

**Our Sunday Morning Schedule**

**9 a.m. Holy Eucharist – this family oriented service** provides a wonderful children's sermon for kids from age 2 – 6. They will process out for this experience just before the Gospel and rejoin their families just prior to the Peace. An adult sermon will be provided in the liturgy. Tailored to fit into a 50 minute time frame, this adaptation provides adequate time for the adult and children's Christian Ed classes that follow this service.

**10 a.m. Christian Education Opportunities**

Our younger children's classes are held in the lower level of our parish hall for children age 3–11. The three classes that comprise our Journey to Adulthood ministry with teens gather at the parish house across Hall Shop Road.

Adult classes include a Bible study group on *The Miracles of Jesus: Images of the Kingdom*, lead by Beth Mitchell and Bill Koenig. The "Discipleship" class, lead by John Price+, will continue and be focused on Advent themes.

**11 a.m. Holy Eucharist** - this service follows a more traditional style of worship and has the vocal support of our wonderful adult choir. Please Note: anyone of any age is always most welcome at any of our services.

**Laying-on-of-Hands** and anointing with oil are part of Prayers for Healing following each Sunday service. Just ask the clergy at the service end. These prayers may be for you, or on behalf of a loved one or friend in need. *Father John*

**Guest Preacher:** We welcome the Rev. Lura Kaval this morning. Lura has been coming once a month to broaden our liturgical life with her presence and faithfulness. Be sure to join us for the fellowship following each service so that you can share the joy of our family of faith with her and express our thanks for her presence.

**Stewardship Update as of December 5**

52 Pledges, 7 Giver responses  
\$266,160 for 2012 operating budget – 63 % of our \$425,000 budget

\$28,740 for facilities improvement - 57% of our \$50,000 budget

Pledges and responses are coming in briskly now. Thank you! If you have not yet responded, please complete your form this week. You are needed so we can accomplish plans for St. Mark's during the important year ahead. You may put the pledge form in the offering plate or pledge online at [www.stmarkshighland.ang-md.org](http://www.stmarkshighland.ang-md.org). *The Stewardship Committee*

*Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions. And the actions which speak louder than the words.*

*It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time, year after year.*

*Commitment is the stuff character is made of: the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.* [Provided by Rev Lura Kaval] - Author unknown

**J2A Poinsettia Fundraiser**

Plants you have ordered will be available today for pickup in the Parish Hall.



**Toys for Guardian Angel**

The Church of the Guardian Angel will be providing affordable toys for the children of the Remington neighborhood again this year. Donations of toys, books, and stuffed animals will be **collected and brought to Guardian Angel on December 14th. Volunteers will be welcome the morning of the December 17th to sort the toys and help the kids do their "shopping."** Contact Bob Frederick (410 884-6892).

**Christmas Memorial Greens and Flowers**

If you would like a special dedication to appear in Christmas bulletins, please complete the **green** information form for flowers and greens donations. **Forms are due in the office as soon as possible, but no later than Dec 16.** Donations will also be accepted after the deadline. *If you have purchased your poinsettia through the J2A fundraiser for use during our Christmas services, please indicate that on the donation form. All flower memorials MUST be sent to the office via a green form!*



**Youth Caroling!**

Our J2A groups (Rite 13, J2A and YAC) would like to recommence our "Carol-O-Grams". If you know of a person who is homebound and would appreciate a carol or two, please contact us at [juniekgk@comcast.net](mailto:juniekgk@comcast.net) or [randistmarks@aol.com](mailto:randistmarks@aol.com). Please sign up no later than coffee hour on a Sunday, for a visit on Sunday afternoon. For a donation to the J2A pilgrimage fund, we will bring a little joy to your friend or loved ones. We will try to accommodate as many people as possible.



