

Mission Statement

St. Mark's is a Eucharistic Community trusting in and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We intend to worship together, to pray for one another, to share our lives with one another, and to strive toward wholeness in body and spirit. We further intend to reach outside of ourselves to others as Christ's ministers and to give from what we have been given.

Another Mission Statement

Our faith community is incredibly diverse in terms of age, marital status, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, physical ability, geographic roots, and religious background. We bring this diversity – all that we are and hope to become – to God's altar in this place. We bring too, our hopes and fears and doubts and wounds to Christ. We are believers and skeptics at the same time. Here we seek to pray and encounter the living God. Together we make up the Body of Christ, reaching out in Christ's love and work. We struggle with our faith, our world, and even each other. Most of all, we are ALIVE in Christ here – not perfect, but definitely alive – and committed to our journey together.

About Christian Formation

Christian formation is everything we do. No matter what age we are, God empowers us to grow in grace. Through the years, God has blessed St. Mark's with a breadth of diversity and a growing commitment to inclusivity. All ages are active and involved in the life of the parish. Under the leadership of our Clergy, Wardens, and Vestry, and with the gifts of many lay people of all ages, we have worked to develop many spiritual, educational, and outreach programs. This year will hold a broad range of experiences and opportunities at St. Mark's for worship, prayer and spiritual growth, children, adults, service and outreach, and involvement for people of all ages. Contact names are provided. From social events to educational opportunities – each and every event is an opportunity to encounter Christ. Come join in!!

Opportunities for Worship

Our principal worship service takes place on Sundays and this service is called the Eucharist. Eucharist is the Greek word for thanksgiving. There is room for all at God's Table. We offer the Holy Eucharist at all four services. We feel the experience of the Eucharist is life-changing both for individuals and for the faith community.

We believe that all ages can and should worship together. We welcome all children to receive Communion; the Episcopal Church does not require persons to be confirmed before they receive. Communion is a sacrament of inclusion. Children, especially, should not have the experience of being left out of the common meal. Parents may choose to bring very young infants forward for a blessing instead of Communion. Children are always welcome in worship and for those who wish, childcare is available at the 9 am and 11 am services.

- 8 am** **Quiet, meditative Eucharist** of about 40 minutes followed by the "Coffee Minute"
- 9 am** **Simplified Eucharist with music** of approximately 45 minutes, especially suitable for young children, appropriate for all
- 9:45 am** **Coffee Hour begins**, refreshments and conversation for adults and children
- 10 am** **Education Hour for all ages:** CHURCH SCHOOL for children, FORUMS for youth and adults, LIFE AT ST. MARK'S for anyone new to St. Mark's
- 11 am** **Full Eucharist with music** of 60-70 minutes, followed by coffee and conversation
- 5:30 pm** **Journey to Adulthood:** RITE 13 for sixth and seventh graders, JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD for eighth and ninth graders, YOUNG ADULTS IN CHURCH for sophomores, juniors, and seniors
- 6:30 pm** **Innovative Service**, usually Eucharist, of approximately 45 minutes

The service schedule is planned to provide options for all, including our youngest members. The two main morning services give equal access to the single 10 am Education Hour for people attending either service (9 or 11). The main coffee hour gives people who attend either service time to mingle and converse. Having adequate room at 9 and 11 allows a hospitable worshiping environment for everyone, including making space for guests and visitors.

Summer Sundays, starting May 25, 2008

Come as you are, dressed for summer activities. Brief services followed by cool refreshments.

- 9 am** **Holy Eucharist**, no more than 45 minutes, (air-conditioned)
- 6:30 pm** **Holy Eucharist**, no more than 45 minutes, on the lawn (weather permitting)

Healing Services at 6:30 pm on Sundays

Gather for special prayer for healing with laying on of hands and anointing four times during the program year. Healing Services with special readings, prayers and music will be held at 6:30 pm on **November 11, January 13, March 9, and May 4.**

Special Evensongs at 6:30 pm on Sunday

We create opportunities for the wider community to gather for prayer with five Evensongs this year. Invite friends and neighbors to join in these gatherings with music, prayers, readings, and, typically, a guest preacher:

- October 21: ***God Guide Our Feet: Prayers for Older Children and Youth***
- November 4: ***For Those Who Have Died: A Service of Remembrance***
- March 2: ***Journey to Wholeness: A Service of Recovery***
- April 20: ***Prayer for Our Fragile Earth: Service for Earth Day and the Environment***
- June 1: ***Celebrating Gay and Lesbian Lives***

Opportunities for Prayer and Spiritual Growth

Open Doors

On September 11, 2001, in response to terrorist acts that destroyed the World Trade Center towers, parishioners and members of the wider community gathered at St. Mark's throughout the day. In the evening the church filled with worshippers who offered prayers and music. The church doors have continued to remain open all day and evening every day since.

Stations of the Cross

The Church is open for prayer all day and evening every day for people of all faiths or none. Stations of the Cross may be found in the church. Various forms of this ancient devotion are available for people who choose to walk The Way of the Cross as a special form of prayer.

The Labyrinth

A 32-foot labyrinth is set into the carpeted floor in Carroll Hall. It's a walking meditation tool that incorporates mind, body, and spirit in an alternative way to pray. The labyrinth is offered to persons of any faith and those seeking faith. A labyrinth brochure in Carroll Hall provides additional information. The labyrinth is open for prayer all day and evening every day.

Special Seasonal Programs

Through the seasons of the Church year, especially in Advent and Lent, there are special program offerings designed to strengthen our lives of prayer.

