

Volume 13 Issue 5

May, 2019



The Mission of St. Mark's
Episcopal Church
Love and Worship God.

**Love and Serve
All People.**

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Roaring Lion

† From Your Rector †

A Job of Work or a Life of Grace?

“My sisters and brothers, priests are ordained to lead God’s people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. With their Bishop and fellow presbyters, they proclaim the word of the Lord and watch for signs of God’s new creation. They feed and provide for God’s family, search for his children in the wilderness of this world’s temptations, and guide them through its many confusions. With all God’s people they tell the story of God’s love...”

Every year, on the Tuesday in Holy Week, I attend a service with the other clergy of the Diocese of Atlanta where we renew our ordination vows. The statement above served as the priest’s (presbyter’s) reminder of what we promised to do at our ordination. If you renew a promise, it helps to be reminded what you promised to do in the first place!

My job, or at least my vocation, is not a list of

things to accomplish to do. Those things are necessary and they often satisfy and delight in wake of completing them, but our life here at church is not a list of things to accomplish or stuff to do. A long time ago, Martin Luther, a man we all learned about in school blew up the church by saying, “You can’t buy salvation.” And buying salvation is just the crudest form of earning salvation. We can’t earn it. We certainly can’t buy it.

Our job is to *tell the story of God’s love*. It’s not a task or another thing to do. It’s not a reminder to keep on your phone: *Hey Siri, remind me to tell the story of God’s love every day at 9:45am. Ok, Allen, I’ll remind you.* Telling that story, which is our primary responsibility, telling that story is not a thing to do. It’s a way of life.

The problem is that the story isn’t all that’s in front of us. We also have

the *wilderness of this world’s temptations* to deal with. Oh, and don’t forget the world’s *many confusions*. We don’t know anything about that do we? Our world? Confusing? Nah!

Well, I’ll keep your secret if you keep mine. (*My world is confusing*). How to best educate our children, how to best love those who are difficult, how to best forgive myself my own shortcomings, without defaulting to self indulgence. Confusing? Yes!

The good news is that in the midst of our confusion, we don’t have a list of tasks that must be done in order to be saved. We have a God who is right up next to us. Telling the story of God’s love means taking a look around and seeing, not how far you are from God, but how close God has been... all along.

Allen

Creation Care Day

May 5

10:30 service held outside

Followed by Picnic on the Grounds

Please bring a side dish to share.

Immediately following lunch, all are invited to participate in a litter pick up which will target several areas within walking distance of St. Mark’s. See more details inside newsletter.



Reading Group~~ *Where the Crawdads Sing*

The Reading Group will meet on Monday, May 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.

“For years, rumors of the ‘Marsh Girl’ have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl.

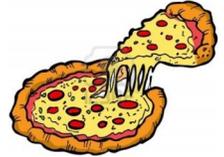
But Kya is not what they say.

Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life – until the unthinkable happens.

Perfect for fans of Barbara Kingsolver and Karen Russell, *Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking

coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.”

All are welcome! Pizza, water, and wine will be provided. Please bring \$5.00 to offset the cost of the food and wine.



Popcorn Theology~~ *The Mule*

Do you see yourself as a movie buff or cinema junkie? Do you love the smell of hot, fresh popcorn? Do you love sharing an evening at the movies with your friends? If the answer to any of the above is a “yes”, then St. Mark’s Popcorn Theology is something you will enjoy and want to be part of.

We meet on the **3rd Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm** for pizza, a movie and some fellowship and discussion. Please bring \$5.00 to offset the cost of food and drink.

May 19: *The Mule* – Clint Eastwood stars as Earl Stone, a man in his 80s who is broke, alone, and facing foreclosure of his business when he is offered a job that simply requires him to drive. Easy enough, but, unbeknownst to Earl, he’s just signed on as a drug courier for a Mexican cartel. He does well—so well, in fact, that his cargo increases exponentially, and Earl is assigned a handler. But he isn’t the only one keeping tabs on Earl; the mysterious new drug mule has also hit the radar of hard-charging DEA agent Colin Bates. And even as his money problems become a

thing of the past, Earl’s past mistakes start to weigh heavily on him, and it’s uncertain if he’ll have time to right those wrongs before law enforcement, or the cartel’s enforcers, catch up to him.