**Music Notes**



**Calling all Children and Youth who love to sing!** Our Choristers and Teens sing monthly at worship services and special evening services. Chorister Practices (grades 3-7) are 3 times each month on a Wed night, 6 - 7 p.m. Teens will practice from 6:45 - 7:30 p.m. on Wed twice each month. Contact Rosemary Beakes, Dir of Traditional Music, (410-997-0474). **We always welcome new members** to the Parish Choir, Children's Choir, Teen Choir, and our 9 a.m. Music Team. If interested, please speak to Rosemary Beakes or Rick LaRocca.

**Adult Christian Formation: 2011 / 2012**

We are offering two classes on Sunday mornings. The "Discipleship" class, currently lead by John Price+, will continue and be focused on Advent themes. This group gathers in the Parish Hall near the fire place.

A second Sunday a.m. class, *The Miracles of Jesus: Images of the Kingdom of God*. This Bible study meets in the narthex of the church and is led by Beth Mitchell and Bill Koenig.

**Beginning January 8** through February 19 we will be studying the Gospel of Mark, which will be led by Dick Mitchell. On January 22 Randi will present an overview of Confirmation.

A Wednesday Bible Study meets 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the Parish House. Come join us!

**DreamBuilders Arc Project  
Winter Break Paint Days**

The Graeoch project is moving along and we'll be ready to paint the interior walls on **Wed-Thurs Dec 28-29, 8:30 am--4 pm**. Lunch will be provided. Teens (7th Grade and older) and adults are invited to join us. To register, go to the DreamBuilders website ([dreambuildersmd.org](http://dreambuildersmd.org)) and scroll down to the Fall Arc Project for the registration link. We'd love to have your help!! Contact Lisa Ghessie [lghessie@verizon.net](mailto:lghessie@verizon.net) or 301-490-4207.

**Christmas Eve Worship Schedule**

4:30 PM - Celebration service and pageant for families and younger children  
7:30 PM - Celebration of Our Lord's Birth  
10:30 PM - Carols and Special Music  
11:00 PM - Festal Celebration of the Nativity

**Christmas Day Worship**

10:00 AM - Celebration of the Nativity with carols

**New Parish Directory**

Our new parish directory has been published and mailed to parishioners. If you have not received one via USPS please contact Nancy Fadely at our parish office ([stmarksec@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarksec@yahoo.com)). Also, if there are errors in your entry, please send these along to Nancy as well so that we can make these corrections. Within a few weeks our new website will be launched, and parishioners will have access to a regularly updated directory online as well.

**Fellowship and Fun in 2012!**

Consider joining Foyers! Foyers are small groups of 8-10 parishioners who meet approximately once a month (or about 4-6 times over the year) for a meal in one another's homes. Foyer members take turns as hosts. These dinners provide a great opportunity for Christian fellowship and allow members of the St. Mark's community to get to know one another in a relaxed social atmosphere. The group can decide whether meals will be potluck, cookouts, co-hosted, or even progressive. The only agenda is to have fun! Please consider signing up ASAP so groups can be formed and indicate whether you are interested in joining a group with families with young children or an adult's only group. Contact Andrea Britton [andybritton@verizon.net](mailto:andybritton@verizon.net)

**Bishop Claggett Center Retreats**

St Mark's members enjoy the winter retreats.

We can form carpools to attend.

Contact Diane Roca [dbroca@comcast.net](mailto:dbroca@comcast.net)

Women's Retreat - January 13-15

**"Walking in The Light of God's Love"**

Women's Retreat - January 20 -22

**"Passages: The Joy of Becoming"**

Men's Retreat - February 10 -12

**"Journey to the Cross"**

Register at <http://www.claggettcenter.org/programs.php>

For more information on these retreats go to the Claggett website above.

St Mark's Episcopal Church, 12701 Hall Shop Rd, Highland MD 20777

(301) 854-2304 [www.stmarkshighland.com](http://www.stmarkshighland.com)

Interim Rector: [stmarks.frjohn@gmail.com](mailto:stmarks.frjohn@gmail.com)

Associate for Youth Formation: [randistmarks@aol.com](mailto:randistmarks@aol.com)

Office Manager: [stmarksec@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarksec@yahoo.com)