The Parish Prayer List and the Prayer Chain

We maintain a Parish Prayer List for all who would like to have prayer for healing or particular concerns. Members of the parish include those on the prayer list in their daily prayers and those on the list are remembered at the Eucharist on Sundays. Simply call or email the parish office (201-836-7275, office@stmarksteaneck.org) to add a listing. The Prayer Chain links prayer partners for immediate needs. Both intercessions (prayers of need or hope) as well as thanksgivings are appropriate for the prayer chain.

Small Groups at St. Mark's

In the context of a local church, a definition of "small group" is: "a voluntary, intentional gathering of three to twelve people regularly meeting together with the shared goal of mutual Christian support, growth, strengthening, and companionship." Small groups commit to come together within that definition on a wide variety of bases: women, men, people who want to read the Bible together, people who want to read other spiritual books together, parents, people who want to run or walk together, people who have a particular vocation or avocation, to name a few. Prayer is a part of the life of every small group. Small groups are always gathered with trained leadership and clear norms (guidelines) that keep them healthy and clarify that they are not therapy groups. Watch for more small groups at St. Mark's in the autumn of 2007.

Small Group: Centering Prayer: Wednesdays, 8-8:30 pm (Lent)

At the center of our being we find God. Centering prayer allows us to enter into this presence in a way that affects our entire life. All are welcome to become part of a small group that meets to pray together. Contact Jane Bellis (jqpbellis@yahoo.com, 201-843-5288).

Small Group: Eggs St. Benedict: 3rd Saturday, 8:30 – 9:30 am

Gathering over breakfast at St. Mark's, we engage in conversation to help us understand the Rule of St. Benedict and to expand our awareness of how we can incorporate the rule in our lives. Contact Karen Booth (kbooth@ramapo.edu, 201-836-7447).

Small Group: Knit and Pray: Wednesdays, 7 – 8:30 pm (Advent)

Slow down this Advent. Take knitting and combine it with prayers to create a prayer shawl. Instructions provided. Contact Jane Bellis (jqpbellis@yahoo.com, 201-843-5288).

Small Group: Labyrinth, Prayer and Tea: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 10 – 11 am

Starting in front of the labyrinth, we share intercessory prayers, walk the labyrinth and then end with a cup of tea. Walking the labyrinth is not necessary; one may also use a finger labyrinth and meditate. Contact Pam Malone (Pamwings@juno.com, 201-944-7104).

Small Group: Lavender Lions (gay and lesbian spirituality): Advent

Opportunity for gay and lesbian St. Markers and their friends to speak explicitly about the application of scripture and the life of the community to experiences as gay persons. Contact The Rector, Randall Day (randallday@msn.com, 201-836-7275).

Small Group: Listening for God: 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 – 9 pm

“Where is God?” This question is at the heart of Listening for God and it's one that continually invites us to notice and be alert to the people, places, and events that draw us to God in new ways. Contact Dennie Bennett (associate@stmarksteaneck.org, 201-836-7275).

Small Group: Men's Breakfast Group: 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 8 – 9:15 am

Men of the parish are invited to a great breakfast and conversation on Saturday morning. They have breakfast, catch up with each other, and have some quality conversation. They gather in the kitchen, walk about praying for others and ourselves – where is God in those prayers? What are we to think when it seems that our prayers are answered or when it appears that they are not answered? Contact The Rector, Randall Day (randallday@msn.com, 201-836-7275).

Small Group: Take a Hike: 3rd Saturday, 1 – 3 pm

Take a Hike meets once a month to explore and enjoy the outdoors. They meet at St. Mark's and carpool to the hiking area, usually within 30 minutes of Teaneck. All ages are welcome; this is an intergenerational small group! Sturdy shoes or hiking boots, water, snacks, and binoculars are recommended. Contact Tom Bennett (thomasmbennett@att.net, 201-960-8096) or Nancy and Jim Scherer (scherVFW@worldnet.att.net, 201-384-9155).

New Small Groups anticipated this year

Living with Money

Simplified Living

Opportunities for Children and Youth

Church School for Children

The St. Mark's Church School takes place on Sundays during the Education Hour from 10–10:50 am. Children may attend either the 9 am simplified Holy Eucharist or the 11 am Eucharist.

The Church School comprises children ages 3 through 5th Grade. The Church School curriculum is **All Things New**, a multi-cultural curriculum that focuses on 78 best-loved Bible stories and the basics of church liturgy, music, and tradition.

Journey to Adulthood for Youth, 6th Grade through High School

Youth in 6th grade through high school participate in a specially designed youth program called Journey to Adulthood. This program includes in depth exploration of self, spirituality, sexuality, and society, and enables young people to discover and experience the love of God. The program consists of three segments: Rite 13, Journey to Adulthood (J2A), and Young Adults in Church (YAC). The Young Adults in Church will begin the new program year in confirmation classes with the Rector. The youth meet on Sunday evenings throughout the year.

A Variety of Programs for Children and Youth

Other children's and family programs that occur throughout the year include: observance of the Children's Sabbath, Intergenerational Christmas Craft Festival, the Epiphany Feast and Pageant, Vacation Church School, Gifts of the Spirit (Children's Outreach Projects), the St. Mark's Choristers (see below), and an Intergenerational Orchestra.

St. Mark's Choristers (Music Program)

The **St. Mark's Choristers** (grades 2-7) participate in the acclaimed Royal School of Church Music training system, which builds musical skills as well as commitment, discipline, and persistence in reaching goals. The Choristers participate in weekly rehearsals and special projects, and help lead the congregation at the 9 am service in song and prayer.

