

NEWSLETTER



Saying Grace

Epiphany is a Sunday associated with the “revelation” of Jesus to the Magi who followed a star to the baby born in Bethlehem. The story of the wise men, sometimes called the Three Kings, has all the elements of a novel, including a wicked King, defiant seekers following a bright star, and a child whose light draws people from every nation to pay him honor. The seven Sundays that follow Epiphany are often called Ordinary Time with two extraordinary days: the Baptism of the Lord and the Transfiguration of Jesus. Scripture tells us that on both occasions, the voice from heaven is the same: This is my beloved Son; listen to him!

What I love most about this season of seven Sundays is the discovery of who is Jesus, the child born in a manger whose birth threatens all earthly powers. It’s like the church is on a collective search, like the Magi, seeking to know Jesus as he is revealed in the gospels.

Once we begin to get clues about his identity by what he actually does, we are faced with our own identity and practice as his followers. How will we be bearers of light in our world? As we discover again who is Jesus, we can discover our purpose.

As always, the key is to pay attention. Listen to the story. What is it telling you about Jesus? The Magi, who defied the treacherous King Herod, teach us the essential Christian practice: bend your knee before the Lord and offer him the gift of your life, with joy and gratitude. After all, God did the same for us.

Rejoice! The Light has come into the world and darkness will triumph over it. From the fullness of God we have all received, grace upon grace. (The Gospel of John)

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy



RESCHEDULING AFTER SNOW

Our services on Sunday, January 13th were unfortunately cancelled due to significant snowfall in our area. We were planning to observe the Sacrament of Baptism and to reaffirm our own baptismal promises and membership in the Church that day.

We have decided to reschedule those celebrations to be included in our single service of worship on Sunday, January 27 at 9:30am, followed by our annual meeting and potluck. Please plan to be at Saint Mark for these important and joyous events!

TAX STATEMENTS

Your 2018 contribution reports for both the General Stewardship and Legacy Campaigns will be available in late January. Look for them in the Narthex. Thank you to all who have contributed. Please continue to use your envelopes in 2019 as it makes it much easier for the counters and pledge secretaries to track and record your payments.



Youth Group Christmas Party 2018

UPDATE ON THE LEUCHTENBURGS

Long time members Lucy and Tom Leuchtenburg have moved to North Carolina. We will miss them.

They would enjoy hearing from you. Their address is:

60117 Davie
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

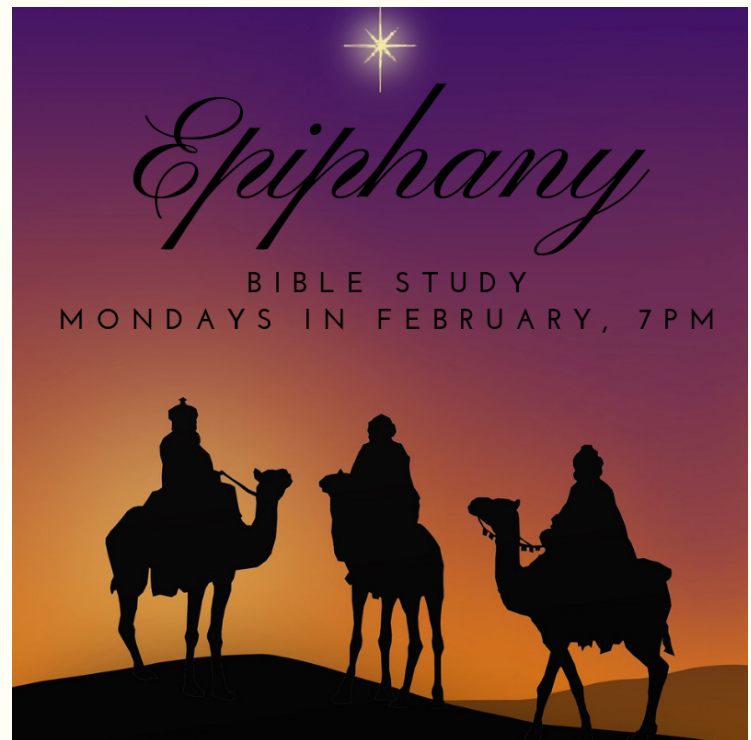


PASTOR ROY HOWARD COACHING CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to Pastor Roy Howard who completed all training and is moving toward certification as an Associate Coach with the International Coaching Federation. Roy is currently a member of the Presbyterian Coaching Network, the National Capital Presbytery Coaching Network and the International Coaching Federation. The primary purpose of his coaching is to help people discern what make them come alive and determine the steps necessary to live into their calling. The session affirmed this additional skill in the pastor's job description at the November session meeting. Pastor Roy is available to provide coaching to all members of Saint Mark as part of his ordinary pastoral care ministry.

LEADERS' RETREAT

Our congregation's Leaders' Retreat will take place February 1-2, 2019. We ask everyone to pray for the leaders and pastors as they plan for the year.



EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join Pastor Roy Howard for an Epiphany Bible Study.

We'll meet at the church every Monday in February at 7pm.

Hope to see you there!



WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

The Library Ministry Team has started off the new year with a flurry of exciting activity! In January we will feature Dr. King's legacy. We have lots of great children's books about MLK and we will also select some books you may enjoy about other peace makers that have functioned in the tradition of Dr. King. At the end of the month, the library is curating a special exhibit called "Perspectives of Mary from Around the World." We will have photos of art work from all corners of the globe that reveal different ways of looking at Mary. The exhibit will be on display in the atrium, so please do stop by and spend some time with these gorgeous images.

February often brings snow and, of course, Valentine's Day. The library will have lots of resources for you take home about love, about caring and about connecting. Also, make sure to keep an eye out for our annual "guess the number of candies in the jar" contest. The second half of the month will be dedicated to celebrating Black history and lives. Not only will we have lots of great adult and children's books, but also look for a special children's event one

week during coffee hour.

The LMT wishes all of Saint Mark a blessed and abundant 2019, full of love, laughter and, of course, great books.

PUSHPAY – ONLINE GIVING OPTION

Pushpay is the name of the online giving option available to all Saint Mark Members.

It allows you to easily give one-time or recurring gifts from your smartphone anytime and anywhere! It's easy to give:

text "presby" to 77977, enter the info requested and you're finished.

You'll receive a prompt "thank you" each time you give. You can also download the Pushpay App from the App store or give online at Saint Mark's website.

Go to www.SaintMarkpresby.org, scroll down to Donate, click and enter your gift.

If you have any questions, please contact Dick Pavlin, Stewardship Chair. Your generosity in supporting Saint Mark's mission is greatly appreciated!



SERVICE OPPORTUNITY WITH RISE AGAINST HUNGER

All in our Saint Mark community are invited to join us on January 21st for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. We'll be working together with Bethesda United Methodist Church and Chevy Chase United Methodist Church toward the goal of ending world hunger by raising funds and packing meals for Rise Against Hunger. Our goal is to raise \$2,500 and to help pack 10,300 dehydrated food packets. Check out this video to learn more about this wonderful organization. To donate, or sign up to help with set up, meal packing, or clean up visit: <http://events.stophungernow.org/BUMC19>. If you have questions about participating, contact Jocelyn Callister (JocelynCallister@gmail.com).