



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

The Missive

531 West College Avenue, Jonesboro, AR 72401

July 2017

A Message from Rev. Hannah....

□ This month will mark the completion of my first year at St. Mark's. I feel both as though I just started yesterday and as though I've been here with you all for years. I don't know that I would have noticed the one year mark if it hadn't been for the stained glass in the nave. For those of you who have never noticed, above the choir seating is a gorgeous stained-glass depiction of St. George slaying the dragon. In my first month at St. Mark's, I worried that one of the harder parts of my job would be reading the altar book while being blinded by the light from St. George's window. As time passed and the seasons changed, the sun didn't shine quite as brightly through the window. But last week, as I processed up to the altar in a green chasuble again, I noticed that the light is back. And while the sun shining through St. George is just as tricky and frustrating as it was a year ago, I am a completely different person.

In the last year I have preached 47 sermons, married 2 couples, buried 3 friends, led a confirmation class, run a week of camp, and celebrated the Eucharist in every liturgical season. I have also learned how to prepare a budget, memorized entry codes for half a dozen local health care facilities, learned to troubleshoot coding problems on a website, prepared a parochial report, and learned how to read commercial real estate contracts. Very little of seminary prepared me for the job I inherited, and nothing could have prepared me for the love I've found here.

What's far more incredible is what we have done in the last year as a church. We completed a stewardship campaign, renovated our chapel, witnessed the confirmation of 17 new members, and sent 6 kids to summer camp. We had powerful worship together during Holy Week. We elected 4 new vestry members. We lost people dear to us. We began a search for a new leader. We procured a new fire suppression system so that our Two Saints ministry continues to thrive. More than once, I overheard a visitor say that St. Mark's is the most welcoming place they've ever visited, so most importantly, we spent another glorious year proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom. "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" How beautiful is this place that we all call our church home.

EYC News

St. Mark's is pleased that we have a number of young people attending Camp Mitchell this summer! We had 2 at senior high camp, 1 at junior high, and 6 will be attending primary camp in July. EYC has worked to provide help to all those who wanted to go to camp and we earned enough to be helpful. For those of you who provided scholarships for camp, we send a great big thank you! We do still need scholarships if someone is still interested in sending a youngster.

EYC is taking a break for the remainder of the summer vacation!

Stephanie Matthews

Vacation Bible School

We would like to welcome our children and their friends to St. Mark's vacation bible school program. This year's theme is SonRise National Park. As kids explore SonRise National Park they will learn many survival skills. The most important survival skill they will learn is that they can always depend on Jesus and His promises of true peace, true riches, true power, true love and true hope! At SonRise National Park, kids will learn to trust Jesus as their all-powerful guide and Savior.

Registration forms for Vacation Bible School with more information can be picked up in the church narthex. Kids entering kindergarten up to sixth grade will gather in St. Mark's hall each morning from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. VBS is slated for July 31 through August 3.

Please keep in mind, in order to make Vacation Bible School a reality in our parish, we must have the support of parents and parishioners. While we do have some volunteers in place, we still need parents and parishioners to help create props and murals and to help during VBS week.

We will create murals and props for VBS beginning July 24. Do pray and consider what role you can play in order to make our VBS program a safe place for children to learn about the love of Christ.

For more information please contact Rose Mary, VBS coordinator at 935-0236 or email at rosemarylatanich@gmail.com.

The People of Helping Neighbors Food Pantry

Amazing people make Helping Neighbors Food Pantry exist and function. The volunteer staff are a diverse group of people who devote a couple of hours weekly to meet the needs of citizens of Craighead County Citizens. Our clients are very similar to the people who serve them. I would like to tell you about these people.

In May, Helping Neighbors served 570 children. When school is out and children are mostly at home, we make and distribute Kids' Packs of nutritious snacks and high protein food that children can serve themselves. This food is provided by the donations of congregations, individuals, and grants. Families and organizations bring their children during holidays and vacations to Helping Neighbors as a positive experience in community service. Yesterday we had a mother and her five children ages 7 to 17 come to spend time volunteering. They spent two hours repacking individual jellies, pretzel bites, and potatoes. We have several days worth of these items already prepared because of the help of these children. The children giggled, had bottled water and snacks we provided, and talked with us. They enjoyed their time at Helping Neighbors and we enjoyed their light-hearted presence.

In May, we served 221 Seniors, 65 and older. United Way provides a grant for our Senior Packs. The packs include coffee, a different pantry staple like flour or sugar, some canned milk and fruits in addition to our regular week's worth of groceries. The volunteers from St. Mark's are all retirees: Jane Gill, Scott Darwin, Jill Davis, Donald Mankin, Karen Olson, Sue Westenrieder, Susie Grommett, Rhinda Kesselring and Gary Latanich. In fact, most of Helping Neighbors volunteer staff are retirees who are on fixed incomes and Social Security but have the time to devote to community service.

We do not keep statistics on our mentally ill clients. We serve people on SSI who have disabilities that make it impossible to work regularly. I have a volunteer/client relationship with a schizophrenic man. We try to provide him services that make his life a little easier. Some of our volunteers come from Mental Health Court and Abilities Unlimited. Others of our volunteers are disabled people who come with their families to help them take part in the greater world. They spend many hours of packaging food and restocking shelves like everyone else who volunteers. We can't do without them.

What to donate?