Children's Instruction about Communion

We provide age-appropriate seminars for children and parents on receiving communion at an early age. These programs are offered periodically through the year and allow children to reflect on and be guided in their regular practice of receiving the sacrament.

Opportunities for Adults

We offer a wide range of faith and spirituality development programs for adults on Sundays during the week. All classes are held in Carroll Hall and the Ministry Development Center off of Carroll Hall.

The Sunday Education Hour at 10 am

- **Life at St. Mark's**

Are you new to St. Mark's and wondering how you get on the same page with everyone else? Join with other guests and visitors in an exploration of life at St. Mark's Church – how it began, our worship and programs, committees and guilds. There will be a brief overview of the Episcopal Church and an introduction to "gifts discernment" – our approach to using the qualities God has given you. There is no "secret handshake" but we will let you in on some of our strange language – like "narthex," "sacristy," "Vestry," and "Sexton."

Come, share refreshments from 9:45 am, and at 10 am gather, ask questions, meet other guests and visitors, and discover ministries that might be meaningful to you. Life at St. Mark's will be offered throughout the year in four-week series (each session stands alone, so "jump in" when you can). Guests and visitors may attend anytime throughout the year. A welcome brunch at the rectory will be held on the 1st Sunday of each segment. Contact Dennie Bennett for more information (201-836-7275, associate@stmarksteanek.org). Our first series of *Life at St. Mark's* is **September 23, September 30, October 7 and October 14**, and the second one is October 28, November 4, November 11, November 18. In the first part of 2008, *Life at St. Mark's* will be offered February 3, February 10, February 17, February 24 and again April 27, May 4, May 11, May 18. Each session begins with a Welcome Brunch at the Rectory on **September 23, October 28, February 3, and April 27**. Contact Dennie Bennett (associate@stmarksteanek.org, 201-836-7275).

- **Sunday Morning Forum**

Each Sunday topical presentations and discussions are offered on a variety of matters from a Christian perspective. A list of scheduled programs can be found in the church and at stmarksteanek.org.

- **Music Forum**

All adults and high school-aged youth are invited to gather with St. Mark's Director of Music Cleveland Kersh each Sunday morning during the Education Hour. Be warned, though: this is not a choir rehearsal! Our aim is to enter more deeply into the worship experience through music. To that end, we'll familiarize ourselves with the hymns, psalm, and service music for the 11 am Holy Eucharist, have an informative and lively discussion about specific aspects of music (as well as the ongoing relationship between music and liturgy), then be seated in the congregation for worship. This is definitely not about performance—ALL are welcome to drop in at any time, whether you come once or come always!

Weekday Programs

"Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity"

Wednesdays, 7:30 – 9 pm

September 26 – November 7 (No meeting October 31)

Crossing the Unknown Sea” - Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity”, by David Whyte, who defines “work” as “an opportunity for discovering and shaping; the place where the self meets the world.” Elizabeth Rundquist will facilitate discussion, and exploration, in a six-week course designed to initiate self-awareness. Each session will begin with scripture and quiet, followed by group discussion of David Whyte’s book. Journaling and art expression will enhance delving into self-discovery. At a later date, to be discussed by the group, we will meet again, giving a chance to report back on “what has percolated”. Copies of “Crossing the Unknown Sea” are available in the Ministry Development Center. There is a suggested fee of \$10 to cover cost of journals and art materials. Contact Elizabeth Rundquist (Bluewater1020@aol.com, 201-741-2681).

- **Education for Ministry (EFM)**

Wednesdays, 7 pm – 9:30 pm, September 13, 2007 – May 23, 2008

EFM is a comprehensive, experiential theological educational program in the foundations and message of our Christian faith. Participants commit one year at a time to participate in this program that takes four years to complete. Meets once a week for 9 months each year and includes weekly reading and study between meetings. Contact Brenda Allen (bjstarx@verizon.net, 201-836-8845).

- **Ecumenical Bible Study and Discussion**

Wednesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 am

The Teaneck Ecumenical Bible Study offers Bible study and discussion classes during the fall and spring. This class is held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and is led each week by a different Teaneck clergy person. Contact Betty Jordain (201-836-8043).

- **Via Media**

Date and Time to be determined

An opportunity to explore the life of the Episcopal Church in depth. This program is for anyone who is interested in learning more about this branch of the Christian family and can also be part of preparing to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church for those who wish. We will share a meal and table conversation; watch a video segment featuring prominent Anglican leaders, clergy, lay people, and teachers followed by open discussion. You will find respect for your mind as well as your questions, doubts, and experiences.

We’ll explore and discuss the varying understandings of each of these topics:

- Via Media: An Anglican Way of Being Christian
- God and Creation: The Abundance of God’s Goodness
- God in Jesus: An Incarnational Faith
- God the Holy Spirit: The Breath of New Life
- The Bible: The Word of God for the People of God
- Sin: Roadblocks to an Abundance Life
- Thy Kingdom Come: The Promise of Christian Hope

For more information, contact Elizabeth Rundquist (Bluewater1020@aol.com, 201-741-2681).

- **Living the Questions**

Date and Time to be determined

An in-depth exploration of key dimensions of Christian faith from an intelligent, progressive perspective.

Retreats (at St. Mark’s)

- **You and GREEN: Exploring your relationship to money**

Saturday, September 22, 9:30 am – 12 Noon

Does the **GREEN** in your pocket burn a hole? Are you saving your **GREEN** for a rainy day? Does your **GREEN** grow on trees? How do you and **GREEN** get along? Through group discussion and individual use of art materials you will delve deeper your relationship with money. We will use discussion, including metaphor and comedy, to bring into awareness aspects of our individual relationship with money. Contact Elizabeth Rundquist (Bluewater1020@aol.com, 201-741-2681).