So, whether you see yourself as a movie buff or whether you just want a relaxing escape once a month, pencil in the 3rd Sunday at 5:00 pm for Popcorn Theology for fun and fellowship. See you at the movies-----



Phillips House Ministries— April, 2019 Report

Income:

Advent Lutheran	300.00
St. Mark’s Budgeted	416.67
St. Mark’s Alms	423.00
Total	\$1,139.67

Due to your monthly generosity in alms and pledged giving, we were able to assist nine families this month with the majority needing utility assistance. In two separate interviews, we heard from gentlemen who were on leave without pay from their jobs while they recovered from surgery. They were uncomfortable and embarrassed to ask for help, always able to support themselves and their families in the past. Joyfully, we were able to pay on the bills of both gentlemen! They were so grateful!

Expenditures:

Rent (2)	300.00
Utilities (7)	1,225.00
Total	1,525.00

Thank you, thank you, thank you!
Margaret Park and Pat Barton

SOME FILES HAVE BEEN DELETED FOR PRIVACY REASONS.

Creation Care Day May 5

The St. Mark's Green Team is excited to announce an upcoming Green Service on May 5th. The liturgy and music will be centered on Creation Care. The 10:30 service will be held outside in the grassy area behind the church next to the picnic pavilion. Bring your own chairs or blanket. In the event of rain, the service will be held inside.

Until May 5, we will be collecting Creation Care pledges, found at the bottom of this page. Please fill one out and place in the offering plate. We will dedicate them on May 5th at the Green Service and we will then send them to the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, who is hoping to receive at least 1,000 from Episcopalians across the country.

After the 10:30 service we invite all to picnic on the grounds. Please

bring a side dish to share.

Immediately following lunch, all are invited to participate in a litter pick up which will target several areas within walking distance of St. Mark's. Put God's love into action by making LaGrange a cleaner, more beautiful city. All are welcome to wear casual clothes- wear green if you can!

Episcopal Creation Care Pledge

As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we long to grow loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with the whole of God's Creation. Together, we pledge to protect and renew the Earth and all who call it home. Together, we are living the Way of Love and make this commitment to specific actions. Learn more about our shared call at www.episcopalchurch.org/creation.

Because I want to share my strong love of God and God's Creation, I will take these steps to improve my stewardship of God's creation. (Include things large and small, including things you may have just begun doing).

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

207 N. Greenwood Street
 LaGrange, GA 30240
 706-884-8911
 706-884-8801 (FAX)

www.stmarkslg.org or info@stmarkslg.org
 Kindergarten Office—706 884-1568
 Phillips House Ministries—706 882-2210
 Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright
 Assistant Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Don Wimberley
 Rector: The Rev. R. Allen Pruitt
 Organist/Choirmaster: Paul Culp
 Organist Emeritus: Glenda Bryant
 Parish Administrator: Debra Edwards
 Kindergarten Director: Kim Davison

The Mission of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

***Love and Worship God.
 Love and Serve All People.***

Vestry Officers 2019

Sr. Warden: Betsy Skinner 678-953-8886
 Jr. Warden: Mitch Cummings 850-933-2111
 Treasurer: Janet Morgan 706 882-0687
 Clerk of the Vestry: Judy Price

James Baker, 2021 706-884-3059
 Dorman Gresley, 2021 706-302-2099
 Kriss Lindner, 2021 706-845-0981
 Melinda Pomeroy-Black, 2020 706-594-0809
 Cathy Hunt, 2020 706-882-5645
 Todd Stephens, 2020 706-882-3163
 Jane Brubaker, 2019 706-884-2838
 Kevin Carlisle, 2019 706-407-9151
 Betsy Skinner, 2019 678-953-8886

**Monday Discussion Group
 12:15 p.m.**



Monday group will meet again in the library
 on Monday, May 6 at 12:15.
 Contact Anne Gentry about the subject matter.
 Everyone is welcome!

Poetry & Pinot

Poetry and Pinot will not meet May 7 at 6:00 p.m.. See
 you there!

Second Wednesday at St. Mark's

May 8, 2019

**Grill Out &
 End of Year Party and Games**

**5:30 p.m. Celtic Eucharist
 6:00 p.m. Supper
 6:30 p.m. Family Activity**



**Sunday Attendance
 April, 2019**

March 31	83
April 7	89
April 14	91
April 21	273
April 28	101

Finance Corner

	Last Month	To Date
Revenues	87,854.31	222,926.16
Expenses	60,214.81	206,443.29
Operating Results	27,639.50	16,482.87
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Utility Costs Last Month		\$2,494.00

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 LaGrange, GA

The Roaring Lion is a monthly publication of
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