In May, St. Mark's donated 125 lbs of food, 374 dollars, and 47 volunteer hours. Awesome!

Helping Neighbors can use cereal bars and canned items like spaghetti and meat balls for Kid's packs. As I have said before, clients can also use hygiene items like soap, shampoo, laundry detergent and cleaners. Dollar Tree is a good source for these products. When I took this week's donations to the Pantry, someone had donated two new sets of sheets and sample-sized cosmetic items. We set out these kind of items and clients enjoy choosing and using them. We also redistribute used books, small toys, and used magazines.

The Jonesboro Sun advertised and donated fans to Helping Neighbors clients. They have not advertised this year. We donated about 20 fans last year. Helping Neighbors would like to donate fans to seniors and infants who are in more danger when temperatures soar. You can put fans in the shopping cart and they will be distributed to people who really need them.

Thank you,
Rhinda Kesselring

Wilson Gardens

Many of you may have noticed that St. Mark's has been distributing delicious produce once a week this summer. We are a Jonesboro pick-up location for the Wilson Garden's CSA. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a partnership between a farm and consumers. Community members pledge financial support to their Farm in the pre-season, and in return receive a share of the Farm's seasonal bounty each week. See Wilson Gardens' info below!

THE SEASONAL SKINNY:

Join Wilson Gardens for **10 Weeks** of the freshest vegetables, fruits, flowers, and herbs, grown in harmony with nature and without the use of synthetic sprays and fertilizer. We will be preparing **standard size CSA bags** with plenty of produce for a couple or family on-the-go. Our additional **CSA Plus bags** will contain more volume and variety, perfect for larger families, avid cooks, vegans and vegetarians. Recipes and tips come along with each share, inspiring you to discover new ways of healthy, seasonal cooking. A weekly email (with even more recipes and ideas) alerts you to what's coming each week, helping you plan your menus and shopping trips! The cost is **\$200** for 10 weeks of standard bags and **\$375** for 10 weeks of CSA Plus bags.

BAG BOUNTY:

What will we eat?!

The Spring-Summer Season promises all the Summer favorites: **juicy heirloom tomatoes, tender Summer squash and zucchini, nutritious eggplants, basil, and Southern peas. As we move into the shoulder season of Fall you can expect crisp cabbage and radishes, buttery head lettuce, Napa cabbage and more.** Don't forget the extra lagniappe of flowers and herbs! We grow a **wide range of herbs to complement our produce** and are proud to be teaming with Delta Sol Farm in nearby Proctor, AR and Whitton Farms in Tyronza, AR to provide you many weeks of **beautiful, local flower bouquets**. There is so much value in this bag!

Spring shares are slated to begin August 7th, ending October 9th, with a the option to sign up for the following Fall-Winter Season.

Sign up today online at www.wilsongardens.com/csa or call the Farm at 870-655-8422



July Birthdays

7/02 Wannda Turner
7/05 Maggie Coe
7/05 Rike Robinson IV
7/06 Zane Neves
7/06 Jacob Henderson
7/06 Zane Neves
7/11 Anthony Childress
7/11 Amy Pearce
7/13 Sheila Guinn
7/14 Blake Coe
7/16 Julie Kennedy-Hampton
7/17 Susie Grommet
7/17 Teresa Rogers
7/20 Frannie Replogle
7/21 Robert Troutt
7/22 Michael Fagan
7/23 Jeanette Lamberth
7/24 Ganon Creech
7/27 Zachary White

7/28 Arnold Gilliam
7/28 DeeDee Gilliam
7/28 Oliver Simmons
7/29 Janice Kroeter
7/29 Celeste Robnette
7/30 Robert Heim
7/30 Reed Hopper



July Anniversaries

7/09 Andy and Marian Peeler
7/10 Ryan and Jacqueline Boyd
7/20 Joe and Michele Murphy
7/21 Al and Aylia Poston
7/21 Aaron and Jessica Coleman

MEN'S CLUB BOWLING

JULY 20

6:30 PM

PIZZA AT UPPER CRUST



St. Mark's Day School

The Summer Program is in full swing and the children are having a blast! They enjoy arts and crafts, story time, movie hour, and especially recess! The teachers even throw in a little lesson time when the kids least expect it! Our teachers are amazing and have made St. Mark's a fun place for everyone this summer. The last day of the Summer Program will be July 28th. St. Mark's will be closed July 3rd and 4th for Independence Day. We will take a few weeks off for cleaning and up dating classrooms before school starts back August 14th. Enjoy your summer!

Peggy



Upcoming Events.....

- July 4 Independence Day, Office Closed**
- July 17 Vestry Meeting**
- July 20 Men's Club Bowling and Pizza**
- July 30 Fifth Sunday Breakfast**
- July 31– Aug 3 Vacation Bible School**

Two Saints'

July Schedule

- July 1- Team 7**
- July 8- Team 8**
- July 15- Team 9**
- July 22 -Team 10**
- July 29–Team 1**

Financial Update

| | <u>June</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Pledges and Offerings Received | \$ 15,545 | \$ 147,871 |
| Needed to meet budget | 25,582 | 153,490 |
| Budget Surplus (Shortfall) | (\$ 10,036) | (\$ 5,619) |
| Actual Expenses Paid | \$12,004 | \$ 119,835 |
| Actual (Shortfall) | 3,541 | 28,065 |
| Loan Balance | \$150,161 | |