- **Paint Your Faith**

Saturday, December 1, 10 am – 3:30 pm

Embark on a time of discovery. Set aside a day to find the quiet, creative inner place. Step away from the noisy, busy world, re-treat. This five-hour retreat will begin with breathing, prayer, and meditation. A brief period of discussion will be followed by ample time to peruse art books, prayer books, and images. A variety of paints, collage materials, and pencils will be available for you to "Paint Your Faith." Contact Elizabeth Rundquist (Bluewater1020@aol.com, 201-741-2681).

- **Leadership Retreat**

Saturday, April 12, 9 – 3 pm

Although the Rule of St. Benedict was written over 1500 years ago, it still has much to offer the 21st century. The Rev. Dr. Jane Tomaine, author of *St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Benedictine Living*, will introduce resources that can touch our daily lives, and strengthen our relationship with God.

Opportunities for Service and Outreach

We aim to serve Christ in all persons locally and globally. We place a particular emphasis on assisting those in need in our local community at large through volunteer work and financial and in-kind support of local homeless shelters and food programs. We have developing ministries to refugees, our local college campus, and among local Hispanic and Asian communities. You are invited to join in these various ministries with your time, talent, and gifts. Other initiatives are always welcome.

- **Day Laborers Site Visits** – we take the caring to the streets every Wednesday and Saturday morning, providing food, water, safety supplies, and teaching English as a Second Language.
- **English as a Second Language (ESL) Hospitality and Classes** – empowering day laborers and other neighbors with English language instruction in the context of hospitality that communicates the love of Christ
- **Refugee Service and Advocacy** for detainees at Elizabeth Detention Center
- **St. Mark's Overflow Shelter for the Homeless** every Sunday evening in February and March
- **Peter's Place Shelter** volunteers assist a no-questions-asked shelter in Hackensack
- **Hosting the Walk-in Dinner Program** at the Community Action Shelter in Hackensack
- Organizing a **Bike Bergen Team** to raise funds for the homeless of Bergen County
- **Backpacks and School Supplies** for children at Englewood Center for Food Action
- **"Bring Your Can to Church,"** weekly collection of **non-perishable food** for the Center for Food Action
- **Donations of supermarket certificates** for the Center for Food Action
- **Collection for new baby needs** for North Porch Women and Infants Center in Paterson which serves needy mothers and children who need emergency assistance
- **Play Group hospitality** support for families enrolled in the Women's, Infants and Children's Nutrition Program (WIC) center at St. Mark's on Monday mornings
- **Math Adventures and Word Play, a learning enrichment program** for children, youth, and adults on Saturday mornings
- **For Whom the Bell Tolls**, a nationwide program of houses of worship who ring their bell for two minutes at 7 pm on any day that an execution takes place in our nation. Volunteers to ring our bell are welcome.
- **United Thank Offering (UTO)**, sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women is an ongoing program of offering thanks and making a small donation in a small home or office UTO collection box as a token of appreciation to God. Twice a year our offerings are collected and eventually combined nationwide to make millions of dollars that supply worldwide grants (some in our local area) for which others are able to give thanks.
- **Music at St. Mark's, a Benefit Concert Series** under the direction of St. Mark's Music Director Cleveland E. Kersh, is intended to enrich community life in the Bergen County region. Enjoyment of artistic endeavor draws people of diverse backgrounds together to share an experience of beauty and reflection. Additionally, these concerts aid the community in providing resources to serve people in need among us. Day Laborers, the homeless, the hungry, vulnerable

children and youth, and victims of disaster all receive attention and support from this concert series. Musicians donate their prodigious talents, and donations from St. Mark's and friends of St. Mark's meet the other expenses of the series.

St. Mark's provides **meeting space for guest community and support organizations** such as WIC (Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program), Alcoholic Anonymous, Alanon and Alateen, Nicotine Anonymous, Holy Name Hospital Program Events, Holt support group for families who have adopted children through the Holt agency, New Jersey Blood Services Blood Drives, Scleroderma and Low Vision Support Groups, HOPES (Healing Ourselves Physically, Emotionally and Spiritually for adult survivors of childhood abuse), OAK (Our Adopted Kids) for adoptive families, Teaneck Community Chorus, Teaneck Peace Coalition, Girl Scout Troop 54 and Teaneck Girl Scout Leaders, and Teaneck New Theatre. St. Mark's hosts events for other community groups and serves the Township as a polling place.

Opportunities for Relationship and Involvement

Communal Life Events

Parish events attract a variety of age ranges and are opportunities for friendship, fellowship, and fun among parish members and within the larger community.

- Churchfest and Welcome Sunday: September 9, 2007 (First Sunday after Labor Day)
- Blessing of the Animals: Saturday, October 6, 2007
- Children's Sabbath: Sunday, October 21, 2007
- Children's Halloween Party: Saturday, October 27, 2007
- Intergenerational Christmas Crafts Festival: Saturday, December 15, 2007
- Greening of the Church, Caroling and Potluck Dinner: Sunday, December 23, 2007
- Epiphany Feast and Pageant: Sunday, January 6, 2008
- Martin Luther King Day Observance: Sunday, January 20, 2008
- St. Mark's Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, January 27, 2008
- St. Mark's Day Celebration (Patronal Feast): Dinner and Dancing, Saturday, April 19, 2008
- St. Mark's Day Celebration (Patronal Feast): Worship Sunday, April 20, 2008
- Recognition Sunday, Parish Picnic, and Field Day: Sunday, May 18, 2008

Other events such as an Eco-Cruise, St. Mark's Saturday Nights at 7 (movie nights, game nights), the Lion's Den Coffee House, Basketball Outing, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, or various potluck suppers may be offered throughout the year.

