

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

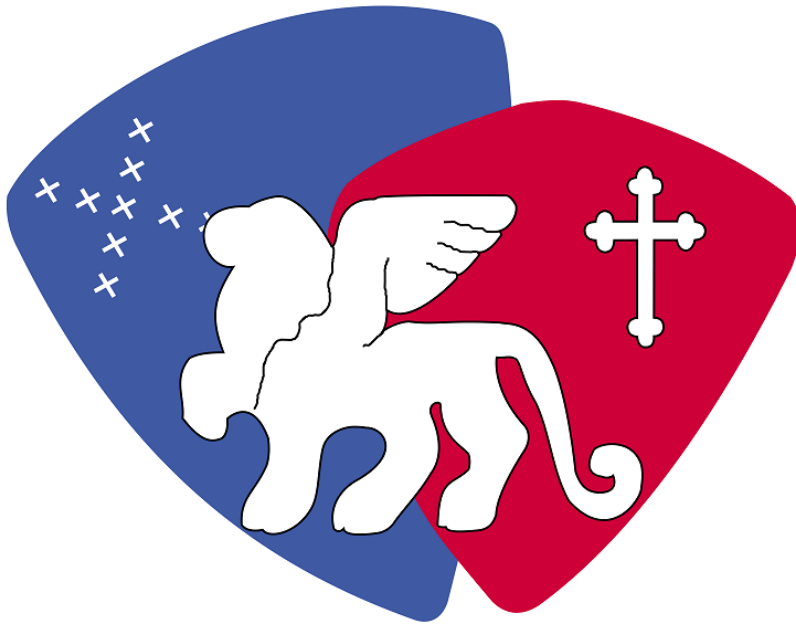
Our Vision:

To grow in Christ through worship and service

Our Mission:

Called to be Christ Centered

Touching Lives + Transforming Hearts + Teaching God's Word



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www.stmarksgastonia.org

Welcome Home to Saint Mark's!

It is our privilege to worship with you this morning! Please know that all baptized Christians regardless of Church denomination, and all who seek a deeper knowledge and love of God in Christ are most welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. Gluten-free wafers are available for those with allergies. Children are also welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at St. Mark's.

If this is your first time at St. Mark's, please complete a *Visitor Card* and let us know about your visit, especially if you have a specific need or prayer request. Visitor Cards are found in the pew racks. If you would like additional information about our many ministries and activities, speak to one of our Ushers or Greeters, or stop by the Parish Hall during the fellowship hour that follows each service. We would be honored to speak with you in person.

If you would like to make a financial offering or contribution you can do so by scanning this QR Code or via our website at www.stmarksgastonia.org



***Again, Welcome Home to St. Mark's!
May God's peace and love enfold you.***

Note: It is the custom in The Episcopal Church to prepare for worship by gathering in reverent silence and prayer, and during the worship service, stand for praise, sit for instruction, and, as you are able, kneel for prayer. Please respect the devotional needs of others by turning off cellular telephones and electronic devices, and by speaking with hushed voices.

All scripture passages are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, © 1989, Division of Christian Education in the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

The Word of God

struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The New Testament:

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of

you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn: “Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us” Hymnal pg. 559

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued

with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon:

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin

A time for silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed:

BCP pg. 358

The Prayers of the People: Form VI

BCP pg. 392

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence is kept.

Leader: For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader: For Donald, our President; for Josh, our Governor; for all elected officials; for this community, the nation, and the world;

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader: We pray for those who have asked for prayers, for those in harm’s way, for the unemployed, the lonely, for those who are sick, or in need, and for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church of Bangladesh.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Gabriel’s, Rutherfordton.

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader: For Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop: and for all bishops and other ministers;
People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Leader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
We pray for those who travel this week.
I invite your prayers of intercession either silently or aloud.

The People add their own petitions.

Leader: Hear us, Lord;
People: For your mercy is great.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Leader: We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week; and for those celebrating wedding anniversaries.
We give thanks for those who help fill the Caring Cupboard, and for all the ministries and activities of this parish, and pray God's continued blessing on all who partake of, or serve in them.

Leader: I invite your prayers of thanksgiving either silently or aloud.

The People add their thanksgivings.

Leader: We will exalt you, O God our King;
People: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader: We pray for _____, (and) all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People: Who put their trust in you.

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

The Confession of Sin: *(Prayed by all present)*

BCP 393

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you
in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Priest pronounces Absolution.

The Peace:

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

(Please greet each other in the name of Christ)

Announcements with:

Birthday Prayer:

BCP pg. 830

Anniversary Prayer:

BCP pg. 431

Offertory

The Presentation Hymn:

**“The Doxology”
(vs. 3)**

Hymnal pg. 380

Liturgy of the Table

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP pg. 367

Sanctus:

Hymnal S 129

The Lord’s Prayer:

BCP pg. 364

The Breaking of the Bread: (*The Fraction*)

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Fraction Anthem:

Hymnal S 154

The Ministration of the Communion:

*Join Steve Thomas in the chapel during communion or after services
on Sunday for intercessory prayer.*

Communion Hymns:

“My God, Thy Table Now is Spread”

Hymnal pg. 321

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

Hymnal pg. 711

“Now the Silence, Now the Peace”

Hymnal pg. 333

Post Communion Prayer:

BCP pg. 365

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

“What Wonderful Love is This”

Hymnal pg. 439

Dismissal

Postlude

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in celebration of the anniversary of Father Allan's ordination to the Priesthood
by Pan McCaslin and in celebration of Bonnie Chumney's birthday by her daughter,
Valeta Pafford.*

Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWS

Now that Sunday School classes for children and adults have begun, please be advised of the following:

Children's Sunday School Program

Open to all children 5 years of age and older. Classes are held on the 2nd floor and gather around 9:15 am. At the conclusion of the class, children are encouraged to join their family and friends and attend the 10:30 am worship service. See Steve Thomas for information.

