laughing in puddles with my pants rolled up moving acolyte vestments, I couldn't help but pause to take stock. Our rector search is in full swing, we are planning new and innovative worship experiences for the summer months, EFM is returning in the fall, the chapel renovation is completed and beautiful, and we have welcomed 16 new confirmed members. Even standing in the middle of a basement flood, there was no denying that the Kingdom of God is thriving at St. Mark's and there is no place I'd rather be. A huge thank you to everyone who was flexible and who lent a hand over the weekend!

Finally, I'd like to invite and encourage everyone to participate in our Instructional Eucharist at the 8 and 10am services on May 21. This is also a perfect time to invite friends and colleagues who might be intimidated by our liturgy. The service bulletin will be filled with side notes and definitions, and the service itself will pause for explanation and demonstration. It is important for us all to understand why we do what we do, and for the congregation to participate as fully as possible when we gather for worship, so instruction Eucharists are good for our faith. I hope to see you all there!

Faithfully,
Hannah+

St. Mark's 2017 Confirmands



Front Row, L-R: Tasha Weeks, Jody Long, Clay Turner, Brandi Workman, Claire Sims, Julie Kennedy-Hampton
Middle Row: Reneilia Hampton, Chris Russell, Emily Bohman, Adam Weeks, Emily Pierce
Back Row: Lydia Howard, Carol Ann Williams, Bishop Benfield, Tiffany Troutt. Scott Trout
Not Pictured: Blake Watters

CAMP MITCHELL SUMMER SCHEDULE

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|
| June 11-16 | Senior High (completed 9th-12th grade) |
| June 18-23 | Junior High (completed 6th-8th grade) |
| June 25-30 | Middler (completed 4th-5th grade) |
| July 2-6 | Robert R. Brown I Specialty Camp |
| July 16-21 | Primary (completed 1st-3rd grade) |
| July 23-28 | Dick Johnston's Children Camp |
| July 30–Aug 4 | Farm Camp |
| July 30-Aug 4 | Creative Arts Camp |
| Aug 6-10 | Robert R. Brown II Specialty Camp |

To register please go to the
Camp Mitchell website:
www.campmitchell.org

Vacation Bible School

St. Mark's SonRise National Park is the place to be this summer! Kids will love the high-energy games, cool wilderness crafts, and the best VBS music and skits ever! As your kids explore SonRise National Park, they'll learn the most important survival skill of all: they can always depend on Jesus and His promises of true peace, true riches, true power, true love and true hope!

VBS will be scheduled from July 31 - August 3 for kids entering grades Kindergarten and completing the 5th grade.

In order to make SonRise National Park a reality at St. Mark's we will need adults volunteers to help with Bible stories, games, music, crafts and refreshment coordinator during VBS.

We will also need responsible teens to help set up and decorate VBS rooms and to serve as aides during VBS week. We will begin preparation for vacation bible school the week before the scheduled event. All our materials used for Vacation Bible School are user friendly and will be provided.

Something to think about as you pray about Vacation Bible School. *"Instead of giving myself reasons why I can't; I give myself reasons why I can."*

Please contact our VBS Coordinator, Rose Mary Latanich (Home Phone 935-0236 or e-mail rosemarylatanich@gmail.com) for more information or if you would like to help.

Christian Education

St. Mark's Christian Education Program has been a great experience for our children and rewarding for those of us teaching. It is hard to believe that soon our children's faith formation program will soon come to a close for the summer.

Our last gathering for Christian Education is scheduled for May 10th at 6:00pm. We will have our annual Ice Cream Social and then recognize the staff and the children who have participated in St. Mark's Christian Education program for the 2016 - 17 year. Parents and younger siblings are invited to join us for our end of year festivities. Please note that we will have early dismissal on the 10th.

ECW

ECW met April 8 at the church and helped the Altar Guild group polish silver and create palm crosses for holy week. The next meeting is May 13th with 9:30 am fellowship and 10:00 a.m. meeting in the church conference room. We will discuss planning a tea party at the end of May. Hope to see you there!