Music

Music is thoughtfully and comprehensively woven into the texture of worship and parish life at St. Mark's. This parish is known for its appreciation of many different styles of music, from traditional to contemporary.

The **St. Mark's Choristers** (grades 2-7) participate in the acclaimed Royal School of Church Music training system, which builds musical skills as well as commitment, discipline, and persistence in reaching goals. The Choristers participate in weekly rehearsals and special projects, and help lead the congregation at the 9 am service in song and prayer.

The **Music Forum** is a chance for any and all to reflect more deeply on the role of music in the liturgy, and the use of his or her body as an instrument of prayer. Open to absolutely everyone.

By contrast, **St. Mark's Choir Seasons** offer the opportunity for a short-term, focused, intense participation in an adult choir. Our two choir seasons, open to all adults and high-schoolers at St. Mark's as well as in the wider community, occur during the Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter seasons, meeting for weeknight rehearsals, Sunday morning rehearsals and services, and other special liturgies.

Parishioners of all ages with instrumental skill are invited to offer their gifts during Sunday morning worship. At times an intergenerational orchestra rehearses and performs. Folk and jazz opportunities are available as well.

For more information on any of the above programs, please contact Director of Music Cleveland Kersh (bachscholar@yahoo.com, 646-584-8034).

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is an integral part of life at St. Mark's. During the church year it begins at 9:45 am and is a wonderful time for conversation. In the summer iced tea is served on the porch following the morning and evening services. A "Coffee Minute" (with "to go" lids for coffee) follows the 8 am service, giving the early birds an opportunity to exchange greetings on the go.

Offering Bread for the Eucharist

Many weeks at our Sunday Eucharist, St. Markers offer home baked bread at communion. A simple recipe is provided. This is a great way for people of all ages to make a gift to the larger St. Mark's family. Fresh unleavened bread (such as pita bread) can also be purchased and given. A sign up sheet is provided each week.

Guilds and Committees

There are many opportunities for involvement in our guilds and committees. Generally speaking, "committees" are leading and decision-making groups, and "guilds" are direct service and ministry groups. Guilds and committees meet to further develop their work, to dream dreams, see visions, and collaborate with God and one another to help those dreams and visions become realities.

St. Mark's guilds and committees are organized in ministry clusters, each with a vestry liaison, to keep us connected and linked as a parish, thus creating a web of support.

- **Buildings and Grounds**
- **Children's Faith Formation**
- **Adult Faith Formation**
- **Stewardship Faith Formation**
- **Worship**
- **Music**
- **Mutual/Pastoral Care**
- **Administration and Finance**
- **Communal Life**
- **Outreach**
- **Welcoming**
- **Communication**

Buildings and Grounds Cluster

A ***Buildings and Grounds Committee*** plans and oversees the maintenance and refurbishment of the church and rectory buildings and grounds to assure that our buildings are inviting, hospitable, safe spaces for all people who use them. Contact Wally and Debbie Stegmann (woldgeezer@aol.com, 201-501-8957).

A ***Gardening Guild*** provides general care of the flowers, shrubs and lawn. Care for the Memorial Garden and routine maintenance of the church grounds on a weekly basis. This guild also assists in identifying projects for the fall and spring parish workdays. Contact Bill Hurbaugh (billyhurbaugh@aol.com, 201-836-5836).

Children's Faith Formation

This cluster develops and implements a comprehensive approach to the Christian formation and nurture of children, youth, young adults and adults in the parish. We recognize the responsibility of the parish as a whole to assist all the members in their growth and development in the knowledge and love of God.

Children's Programs

- **Church School:** *leadership opportunity available*
- **Journey to Adulthood:** Teresa Austin (cctea@msn.com, 201-227-7407)
- **Vacation Church School:** (mid-August): *leadership opportunity available*
- **Special Events:** Kerri Mather (kerri.mather@verizon.net, 201-692-8151), Lynne Loomis Price (LsLp@optonline.net, 201-287-9007)

- **Gifts of the Spirit** (Children's Outreach programs and activities): *leadership opportunity available*

Adult Faith Formation

- **Sunday Morning Forum:** *leadership opportunity available*
- **Education for Ministry:** Brenda Allen (bjstarx@verizon.net, 201-836-8845)
- **Life at St. Mark's:** Dennie Bennett (associate@stmarksteaneck.org, 201-836-7275)
- **Via Media:** Elizabeth Rundquist (Bluewater1020@aol.com, 201-741-2681)
- **Discernment Programs:** Dennie Bennett (associate@stmarksteaneck.org, 201-836-7275), Jane Bellis (jpbellis@yahoo.com, 201-843-5288)
- **Small Groups:** Dennie Bennett (associate@stmarksteaneck.org, 201-836-7275)
- **Retreats:** Elizabeth Rundquist (Bluewater1020@aol.com, 201-741-2681)

Stewardship Faith Formation

The word "stewardship" is simply defined as "all that I do with all that I have all of the time." This committee supports and develops the understanding and practice of Christian stewardship among members of St. Mark's community through a year-round program of education, program planning, and implementation. Contact Margot Fisher (msfisher@optonline.net, 201-357-8851) or Pat Phillips Walser (patvp@optonline.net, 201-287-1234).

Worship

The **Altar Guild** prepares the altar for weekly worship and cares for the altar and worship supplies of the parish. Contact Doris Mardirosian (201-836-9517) or Liz Hibbard (ehibbard@optonline.net, 201-357-4384).