Children's Chapel Program

Following the opening hymn, salutation, Gloria, and Collect of the Day, all children are encouraged to participate in our Children's Chapel program. Just follow the children's cross and journey upstairs for their own unique worship service. The children will return to the Sanctuary during the Peace and are welcome to participate in Holy Communion

Nursery News

St. Mark's Nursery is open on Sunday mornings for children under 5 years of age. Volunteers are always welcome to help out. Contact Debbie Brake for more information,

Adult Christian Education (A.C.E.)

Gathering in the Balthis Room at 9:15 am, we offer a variety of opportunities to grow in grace through scripture studies, book reviews, teaching series, and learning more about the whys and wherefores of our Episcopal Faith tradition and how we live our faith.

Community Garden

Thanks to Travis and a dedicated Saturday crew, the All Saints garden is as fruitful as ever. To harvest “our crops” and keep the beds healthy and growing, we could use a few extra hands. Picking, watering and light weeding are the main needs at the moment.

If you’re free for a few minutes during the week or between 8:00 and 10:00 am on a Saturday, contact the office or Travis Johnson to join in.

Healing Service Ministry

Our **Healing Service Ministry** continues **Thursday mornings from 11:00 am - 12 Noon** in the sanctuary. This ministry is led by laypersons from the parish. For additional information, please contact Eileen Klimkowski.

The 26 Miracles of Jesus

Thursdays, 12 noon – 1 pm

Learn about the healing power of Jesus as we explore His miracles and learn how to pray for anyone, anywhere, in the name of Jesus. This DVD teaching series, hosted by Eileen Klimkowski, is led by two retired Episcopal priests.

Clothing Closet Needs

Our Clothing Closet needs continue. If you’re out shopping and can add an item or two to your cart, it makes a real difference to those we serve at our doors during the week.

Men’s Medium	Men’s Large	Men’s XL (1X)	Men’s XXL (2X)	Men’s Sneakers
-Drawstring Shorts -Lightweight Sweatpants -T-shirts* -Hoodies-lightweight	-Drawstring Shorts -Lightweight Sweatpants -T-shirts* -Hoodies-lightweight	-Drawstring Shorts -Lightweight Sweatpants -T-shirts* -Hoodies-lightweight	-T-shirts* -Hoodies-lightweight	All sizes

**any color except white, please.*

SCHEDULE FOR LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS – OCTOBER 2026

	October 4 19 th Sunday after Pentecost	October 11 20 th Sunday after Pentecost	October 18 21 st Sunday after Pentecost	October 25 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost
Lay Reader 8:00 AM	Linda Galda	Pat Townsend	Bonnie Kieffer	Ed Galda
Lay Reader 10:30 AM	OT: Donna Dillon Ps: Donna Dillon NT: Eden Isbell Prayers: Eden Isbell	OT: Nancy Byers Ps: Nancy Byers NT: Joe Bieker Eden Isbell ; Joe Bieker	OT: Rachel Varriale Ps: Rachel Varriale NT: Pete Laine Prayers: Pete Laine	OT: Fran Henderson Ps: Fran Henderson NT: Richard Martinez Prayers: Richard Martinez
Ushers	Steve Campbell TBD	Blaine Rudisill Cookie Rudisill	Hycy Bull Steve Campbell	Bob Ridgeway Jessie Paradise
Greeters	Fe McLaughlin Tim McLaughlin	Danella Blackwell Jessie Paradise	Marilyn Walters Susan Sowersby	John Fitzgerald Mary Fitzgerald
Acolytes	C: Jessie Paradise G: Jake Barker T: Nathalie Johnson T: Millie Lampke	C: Tucker Doyne G: Kenslie DeCastro T: Jake Barker T: Kenya Pond	C: Alex Griffin G: Natalie Johnson T: Emma Kate Griffin T: Nora Johnson	C: Mason McCarey G: Millie Lampke T: Ella Carsner T: Jack Carsner
Nursery	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake	Debbie Brake
Preacher	John Rice	Fr. McCaslin	Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke	Fr. McCaslin
Flowers	Available for Sponsorship	Available for Sponsorship	In celebration of the anniversary of Joe & Bev Bieker	Available for Sponsorship
Altar Guild	Mary Grace Shockley	Mary Barker	Kenna Watts Anna Smith	Richard Martinez Pat Spezialetti
Coffee Hour	Marilyn & Penny	Available	Available	Available
Vestry Lock-Up	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin.....	<i>Interim Priest</i>
The Ven. Brenda M. Gilbert	<i>Archdeacon, Dio. of Western NC</i>
The Rev. Deacon Cathy Wesson	<i>Deacon</i>
Ms. Dionne Browning	<i>Business Administrator</i>
Ms. Debbie Brake	<i>Nursery</i>
Ms. Beverly Bieker.....	<i>Office Assistant</i>
Mr. Kris Kiser	<i>Church Sexton</i>

CURRENT VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Mr. Eric Lampke, '27	<i>Senior Warden, Bldgs-Grounds</i>
Mrs. Judy Jackson-Malina, 26	<i>Junior Warden, Outreach</i>
Mrs. Fe McLaughlin, 26	<i>Parish Life, Newcomers</i>
Ms. Marilyn Walters, '26	<i>In-reach</i>
Mr. George Sowersby, '27	<i>Buildings and Grounds</i>
Mrs. Pat Townsend, '27.....	<i>In-reach</i>
Ms. Dionne R. Browning.....	<i>Vestry Clerk</i>
Mr. Steve Campbell.....	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs. Kenna Watts.....	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>