Men's Club

Golf Scramble :
To be Arranged

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry

St. Mark's Congregation is to be commended once again for their cash donations to Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. We gave \$849.85 to the food pantry, more than any church in the county. We also contributed 129 lbs of food. Good job by caring people!

Gary Latanich, St. Mark's Helping Neighbors Board member, has been leading the way in procuring a lot to build a new building for the food pantry. He has put in a lot of time investigating the lot on Huntington St. so that a more efficient building can be built to house the food pantry. The present location in the old Huntington Avenue Methodist Church has served its purpose but it is increasingly difficult to maintain a dry, temperature-controlled environment for food distribution. Helping Neighbors has passed all its inspections from the USDA and State of Arkansas but it would be much easier to maintain in a building designed to be a food pantry. Thank you, Gary, for your leadership in St. Mark's.

In other personnel matters, Rhinda Kesselring will serve the Helping Neighbors Board as secretary for the coming year.

For those of you who might need suggestions for material donations to the food pantry, the clients we serve need hygiene products such as laundry detergent, hand dish washing detergent, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers, toilet paper, and feminine products. These items are not covered by food stamps and are greatly needed.

Thanks again to our Congregation for supporting this wonderful ministry. If anyone is interested in participating, you can sign up in the Narthex or contact Rhinda Kesselring at rhindak@gmail.com.

May Birthdays

May 1 Patrick Land
May 1 Gary Latanich
May 2 Spencer Guinn
May 3 Marian Peeler
May 5 Madison Davis
May 5 Bob Thompson
May 8 James Jones
May 10 Pam Chafin
May 11 Kayden Gillis
May 12 Kailey Ferguson
May 14 Zachary Langford
May 16 Tony Fowler
May 19 Debbie Gairhan
May 19 Hunter Smith
May 20 Chris Hollis
May 20 Tabitha Langford
May 21 Melissa Chance
May 22 Payton Land
May 23 Aaron Coleman

May 23 Priya Gill
May 28 Thomas Johnson
May 29 Emil Heim
May 31 Randy Coleman

May Anniversaries



May 10 Blake and Maggie Coe
May 14 Thomas and Kassie Haynes
May 19 Keith Pringle & Amy Pearce
May 21 Bob and Kitty Thompson
May 22 Steve and Laura Thompson
May 22 C.W. and Katie Toombs
May 23 Ronnie and Robin Sairls



St. Mark's Day School

It's almost time to close the book on a very successful school year. We have experienced growth with all the classrooms filled to capacity. The Baby House has been in operation for one year and is a huge success! The last day of our regular school year will be May 19th and the first day of the summer program will be May 22nd. Children will be moving up to new classrooms and we will have new children and babies to welcome! 4 year old graduation will be May 16th. It will be a bittersweet goodbye to our graduates. We wish them much happiness and success in the years to come. We are still enrolling for summer and fall and have limited openings, so if you know of someone looking for a quality preschool have them contact the school office at 935-7075. St. Mark's Day School is truly blessed with our precious children, wonderful parents, and the best teachers and staff in town! Peggy

Upcoming EventsMay



- May 7 Daughters of the King
- May 10 Christian Formation Ice Cream Social
- May 13 ECW Meeting
- May 14 Mother's Day
- May 15 Vestry Meeting
- May 16 Four-year Old Graduation from Day School
- May 18 Men's Club
- May 21 Instructional Eucharist
- May 28 Morning Prayer
- May 29 Memorial Day, Office Closed

May Schedule

- May 6- Team 9
- May 13- Team 10
- May 20- Team 1
- May 27- Team 2

Two Saints' Kitchen



Financial Update

| | <u>April</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Pledges and Offerings Received | \$ 24,086 | \$ 113,063 |
| Needed to meet budget | 25,582 | 102,327 |
| Budget Surplus (Shortfall) | (\$ 1,496) | \$ 10,736 |
| Actual Expenses Paid | \$16,492 | \$ 88,632 |
| Actual (Shortfall) | 7,594 | \$ 24,431 |
| Loan Balance | \$151,516 | |