The **Acolytes Guild** assists in offering the liturgy on Sundays and feast days. Contact Devan Hibbard (devanhibbard@yahoo.com, 336-403-1851) and Jeffrey Kist (jeffreywkist@verizon.net, 201-805-5715).

The **Lectors** assist in reading lessons. The **Lay Readers and Chalice Bearers Guild** assists in leading the worship of the parish through officiating at Morning and Evening Prayer, reading lessons, leading prayers, and bearing the chalice. Contact Betty Jordain (201-836-8043).

The **Ushers Guild** assists worshippers by providing bulletins, programs, finding seats, answering questions, and receiving the collection. Contact Rich Kearney (richardkeithkearney@yahoo.com, 201-928-0070) or Steve Rosignolo (201-836-1670).

Music

St. Mark's programs include: the **St. Mark's Choristers** (for children grades 2-7), the **Music Forum** (a Sunday morning active learning experience), **St. Mark's Choir Seasons** (short-term, focused, intense participation in an adult choir for the Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter seasons), as well as **opportunities for instrumentalists** (please see page 12 for fuller descriptions of each of programs). Contact Director of Music Cleveland Kersh (bachscholar@yahoo.com, 646-584-8034).

Mutual Care/Pastoral Care

The **Mutual Care/Pastoral Care Guild** involves members of the parish in the ministry of care and calling, extending the capacity of the faith community to support its members in times of particular need through prayer, companionship, transportation, and assistance with needed chores such as grocery shopping and filling prescriptions. Contact Marsha Mackey (marsham@optonline.net, 201-837-8165).

Administration and Finance

A **Finance Committee** assists the Vestry with planning and managing the financial life of the parish. These plans include: capital funding, funding the annual budget, and ongoing program and maintenance of St. Mark's. The committee also helps communicate to the parish how to implement a responsible financial plan for our common life. Contact Tom Crotty (tcrotty@kpmg.com, 201-837-8246).

A **Counters Guild** counts, records, and deposits collected weekly funds. Contact Inez Saley (isaley@aol.com, 201-833-1548).

The **Office Guild** assists with administrative projects. Contact Jane Bellis (jpbellis@yahoo.com, 201-843-4958).

Communal Life

A **Communal Life Committee** oversees the planning and offering of events that foster fellowship among parish members and extends this fellowship to the larger community. Contact Margot Fisher (mefisher@optonline.net, 201-357-8851).

LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic Covenant) plans and implements activities and educational projects in support of the ecumenical covenant among the Anglican, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic parishes in Teaneck. Contact Betty Jordain (201-836-8043).

Outreach

The **Outreach Committee** provides leadership and direction for extending St. Mark's involvement, support, and caring to the larger community and creates opportunities for members of St. Mark's to express their Christian vocation. Contact Liz Hibbard (eehibbard@optonline.net, 201-357-4384) or Linda Cushman (Lfc2@columbia.edu, 201-357-4110).

Welcoming

A **Welcoming Committee** develops and implements an intentional program of hospitality and welcome that offers new members ready access to and understanding of St. Mark's parish life. Contact Yanna Huls (yannasmal@aol.com, 201-836-0508).

Greeters and Junior Greeters assure the hospitality of the parish is offered to everyone, especially guests and visitors new to St. Marks. They may invite you to have refreshments, to attend our education hour, and help you with a tour of the building. Contact Elaine Coleman (EMC39A@aol.com, 201-836-5114).

A **Hospitality Guild** assures that the church, especially the kitchen and the narthex (area between front door and church door) are ready for Sunday morning and other parish events. Contact Barbara Kist (kistbarb1@aol.com, 201-641-6980).

An **Open Doors Guild** assures that the church remain open all day and evening every by either opening the church doors in the morning or locking the doors at night. This ministry is essential to our mission as a place of radical hospitality. Contact Kate Norris (katenorris@odpost.com, 201-357-8784).

Communication

The Communication Cluster works to coordinate and further develop communication to the parish through our website (www.stmarksteaneck.org), our newsletter (*The Voice*), our email newsletter (*The Voice Online*), a variety of parish mailings, and the Sunday service leaflet. Please subscribe to the *Voice Online* at www.stmarksteaneck.org. Contact Laura Buma (ldb@ibuma.net, 201-530-1876).

St. Mark's 411

Parish Clergy and Program Staff

Rector	The Rev. Randall Day	rector@stmarksteaneck.org	201-836-7275
Associate Rector and Director of Ministry Development	The Rev. Dennie Bennett	associate@stmarksteaneck.org	201-836-7275
Director of Music and Organist	Cleveland E. Kersh	bachscholar@yahoo.com	646-584-8034
Officers and Finance			
Warden	Mark Fisher	mark.fisher@reliancenational.com	201-357-8851
Warden	Wilma Pruden	WilmaPru@aol.com	201-692-9803
Clerk of the Vestry	Ruth Henderson-Lowe	RLHL65@aol.com	201-385-5491
Treasurer	Ski Austin	treasurer@stmarksteaneck.org	201-227-7407
Finance Committee Chair	Tom Crotty	tcrotty@kpmg.com	201-837-8246
Vestry			
Rich Dobson: Worship Liaison		Rich_Dobson@adp.com	973-616-4763
Ruth Henderson Lowe: Stewardship Faith Formation Liaison		RLHL65@aol.com	201-385-5491
Mark Riley: Outreach Liaison		markriley123@msn.com	201-871-2431
Jeff Wilson: Communication Liaison		jjw109@columbia.edu	201-244-9162
<i>Ministry opportunity: Welcoming Liaison</i>			
Marge Cave: Music Liaison		MarjorieCave@aol.com	201-833-9175
Jane Bellis: Adult Faith Formation Liaison		jqbellis@yahoo.com	201-843-5288
Ellen Ewing: Mutual Care/Pastoral Care Liaison		EllenVEwing@optonline.net	201-836-9517
Ted Mather: Children's Faith Formation Liaison		Ted.mather@verizon.net	201-692-8151
Parish Ministries			
Acolytes	Devan Hibbard Jeffrey Kist	devanhibbard@yahoo.com jeffreywkist@verizon.net	336-403-1851
Adult Choir Seasons	Cleveland E. Kersh	bachscholar@yahoo.com	646-584-8034
Altar Guild	Doris Mardirosian Liz Hibbard	eehibbard@optonline.net	201-836-9517 201-357-4384
Buildings and Grounds	Wally Stegmann Debbie Stegmann	woldgeezer@aol.com skippydo53@aol.com	201-501-8957 201-501-8957
Centering Prayer	Jane Bellis	jqbellis@yahoo.com	201-843-5288
Church School	<i>ministry opportunity available</i>		
Church School Special Events	Kerri Mather Lynne Loomis Price	Kerri.mather@verizon.net LsLp@optonline.net	201-692-1658 201287-9007
Communal Life Events	Margot Fisher	mefisher@optonline.net	201-357-8851
Counters	Inez Saley	isaley@aol.com	201-833-1548

Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity	Elizabeth Rundquist	Bluewater1020@aol.com	201-741-2681
Day Laborer Outreach (including ESL and ESL-To-Go)	<i>ministry opportunity available</i>		
Education for Ministry	Brenda Allen	bjstarx@verizon.net	201-836-8845
Eggs St. Benedict Small Group	Karen Booth	Kbooth@ramapo.edu	201-836-7447
Episcopal Peace Fellowship	Brenda Allen	bjstarx@verizon.net	201-836-8845
Family Homeless Shelter	Jane Bellis Linda Cushman	jqbellis@yahoo.com Lfc2@columbia.edu	201-843-5288 201-357-4110
<i>Feed the Solution</i> Anti-Hunger Program Coordinator	Pam Naprstek	Pnap4@aol.com	201-489-3550
Gardening Guild	Bill Hurbaugh	billyhurbaugh@aol.com	201-836-5836
Gifts of the Spirit Children's Outreach Programs	<i>ministry opportunity available</i>		
Greeters	Elaine Coleman	EMC39A@aol.com	201-836-5114
Homeless Shelter Programs	Sara Accordino	swhelanaccordino@netscape.net	201-357-4460
Hospitality	Barbara Kist	kistbarb1@aol.com	201-641-6980
Inquirer's Class	Randall Day	randallday@msn.com	201-836-7275
Journey to Adulthood (J2A)	Teresa Austin	cctea@msn.com	201-227-7407
Junior Greeters	Elaine Coleman	EMC39A@aol.com	201-836-5114
Knit and Pray Small Group	Jane Bellis	jqbellis@yahoo.com	201-843-5288
Lion's Den Open Mic Coffee House	Richard Kearney	richardkeithkearney@yahoo.com	201-928-0070
Labyrinth, Prayer, and Tea Small Group	Pamela Malone	Pamwings@juno.com	201-944-7104
Lavender Lions Small Group	Randall Day	randallday@msn.com	201-836-7275
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Barbara Kist	Kistbarb1@aol.com	201-641-6980
Lay Readers/Lectors	Betty Jordain		201-836-8043
Life at St. Mark's Introduction to St. Mark's	Dennie Bennett	associate@stmarksteaneck.org	201-836-7275
Listening for God Small Group	Dennie Bennett	associate@stmarksteaneck.org	201-836-7275
Lutheran/Anglican/Roman Catholic Covenant (LARC)	Betty Jordain		201-836-8043

Math Adventures and Word Play Learning Outreach Program	Ardie Walser Brenda Allen Jeanette Adams Charelle Hanley	walser@ccny.cuny.edu bjstar@optonline.net jeanette.adams@earthlink.net cgwhan@optonline.net	201-287-1234 201-836-8845 201-836-5078 201-836-9570
Men's Breakfast Group	Randall Day	rector@stmarksteaneck.org	201-836-7275
Music at St. Mark's Benefit Concert Series	Cleveland Kersh	bachscholar@yahoo.com	646-584-8034
Music Forum	Cleveland E. Kersh	bachscholar@yahoo.com	646-584-8034
Mutual Care Team	Marsha Mackey	marsham@optonline.net	201-837-8165
Opening Doors Guild	Kate Norris	katenorris@oddpst.com	201-836-7275
Outreach Committee	Liz Hibbard Linda Cushman	eehibbard@optonline.net Lfc2@columbia.edu	201-357-4384 201-836-1789
Prayer Chain	Debbie Stegmann	skippydo53@aol.com	201-501-8957
Refugee Sanctuary Outreach	Helen Zinn	hrzinn@aol.com	201-357-4642
Safe Guarding God's Children Abuse Prevention	Anne Beemsterboer Joanne Brown	anneanddotty@optonline.net jobro33@optonline.net	201-287-0527 201-833-4374
Small Groups	Dennie Bennett	associate@stmarksteaneck.org	201-836-7275
Stewardship	Margot Fisher Pat Phillips Walser	mefisher@optonline.net patvp@optonline.net	201-357-8851 201-287-1234
Sunday Morning Forum	<i>ministry opportunity available</i>		
Take a Hike	Tom Bennett Jim and Nancy Scherer	thomasmbennett@att.net scherVFW@worldnet.att.net	201-960-8096 201-384-9155
The St. Mark's Choristers, Children's Music Program	Cleveland E. Kersh	bachscholar@yahoo.com	646-584-8034
Transportation Guild	Scotty Massimo	vmassimo@ramapo.edu	201-836-4996
Ushers	Rich Kearney Steve Rosignolo	richardkeithkearney@yahoo.com	201-928-0070 201-836-1670
Vacation Church School	<i>ministry opportunity available</i>		
Via Media	Elizabeth Rundquist	Bluewater1020@aol.com	201-741-2681
Welcoming	Yanna Huls	yannasmail@aol.com	201-836-0508
WIC Child Care	Jeanette Adams	jeanette.adams@earthlink.net	201-836-5078

Standing Notices

CLERGY The Clergy may be called at any time for emergencies such as illness, accident or death. Otherwise they may be contacted during the day at church. Please contact the clergy early in the process of planning all baptisms, marriages and funerals.

PASTORAL CARE, COUNSELING, AND SPIRITUAL DIRECTION The clergy are available to meet with you or others who feel the need for pastoral care. Please contact the Rev. Randall Day (rector@stmarksteanek.org, 201-836-7275) or the Rev. Dennie Bennett (associate@stmarksteanek.org, 201-836-7275) to schedule a meeting time.

BAPTISM Holy Baptism is administered during the worship service on designated Sundays or other days. Holy Baptism is especially appropriate on Pentecost, All Saints' Sunday, The Baptism of our Lord, Easter Day or St. Mark's Day. Please call the Parish Office (201-836-7275, office@stmarksteanek.org) to arrange for a Baptism and to schedule pre-baptismal instruction.

MARRIAGE OR BLESSING OF UNION Holy Matrimony or Blessing of Union is solemnized only after conversation with the Clergy. It is recommended that six months notice be given. At least 30 days notice is necessary. The seasons of Advent and Lent are not appropriate for marriages or blessings of union.

BURIAL It is appropriate that the Christian dead be buried from the church. Please contact the Clergy **before** arrangements are made with the funeral director.

MEMORIAL GARDEN St. Mark's Memorial Garden is available for the direct interment of ashes of the deceased. Please contact the clergy and they will discuss this option for burying the dead.

PRAYER Prayers are offered at all services at St. Mark's for those who are sick or in need of God's guidance, and for those celebrating birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or other needs. If you have a prayer request, contact the parish office (office@stmarksteanek.org, 201-836-7275). A **PRAYER CHAIN** is also an option for requesting prayer; please contact the Rev. Dennie Bennett (associate@stmarksteanek.org, 201-836-7275).

A CHILD SAFETY REMINDER Please be aware that the children at St. Mark's are formally supervised only in the childcare room during the service and in their classroom during the Education Hour. There is no supervision provided when the children are playing outside.

BUILDING USE AND CALENDAR Please schedule all events and use of the building with the parish office (office@stmarksteanek.org, 201-836-7275). St. Mark's is an increasingly busy place; please plan ahead to avoid disappointment.

SUNDAY SERVICE LEAFLET ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday evening is the deadline for printed announcements, except in the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Please contact the parish office with your written announcement (office@stmarksteanek.org, 201-836-7275).

RECONCILIATION OF A PENITENT (CONFESSION) The Reconciliation of a Penitent is available for all who desire it. It is not restricted to times of sickness. Confessions can be heard privately anytime and anywhere. Please contact the Clergy for a meeting time (rector@stmarksteaneck.org, associate@stmarksteaneck.org, 201-836-7275).

EACH WEEK: OFFERINGS OF FOOD AND BABY SUPPLIES Among the gifts we offer each week at the altar are non-perishable food and baby supplies for people in need. St. Mark's Outreach Committee assures that food reaches the Center for Food Action and baby supplies reach North Porch Emergency Center for Women and Children for distribution. You can find baskets for your donation in the Narthex and the Carroll Hall lobby.

IMPORTANT PARKING REMINDER The Teaneck Police have been particularly stringent in their Sunday enforcement of the parking regulations as regards the corner of Grange and Chadwick. The regulation states that no one should park closer than 25 feet to the intersection.

YOUR COMMITMENT CARD IS IMPORTANT St. Mark's is wholly supported by its members. We have no endowment and no significant outside income. Every gift of treasure, time and talent counts – to you as a statement about your key commitment to God in your own faith and life and to all of us together supporting our community of faith. Commitment cards are available. Consider making a proportional gift: choosing a level of financial giving based on a percentage of your income.

TWO BABY CHANGING TABLES ARE AVAILABLE We now have two baby changing tables available for use. One is in Room 3 off Carroll Hall. The other is in the Accessible Restroom off the Carroll Hall Lobby – across from the Parish Office.

THE VOICE ONLINE St. Mark's weekly email newsletter keeps you up to date. To sign up, go to our website at www.stmarksteaneck.org.

ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR A GROUP MEETING OR ACTIVITY? Please write an announcement for the bulletin and mail, fax, hand deliver, or email it to the parish office at office@stmarksteaneck.org or fax: 201-836-5848. Please be sure your announcement reaches the parish office by Wednesday evening.

ANNUAL REPORTS FROM ALL COMMITTEES AND GUILDS ARE DUE JANUARY 15 Each year St. Mark's prepares an Annual Report for our Annual Parish Meeting, held the last weekend of January. All Committees and Guilds are asked to prepare a report with significant actions taken during the year as well as a list of members and any other important information. Please email the report to the Parish Office at office@stmarksteaneck.org. Hard copy reports are also accepted.